



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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Jen Psaki, White House press secretary to Joe ...

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Ronnie O'Sullivan beats Judd Trump for record-equalling ...



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Cough syrup seized

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 03 :

The police seized illegal cough syrup worth Rs 50 lakhs from Churaibari area in Karimganj at the Assam-Tripura border on Tuesday. The illegal consignment was seized from a container truck bearing registration number AS 01 MC 0386 after the police conducted search operations in the area. 93 sacks of cough syrup were seized from the truck and around 10,100 bottles of cough syrup were recovered from these sacks. Among these, 27 sacks were packed with 2,566 bottles of Phensedyl and 66 sacks were filled with 7,590 bottles of Ascough. According to police reports, the illegal cough syrup was being smuggled to Tripura. The driver of the truck identified as Aditya Rabha has been arrested. Aditya is a resident of Nalapara in Kamrup district. The police is currently interrogating the driver.

Union Home Minister

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 03 :

Union Home Minister Amit Shah to visit Guwahati on a two-day visit to Assam on May 9 and 10. The home minister will sit in a discussion with BSF on Monday morning (May 9) and will inaugurate the super-specialty hospital of Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) in the evening. Health officials said that the initiative will be a stepping stone to turn Assam into a health hub of South Asia after Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 7 cancer care hospitals in various districts during his visit to the state on April 28. Sources in the health department said the new wing of GMCH will have a cardiothoracic and neuroscience centre (CNC) where four departments - cardiology, cardiothoracic, neurology and neurosurgery have been set up.

Dalim Roy dies

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 03 :

Veteran Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and former MLA from Golakganj, Dalim Roy, has passed away on Monday night following prolonged illness. He was 85. According to sources, Roy was suffering from respiratory problems since a long time. He breathed his last at his residence in Halakura area in Golakganj under Dhubri district. In 1985, Roy was elected as an MLA from Golakganj constituency and was a close aide to AGP leader and former Assam Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta. Meanwhile, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma condoled the demise of the veteran AGP leader.

PM Narendra Modi hits out at Congress in Germany



New Delhi, May 03 :

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday (May 2, 2022) took an apparent dig at the Congress and said that now no PM will have to lament that he sends one rupee, but only 15 paise reaches the intended beneficiary. Addressing the Indian community in Berlin

during his three-day visit to Europe, PM Modi also said that before 2014, India was a "work in progress", but over the past eight years the country has been making rapid strides in every sector. "Woh kaunsa panja tha jo 85 paise ghis leta tha (which palm was it that used to take away

85 paise)," he said while attacking the Congress party. During his hour-long address to the Indian diaspora, which was peppered with slogans of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai', 'Modi hai toh mumkin hai' and '2024, Modi Once More' by the ecstatic crowd, the Prime Minister said that a new resurgent India had made up its mind to move forward with determination and urged the Indian diaspora to help the country take big strides globally. More than 1600 members of the Indian community in Germany comprising students, researchers and professionals are said to have participated in the event. He said that the young and aspirational India under-

stood the need for political stability to achieve faster development and had ended three decades of instability by mere touch of a button. "This time of the 21st century is very important for India. Today's India has made up its mind, it is moving ahead with determination. When the country makes a resolve, then that country walks on new paths and shows it by achieving desired goals," PM Modi said. "India was rapidly working towards progress in every sector and achieving new landmarks on that journey," he said. "New India now does not think about a secure future, but is ready to take risks, ready to innovate and incubate. India, which had 200-400 start-ups around 2014, today is home to 68,000 start ups and dozens of

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Russian leadership has forgotten lessons of World War Two: Volodymyr Zelenskiy

Jerusalem, May 03 :

Israel lambasted Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Monday for claiming Adolf Hitler had Jewish origins, saying it was an "unforgivable" falsehood that debased the horrors of the Nazi Holocaust. Leaders from several Western nations denounced the foreign minister's comments and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy accused Russia of having forgotten the lessons of World War Two. In a sign



of sharply deteriorating relations with Moscow, the Israeli foreign ministry summoned the Russian ambassador and demanded an apology. "Such lies are intended to accuse the Jews themselves of the most horrific crimes in history that were committed against them," Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said in a statement. "The use of the Holocaust of the Jewish people for political purposes

must stop immediately," he added. Lavrov made the assertion on Italian television on Sunday when he was asked why Russia said it needed to "denazify" Ukraine if the country's own president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, was himself Jewish. "When they say 'What sort of nazification is this if we are Jews', well I think that Hitler also had Jewish origins, so it means nothing," Lavrov told Rete 4 channel, speaking through an Italian interpreter. "For a long time now we've been hearing the wise Jewish people say that the biggest anti-Semites are the Jews themselves," he added. Zelenskiy, in his nightly video message,

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Plea in Supreme Court against Talaq-e-Hasan, all other forms of 'extra-judicial' talaq

New Delhi, May 03 :

If cohabitation resumes after the 1st or 2nd utterance of talaq, the parties are assumed to have reconciled. New Delhi: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking to declare 'Talaq-e-Hasan' and all other forms of "unilateral extra-judicial talaq" as void and unconstitutional, claiming they were arbitrary, irrational, and violated fundamental rights. The petition, filed by Ghaziabad resident, Benazeer Heena, who claimed

to be a victim of "unilateral extra-judicial Talaq-E-Hasan", also sought a direction to the Centre to frame guidelines for neutral and uniform grounds of divorce and procedure for all citizens. In Talaq-e-Hasan, talaq is pronounced once a month, over a period of three months. If cohabitation is not resumed during this period, divorce gets formalised after the third

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Chinese carrier, warships sails through waters near Okinawa, says Japan

New Delhi, May 03 :

Eight Chinese naval vessels, including an aircraft carrier, passed between islands in Japan's southern Okinawa chain on Monday, Japan's defence ministry said in a news release. The ships, which included several destroyers, sailed between the main Okinawa island and Miyakojima, according to the ministry. Although there was no incursion into Japan's territorial waters, helicopters on board the Liaoning carrier took off and

landed, the ministry said. China's Defence Ministry did not answer calls seeking comment during a national holiday. The U.S. 7th Fleet, part of the Navy's Pacific force, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Taiwan's Defence Ministry said it would monitor the movements of the carrier group, and described the situation as "normal." It was the first time that a

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'Revise school timings or advance summer holidays'

Parents urge Delhi govt as heatwave continues

New Delhi, May 03 :

Worried about their children's health due to extreme heat, a large number of parents have asked the Delhi government to "either revise the school timings or advance the summer holidays." Several schools have already announced a reduction in outdoor activities in view of the sweltering heat coupled with the ongoing spike in the number of Covid cases, reported PTI. However, parents claim the school timings are not feasible for students to step out in this extreme heat. The Haryana government had on Monday announced that due to the intense heatwave prevalent throughout the state, the timings of all schools -- government and private -- will be from 7 am to 12 pm for Classes 1 to 12 with effect from May 4. However, no such measures have been announced in Delhi yet. "On one side, Centre advised not to go out



in the sun, especially between 12 noon and 3 pm. But in Delhi, the timings of most of the schools are between 8 am-2 pm. "Students reach home by 3 pm. That means during peak summer hours, students are out in the sun, which is really dangerous. We request the Delhi government to either revise the school timings like other states are doing or pre-pone summer holidays," said Aparajitha Gautam, President of the Delhi

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Police launch probe after porn clip airs during Union minister Rameswar Teli's Tinsukia event

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 3:

The embarrassing incident took place when an Indian Oil official was delivering his speech on the stage while a projector screen started playing an obscene clip. The crime branch in Assam has launched a probe into the alleged incident where a pornographic video clip was played on the back screen of an event attended by Union

Minister Rameswar Teli, Assam Labour Minister Sanjay Kisan and several top Indian Oil officials in Tinsukia district. The police have already detained a projector operator in connection with the incident. The incident took place during the launch of the pilot rollout of methanol-blended M-15 petrol in Tinsukia by Indian Oil. The pilot project was launched by Teli in the presence of Niti Aayog member Dr V K Saraswat, Indian Oil Chairman S M Vaidya, state labour minister Sanjoy Kishan, Assam Pet-

rochemicals Limited (APL) chairman Bikul Deka, along with others. According to reports, the embarrassing incident took place when an Indian Oil official was delivering his speech on the stage while a projector screen, which was showing clips of the project -- started playing a pornographic movie. The clip ran for a few seconds before the operator hurriedly cut it off. However, some of those present at the event recorded the incident on their



smartphones. Its revenues from operations increased 40.2% y-o-y to Rs 14,960 crore, while the Ebitda (earnings before interest, tax, de-

preciation and amortisation) increased 21% y-o-y to Rs 426 crore. olice

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Assam CM Dr. Sarma welcomed to President of India Ram Nath Kovind at LG BIA on May 3.

Assam Complex To Come Up In Maharashtra: Keshab Mahanta

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 3:

Assam complex will be established in the Raigarh district of Maharashtra, informed state health minister

Keshab Mahanta on Tuesday. The complex will help to promote Assam's cultural heritage. The Assam health minister was addressing a press conference following the cabinet meeting. Mahanta further informed about several important decisions including building a new bridge over the Brahmaputra, hiking state subsidy for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) houses, recruitment of teachers, new medical colleges, boosting river transport and upgrading ITIs and polytechnics, among others. Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma took to Twitter to inform about the decisions taken during the cabinet meeting. The key decisions taken



during the meeting include: 'Assam Bridge Project - II' approved - 4-lane extra dosed PSC bridge over the Brahmaputra connecting Palasbari and Sualkuchi to be constructed at an approximate cost of Rs 3,197 crore. The length of the bridge will be

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Twitter CEO Parag Agarwal said THIS when asked if he was getting fired



New Delhi, May 03 :

Since the firm's board approved Tesla CEO Elon Musk's bid to buy the company for \$54.20 per share, valuing it at about \$44 billion, uncertainty has hung over Twitter. According to recent rumours, Musk intends to employ a new CEO after the deal is completed. Parag Agarwal, the current Twitter CEO, is anticipated to stay on until the transfer is complete. According to a Reuters report, if Musk hires new management, Agarwal will earn a compensation package worth \$38.7 million. As information about the company's day-to-day management remains unknown, the Mighty App founder took to Twitter to express his

sympathies. "I feel for the current ceo of Twitter (@paraga) - he had all these plans and now lives with the same uncertainty of his whole team," he wrote in a tweet. In response to his post, Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey stated that the inventor of Mighty App should not feel sorry for himself. He should instead consider Twitter. "Thank you but don't feel for me. What matters most is the service and the

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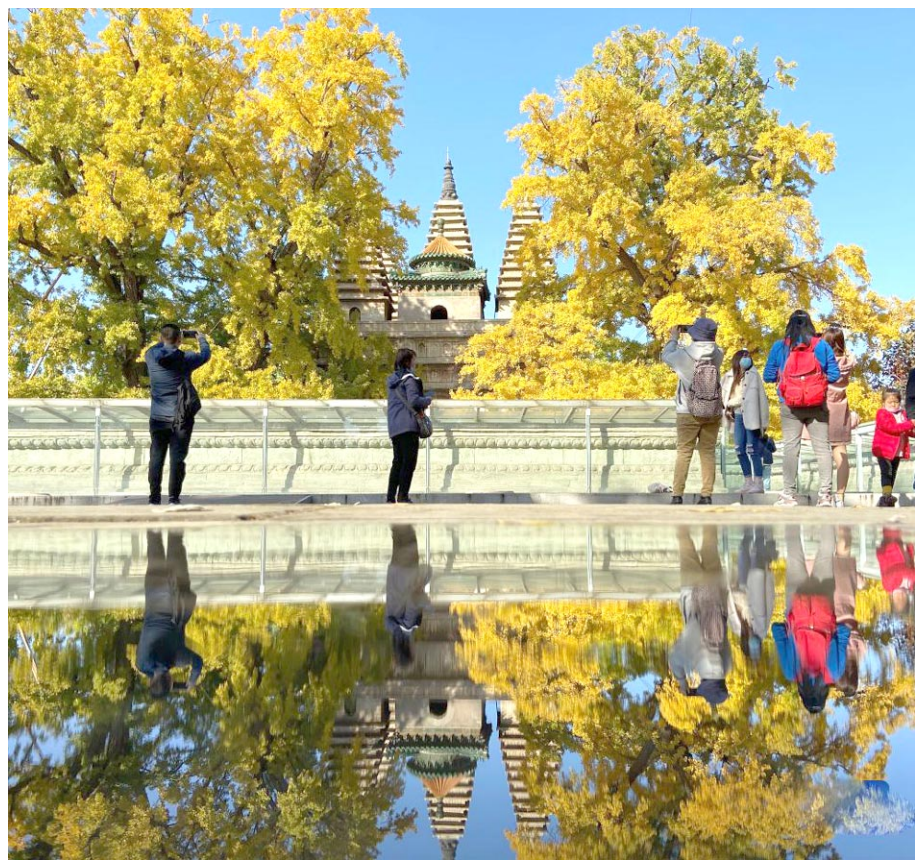
BHEJA FRY



Fire in the market. The money has to be fried and eaten.



Tamilpur- Bodo Sahitya Sabha flag hosting on Tuesday



Shows people visiting Wuta (five-pagoda) Temple in Beijing, capital of China

Families reunite at Sydney airport after international border reopens

Sydney, May 03 : Sydney airport has become the scene of tearful family reunions, with fully vaccinated Australians able to fly home and walk straight out of the airport for the first time in 583 days. Many of the passengers who were onboard the first flights from Singapore and Los Angeles walked into the arrivals terminal shortly after 6am on Monday morning to be

greeted by emotional family members and loved ones. NSW has revealed the next two stages of reopening. New freedoms will be extended to the vaccinated when the state reaches 80% double-dose Covid vaccination, with wider lockdown restrictions lifting for all residents on 1 December. Check our guide to coronavirus rules and restrictions for vaccinated

and unvaccinated people in Sydney and regional New South Wales. Returning Australians were handed Tim Tams and hakea pincushion flowers as they made their way through a crowd of reporters. "I've got to get to my daughter, I've got to hold her," one woman said as she pushed through the throng to embrace her daughter. Charlie Boyd was

one of the first Australians to push a trolley of suitcases into the arrivals hall - clearing the heavily sterilised customs area at 6.28am and breaking in the crisp Sydney morning air for the first time in more than three years. Boyd's brother Ryan, Boyd and sister Clare Lyons had arrived at the airport before 6am with a balloon and sign to welcome her, and raced to hug her.

Odisha govt announces full tax exemption, registration fee waiver for Electric Vehicles

Bhubaneswar, May 03 : The Odisha government has announced full exemption of motor vehicles taxes and registration fees on electric vehicles (EVs) in the state, as per an official notification. The decision was taken to encourage faster adoption of EVs, it said. The exemption, granted under the Odisha Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, is applicable till 2025. Further, the state government has proposed to

extend a slew of incentives for the buyers, manufacturers, batteries and charging stations of electric vehicles under the Odisha Electric Vehicle Policy, officials said. In the notification, the state government announced a 100 per cent exemption on motor vehicles taxes and registration fees for battery-operated vehicles. Transport Minister Padmanav Behera earlier said that the Transport department has



submitted a proposal to the government for allowing subsidy on e-vehicles to attract the customers. The govt has now approved the proposal, however subsidies are not being provided as per the battery capacity, like most of the other states including Delhi and Gujarat are offering. Currently, apart from the central government e-vehicle policy

called FAME II, states like Delhi, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra have implemented the 'e-vehicle' policy. The Transport Ministry proposed to extend 15% subsidy on two-wheelers, three-wheelers and four-wheelers with maximum amount not exceeding Rs 5,000; Rs 12,000 and Rs 100,000 respectively.

Huma Abedin says kiss from unnamed senator was not sexual assault

Washington, May 03 : In her first interview to promote her new book, Huma Abedin said she did not think an unnamed senator sexually assaulted her when he kissed her at his apartment, some time in the mid-2000s. She also said she would "take to her grave" her part in the emails investigation which cost Hillary Clinton dearly in the 2016 presidential election, which the candidate lost to Donald Trump, though she knew it was not all her fault. Abedin describes the incident with the senator in Both/And: A Life in Many Worlds, which will be published on Tuesday. The Guardian obtained a copy and reported Abedin's description of the kiss. After making coffee, Abedin writes, the senator sat next to her on the couch, "put his left arm around my shoulder, and kissed me, pushing his tongue into my mouth, pressing me back on the sofa. She also writes that memories of the kiss came back in 2018, during Brett Kavanaugh's supreme court confirmation hearings, when the judge was accused of sexual assault. In Abedin's description, Kavanaugh's accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, was accused of "conveniently remembering" details. Kavanaugh denied the accusations and was confirmed to the court.



Emergency services on scene after trains collide near Salisbury

Salisbury, May 03 : Emergency services have scrambled to respond to a collision of two trains near Salisbury on Sunday night, in a critical incident that left one train carriage derailed. About 50 firefighters from Dorset and Wiltshire, Hampshire and Isle of Wight and South Western fire and rescue services are at the scene, which is close to London Road in Salisbury, along with Wiltshire police and Network Rail. The British Transport Police (BTP) said: "There have been no

fatalities, however a number of people have been injured." Most of these people are walking wounded however a small number, including the driver, have been taken to hospital where their injuries are being assessed. "A major incident has been declared and this has been a large scale, multi-agency response working closely alongside our colleagues in Wiltshire. We will remain on scene throughout the night working to establish the full circumstances of how this incident came to happen."

The BTP said a casualty centre has been set up at St Mark's Church in Salisbury. Train services in the area have been halted. Dimitri Popa, 17, was on the first train carriage travelling from London Waterloo. "It all happened very fast. There was a big crash, then I saw flames," he said. "The carriage was 45 degrees to the right. We didn't know where we were or anything, we were very shocked." Morgan Harris, 20, travelling on the same train, was thrown from his seat.

Jen Psaki, White House press secretary to Joe Biden, tests positive for Covid

Washington, May 03 : Psaki, 42, did not travel with Biden to Rome for this week's G20 summit. The president is also due to travel to Glasgow for the Cop26 climate talks. Biden has been accompanied in Europe by his principal deputy press secretary, Karine Jean-Pierre. News of a positive test for such a close aide to the president came a little over a year after an outbreak at the White House reached the then president, Donald Trump, who fell seriously ill and was forced to spend time in hospital. In a statement, Psaki said she last saw the 78-year-old Biden on

Tuesday, "when we sat outside more than 6ft apart and wore masks". Biden tested negative for Covid-19 on Saturday, Reuters quoted "a person familiar with the matter" as saying. Psaki said she stayed in the US "due to a family emergency, which was members of my household testing positive for Covid-19". She has two children. "Since then," Psaki continued, "I have quarantined and tested negative via PCR for Covid on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. However, today I tested positive for Covid." While I have not had close contact in person with the president or senior members of the White House staff since Wednesday and tested negative for four days after that last contact, I am disclosing today's positive test out of an abundance of transparency." Psaki also said



that "thanks to the vaccine I have only experienced mild symptoms, which has enabled me to continue working from home." "I will plan to return to work in person at the conclusion of the 10-day quarantine following a negative rapid test, which is an additional White House requirement beyond [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] guidance, taken out an abundance of

caution." White House staff and others traveling with the president began undergoing daily tests for Covid-19 before departing Washington and are all fully vaccinated. Many officials have also received booster shots, due to the close-quarters environment and frequent travel associated with their work. Biden got his Covid-19 booster on 27 September, shortly after

federal regulators approved the third dose for many Americans. On Sunday Eric Feigl-Ding, an epidemiologist and senior fellow at the Federation of American Scientists, responded to the news that Psaki had worn a mask around Biden by tweeting: "Good to still mask up, even if vaxxed." According to Johns Hopkins University, the US has recorded nearly 46m cases of Covid-19 and more than 745,000 deaths. Resistance to vaccination mandates remains a concern, particularly among Republican voters, though case numbers are slowing. On Sunday, the CDC said the US had administered 422,070,099 doses of Covid-19 vaccines, up from 420,657,683 doses on Saturday. The agency said 221,520,153 people had received at least one dose, while 192,453,500 people were fully vaccinated.

Macron accuses Australian PM of lying over submarine deal

Paris, May 03 : Emmanuel Macron has accused the Australian prime minister, Scott Morrison, of lying to him over an abandoned \$90bn submarine contract, in a significant escalation of tensions between Paris and Canberra. The French president levelled the accusation in impromptu comments to Australian journalists on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Rome. He said he had a lot of "respect and friendship" for Australia and Australians, but that respect between nations needed to be reciprocated. "I just say when we have respect, you have to be true and you have to behave in line and consistent with this value," he said. When asked whether he thought Morrison had lied to him by not revealing Australia's secret dialogue with the UK and US over the acquisition of nuclear submarines, a dialogue that ultimately became the Aukus pact, Macron was direct in his response. "I don't think, I know," he said. Morrison

denied he had lied to the French president. He said he had told Macron that he had formed the view that conventional submarines would not meet Australia's strategic interests when the two leaders met in Paris after a G7 summit this year. He said when the two had dined together at the Élysée Palace, "at that stage we had not concluded any other arrangements with any other parties". Morrison said he understood Macron's disappointment, but that he did not resign from the decision to abandon the French contract and proceed with the acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines in partnership with the US and UK. He said doing otherwise would have elevated French disappointment above Australia's national interests. Macron expressed scepticism to Australian journalists that the Aukus nuclear



submarines would arrive on schedule. He noted there was an 18-month review of the feasibility of the arrangement, and quipped: "Good luck." Morrison said he was confident the acquisition would proceed as planned. Under the Aukus pact, Morrison dumped a contract with France to build 12 diesel-powered submarines in favour of a deal with the US for at least eight nuclear-powered submarines. France said it had been "betrayed",

"stabbed in the back" and "deceived". The escalation in tensions comes before a meeting between Australia's foreign minister, Marise Payne, and her French counterpart designed to get the relationship back on track. The dispute with France dominated Morrison's trip to Rome for the G20 summit. Shortly after Morrison had arrived in Italy, Joe Biden moved to repair his own damaged personal and political relationship with Macron by acknowledging that the Aukus announcement had been a "clumsy" episode handled with a lack of grace. Biden told Macron with television cameras present that he was "under the impression that France had been informed" about Australia's intention to ditch the contract "long before" the Aukus pact was revealed publicly. It was unclear whether the US president was rebuking Morrison, or his own senior staff for failing to keep him abreast of the nuances. After Biden's public rapprochement with Macron, Morrison doubled down on the decision to proceed with the nuclear submarines. He said his government had kept the Biden administration up to date "with the status of the conversations and discussions with the French government". Macron met a number of other world leaders while at the G20 summit, but he did not schedule a bilateral discussion with Morrison.

Jair Bolsonaro's security alleged to have used violence against Brazilian journalists at G20 - reports

Mexico city, May 03 : Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro's security detail allegedly used violence against Brazilian reporters covering his trip to Rome for the G20 meeting, local media reported. The alleged attacks against Brazilian reporters, who Bolsonaro has long accused of treating him unfairly and publishing fake news, capped a grim weekend for the right-wing president. Videos from G20 events on Sunday showed him as an isolated figure, who was not part of the photo taken at the

Trevi fountain with world leaders. Out on the streets of Rome, he was loudly criticised for his handling of the country's brutal pandemic, with critics calling him "genocidal". More than 600,000 people have died from Covid-19 in Brazil, the second highest tally in the world after the United States. Bolsonaro has questioned the severity of the virus, shunned lockdowns, sowed vaccine doubts and pushed unproven cures. A Brazilian senate panel has recommended he be indicted for nine crimes



related to his handling of the pandemic, including crimes against humanity. Newspaper O Globo reported allegations that broadcast journalist Leonardo Monteiro of TV Globo was punched in the stomach and pushed by Bolsonaro's security after asking the president why he didn't attend any G20 events on Sunday. A video taken by UOL journalist

Jamil Chade shows chaotic scenes with security staff jostling the press and Bolsonaro supporters chanting abuse at reporters. It was not clear if the security officers were Brazilian or Italian. O Globo reported that Italians had been given the job of providing security to Bolsonaro. The president's office did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the alleged violence or why he was missing from the leaders' photo. The G20 press team also did not immediately

respond to requests. "Globo vehemently condemns the aggression against its correspondent Leonardo Monteiro and other colleagues in Rome and demands a complete assessment of responsibilities," TV Globo said in a statement. Videos from the G20 events show Bolsonaro looking isolated. The former army captain has seen his international support diminish since former US president Donald Trump lost his re-election bid, while Bolsonaro's skepticism toward Covid-19, vaccines and environmental concerns has won him few friends on the global stage.



Shows people visiting Wuta (five-pagoda) Temple in Beijing, capital of China

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Assam Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi extending a warm welcome to the Hon'ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Guwahati on 3rd May 2022.

Assam Athletes excel in National Masters Athletics Championship

Assam Rising Guwahati, May 3: In the 42nd National Master Athletics Championship held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Chennai from April 28 to May 1, 203 Assam Athletes of both men and women category of age group 30 to 85 years from different districts of Assam clinched 16 Gold, 23 Silver and 22 Bronze totalling 61 medals. In the women's category Anima Sonowal of 45+ age group and Bilasi Kumsing of 60+ age group

received 3 Gold medals in different athletic events. In the men's category, Mahananda Sutradhar of 75+ age category received 3 Gold medals in 1500, 5000 and 10000 meter run. Srimati Mohini Talukdar of age group 85+ received Gold medal in 100 and 200 meter race and Mamti Bordoloi of 30+ received Silver medal in 400 meter race. The 42nd National Masters Athletics Championship 2022, Chennai was organized by

the Masters Athletic Federation of India, affiliated to the Asian Masters Athletics and the World Master Athletics was attended by more than 3500 athletes competing from across 28 States in India, with a total of 22 Athletic disciplines across 13 age categories,

making it the largest athletic competition. Margit Jungmann (Germany) President, World Masters Athletics and Stanley Perkin, (Australia) Life President, World Masters Athletics and other eminent personalities were present in the meet.

thousand on April 27 & 28 last. During the raid three persons were arrested and prosecuted in this connection. Similarly in an incident, a team of RPF/Kokrajhar conducted a raid at a local shop located at Prataphkata Bazar, Chilita, Kokrajhar and arrested a person on April 28. The team seized 07 e-tickets worth more than Rs. 05 thousand along with a mobile phone from the shop. A case was booked under section 143 of the Railways Act in this regard against the arrested person. On April 27, a team of RPF/New Mal Junction, on information raided a travel agency named 'DIGINETE-Ticket Shop' located at Binnaguri market, Jalpaiguri. The owner of the agency was arrested and the team seized 08 railway E-Tickets worth around Rs. 16 thousand along with a mobile phone and a computer



set. In another incident, on same day, RPF team of Hasimara outpost acted upon information and conducted a raid at a shop named 'R S InfoTech' located at Hamiltonganj, Alipurduar. One live E-Ticket was recovered from

NGO 'Greenery Assam' formed

Assam Rising, Golaghat, May 3: An NGO named 'Greenery Assam' was formed on May 1 at the greater Kamarbandha area in Golaghat. A meeting was held at Duinoti Suti Mukh an area where Ghiladhari and Kakodunga rivers connected. The meeting was presided over by Prakash Sarmah, a senior journalist and president of a leading organization Pioneer Foundation. In the meeting several people from different parts of Golaghat joined the newly formed organisation. The NGO named 'Greenery Assam's was formed taking Likhon Bora as President, Pubali Tamuly as General Secretary along with Bhuban Bora, Devojit Rajkhowa, Nabaprotim Saikia, Manash Jyoti Saikia and Vitali Bora as Members. The meeting was anchored by a young social activist Nabajit Bora. Several decisions were taken in the meeting. It is to be mentioned that 'Greenery Assam' was earlier a Facebook page where several youths got connected with a common agenda for doing social works.

LGBIA celebrates EID-UL-FITR



Assam Rising Palasbari, May 3: LGBIA Airport is seen celebrating Eid-ul-Fitr on Tuesday. LGBIA Airport consistently endeavours to bring the spirit of joy and gaiety at airport amongst the airport fraternity and travellers during such local and national

festivals. On this special occasion of Eid, the Airport is taking initiative to express their heartfelt Greetings to the passengers travelling through the airport. On this occasion, Eid-ul-Fitr Greetings cards are distributed amongst passengers.

RPF apprehended 3 Touts: Recovered Railway Tickets

International Yoga Day celebration in Digboi



Assam Rising Margherita, May 3: Embarking on the countdown to the International Yoga Day which is observed all the world on 21st June, a Yoga-Session was organized at Campus Ground, IOCL, Digboi by the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd on May 3. Rameswar Teli, Union Minister, MoS, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Labour & Employment India attended the session as the Guest of Honor, along with Suren

Phukan, Hon'ble MLA, 123-Digboi LAC. Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas also delivered a message via webcasting, applauding the initiative wherein the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs have simultaneously organized the yoga session in 47 (forty-seven) other locations such as refineries, petrochemical complexes, bottling plants, offshore assets and build-

ing projects spread across the country and overseas. Yoga Guru Sukumoni Nath instructed the yoga asanas to all the officials, staff and students from the Assam Oil School of Nursing, Digboi. Another public program was also organized at Paragdhara Chaliha Auditorium, Digboi today commemorating the 75 years of India's Independence and as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav where 75 No.s of imminent citizens from the Digboi Town were felici-

Skill Development in Mathematical Application workshop held

Assam Rising Guwahati, May 3: The Department of Mathematics, USTM organized a day-long workshop on "Skill Development in Mathematical Applications" with the objective to help students to gain basic understanding of research methodology. The re-



source person of the programme was Dr. Hemen Dutta, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, Gauhati University. Held on 26th April, the primary aim of the workshop was to familiarize the students with latest skills which will enable them to practically use and supplement their theoretical knowledge. The program began with welcome speech by Dr. Gitumani Sarma, HoD, Department of Mathematics, USTM. The Chief Guest of the program Dr. Hemen Dutta was felicitated by honorable vice chancellor Prof. G. D. Sharma, Prof. R. K. Sharma, Advisor of USTM and Prof. Prabin Das, Department of Mathematics, USTM. In his speech, Dr. Hemen Dutta analyzed the skill development applications of Mathematics



A book on Satriya Sanskriti is released by Satriadhar Nani Gopal Goswami at Kalakshetra on May 3.

Eid ul Fitr celebration Margherita

Assam Rising, Margherita, May 3: Eid-ul-Fitr, the holy



eid-ul-fitr of Islamic people, is being celebrated across the country only after the eid moon is visible in the sky. At the end of nearly two years, the people of the state have celebrated the holy Eid with great enthusiasm. Islamic people could not participate in the community prayer in the last two years due to the corona-created environment. Nuri Jame Mosque is held instead of Margherita Eidgah moidan for the adverse weather. About 5 thousand local Islamic people participated in the Eid celebrations organized at the Nuri Jame Mosque. In the holy moment, there is a lot of enthusiasm among the people of Islam. They are also seen wishing each other eid with a message of love and brotherhood.

AP Bikers Celebrating Presidents Colour Award



Assam Rising, Udalguri, May 3: The Assam Police bikers named as Ride to Pride headed by AIG Ananda Mishra was accorded a warm welcome at Udalguri. Hiranya Barman the SP Udalguri has welcomed the riders with gamocha. Ananda Mishra the Assistant Inspector General of Assam Police for sports has briefed the purpose of celebrating the Presidents Colour Award to Assam Police. The state police have done a lot with dedication to the nation therefore Assam Police bagged the highest honour from the President of India, he said. This is the pridel moment to celebrate the achievement. Through the bike rally the police are taking the message to the people of Assam, added Ananda Mishra. The meeting was also attended by Dr. P Uday Praveen the D C Udalguri. Puspadhar Bastola the Principal of Udalguri Higher Secondary School, Munin Das the Headmaster of Sankardev Mission High School, Udalguri, Journalist Mr. Baidyanath Upadhyaya among others.

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THE ASSAM RISING

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Victory actually mean now for Ukraine

For more than two months, Vladimir Putin has been violently trying to erase the modern Ukrainian state from the map of Europe. This means Ukraine needs to win. In fact, victory is imperative if the continent wants to stand the chance of being able to live in peace and work collectively to meet global challenges. It is clear that Putin has failed to compel Kyiv to capitulate. Russia's plans to annihilate Ukraine and annex more of its territory have cemented Ukraine's will to fight and win this war. So we need to ask: what does victory actually look like? For Ukraine's government, it means first that the Russian army is defeated on the battlefields of Donbas and is pushed back to where it was stationed before 24 February 2022. Polling, meanwhile, indicates consensus among the people regarding the return of Crimea and Donbas to the control of Kyiv and opposition to a truce with Russia until it fully withdraws its troops. What is needed is the creation of an effective diplomatic forum to negotiate further Russian withdrawal from the occupied parts of Donbas, a settlement over the future of Crimea, financial compensation for the damage it has inflicted, prosecution of individuals who have committed war crimes (Ukraine's prosecutor general has already registered more than 8,000 suspected cases), the prospect of EU membership for Ukraine, and the creation of viable Nato-compatible armed forces that can defend the country in a coalition of willing nations. What would defeat look like? Put simply, anything that results in a long-term simmering conflict that locks Ukraine in a grey zone of instability. An inconclusive outcome that still gives Russia an upper hand to conquer and annex more territory is unacceptable. The Kremlin is planning a new annexation of the Kherson region under the name of North Tavriya. Kyiv's official recognition of Putin's territorial gains at gunpoint would lead to Volodymyr Zelenskyy's political demise and further endanger the Ukrainian state. Victory won't be easy, but Ukrainians increasingly believe they can achieve it. That confidence, which seemed like lunacy at the start of the war, has been vindicated by combat success and the total mobilisation of Ukrainian society. This has convinced key western allies that "Ukraine can win". The UK's foreign secretary, Liz Truss, resolutely stated that "we will keep going further and faster to push Russia out of the whole of Ukraine". Ukraine's objectives coincide with those of its allies. More to the point, those goals are now backed by a newly approved Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act under which the US government will allocate \$33bn, mostly for military support. A coalition of 40 countries has set up a permanent defence advisory group to coordinate this assistance. Ukraine must defeat Russia in what, after all, should be considered a colonial war. The restoration of Ukrainian territorial integrity and, ultimately, peace will mean the collapse of Putinism as a doctrine and an end to Russian claims to territorial dominance elsewhere in eastern Europe and Central Asia. Demonstrating that a "gathering of historic Russian lands" is doomed to failure is the only solid basis for sustainable peace and security in Europe. Ukraine's victory would also prevent future wars. Russia uses newly conquered territories to stage further conflicts. Annexed Crimea was indispensable for its military operation in Syria, and now for its assaults on Mariupol and Kherson. The breakaway entity of Transnistria in Moldova, propped up for decades by Russia, is a de-facto arms depot, with a military base hat could be used to attack Odesa. Belarus is already being used to launch missiles on Kyiv. Let's not forget we're also talking about the world's food system. A Ukrainian victory would reduce the risk of a mass famine. The lifting of sanctions in response to a full Russian withdrawal from Ukraine would also lead to a more stable and predictable Russian economy. Ukraine and Russia are critical suppliers of food across much of the global south. In some countries, such as Somalia, Russia and Ukraine account for 100% of wheat imports. The UN projects that 8-20 million people will now be left hungry from the knock-on effects of soaring prices and broken supply chains for grain, cooking oil, fertiliser and fuel. Settling this war in a sustainable way means millions of Ukrainians will be able to return home, lifting the burden of caring from countries that host them. More than 5 million people are scattered across European cities and the bill for supporting them is €7bn. Most are desperate to return home. And Ukraine needs these people for its future modernisation and economic growth. The outcome of this war will either lead to a brighter future or bog down millions of people in struggle and misery - and not only in Ukraine. That is why we must give Ukraine's victory a fighting chance.

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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

As the US supreme court moves to end abortion, is America still a free country?

It's the worst possible outcome: according to a draft majority opinion published by Politico, the US supreme court has voted to overturn Roe v Wade, along with its sister decision Planned Parenthood v Casey. This momentous ruling will result in abortion becoming immediately illegal in an estimated 26 states when it is officially issued, likely sometime next month. The draft opinion, authored by Samuel Alito, the most rabidly hateful member of the court's archconservative wing, will upend 50 years of precedent and undo a landmark ruling that has profoundly shaped legal doctrine, popular conceptions of the law, and millions of American lives. It will make women prisoners to their own bodies, and to men's ideas of what those bodies must mean. It will make our country weaker, crueler, stupider and less vibrant. Before the court heard oral arguments in the case Dobbs v Jackson, a challenge to a Mississippi law that bans abortion after 15 weeks' gestational age, some court watchers - mostly male - predicted that this outcome was unlikely. They chin-strokingly declared that judicial nominees like Amy Coney Barrett or Neil Gorsuch were really moderates (both have signed on to the draft opinion) or that chief justice John Roberts' incrementalist impulses would temper the passions of his more misogynist colleagues. Protesters react outside the US Supreme Court after the leak of a draft opinion preparing for a majority of the court to overturn the Roe v. Wade abortion rights decision

Feminists, meanwhile, were more consistent in measuring the depth of the right's commitment to sexism and more perceptive in understanding the implications for other areas of the law in a world without Roe. But after oral arguments on 1 December, even those pundits who were most committed to their performance of sophisticated calm had to admit that there was little doubt that this would be the outcome. The hearing, whose audio was livestreamed to the public, turned into a  **Moira Donegan** would eradicate many of Americans' other rights that the court has recognized based on so-called substantive due process concerns, among them the right to contraception, the right to gay marriage, and the decriminalization of gay sex. The end of legal abortion will not be where the court's reactionaries stop. They aim to hurt, punish, and narrow the lives of Americans in many more cruel and inventive ways. The sudden illegality of abortion in most states come June will also create new legal landmines that will rapidly erode other individual rights. As women cross state borders for care, red states will try to limit interstate travel. As activists send abortion pills through the mail, aggressive searches and seizures of packages and personal belongings will become more frequent. As women find ways to end their pregnancies, many

court could have taken. The opinion does not just overturn Roe and Casey; it expresses outright contempt for the notion that the constitution protects bodily autonomy for women. It articulates a rigid and unchanging vision of individual rights, one in which only those freedoms with robust historical precedent and explicit enumeration in the text of the constitution will be recognized by the court. This an interpretation that, if carried to its logical conclusion, would eradicate many of Americans' other rights that the court has recognized based on so-called substantive due process concerns, among them the right to contraception, the right to gay marriage, and the decriminalization of gay sex. The end of legal abortion will not be where the court's reactionaries stop. They aim to hurt, punish, and narrow the lives of Americans in many more cruel and inventive ways. The sudden illegality of abortion in most states come June will also create new legal landmines that will rapidly erode other individual rights. As women cross state borders for care, red states will try to limit interstate travel. As activists send abortion pills through the mail, aggressive searches and seizures of packages and personal belongings will become more frequent. As women find ways to end their pregnancies, many

of them will be arrested on criminal charges and some of them will be convicted. As doctors face patients with life-threatening pregnancy complications, many of them will not know what they are legally permitted to do, and in fear, they will let their patients die. Some of those who make the other choice, and help their patients live, will be arrested. All of this will create legal precedents that erode American freedom, making life more burdensome, more brutish, and less safe. There are ways to fight. Of course, legal rulings aside, American women do not derive their moral right to control their own bodies from the US supreme court; they derive it from their human dignity. And many of them will seek and provide abortions, whether the court likes it or not, in accordance with this higher, more noble law. Others will donate to the abortion funds that will be in dire need of support as costs and demand skyrocket. Still others will spread the word about like Plan C, which mails abortion pills to women in the US from abroad. Some will call their senators, and demand that the US Senate seize upon this moment of popular outrage to abolish the filibuster and pass the Women's Health Protection Act before the moment fades and it's too late. And some will call their state representatives and urge them to adopt the most aggressive pro-choice laws possible, in advance of what is coming. But none of this changes the fact that the reversal of Roe will come at an intolerable human cost. Abortion has so frequently been spoken of as a "high stakes" or "hot button"

political issue that it is easy to lose sight of the foundational dignity that the right provides to women and others. The state compelling a person to be pregnant is not like compelling her to pay taxes. The event doesn't occur in a courtroom or on a balance sheet; it occurs inside her body. The question at hand is whether half of the country will have control over their own insides, or whether the government can be so intimate and torturous that it can enforce its will even inside their own organs. And, in turn, the question is whether she can have the dignity and the freedom to choose her own family, to shape her own life - or whether that freedom is withheld based on her sex. Some have raised doubts about whether America can call itself a democracy, now that policymaking power has been largely taken over by the unelected courts - whose decisions, like this one, are so radically out of step with, and indifferent to, public opinion. But it is also worth wondering whether any country can call itself a democracy that does not protect abortion rights. In making abortion illegal, the court is imposing a legal status that is so cruel, so personal, and so life-altering on half its population, that those subject to this imposition cannot be called free. Is there any condition more essential to democratic citizenship than a person's control over her own body? Can we call ourselves a free country without it?

The Tories' biggest trick is making their opponents fight post-Brexit policies in the courts

It seems like every few months brings news of another defeat for the UK government in the courts. And there may well be more to come - the latest policy in the sights of lawyers and activists is the plan to process certain asylum seekers who've arrived on Britain's shores in Rwanda in east Africa. The policy was met with justified outrage from progressives and the left. Specialists also predicted that it would run afoul of international law and human rights legislation. But what if this was part of the plan all along? The Times columnist Clare Foges, writing under the headline "Rwanda won't work: but it will for Boris Johnson", wondered if the real purpose of the plan was not to actually reduce perilous journeys across the Channel, as the government claimed, but to draw progressives into extended court battles and lawsuits. This would force them to act as an explicit blockade on post-Brexit migration policies, frustrating the "people's will" ratified by the

2019 election, and thereby galvanising Tory activists and potential voters. It is leftwing embracing of the courts makes sense on one level. In the face of rightwing attempts to restrict basic human rights, the justice system has some of the more powerful tools. Immigration policy is not unique in this regard. Over the past decade, green activists have begun pressing claims against a variety of state actors to hold them accountable for climate inaction. Given the issue's urgency, it is understandable that ecologists would examine a wide repertoire of tactics. Context matters, however. Historically, courts were usually the left's last resort. They offered a pivot when all other routes had been exhausted or political circumstances were simply too hostile. The left relied on a densely organised civil society of unions, parties and councils which could fight opponents on their own terrain. These

parties and unions could run in elections, strike or rewrite constitutions. Yet they were always sceptical of the idea that progress could be achieved through the courts alone, or that judges were the most reliable guardians of popular power. In the past 40 years, as these bastions of

Anton Jäger

worker power have atrophied or died out, the left has become isolated and weak, populated by a small caste of professionals - many of them lawyers and academics - who only have a tenuous connection to an organised constituency. In this sense, the embrace of judicial power is itself the expression of political weakness. In the 1990s, the "third democratic wave" elevated the ideal of independent courts, together with market economics, to a sacred criterion for membership in the global

democratic community. In the 2010s, however, disillusionment with courts became endemic across young and old democracies, from the Polish government's decision to handpick judges to the controversies around the German constitutional court and its queasiness about looser EU budgetary rules. The US provides a helpful example of the drawbacks with trying to secure progressive gains through the courts. The country is somewhat unique in that its abortion rights were achieved through supreme court action rather than directly elected majorities. In several European countries, parties that supported abortion rights had to run in elections across the 1970s and 1980s, thereby facing a direct, democratic test from voters. Once these parties won office, it was easier to get anti-abortion activists to acquiesce to the new regime. There had been a fair contest, and the losers had to accept the result. In the US, by contrast, conservatives repeatedly felt as if abortion rights were imposed by judicial coup. This encouraged political backlash, and allowed anti-abortion activists to claim a fresh democratic mandate. This does not imply that conservatives are strangers to the opportunistic usage of courts. Many of the authoritarian threats of the 2010s came from ideologically driven judges. The right in Latin

American is especially keen on "lawfare". A riot of trends may well decrease the vote share of rightwing parties in the near and distant future. In Britain, persistently low wages and a cost of living crisis do not make for great electoral prospects. Faced with these demographic and economic trends, the Conservative party (and other rightwing outfits) could increasingly prefer its opponents to fight them on the terrain of courts and judges. This is an easy option: it allows rightwing parties to pose as the representatives of a frustrated majority, while camouflaging their own anti-democratic plans - to gerrymander voting districts, for instance, or even to introduce tests at the voting booth. Scepticism about judicial power should not make progressives cynical about what can be achieved through the law. There are important battles that should be fought in courts. Yet if progressives are serious about offering a real political alternative, they will be better off focusing on the (re)building of durable institutions, rather than appealing to the moral conscience of high judges. Courts will not always be their best friend - sometimes, they might even be an enemy.

Left and liberals have crafted a delusory narrative of inevitable Muslim genocide in India

What happens when one starts believing one's own lies? In such an unlikely scenario, while cheating others, one ends up fact neutral, benighted and counterfactual. An intransigent mind, effortlessly replaces real with fake, and conjures asymmetric conclusions - divorced from reality. Binjamin Wilkomirski, a Swiss musician and writer, published a book 'Fragments: Memories of a Wartime Childhood 1939-1948' in 1995, in which he described his childhood experiences as a survivor of the holocaust. It was a heart-rending, emotional and a graphic recall of one

of the most catastrophic events of human history. However, it became one of the most publicised cases of falsely fabricating an entire autobiography. Wilkomirski was never a holocaust survivor, but he continued to believe in his own manufactured account. How did Wilkomirski start believing in his own lie? After Wilkomirski's psychological assessment, he was found to be incapable of distinguishing fact from fiction, truth from falsehood. Wilkomirski's lie had corroded his

BALBIR PUNJ

75 years ago, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (Pakistan or the Partition of India) identified three main reasons for Hindu-Muslim rift - cow slaughter, music before the mosques, and religious conversions. "The first attempt" to resolve the vexed issues, according to Dr Ambedkar, was made "in 1923 when the Indian National Pact was proposed. It failed." So the problem isn't a recent one. Even M.K. Gandhi, with his persuasive powers and genteel ways,

failed to do anything tangible to ease the situation. Isn't it a case of selective amnesia on the part of the Left and liberals? Dr Ambedkar adds, efforts to defuse the volatile situation "did not produce peace between the two communities. It only produced a lull in the rioting which had become the order of the day. Between 1925 and 1926, rioting was renewed with an intensity and malignity unknown before." Are the Muslims being 'othered'? If yes, who is responsible?

Who asked for a separate electorate? Who asked for the partition of the country on religious basis? Who fathered the two nation theory? It was Sir Syed Ahmed Khan who repeatedly exhorted Muslims to keep away from the Congress and align themselves with the British - 'The People of the Book', as he fondly described them. Speaking at Meerut (16 March 1888), he divided the country into "our Mohammedan nation" and a "Hindu nation" - and asserted both can't co-exist.

Letter to the Editor

May Day significance

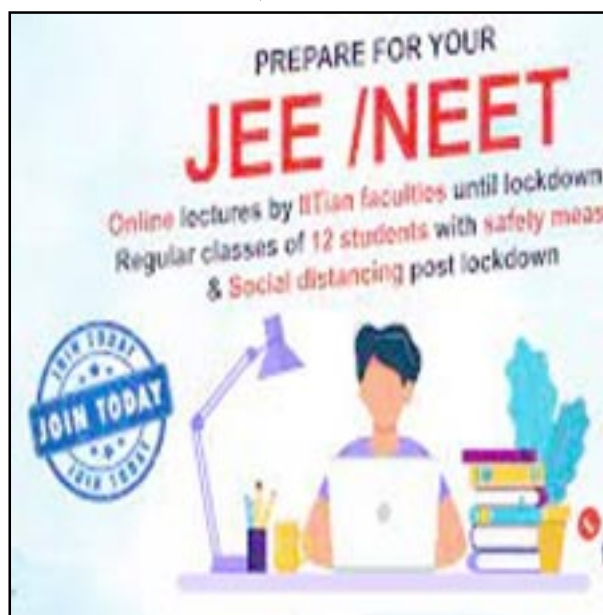
Dear editor,

May Day is celebrated in more than 80 countries starting from 1889. It is also known as International Labour Day. It is nothing but victory in the fight against exploitation at the workplace, in simple words. Though the fight was originally peaceful, at the start on May First, later it turned violent, when police shot at the worker protests on May 4, causing bloodshed, at HayMarket, PriceTown, Virginia, In USA. To commemorate the peaceful protest started on May 1st, this is celebrated on May 1st, every year. It is fixed hours of work- 8 hours work leaving 8 hours for entertainment and 8 hours of relaxation or rest.

 **KL Rao,**

Varika City, Gurgaon .

Students selected for IIT/ JEE, NEET coaching



Manipur, May 3: Governor of Manipur La Ganesan said youths are the building blocks of a nation, and their role in nation-building is as crucial as other stakeholders. Speaking at the 'Manipur Super 50' Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signing Ceremony in Kangpokpi district, Governor Ganesan said youths should be motivated to understand their role in nation-building and their contributions be acknowledged by all. Motivating students and cadets present in the ceremony, Ganesan said all should follow the works of our great leaders who had contributed a lot to our freedom. He said that youths of today should follow the footsteps of our

ideal leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose etc., who contributed tremendously to the nation. Ganesan appreciated the team for conceptualising 'Red Shield Centre of Wellness and Excellence' in transforming the lives of students from humble backgrounds. He added that no cause is nobler than to bring sunshine into the lives of the children who have not been able to optimise their calibre and talent due to economic conditions and a lack of access to high-quality education facilities. He further said that the inadequacy of quality educational mentoring infrastructure is a major disadvan-

tage for students in the state, especially from semirural and rural provinces, while aspiring for higher educational qualifications at the national level. This initiative will create a feeling of mental and social well-being amongst parents and their children by providing quality education, thus catering for a better life and evolving responsible citizens for our country, he added. According to the General Officer Commanding of the 57 Mountain Division, Major General Navin Sachdeva, 50 students will be selected under the programme, and they will be provided quality coaching and education for IIT/JEE, NEET etc. He said that the centre, to be opened in Bishnupur Battalion, will remain instrumental in bringing a progressive and inclusive society.

Bamang Felix urged center's intervention for CSS

Itanagar, May 2: Arunachal Pradesh Home Minister Bamang Felix on Saturday sought the Centre's intervention for the infrastructural and economic development of border areas of the state. Addressing a function here organised on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Felix pointed out the unique challenges to connect the border areas of the north-eastern state, both physically and digitally. Infrastructural and economic development of our border areas while maintaining peace and stability with neighbouring countries requires constant efforts and interventions by the Union government, Felix said. The topography of the state and sparsely populated border regions with limited infrastructure pose a unique challenge to connecting the border areas, both physically and digitally, he said. Arunachal Pradesh shares a 1,080-km border with China, 440 km with Myanmar and 160 km with Bhutan. Border Area Development Programme which is implemented by the Home Minis-

Nagaland, May 3: After a gap of two years, Friends of 80 plus, formed in 2002 by a group of like-minded people from Kohima village, celebrated its 17th foundation day on Saturday, honoring and paying respect to 159 senior citizens above the age of 80 years. At the foundation day celebration, held at T. Khel community hall in Kohima, chairperson of the ceremony Vilakulie Mere shared that out of 159 elders, 40 are from Dapfhitsumia Khel (D Khel), 34 from Tsütuonuoia Khel (T Khel), 21 from Pfuchatsuma Khel (P Khel), and 64 from Lhisemia Khel (L Khel). He informed that in the past two years, the village recorded the death of 54 persons above the age of 80 years, of which 15 are from D Khel, 10 from T Khel, 15 from

Pkhel, and 14 from L Khel. Angami Public Organization (APO) president Razouvtuo Chatsu, who graced the occasion as the special guest, lauded the Friends of 80 plus for taking initiatives to show respect and honour the elders. While pointing that life expectancy among the elderly has been decreasing over the years, especially among the Angami tribe, the president of the tribe's apex body said that it is encouraging to see the elders above 80 years, who are the strength and courage of the community. As he prayed for the longevity of the elders, he also sought their guidance and blessings upon the community. "Every



year, they yearn and eagerly wait for the get-together to celebrate Friends of 80 Plus day, as it gives them an opportunity to meet each other and feast together," Neidonuo Angami, convenor of Friends of 80 Plus said in an editorial of a photo book that was released by Chatsu She shared that the enthusiasm and joyful participation of the senior citizens humbles and reminds them of how such a small initiative has

created memories and led to a grand celebration of lives. During the event, Dr. Viketoulie Pienyu, president of Kohima Village Doctors Association (KVDA), shared tips on how to live a healthy life. The senior psychiatrist shared that elders should not be locked behind four walls and should be allowed to sunbathe, socialise with friends, exercise, brush teeth regularly, eat more greens and fruits, and be stress free. The cel-

ebration began with an invocation by Rev. Shu Belho from Khedi Baptist Church. Friends of 80 Plus and Ulikhrie groups presented songs during the event. Dr. Vizolie Suokhrie, retired principal director of health and family welfare, pronounced the vote of thanks. A medical camp for the participants was also conducted by doctors of the Kohima Village Doctors Association after the conclusion of the formal celebration.

NPF members joined NDPP

Nagaland, May 3: Just days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and other legislators at Dimapur, 21 MLAs from the Naga People's Front (NPF) party led by leader of its legislature party TR Zeliang have merged with Rio-led Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP). NDPP spokesperson Merentoshi Jamir said, "In order to strengthen the leadership of Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and his government, as of this afternoon, 21 NPF MLAs have merged with the NDPP party officials. Along with them former

Member of Parliament (MP) Rajya Sabha (RS) KG Kenye joined the NDPP." This move, he said, is to strengthen the government and the leadership of the CM, and also to strengthen their resolve in bringing about a settlement to the Naga issue. He said the NDPP welcomes all the 21 MLAs and will keep their doors open for others to join the party in the near future. While the present opposition-less government is comfortable, he said the party leaders probably felt that being under one political party will help, strengthen and push for the Naga political issue as being under one political

party will help to further push for a solution. Although an opposition-less government, he said, it is not a party-less government. The present opposition-less government was formed last year on the pretext of the Naga political issue. As for the party's alliance with the BJP, he said the alliance is "going on very well" and that neither the NDPP nor the BJP felt any threat and they hope to continue with the alliance. As per an order issued by Nagaland Speaker Sharingain Longkumer, the list of 21 MLAs excluded four NPF MLAs including senior politician Kuzholuzo Nienu, Khriehi Liezietsu, Ngangshi K Ao and Kezhiehyl Khalo.

Tripura Govt. to announce wheels veterinary service

Agartala, May 3: The Tripura government will introduce mobile veterinary health services for ailing farm animals, a senior state minister has said. Animal Resource Development Minister Bhagaban Das on Saturday said that 12 veterinary mobile vans equipped with surgery facilities, laboratories and doctors would provide health services to ailing animals such as cows, goats and pigs. A state-level toll free number will be operationalised and help will be provided within 20 minutes of receiving calls from farm animal owners, he said. Das said that when he was a livestock farmer, he had to sell all his cows after failing to provide treatment to the ailing bovine animals. "I don't want any other livestock farmer to undergo a similar experience. I hope the veterinary mobile van service will be useful for those who rear animals in rural areas," he added.

Nisith Pramanik visits Arunachal Pradesh

Naharlagun, May 3: Union minister Nisith Pramanik on Saturday said the migration of people from border areas, in search of more facilities, will be minimised in the next two years, with effective implementation of the Centre's new Vibrant Village Programme (VVP). Through the VVP announced in the Union Budget FY 2022-23, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is planning to rehabilitate people living along the international borders by providing them with all basic facilities, Pramanik said. The VVP is aiming at enhancing infrastructure in villages along India's border with China, in states like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Arunachal Pradesh. The Union minister, who is on his maiden visit to the state capital, was speaking to journalists during the North East Festival, as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. Activities under the VVP include building infrastructure such as housing, tourist centres, road connectivity, providing decentralised renewable energy, direct-to-home access for Doordarshan and educational channels, and support for livelihood generation. Additional funding for these activities would be provided while the existing schemes would be converged and their



outcomes would be defined and monitored constantly, the Union Minister of State

for Home told reporters here. Pointing out that development of the northeast-

ern region is the prime focus of the government, Pramanik said with development as the main agenda of the NDA government, the focus is also on border security, and improved connectivity. In the next few years, there will be a massive change in the region and in the next two years Arunachal Pradesh will witness a sea change in border areas with the accelerated pace of development being undertaken by the Centre, Pramanik said. The north-eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh shares a

long international border with Bhutan to the west, China to the north and north-east, and Myanmar to the east. Replying to a question regarding a state-specific border area development programme keeping in view the strategic importance of Arunachal Pradesh, Pramanik said that he has invited state Home minister Bamang Felix and his team to New Delhi for discussion in this regard.

Meghalaya, May 3: A day-long free medical camp was organised on Saturday at the Rising Sun School in Meghalaya's Mawryngkneng village, under the auspices of National Medicos Organisation (NMO), Meghalaya Unit and Nazareth Hospital, Shillong. Dr Biplab Chatterjee, Gen. Secy. Meghalaya unit of NMO, Dr Paul Dkhar, Senior Consultant of Nazareth Hospital and E.N.T. Surgeon Dr Subhadeep Das were present at the event



and provided medical guidance and necessary treatment to the people who attended the camp. The headman of Mawryngkneng village expressed his happiness and gratitude towards the team of medical professionals in his inaugural speech and initiated the proceedings of the camp. A total of 291 patients were examined and treated. The camp was also marked by the distribution of free medicines to the needy throughout the day. Support from the local population was evident in the camp and this greatly motivated the doctors and the paramedical staff to carry out similar camps in the future. The need for such

camps is immense in interior and inaccessible places, as a large section of the population of the state reside in these areas and have complex medical and health-related needs. Initiatives of similar nature can go a long way in bridging the gap between the medical needs and availability of the necessary treatment and medicines for the masses, who do not have access to these facilities in their respective areas. The camp concluded with an assurance and solemn pledge by the doctors and staff of NMO of organising similar camps to aid and cater to the needs of the people residing in the interior areas of Meghalaya.

Assam rifles recovered weapons in Mizoram

Aizawl, May 3: In a major operation, Assam Rifles personnel in Aizawl recovered a huge cache of weapons and warlike stores and detained four persons near Aizawl on Sunday, Assam Rifles sources said. The operation was carried out near Kelsih village, about 19 km south of Aizawl, the sources said. Acting on specific information, the Assam Rifles team intercepted two vehicles near Kelsih village, it said. During spot-checking, weapons and warlike stores, which included three pump-action shotguns, five .22 rifles, seven telescope sights, 20 boxes of air pellets, 3000 kilograms of explosive (gelatin), 2000 metres of safety fuse and 100 kilograms of gunpowder, among others were recovered from the two vehicles, it said.

Gunshots fire: Govt. issued alert

Sikkim, May 3: In fresh violence between party cadres of Sikkim Democratic Front and the ruling Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, as many as four gunshots were fired during a tussle in Soreng on Saturday. Following the incident, Sikkim has been put on high alert to nab the assailants, who are still absconding. Extensive searches are being carried out in local taxis in West and South Sikkim. As seen in the visuals widely shared on social media, senior SDF party worker Avinash Yakha is seen hiding his gun behind his satchel. Yakha, seen getting out of a damaged SUV, is then chased by supposed SKM cadres in the video. Upon being chased,

Yakha fires as many as three shots before going into hiding. In the video, the person chasing with a camera is heard claiming, "Yakha has a gun." Sources in the police said the "situation is under control and no casualties have been reported. The assailant is yet to be arrested". The police source added that only one person was injured, which appears more due to altercation than due to the use of firearm. "The police were already deployed there. We immediately responded when the altercation started. One of the accused was arrested and is currently in Soreng Police Station. The other accused, we are tracing him; we want to arrest him at the earliest," the source

said. Avinash Yakha is one of the accused and the police are tracing his location. Police sources said they expect to arrest him by Saturday night. Yakha, who is still at large and probably armed, has been booked under the Arms Act. The police added that bullet shells were found from the place of incident and the same have been seized. "It started with a minor altercation, a scuffle over allowing the vehicle to pass. We have spoken with both the parties, inviting them to the



police station. We have appealed to all of them to maintain peace; they have agreed to it," the police source said. Various places in West and

South Sikkim have been put on alert after the incident. Sikkim Police is carrying out an extensive search operation to nab the assailants.

Contd. From Page 1

Twitter CEO Parag Agarwal said

people improving it," he wrote responding to his tweet. Later, Agarwal praised Twitter staff for their efforts to improve the site throughout the years. "I chose this job to improve Twitter, correct course where necessary, and strengthen the service." "Proud of our people who, despite the noise, continue to perform the task with focus and urgency," he tweeted. A Twitter user who had created a parody account responded to the message by asking if he had been fired. "Nope!" tweeted Twitter's CEO in response to this message. "We're still here," he said. Separately, according to a Reuters report, Musk is in talks with huge financial groups and high-net-worth individuals to help him finance the acquisition so that he can attach less of his personal wealth to it. Musk had previously stated that he will invest \$21 billion in cash for the deal. Furthermore, he was anticipated to take out a loan against his Tesla stock. However, according to a fresh rumour, he intends to lower his overall participation in the deal.

Assam Complex To Come Up In

4.08 kilometers. It will shorten distance between LGBI Airport and lower Assam districts by 25 kilometers and ensure seamless connectivity to Sualkuchi and Amingaon from the airport. Enhancement of State subsidy for houses being constructed under PMAY HFA (Urban) from Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000 in respect of all incomplete houses, which will help beneficiaries in meeting any additional expenditure. Approval to release of Rs 30,000 for early completion of houses under Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) component of PMAY HFA (Urban) as third installment to those beneficiaries who have reached roof level, which will help complete thousands of incomplete houses. This will benefit 1,16,380 beneficiaries with additional spending of approximately Rs 116.3 crore, making Assam the first state to undertake such an innovative step. Contract for construction of Terminal and Riverine Infrastructure at Guwahati Gateway Ghat approved at a total contract value Rs 289.45 crore. It will integrate connectivity and safe communication in ferry ghats of Guwahati and North Guwahati along with boosting tourism potential of the Brahmaputra. Assam Inland Waterways Company Ltd (AIWCL), a fully-owned state government company to be formed. Establish, maintain and operate cost-effective water transportation services within Assam, including river cruises. Develop and maintain all-weather ports, jetties, passenger terminals, etc. 34 Polytechnics and 43 government ITIs to be upgraded as Centres of Excellence in association with Tata Technologies Limited (TTL). It will provide upskilling opportunities to skilled workers of Assam working in various industries like tea processing, food processing, handicrafts and textiles, etc. Proposed project cost Rs 2,390 crores. Recruitment of Graduate and Post Graduate teachers in government and provincialised High and Higher Secondary Schools approved. A total of 4,868 teaching posts including 3,564 posts for the position of Graduate teachers and 1,304 posts for the position of Post-Graduate teachers have been opened. Approval to release of Rs 308.75 crore as part of the Rs 700 crore relief package to employees of Nagaon Paper Mill and Cachar Paper Mill of Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited. This will provide further support to the employees of the paper mills and is in line with the commitment of the state government. Administrative approval to construction of new medical colleges and hospitals at Bongaigaon, Dhemaji, Golaghat and Morigaon. The hospitals will be constructed under NIDA and implemented by Assam Infrastructure Financing Authority (AIFA). The project will be undertaken for a total cost of Rs 2,000 crores. Assam Complex to be established at Tiware village, Raigarh district of Maharashtra for promoting state's rich cultural heritage. Committee formed to negotiate price of land and will submit report within 20 days.

Chinese carrier, warships sails

Chinese aircraft carrier was confirmed to have passed through the area since December last year, according to Japanese national broadcaster NHK.

PM Narendra Modi hits out

unicorns ... some of whom have already become deca-corns with 10 billion dollars valuation," the prime minister stated. He also urged the Indian diaspora to help him take the Indian story global. "I urge all of you to join me in making the 'local' of India global. You can easily acquaint the people here with the diversity, strength and beauty of the 'local' of India. "There was a time when registering a business was a hassle. Today it takes only 24 hours to register your company. This is restoring people's confidence in governance," he said. In an apparent reference to the removal of Article 370 that granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, Modi said the country was one, but had two Constitutions. "But, why did it take long to make it one (constitution). It took seven decades to ensure that the country had one constitution. We have implemented it now," he said.

Plea in Supreme Court against

utterance in the third month. However, if cohabitation resumes after the first or second utterance of talaq, the parties are assumed to have reconciled. The first/second utterances of talaq are deemed invalid. The petitioner, who claimed to have been given such a divorce, contended that the police and authorities told her that Talaq-e-Hasan is permitted under Sharia. "The Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937, conveys a wrong impression that the law sanctions Talaq-E-Hasan and all other forms of unilateral extra-judicial talaq, which is grossly injurious to the fundamental rights of married Muslim women and offends Articles 14, 15, 21 and 25 of the Constitution of India and the international conventions on civil and human rights," the petition, filed by advocate Ashwani Kumar Dubey, submitted. It further claimed that many Islamic nations have restricted such a practice, while it continues to vex the Indian society in general and Muslim women like the petitioner in particular. He practice also wreaks havoc on many women and their children, especially those belonging to the weaker economic sections of the society, it added.

Parents urge Delhi govt

states and Union Territories to review their health facility preparedness for the availability of adequate quantities of essential medicines and necessary equipment while ensuring sufficient drinking water and continued functioning of cooling appliances in critical areas. The Centre had also advised people to avoid getting out in the sun, especially between 12 noon and 3 pm, avoid strenuous activities when outside in the afternoon, avoid alcohol, tea, coffee, or drinks with large amounts of sugar, stating these may lead to loss of more body fluid or cause stomach cramps. The Centre had also advised people to avoid high protein food and stale food and not leave children or pets in a parked vehicle. "During previous years, whenever the temperature used to rise, the schools used to pre-pone summer vacations but that is not an option this year considering schools have reopened after a long period due to COVID. However, the heat is extreme this year and at least the schools can revise the timings for children to be less exposed," said Nidhi Vaishnav, a parent. Another parent Sunil Joshi, said, "My child's school is offering flexibility in attendance but we don't want to restrict children from going to school again as they are just getting into the groove. So, revision of school timings is the best solution in this case". A torrid heatwave has sent the mercury soaring across large swathes of the country with the temperature in Delhi rising up to 46 degrees Celsius. Delhi also recorded its second hottest April in 72 years with a monthly average maximum temperature of 40.2 degrees Celsius. "Despite Covid cases rising in Delhi, I was sending both my kids to school because there has been a lot of learning loss already. "But how to cope with this heat. Kids are falling ill. The government should issue some advisory. At least the outdoor activities should be suspended," said Neeru, a mother of two school-going children.

Police launch probe after porn clip

officials rushed to the event venue to investigate the gaffe and a case was registered at the Tinsukia police station. According to police officials, the event was also being live-streamed online and an Indian Oil official had shared the Zoom meeting ID and passcode on their Twitter account. Reacting to the incident, Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameshwar Teli, who had launched the M-15 petrol rollout, said: "I did not see the clip when it was screened. But my personal assistant informed me about this. I have directed that those involved in the incident be investigated and appropriate punishment be awarded."

Russian leadership has forgotten

noted Moscow has been silent since Lavrov's comments. "This means that the Russian leadership has forgotten all the lessons of World War Two," he said. "Or perhaps they have never learned those lessons." U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken weighed in later on the comments by his Russian counterpart saying it was "incumbent on the world to speak out against such vile, dangerous rhetoric." The German government's anti-Semitism commissioner, Felix Klein, said Lavrov's remarks mocked the victims of Nazism and "shamelessly confront not only Jews but the entire international public with open anti-Semitism." Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi called the top Russian diplomat's comments obscene, while Canada's Justin Trudeau expressed disbelief. Dani Dayan, chairman of Yad Vashem, Israel's memorial to the 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust, said the Russian minister was spreading "an anti-Semitic conspiracy theory with no basis in fact". The identity of one of Hitler's grandfathers is not known but there has been some speculation, never backed up by any evidence, that he might have been a Jew. There was no immediate response to requests for comment from the Russian embassy to Israel or from Lavrov in Moscow.



Guwahati- Eid al-Fitr Namaz Machkhwa

Macron accuses Australian PM of lying over submarine deal

Paris, May 03 : Emmanuel Macron has accused the Australian prime minister, Scott Morrison, of lying to him over an abandoned \$90bn submarine contract, in a significant escalation of tensions between Paris and Canberra. The French president levelled the accusation in impromptu comments to Australian journalists on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Rome. He said he had a lot of "respect and friendship" for Australia and Australians, but that respect between nations needed to be reciprocated. "I just say when we have respect, you have to be true and you have to behave in line and consistent with this value," he said. When asked whether he thought Morrison had lied to him by not revealing Australia's secret dialogue with the UK and US over the acquisition of nuclear submarines, a dialogue that ultimately became the Aukus pact, Macron was direct in his response. "I don't think, I know," he said. Morrison denied he had lied to the French president. He said he had told Macron that he had formed the view that conventional submarines would not meet Australia's strategic interests when the two leaders met in Paris after a G7 summit this year. He said when the two had dined together at the Élysée Palace, "at that stage we had not concluded any other arrangements with any other parties". Morrison said he understood Macron's disappointment, but that he did not resile from the decision to abandon the French contract and proceed with the acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines in partnership with the US and UK. He said doing otherwise would have elevated French disappointment above Australia's national interests. Macron expressed scepticism to Australian journalists that the Aukus nuclear submarines would arrive on schedule. He noted there was an 18-month review of the feasibility of the arrangement, and quipped: "Good luck." Morrison said he was confident the acquisition would proceed as planned. Under the Aukus pact, Morrison dumped a contract with France to build 12 diesel-powered submarines in favour of a deal with the US for at least eight nuclear-powered submarines. France said it had been "betrayed", "stabbed in the back" and "deceived". The escalation in tensions comes before a meeting between Australia's foreign minister, Marise Payne, and her French counterpart designed to get the relationship back on track. The dispute with France dominated Morrison's trip to Rome for the G20 summit. Shortly after Morrison had arrived in Italy, Joe Biden moved to repair his own damaged personal and political relationship with Macron by acknowledging that the Aukus announcement had been a "clumsy" episode handled with a lack of grace. Biden told Macron with television cameras present that he was "under the impression that France had been informed" about Australia's intention to ditch the contract "long before" the Aukus pact was revealed publicly. It was unclear whether the US president was rebuking Morrison, or his own senior staff for failing to keep him abreast of the nuances. After Biden's public rapprochement with Macron, Morrison doubled down on the decision to proceed with the nuclear submarines. He said his government had kept the Biden administration up to date "with the status of the conversations and discussions with the French government". Macron met a number of other world leaders while at the G20 summit, but he did not schedule a bilateral discussion with Morrison.

Families reunite at Sydney airport after international border reopens

Sydney, May 03 : Sydney airport has become the scene of tearful family reunions, with fully vaccinated Australians able to fly home and walk straight out of the airport for the first time in 583 days. Many of the passengers who were onboard the first flights from Singapore and Los Angeles walked into the arrivals terminal shortly after 6am on Monday morning to be greeted by emotional family members and loved ones. NSW has revealed the next two stages of reopening. New freedoms will be extended to the vaccinated when the state reaches 80% double-dose Covid vaccination, with wider lockdown restrictions lifting for all residents on 1 December. Check our guide to coronavirus rules and restrictions for vaccinated and unvaccinated people in Sydney and regional New South Wales. Returning Australians were handed Tim Tams and hakea pincushion flowers as they made their way through a crowd of reporters. "I've got to get to my daughter, I've got to hold her," one woman said as she pushed through the throng to embrace her daughter. Charlie Boyd was one of the first Australians to push a trolley of suitcases into the arrivals hall - clearing the heavily sterilised customs area at 6.28am and breathing in the crisp Sydney morning air for the first time in more than three years. Boyd's brother Ryan Boyd and sister Clare Lyons had arrived at the airport before 6am with a balloon and sign to welcome her, and raced to hug her. "It's been pretty stressful, so just to be able to come home without having to go quarantine is huge," Boyd said. She had been living in New York, and after being unable to secure a flight home during the months of quarantine arrival caps, bought her Qantas ticket to Sydney three days ago.

**Karbi MIL textbook released**

Assam Rising, Diphu, May 03: Textbook of Modern Indian Language (MIL) subject in Karbi language for Class X and Class XI for the academic session of 2022-23 was released its first edition by Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) Chief Executive Member (CEM) Dr. Tuliram Ronghang at Langkung Habe Memorial Town Hall, Diphu on Tuesday. The textbook for Class X named "Karbi Lammet Amunjin" and Class XI named "Lammet Amanim" was prepared by Karbi Language Development Board (KLDB), KAAC and approved by Board of Secondary Education, Assam (SEBA) and Assam Higher Secondary Education Council (AHSEC) respectively which is published by Assam State Textbook Production and Publication Corporation Limited. KAAC CEM Dr. Tuliram Ronghang shares his willingness to introduce Karbi MIL subject upto Higher Secondary level since he was Executive Member in charge of the Education Department back in 2012. In those years KAAC and Assam Govt. and along with KSA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the then Education Minister (now Chief Minister) Dr. Himanta Sarma which includes induction of Karbi MIL subject and special TET examination to be conducted under KAAC. While praising KLDB Chairman Longsing Teron, he (CEM Dr. Ronghang) tells about the continuous efforts which could have been possible to introduce Karbi MIL subject from this academic session. From now on the students will be able to learn Karbi. On the occasion, KAAC Deputy Chairman Ritesh Engli, MP Horensing Bey, EM's, KAAC Board Chairman's, Padmashri Rongbong Terang and Padmashri Dhaneswar Engti were attended.

Meeting against Bihu misculture held in Margherita

Assam Rising, Margherita, May 3: Recently, at Bihu festivals, some younger have created an evil culture of mud dance in the name of Bihu. But Assam police has been vocal against this misculture of creating name of bihu. Senior police officers of Tinsukia district held a meeting today with bihu Committee under Margherita subdivision and urged them not to resort to such misculture. At the meeting, the district additional superintendent of police said strict action would be taken against the misculture mud dance that has been created in the name of Bihu. The meeting was attended by Tinsukia district additional superintendent of police Pranab Kumar Pegu, Margherita subdivision police officer Hemanta Boro, Margherita police station in-charge police officer Someshwar Konwar along with several bihu committee President, Secretary & office bearers

Caterpillars engulf the jute crops in Nagaon

Assam Rising, Nagaon, May 3: District Agriculture Department, Nagaon has initiated a slew of measures to protect the tiny leaves of jute from various insects like caterpillars across the district as several thousands farmers of the district always share a major role in production as well as cultivation of jute in the entire state. Farmers of around 147 villages cultivated jute at around 8467 hectares of land in the district this year under various schemes including RKVY, NFSM, etc, sources added. It is worth mentioning that in the very early growth stage, the tiny leaves of those jute are being destroyed by thousands and thousands of a special kind of caterpillars across the district which apparently causes a worry to the local farmers of the district. During the visit, the officials concerned immediately distributed pesticides as well as other preventive medicines among the victim farmers. Besides, the officials of district agriculture department also organized a series of awareness programme among the farmers at various places in this regard and urged the farmers community to apply pesticides as well as other medicines at earliest if the caterpillars or other insects damaged their crops, sources added.

Raj Thackeray: Maharashtra court issues non-bailable warrant against MNS chief

Sangli, May 03 : In more trouble for Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray, a court in Maharashtra's Sangli district has issued a non-bailable warrant against him in connection with a 14-year-old case. In 2008, Thackeray was booked under sections 109 and 117 (abatement of offence) of IPC for allegedly making inflammatory speeches. While issuing the non-bailable warrant on April 6, Judicial Magistrate, First Class at Shirala in Sangli district asked the Mumbai police commissioner to arrest the MNS chief and present him before the court. The judge issued the warrant against Thackeray and another MNS leader Shirish Parkar through the Mumbai police commissioner and Khervadi police station respectively as they failed to produce themselves before the court during the case proceeding, said assistant public prosecutor, Jyoti Patil. She said the court has asked police to implement the warrant before June 8 and produce both the leaders before the court. In 2008, MNS workers had staged a protest in Shirala against the arrest of Thackeray in an agitation seeking priority for local youth in jobs. A local MNS functionary claimed there was a government rule which states that political cases prior to 2012 should be withdrawn. However, this case is being raked up as Thackeray raised the issue of loudspeakers atop mosques, he added. A case has also been registered against the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief and organisers of a public rally in Aurangabad over the former's speech during which he had reportedly asked his supporters to "silence the loudspeakers atop mosques", he Aurangabad Police registered the case against the MNS chief after watching the viral videos of his speech.

'Can't achieve his own dreams...':**Mayawati's fresh attack at Akhilesh Yadav**

New Delhi, May 03 : Bahujan Samaj Party supreme Mayawati today put out a series of tweets mocking Akhilesh Yadav for saying he wanted her to become Prime Minister. A person who can't achieve his own dream of becoming Chief Minister can hardly talk, she sneered. "When the Samajwadi Party chief could not fulfil his own dream of becoming Chief Minister even after securing the votes of Muslims and Yadavs and forming an alliance with several parties, how can he fulfil the dream of others to become Prime Minister," Mayawati tweeted in Hindi. In a related tweet, the former UP chief minister wondered how a party that managed to win only five seats in Uttar Pradesh in the last Lok Sabha polls despite stitching up an alliance with the BSP will make her the prime minister. "Therefore, they need to stop making such childish statements," she added. Akhilesh Yadav had said that his Samajwadi Party tied up with Mayawati's BSP (Bahujan Samaj Party) ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha election because he wanted her to become Prime Minister. In this context Mayawati reacted strongly. The BSP and the SP contested the 2019 general election in an alliance but parted ways subsequently and have regularly hit out at each other since then.

Reading's Deanne Rose

'Representation and role models matter so much in sports'



London, May 03 : Deanne Rose may be living more than 3,000 miles from home, after being signed by Reading last July, but that hasn't dented her plans to give back to the community she grew up in. In June, she will hold her first soccer camp in her hometown of Alliston in Ontario, Canada, for girls aged between eight and 14. "I thought it was the perfect opportunity when I come back home to be able to give them something," she says of her plans. "Representation and role models just matter so much in sports and for young kids growing up... I want [the camp] to be really enjoyable and set the platform and the landscape for what it could be in the

future. "That her family and community is what drives her is clear to see: when she helped Canada become Olympic champions in Tokyo last year, scoring a pivotal penalty during a shootout against Sweden in the final. "They couldn't be in Tokyo but I felt them the entire way," she wrote on Instagram afterwards, alongside a photo of her with her medal, alongside family and friends, in Alliston. "To my support system and the countless people not seen in this picture, this gold is ours." Her hometown is clearly proud of her, throwing a parade for her on her return, with residents lining the streets. Rose describes growing up in a "Jamaican-

Canadian household": she was born in Alliston to Jamaican parents and has three siblings. She tried out various sports with her brothers growing up, but settled on football - her mum signed her up to a local side when she was just four. "My mum has been there from literally day one," she says. "She was the one that was driving me from practice after work and rushing me to all these places. She definitely would be the number one person that has had the biggest hand in my football career." Rose's career is already impressive. For example, she's a world record holder, as the youngest ever Olympic women's football

goalscorer, which she achieved by scoring in Canada's 2-1 bronze medal victory over Brazil in 2016. But, only a couple of years earlier, she considered giving up football altogether. After being called up to a national camp, she ultimately didn't make the under 15s squad. "In Canada, 14 to 16 is around the age where a lot of females stop playing football," she explains. "So, it was hard for me, because I was going through a period where you don't know where you're going. So you're like, 'Should I continue? I just got cut from the national team'... it was a really big setback for me." But she kept going. Around a year-and-a-half later, Rose got another break when she received an invite to train with the under-17s squad. Very quickly, things exploded: aged just 16, she earned her first cap for Canada's senior

squad. She is proud of her national side, too, with her team releasing a statement in Black History Month last year, where the squad made a "commitment to educate and enhance our awareness on the experiences and realities that our black teammates and black people face everyday". This was, in part, due to Rose's own conversations with her teammates. "It was a conversation that we had had last year in camp, whether we wanted to do that, and I said my piece in terms of explaining that racism isn't just in the States," she explains. "I think, because we're so close to the US, we get put in the shadow a little bit and that type of thing. But I wanted to explain to my team what it's like growing up in Canada being a black female athlete... it meant a lot to me to see my teammates get behind, not only me, but the other girls."

Old-school racer Vincenzo Nibali gears up for what may be his last Giro d'Italia



London, May 03 : The Giro d'Italia begins on Friday and Vincenzo Nibali is not going to win it. We should probably be clear about that at the outset. Nibali has won it twice before, in 2013 and 2016, but that was a younger and hungrier man. Now he is 37, has not won a race of any real repute in three years and missed a big chunk of training time after catching Covid earlier in the year. When Nibali says his main goals are to ride for his Astana-Qazaqstan teammate Miguel Ángel López and hopefully pick up a couple of stages, he is not bluffing. Mark Cavendish competes during the 68th Circuit Cycliste Sarthe - Pays de la Loire in April and yet one is reminded of something else Nibali said a few years back, when he was on top of the world and the Italian press and public were demanding why he was not winning more. Nibali could have explained in painstaking detail the hundreds of little victories and minuscule alignments that have to go your way before you can even think about winning a bike race, or the unique difficulties of prevailing when the entire peloton has put a target on your back. Instead he simply said: "To be beaten is not the same as failing." Perhaps no sport imparts that lesson more beautifully than cycling, a sport of teamwork and selfless sacrifices, of daring attacks and doomed heroisms, where the first person over the line is often the most incidental detail of all. As he approaches what may well be his final Grand Tour on home soil, few riders have embodied that maxim quite like Nibali, a man who for all he has won over the years - all three

Grand Tours, 15 stages, two Giri di Lombardia, Milan-San Remo - will be remembered above all for the way he made people feel. This year the Giro will return to Sicily and Nibali's home town of Messina. For all Italy's pedigree in the sport, Sicily has never really been cycling territory. Indeed, so limited were the opportunities when Nibali was growing up there that, at 14, he was obliged to leave home and move to Tuscany to try to make it as a pro rider. And so these familiar roads and slopes have a dual meaning to him now: a reminder not just of the life he made for himself but the life he left behind. After winning the Tour of Sicily last October he collapsed into the arms of his teammates and cried like a child. Perhaps this is why crowds, and particularly Italian crowds, respond to Nibali in a way few cycling crowds do anywhere. This is a bruised and bruising sport, one whose heroes are summarily burned and disgraced, where nobody is ever quite sure about what they are seeing and so nobody is ever quite sure how to feel. But whether in victory or defeat, people feel things about Nibali. They want to salute and exalt him. They want to sprint up mountains and catch the drops of sweat from his face. They want to believe. For the Italian public he represents something else too. Since Nibali's last Giro win in 2016 no Italian has won the race, either the male or female version. A sixth consecutive foreign winner would constitute the country's longest drought in history. The dominant language of the peloton is now English. The overwhelming flow of

London, May 03 : The Magnificent Seven is complete. A 30-year journey to snookering immortality, which has not been without its bumps along the way, was never likely to be straightforward even in its final stages given the prize on offer. But despite Judd Trump making everyone wonder if the impossible could really happen at one stage on Monday afternoon, the world championship ended in yet more history for Ronnie O'Sullivan: and this bit really means something. At times O'Sullivan is so laid back about the magnitude of his achievements in the game that he is practically horizontal. But anyone who understands snooker can appreciate that this moment, a seventh world title to draw level with Stephen Hendry and tie the modern-era record, is the one thing which will mean so much since he first lifted the trophy aloft inside the Crucible 21 years ago. At times it has seemed



unrealistic that anyone could scale that mountain again, given the sheer dominance Hendry enjoyed to win his seven world crowns. Ronnie O'Sullivan poses with the World Snooker Championship trophy after withstood Judd Trump's fightback to claim his record-equalling seventh crown. But if anyone was ever likely to join him, it was always going to be O'Sullivan, snooker's grand master and great entertainer. Arguably O'Sullivan is playing in a field much tougher than Hendry ever did but, irrespective of that, the fact that he has now won world titles in three different decades is a staggering testimony to his longevity as a player that, worryingly for his peers, seems to be getting better and better. When the final and most important break of the match was completed, O'Sullivan allowed the mask to slip in a lengthy embrace with Trump before his emotions came to the fore. "I tried to be as relaxed as I could but that's probably my greatest result against someone," O'Sullivan said, before smiling: "This tournament brings out the worst in me but we'll probably go again next year." An eighth title, even in an era with players as special as Trump, does not seem impossible either. On arrival in Sheffield on Monday it was not unreasonable to expect a procession, given the 12-5 lead the 46-year-old had accrued overnight. One wondered if Trump would return a beaten man, practically going through the motions and effectively conceding the title to his childhood hero. However, he won six of the eight frames available in the afternoon to reduce O'Sullivan's cushion to three frames. It was his most dazzling session of the tournament and O'Sullivan's worst, but the credit should go to Trump for the way he rallied. As he won frame after frame, talk began to shift from whether there would even be an evening session, to whether those

present could be witnessing the greatest comeback in snooker history, second only to when Dennis Taylor trailed Steve Davis 8-0 in 1985. Everyone knows what happened then. Ultimately however, there would be no repeat for the Bristolian, but he is surely a multiple world champion in waiting. ven Trump could not hide his admiration for his hero on this most historic of snookering occasions. "He will go down to the best player of all-time," he said. "He keeps getting better and better. His determination, dedication... you can see it out there. He was the best player throughout the tournament by quite far. I was happy to just make a match out of it this afternoon." However, his time will have to wait for at least one more year. No player goes through a world championship triumph without one session to forget and in the heat of the moment on Monday afternoon when Trump threatened to push O'Sullivan all the way, it was easy to forget that was the first time The Rocket had wavered all tournament long. This was arguably his masterpiece in terms of runs to a world crown, with near-dominance from start to finish. Finely poised at 14-11 on Monday evening, O'Sullivan returned refreshed and revitalised for the final session. Had Trump claimed that first frame and clawed it back to two, maybe O'Sullivan's nerves would have frayed. But breaks of 82, 88 and 75 either side of a gritty 64 from Trump took O'Sullivan to the verge of glory heading into the mid-session interval. Trump needed a strong start in the evening but he did not get it. That left the door ajar for O'Sullivan and, despite a century from the 32-year-old in what proved the penultimate frame of the championship, his coronation was completed with a supreme break of 85. If there were any doubts remaining about O'Sullivan's status as the greatest of all-time, they may now finally have been removed.

County cricket

draws dominate as bowlers toil and weather spoils

London, May 03 : Surrey stay top of Division One after the gods of the earth and the sky conspired to make a draw inevitable at Bristol. It didn't look like that when Gloucestershire's decision to bowl paid dividends, the in-form Ryan Patel and Test batters, Rory Burns and Hashim Amla, back in the hutch on the first morning. But the next nine wickets were to realise over 1,000 runs and, with the last day washed out, no result was possible. Two batters scored double centuries but presented very contrasting cases for Test recognition. Jamie Smith is 21, hits the ball very hard with the wicketkeeper-batsman's

Lancashire stay tucked in behind the leaders with day four rain guaranteeing a draw at the Ageas Bowl, 24 points splitting evenly. This was a rare example this season of a pitch that nibbled consistently for the bowlers and demanded batters play themselves in carefully (and get a bit of luck), the difficulty factor reducing over time. Nobody did that better than Nick Gubbins, who made twin centuries, the key factor in Hampshire engineering a very decent chance to press for a victory that the weather took away. Lancashire needed late order runs from Phil Salt and Tom Bailey,

Leeds' grey skies could thwart Yorkshire's chance to chase 114 in 21 overs. Inevitably, Ben Compton batted over four hours for his 93 with wicketkeeper Ollie Robinson and Aussie all-rounder Grant Stewart's stand of 166 for the seventh wicket frustrating the home side, who knew the last session of the day would likely be curtailed. Earlier, Harry Brook's 194 added to his run of scores in April (101, 56*, 84 and 77*) - if that's not good enough to find a slot in England's most brittle batting order in living memory, I suggest that he sues. When Essex started day four 48 runs in arrears to Northamptonshire with seven wickets in hand, two all-rounders at the crease and only the inexperienced Feroze Khushi as a specialist batter to come, the odds were on a second defeat of the season for the home side. But Paul Walter, who had made two in nearly an hour in the first dig as part of a sorry effort that had seen Essex 83-8, made 91 more runs second time round and there were handy contributions from Matt Critchley and Adam Wheeler. Rob Keogh and Saif Zaib took five of the Essex wickets to fall, but the visitors (as is the case for many teams in April) felt the absence of a specialist spin option keenly. Somerset's season finally got going with a win after three defeats, as Warwickshire's defence of the pennant limped on with, one feels, a crucial match coming up this week at Old Trafford. Matt Renshaw, surely too classy a batsman to struggle for long, notched a ton at Taunton and the two Jacks, Leach and Brooks, turned up trumps with the kind of last-wicket stand that can deflate a side such that early wickets come in the next hour - and they did.



freedom (though, interestingly, Ollie Pope deputised for Ben Foakes in this match), and will score plenty of runs in the next 10 years - the question is for whom? Chris Dent is 10 years his senior, an opening batsman who crossed 10,000 first class runs in this match and appears to have been around forever. Whether England's new brooms will sweep either into the conversation (or other representatives of the ends of the spectrum they represent) may tell us much about what we probably shouldn't call a reset. Hampshire and

both dropped early on, whose eighth wicket partnership of 94 brought the visitors close to parity on first innings. Whether Lancashire's batting is good enough to create sufficient chances to win when Dane Vilas has Jimmy Anderson and Hasan Ali at his disposal, may define Lancashire's run for the pennant; Hampshire's may turn on Mason Crane's return from a loan spell at Sussex, confidence coming with overs bowled. Having conceded more than 500 runs in an innings for the fourth successive match, Kent showed considerable resilience to get themselves into a position from which

Modern pentathlon confirms obstacle racing will replace equestrian from 2024

London, May 03 : The governing body of modern pentathlon has taken the "landmark decision" to replace equestrianism with obstacle racing despite widespread opposition from athletes. The Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne said obstacle racing had been chosen from 60 potential options because it was "dynamic and attractive to global audiences", and had "a simple and safe infrastructure for training". Two variations of obstacle racing will now be tested - alongside fencing, swimming, running and shooting - before a final decision is taken by the UIPM's congress. If approved, the new

discipline will be added to the sport after the Paris 2024 Olympics. The UIPM said the decision, which was taken by a focus group of 26 athletes, was designed to ensure the future of a sport that has been a core part of the Olympic Games for more than 100 years. "After many months of detailed talks we are on the brink of a landmark decision that would change the history of modern pentathlon for ever," said Yasser Hefny, chairman of the UIPM athletes committee. "While we still have specifics to finalise, we have a new and



exceptional opportunity to grow and give visibility to our sport for the benefit of many generations to come, and that's very exciting." A poll by Pentathlon United, an independent athlete representative body, found that over 95% of athletes were unhappy with the way the UIPM has conducted the change.

'That time of the month'

Golfer Lydia Ko stuns reporter after talking about period



London, May 03 : Lydia Ko, golf's world No 3, has been praised for normalising the impact of periods on women in sport after rendering a male interviewer speechless with her answer to a question about some on-course treatment she received at an LPGA event in California. The New Zealander was seen being stretched out by her physiotherapist midway through the final round of the Palos Verdes Championship on Sunday, prompting Golf Channel commentator Jerry Foltz to inquire whether the tightness in her back and hips would be a recurring problem. "I hope not," said Ko. "It's that time of the month. I know the ladies watching are probably like, yeah, I got you." So, when that happens, my back gets really tight, and I'm all twisted. It's not the first time that Chris has seen me twisted, but it felt a lot better after he came. So, yeah, there you go. "Foltz floundered as he searched for a suitable response, and could only come up with "thanks". Ko, for her part, was able to laugh off the awkward moment, saying: "I know you're at a loss for words, Jerry. Honesty it is." Ko was widely lauded for being candid about an issue which evidently causes embarrassment in some circles, and is rarely talked about openly. There is a growing understanding of the effects of menstruation and pre-menstrual syndrome on female athletes. Some professional sports-women have their periods monitored by their sport's governing body, with training adapted to suit different points of their cycle. But it is only recently that athletes have spoken publicly about how it can impede performance. At the 2016 Rio Olympics, Chinese swimmer Fu Yuanhui earned plaudits after her team came in fourth place in the 4x100m medley relay, telling reporters "my period started last night so I'm feeling pretty weak and really tired". In 2015, British tennis player Heather Watson put her poor Australian Open performance down to starting her period. After Ko's comments, Marama Davidson, the New Zealand Greens co-leader, said the issue of period pain was "definitely not acknowledged enough". Clinical psychologist Karen Nimmo, who has worked extensively with high performance athletes, told New Zealand's Today FM it was refreshing to hear a truthful account of menstruation's effect on performance, rather than it being hidden behind other "ailments". "It's really healthy that we actually mention it as a normal part of sport that has to be factored in, not just physically, but also psychologically. We have to consider that people go through cycles and we have to think about that when we are planning training and events." "Menstrual problems are a common part of elite sport, and finally we have a gateway to discuss it," Nimmo said. "So go Lydia, I say." Despite Ko's discomfort, the 25-year-old former world No 1 finished second at the tournament in Los Angeles, two strokes behind winner Marina Alex.

Old-school racer Vincenzo Nibali gears up for what may be his last Giro d'Italia

London, May 03 : The Giro d'Italia begins on Friday and Vincenzo Nibali is not going to win it. We should probably be clear about that at the outset. Nibali has won it twice before, in 2013 and 2016, but that was a younger and hungrier man. Now he is 37, has not won a race of any real repute in three years and missed a big chunk of training time after catching Covid earlier in the year. When Nibali says his main goals are to ride for his Astana-Qazaqstan team-mate Miguel Ángel López and hopefully pick up a couple of stages, he is not bluffing. And yet one is reminded of something else Nibali said a few years back, when he was on top of the world and the Italian press and public were demanding why he was not winning more. Nibali could have ex-

plained in painstaking detail the hundreds of little victories and minuscule alignments that have to go your way before you can even think about winning a bike race, or the unique difficulties of prevailing when the entire peloton has put a target on your back. Instead he simply said: "To be beaten is not the same as failing." Perhaps no sport imparts that lesson more beautifully than cycling, a sport of teamwork and selfless sacrifices, of daring attacks and doomed heroism, where the first person over the line is often the most incidental detail of all. As he approaches what may well be his final Grand Tour on home soil, few riders have embodied that maxim quite like Nibali, a man who for all he has won over the years - all three Grand Tours, 15 stages, two Giri

di Lombardia, Milan-San Remo - will be remembered above all for the way he made people feel. This year the Giro will return to Sicily and Nibali's home town of Messina. For all Italy's pedigree in the sport, Sicily has never really been cycling territory. Indeed, so limited were the opportunities when Nibali was growing up there that, at 14, he was obliged to leave home and move to Tuscany to try to make it as a pro rider. And so these familiar roads and slopes have a dual meaning to him now: a reminder not just of the life he made for himself but the life he left behind. After winning the Tour of Sicily last October he collapsed into the arms of his teammates and cried like a child. Perhaps this is why crowds, and particularly Italian crowds, respond to Nibali in a way few cycling



crowds do anywhere. This is a bruised and bruising sport, one whose heroes are summarily burned and disgraced, where nobody is ever quite sure about what they are seeing and so nobody is ever quite sure how to feel. But whether in victory or defeat, people feel things about Nibali. They want to salute and exalt him. They want to sprint up mountains and catch the drops of sweat from his face. They want to believe. For the Italian public he represents something else too. Since Nibali's last Giro win in 2016 no Italian has won the race, either the male or female version. A sixth consecutive foreign winner would constitute the country's longest drought in history. The dominant language of the

peloton is now English. The overwhelming flow of money into the sport comes from outside Europe - Bahrain, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, the United States. Italy has not had its own WorldTour-level team for six years and for all its rich heritage that sensation of decline - of a sport it once dominated but which now belongs to everyone else - is hard to escape. Nibali, for his part, has never been an in-my-day sort of rider. Even so, as younger rivals begin to surpass him, as the sport begins to professionalise and compartmentalise, one occasionally detects a hint of nostalgia there. Often he has lamented the tyranny of data, the way some people try to reduce this panorama of tactics and intuition to a game of wattages and power

curves. For Nibali, the first and best marginal gain has always been racecraft: the instinct not just to suffer and win but to honour and entertain. This, perhaps, is how Nibali so often won races he had no business whatsoever winning. On the climb or on the descent, on the cobbles or on the open road, over six hours or three weeks: Nibali always trusted in his ability to read a race, to plot its twists and its breaks, his "desire to attack, to try without calculating", as he once put it. Milan-San Remo may not be quite the sprinters' classic it once was, but Nibali's victory in 2018, disappearing over the top of the Poggio and maintaining his lead all the way to the finish, still counts as one of its most sensational shocks.

MS Dhoni and Chennai Super Kings stars celebrate Eid. Watch video

London, May 03 : MS Dhoni and his Chennai Super Kings (CSK) teammates enjoyed their hearts out on the festival of Eid on Tuesday, May 3. The official moon-sighting committee of Telangana, on Monday, May 2, said that Eid-ul-Fitr will be celebrated on Tuesday, since the crescent of Shawwal, which is the 10th month of the Islamic calendar, wasn't sighted in Hyderabad and in other parts of the country. As far as the Super Kings are concerned, a number of their players, including Dhoni, Robin Uthappa, Shivam Dube, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Moeen Ali and many others took part in the celebrations. The players had big smiles on their faces as they gorged onto some delicacies. The family members of the Super Kings' cricketers also graced their presence and enjoyed themselves in the celebrations. The mood in the CSK camp looked pretty upbeat despite their struggle in



the 2022 edition of the cash-rich Indian Premier League (IPL). The Super Kings have found themselves in a muddle going into the business end of the ongoing IPL. After starting the tournament with four losses on the trot, the Super Kings have found a bit of momentum, but are still languishing in the bottom half of the points table. However, the Yellow Army will be high on confidence after defeating the Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) on Sunday, May 1 at the Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) Stadium in Pune. CSK will next be up against Faf du Plessis' Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) on Wednesday at the

same venue. The 40-year-old Dhoni, in the meantime, has replaced Ravindra Jadeja as the skipper of the four-time IPL champions. Before the start of the tournament, Dhoni handed Jadeja the captaincy duties, but the latter couldn't quite perform to expectations.

Bundesliga: Bayer Leverkusen eyeing Champions League after 2-0 win over Eintracht Frankfurt

New Delhi, May 03 : Bayer Leverkusen consolidated third place and Leipzig dropped out of the Bundesliga top four after contrasting fortunes for both in their quest for Champions League qualification. Leipzig slipped to its second consecutive defeat when 10-man Borussia Mönchengladbach won their game 3-1 to move to



and Patrik Schick on Monday gave Leverkusen a 2-0 win at home over Eintracht Frankfurt.

In Mönchengladbach, the home supporters protested against Monday night games and Leipzig with a large banner behind one of the goals, while any time a Leipzig player had the ball he was subjected to a chorus of whistles from the fans. Leipzig is frequently the subject of opposing teams' fans' protests. The club, which was founded only in 2009, is widely resented for its fast rise from the lower divisions to the Bundesliga on the back of massive investment from energy drinks manufacturer Red

Bull. Freiburg, which Leipzig will face in the German Cup final on May 21, has vetoed the use of its club crest or logos for any potential joint merchandise endeavors with Leipzig for the final. Up 2-1, Gladbach defender Nico Elvedi was sent off in the 64th minute for bringing down Christopher Nkunku. The French attacker would have been through on goal with only goalkeeper Yann Sommer to beat. Jonas Hofmann's second goal in the 77th minute allayed the home fans' fears of a Leipzig comeback. Leipzig could also reach the Champions League by winning the Europa League. Domenico Tedesco's team has a 1-0 lead over Glasgow Rangers going into the second leg of their semifinal on Thursday.

ITTF Rankings: Manika Batra jumps 10 spots to achieve career-best world No. 38

New Delhi, May 03 : While Sharath and Sathyan are the only two male players in the top-100, there are three more apart from Manika in the women's list. Ace paddler Manika Batra attained a career-high singles ranking of 38 with a jump of 10

spots while G Sathyan was the best placed Indian male at 34 in the latest International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings. Veteran Achanta Sharath Kamal also gained a place to be world No. 37 as most of the Indian players made fair gains in the lat-

est charts. While Sharath and Sathyan are the only two male players in the top-100, there are three more apart from Manika in the women's list. At no 66 is Archana Kamath, who has made a big leap from her previous rank of world No. 92. Young Sreeja Akula, who is

world No. 68, has gained 39 spots from 107th position. The last Indian woman to be in top-100 is Reeth Tennison, who has gained an astounding 197 spots to be world No. 97. In the men's doubles, G Sathyan and Harmeet Desai are ranked 28th in the while

the pair of Sathyan-Sharath are placed 35th. In the best ranking across categories, Manika and Archana are ranked world No. 4 in the women's doubles section while Sutirtha Mukherjee and Ayhika Mukherjee are next best at the world No. 29.

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