

# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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**Zelenskiy calls for end to blockade of Odesa port...**

02

**Premier League needs Liverpool to challenge Manchester...**

07

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Behali Reserved Forest

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, May 10:

Behali Reserved Forest (BRF) has been granted wildlife sanctuary status by the Assam government, an official notification stated. Declared in 1917, the BRF has been the last remaining semi-evergreen forest located in Assam's Biswanath district. It was a home to around 950 species with a total geographical area of around 60 sq km. "The Governor of Assam hereby appoints the Deputy Commissioner of Biswanath District to act as a Collector under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, to inquire into and determine the existence, nature and extent of rights of any person in or over the land comprised within the limits described in the Schedule," the notification stated.

### Cyclone Asani

New Delhi, May 10:

Due to cyclone Asani, Andhra Pradesh has been experiencing strong, gusty winds on its coastal parts. Many areas in the state including Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Konaseema, West Godavari, Krishna, Bapatla, Guntur, Nellore and Tirupati districts experienced light to moderate rainfall due to the cyclonic storm. Owing to the strong winds, flight operations have been suspended at Visakhapatnam airport as a precautionary measure.

### Detonator recovered

Nagpur, May 10:

A bag with 54 gelatin sticks and a detonator was found outside the main gate of the Nagpur railway station in Maharashtra on Monday evening, police said. A policeman spotted the unclaimed bag lying near the Traffic Police booth outside the main gate around 7.30 pm. He checked the bag and found a packet of gelatin sticks inside it, an official said.

## 'Confident that AFSPA will soon be revoked from whole of Assam': Amit Shah



Assam Rising  
Guwahati, May 10:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Tuesday said he was confident that the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) would soon be

revoked from the entire state of Assam. Speaking at a ceremony to present the President's Colour honour to the Assam Police in Guwahati, Shah said that the Act had been in force since 1990 and extended

seven times since. "After eight years of Modi, the [law and order] situation is such that the Act has been lifted from 23 districts in Assam. I am confident that soon the AFSPA will be revoked from the entire state," said Shah, who is on a two-day visit to the state. "At one point, there was Armed Forces Special Power Act, now the youth will get vikas (development) and ujwal (bright) future special power," he said, lauding the work of the Himanta Biswa Sarma-

led state government which completed one year on Tuesday. The contentious AFSPA, which lends near-unbridled powers to the security forces, was revoked from parts of the Northeast earlier this year. Shah claimed that insurgency was rapidly declining in Assam with militant outfits signing peace deals with the state government. "The day is not far when there won't be even one insurgent outfit in Assam," said Shah. The Union home minister

heaped praises on the state police, saying it had been successful in solving the problems of cross-border infiltration, cow-smuggling and rhino poaching. "There are few parallels to the tough circumstances Assam police has dealt with," he said. Assam is the tenth state in the country to receive the President's Colour, the highest honour given to any military or police unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the nation, both in peace and wartime.

## BSF has been working unrelentingly to protect border CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, May 10:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited Mankachar in South Salmara district on India-Bangladesh border and inspected a Watch Post operated by the Border Security Force (BSF). Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma accompanied the Union Home Minister during the visit. Sarma thanked the Union Home Minister for selecting Assam for the Central Workshop and Stores of the BSF at Tamulpur in Assam. He said



that the new infrastructure project would boost operational efficiency of the BSF and help in economic growth of the BTR region. Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited Mankachar in South

Salmara district on India-Bangladesh border and inspected a Watch Post operated by the Border Security Force (BSF). Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma accompanied the Union Home Minister during the visit. Union Home Minister Shah and Sarma also visited a Border Outpost of the 45th Battalion of BSF at Mankachar and interacted with BSF officials. During the visit, senior officials of the BSF apprised the Union Minister about the operational

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

## Efforts of PM Modi, HM Amit Shah Restores Peace in Country: Sonowal

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, May 10:

Union Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Tuesday said that the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have led to peace being restored in the country. Sonowal appealed to those still engaged armed movements to return to the mainstream for ensuring peace and prosperity for the future generations. Speaking at a public rally at Khanapara to mark the first anniversary of Himanta Biswa Sarma-led government in the state, Sonowal said, "From Jammu and Kashmir

to Assam and across the country, there is peace everywhere now due to the efforts of our Prime Minister and Home Minister. "Sonowal, the union minister for ports, shipping and waterways and AYUSH, also appreciated the efforts towards establishing permanent peace, especially in Assam and other NE states. Sonowal said, Assam was earlier known as a disturbed area. Development was very slow. Even after being in power for over 60 years, Congress couldn't do anything to resolve the problems. But after Narendra Modi came to power in 2014, he has achieved much success in



resolving most of the problems, he added. Appealing to the militants to

## Amit Shah presents President's Colour to Assam Police for meritorious service



Assam Rising  
Guwahati, May 10:

Union home minister Amit Shah on Tuesday presented the President's Colour to the Assam Police at a ceremonial function here. Shah presented the President's Colour to Assam Police at a function held at Nehru Stadium in Guwahati. Among

those present were Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta were present. "I am very happy and proud to have presented the President's Colour to Assam Police—a recognition which the force rightly deserves. In the past decades, the

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

## Assam Wants Honest Alternate Party in the form of AAP: Kejriwal

New Delhi, May 10:

The largest ever opinion poll ever conducted in Assam with around 6000 sample surveys done in the last one month said that 31.57 percent of people want the government of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the state. After the results of the opinion poll being declared on Monday, AAP chief and

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal said that the people of Assam are fed up with the old political parties and they are now looking for a new honest alternative in the form of Aam Aadmi Party. It is not only in Assam but people in every state like AAP, they want development like Delhi. The

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

## 'Declare India a Hindu Rashtra, ban all religions': Yashwant Sinha



New Delhi, May 10:

Posting a seemingly sarcastic tweet on the current scenario, TMC Vice President Yashwant Sinha on Monday said that declaring India a "Hindu Rashtra", and banning all religions, could be a solution for all of

country's problems. "Simple solution to all our problems today: declare India as a Hindu Rashtra by amending the constitution and ban all other religions," Yashwant Sinha tweeted. "Delete non-Hindu history, take revenge for past wrongs against Hindus by Buddhists, Jains, Muslims and Christians," he added in his tweet. Yashwant Sinha's sarcasm was apparently pointed at the Bharatiya Janata Party, that

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

## "Asom Barta" will reflect the State govt's programmes and policies.: DIPR Director Bishnu Kamal Bora



Assam Rising  
Guwahati, May 10:

The Assam government led by chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma completed one

year of its office on Tuesday (May 10). Union Home Minister Amit Shah also

visited the state to participate in several programmes and also launched various projects on the completion of one year of the government. The home minister is also slated to launch the Assam Government's development and governance-oriented newsletter today. The unveiling of the first issue of Asom Barta ("Voice of Assam") will coincide with the first anniversary of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led coalition government under Himanta Biswa Sarma. He was sworn in on May 10, 2021, as Assam's second Chief Minister of a BJP-led govern-

ment, after Sarbananda Sonowal. The newsletter has been published by the State Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR). "Asom Barta will update readers about the latest programmes and policies of the State Government and report on the implementation of government schemes. Citizens, intellectuals and freelance journalists will have the opportunity to provide constructive suggestions to the Government of Assam through the newsletter," the newsletter's editor-in-chief Bishnu Kamal Bora said. He is also the Director of the

DIPR. Mr. Bora said the government's target in the first phase is to reach 1 crore readers via various new media and social media platforms. More than 10,000 hard copies of the newsletter would be printed and delivered periodically to all State Government offices at the district and block levels and to eminent citizens across the country. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma also took to Twitter to mark its one year celebration. As a part of the celebration, home

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

## After Mohali blast, Pro-Khalistani group SFJ threatens Himachal Pradesh CM

New Delhi, May 10:

After the shocking attack in the Intelligence Wing headquarters of Punjab Police in Mohali, banned secessionist group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) has sent an ominous message to the Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur. In an audio message sent out to the press of the State, the SFJ's general counsel Gurpatwant Singh Pannun said, "This grenade attack could have taken place at the Shimla Police headquarters." On Monday night, a rocket-propelled grenade hit the Intelligence Wing headquarters of Punjab Police in Mohali and shattered windowpanes on one of the



floors of the building. The explosion took place at around 7.45 pm at the office located at sector 77 in Mohali. No one, however, was injured in the explosion. "A minor explosion was reported at the Punjab Police Intelligence Headquarters in sector 77, SAS Nagar at around 7.45 PM. No damage has been

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

# 'No end in sight': Shanghai residents chafe at harsh Covid measures



**Beijing, May 10 :** Tensions between Shanghai residents and China's Covid enforcers are on the rise again, amid a new push to end infections outside quarantine zones to meet President Xi Jinping's demand for achieving "dynamic zero-Covid". Videos shared on China's social media platforms showed suspected Covid-positive patients forcibly quarantined in central facilities. In some neighbourhoods a single positive case could lead to residents in the entire apartment building be sent for quarantine. Censors have been taking down

many of these videos, but determined residents have continued to post them. Past speeches by top officials and legal scholars have resurfaced in which they speak of the importance of the rule of law. These speeches have been shared and reposted on social media to express disapproval of government policy. Last week, Xi reiterated that his government had no intention of turning away from the controversial zero-Covid commitment, in a major speech to the country's senior cadres. He urged officials to

"unswervingly adhere to the general policy of dynamic zero-Covid" and warned against any criticism or doubting of the policy. Over the weekend, residents in at least four of Shanghai's 16 districts reported receiving notices that told them they would no longer be able to receive food deliveries or leave their homes, prompting numerous complaints on social media. "The virus itself is no longer scary, but the way the government enforced the policy has become the most frightening thing," said one Shanghai resident, who wished to remain anonymous. "We had thought the lockdown could be eased this month, but now there's no end in sight again." In the past few days, a number of videos shared on social media showed that health officials - also called Dabai, or "Big Whites" due to their white hazmat suits - entered

residents' homes and sprayed disinfectants everywhere. This practice outraged many residents, who questioned the legality. Others asked whether such a measure had any scientific basis. In one viral video, hazmat-suited enforcement officers ordered residents to be quarantined after a neighbour tested positive. "It's not that you can do whatever you want - unless you're in America. This is China," one of the officers is heard saying. "Stop asking me why, there is no why. We have to adhere to national guidelines." The Guardian does not know the identities of the residents and whether they were eventually taken away. Not all Shanghai residents were compliant. In a separate video, a local resident addressed government health workers to abide by China's law. The middle-

aged man, clad in a red protective suit with a face mask and a face shield, pointed out that there was always a limit to the power government officials are entitled to, and citizens' rights should not be abused. "Let me tell you," the man said, "you can only use your power with the authorisation of law... You have to tell me which items in our country's law allowed you to carry out your public power today? ... Therefore, you cannot enforce hard isolation upon us."



Guests attend an official groundbreaking ceremony of a China-aided project in Windhoek, Namibia.

## Zelenskiy calls for end to blockade of Odesa port to prevent global food crisis



**Odesa, May 10 :** Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, has urged the international community to take immediate steps to end a Russian blockade of his country's ports in order to allow wheat shipments and prevent a global food crisis. The Black Sea export port of Odesa was struck by missiles on Monday.

Zelenskyy said: "For the first time in decades there is no usual movement of the merchant fleet, no usual port functioning in Odesa. Probably this has never happened in Odesa since world war two." Without our agricultural exports, dozens of countries in different parts of the world are already

on the brink of food shortages. And over time, the situation can become downright terrible ... This is a direct consequence of Russian aggression, which can be overcome only together - by all Europeans, by the whole free world. It can be overcome by putting pressure on Russia, by effectively forcing Russia to stop this disgraceful war." Charles Michel, president of the European Council, visited Odesa on Monday and said he saw silos full of grain, wheat and corn unable to be exported. "This badly needed food is stranded because of the Russian war and blockade of Black Sea ports. Causing dramatic consequences for vulnerable countries. We need a global response." In the US, congressional Democrats have reportedly agreed to provide as soon as Tuesday another \$39.8bn in additional aid for Ukraine, exceeding President Joe

Biden's request last month for \$33bn including more than \$20bn in military assistance. Senate leaders were prepared to move quickly to enact the new proposal, reports said, which includes an additional \$3.4bn for military aid and \$3.4bn in humanitarian aid. Biden said: "This aid has been critical to Ukraine's success on the battlefield. We cannot allow our shipments of assistance to stop while we await further congressional action. A bill that Biden signed into law on Monday allows quicker supply of military equipment to Ukraine. Before signing the bill, Biden said "Putin's war" was "once more bringing wanton destruction of Europe," drawing reference to the significance of Victory Day.

## Mohali blast: 'Whoever tried to spoil atmosphere of Punjab will not be spared', warns CM

**New Delhi, May 10 :** Hours after an explosion was reported at the Punjab Police Intelligence Headquarters in Mohali, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday (May 10, 2022) said that "whoever tried to spoil the atmosphere of our Punjab will not be spared". Mann added that Police is investigating the blast. "Police is investigating the blast in Mohali. Whoever tried to spoil the atmosphere of our Punjab will not be spared," the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader said in a tweet. On Monday night, a rocket-propelled grenade hit the Intelligence Wing headquarters of Punjab Police in Mohali and shattered windowpanes on one of the floors of the building. The explosion took place at around 7.45 pm at the office located at sector 77 in Mohali. No one, however, was injured



in the explosion. A minor explosion was reported at the Punjab Police Intelligence Headquarters in sector 77, SAS Nagar at around 7.45 PM. No damage has been reported. Senior officers are on the spot and an investigation is being done. Forensic teams have been called. "The Mohali police said in a statement. The police have cordoned off the area and an alert has been sounded.

Asked if it was a terror attack, an official told news agency that the "investigation was going on". Former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh expressed shock over the explosion and urged Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to take strict action against those who were behind this incident. "Shocked to hear about the blast at the @PunjabPoliceIntd Intelligence headquarter in

Mohali. Thankfully nobody was hurt. This brazen attack on our police force is deeply concerning and I urge CM @BhagwantMann to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice at the earliest." Singh tweeted. This brazen attack on our police force is deeply concerning and I urge CM @BhagwantMann to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice at the earliest. "Deeply shocked at the blast at Punjab Police's Intelligence Bureau HQs, Mohali, exposing serious security lapses and highlighting once again the deteriorating law & order situation in Punjab. Thorough probe required to expose & punish those responsible," Badal said in a tweet.

## Alabama jail official, who allegedly fled with inmate, dies after police chase

**Alabama, May 10 :** The capture of a former Alabama jail official, along with a murder suspect she allegedly helped escape from custody, ended in tragedy on Monday when the jail official, Vicky White, fatally shot herself after a police chase. Vicky White, 56, was accused of fleeing since 29 April when Vicky White, the assistant director of corrections for the jail in Lauderdale County, allegedly helped engineer the escape of Casey White, who was awaiting trial in a capital murder case. Vicky White had told co-workers she was taking the prisoner from the jail for a mental health evaluation at the courthouse, but the two instead fled the area. In Indiana, Vanderburgh county Sheriff Dave Wedding said officials had learned that their vehicle was near the sheriff's office. As officers arrived, Casey and Vicky White fled in the vehicle and led police on a pursuit, he said. US marshals collided with them "to try to end the pursuit", he said. Casey White was injured, not too seriously, in the ensuing crash and Vicky White then shot herself, causing "very serious" injuries, he



said. Casey White was serving a 75-year prison sentence for attempted murder and other charges at the time of his escape. He was awaiting trial in the stabbing of a 58-year-old woman during a burglary in 2015. If convicted, he could face the death penalty. Vicky White's family members and co-workers said they were stunned by her involvement. Singleton had said that, in hindsight, it appeared the plan had been in the works for some time. Prisoners at the jail said the two had a special relationship and she gave Casey White better treatment than other inmates. She had recently sold her home and had communicated with Casey White when he was in a state prison.



shot inside their Ford Ikon outside a roadside convenience store." They have despicably and cowardly murdered a fellow reporter," one local journalist announced in a video dispatch from the crime scene, as rifle-toting security forces surrounded the area. Mollinedo and García are only the latest in a succession of Mexican reporters to lose their lives this year in what is a growing scandal that the president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, has been accused of failing to adequately address. In fact, many critics believe López Obrador, a media-bashing populist known as Amlo, is fuelling the violence with his incessant public attacks on journalists who he has labelled ill-intentioned conservative "mercenaries" bent on undermining his nationalist administration. Attacks on the press have

surged 85% in the three years since Amlo took power in December 2018 with every single Mexican state witnessing such incidents for the first time in 2021. Seven journalists were killed in the whole of last year, compared to 11 in the first five months of 2022. "Every day [Amlo] urges society to discredit the journalistic profession - and clearly we are paying the price in blood," said Sonia de Anda, a Tijuana-based journalist who recently confronted Mexico's president over the killings. Tijuana, which sits on the US border near San Diego, has suffered most this year, with two prominent journalists murdered outside their homes there since January: the photojournalist Margarito Martínez Esquivel and the television reporter Lourdes Maldonado.



A model presents a creation of Flors Fashion during the Fashion Art Toronto in Toronto

### Guest House

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# Plantation drive conducted at ITI



**Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 10:** In a continued effort of making the City Greener, the Guwahati Range observed its 3rd day of Twenty point Plantation

## Phat Bihu festival in Dhakuakhana from May 13

**Assam Rising, Dhakuakhana, May 10:** Like the previous years, Phat Bihu festival, the cultural pride of Dhakuakhana, will be celebrated at Mohghuli Chaporin on the bank of River Charikariya this year too. This year the festival will be celebrated from May 13 to 15 next with the participation of all sections of the society, irrespective of caste and religion. Various events like Mukoli bihu, Jeng Bihu, Toka Bihu, Mohila Bihu and gamosa competition will be held this year during the celebration of the festival. Already a strong celebration committee was formed, which was constituted with Pranjal Gohain as president and Deben Gogoi as secretary. At present, the celebration committee has propelled the motion of preparation high in order to conduct the Phat Bihu festivities smoothly, glorifying its past tradition. It is noteworthy that the folk cultures of various ethnic communities of the State are showcased in the programmes of Phat Bihu. A galaxy of renowned personalities, who have contributed much to cultural, literary, spiritual and other arenas of State will take part in the event as per information found from the

programme at Government ITI campus of Guwahati under Kalapahar Beat Jurisdiction on May 10. All total 50 nos of native plant species in the institute with the active participation of students and Dignitaries

## Self-composed poem competition result announced

**Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, May 10:** The results of Assam-level self-composed poem competition organised by Assam Multilingual Poets' Meet was announced on Sunday last. According to the results, 1st position - Gunajit Saikia, Barpeta, 'Punarjanma' (Assamese poem), 2nd position - Dibyajyoti Baruah, Golaghat, 'Jivan' (Assamese poem), 3rd position - Priyakumari Shah, Bongaigaon, 'Mera Sath Dena' (Hindi poem), 4th position -- Rita Baruah, Jorhat, 'Half the Sky' (English poem), 5th position -- Tarun Gogoi, Mariyani, 'Akhora' (Assamese poem) and 6th position -- Monuj Borah, Tezpur, 'Chakorir Bigyapan

programme at Government ITI campus of Guwahati under Kalapahar Beat Jurisdiction on May 10. All total 50 nos of native plant species in the institute with the active participation of students and Dignitaries

## Anthology of quotes of Rabindranath Tagore released

**Assam Rising, Sipajhar, May 10:** An anthology of quotes of Kabi Guru Rabindranath Tagore titled 'Tomar Banite Simahin Asha', collected and compiled by Paban Kumar Kalita, Subject teacher of Political science and Rabindranath Tagore National Fellowship awardee writer from Chinna Rao Welfare Trust, Visakhapatnam was ceremonially released by Dr Paramananda Rajbansi, Former president of Assam Sahitya Sabha and present MLA, Sipajhar Legislative Assembly Constituency at a function held at the premises of Sipajhar Higher

present namely Sandeep Kumar, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator Of Forests, Lower Assam Zone, Rohini Ballav Saikia, IFS, DFO, Kamrup East Division, Jnana Ranjan Das, AFS, ACF, Kamrup East, Smt Himani Pathak, Senior Incharge of ITI, Ghyl, Pranjal Baruah, AFS, RO, Guwahati and Kalapahar Beat officer Prahlad Gayan along with Forest Staff. Sandeep Kumar, APCCF addressed the students and elaborated on the importance of trees such as carbon sequestration, groundwater recharge, air purification etc especially in Urban areas like Guwahati. He also urged students to give dedication and also join the forest department in raising the planted trees by providing sufficient protection during the early stage of growth. 10 nos of seedlings are distributed to the public and students Today. The forest department is committed to plant and raise about 3000 trees in the 43 nos of Schools and Colleges of guwahati to beat the Climate Change and to create mass awareness among growing students of different categories.



Secondary and Multipurpose School on May 9 last as part of the celebration of Rabindra Jayanti. Addressing on the occasion he has highlighted the relevance of the quotes of Rabindranath Tagore in detail. The programme was attended by Dr, Ram Chandra Deka, Prominent

## Awareness session at NL St. Mary's School

**Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, May 10:** An awareness session on the topic 'Hospital promotion and cancer and health' was organised by Lakhimpur Cancer Hospital at St. Mary's School, North Lakhimpur on Saturday last. One speaker of the session Dr. S. S. Ghosh, Medical Superintendent, Lakhimpur Cancer Centre, focused on Assam Cancer Care Foundation (ACCF), Lakhimpur while the speaker Neo Kuki, Superintendent of Nurses, focused on cancer. A total number of 370 participants, including the students and teachers of St. Mary's School, participated in the awareness session. The session was coordinated by the nurses and ACCF staff.



## Orination on Gunotsav held at LCC

**Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, May 10:** The three day orientation programme for external evaluators for Gunotsav-2022 (3rd Round) for Lakhimpur district began at Lakhimpur Commerce College, North Lakhimpur today. Organized by Samagra Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), Lakhimpur, the orientation programme was inaugurated by Lakhimpur Deputy Commissioner Sumit Sattawan in presence of Lakhimpur District Development Commissioner Manoj Kumar Baruah and Principal of Lakhimpur Commerce College Dr.

Lohit Hazarika. The objective of the meeting was explained by Nibharani Saikia, District Programme Officer, SSA, Lakhimpur. In his inaugural address, Deputy Commissioner Sattawan urged the external evaluators to participate in the Gunotsav work with interest and in a positive spirit. He said that policy making always depended on the qualitative enumeration and survey and hence the external evaluators have a great responsibility in presenting important inputs towards framing policies in the education sector from the elementary level. The

inaugural session was also addressed by Lakhimpur District Development Commissioner Manoj Kumar Baruah. Indrajeet Gam of D I E T, L a k h i m p u r, Durgeswar Hazarika from Lakhimpur Kendriya Mahavidyalaya and Dr. Mridul Buragohain from Lakhimpur Girls' College today participated in the orientation programme as resource persons. About 169 teachers and faculties from Lakhimpur Commerce College, LTK College, Madavdev University and RARS-AAU participated in today's orientation programme.

## Illegal saw mill busted at Kampur

**Assam Rising, Nagaon, May 10:** Under special pursuance as well as instruction of Bhaskar Deka, Divisional Forest Officer, Nagaon, the protection squad led by protection range officer Rajen Saikia carried out an operation at Jodupothar near Sankarpur area under Kampur forest range early this morning and also busted an illegal saw mill at Jodupothar near West Karbi Anglong and Nagaon district border. During the operation, the forest personnel as well as protection squad dismantled the illegal



saw mill and brought all machineries, generator sets as well as other tools to the office of the division here for further legal proceedings. Besides, the

officials concerned and staff also seized huge quantities of timbers being kept in secret in a nearby jungle, sources added.

## Byatikram Group celebrated Rabindra Jayanti

*Eminent Singer Sudakshina Sharma pays tributes to Kobiguru Rabindranath Tagore.*

**GUWAHATI, May 10:** Byatikram Group successfully hosted a cultural program on the occasion of Rabindra Jayanti on the 9th of May 2022 at Rabindra Bhawan, Guwahati, Assam in association with the Directorate of Cultural Affairs, Govt. of Assam and Assam Linguistic Minority Development Board, Govt. of Assam. The programme was initiated to pay a tribute and honor in remembrance of the Great Indian Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore on his Jayanti. The program began with an art competition in association with IIFL Finance, with more than 100 participations comprising three groups and each group was given a particular theme marking the occasion. The program was forwarded with a lamp



lightening ceremony by distinguished personalities from all walks of life including eminent singers Sudakshina Sharma and Manisha Hazarika; Social Activist Padma Shri Ajay Dutta, Prof. Suman Gun, Shiladitya Deb, Dr. Shah Mohammad Tanvir Monsur, Assistant High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Guwahati, and his better half Munera Azam, Shri Pulak Banerjee, Eminent musical personality; Smt. Bandana Borthakur, Writer & Social Activist; Dr. Reema Das Mallik, Clinical Cosmetologist and the Proprietor of the Illumis Clinic; Dr. Mainu Devi, Professor & Writer; Dr. Timir Dey, Professor & Writer; Mr. Gopal Jalan, Writer & Social activist; Manik Ahmed, Dramatist & Director; Nikhil Talukdar, Eminent Journal-

ist; Mr. Pushpak Sarmah, Branch Manager, IIFL Finance (Fancy Bazaar Branch); Bidhan Dasgupta, Social Activist, and many others followed by a welcome speech by Dr. Saumen Bharatiya, Co-Founder of Byatikram Group. Dr. Bharatiya added saying, "Rabindranath Tagore is not only a name, it is a powerful bond which ties culture, language, and people not only in the country but also overseas together". The program was also enlightened by a few eminent personalities such as Padma Shri Ajoy Dutta, Prof. Sumon Gun, Actor Kapil Bora and Shiladitya Deb with words of appreciation and respect towards Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore as well as expressed their feelings on how unique his

bond was with Assam which was built on mutual trust, faith, and love. Later on, the program was followed by a 30 minutes Rabindranath Sangeet performed in both Assamese and Bengali languages with the melodious voices of eminent singers like Sudakshina Sharma, Manisha Hazarika, Rajushree Sharma, and Suman Mazumder. The program then continued with some soothing songs performed by artists such as Priyanka Sarkar, Abhijit Baruah, Sanskrita Malakar, Nayanika Hazarika, Proloy Roy and Anuradha Das Patra of Swaralipi's Group. The evening was followed by a few beautiful dance performances performed by the artists such as Atreyee Chakraborty, Nibedita Tarafdar & her

group, Soumi Sarkar & her group, Rajesh Chakraborty along with his Group, Sonali Mazumder & her group, Sangeet Natak Academy Awardee Anita Sharma with her group, Snigdha Kangkam Taid, and Bithika Roy. After the cultural programmes, the program was taken ahead with the declaration of the art competition results. The winners and runner ups for the different categories were Karishmita Kalita, Digangana Kashyap, Rajashree Bhatt for Category A based on the theme "Nature"; Anie Kashyap, Vivika Kashyap, Rockadeep Kashyap for Category B based on the theme "Rabindra Jayanti" and Archita Bhatta, Rituparno Roy, Bhaskar

Jyoti Kalita for Category C based on the theme "Rabindra Jayanti". Also, the results of the Poetry Competition organized by Ramanath Bhattacharya Foundation, Mumbai in association with Byatikram MASDO in both languages Assamese & Bengali were announced on the occasion. The winners of the Assamese category were Jyotirmay Ojah, Sabita Das, and Aakanshaya Dutta. The winners of the Bengali category included Prasenjit Chatterjee, Thirhamkar Chakraborty and Trisha Paul. At last, the program was concluded on a good note with a photography session and words of appreciation by the audience and the young talents present on the occasion.

### PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Jalukbari & Guwahati West territorial Building Division, Jalukbari, Guwahati-13 on behalf of Governor of Assam Invites item rate bids in two bid system for the work "Repairing and renovation of outside coloring of Hospital Building of Govt. Ayurvedic College, Guwahati" with an approximate value of work of Rs.24,42,403.00 from APWD registered Class-I (A/B/C) and class-II contractors (under PWD, Guwahati Building Circle-II) having experience of similar nature of work. Details of the bids may be seen in the office of the undersigned during office hours upto 21.05.2022.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer, P.W.D.  
Jalukbari & Guwahati West Territorial  
Building Division, Jalukbari,  
Guwahati-13.

No.B/KE/Confiscated Vehicle/NIT/3193

### CORRIGENDUM

In connection with the Tender Notice No. B/KE/Confiscated Vehicle/3016, dtd. 04/05/2022, the Bid submission date has been re-fixed due to technical issues w.e.f. 10/05/2022 at 17:00 hrs instead of dtd. 06/05/2022 against Confiscated and condemned vehicles.

Divisional Forest Officer  
Kamrup East Division, Basistha  
Guwahati

Janasanyog/C/2139/22

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**GOVT. OF ASSAM  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL OFFICER, KOKRAJHAR**  
No.DK/Agri/Fertilizer Auction/2021-22/231 Date:07/05/2022

**AUCTION NOTICE**

Sealed Tenders affixing court fee of Rs. 8.25 are invited from intending bidders (Fertilizer Retailers) for sale of seized Urea Fertilizer (672 Bags each bag containing 45 kg KRIBHCO Brand) which will be received up to 2.00 P.M. of 12/05/2022 at District Agril. Office, Kokrajhar. The same will be opened on 13.05.2022 at 3.00 P.M.

Interested parties are invited to register their names on or before 12th May/2022 till 2.00 PM by depositing security Money of Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees. Five thousand) only to the undersigned.

Details of Terms and conditions may be obtained from District Agril. Office, Kokrajhar during office hour.

Sd/- B. Basumatary,  
Chairman,  
Fertilizer Auction Committee,  
Kokrajhar

## THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VII, ISSUE NO. 83 WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022

## Crisis in Sri Lanka

The departure of Sri Lanka's prime minister, Mahinda Rajapaksa, follows weeks of protest and a deepening crisis. There is no bankruptcy system for states but if there was then the south Asian country - down to its last \$50m (£40m) of reserves - would be first in line to use it. A team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) this week started work with officials in Colombo over a bailout that will include a tough package of reforms as well as financial support. But as the IMF and its sister organisation, the World Bank, know full well, this is about more than the mismanagement of an individual country. They fear Sri Lanka is the canary in the coalmine. Across the world, low- and middle-income countries are struggling with a three-pronged crisis: the pandemic, the rising cost of their debt, and the increase in food and fuel prices caused by Russia's invasion of neighbouring Ukraine. People are facing sudden price increases for energy, fertiliser and food, and the likelihood of interest rate increases. Each one hits them hard. The UN has sought to quantify the problem. Its trade and development arm, UNCTAD, said in a recent report that there were 107 countries facing at least one of three shocks: rising food prices, rising energy prices or tighter financial conditions. All three shocks were being faced by 69 countries - 25 in Africa, 25 in Asia and the Pacific, and 19 in Latin America and the Pacific. The list of countries that look vulnerable is long and varied. The IMF has opened rescue talks with Egypt and Tunisia - both big wheat importers from Russia and Ukraine - and with Pakistan, which has imposed power cuts because of the high cost of imported energy. Sub-Saharan African countries being carefully watched include Ghana, Kenya, South Africa and Ethiopia. Argentina recently signed a \$45bn debt deal with the IMF, but other Latin American countries at risk include El Salvador and Peru. For months there has been speculation that Turkey would be the first domino to fall, but despite an annual inflation rate of 70% and an unconventional approach to economic management, it is still standing. Unlike some other countries under threat, Turkey is able to feed its own people.

## Be a Citizen Journalist

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

**Editor,**  
**The Assam Rising**  
G.N.B. Road, Chandmari Colony,  
Guwahati, PIN 781003  
E-mail Id : [assamrising@gmail.com](mailto:assamrising@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:assamrising@gmail.com).

**Editor,**  
**The Assam Rising**  
Guwahati, Assam

## CJI Ramana's reminder on plight of judiciary before PM Modi is timely. Situation is dire



The 11th Conference of Chief Justices and Chief Ministers, which took place recently, drew attention to how India's judicial system is failing the ordinary citizen of India and, in a more fundamental sense, failing India's constitutional democracy. It also brought to the surface the indispensability of the three arms of the state - the legislature, the executive and the judiciary - working in tandem to serve the citizen even as they provide a system of checks and balances against one another. The principle of accountability, which is so important in a democracy, is both sectoral and collective. Each arm of the state is accountable for the specific responsibilities that devolve on

it from the Constitution. But there is also the state's collective accountability because unless its three arms are mutually supportive in delivering good governance to the people in whose name they exercise authority, each arm can become a constraint on the others. Legislation may be poorly worded, leave various loopholes and rules for its implementation may

work to frustrate rather than facilitate implementation. It is then left to the courts to remedy the infirmities in the legislation through their judgments. The due diligence that ought to be performed by the legislature itself and/or the bureaucracy is mostly missing. The more precise the legislation and the rules framed under it, the less the need for judicial interpretation and action. We have also witnessed how governments ignore what they consider inconvenient judgments even at the level of the Supreme Court. The continuing non-implementation of police reforms mandated by the apex court in its landmark judgment of 2006 is a glaring case in point. The judiciary has often failed to perform its role as

the sentinel of the rights guaranteed to the citizen under the Constitution. We have been witness to the inordinate delay in the Jammu and Kashmir High Court hearing and disposing of even habeas corpus appeals addressed to it in the wake of the detention of a large number of local political leaders, activists and ordinary people in the wake of the abrogation of Article 370. The speech by the Chief Justice of India, N.V. Ramana, in the presence

**Shyam Saran**

of PM Modi, was remarkable for being forthright, in particular his reminder to both the legislature and the executive of their respective roles in enabling the judiciary to fulfil its responsibilities towards the citizens of India. He drew attention to the vastly increased caseload on the judiciary while both the human resources and physical infrastructure continue to fall further and further behind the growing requirements. For example, since the convening of the 10th Conference held six years ago, the pendency of cases had doubled but the number of judicial officers had increased from 20,811 to 24,112 only. There are only 1,104 high court judges in this country and there are 388 unfilled vacancies. There are only 20 judicial officers per million of

population, which is 'alarming' compared to developed country democracies. He may have been reticent about mentioning how large the gap is. According to reports, there are more than 20,000 magistrates and judicial officers per million, on an average, in the developed G-7 democracies. The situation is equally dire in respect of the population/police ratio. In 2020, there were only 156 police personnel per lakh of population, though the sanctioned strength, itself very low, was 200. The UN-mandated ratio is 230. The CJI also drew attention to poor policing, including the prevalence of custodial deaths. He was blunt in portraying the government itself as the 'biggest litigant', as it was responsible for 50% of the caseload. This, too, is a shocking figure. Having been in government, I have witnessed extreme reluctance on the part of government departments to accept adverse judgments of lower courts. They routinely file appeals right up to the highest court before giving up. In the case of income tax, figures available for the end of financial year 2017 revealed that there were 1.37 lakh direct tax cases pending before the IT appellate tribunals, high courts and the amount

involved was Rs 4.96 lakh crore! The current figure must be much larger. Modi referred to the use of digital technologies that have made the service of justice easier and more efficient but the need to expand their use significantly. He said the e-court project is being pursued in mission mode and pointed to the plight of a large number of undertrials - 3.5 lakh - whose cases needed to be handled in a humane spirit and with sensitivity. This is certainly an area where the judiciary and executive could work together to alleviate the situation. What should also be welcomed is the PM's commitment to ridding the country of a whole series of outdated and irrelevant laws which are still on the books. He claimed that while the Centre had abrogated 1,800 such laws, the record of the states in this respect was at 75 only. Both the CJI and the PM stressed the need to draft laws in simple language, avoiding legal jargon. They also proposed the use of regional languages at least in the lower courts and this is important for the delivery of justice in an inclusive manner.

## The economy is collapsing. Yet I can't recall a government so devoid of a plan



continuing weakness (why would anyone buy it?), interest rates could yet climb higher. The markets would be more reassured if it were clear that

Welcome to Britain, May 2022 - and one of the most toxic and dangerous economic moments I can recall. Last week, the Bank of England forecast inflation exceeding 10% and predicted negligible growth for the next two years, toppling into months of recession, accompanied by the savage squeeze on living standards. This is serious enough, but less remarked and of as much importance is the 10% devaluation of sterling over the past three months. This is a reaction to the economic trap Britain is in, intensified by the implosion of our EU trade post Brexit and the Brexit-induced fall-away in inward investment. If sterling's fall continues, the Bank of England's policy choices will be even grimmer. At the moment, it hopes that interest rates will peak at a manageable 2.5% before inflation starts to fall back to 2% in 2025. But that depends on an end to sterling's decline. If the Bank has to reassure the financial markets about its determination to contain inflation and staunch the pound's

the government had a strategy, a programme, a plan. The problem: the government is clueless, hanging on to two quasi-religious shibboleths it cannot shed. In its eyes, the hard Brexit it negotiated is a sacred achievement that can imply only opportunity, not crisis. Its faults cannot be acknowledged. Second, Thatcherism has such standing that any purposeful action to address the economy's weaknesses is deemed "unConservative". The government's economic understanding is thus childlike: free markets, low regulation, low taxes, balanced budgets and cheap disposable labour as the alchemy to drive 21st-century economic growth. The uselessness of these attitudes has been in plain sight over recent weeks. Called to brainstorm responses to the cost of living crisis, ministers suggested enlarging the number of children carers can look after, urging people to claim benefits for which they are entitled and making MOT

tests biennial. Really? Meanwhile, checks on EU-imported products at our borders are to be deferred until the end of 2023 with no reciprocal relaxation of UK exports to the EU. To ram home our weakness, Boris Johnson was reduced to pleading with Softbank, the owner of our hi-tech jewel Arm, to float the company in London rather than New York. This is the

**Will Hutton**

\$40bn acquisition made weeks after Brexit to Tory and Brexiter applause, a sign that Britain remained "open for business". Those of us who warned it was opportunistic asset-stripping and Softbank's promises worthless were dismissed as Remoaners over-attached to Project Fear. Expect Arm to float in New York rather than in diminished Brexit London. The markets need to see a confidence-creating plan to restore economic growth, animating investment and productivity. Brexit Tories neither understand modern capitalism nor how to manage it. Ensuring that inflation does not become self-feeding and entrenched requires more than interest rate hikes and boosterish bluster. The markets need to see a

confidence-creating plan to restore economic growth, animating investment and productivity. The working population need to know the government will have their back to protect living standards for the duration of the cost-of-living crisis, thus heading off aggression over wage claims that could trigger a wage price spiral. There is neither. While the new German government is vigorously pursuing a twin-track strategy of driving to net zero and creating a new digital economy that impresses the markets, we possess nothing. Levelling up, creating globally competitive cities in every region and nation, could have been such a strategy, one that plausibly could double GDP over a generation. It should be made front and centre of the government's economic policy, along with a drive to net zero. Instead, it was vetoed by the chancellor holding on to his piggy bank to protect tax cuts in 2024. Nor is there any strategy on the cost of living. There is more than enough scope, even before windfall taxes. The Office for Budget Responsibility projects that in three years the government will have exceeded its target of a balanced budget by £31bn. The chancellor could make a targeted annual cash payment of £500 to each of the 10m hard-hit households reliant on benefits to absolve them of

the choice between food, heat and clothes. If he had to do it for the rest of this parliament, the total bill would be £10bn - comfortably affordable and allowing millions to breathe more easily. The industrial strategy should be revived and renewed, but focused on the new economy of "intangibles" where intellectual property, knowledge, digitisation, brands and human capital are king. We need to build institutions ranging from a smarter competition authority to better banks, and investors who get the intangible revolution - and how to drive it on. Reality must prevail about where economic opportunity lies. Modern economies are densely interrelated, with supply chains that cross borders. Britain has too few corporate "primes" that lead their sector, but it does have lots of medium-size companies whose business is being part of a wider supply chain. Membership of the single market with common regulatory standards used to make that easy. Now, as Ulrich Hoppe, director general of the German-British Chamber of Commerce said last week, Brexit Britain is being cut out of these supply chains because the hassle of meeting common standards is too great. Out of the EU and strategy-free, deindustrialisation is accelerating across the Midlands and north.

## Gujarat is no Delhi. Challenge goes beyond 'development'-contesting Modi's iconic image

Call it a phrase, metaphor, a 'political proverb' or a 'sacred site' that grants an edge to those who touch it, 'development' is a word that trickles down like honey from the mouths of politicians vying for power in the Indian democracy today. Political groups, incumbent or in the Opposition, use the term frequently as a crutch for their claims, counterclaims, admiration and criticism. And it has now entered the political vocabulary of Gujarat, where the Legislative Assembly elections will be held in the coming winter. Recently, Arvind Kejriwal, leader and star campaigner of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) held a rally in Bharuch, a tribal district in Gujarat and raised the issue of development in the state. He critiqued the 'Gujarat model of development', which is one of the

calling cards of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The moniker of 'vikas purush', which Narendra Modi earned during his tenure as the chief minister in the state worked as a 'symbolic capital' of Narendra Modi during the 2014 parliamentary elections. But Kejrival, instead of accepting it, tried to expose the 'Gujarat model' by highlighting the problems of schools and hospitals in the state. He also indirectly proposed an alternative - the 'Delhi model' of development, with claims of building a high-quality, equitable school system and competent medical system. It is interesting to note, however, that a few days before Kejrival's rally, Modi inaugurated and led the foundation of various water supply and urban infrastructure projects worth around Rs 22,000

crores in Dahod and Panchmahal, underdeveloped tribal areas of Gujarat. Modi's projects in the past have attempted to establish an elaborate network of four, six and eight-lane highways as well. In his model of development, the calls for basic needs like water is crucial, to which he responded by making the Sardar Sarovar Dam on the Narmada River despite heavy opposition by civil society groups. In retrospect, people have now realised that it's because of this project that enough water is available in various parts of rural and urban Gujarat. The Bharatiya Janata Party government, during its 27 years of rule in the state, lay the



infrastructural foundation that has fostered development in Gujarat. Modi's vision, as then CM, to push for tourism in the state has also translated into job opportunities. It is also interesting to observe how the BJP regime has been renovating old religious sites and memorials while developing new ones such as the Statue of Unity in the Kevadia tribal zone. These sites have worked as catalysts in evolving various kinds of businesses, trades, and commerce in the state. By strengthening Special Economic Zones in the state, the BJP has also created an ecosystem where traditional, region-based 'dhandhas' like making tiles,

handicrafts and cottage industries can flourish. Gujarat has also effectively implemented various government-sponsored schemes such as PM Awas Yojana, PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana, MGNREGA, and various national assistance programmes such as old age and widow pension. Through these social support schemes, BJP has evolved a huge group of beneficiaries in the rural part of Gujarat who work actively to support the party. With these success stories, there are few who can sell the dream of 'development' in Gujarat and reshape the future electoral politics of the state.

Letter to the Editor  
Mind set and attitudes should be changed

Dear editor,

For a long time, men had been dominating and violating women. Even after women get educated and employed, the same situation continues in society. Kanya danam too is continuing, in society. Parents donate the bride to the bride groom at the time of marriage. This is wrong practice. Woman too is a human like any man, how she is donated. Kanyadaan should be condemned by law. Men think they can scold women, beat women, abuse women. This is wrong. This should be condemned totally. Without the consent of any woman no man can have sex with any woman, even her own husband. These aspects should be told clearly in every language on radio and TV regularly. Man and woman are equal as per Indian constitution and Indian law. Any one violating is liable for severe punishment- imprisonment and death penalty in select cases. Government though it decided to recruit more women police, has not been implemented yet. I suggest a special recruitment drive for women Police. All women police stations should be opened everywhere. Without taking preventive measures, such crime cannot be curbed. It is a shame on us.

**Kantamsetti Lakshman Rao**

Visakhapatnam



## Nagaland BJP holds competition to celebrate Rabindra Jayanti

**Kohima, May 10:** The Nagaland Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday evening conducted a national anthem competition in commemoration of the 161st birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, at the Regional Centre of Excellence for Music and Arts, Jotsoma, under Kohima district. This year marks the 161st birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, a great Bengali poet, writer, novelist, phi-

losopher and painter. The competition witnessed participation of 10 educational institutions from Kohima district, including Sazolie College, Sazolie College of Teachers Education, Kohima College, Nagaland Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samiti, Don Bosco College, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Yakukie, College of Arts and Technology Phezha, State College of Teachers Education, Hindi

Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samiti Kezieke, and Kohima Science College. State College of Teachers Education emerged as the winners of the competition and walked away with a cash reward of Rs 50,000 along with citation. College of Arts and Technology Phezha secured the second position followed by Kohima College, Kohima, in the third position, winning Rs 35,000 and Rs 25,000, respec-

tively. During the competition, O Akum Tzudir, Officer on special duty to Temjen Imna Along, minister of Higher Education and tribal affairs, remembered the immense contribution, efforts, achievements, and sacrifices made by Tagore in nation building. As the 161st birth anniversary is commemorated, he challenged the youth to be responsible citizens who can contribute to the great nation in every possible way. The judges for the competi-

tion were Ajin Longchari, Khyochano TCK, and Neisatuo Theluo Theluo. The competition began with a prayer by Fr Sunny KSKS from Don Bosco College, Kohima. While state BJP vice president Peter Rutsa delivered the welcome note, state BJP chief spokesperson Kuputo Shohie delivered the vote of thanks. Prominent musicians Imchalmchen and Virie made special appearances at the event.

## Buckwheat cultivation: expected to generate big bucks

**Shillong, May 10:** The Meghalaya government is betting big on buckwheat plantation, planning to expand its cultivation to 1,000 acres in the state over the next few years, as the "land and weather conditions are



perfect" for growing the cash crop, a senior official said. He noted that the area under buckwheat cultivation in the state has already been increased to 100 acres from four acres in a span of around nine to 10 months. "Buckwheat is a superfood, filled with valuable nutrients. In the next two to three years, we will have successfully grown buckwheat on 1,000 acres. Land and weather conditions in Meghalaya are perfect for this cash crop, Meghalaya Farmers' (Empowerment) Commission

chairman K N Kumar told PTI, on the sidelines of a food exhibition here. Given that it is not a high-maintenance crop, buckwheat can help generate supplementary income for the farmers of the state, he stated. "Buckwheat cultivation was introduced to the farmers of the state in 2019. The first seeds were brought from Almora in Uttarakhand. A trial run was undertaken in parts of the state, which, however, took a hit during cyclone Amphan. Later, in August last year, four acres in East Khasi Hills were allotted for growing the crop, and the initiative turned out to be successful," he explained. According to Kumar, the state is expecting a yield of 500 MT this year. "The government is buying buckwheat from farmers at Rs 40 a kilogramme. The crop is in demand in various parts of the world, including Japan," he added.

## NRFM claims responsibility for 2 recent blasts

**Imphal, May 10:** The National Revolutionary Front, Manipur (NRFM), a proscribed outfit, has claimed responsibility for the blasts that occurred at Nagamapal and Khurai in Imphal on May 5 and 6, respectively, as per reports. According to reports, the NRFM has claimed that they were involved in the blasts at PG Paints Center at Nagamapal and Lamaban Leikai in Imphal West and the residence of RK Birendra, an executive engineer of agriculture department, at Khurai Thoidingjam Leikai

in Imphal East. Besides damage to property and a few vehicles, no human casualty were reported from these recent blasts in Imphal. The NRFM, as per reports, has said EE RK Birendra's boastful remark and activities portrayed the outfit in poor light and demeaned the cause of the outfit. The outfit further asked all concerned, including the engineer and his associates, particularly former agriculture minister O Lukhohi, to clarify their stand at the earliest, it said. In case of failure to is-

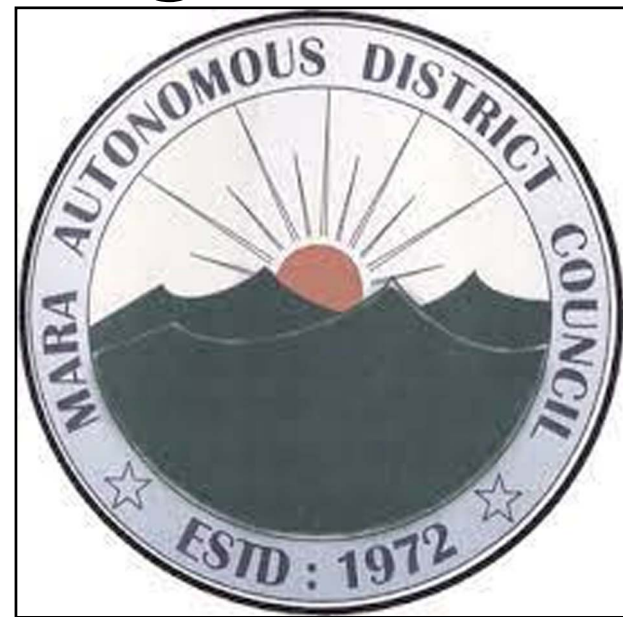
sue a clarification, the outfit has warned to expose their "misdeeds" and take appropriate action against them. The outfit also maintained that they take utmost precaution to avoid any collateral damage while carrying out their action and abstain from violence. The NRFM has also appealed to owners of properties damaged in the blasts to pardon them. The outfit has also assured the people, particularly residents of Khurai Thoidingjam Leikai, to prevent violent activities at its level best in future, it added.



Shillong, May 10 : Meghalaya police apprehended six Nigerian nationals on Friday who fled from Mumbai and were entering Meghalaya to flee to Bangladesh. The state police were able to apprehend the six after a request was received from Mumbai Police. Meghalaya police said the six Nigerians were wanted in a murder case in Mumbai. "On receiving information, an operation to apprehend the wanted Nigerian nationals was launched by Meghalaya Police, which managed to apprehend the accused at Lad Umsaw in Ri-Bhoi while they were travelling on tourist sumo ML 10 B 9779," the police statement said. The Nigerian nationals are wanted in connection with a murder case

## MAC elections results in 'hung' house

**Mizoram, May 10:** The 25-member Mara Autonomous District Council (MADC) in south Mizoram's Siaha district threw up a 'hung house' as no single party could garner a majority after the election results were declared on Monday, an official said. Siaha deputy commissioner Lalsangliana, who is the returning officer, said that the ruling party in the council BJP, which contested 24 seats, has emerged as the single largest party by winning 12 seats, one seat short of a simple majority, while the state's ruling party Mizo National Front (MNF) bagged 9, and the Congress contested 25 and 23 seats respectively. Incumbent Chief Executive Member (CEM) N. Zakhai of BJP has been re-elected from the Amobyu constituency, he said. Elec-



tions to MACD were held on May 5, in which a total of 85.11 per cent out of 42,342 votes was polled. Altogether, 85 candidates were in the fray for the MACD polls. The MNF had fielded 25, BJP (24), Congress (23) and the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM), which contested the council for the first time, had fielded 8 seats. There were five independent candidates, and none of them managed to secure a seat. Meanwhile, MNF vice president Vanlalawma said that the party has not decided whether or not to form a coalition government with BJP in the council. The

MNF is a member of BJP led North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA), and an ally of the BJP led NDA at the Centre. However, both the MNF and BJP do not work together in Mizoram. The only BJP MLA, Dr BD Chakma, sits on the opposition bench. State BJP president Vanlalhmuka was not available for comment on the possible coalition government. In the last council polls held in May 2017, Congress had won a simple majority by securing 17 seats, while the MNF and Mara Democratic Front (MDF) combine won 7 and one Independent candidates had been declared elected.

## TIPRA against illegal immigration: Pradyot

**Agartala, May 10 :** The fight of the Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Alliance (TIPRA) is not against any specific community or religion, but illegal immigrants, party chairman Pradyot Debbarman said. "The Manikya dynasty ruled the state not based on caste and religion. TIPRA is also not against any community, but yes, I support the National Register of Citizens and we strongly feel the illegal immigrants should be deported," Debbarman said while addressing a rally at Santirbazar under the South Tripura district. Taking a dig at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, Debbarman said, "The BJP's slogan says Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas, but unfortunately, there is no reflection of the slogan in remote areas, where our indigenous people are struggling for basics. Our people are suffering from an acute water crisis in the hilly areas, jobs are shrinking, and in some parts, there are no schools, and if there is a school, there is no one to teach. This is the reality of the tribal-dominated areas of the state." He said they (BJP) say Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas but things are opposite. "The district council has been turned into a dumping station," he claimed. On the alliance issue, he said, this time, there will be no alliance of political parties just for electoral benefits. "All the tribal societies will ally this time to ensure TIPRA wins elections. Winning West Bengal, Gujarat, Delhi, and Rajasthan will make no impact here. We are here to put up a strong fight," said Debbarman. Slamming the saffron party for not fulfilling its promises, Debbarman said, "BJP promised 50,000 jobs, Rs 340 as MGNREGA wages, but nothing's been done so far. Before the next elections, leaders will once again knock on voters' doors before entertaining them. Keep in mind how they are depriving you."

## Civilians injured during eviction drive in Imphal



**Imphal, May 10:** As per sources, the locals were injured when they protested the eviction carried out in presence of Wangkhei MLA Arunkumar Thangjam. No house or buildings were damaged on Monday. However, all machinery remained stationed in the area in order to continue the drive. According to Imphal East DC Th Diana, the residents have been asked to vacate the government quarters since a year back. However, they have ignored it, she added. She said the drive was carried out in order to construct a new building since the existing quarters are already in a dilapidated condition. At present, altogether 187 families are occupying the government quarters. Residents staying at the quarters are requesting the government to arrange an alternative for them. Earlier, Chief Minister N Biren Singh had said the government will start evicting the illegal occupiers at government-allowed quarters and also those government employees who are renting their quarters to others will face suspension. The government will even initiate termination action against those employees, Singh had posted on his Facebook page. This action is being taken to check the illegal activities by many illegal occupiers of the quarters, he added.

## Protests against NSCN, demands release of Gaon Burah



**Namsai, May 10:** Hundreds of local youths, with placards in hand, took out a march against National Socialist Council of Nagalim in Arunachal's Longding district, demanding unconditional release of Gaon Burah (village headman) Napoh Boham of Lauksim village. The placards read "No insurgency, we want peace, NSCN stop abduction, Sovereign does not mean to punish the common people - RSU, NSCN (K-YA) stop harassing us, NSCN (K-YA) leave Longding for peace" among others. The development came a day after Boham was abducted at gun point and remains untraceable even more than 48 hours of the kidnapping. According to sources, the angry villagers of Kanubari, in collaboration with Rujen Students Union (RSU), came out in open to express their deep resentment against the illegal activities of the insurgent groups operating in Longding district. The protestors turned up in large numbers in Lauksim village and shouted slogans against the

insurgents. "They unanimously pledged to secure an unconditional release of Boham from the captivity of NSCN (K-YA) insurgents," added sources. Meanwhile, security forces have launched combing operations to secure release of the Gaon Burah. Sources said, as per latest inputs, the NSCN (K-YA) abductors, lead by self-

styled lieutenant Wangbet Wangjen, are hiding in the jungles in the vicinity of Jaboka village of Mon district. Sources said, the protests, an open defiance against the armed outfits, is an indication of the waning support base of insurgents in Tirap-Changlang-

Longding belt which has left the militants red faced. In April this year, almost 120 gaonburas of Tirap and Longding districts extended their support to security forces to tackle the menace of NSCN insurgents operating across the two districts, during a meeting at Khonsa.

## African Swine Flu: 25 more pigs die, 111 culled

**Aizawl, May 10:** The African Swine Fever (ASF) continues to wreak havoc in Mizoram as the dreaded swine disease has currently affected 31 villages and localities across six districts. With 25 deaths on Sunday, as many as 1,983 pigs have so far been killed since the fresh outbreak of the swine disease in February. At least 1,201 pigs have been culled during the same period, including 111 on

Sunday last. Besides, 34 pigs suspected to be infected with ASF have also died on Sunday. The cause of their actual death is yet to be established. So far, 473 pigs have died due to suspected ASF since February. As many as 33,417 pigs have died due to the outbreak of ASF last year causing monetary losses to the

tune of Rs 60.82 crore. A total of 10,910 pigs have also been culled to prevent further spread of ASF the same year. The highly-contagious pig disease, which was reported for the first time in the state in March last year, was initially considered more or less contained as no pig death due to the outbreak was reported since December.

## Mumbai murder case : 6 Nigerians wanted nabbed

Shillong, May 10 : Meghalaya police apprehended six Nigerian nationals on Friday who fled from Mumbai and were entering Meghalaya to flee to Bangladesh. The state police were able to apprehend the six after a request was received from Mumbai Police. Meghalaya police said the six Nigerians were wanted in a murder case in Mumbai. "On receiving information, an operation to apprehend the wanted Nigerian nationals was launched by Meghalaya Police, which managed to apprehend the accused at Lad Umsaw in Ri-Bhoi while they were travelling on tourist sumo ML 10 B 9779," the police statement said. The Nigerian nationals are wanted in connection with a murder case

at the Waliv Police Station and intended to flee India to Bangladesh through Dawki in Meghalaya. The arrested persons have been identified as Eze

Christopher Obasi (43), Ahukanna Chinonso (46), Obi Francis Osita (36), Okoro Kelvin Chidozie (29), Emmanuel Agbeyi (37) and Osagiede Godstime (38).



## Contd. From Page 1

**Amit Shah presents President's**

force has done exemplary work in fighting terror outfits like ULFA, NSCN and NDFB," the home minister said in his address. "Assam Police has done commendable work in bringing down illegal infiltration and cow smuggling across the international border. It has also done well to tackle the menace of drugs and illegal smuggling of coal, betel nuts and wood," Shah added. Shah said it was due to the efforts of the Centre and chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma that most militant outfits in the state have entered into peace agreements and the "day is not far when the entire state will be completely free from insurgency and violence". "The Armed Forces Special Powers Act has been revoked from 23 districts, and partially from one district. I am confident that it will be completely withdrawn from the entire state soon," he said. President's Colour is a special flag which is given to a military, paramilitary or police unit as a mark of recognition for its services. A replica of the flag presented to the unit can be worn as an insignia by all officers and ranks of the force on their uniform. The flag presented to Assam Police has a map of the state with its 36 districts, the Assam Police insignia and also the one-horned rhino - the state animal.

**"Asom Barta" will reflect the State**

minister Amit Shah planted a sapling as a symbol of another new beginning. "Marking completion of one year of our Govt, we're blessed to have august presence of Hon Union HM Shri @AmitShah ji amidst us. He planted a sapling today as a symbol of another new beginning & embodiment of our unflinching commitment," CM Sarma said in a tweet.

**Assam Wants Honest Alternates**

party in a tweet said, "AAP-rising in Assam! Survey by @pratidintime shows 31.57% people of Assam want 'Arvind Kejriwal Model of Governance' in their state! Whole India wants 'Kaan ki Rajneeti'." Notably, the party has made its base in the state by winning a ward in Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) elections. The party secured second position in 24 wards. It also secured third position in the entire elections with 4,40,000 votes after Congress. The party has also made its base not only in Guwahati but in other districts as well as large numbers of people are joining the party on a regular basis. The last question of the survey done by Pratidin Time 'Which Government will the public vote if the elections are held today?' to which BJP received 39.99 percent with AAP in second position with 31.57 percent. AAP is in second position which is behind by BJP with only 8 percent.

**BSF has been working**

areas of the outpost and steps taken by it for border security. Sarma thanked the Union Home Minister for selecting Assam for the Central Workshop and Stores of the BSF at Tamulpur in Assam. He said that the new infrastructure project would boost operational efficiency of the BSF and help in economic growth of the BTR region. Sarma said that once this project becomes operational, the BSF will have better access to arms and ammunition, weapons testing and repairing facilities. He also said that the BSF has been working unrelentingly for protecting the border and to check infiltration as well as smuggling of drugs and other banned items. Reiterating Assam government's commitment for development of Tamulpur, the Chief Minister said that fulfilling its promise the government has upgraded Tamulpur from a sub-division to a district. He also assured to launch construction of several bridges as promised earlier. Sarma also underlined the role played by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in establishing peace and unleashing development in the region.

**Danish Siddiqui, three others win**

collapse in Florida. Reuters photographer Danish Siddiqui was posthumously awarded a Pulitzer along with Adnan Abidi, Sanna Irshad Mattoo, and Amit Dave for their images of Covid's toll on India. Siddiqui was killed last year while covering a clash between Afghan special forces and Taliban insurgents. The Washington Post won the Pulitzer Prize in public service journalism for its coverage of the Jan 6 insurrection at the US Capitol, an attack on democracy that was a shocking start to a tumultuous year that also saw the end of the United States' longest war, in Afghanistan. Five Getty Images photographers were awarded one of the two prizes in breaking news photography for their coverage of the riot. The other prize awarded in breaking news photography went to Los Angeles Times correspondent and photographer Marcus Yam, for work related to the fall of Kabul.

## Union Home Minister Amit Shah attends one-year celebration of Assam Government, lays foundation stone of several development projects

### Assam government is working to take government to the doorsteps of the people: CM

**Guwahati, May 10:** Coinciding with the one-year celebration of the Government of Assam, Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid foundation stone of several development projects aimed at efficient delivery of government services and improvement of work culture in government offices at a function held at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra in Guwahati today. The projects for which the Union Home Minister laid foundation stone include a modern and environment friendly Police Commissionerate building at Khanapara with Ground + 8 floors, Integrated Deputy Commissioner's Office of Kamrup Metro district at Rupnagar on 13 Bigha land, Integrated Directorate Complex at Betkuchi to house nearly 33 different directorates, Redevelopment of Assam Police Reserve at Guwahati comprising predominantly housing, barracks, office, armoury, school, parking and community facilities and a 5000 seater con-

vention hall in Guwahati over 40 bighas to facilitate multiple usages; such as large conferences, dance, music and drama shows. On the occasion, the Union Home Minister also launched "Asom Barta", a monthly government Newsletter and booklet on the government's journey of one year. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said that one year ago, on this day he took oath as the Chief Minister of Assam and during last one year made committed efforts for welfare of the people. He also assured to continue working for the people and transform Assam into a developed state. Stating that the present Assam government came to power in the midst of second phase of Covid pandemic, he said that during this period instead of depending on Central government support alone, Assam government supplied oxygen cylinders to north-eastern states and developed strong health infrastructure with ICU

**'Declare India a Hindu Rashtra**

according to TMC, is allegedly fuelling communal tensions at many places across the nation. Simple solution to all our problems today: declare India as a Hindu Rashtra by amending the constitution and ban all other religions, delete non-Hindu history, take revenge for past wrongs against Hindus by Buddhists, Jains, Muslims and Christians. Currently, a major row over playing of Azaan on loudspeakers is going on in Maharashtra. In Delhi, anti-encroachment drive is on, which the Opposition has alleged is being carried out only in Muslim community dominated areas. The Opposition parties have been continuously accusing BJP ruled government's across the nation of targeting Muslims. The tweet also mentions deleting of the chapter, taking a swipe at the Centre's recent move wherein the government removed a few chapters in the CBSE curriculum. In this case too, the Opposition targeted the BJP ruled centre of attempting to brainwash youth by deleting chapters on Mughal history.

**After Mohali blast**

reported. Senior officers are on the spot and an investigation is being done. Forensic teams have been called," the Mohali police said in a statement. Hours after the attack Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday (May 10, 2022) said that "whoever tried to spoil the atmosphere of our Punjab will not be spared". Mann added that Police is investigating the blast. "Police is investigating the blast in Mohali. Whoever tried to spoil the atmosphere of our Punjab will not be spared," the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader said in a tweet. Earlier, the group Sikhs for Justice had sent out a threat to Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur and warned him to not take action against raising of the Khalistani flag on the gates of Vidhan Sabha complex in Dharamshala.

## Ferdinand Marcos Jr wins Philippines presidential election

**Manila, May 10 :** The Philippines woke to a new but familiar political dawn on Tuesday (May 10), after an election triumph by Ferdinand Marcos Jr paved the way for a once unimaginable return to the country's highest office for its most notorious political dynasty. Marcos, better known as "Bongbong", trounced bitter rival Leni Robredo to become the first candidate in recent history to win a Philippines presidential election majority, marking a stunning comeback by the son and namesake of an ousted dictator that has been decades in the making. Marcos fled into exile in Hawaii with his family during a 1986 "people power" uprising that ended his father's autocratic 20-year rule, and has served in congress and the senate since his return to the Philippines in 1991. Marcos's runaway victory in Monday's election now looks certain with 96% of the eligible ballots counted in an unofficial tally, showing he has more than 30 million votes, double that of Robredo. An official result is expected around the end of the month. "There are thousands of you out there, volunteers, parallel groups, political leaders that have cast their lot with us because of our belief in our message of unity," Marcos said in a statement streamed on Facebook, standing beside a national flag. Though Marcos, 64, campaigned on a platform of unity, political analysts say his presidency is unlikely to foster that, despite the margin of victory. Many among the millions of Robredo voters are angered by what they see as a brazen attempt by the disgraced former first family to use its mastery of social media to reinvent historical narratives of its time in power. Thousands of opponents of Marcos senior suffered persecution during a brutal 1972-1981 era of martial law, and the family name became synonymous with plunder, cronyism and extravagant living, with billions of dollars of state wealth disappearing. The Marcos family has denied wrongdoing and many of its supporters, bloggers and social media influencers say historical accounts are distorted. Around 400 people, mostly students, staged a protest outside the election commission on Tuesday against Marcos and citing election irregularities. The election commission, which said the poll was relatively peaceful, is due on Tuesday to rule on petitions seeking to overturn its dismissal of complaints trying to bar Marcos from the presidential race. Human rights group Karapatan called on Filipinos to reject the new Marcos presidency, which it said was built on lies and disinformation "to deodorize the Marcoses' detestable image". Marcos, who shied away from debates and interviews during the campaign, recently praised his father as a genius and a statesman but has also been irked by questions about the martial law era. As the vote count showed the extent of the Marcos win, Robredo told her supporters to continue their fight for truth until the next election. "It took time to build the structures of lies. We have time and opportunity to fight and dismantle these," she said. Marcos gave few clues on the campaign trail about what his policy agenda would look like, but is widely expected to closely follow outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte, who targeted big infrastructure works, close ties with China and strong growth. Duterte's tough leadership style won him big support. Washington needed to engage with Manila rather than criticise "the democratic headwinds buffeting the Philippines", said Greg Poling, a Southeast Asia analyst from the Washington D.C.-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. This is not the end of Philippine democracy, though it may accelerate its decay," said Poling.



facilities for treatment of Covid patients. The Chief Minister said that during last one year, efforts were made to take the government to the doorsteps of the people and several steps were taken in this regard. Mission Basundhara, Project Sadbhavana, online services for learner's license and vehicular permits etc. were taken which have facilitated smooth delivery of government services, he added. Stating that peace has prevailed in every part of Assam today due to unprecedented efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Dr. Sarma said that this has given a new push to state's development narrative. During last one year, apart from accelerating construction of Guwahati-North Guwahati

## Ram, Hanuman being used for polarisation: Bhupesh Baghel

**Surajpur, May 10 :** Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Sunday slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party for "turning Lord Ram into a warrior-like figure and Hanuman into a symbol of anger to further the politics of polarization". Baghel said that over the past few years, the change of image of Lord Ram and Hanuman to a more aggressive one is bad for society. "We believe in Lord Ram as Maryada Purushottam (an ideal) and always think of Ram-Rajya. But in past years, efforts have been made to show him as a Rambo. Similarly, Hanuman, an epitome of devotion, knowledge and power, is being portrayed as angry. This is not good for society," Baghel said. Meanwhile, in the violence that erupted on April 10 in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone, several people, including police personnel, were injured when groups of people pelted stones at each other during a Ram Navami procession. Tension also gripped Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's hometown Jodhpur hours before Eid on May 3, prompting the authorities to suspend mobile internet services and impose a curfew in 10 police station areas of the city. There was agitation over putting up religious flags on the Jalori gate circle in Jodhpur, which led to stone-pelting in which five policemen were injured. Following the incident, Jodhpur Police issued orders imposing a curfew besides suspending mobile internet services to check the spread of rumours.

## Do aliens exist? Researchers release 'Best-ever UFO picture', netizens baffled

**New Delhi, May 10 :** If you are a space and UFO enthusiast who is always looking for attractive UFO images and videos and is tired of all the bad quality, grainy pictures, today is your lucky day! Researchers have released a new high-resolution photo of what is being called 'the best photograph of a UFO ever taken' and it has surfaced all over the internet. The picture has gone viral on the internet and is being shared widely. If you see the image in detail, a unique flying object can be spotted on the left side of the photo. However, the object was not very clear in the developed photo by Sergio. The UFO was spotted only after the image was enhanced recently. As per media reports, the photo was taken 50 years ago by map maker Sergio Loaiza, who was flying at 10,000 feet above the woods of Costa Rica with a 100lb camera. During his map survey, he snapped hundreds of black and white photos of Lake Cote and the surrounding rainforest at an altitude of 3,000 metres, with which a unique object flying in the sky was captured. However, the UFO came to notice only when Loaiza developed all his snaps. The frame with the time stamp 8.25 am is the only image with the metal disk in it. It is the closest thing to the UFOs we've seen in classic films and TV shows. According to UAP Media, 'UFO Enthusiast Esteban Carrazan released a 'contact' copy of the original image. Sergio's photo was forgotten over the years. But it returned to public consciousness in 2021. New York Times reporter Leslie Kean said the image is "the best" photo of a UFO ever taken.

## Nirmala Sitharaman is winning praise. Reason: A glass of water

**New Delhi, May 10 :** While it's a common notion that people in power have high egos and they tend to consider themselves superior to others, some think and act otherwise. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is certainly one of them. This time, the minister is winning praise for her humane gesture during an event in Mumbai. During the event, the Managing Director of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), Padmaja Chunduru, who was addressing the audience, asked for a glass of water mid-speech. The person who immediately stood from her seat to do the honours was none other than Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Sitharaman walked up to the dais and offered a glass of water to Chunduru. The audience, impressed by Sitharaman's act, clapped in her praise. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan tweeted a video of the act that is now going viral on social media. "This graceful gesture by FM Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman ji reflects her large heartedness, humility and core values. A heart warming video on the internet today," Pradhan said on Twitter. "Great gesture indeed... Seems humanity is still alive in few of the politicians... Hope that she can provide income tax relief to salaried class as well ... Corporate tax got relief 4 years backm," a user who goes by the name Hare Krishna tweeted. "Our FM is down to earth Leader, I saw sometime in Bangalore while eating breakfast in a normal restaurant with few friends and very open," said another user who goes by profile name Sudershan. "She has 'Nirmal' in her name, and with such gestures, she lives up to her name. Respects to you Hon'ble minister Ma'am," said Twitter user Swarup Mukherjee. "Graceful and dignified finance minister. She is an excellent example of how people in public life should behave. God bless her," Hemant Pandey tweeted.

bridge for timely completion, new bridge connecting Guwahati with Sualkuchi over river Brahmaputra, 32 km long elevated corridor at Kaziranga National Park have also been sanctioned. He also said that state government is working to add 16 more medical colleges to develop a more robust health network and for the first time in last seven decades of independent India high schools were set up at tea garden areas in Assam. Thanking people of Assam for their support and cooperation during last one year, the Chief Minister said that dedicated efforts are on to address the flood problem of Assam in a holistic way. He also thanked people for adhering to road safety norms responding to government's call which has led to reduction of road accidents. Highlighting state government's march towards becoming a developed state to join the league of top five states of the country, he said that for the first time Assam has

registered one lakh crore in public expenditure and the state GDP is about to touch 5 lakh crore. Dr. Sarma also thanked the state government employees for their support in realizing the vision of the government. Union Home Minister Amit Shah while gracing the one-year celebration of the Assam Government as Chief Guest also delivered speech. While Chief Secretary Jishnu Baruah delivered the welcome speech, the function was also addressed by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal. Union MoS for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli, Agriculture Minister Atul Bora, Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Ranjeet Kumar Dass, Chairman HOUSEFED Bhabesh Kalita, CEM BTC Pramod Boro were also present. On the occasion, a cultural programme showcasing state's rich and diverse culture was also organized with the participation of different communities of the state.

## Premier League needs Liverpool to challenge Manchester City, says Klopp



**London, May 10 :** Jürgen Klopp has dismissed Pep Guardiola's claim that the entire country wants Liverpool to win the title but insisted the Premier League would be boring without a serious rival to Manchester City. Guardiola claimed "everyone in this country supports Liverpool, the media and everyone" and "people want Liverpool to win more than us" in a bizarre outburst following City's 5-0 rout of Newcastle on Sunday. Brighton's Leandro Trossard battles with Manchester United's Fred; Villa's Emi Buendia; Leicester's Brendan Rodgers. Klopp believes the post-match interview illustrated the tension of the title race on Guardiola more than any statement of fact, and likened it to his criticism of Antonio Conte's tactics after Tottenham's 1-1 draw at Anfield on Saturday. But the Liverpool manager considers his team worthy of wider support for delivering a genuine title race and ensuring City do not win a fourth league championship in five seasons at a canter. "Imagine how the situation would be if we were not that close. Then the interviews would be boring," Klopp said. "You have to make sure there is some excitement and there is an exciting battle for who stays in the league and an exciting battle for who qualifies for the Champions League. But imagine if we were not closer." It [Guardiola's reaction] is completely normal. We all feel the tension, we cannot say we don't feel it. After the Tottenham game, it is not like I thought: 'Great', but before you can deal with your emotions you have already faced 20 cameras. That is what Pep did. I don't take it as a backhanded compliment. He probably thought he has to make this point. You know much better than I do it is not the case."

## Roberts sinks Sheffield Wednesday and sends Sunderland to Wembley

**Hillsborough, May 10 :** Patrick Roberts scored on the final day of last season to help send Sheffield Wednesday down to League One, and the winger condemned the Owls to another season in the third tier with a stoppage-time winner to put Sunderland 90 minutes away from promotion. The match was heading into extra-time after Lee Gregory slid the ball home to cancel out Ross Stewart's first-leg winner but Roberts pounced in the 10 minutes of time added on to earn victory for Sunderland thanks to fine work by Jack Clarke on the left, who tricked his way inside the box before fizzing the ball into the path of



Roberts. The duo once cost a combined £21m, which proved handy to Alex Neil. Sunderland have failed to earn promotion in their previous six attempts in the playoffs but they are currently 15 games unbeaten and Trafalgar

Square will be packed before their trip to Wembley to face Wycombe. "I just think as a coach, the one thing that you want is for your team to represent you," Neil said. "I would regard myself as being determined, being focused, knowing

what I want and doing what I can to get it. And I think this team completely represents me in how they want them to go about it, which unfortunately, I never had as a player." A packed Hillsborough roared every touch from a Wednesday player in the early stages. The biggest cheer of the opening five minutes was saved for Sunderland's Alex Pritchard when he leapt over an outstretched leg on the edge of the box, only for the referee and home supporters to show the midfielder what they thought of his artistic attempt to win a free-kick. Barry Bannan's intelligence on the ball ensured the surround sound did not stop.

## London sprawling as Surrey and Middlesex top tables



**London, May 10 :** Having played out a draw on the deadeast of tracks in the previous round at Bristol, Surrey were back in South London where a greenish strip was served up for play. Looking down, it was so green that Northamptonshire captain Ricardo Vasconcelos discounted the blue he saw looking up and decided to bowl. At 133-4, it didn't look the worst decision, but Rory Burns had chased a few wishy ones and missed (rather than nicked, as he had done so far this

season) and was demonstrating again that his temperament

compensate for his shaky technique if he gets that bit of luck. Sam Curran, under ECB instruction to limit his bowling, played as a batter and looked two classes above anyone else on show, the ball pinging off his blade with a very satisfactory twang. Without Jamie Smith and Ollie Pope, Surrey's team looked a bit of a hotchpotch, but given any kind of platform, a late order of Colin de Grandhomme, Gus Atkinson, Jordan Clark and Jamie Overton are not

all going to fail, and it was Atkinson and Overton who got in and biffed the home side's score out to 401. Northants' batters were then impaled on their captain's hubris, scoreboard pressure and a nipping pitch a tough gig. The seamers knew they just needed to keep it there or thereabouts and Rory Burns packed the slips for the inevitable edges. Surrey stay top of the Division One and look ominously well stocked with gamechangers.

## Nikola Jokic to join Jordan and Kareem with second-straight NBA MVP award

**Washington, May 10:** Nikola Jokic put up numbers never seen before in NBA history. Not from Wilt. Not from Kareem. Not from Jordan. Not from LeBron. With a historic season, the Denver Nuggets big man earned his second straight Most Valuable Player

award, a person with knowledge of the decision told the Associated Press on Monday. The NBA will formally announce the result later this week. ESPN, citing sources, first reported that Jokic would be named MVP again. The 7ft center became

the first player in league history to record more than 2,000 points, 1,000 rebounds and 500 assists in a season. And that sort of dominance helped convince voters that the Serbian star should be the 13th player of the NBA's exclusive MVP back-to-back

club. The other finalists who will finish second and third in some order were Philadelphia 76ers center Joel Embiid, who led the league in scoring average, and two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo of the reigning champion Milwaukee Bucks.

## Chester counts cost of stay-away fans at May Festival



attracted a total of 240,541 racegoers, an average attendance of 16,000 for every card, while the reported crowds for the

three-day May Festival were 15,340, 15,148 and then 22,926 for the Chester Cup on Friday. All British racing was suspended in May

2020 and the meeting was cancelled, while the sport was still behind closed doors when the May Festival returned in 2021.

The first renewal with full crowds for three years, however, pulled in "8,000 then just over 11,000 and just over 15,000" according to Louise Stewart, the track's new chief executive, who was overseeing her first May Festival last week. That represents a significant loss in revenue, not just for the racecourse but the local economy as a whole. Chester was noticeably quiet on Wednesday, both at the track and in the city - eerily so for veterans of a meeting where the daily attendance had not previously dropped below 11,000 this century - and while there was much more of an atmosphere on Thursday and Friday, there was still plenty of breathing space for the Roodee's racegoers.

## Erling Haaland set to join Manchester City after passing medical

**London, May 10 :** Erling Haaland is poised to become a Manchester City player this week after passing a medical and the Premier League champions telling Borussia Dortmund they will activate the 21-year-old's release clause. The fee is understood to be significantly less than £75m (£64m) that has been widely reported. The deal is

expected to be announced imminently by the German club, Haaland having informed them of his wish to leave after two-and-a-half years. Personal terms between the player and City have been agreed. Haaland will earn a basic salary of around £350,000 a week with considerable bonuses and is poised to sign a five-year

contract. For the Manchester City manager, Pep Guardiola, the deal ends his search for a long-term successor to the club-record goalscorer, Sergio Agüero. Guardiola began the quest for a replacement for the Argentinian last summer when he departed for Barcelona. At the time the No 1 target was Tottenham's Harry Kane but City were priced out of any prospective deal by Daniel Levy, the north London club's chairman, who valued Kane at £150m. Guardiola's desire to also acquire Jack Grealish, who cost City a British

record £100m when he joined from Aston Villa last summer, made the transfer of Kane impossible. This season Guardiola turned his focus to Haaland. The City manager admires the Norwegian, who has scored 85 goals in 88 appearances for Dortmund, but wanted to make sure he had the ability to suit City's fluid passing style. When Real Madrid - who had been Haaland's first-choice destination - decided to make Paris Saint Germain's Kylian Mbappé their prime summer target, it cleared the way for City to firm up

their interest in Haaland after Guardiola gave the move the green light.

## Rugby powers to hold talks on new global north v south tournament



**Paris, May 10 :** Rugby chiefs are poised to hold key discussions on Tuesday over the proposal to radically shake up the international calendar and introduce a new global competition to be staged every two years. Representatives from the Six Nations, Sanzaar (South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and Argentina Rugby) and World Rugby are poised to meet for crucial talks in Dublin over a biennial north v south competition, which would fully launch in 2026. It would be the sport's biggest overhaul since the dawn of professionalism in 1995. The competition, which would not be played in World Cup or British & Irish Lions years, is a revamp of the Nations Championship which was proposed in 2019. While that was doomed to failure, a well-placed source said the latest format has been "broadly agreed by all parties", including the players. In 2019 there was significant opposition from the players' union amid welfare concerns, and while there are hurdles to be overcome, there is optimism progress will be made this week. The competition would involve the Six Nations - England, France, Ireland, Italy, Scotland and Wales - in the north while Australia, Argentina, Fiji, New Zealand and South Africa would be joined in the south by Japan, even though it is in the northern hemisphere. European teams would play three matches on their summer tours against three different opponents and face the remaining three southern nations at home in November.

## Committee of ASKA constituted in its annual general meeting

**GUWAHATI, May 10 :** The new office bearers of the Assam State Karate Association (ASKA) was constituted in its Annual General Meeting held in a city hotel here today. Diganta Kalita and Adarsh Choudhury were elected unopposed as president and the secretary of the new body. Nilim Kumar Deka will be the treasurer. The Association planned to start a karate academy soon to provide quality training to the talented players. Also Read - Bongaigon District

Handball Association body formed The other new office bearers are: Vice President-Champak Deka, Gurujyoti Das, Jyotimoni Moran, Leela Bora, Pulak Patgiri, Ranjan Kumar Kakati, Robin Saikia and Uday Kumar Shah. Joint Secretary: Dhruba Jyoti Deka, Niren Phukan, Rupak Rajbangshi and Sanjay Kumar Shaw. Assistant Secretary: Anjali Basumatary, Kartik Sarkar, Krishnakanta Das, Mrinal Jyoti Nath and Syed Mazharul Islam.

## 'We haven't improved'

## Lewis Hamilton dispirited as car way off F1 pace again

**Miami, May 10 :** Lewis Hamilton has conceded Mercedes have failed to improve their car over the opening five races of the season after he finished sixth at the Miami Grand Prix. The seven-time world champion admitted they were not going forwards with a car that his team



principal, Toto Wolff, acknowledged remains off the pace and is a handful to drive and understand, as they consider dropping the design concept next year. Max Verstappen won the race for Red Bull, having passed Charles Leclerc for the lead on lap nine and then delivering a

controlled and dominant drive to the flag. It was a consummate display from the Dutchman with Ferrari simply unable to match their pace. In so doing he closed to 19 points behind Leclerc in the championship. Mercedes had brought their first major upgrades of the season to

Miami and were hopeful at least of making the incremental steps they required in order to extract more from their car, which is still suffering from the violent porpoising on the straights that has prevented them from unlocking its potential after five races. Hamilton did enjoy an improved qualifying performance - taking sixth - and he and teammate George Russell finished sixth and fifth respectively in the race. However they remain up to almost a second a lap off the leaders and the hoped for improvement had not been discovered in Miami. "Unfortunately we are at the same speed as we were in the first race," said Hamilton. "We haven't improved in these five races but I am hopeful, we have to keep trying and keep working hard."



## Rupinder Pal Singh to lead India in Men's Asia Cup hockey tournament

**NEW DELHI, May 10 :** Experienced drag-flicker Rupinder Pal Singh will captain the India team while seasoned Birendra Lakra will be his deputy during the Men's Asia Cup hockey tournament scheduled to be held in Jakarta from May 23 to June 1 this year. Squad: Goalkeepers: Pankaj Kumar Rajak, Suraj Karkera. Defenders: Rupinder Pal Singh (Captain), Yashdeep Siwach, Abhisek Lakra, Birendra Lakra (Vice-Captain), Manjeet, Dipsan Tirkey. Midfielders: Vishnukant Singh, Raj Kumar Pal, Marceswaren Sakhivel, Sheshe Gowda BM, Simranjeet Singh. Forwards: Pawan Rajbhar, Abharan Sudev, SV Sunil, Uttam Singh, S. Karthi.

# Spain's Carlos Alcaraz is talk of the tour - even in his absence

**Rome, May 10** : An apt indication of just how much discussion the rise of Carlos Alcaraz has generated came on Monday in Rafael Nadal's pre tournament press conference at the Italian Open. Wary of how often Nadal has already had to discuss his young compatriot in recent months, a journalist introduced their question by expressing their hope that Nadal would not be annoyed by yet more Alcaraz talk to come. "I will never be annoyed about answering questions about colleague of mine," Nadal responded. Alcaraz will not be seen in Rome this year.



Shortly after his breathless triumph against Alexander Zverev in the final of the Madrid Open on Sunday,

he announced he would be withdrawing from the tournament in order to recuperate before the French Open begins. Still, his rise has been the defining story of the past two months and his success will continue to loom over the tour until the French Open begins. "He definitely is special," said Novak Djokovic, who lost against Alcaraz in the semi-

final in Madrid. "I mean, already he's breaking a lot of records as a teenager, winning two Masters events this year, a couple of 500s. So far he's the best player in the world, no question, this year with the results that he's been doing." So far this year, Alcaraz, who has just turned 19, has compiled an absurd 28-3 (90%) record,

they are, only tell some of Alcaraz's story this year. He has arrived on the tour with a game that is already almost complete and a comprehensive toolbox of shots, with each new tournament seemingly bringing out a little more of his skill and dynamism. In his first full season as a top 100 player, Alcaraz is already, surely, the fastest player on the tour and his athleticism has allowed him to win so many points from audacious defensive positions. He pairs his defence with brutal, heavy shotmaking off both wings. He is already one of the best returners in the world and his confidence at the net is striking. Despite all of that, his defining shot has been that delicate forehand drop shot, which he has audaciously pulled out on big points throughout this year, and which contrasts so effectively with his nuclear driven forehand.



## Lovlina Borgohain off to flying start at 12th IBA Women's World Boxing Championships

**Guwahati, May 10** : Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain kickstarted her campaign on an impressive note by notching up a thrilling win at the 12th edition of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in Istanbul on May 9. The 24-year-old star Indian boxer dished out a splendid show to secure a 3-2 win against the former world champion Chen Nien-Chin in the 70kg opening round bout. The Chinese Taipei boxer entered the match with a 3-1 head-to-head record. She had defeated the Indian in the 2018 World Championships semi-final. On the other hand, Lovlina's only win against Chen came in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics quarter-final enroute her bronze medal winning triumph. Both the boxers started off cautiously and maintained distance from each other. Making her first outing at the international circuit after heroics in Tokyo, the boxer from Assam showed no signs of rustiness and hit some timely punches. The intensely-fought second and final saw both the boxers exchanging heavy punches. Chen, who won gold and bronze medals in 2018 and 2016 respectively at the World Championships, tried attacking but the swift-moving Lovlina Borgohain managed to block with a good defence technique and tilted the result of the nail-biting match in her favour. Lovlina will take on Cindy Ngamba of Fair Chance Team in the round-of-16 match on May 13. With a record participation of 310 boxers from 73 countries across the world, this year's event also marks the 20th anniversary of the prestigious event which will be played till May 20. In the last edition of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships held in Russia in 2019, the Indian boxers clinched one silver and three bronze medals. India's tally of 36 medals, including nine gold, eight silver and 19 bronze, so far in the 11 editions of the tournament is the third highest after Russia (60) and China (50).

## Bianca Andreescu focuses on having fun after enduring two years of hell

**Rome, May 10** : At an unpredictable time in women's tennis, where nearly anyone can beat anyone else on any given day, there is at least one certainty at the Italian Open draw this year. Someone who won the US Open as a teenager, who was born in Ontario, Canada with Romanian heritage and is now trying to follow up that first great grand slam triumph will advance to the second round in Rome. All of those attributes are shared by both Bianca Andreescu and Emma Raducanu, and on Tuesday they will face each other for the first time in the opening round as both players make their debut at the Foro Italico. While the spotlight has remained on Raducanu in her first full season following her US Open triumph, this has arguably been an even more notable year for Andreescu. Her career so far has been a reflection of the difficulties that tend to come with tasting success at such a young age. First her body could not quite keep up with her talents - she did not compete for 14 months after 2019 because of a torn meniscus and various ailments - then the mental toll of her struggles left a mark. Andreescu said her results came to dictate her mood and self-worth, with consequences that were hard to take, and she eventually decided to step away from the sport indefinitely in October. "I'm being really honest here, but I actually wanted to quit the sport," Andreescu said in an interview with WTA Insider before she returned in Stuttgart last month. "It was really bad. I am privileged in a way for having this opportunity and doing all of this. Now I'm very grateful, more than ever. So I don't want people to think: 'Oh you're a little baby, just suck it up.' But it was an accumulation of two and a half years. A lot had happened and I just didn't want to deal with anything any more." That desperation gave way to a constructive period of growth. She tried martial arts. She enrolled in dance lessons. She began making music again, an old hobby. She enjoyed the company of family and friends.



## Scottish football writers' body sorry as 'next-level' sexist jokes prompt walk-out

**London, May 10** : The Scottish Football Writers' Association has apologised after a speaker's sexist and misogynistic jokes prompted attendees to walk out of its annual awards dinner. Eilidh Barbour, a presenter for the BBC, Sky Sports and Amazon Prime, tweeted that she had "never felt so unwelcome in the industry I work in" following the event on Sunday. The back-

lash to comments made at the dinner by former lawyer Bill Copeland, at which Sir Alex Ferguson also received a lifetime achievement award, has led to the body apologising "to anyone offended or upset" and pledging to review its format. "We have agreed unanimously that this will act as a catalyst to review and improve the format of our future events to make it an

enjoyable and inspirational event for all," a statement said. Gabriella Bennett, the co-chair of Women in Journalism Scotland, told BBC Radio Scotland: "I really enjoy it as an event, but there are always off-colour jokes made by the speakers... sexist or misogynistic. But last night's speech was really next level. I walked out after about five minutes of maybe a 20-minute

speech. "My table stood up to leave, and I saw Eilidh Barbour and people on her table start to leave. But there were loads of people laughing at these jokes. We were two tables in an enormous room and lots of people found it really funny, so there's lots of work that we still need to do in really changing people's minds about what's acceptable.

## Chelsea's WSL champions: player-by-player ratings for Emma Hayes's squad

**London, May 10** : The German failed to match her spectacular 2020-21 campaign with an ACL injury. But the full-back was a bit-part player with injuries again keeping her out for stretches of the season. The Netherlands centre-back performed well when deployed in an experimental back three, but struggled for starts in her first season with the Blues. Hayes is phasing her into the squad and the signs are promising. Bright has been consistently outstanding for Chelsea in recent years. With centre-back partner Magda Eriksson sidelined at various times, Bright has stepped up, adapted

after she missed the second half of the 2020-21 campaign with an ACL injury. But the full-back was a bit-part player with injuries again keeping her out for stretches of the season. The Netherlands centre-back performed well when deployed in an experimental back three, but struggled for starts in her first season with the Blues. Hayes is phasing her into the squad and the signs are promising. Bright has been consistently outstanding for Chelsea in recent years. With centre-back partner Magda Eriksson sidelined at various times, Bright has stepped up, adapted



to whoever is playing alongside her, and commanded the back line. She has done the same for En-

gland. The captain's season was pockmarked by injury layoffs, but each time she stepped on to the

pitch, Chelsea instantly looked stronger. Who knows how much better Chelsea would have been

across all competitions had the Swede been more available. A phenomenal campaign for the England international which has surely cemented her place in Sarina Wiegman's England Euros squad. Carter performed well as part of a back three, a back four and when pushed further forward. Andersson looked more comfortable in a back four than when deployed in a back three, which limited her starts. However, in her final season at Chelsea, she proved her value and experience with two important assists in two games in the run-in. 7





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