



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

Vol. No. VII ■ Issue No. 89 ■ RNI-ASSEN/2014/58385 | GUWAHATI ■ TUESDAY ■ MAY 17, 2022 | PAGES 8 ■ PRICE RS. 10.00

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Two earthquakes
Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 16:

Two earthquakes of magnitude 3.9 each hit Assam and Meghalaya in less than 24 hours, official reports said on Monday. The first quake that hit Meghalaya on Sunday at 9:47 pm had its epicenter at Nongpoh at a depth of 12 km. The second quake hit Nagaon in Assam at a depth of 55 km at 3:22 pm on Monday. According to the reports, tremors were felt in parts of central and northern Assam after the second quake jolted the state. No report of loss of life or damage to property has been received in either of the quake, officials said.

Former AIUDF MLA
Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 16:

All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) leader and former MLA, Mamun Imdadul Haque Chawdhury, on Monday tendered his resignation and joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Guwahati. Chawdhury was elected in the Assam Legislative Assembly election in 2016 from Assam's Naoboicha constituency in AIUDF ticket. He officially joined the AAP today in presence of local party leaders in Guwahati. Earlier this month, Rajior Dal Vice President Kamal Kumar Medhi joined AAP along with five others from the party in New Delhi. Other than the members of the Rajior Dal, some Congress leaders also joined AAP. Congress's Manoj Dhanowar and Dwijen Gogoi joined AAP in the presence of its party National Secretary Pankaj Gupta.

Wild elephant
Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 16:

A 55-year-old man was trampled to death by a wild elephant in Assam's Baksa district along the Indo-Bhutan border on Sunday night. According to sources, the wild elephant barged into the victim's house in the middle of the night when latter was fast asleep. The elephant then started vandalizing the house. Unfortunately, the man, identified as one Narayan Darzi, was trampled to death during the ordeal.

Assam floods affect thousands, Air Force choppers help with rescue

Around 57,000 people affected due to floods



Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 16:

Assam has been battered by heavy rain and flooding with landslides reported in some parts as thousands have been affected in the northeastern state over the last few days. While the incessant rainfall has trig-



gered landslides in 12 villages in Assam, officials have said that three people, including a child from the Cachar district, are missing since Sunday, reported news agency ANI. Earlier on Saturday, three people, including a woman, were reported dead in landslides in the Haflong of the Dima

Hasao district, about 250 km from Guwahati. Massive landslides and waterlogging also resulted in huge damage to the state infrastructure - railway track, bridges, and roads. Flood situation in the state's Cachar district remains grim. According to the state disaster management au-

thority, three people, including a child are missing. The State Disaster Response Force, fire department, emergency services are among those engaged in the rescue operations. According to reports, more than 57,000 people - across seven districts in Assam - have been affected by the incessant rainfall. Nearly 222 villages under 15 revenue circles are affected by the floods and around 10321.44 hectares of cultivated land remains submerged under floodwaters, as per an ANI report. The flood has also affected thousands of animals in the state. Along with this, over 200 houses and settlements have been reported to be damaged so far. Several passengers were stranded at the Ditokcherra railway station due to the massive landslides and flooding.

While 119 passengers were airlifted by the the Indian Air Force to Silchar, others were rescued to Badarpur and Silchar areas. Incessant rain has also led to massive damage to roads, bridges, and irrigation canals in Hojai, Lakhimpur, and Nagaon districts. Following incessant rains, around 57,000 people across seven districts in Assam have been affected with artificial floods, an official statement said. Nearly 222 villages under 15 revenue circles are affected in this wave of flood and around 10321.44 hectares of cultivated land

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Traffic on Silchar-Guwahati road hit following landslides



Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 16:

The Silchar-Guwahati road has been closed to traffic following landslides in many areas because of heavy rainfall over the past couple of days in Assam. The Northeast Frontier Railways and the Indian Air Force (IAF) evacuated around 1,500 stranded passengers

stranded on the Silchar-Guwahati Express from Ditokcherra on Sunday. The connectivity between Haflong and Silchar was also disrupted as water levels rose on the highway. Several parts of Haflong town have also been inundated by the heavy downpour. In another significant

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Congress does not want to delete tribals' history, says Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi, May 16:

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday (May 16, 2022) addressed a rally in the tribal-dominated area of Rajasthan's Banswara and said that his party does not want to delete tribals' history. During the rally, he also accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of trying to create two Hindustans, one for the rich and the other for the poor. The Congress, he said, works to connect with all while the BJP works to create a divide. "The Congress says that we have to move forward while connecting with all, respect and protect the culture of all. The BJP works to divide, 'crush' and 'suppress'. (BJP) works to remove history and culture of tribals," Rahul Gandhi



said in the tribal-dominated area of southern Rajasthan. Noting that there is a very old and deep relation of the Congress with tribals, he said, "We protect your history, we don't want to suppress or delete your history. When we had the UPA government at the Centre, we had brought historic laws to protect the forest and water of tribals". The BJP and Modi want to create two Hindustans, one for the rich and select two-three

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Assam's NRC not final, Foreigners' Tribunals told



Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 16:

The State Coordinator of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) has reminded members of Foreigners' Tribunals (FTs) across Assam to not consider the draft NRC and its supplementary list as reliable evidence for

the disposal of cases. A Foreigners' Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body tasked with deciding the status of citizenship of people suspected to be or marked as foreigners. An FT member is like a judge. Hitesh Dev Sarma, the State Coordinator, had on April 18 issued letters to the FT members. "Since the Registrar General of Citizens Registration (RGCR) has not declared NRC as final and there are errors, things may change when the final NRC gets published," he wrote. About 19.06 lakh out of 3.3

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India-Nepal agree to establish sister-city relations between Lumbini and Kushinagar

Kathmandu, May 16:

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepali counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba held bilateral talks in Lumbini, where the former is on a day-long visit to mark the occasion of Buddha Purnima. The two Prime Ministers recalled their fruitful discussions during the Deuba's official visit to India on April 1-3, and also held a discussion on a broad overview of Nepal-India cooperation and the matters of mutual interests with a view to further enhancing the close and cordial ties between the



two countries. The two sides also agreed in principle to establish the sister city relations between Lumbini and Kushinagar and the necessary process will be taken in due course through appropriate local authorities, the Ministry

added. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kathmandu

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11 ministers take oath as cabinet ministers in Tripura

Opposition parties boycott swearing-in-ceremony

Agartala, May 16:

A day after new Chief Minister Manik Saha assumed office, altogether 11 MLAs - nine from the BJP and two from the IPFT - took oath as cabinet ministers of Tripura here on Monday. Governor Satyadeo Narain Arya administered oath to 11 ministers during a ceremony at the Raj Bhawan. Of the 11 ministers, nine

were in the Council of Ministers headed by former Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, who resigned on Saturday. The ministers who took oath are Jishnu Dev Varma (Deputy Chief Minister), Ratan Lal Nath, Pranajit Singha Roy, Manoj Kanti Deb, Santana Chakma, Ram Prasad Paul, Bhagaban Chandra Das, Sushanta Chowdhury, Rampada Jamatia, all from

the BJP; and Narendra Chandra Debbarma and Prem Kumar Reang from the IPFT. Chakma is the only female Minister in the Council. The strength of the council is 12, including the Chief Minister Manik Saha. Jamatia and Reang are veteran tribal leaders. Former chief minister Biplab Deb, whose sudden resignation

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119 Passengers Stranded at Ditokcherra in Dima Hasao Airlifted

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 16:

The Indian Air Force (IAF) airlifted at least 119 passengers from the Silchar-Guwahati train which was stranded at Ditokcherra in the Dima Hasao district due to heavy deluge following incessant rain in the state. NF Railway CPRO Sabyasachi De said that so far 119 passengers have been stranded at Silchar-Guwahati train number 15616 have been airlifted to



Kumbhirgram Air Force base in Silchar. "Our prime concern is to evacuate all stranded passengers from

the spot now. Apart from airlifting, stranded passengers have also been evacuated from Ditokcherra by trains in two groups - 1,245 in one group and around 250 in another group," the CPRO said. He further stated that 373 passengers from New Haflong were rescued.

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Delhi Reports Record 49 Degrees, Residents Asked To Stay In



New Delhi, May 16:

The maximum temperature recorded in the national capital on Sunday reached 49 degree Celsius, said the India Meteorological Department. While the national capital's Mungeshpur station recorded a temperature of 49.2 degrees, Najafgarh recorded 49.1 degree Celsius. The weather

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Gyanvapi Mosque Filming Ends, Lawyer Claims Shivling Found In Pond

Varanasi, May 16:

The court-mandated three-day videography survey of the Gyanvapi Masjid complex in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi has ended a day before the next hearing of the case in court. In a claim that's sure to ruffle feathers, the lawyer representing the Hindu women has claimed that a shiva linga has been found in the pond inside the mosque complex. "The pond was used for ablution (wuzu) purifica-

tion rituals," lawyer Subhash Nandan Chaturvedi said, adding that water was drained from the pond and a shiva linga was allegedly found. A Varanasi court has now ordered the immediate sealing off of the pond after a plea from the petitioners. It directed the Varanasi District Magistrate to ensure that nobody is allowed to enter the area. The Varanasi DM had earlier said that no details of the survey of

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Girls dance during a parade of a flower festival in Larnaca, Cyprus

Queen's platinum jubilee begins with equestrian show at Windsor Castle

London, May 16 : The Queen was honoured with a standing ovation as her platinum jubilee celebrations kicked off with a star-studded equestrian extravaganza featuring some of the world's leading performers. Hollywood actors Tom Cruise and Dame Helen Mirren - once again playing a queen of England - led the cast of entertainers who appeared in the first major event marking the Queen's 70-year reign. The audience rose to their feet applauding and cheering when the monarch arrived at the arena close to Windsor Castle for the

musical and theatrical romp across the centuries called A Gallop Through History. The event was staged by the Royal Windsor Horse Show, which has been welcoming spectators for the past three days including the Queen, who spent part of Friday touring the showgrounds after earlier missing the state opening of parliament. Despite ongoing mobility issues, the Queen walked to her seat in the royal box after she was driven into the castle arena escorted by mounted divisions of the Household Cavalry. She

was joined by the Earl and Countess of Wessex for the show that reflected her lifelong passion for horses. A tri-service guard of honour featuring the Coldstream Guards, RAF Regiment and Royal Navy was in place for her arrival, which was signalled by the national anthem being played by military musicians. Among the celebrities taking part in the show were Damian Lewis, Omid Djalili and Katherine Jenkins, in an all-star cast of British and international talent for Sunday's performance which was broadcast live by

ITV. Cruise, best known for action film franchises Top Gun and Mission Impossible, told ITV presenters Phillip Schofield and Julie Etchingham that the Queen "is a woman I greatly admire". Cruise said: "What she has accomplished is historic. She has met presidents, world leaders, people from all walks of life." Not just Americans but the world knows the dignity, devotion and kindness, that is what I have always felt about her. Someone that understands her position and has held it through a history that's just been

extraordinary the past 70 years." The Queen sat in the royal box with a blanket over her knees and a shawl around her shoulders as Djalili, the herald and narrator of the performance, took the audience through key historical moments. Mirren, who won an Oscar for her portrayal of the Queen in the film of the same name, played Queen Elizabeth I as the show began by chronicling the events of the first Elizabethan age, from the attempted invasion by the Spanish Armada to featuring leading figures of the day such as William Shakespeare.

Kyiv, May 16 : The 140-mile journey that Igor Pedin, 61, embarked upon by foot from the hellscapes of the besieged port city of Mariupol, through Russian occupied lands in the south-east of Ukraine and on to the relative safety of the city of Zaporizhzhia, has left him tired, sometimes tearful, and always thankful. As the Guardian reported last week, Pedin's feat was so extraordinary that at one of the 24 checkpoints he passed during his travels on the long journey, equivalent to trekking from London to Sheffield but through a raging war, Russian soldiers had gathered around him in the dark of the night to hear of his daring deeds, stuffing cigarettes in his pockets, and wishing him luck. But, while Pedin says he does not require medical assistance, insisting to medics when he arrived in Zaporizhzhia that he was "happy as I am -



and she doesn't let me see what's wrong with her leg," Pedin says of his dog. "She always nips me when I want to look at her paw ... Zhu-Zhu now reacts very badly to sounds. When she hears sharp sounds, she constantly shudders and jumps aside." She is very frightened by the sound of whistling. For example, when a bus passes by and the brakes squeak. She is very afraid of that because this sound reminds her of the whistling of bombs that flew and exploded then in Mariupol. And then she was afraid of

the sound of military planes in Mariupol. Who flew and dropped bombs. So she is still afraid of these sounds. "Pedin's tenderness towards his dog is evident. He caresses her ears, stroking off stray pieces of dry grass. The small dog, in turn, whimpers and cries when her owner is out of sight. Pedin had carried her up hills on their walk, remonstrating only once when Zhu-Zhu would not go any further. "If you don't walk we will both die, you have to walk," he had told his dog on one of the final days of their trek.

Shooting at southern California church leaves one dead and five wounded

Los Angeles, May 16 : A shooting at a California church on Sunday has killed at least one person and wounded five others, in at least the second mass shooting of the weekend in the US. The shooting early on Sunday afternoon occurred at Geneva

presbyterian church in Laguna Woods, a town of 16,000 that consists of Laguna Woods Village, a retirement community for people 55 and older once known as Leisure World. Authorities said churchgoers detained the suspect and hog-tied his legs with an electrical cord. "That group of churchgoers displayed ... exceptional heroism and bravery in intervening to stop the suspect," Orange County undersheriff Jeff Hallock said. "They undoubtedly prevented additional injuries and fatalities." Between 30 and 40 people were gathered for lunch after a morning church service when gunfire erupted shortly before 1.30 pm, officials

said. One victim died at the scene. Four people were critically wounded, and one person sustained minor injuries. All of the victims were adults and were being taken to the hospital, the Orange county sheriff's department said. The majority of those inside the church at the time were believed to be of Taiwanese descent, said Carrie Braun, a sheriff's spokesperson. The suspect in the shooting, an Asian man in his 60s, was in custody and deputies recovered two handguns at the scene, Hallock said. A motive for the shooting wasn't immediately known but investigators don't believe the gunman lives in the community, he added.

Kim Jong-un calls in the army to respond to North Korea's Covid-19 crisis

Seoul, May 16 : Kim Jong-un has criticised North Korea's pandemic response and ordered the army to help distribute medicine, state media said Monday, as the country said 50 people had died since first reporting an outbreak of Covid-19. More than one million people have been sickened by what Pyongyang is referring to as "fever", state media said, despite Kim ordering nationwide lockdowns in a bid to slow the spread of disease through the unvaccinated population. After two years denying North Korea had any cases of Covid-19, last week officials confirmed that there had been a Covid outbreak in the country. In a sign of how serious the situation may be, Kim "strongly criticised" healthcare officials over their response to epidemic prevention - specifically a failure to keep pharmacies open 24/7 to distribute medicine. He ordered the army to get to work "on immediately stabilising the supply of medicines in Pyongyang", the capital, where Omicron was detected last week in North Korea's first official reported cases of Covid-19. Kim has put himself front and centre of North Korea's disease response, overseeing near-daily emergency politburo meetings on the outbreak, which he has said is causing "great upheaval" in the country. The failure to distribute medicine properly was "because officials of the Cabinet and public health sector in charge of the supply have not rolled up their sleeves, not properly recognizing the present crisis," said Kim, according to state media KCNA.

Washington, May 16 : The supreme court is "dangerous to families and to freedoms in our country", Nancy Pelosi said on Sunday, as justices prepare to finalize a draft ruling stripping almost have a century of abortion rights in the US. The House speaker railed against conservative judges appointed by former president Donald Trump in an interview Sunday on CNN's State of the Union, in which she urged Democrats to keep their "eye on the ball" to protect other freedoms she sees under threat. "Beware in terms of marriage equality, beware in terms of other aspects," she said. "Understand this. This is not just about terminating a pregnancy. This is about contraception, family



planning." This is a place where freedom and the kitchen table, issues of America's families, come together. What are the decisions that a family

makes? What about contraception for young people? It's beyond just a particular situation. It's massive in terms of contraception, in vitro

fertilization, a woman's right to decide." Speaking the day after hundreds of protest events took place nationwide, Pelosi insisted Democrats had done what they could in terms of protecting abortion rights through legislation. She pointed out the House had passed a bill before the women's health protection act failed in the Senate on Wednesday, and she said she was still optimistic of a resolution with the support of pro-choice Republicans. But she said the 60-vote requirement in the Senate was "an obstacle to many good things", and that Democrats needed to rally ahead of November's midterm elections to "get rid of the damage" caused by conservative justices, including Trump's three appointments, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett. "Whoever suspected a creature like Donald Trump would become president, waving a list of judges he would appoint, therefore getting the support of the far right and appointing those anti-freedom justices to the court?" she said. "This is not about a long game. We played a long game, we won Roe v Wade a long time ago, we voted to protect it over time. Let's not take our eye off the ball. The ball is this court, which is dangerous to families, to freedoms in our country." The genius of our founders was to have a constitution that enabled freedom to expand. This is the first time the court has taken back a freedom that was defined by precedent and respect for privacy."

Russia likely to have lost third of its Ukraine invasion force, says UK



Moscow, May 16 : Ministry of Defence says Putin's campaign in the east has lost momentum and has failed to make big gains in past

month. Russia may have lost a third of the invasion force it sent into Ukraine as its offensive continues to struggle in the face of stiff

resistance, British military intelligence has said. In its latest assessment, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said the Russian campaign in

the east of Ukraine had "lost momentum" and was now "significantly behind schedule". At a meeting of Nato foreign ministers in Berlin, the foreign secretary, Liz Truss, said it was essential to maintain support for the government in Kyiv to help it "push Russia out". She said in a statement: "Putin must face a sustained defeat in Ukraine, Russia must be contained and such aggression must never happen again. "Ukraine's security must come from it being able to defend itself. Allies must support Ukraine's move to Nato-standard equipment, immediately providing artillery, training and the required expertise." The Nato deputy

secretary general, Mircea Gean, said the Ukrainians were now in a position to defeat the Russians and win the war. "The brutal invasion of Russia is losing momentum," he told reporters. "With significant support from allies and partners in billions of dollars, in military support, in financial support, humanitarian support, we know that with the bravery of the Ukrainian people and army and with our help, Ukraine can win this war." The Russians switched the focus of their offensive to the eastern Donbas region - which was already part-held by pro-Moscow separatists - after their advance on Kyiv was driven back.



A magpie and a heron are seen in Yuanmingyuan Park in Beijing

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USTM Signs Pact with AAS for Asia Scholars' Network



Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 16: With the global perspective of enabling scholars to take initiatives and lead in various scholarly, economic, cultural and social activities involving Asian countries, the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) has joined hands with the Association of Asia Scholars (AAS), New Delhi and signed a Memorandum of

Understanding yesterday at the Conference Hall of USTM. The MoU was signed by Prof. G.D. Sharma, Vice Chancellor of USTM and Prof. Swaran Singh, President of AAS and Prof. and Chair, Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament, JNU, New Delhi in the presence of USTM Chancellor Mahabubul Hoque and other dignitaries

from Association of Asia Scholars and USTM. Speaking in this context, Prof. Swaran Singh, President of AAS said, "I was impressed with the infrastructure and dynamism of USTM leadership and happy to build partnership between AAS and USTM. I look forward to taking our MOU into action with joint work with USTM". The AAS has been working since November 2005 in India's national interest and for global peace and harmony, he added. Prof. G.D. Sharma, Vice Chancellor of USTM said that the agreement with the Association of Asian Scholars would help cooperation in the areas of academic, research, educational, publishing and establish a long-term partnership between USTM and AAS with the goal to globalize Asia. This will endorse international conferences, seminars, webinars, and workshops, publications about traditions, culture and politics of Asian countries and

their global standing. According to the MoU, both the organizations will recommend their scholars and experts to facilitate implementation of professional exchange. They have agreed to be a part of projects on Indian studies focusing on South and Southeast Asia and issues relevant for North East India as well as the issues of mutual concerns and interests. It was also agreed that each party will recommend scholars interested in carrying out their research, introduce each other to persons/institutions to each other for expanding bilateral relations/studies, and collaborate in the publication of books and journals, and exchange research materials of mutual interests.

utilised in a transparent and impactful way, providing scalable solutions. And we meet all their requirements." Further, Mr. Kaviraj Nair said "We also have entirely volunteer-driven alumni chapters across the world, with alumni who are passionate about supporting their Alma Mater in its pursuit of world-class research creating global impact." This achievement has been made possible with the concerted efforts of the Office of Alumni and Corporate Relations which works with the diverse network of IIT Madras alumni. Graduates from IIT Madras are excelling across sectors, industries and regions, and are passionate about their alma mater making a mark globally. Their continued investment in the Institute, in the form of funds, resources and mentorship, serves as a vital support network for the students, faculty and researchers to implement initiatives with high social impact.

IIT Madras fundraising of Rs. 131 Cr.

Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 16: Indian Institute of Technology Madras has raised a historic all-time high sum of Rs. 131 crore from alumni, donors, and corporate firms during the financial year of 2021-22 to further its philanthropic and socially-relevant projects.

The institute aims to accelerate fundraising by strengthening alumni networks and increasing engagement with corporates, philanthropies and high-net-worth individuals. The fundraising activities are spearheaded by the Office of Alumni and Corporate Relations, which comprises a dedicated team of professionals who work with corporate firms, alumni and donors. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the fundraising from alumni, donors and corporate firms has been increasing by over 30 per cent Year-on-Year. The number of corporate firms donating funds to IIT Madras through CSR has almost doubled in the last five years. Fundraising from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) partnerships accounts for nearly half of the total Rs. 131 crore raised in last financial year. A key factor driving this fundraising has been the highly qualified IIT Madras faculty who are carrying out path-breaking research and undertaking effective execution of socially-relevant projects. Prof. Mahesh Panchagnula, Dean (Alumni and Corporate Relations), IIT Madras, said, "We are grateful to all the alumni and corporate partners who have helped us through impactful contributions." Highlighting the role played by IIT Madras alumni in socially-relevant projects, Prof. Mahesh Panchagnula, said, "IIT Madras is fortunate to have thousands of alumni invest both time and money to grow the Institute. This group is crucial

to the Institute's future development." The funds raised have been vital in supporting infrastructure development, scholarships, chair professorships, research, and initiatives to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic in particular. During the pandemic, the Institute collected over Rs. 15 crore (approximately USD 2 million) from IIT Madras alumni globally towards COVID-19 relief projects, which were deployed to provide essential medical equipment such as BiPAP and oxygen concentrators, to the Governments of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Telangana. Speaking on the key fundraising initiatives of the Institute, Mr. Kaviraj Nair, Chief Executive Officer, Office of Institutional Advancement, IIT Madras, said, "Our team at IIT Madras has been able to put in place a milestone-based tracking system with clear metrics and rigorous deployment. We have a professional donor stewardship team to ensure that all our projects are managed effectively. All donors want to ensure that their money is

authority, Nagaon, the flood water inundated 58 villages under Kampur revenue circle till the time of filing this report while 27 villages in Raha revenue circle and the district administration as well as the district disaster management authority set up 3 relief camps respectively at Kampur Saibokgaon, Kampur town and Borpotiagaon. Besides, the officials from the concerned departments initiated all emergency measures to curb the prevailing as well as the possible situations. It is however reported that food, baby food and other were being distributed among the flood victims in both the revenue circles by the district administration. Meanwhile the state water resource minister Pijush Hazarika along with a dozen of officials from water resource department as well as Deputy Commissioner Nagaon Nisarg



Lottery based admission to Adarsha Vidyalaya in Chirang

Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 16: In view of smooth conduct of admission process for class-I and class-VI students in Adarsha Vidyalaya of Bhumkipara under Borobazar block in Chirang district, a lottery based selection was conducted at its premises on May 15. The selection process was conducted in the presence of Chirang Deputy Commissioner Narendra Kumar

Shah, Bijni Civil Sub-Divisional Officer Rahul Gupta, Circle Officer of Bijni Revenue Circle Maria Tanim, Assistant Commissioner Pratisha Dutta, Inspector of Schools Bijay Baishnab, other officials of education department, parents and guardians of the students. It may be stated that a total of 463 applications for class-I and 459 applications for class-VI were received during the

admission process. During the scrutiny, 226 applications were rejected and 237 were found eligible for class-I and for class-VI, 95 were rejected and 364 were found eligible. Yet these figures were quite higher than the availability of seat capacity for both the classes. So after coming to a consensus, a lottery based draw was conducted, through which 80 students each for both the classes were selected.

Juvenile thieves escaped from Juvenile home

Assam Rising, Nagaon, May 16: Based on a secret tip off, Haibargaon TOP police led by sub inspector Taranga Patowari busted a gang of juvenile thieves here at Shilongani area in Nagaon town and were also able to arrest 3 members of the gang. Besides, police recovered a huge number of stolen articles like Laptops, gold bangles, utensils, mixer grinder and other electric items from the gang, sources added. Sources claimed that one Rahul Alom who escaped twice from juvenile home, Jorhat last month was arrested first by police early this morning and based on his statement, police later arrested two other members of the gang identified as Sahidul Islam and Sofikul Islam of Juria Adhakhanda village under Juria PS. Police have registered a case in this regard and further investigation is on, sources added further.

LCBAI started service for non-travellers



Assam Rising, Borjhar, May 16: Observing the increasing number of visitors, Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport administration in Guwahati has started a service for all common visitors for welcoming their near and dear ones in the arrival area. In addition to it, the operator has created a 'meet & greet' area in the arrival hall. There are almost 123 seats available there. Visitors can easily cut a ticket to get into the 'Meet & Greet' area. Tickets are available from the ticketing counter adjacent to the TM office window. The tickets are available till the last flight arrival. Visitors can also access and buy coffee from the food & beverage outlet situated in the 'Meet & Greet' area. A customer service executive is also specially appointed for the ticket counter. However, all passengers can avail this ticket service. The ticket is validated for 3 hours only.

Assam Rising, Nagaon, May 16: The flood situation in the district is still grim and critical. The overflowing water of the Kapili river inundated the more villages under Kampur and Raha revenue circles since midnight on Sunday last and affected over 15,417 population of those two revenue circles in the district. Besides, the flood water also submerged over 5387 hectares of cropland in those two revenue circles and also affected more than 7400 domestic animals in both the revenue circles. Significantly, the flood water damaged the river embankment from Bhalbhaligaon Namghor to Bhalbhaligaon railway gate No 3. Further, the overflowing water from the Kapili river submerged and also eroded at several places on four important surface routes for transportation in Kampur revenue circle like Kuhimari to Simlaipathor road, Kochuwa Tiniali to Balukaguri road, Kuwariati to Dhemajigaon road and Changchaki to Bakulaguri road respectively. The rising water of Kapili river started to leak out at various places at Bhalbhaligaon river embankment for which it was feared to be breached at any moment, sources said, adding that if it would happen, the flood scene in the entire Kampur revenue circle would be more worsened. As per the latest report issued by district disaster management

Flood situation worsens in Nagaon district



Hivare visited various flood ravaged areas in Kampur and Raha revenue circles early this morning and reviewed the situation. During his visit, the minister directed the officials concerned to take all possible measures to curb the situation and ordered to leave no stone unturned to protect the people at any cost. While speaking to the media persons here at Kampur here, the minister said that the government had already sanctioned over Rs 20 crores for construction as well as repair of the

Bhalbhaligaon river embankment and the work would be carried out right after the monsoons season. Significantly, during the visit, the minister was accompanied by local Barhampur MLA Jitu Goswami and Raha MLA Sashi Kanta Das too. On the other hand, a team from Nagaon district agriculture department led by district agriculture officer Tarun Hazarika and sub division agriculture officer Surya Amchi, ADO Nilutpal Dutta and Rekibul Faruki also visited the flood ravaged areas in Kampur and

Raha revenue circles and estimated the damages caused by the first wave of flood in the district. In a release issued by district agriculture department it was stated that over 2740 hectares of Bodo paddy and other crops in 44 revenue villages and 489 hectares of vegetables under Kampur revenue circle, were destroyed in the first wave of flood while 1963 hectares of paddy, jute and other crops and 178 hectares of vegetables in 24 revenue villages under Raha revenue circle had been hit by the fresh wave of flood. While speaking to this correspondent here, the district agriculture officer Tarun Hazarika said that total 7822 farmers under those two revenue circles had been affected in the first wave of flood and the department concerned would try its level best to provide compensation to victim farmers who insured their crops under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

Assam Rising, Margherita, May 16: The Inter-School Level Painting Competition 2022 will be held at Digboi Ramdeo Vishnu Shiksha Mandir High School on May 22 next under the initiative of Jrafrin Education Trust Briefly Jit (Educational Trust). The painting competition will be held from the nursery to



Tripura New Cabinet Minister with CM after Oath taking ceremony on Monday

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THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VII, ISSUE NO. 89 TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022

The first wave of floods

Assam is in the grip of yet another flood, with 24 thousand people displaced, 6 districts affected, and 3 people killed besides hundreds of animals. This is the first wave of floods this monsoon. At the crux is the very nature of the river Brahmaputra - dynamic and unstable. Its 580,000 sq km basin spreads over four countries: China, India, Bangladesh and Bhutan, with diverse environments. In terms of sediment yield, two spots along the Brahmaputra's course were at second and third places in 2008, behind the Yellow River whose annual sediment yield is 1,403 tonnes per sq km. According to govt of Assam portal the flood prone area of the state as assessed by the Rastriya Barh Ayog (RBA) is 31.05 Lakh Hectares against the total area of state 78,523 Lakh Hectares i.e. about. 39.58 % of the total land area of Assam. This is about 9.40% of total flood prone area of the country. Records show that average annual area affected by flood is 9.31 Lakh Hectares. The flood prone area of the country as a whole stands at about 10.2 % of the total area of the country, but flood prone area of Assam is 39.58 % of the area of the state. It signifies that the flood prone area of Assam is four times the national mark of the flood prone area of the country. During post independence period, Assam faced major floods in 1954, 1962, 1972, 1977, 1984, 1988, 1998, 2002, 2004 and 2012. Almost every year three to four waves of flood ravage the flood prone areas of Assam. Average annual loss due to flood in Assam is to the tune of Rs. 200.00 Crores and particularly in 1998, the loss suffered was about Rs. 500.00 Crores and during the year 2004 it was about Rs. 771.00 Crores. Besides these natural factors are the man-made ones - habitation, deforestation, population growth in catchment areas (including in China) - which lead to higher sedimentation. For example, the sediment deposition itself creates temporary sandbars or river islands. It is common for people to settle in such places, which restricts the space the river has to flow. When rainfall is heavy, it combines with all these factors and leads to destructive floods. This happens very frequently.

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Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

NEP 2020 envisions India-centric education system

Education is a fundamental requirement for the development of an egalitarian society. In this context, three National Education Policy (NEP), namely NEP 1968, NEP 1986 and NEP 2020 have been introduced in India so far. The new NEP 2020, adopted on 29th July 2020, aims to universalize education from pre-school to secondary level by 2030. It envisions an India-centric education system and provision of quality education and equitable access to all students in a sustainable manner. There are ten themes aligned with the policy objectives of the NEP 2020.

(1) Early Childhood Care and Education : The Foundation of learning - Early child development encompasses physical, socio-emotional and cognitive development between 0-8 years of age. The early years of the learners are critical, as it is the period of life when the brain develops most rapidly and has a high capacity for change, and the foundation is laid for health and well-being for life. The NEP states that, the overarching goal will be to ensure universal access to high quality Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE) across the country. Special attention and priority will be given to the territories that are particularly socio-economically lagged behind. ECCE shall be delivered through a significantly expanded and strengthened system of early-childhood education institutions consisting of (a) stand-alone Anganwadis, (b) Anganwadies co-located with primary schools, (c) pre-primary schools/sections covering at least age 5 to 6 years co-located with existing primary schools, and (d) stand-alone pre-schools- all of which would recruit workers/teachers specially trained in the curriculum and pedagogy of ECCE. (2) Foundational Literacy and Numeracy : An Urgent & Necessary Prerequisite to Learning - The ability to read and write, and perform basic operations with numbers, is a necessary foundation and an indispensable prerequisite for all future schooling and lifelong learning. NEP 2020 accords top priority to the attainment of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy by all students upto Grade 3. It stresses the need to develop a robust system of

continuous formative/adaptive assessment to track each student's learning. The early grade curriculum will be redesigned to have a renewed emphasis and teachers to be trained, encouraged, and supported to impart foundational literacy and numeracy. (3) Curtailing Drop-out Rates and Ensuring Universal Access to Education at all levels- As per NEP 2020, two holistic initiatives will be taken to bring drop-out children back to school and to prevent further drop-out. The first initiative is to provide effective and sufficient infrastructure so that all students have access to safe and engaging school education at all levels from pre-primary school to Grade 12. Besides providing regular trained teachers at each

frontline providers of quality education. They represent the key vehicle towards a progressive, just, educated, and prosperous society. It is known that inadequate quality of training, recruitment, service conditions and lack of empowerment of teachers affect their skill and motivation levels. NEP, 2020 has made several provisions to empower teachers and inspire the best individuals to enter the system to ensure the best possible future for our children and our nation. The primary goal of transforming the service environment and culture of

subject needs to focus on inclusive practices so that similar initiatives can be taken by other schools.

(7) Efficient Resourcing and Effective Governance through School Complexes/clusters- The establishment of school complexes/clusters and the sharing of resources across complexes will have a number of other benefits, such as improved support for children with disabilities, more topic-centered clubs and academic/sports/arts/crafts events across school complexes, better incorporation of art, music, language, vocational subjects, physical education, and other subjects in the classroom through the sharing of teachers in these subjects including use of ICT tools to conduct virtual classes. Improved student support, enrollment, attendance, and performance through the sharing of social workers and counselors, and school complex Management committees (rather than only School Management Committees) for more robust and better governance, monitoring, oversight, innovations, and initiatives by local stakeholders. Building such larger communities of schools, school leaders, teachers, students, support staff, parents, and local citizens would energize and empower the schooling system, and in a resource-efficient manner.

Er. Prabhat Kishore

schools will be to maximize teacher's ability to perform their jobs effectively and to ensure that they are part of vibrant, caring, and inclusive communities of teachers, students, parents, principals, and other support staff, all of whom share a common goal, to ensure that our children are learning.

(6) Equitable and Inclusive Education : Learning for All - Sustainable Development Goal 4.0 obliges India to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" by 2030. In tune with SDG goal, NEP-2020 provides a renewed impetus to inclusive and equitable education. It re-focuses on the need to provide children with disabilities, and those belonging to disadvantaged groups and weaker sections the same opportunities of obtaining quality education as any other child. It is also in full sync with RPwD Act 2016 which mandates that students with and without disability learn together and the system of teaching and learning is suitably adapted to meet the learning needs of students with disabilities. By 2040, India should have an education system that is second to none, with equitable access to the highest-quality education for all learners, regardless of social or economic background. Many schools have already taken initiatives to promote inclusive classrooms. Innovative teaching pedagogy on the

conduct virtual classes. Improved student support, enrollment, attendance, and performance through the sharing of social workers and counselors, and school complex Management committees (rather than only School Management Committees) for more robust and better governance, monitoring, oversight, innovations, and initiatives by local stakeholders. Building such larger communities of schools, school leaders, teachers, students, support staff, parents, and local citizens would energize and empower the schooling system, and in a resource-efficient manner.

(8) Standard Setting and Accreditation for School Education - The NEP, 2020 envisions an effective quality self-regulation or accreditation system for all stages of education, including pre-school education - private, public, and philanthropic - to ensure compliance with mandatory quality standards. To ensure that all schools adhere to certain minimum professional and quality standards, States/UTs will set up an independent, state-wide body called the State School Standards Authority (SSSA). In addition to the standard criterion for accreditation, to ensure academic quality, a separate School Quality Assessment and Accreditation Framework has to be developed by SCERTs. All schools, including private schools, will be assessed and accredited on the same criteria, benchmarks, and processes, with an emphasis on online and offline public disclosure and transparency. Educational

outcomes and the transparent disclosure of all financial, academic, and operational matters will be given due importance and suitably incorporated in the evaluation of schools. By ensuring a uniform process of accreditation and quality framework for both public and private schools, the objective of reforming the public education system could be ensured.

(9) Technology in Education : NDEAR - The recent rise in epidemics and pandemics necessitates that we are ready with alternative modes of quality education, whenever and wherever traditional modes of education are not possible. In this regard, the NEP 2020 recognizes the importance of reaping the benefits of technology while acknowledging its potential risks and dangers. This calls for carefully designed and appropriately scaled pilot studies to determine how the benefits of online/digital education can be reaped while addressing or mitigating the downsides. National Digital Education Architecture is being envisioned as a digital infrastructure for education that will help not only the government at Centre, State and UTs but the entire education ecosystem including private sector, non-profit and technology players to enhance the quality of education in the country through innovation and experimentation. It is part of the "Digital India" initiative of the Government of India and it endeavors to make lives simpler for students, parents, teachers and administrators.

(10) Reimagining Vocational Education and Skill Building - NEP 2020 aims to overcome the perception of lower social status associated with vocational education and requires integration of vocational education programme into mainstream education in a phased manner. Beginning with vocational exposure in early ages in middle school, quality vocational education will be integrated smoothly into secondary and higher education. It will ensure that every child learns at least one vocation from class 9 onwards and is exposed to many more professions. It will emphasize the importance of skill building, dignity of labour and various professions associated with Indian art and craftsmanship.

Restricting citizens' entry-exit to targeting academia, China grows more authoritarian

Beijing defends its 'entry-exit policy' for citizens. Chinese antitrust authority targets academic database company CNKI. Tibet Airlines Flight TV9833 suffers damage during take-off. India redeploys troops to check China's military exercise. Chinascope brings you the key stories from China - and the world. The Chinese government's long arm was seen at work in Shanghai, as the National Immigration Administration wants to restrict citizens from leaving the country. "It is necessary to strictly implement entry and exit policies, strictly restrict non-essential exit activities of Chinese citizens, and strictly approve and issue exit and entry documents," said the agency in a WeChat post. The decision followed President Xi Jinping's speech on epidemic control work. Critics pointed out that Chinese travellers and students returning home have had their passports clipped. The immigration authority refuted media claims about the entry-exit policy. China stopped issuing new passports for non-essential travel in 2021, media had reported earlier. Chinese citizens are to come up with fake job offers to get a new passport

issued because only 'essential' travel is considered for new applications. There is no end to airline-related tragedies in China. It's only been 54 days since Flight MU5735 crashed after taking off from Kunming. Now, another plane was severely damaged after skidding from the runway. On 12 May, Flight TV9833, with its 113 passengers and nine crew members, caught fire while preparing to take off from the Chongqing Jiangbei International Airport. Media reports say more than 40 passengers suffered slight injuries. China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI) is an indispensable academic database for accessing dissertations and research by Chinese academics. Now, CNKI is being investigated for selling articles by experts such as Zhong Nanshan, available to readers for free elsewhere. The regulators have alleged that CNKI's monopoly on the academic market allows the database company to collect over 53 per cent profit margin. Even the leading Chinese universities, such as Peking University, have complained. The restriction on academic freedom has grown under Xi, and

we will have to wait to find out if the investigation into CNKI is part of that trend. In another academia-related development, three major Chinese universities - Renmin, Nanjing, and Lanzhou - have withdrawn from the international university rankings systems. The move has garnered support from some sections of the Chinese society who believe the rankings system is a pyramid scheme. "The international ranking of universities is a commercial pyramid scheme, and it is a wise move to withdraw," said Sima Nan, a media personality. "The path taken by Chinese universities is slightly different from that of foreign countries. The ranking needs to be in line with the interests of the Chinese people. We must put away the mentality of being a slave," said a social media user. In 2019, over 703,500 Chinese students had enrolled in universities outside of China. The Chinese government has been trying to promote homegrown educational institutions. The world may have forgotten Hong Kong's plight, but things got even worse this week. 90-year-old Cardinal, Joseph Zen, was arrested under the National Security Law and accused of colluding with

foreign forces. Cardinal Zen was detained along with singer Denise Ho Wan-sze and former opposition lawmaker Margaret Ng Ngo-yee, and cultural studies scholar Hui Po-keung. The four individuals were arrested in connection with 612 Humanitarian Relief Fund, where all were trustees. The Hong Kong court said the fund colluded with foreign forces. Cardinal Zen isn't just a religious figure but a known activist as well. Zen was

Aadil Brar

granted bail on Thursday. "We are firmly opposed to any act that denigrates the rule of law in Hong Kong and interferes in Hong Kong affairs," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said. The current phase of cold peace between India and China may appear uneventful, but there are border stand-off related developments every week. Times Now reported, citing sources, that the Indian Army has completed a 'precautionary deployment' to mirror the presence of PLA in Eastern Ladakh. A few units of the army and air force had moved back from the border during the winter months when it was virtually impossible to keep a significant force on the ground. China has

informed India about its military exercise across the border this year, according to Times Now. The reporting on the redeployment of troops was further confirmed by new Indian Army chief Manoj Pande's visit to review "operational preparedness" in the "forward areas". Additional Directorate General of Public Information posted images on Twitter showing General Pande interacting with troops in Ladakh. General Pande has previously said that addressing the security challenge from China would be the priority of his tenure. If the army chief's visit to Ladakh wasn't enough, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh gave a statement on China. "We are not concerned about the 'parinaam' (consequences), but we will never compromise on our 'swabhimaan' (self-respect)," Singh said in Lucknow during an event. Avril Haines, the Director of National Intelligence, sits on top of a gargantuan bureaucracy of spooks, and her job isn't easy by any stretch. This week, Haines testified in front of the Senate Armed Services

Committee on the global threats to the United States. Haines had something to say about China. "It's our view that (China is) working hard to effectively put themselves into a position in which their military can take Taiwan over our intervention," Haines said during the hearing. There is a debate raging in the Japanese parliament, also known as Diet, about developing counter-strike capabilities against the threat from China. Japanese Communist Party member Keiji Kokuta asked the House of

Representatives Committee of Foreign Affairs if Japan plans to target the Central Military Commission and the Five Theatre Commands as part of the counter-strike capability. The question came after the ruling Liberal Democratic Party suggested to the Prime Minister that Japan develop a counter-strike capability to attack "enemy bases and command and control functions". "As far as South Asia's current domestic political turmoil is concerned, China generally must wait and watch what happens.

Letter to the Editor

Positive perspectives change us

"The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a person's determination," said American athlete Tommy Lassorda. The bottom line is that if we want to accomplish something within the limits of our determination, then the important thing we need to keep in mind is the positive attitude. A positive attitude helps us to be optimistic and helps to avoid negative thoughts in our minds. Naturally, we can be more optimistic about life if we allow positive attitudes to be ingrained in our minds. We can only improve our abilities when we change our attitude towards positivity.

Nilam Kalita,
Student, NEF Law college

KhadiEri silk training centre in Tawang



Itanagar, May 16: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has set up a "KhadiEri Silk Training cum Production Centre" at Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh bordering China and Bhutan. The centre is aimed at reviving the silk industry and boosting the local economy of Arunachal Pradesh. The centre inaugurated by KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena has been set

in Tawang at an altitude of nearly 14,000 feet and is equipped with infrastructure like handlooms, Charkha, and Silk reeling machines and warping drums, etc. The centre is providing direct employment to 20 women artisans of the Tawang and West Kameng districts. The centre has been set up with the assistance of the Buddhist Culture Preservation Society, Bomdila, which has

provided the building for the Silk Centre. The Khadi Silk Centre in Arunachal Pradesh is inspired by the Prime Minister's vision of creating sustainable development in the remotest of Indian places and creating livelihood for the locals under "Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan". This is the second Silk Training cum Production Centre set up by KVIC in Arunachal Pradesh in less than 2 years. Earlier,

KVIC had inaugurated Eri Silk Training cum Production Centre in Village Chullyu of Arunachal Pradesh on September 17, 2020. KVIC Chairman V K Saxena said the "KhadiEri Silk Training cum Production Centre" aims at reviving the Silk Industry in the entire North East which was almost destroyed in the last few decades. "This facility in Tawang will be a big boost to spinning and weaving activities in the entire region. Training of artisans and supporting the production of Eri Silk, which is indigenous to the North-Eastern states, will create local employment and sustainable development in the region" he said. He said the young designers and professionals of NIFT will also provide training to Khadi artisans at this centre to introduce new de-

signs and develop trendier clothing to suit the modern taste of tribal youths. "For centuries, silk has been intrinsic to the life of people in the North East but the flooding of low-quality silk in these markets also destroyed the Silk industry from North East. The development assumes significance as the tribal population in Arunachal Pradesh, men and women alike, traditionally wear Eri Silk and Khadi Cotton clothes which carries a deep significance to their egalitarian tribal society" a statement issued by KVIC said. KVIC also aims to connect the centre with the tourists visiting Tawang and thus providing an assured market to the local artisans for their products.

Heavy rains lash Northeast India



Guwahati, May 16: States across Northeast India were battered by heavy rains on Friday, with reports of landslides and damage to houses and roads coming from Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Arunachal so far. The Met department has forecast extremely heavy to heavy rainfall accompanied with thunderstorms across all northeast states, including parts of Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram and Sikkim, as well as sub-Himalayan West Bengal on Friday. The rains are likely to lash these areas until Monday. Moisture incursion from the Bay of Bengal is taking place over to Northeast India due to strong lower level southerly and south-westerly winds during May 13-17 May, a statement issued by the Guwahati centre of the India Meteorological Department said on

Friday. Under the influence of these weather systems, the Met department said widespread rainfall accompanied with thunderstorm/lightning and heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places very likely over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. The Met department forecast extremely heavy rains for Meghalaya during this period. The Meghalaya Met office said thunderstorm/lightning and light to moderate

rainfall is very likely to continue over most places until late on Friday, with intermittent intense spells of rain in West Garo Hills, South West Garo Hills, East Khasi Hills, West Jaintia Hills and Ribhoi districts. "Strong southwesterly winds from the Bay of Bengal to the northeast and adjoining east India at lower tropospheric levels are likely to result in isolated extremely heavy to very heavy rainfall over Arunachal, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Sikkim, Mizoram and Tripura till May 16," a Met department official said.

Prepare action plan for NE based on its challenges: Birla



Itanagar, May 16: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Thursday emphasised on the need to prepare an action plan for diversified northeastern states to address their challenges and achieve sustainable development. The multiplicity of topographical features, and tribal communities, are significant challenges which, however, is offset by the multifarious strengths of the northeast, he pointed out. Highlighting its strengths, the Speaker said the diligence, hardworking ethos, and talent of the people of the region can be harnessed to overcome the challenges. The Lok Sabha Speaker was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the two-day conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, India Region

Zone 3, at the state assembly here. Noting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had taken several steps for the development of the region, Birla said there are still many gaps in the field of infrastructure, education, health, security and connectivity due to various reasons which, need to be addressed. The Speaker said that the Centre has made continuous efforts for all-round development of the northeast through the Act East Policy and the Prime Minister had instructed all the Ministries

to spend ten per cent of their budget for the northeast. We have to consider how to formulate developmental schemes for the region with public participation and cooperation while protecting its ethnic heritage, environment, and natural resources so that employment is generated and prosperity can be ensured, he observed. There will be no dissatisfaction among people if the government takes into account their views while making policies and governs accordingly to their aspirations, the Speaker stressed. In

the last couple of years, work is going on at a rapid pace in the areas of power, water supply, health education, tourism, and connectivity, which will usher in a new era of development and prosperity for the people, Birla added. Pointing out that there is a surge in the demand for organic farming and products in the agriculture sector all over the world, the Speaker said the government has to convince people to increase the production of organic crops and develop an appropriate marketing system to export the products. The northeast has been affected by extremism and terrorism for a long time. The more we nurture democratic ethos, involve people in the democratic process, make action plans for development as per their aspirations, the more we will be able to move away from insurgency, Birla said. The Central and the state governments are working together for the development of the region with more public participation and people are now convinced that extremism is not the solution to any problem, Birla said.

Manik Sahainstituted as Tripura CM

Agartala, May 16: The BJP central leadership instituted Manik Saha as Tripura chief minister, "replacing" Biplab Deb, only after careful thought and consideration, senior leader Ratan Lal Nath said on Sunday. The decision was taken to ensure the betterment of the state and the party in the days to come, he told reporters shortly after Saha, the state BJP president, took oath as the new chief minister. Nath also said that a new state cabinet would be formed in the next two to three days. "The BJP is the biggest party in the world with over 17 crore active members. Leaders like Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and JP Nadda have replaced Deb after careful consideration," he stated. Asked if the decision could have an adverse effect on the saffron party's prospects in Assembly polls next year, Nath, the parliamentary affairs minister in the Deb-led cabinet, said that was not a possibility. The BJP had changed chief ministers thrice in poll-bound Uttarakhand in a span of few months. It turned out to be a successful strategy as the party won. The BJP will emerge victorious in the 2023 Assembly elections too, bagging more seats than it previously did, Nath, often referred to as 'chanakya' on the state's political landscape, said. The senior BJP leader further explained that Deb was not upset over the decision. "There was a chance of adverse impact had the former chief minister been upset over the party's decision. But this is not the case. Deb was the one who held consultations on Saturday with the central leadership and karyakartas over the formation of the new cabinet," Nath maintained. Asserting that Deb secured "grand success" in the state during his four-and-a-half-year tenure as its chief minister, meeting basic needs of people, Nath added that the former CM would soon be seen in a new role in the party.



Manipur's birth sex ratio reaches 965.2 in 2021-22



Manipur, May 16: The Directorate of Family Welfare of Manipur has reported that the state's sex ratio at birth recorded 965.2 female per 1,000 male in the year 2021-2022. This clarification comes following an annual report by the Civil Registration System-2020, which listed Manipur as having the lowest birth sex ratio state of the country with 880 female per 1000 male. In the report released by the Registrar General of India (RGI) on May 3, Ladakh recorded the highest sex ratio at birth in the country with 1104, followed by Arunachal Pradesh with 1011, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tripura and Kerala. According to Dr N Dihe Mao, Additional Director of Family Welfare Department, child sex ratio of Manipur was 953.99 female at birth per 1000 male in the year 2020-2021. "The information is directly collected from the health management information system

(HMIS) report which is a government to government (G2G) web-based monitoring information system. Moreover, the information is being provided by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)," said Dr Mao. He also stated that the issue of declining sex ratio has been discussed in the Manipur legislative assembly session on February 12, 2021 and the House has already declared that Manipur being worst in sex ratio in the country is totally wrong. As per the HMIS report, a total of 20,609 children were born in Manipur as on April 28 this year. In the year 2021-2022, Imphal West registered the highest number of child birth with 6,903 and sex ratio is 1012.54, while Jiribam recorded the lowest with 47 children and 566.67 as sex ratio, respectively. Among the remaining districts, 159 children were registered in Bishnupur (1178.08 sex ratio), Chandel 410 (990.29), Churachandpur

2,627 (964.85), Imphal East 2,754 (955.97), Kakching 113 (738.46), 132 in Kamjong (692.31), 952 children in Kangpokpi (911.65), Noney 307 (967.95), Pherzawl 128 (802.82), 3004 children in Senapati (900.06 sex ratio), Tamenglong 592 (934.64), Tengnoupal 171 (1085.37) 1,161 children in Thoubal (912.69) and Ukhrul 1,149 children (1055.46 as sex ratio).

'Paid requisite permit' must for tourists vehicles to Nathula: IGP



Gangtok, May 16: A senior Sikkim police officer has warned police personnel of strict action for allowing tourist vehicles to Nathula without paid requisite permit. The tourist season has picked up momentum and it is observed that a large number of tourists are visiting areas within the Restricted Area Permit/Protected Area Permit areas. Inflow of tourists provides gainful employment to all the stakeholders, Sonam Tenzing Bhutia, the Inspector General of Police

(IGP), Checkposts Headquarters, said in an office order on Friday. "A lot of unfortunate reports against police personnel involving officers down to constable is coming through unofficial channel that vehicles are being allowed to visit Nathula without the paid requisite permit issued by the Tourism Department and the Army," he said. The IGP said that it has also been reported that some officers are involved in running such a racket wherein a large fleet of vehicles were being sent to Nathula under their patronage

and the money collected in cash from the taxi drivers. "This act amounts to corruption and, as such, is liable for departmental action and prosecution under the Prevention of Corruption Act," Bhutia warned. In addition, the state government was losing out on the revenue which otherwise would have accrued to the exchequer in the event of all Nathula-bound vehicle reports against police personnel paying up for obtaining requisite permit from the concerned authorities, he said. Observing that the reported incident was a disgracing to the image of Sikkim Police, the IGP directed the SP & ASP (Check Posts) to visit Nathula twice a week on rotation to supervise the functioning of the policemen on duty at the international border. The officers shall interact with

tourists and taxi drivers and get their feedback on police checking, the IGP said and asked for submission of a report to him on such checking. Meanwhile, the Travel Agents Association of Sikkim (TAAS) has expressed ignorance about the occurrence of irregularities carried out by drivers in taking tourists to Nathula without obtaining permit for the purpose from the concerned authorities. "It is unfortunate if any corruption has taken place due to nexus with police personnel and drivers by taking tourists to Nathula without obtaining permit for their visit," the TAAS President Sonam Norgay Lachungpa told PTI. He demanded strict action against the culprits (corrupt police personnel and the drivers of tourist vehicles) if such 'corrupt' activities have taken place.

Tribals must explore means to contribute to nation: Sangma



Shillong, May 16: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma on Friday urged the tribal community, especially the youth, to explore means to contribute to nation building. He pledged his support to initiatives taken for conservation of tribal culture. Speaking at the first P. A. Sangma Memorial Lecture-cum-International Seminar at Bodoland University here, Sangma said the tribals must do innovative thinking to meet the challenges of modern society. They must also ensure that the community contributes meaningfully towards nation building, he added. Sangma exhorted the students to work hard and become useful human resource for the country, ones that can lead their peers in chosen fields. Recalling the contributions made by his late father in addressing challenges faced by the tribals, the Meghalaya CM assured all help from the P. A. Sangma Foundation towards initiatives by the Bodoland University for preserving the culture of the community. Sharing photographs on his Twitter handle later, Sangma wrote, ".... I recalled the lessons & values my Father (L) P. A. Sangma taught that are relevant till today. His life is inspirational to many. Grateful for the opportunity to be here." P. A. Sangma connected with people from all walks of life & his impact lives on through the lives he touched," he added, thanking all speakers at the event. Assam Minister UG Brahma, in his speech, recounted the contributions of late Sangma as a visionary and strong leader in forwarding the struggle of tribal people of the northeastern region. Bodoland Territorial Region chief Pramod Boro, speaking on the occasion, urged the Meghalaya chief minister to carry forward the role of his father in espousing the cause of the tribals of the region.

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Traffic on Silchar-Guwahati road

development, due to heavy water logging and landslides following torrential rainfall in various parts of Assam, several trains have been cancelled or partially cancelled in Lumding-Badarpur route till May 17. More than 25 pairs of trains connecting Tripura, Mizoram and southern Assam had to be cancelled following heavy landslides triggered by heavy rains in Assam's Dima Hasao district. Landslides in many areas have also disrupted communication on various routes. At least three people, including a child, were washed away in the Jatinga river and the bodies of two victims were recovered on Sunday. The body of a child was recovered by a few locals on Monday morning and a few people remained missing till Sunday after the landslides. Meanwhile, former MLA from Borkhola constituency Dr Rumi Nath also remained stranded on Silchar-Guwahati road in Sonapur- Rathacherra area. Assam has been ravaged by flash floods, causing snapping of vital rail and road links from other parts of the state and region. "Amid heavy downpour and flood-like situation in Assam, vehicles waited in queues for long hours and passengers remained stranded. Landslides were also reported from several areas," Dr Nath said. The flood situation in Assam continues to remain grim and over 41,000 people have been affected in Cachar district alone. The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) officials told that 1,658 flood-affected people have taken shelter in various relief camps that were set up by the district administration. The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), Fire and Emergency Services, IAF and district administration have been roped in for rescue operations in various parts of the state. Around 57,000 people across seven districts in Assam have been affected by the current spell of floods, an official statement said.

Assam floods affect thousands

has submerged under flood waters, the data showed. Three people including a child died during this natural calamity in Assam. Apart from human beings, around 1,434 livestock and a total of 202 houses have been damaged so far due to floods. The Army, para-military forces, SDRF, Fire and Emergency Services carried out rescue and relief operations in flood-hit areas of the state. Several roads, bridges, and irrigation canals were damaged in Hojai, Lakhimpur and Nagaon districts. On Saturday, incessant rains triggered landslides in 12 villages parts of the Dima Hasao district. Due to the landslides, railway track, bridges, and road communications have been waterlogged and damaged. In view of the calamity, Northeast Frontier Railway made changes in train services over the section. However, two trains got stranded, each with about 1400 passengers, NF Railway said in an official statement. Evacuation operations were initiated soon after by the Railway authorities with the help of the Air Force, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Assam Rifles, and local people. Around 1,245 railway passengers stranded at Ditokcherra station have been brought up to Badarpur and Silchar and 119 passengers have been airlifted by the Indian Air Force to Silchar, the Railway said in a statement.

Congress does not want to delete

industrialists, and the other for Dalits, farmers, the poor, and the underprivileged while the Congress wants only one Hindustan, he said, adding, "This is the fight in the country". The former Congress chief said there is a fight between two ideologies in the country. "We work to connect while they work to divide. We help the weaker and they help selected top industrialists," he said. The Congress leader, who has been targeting the government over the state of the economy and the issue of unemployment, said, "The BJP government has attacked our economy. PM did demonetisation, and wrongly implemented GST due to which the economy got destroyed. UPA worked to strengthen the economy but Narendra Modi caused harm to our economy". "Every youth knows that they cannot get jobs in Hindustan today. Inflation is increasing," he said. Gandhi said the Centre brought three laws against farmers which had to be withdrawn after protests and charged that two-three select industrialists were supposed to get full advantage of the laws. Praising the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government, Gandhi said it is working for the interest of farmers, tribals, Dalits and all sections of society. While addressing tribals in the rally, Gandhi said he was told that a fair of tribals is organised at the Dham which is considered the 'Mahakumbh' of tribals and he would also come to attend the fair and see it.

India-Nepal agree to establish

announced the signing of the pacts after bilateral talks between PM Modi and his Nepali counterpart, Sher Bahadur Deuba. The two sides also agreed in principle to establish the sister city relations between Lumbini and Kushinagar. The necessary process will be taken in due course through appropriate local authorities, the Ministry added. Earlier in the day, Modi and Deuba jointly laid the foundation of the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage in Lumbini, the birthplace of Gautam Buddha. Shortly after his arrival, the Indian leader offered prayers at the famous Maya Devi temple. India and Nepal signed a slew of agreements, including cooperation among the higher educational institutions of the two countries and the state power authorities. The list of agreements signed between the two countries included the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Lumbini Buddhist University for the establishment of Dr Ambedkar Chair for Buddhist Studies. An MoU was signed between ICCR and CNAS, Tribhuvan University on the establishment of the ICCR Chair of Indian Studies. Another MoU was inked between Indian ICCR and Kathmandu University (KU) on the establishment of the ICCR Chair of Indian Studies. Other agreements included "MoU between Kathmandu University (KU), Nepal and Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M), India and also between Kathmandu University (KU), Nepal and Indian Institute of Technology (IITM), India for a joint degree program at Master's level." An agreement between the Indian public sector undertaking SJVN Ltd and Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) for the development and implementation of the Arun 4 hydro-project was also signed. PM Modi arrived in Lumbini this morning on an official visit. On arrival at Lumbini, Prime Minister Modi was received by the Nepal PM and his spouse Arzu Deuba. Both the leaders participated in the foundation stone laying ceremony for the construction of a Centre of Buddhist Culture and Heritage in Lumbini, on the occasion of Buddha Jayanti. They also visited the Maya Devi Temple. It is Prime Minister Modi's fifth visit to Nepal since 2014. Modi and his entourage arrived here on a special Indian Air Force helicopter from Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh. On Friday, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said that Modi's talks with Deuba will have a comprehensive agenda to further expand cooperation. Notably, land-locked Nepal relies heavily on India for the transportation of goods and services. Nepal's access to the sea is through India, and it imports a predominant proportion of its requirements from and through India. The India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950 forms the bedrock of the special relations between the two countries.

11 ministers take oath as cabinet

a day earlier got Saha the top job, was present at the ceremony along with BJP MLAs and state ministers. Saha, who is also the Tripura BJP President, was sworn-in on Sunday as the 12th Chief Minister of the state just a day after Biplab Kumar Deb resigned from the top post. Deb, 51, became the Chief Minister on March 9, 2018, after the BJP-IPFT alliance came to power by defeating the Left Front in the Assembly elections, ending the latter's 25-year rule. With the internal feud in the IPFT, former Forest and Tribal Welfare Minister Mevar Kumar Jamatia was dropped by the party supremo Narendra Chandra Debbarma. Main opposition CPI-M led Left Front, Congress and other political parties boycotted the swearing-in ceremonies on Sunday and Monday alleging large scale political attacks. The election to the 60-member Tripura Assembly is due in January-February 2023. Since May 2019, Tripura had witnessed waves of revolt by dissident BJP MLAs and leaders against Deb.

Assam's NRC not final, Foreigners'

crore applicants were excluded from the complete NRC draft published on August 31, 2019. An FT member, declining to be quoted, responded to Mr Sarma's letter on May 10, insisting that the NRC was final and was published in compliance with various orders and judgements of the Supreme Court and through a notification of the RGCR. He cited Clause 7 of the Citizenship Rules of 2003 and a press statement by former State Coordinator Prateek Hajela on August 31, 2019, "whereby it was clear that the published NRC is the final NRC". The member also said the NRC lists (draft, additional draft and supplementary list) are mentioned as final NRC on the official website. Saying the "final NRC published under the supervision of the Supreme Court and notification of RGCR" is not final was in contrast with the available records and orders of the top court, the FT member said. Adding that the State Coordinator "cannot propagate his wrong understanding of law, rules, notifications and orders of the Supreme Court", the member advised him to "withdraw his letter and stop interfering in the lawful functioning of the Foreigners' Tribunals which is beyond your jurisdiction and limits of power". Only the RGI (Registrar General of India) and Hajela is authorised to publish the final NRC, which is yet to be done. The Supreme Court asked Hajela to publish the supplementary list of inclusions and exclusions, not the final NRC. Some FT members have been giving judgements claiming the NRC as final. Mr. Sarma. In September 2021, an FT member in southern Assam's Karimganj district declared a doubtful migrant as Indian while observing that members of his family figured in the "final NRC".

119 Passengers Stranded

Also, 345 more passengers from Ditokcherra have been evacuated on Monday. Only a handful of passengers are left who will be evacuated today. With this we should be done with the evacuation of all the passengers, he added. Meanwhile, Cachar Deputy Commissioner Keerthi Jalli informed on Sunday that the passengers were airlifted and brought to the Kumbhirgram IAF base here. "All the evacuated passengers were given refreshments and later buses were arranged by us to take them out to the city. We are already reeling under the floods and Meghalaya water running off is affecting Katigorah and Dima Hasao affecting Borkholla. Road connectivity has been disrupted in Balacherra and trains are being stranded at Ditokcherra all simultaneously. We had to mobilise manpower immediately and also reached out to SDRF, NDRF, Assam Rifles, BSF and the Indian Air Force as many areas needed attention. We thank all organisations for their support. We are requesting people to avoid travel as much as possible as MET is predicting turbulent weather for the next 10 days," the DC said.

Delhi Reports Record 49 Degrees

agency advised people in northern India to avoid venturing outside their homes unless absolutely essential and to drink plenty of water even if not thirsty. Weather station at Safdarjung observed a max temperature of 45.6 degrees Celsius while the west part of Delhi reported temperatures ranging between 46 to 48 degrees Celsius. On May 29, 1944, Safdarjung recorded a max temperature of 47.2 degrees Celsius. Maximum temperatures reached 47.5 degrees Celsius at Jafarpur, 47.3 degrees Celsius at Pitampura and 47.2 degrees Celsius at Ridge. Other parts of Delhi observed maximum temperatures rise to 46.8 degrees Celsius at Ayanagar, 46.4 degrees Celsius at Palam and 45.8 degrees Celsius at Lodhi Road, the weather agency said. In Haryana, Gurgaon recorded the highest temperature today amongst other stations which are 48.1 degrees Celsius and Mukhtsar in Punjab reported 47.4 degrees Celsius. An 'orange' alert has been issued to caution people about a severe heatwave on Sunday. The IMD, in its daily weather bulletin, said that on May 15, "Heat wave conditions in most parts with severe heat wave conditions in many parts very likely over West Rajasthan; heat wave conditions in most parts with severe heat wave conditions in some parts over East Rajasthan; heat wave conditions in many parts with severe heat wave conditions in isolated pockets over Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana-Delhi; heat wave conditions in isolated pockets over Jammu Division, Jharkhand and Vidarbha." Cloudy sky may provide some relief from the intense heat next week. "On May 16, thunderstorm accompanied with lightning and hail/gusty winds (speed 30-40 kmph) at isolated places is likely over Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand; with lightning and hail/gusty winds (speed 40-50 kmph) at isolated places Kerala and Mahe; with lightning/gusty winds (speed 30-40 kmph) at isolated places over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, Odisha, Gangetic West Bengal and Andaman-Nicobar Islands and with lightning at isolated places over East Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Lakshadweep and Tamilnadu-Puducherry-Karaikal," read the bulletin. The weather agency advised people with moderate health conditions residing in Northern India to avoid venturing outside their homes unless absolutely essential. "Heat wave could lead to moderate health concern for vulnerable people e.g. infants, elderly, people with chronic diseases. Increased likelihood of heat illness symptoms in people who are either exposed to sun for a prolonged period or doing heavy work," the bulletin said. "Avoid heat exposure, keep cool. Avoid dehydration. Drink sufficient water- even if not thirsty. Avoid heat exposure, wear lightweight, light-coloured, loose, cotton clothes and cover the head by use of cloth, hat or umbrella etc. Use ORS, homemade drinks like lassi, torani (rice water), lemon water, buttermilk, etc to keep yourself hydrated," the central weather agency said.

Gyanvapi Mosque Filming Ends

Gyanvapi mosque were disclosed by any member of the commission. "The court is the custodian of the information about the survey. One member was debarred from the commission for about a few minutes yesterday, later admitted to the commission," he said and claimed that the one person has expressed some opinion which is their personal view. The last day of filming began this morning amid tight security and restrictions near the complex. "The survey commission has completed its work today. It has filmed all the places in detail. Three domes, underground basements, pond...all have been video recorded. The advocate commissioner will submit his report in the court tomorrow which will be prepared by the three commission members today. If the report is not finished on time, we will ask the court for more time," the government lawyer Mahendra Prasad Pandey told, adding that the entire process was peaceful. The Anjuman Intejamiya Masjid management committee of the Gyanvapi mosque has petitioned the Supreme Court to stop the survey. A two-member bench led by Justice DY Chandrachud will hear the matter on Tuesday. The petition states that the Allahabad High Court had already stayed the original suit filed in 1991 but another petition was filed in 2021 just to bypass it. Both the 1991 and 2021 petitions are against the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 which a five-bench of the Supreme Court had also endorsed during the Ayodhya judgement. Till Sunday, around 65 per cent of the survey was completed. The mosque is located close to the iconic Kashi Vishwanath temple and the local court is hearing a plea by a group of women seeking permission for daily prayers before the idols on its outer walls. Five Hindu women have sought year-long access to pray at the shrine behind the mosque. The site is currently open for prayers once a year. The women also want permission to pray to other "visible and invisible deities within the old temple complex". A part of this survey took place on May 6 but was halted after a dispute broke out over filming inside the mosque. The mosque committee said the court had not ordered videography inside the mosque. The petitioners' lawyer, however, insisted that the court had given a go-ahead. Hearing the matter last week, the local court had ordered videography can happen at all places asked for by the petitioners. Vikram Shukla, a lawyer for petitioners, told on the first day of filming that they were satisfied with the proceedings. "We accessed all the areas that the petitioners wanted. We told the commissioner about it and he in turn coordinated with the opposite side. There were clear orders that legal action would be taken against anyone who tried to stop the process but nothing of this sort happened," Mr Shukla had said. A lawyer representing the Gyanvapi Mosque trust that approached the Supreme Court against the filming order saying it is at odds with the Places of Worship Act, 1991, claimed nothing unusual was found during the survey. "First everyone went inside, two locks to basements were opened, one was broken because it was old and rusted. There were just normal rooms. I don't think anything of significance was found," Mr Tauhwed.



Gohpur- Submerge the flood water on Monday

Protests in Nigeria after arrests for 'blasphemy' killing of female student

Kano, May 16 : Hundreds of people in Nigeria's north-western city of Sokoto demonstrated on Saturday over the arrest of two students after the murder of a Christian student accused of blasphemy, residents said. Africa's most populous country is roughly divided between Muslims and Christians but religious tensions and deadly clashes are not uncommon, particularly in the north. Deborah Samuel, a student at Shehu Shagari college of education, was stoned to death on Thursday and her body burned by a mob of Muslim students of the college after she made a post on social media they deemed insulted the prophet Muhammad. Police said they made two arrests after the incident and had begun a manhunt for other suspects who appeared in footage of the murder shared on social media. Early on Saturday, Muslim youths took to the streets of the city, lighting bonfires and demanding the release of the two suspects, despite the earlier deployment of police to maintain order, residents said. Some of the protesters besieged the palace of Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, the sultan of Sokoto and the highest spiritual figure among Muslims in Nigeria, after he condemned the killing and demanded those involved face justice. "It was more of a riot by a mob of young men and women who were demanding the release of the two people arrested over the killing of the Christian student," said a Sokoto resident, Ibrahim Arkilla. "The crowd which made bonfires on the streets were also demanding the police stop the manhunt for those identified to have taken part in the killing," said Arkilla, who witnessed the protests. A large number of protesters gathered at the palace chanting "Allahu Akbar", said Bube Ando, who lives nearby. "Some among the security men deployed to protect the palace tried to ask the protesters to leave but they became unruly."

N. F. Railway evacuates all stranded passengers
Efforts to restore the line are on

Guwahati, May 16 : Continued inclement weather and incessant rain on Monday led to further landslides and water logging at several locations in Lumding - Badarpur hill section of Lumding division apart from the ones which were already washed out yesterday. Around 1600 railway passengers stranded at Ditokcherra station had already been rescued yesterday and were sent up to Badarpur and Silchar. Out of the 1600 passengers, 119 were evacuated by the Indian Air Force. Stranded passengers of train no. 15615 at New Haflong were moved to Maibang station by buses. 204 passengers had left for Guwahati from Maibang yesterday. Around 169 stranded passenger left for Guwahati from Maibang station at 04.30 AM today. About 571 more stranded passengers at Ditokcherra station have also been rescued today. The last evacuation special from KM 135 up to Badarpur and Silchar moved at 07:30 pm. With this Northeast Frontier Railway has successfully completed the evacuation of all the stranded passengers. Coordinated efforts at all the affected stations and coordination with local administration, Assam Rifles, Indian Air Force and NGOs have shown results in these tough and demanding weather conditions. N. F. Railway conducted the rescued and relief operations of stranded train passengers on war footing under the supervision of senior officers of Lumding division and headquarters. Staffs of various departments have provided their dedicated services day and night for this heroic performance. The on-site team effort of P-way Inspectors, Station Masters, Assistant Station Masters, Trolley men and most importantly the RPF personnel guided by the officers at site have saved lives of many passengers. The Railways while having put efforts in rescuing the stranded passengers, has also ensured sanitation and medical facility for them. Food and drinking water was provided to all the stranded passengers regularly. Station staff went out of their way to provide food to some passengers out of their own kitchen even when their homes were filling up with the flood waters. Railway Staff at Daotuhaja station have taken shelter in station premises because of floods. Efforts are being made to provide them with food and water. Passengers expressed their gratitude for rescue and alternative arrangements made by the railway authority. Passengers were satisfied that all necessary measures were taken to bring them by special trains and other mode of transport and also for arranging food for all. N. F. Railway has also arranged to refund the ticket fares to the affected passengers. Refund amounting to Rs 8 lakhs has already been made for 1006 passengers. Remaining affected passengers can claim their refunds on IRCTC website (for e-tickets) and at PRS counters of the concerned stations (for window tickets). Having rescued and evacuated all the passengers, Railways is now putting all its efforts in restoring the damaged line and re-starting the train services to South Assam, Manipur, Tripura and Mizoram. The continued rain in the area has caused landslides at many more locations. New Haflong station is completely inundated with debris. The empty passenger train standing at the station has been washed off from the tracks due to a massive landslide. The number of breach locations have increased to 53 today (26 locations were identified yesterday). However, the restoration works at 11 locations have already been completed. Northeast Frontier Railway is working on war footing to ensure connectivity to the affected region.



All Assam Muay Thai championship ended

Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 16 : 18th All Assam Amateur Muay Thai Championship-2022 for Sub-junior, Junior and Senior Boys & Girls had ended successfully which was organized by Kamrup District Amateur Muay Thai Association from May 13-15 at the Indoor Stadium of Sonapur College. About 200

competitors from 16 districts of Assam participated in the event. On the beginning day, the event was inaugurated by Dr. Debabrata Khanikar, Principal, Sonapur College. From the winners of this event, the State Team would be selected for the National Muay Thai Championship to be held in June 16-22 next in Madhya Pradesh.

Andreas Christensen made himself unavailable for Chelsea at FA Cup final

London, May 16 : Andreas Christensen limited Chelsea's defensive options in the FA Cup final by making himself unavailable for selection on the day of the game. Christensen, who is poised to join Barcelona on a free transfer at the end of the season, was a surprise absentee from the squad that lost on penalties against Liverpool at Wembley on Saturday. He was not carrying an injury and told Thomas Tuchel of his decision on Saturday morning. It is understood that he had not been feeling well during the week and informed Chelsea's head coach that he was not ready to play. Christensen had managed to start Chelsea's win against Leeds last Wednesday. Tuchel made no mention of the centre-back being injured before or after the Liverpool game.



teammates were said to be shocked and confused when the Denmark international left the team hotel. It is unclear if Christensen was going to start against Liverpool, though sources suggested he was going to be a substitute. But if he had not started the final he would have been a candidate to come off the

bench at Wembley after Thiago Silva sustained an early injury. Silva soldiered on and finished the game but the 37-year-old was walking with a heavy limp as he exited Wembley. Tuchel will have a chance to talk about Christensen before Chelsea, whose defence will be weakened further when

Antonio Rüdiger joins Real Madrid, face Leicester on Thursday. Last week, though, the club's head coach admitted the Dane's decision to join Barça has affected his form. Christensen was substituted at half-time during Chelsea's defeats by Real Madrid and Arsenal last month, and he has been in an awkward position after talks over a contract extension hit a dead end earlier this season. Chelsea twice had verbal agreements with Christensen for a new deal, only for the defender to change his mind on both occasions. The player later hired new representatives, who wanted to start negotiations from scratch. Chelsea's board took a different view. The situation has not gone down well at Stamford Bridge. But there is no bitterness towards Rüdiger, even though the Germany centre-back is also leaving on a free. The feeling is that Rüdiger, who has agreed a four-year deal with Madrid, has not messed Chelsea around. He had another fine game against Liverpool.

Boston beat champion Bucks to set up East final with Miami

Paris, May 16 : Luka Dončić scored 35 points, Spencer Dinwiddie added 30 and the Dallas Mavericks stunned the top-seeded Phoenix Suns with a 123-90 Game 7 blowout on Sunday night, advancing to the Western Conference finals for the first time since 2011. Dallas broke through on the road after the home team won the first six games of the series, dominating from start to finish. Conversely, it was an embarrassing no-show for the Suns who advanced to the NBA finals last season

with a very similar roster. The fourth-seeded Mavericks travel to face Golden State in Game 1 on Wednesday. Dončić earned the Mavs an early lead, making his first three shots, including two three-pointers. That helped Dallas push to a 27-17 advantage in the first quarter and a whopping 57-27 cushion at the halftime break. Dončić and Dinwiddie, who came off the bench, combined to pour in 48 of the Mavericks' 57 points. Simply put, the Suns looked overwhelmed by the pressure of a Game 7. They

missed shots they usually make, made bad passes they usually don't make and looked nothing like the team that won an NBA-best 64 games during the regular season. By halftime, many Suns fans were booing at the unsightly display. The series might have been close but the individual games usually were not. Three of the first six games were decided by at least 20 points and none of the games came down to the final possession. Game 7 followed a similar pattern, except the team doing all the damage was the road team.

Emma Hayes hails Chelsea's FA Cup winners as 'best I've ever coached'

Wembley, May 16 : Emma Hayes said her current group of players is the "best I've ever coached" after Chelsea's hard-fought 3-2 victory against Manchester City in the FA Cup final. "Honestly, those women will go down in history," a beaming Hayes said. "I will look back in 10 years' time and I'll be like: 'That group was immense.' It's the best team I've ever coached. "I totally understand that we always want to talk about perfection in football but having been on the winning side more often than not, let me tell you, it's about human endeavour. And we have a group of people who are not going to be on the losing team, they'll find a way." Hayes's team twice



took the lead in a thrilling chess match of a game that went to extra time in front of a record crowd for the final. Sam Kerr put Chelsea ahead in the 33rd minute only for Lauren Hemp to equalise shortly before half-time. Erin Cuthbert restored Chelsea's lead just after the hour but the City substitute Hayley Raso scored with a minute of normal time remaining.

Kerr struck again in the first half of extra time. The Manchester City manager, Gareth Taylor, said that rather than disappointment he felt pride in the fight shown by his side. "Of course I'm biased but I felt we were the dominant team for large periods of the game," he said. "We showed character to bounce back.

London, May 16 : It should have been the day Everton put themselves on the verge of securing Premier League survival, instead they imploded. They finished with nine men after Jarrad Branthwaite, then Salomón Rondón, set the team's downfall in motion. Strikes from Dominic Calvert-Lewin and Richarlison were not enough, as Brentford took advantage of Branthwaite's first-half dismissal thanks to a Séamus Coleman own goal and headers from Yoane Wissa and Rico Henry, who was the victim of Rondón's ludicrous late lunge. Calvert-Lewin quickly showed what Everton have missed for much of this season.

Making his first start since 9 April, the striker flicked a long pass back into the path of Richarlison in the third minute. The Brazil forward controlled the ball but had it whipped off his feet by Anthony Gordon on the edge of the box, allowing him to jab a shot at goal which David Raya palmed up in the air; Richarlison could only head wide. The vociferous home fans were rewarded within 10 minutes when Gordon was tripped on the right flank. The winger dusted himself off to take the free-kick, whipping in a low cross to the front post for Richarlison to attack. His connection was weak at best, but it was enough to divert the ball across Raya into the corner, trickling into the net via a

touch from Calvert-Lewin. Cue an eruption, a flare on the pitch and the smell of smoke mixed with optimism. That optimism quickly dissipated in a controversial 10-second spell. Richarlison claimed he deserved a penalty after having his shirt pulled by Kristoffer Ajer in the box but the referee, Michael Oliver, saw nothing illegal in the grappling. Mathias Jensen cleared the ball upfield for Ivan Toney, who tweeted after the match about his family having been racially abused, to chase. The poor positioning of Everton's defence gave him a head start. Branthwaite raced behind him but he curtailed Toney's run outside the area by pulling him down, resulting in a red card.

Rapid Chess Tournament

Nihad Islam Hazarika clinched the title

Guwahati, May 16 : Nihad Islam Hazarika clinched the title in Sunday Rapid Chess Tournament organized by Guwahati Chess Academy on 15th May, 2022 at Academy premises at R G Baruah Road, Guwahati. Nihad scored 5.5 points but he was declared second on the basis of tie-break score. Praharsh Choudhury got third position in this category with 2 points. In under 9 category Agnij Bora scored 4 points and got first position. Hriyan Kaushik Thakuria and Neehar Das both scored 3 points each and declared second and third respectively on the basis of their tie-break score. Swapnil Kar got first Position in under-11 category. He scored 4 points. Nibhriti Goswami scored 3 points and got second position in this

Nath, Jagajit Sinha and Subhangpran Kashyap also scored 5 points each but placed third, fourth and fifth according to their tie-break score. Dhanyata Goswami got first position in under-7 category by scoring 3 points. Divyansh Deb also scored 3 points but he was declared second on the basis of tie-break score. Shivam Dutta scored 4 points and got first position in under-13 category. Suhan Pati also scored 4 points but he was declared second on the basis of tie-break score. Pratyush



category. Shaunak Bhowmick also scored 3 points and got third position on the basis of tie-break score. Shivam Dutta scored 4 points and got first position in under-13 category. Suhan Pati also scored 4 points but he was declared second on the basis of tie-break score. Pratyush

Pathak got third position by scoring 3.5 points in this category. Chiranjib Goswami got first position by scoring 4 points in under-15 category. Jyon Jyotishman Saikia got second position in this category by scoring 3 points. Altogether 41 players including 6 International Fide Rated

players. The tournament was conducted in swiss league system for 6 rounds. Top five players were awarded cash prizes and trophy. Senior National Arbiter Pranab Kumar Nath conducted the tournament as Chief Arbiter and he is ably assisted by Kh Jintu Singha as deputy Arbiter.

West try seals La Rochelle's win over Racing 92 to reach Champions Cup final



London, May 16 : The former Munster legend Ronan O'Gara will be looking to overcome the favourites Leinster in Marseille on Saturday week. La Rochelle's director of rugby saw his side defeat the Champions Cup nearly men Racing 92 in the stifling heat in northern France in

the first game of professional rugby at Stade Bollaert-Delelis in Lens. It was physical and attritional but it was not pretty. Certainly these sides could not match Leinster's stately progression to the final 24 hours earlier. La Rochelle will not beat the overwhelming favourites

Leinster if they choose to play a high-tempo game next week but if the game is tight they are a match for anyone. O'Gara's side, beaten 12 months ago at Twickenham in the final by Toulouse, have a monstrous pack and they have made great strides in the past year. Jonathan Sexton (right) celebrates as Josh van der Flier scores Leinster's second try. No one has made more carries in the competition this season than their captain, Gregory Alldritt, whose try on the stroke of half time turned the game La Rochelle's way and the No 8 was outstanding alongside the 35-year-old former All Black Victor Vito in the back row. Romantics will regret that the final will not be graced by Racing's Nolann Le Garrec. The scrum-half turned 20 on Saturday but could not celebrate a win alongside his half-back partner Finn Russell, both outstanding the previous

week against Sale in their quarter-final in Paris. Le Garrec has been lauded as the next Antoine Dupont but he had to watch Ihaia West finally kill off the game in the last move of the afternoon with a try that made up for the New Zealander's wayward place-kicking that could have cost them the game. La Rochelle, though, deserved their victory. The day had not started well for Racing with the full-back Max Spring and the prop Trevor Nyakane pulling out with injuries but the Parisian side got their noses in front in a scrappy first half when both sides appeared to be racked by nerves in this, their first Champions Cup meeting. After Le Garrec had put Racing ahead with an early penalty his side scored the first try. The Racing pack drove forwards and Virimi Vakatawa saw his opportunity with a neat step and a stretch over the line.

Cincinnati Reds allow no hits against Pittsburgh Pirates ... and still lose

Cincinnati, May 16 : Reds starter Hunter Greene and reliever Art Warren combined to allow zero hits in a complete game, but it didn't count as a no-hitter - or even a win - because the Pittsburgh Pirates eked out a run in the bottom of the eighth inning for a 1-0 victory Sunday. Ke'Bryan Hayes' RBI grounder helped the Pirates become the sixth team in big league history since 1901 to win despite not getting any hits. It last happened in 2008 when Jered Weaver and Jose Arredondo of the Angels lost while holding the Dodgers hitless. By Major League Baseball record-keeping rules, Cincinnati's accomplishment isn't an official no-hitter because its pitchers didn't go at least nine innings. And in a season in which nearly everything has gone wrong for the Reds, this surely had to be the topper. Greene (1-6), the prized Reds rookie, struck out nine and was pulled after one-out walks in the eighth to Rodolfo Castro and Michael Perez. Greene threw 118 pitches, the most by any pitcher in the majors this year. Warren relieved and walked Ben Gamel to load the bases. Ke'Bryan Hayes followed with a grounder to second baseman Alejo Lopez, who bobbled the ball before throwing to shortstop Matt Reynolds for one out. Reynolds' relay was a fraction late to get the speedy Hayes at first base. Cincinnati batters went down in order in the ninth and that was it at PNC Park - there was no celebration for the Reds, who have the worst record in the majors.



Swiatek and Djokovic win Italian Open titles in timely boost for Roland Garros

Milan, May 16 : If there were any lingering doubts about Novak Djokovic's form as the French Open approaches, he has methodically addressed them with his racket over the course of the past week. In the Italian Open final on Sunday, he first soared and then efficiently dealt with adversity before defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-0, 7-6 (5). After clinching his 1,000th career victory on Saturday, Djokovic has now won a record-extending 38 Masters 1000 titles and six Italian Open titles in 12 finals. It was his first title since the Paris Masters in November after barely playing in the first three months of the year and being deported from Australia because of his decision not to take a Covid vaccination. Djokovic defeated top-10 players in three consecutive matches in Rome and Tsitsipas, ranked fifth, is his biggest scalp of the year. Djokovic came out of the blocks on fire, serving well, relentlessly landing deep returns and controlling the majority of exchanges as he timed his forehand sweetly and refused to offer any free



points. Tsitsipas, however, despite having won more matches and points than any other player on clay this year, was dire. After relinquishing the opening set the Greek opened the second with improved serving and the rest of his game followed as he broke serve before establishing a 5-2 lead. Djokovic's efficient response underlined the renewed confidence and trust he has in his game. As he neutralised Tsitsipas's serve, served well and rose to the tight moments, he broke back and then narrowly inched ahead in the tie-break before seeing out his first match point. There

are even greater potential meetings ahead, particularly with the notable absence of Carlos Alcaraz in Rome and uncertainty surrounding Rafael Nadal's foot. Questions also remain over Djokovic's stamina in the potentially gruelling best-of-five-set matches to come. But what is clear from this week in Rome is that he has slowly swept away the cobwebs in his game and is peaking right at the perfect time. Djokovic will now look forward to achieving one of the few remaining firsts in his career: he will try to defend a French Open title for the first time. In the women's event Iga Swiatek breezed

past opponents while rarely coming close to dropping a set but for much of her week in Rome was not entirely satisfied with her performances. She felt her level was too up-and-down, that

she was still adjusting to the clay and still had not entirely imposed herself on opponents from start to finish. Although her standards are stratospheric, Swiatek is so good that she mostly matches them. She produced another dominant performance on Sunday, dismantling Ons Jabeur 6-2, 6-2 to defend her title and extend her winning run to 28 successive matches, with five titles in a row. Swiatek had started the season with only three titles in her entire career, yet after four and a half months she heads to the French Open with eight and counting. She has dropped one set since March. This was a contest between the two outstanding performers on

clay this season, with Jabeur herself compiling a career-best 11 consecutive wins as she unlocked yet another historic achievement by becoming the first Arab and North African player to win a WTA 1000 title - last week in Madrid. While she has unsurprisingly been exhausted after the quick turnaround, she continually found a way through, recovering from a 1-6, 2-5 deficit against Maria Sakkari in the quarter-final and then saving a match point against Daria Kasatkina in her semi-final. Such is Swiatek's level, however, that her opponents must be in pristine condition and at the height of their powers just to be competitive.



Rs 1 crore for India badminton team: Sports Ministry rewards India for Thomas Cup triumph

New Delhi, May 16 : India's Sports Ministry on Sunday, May 15 rewarded the senior national men's badminton team with Rs 1 crore for their historic Thomas Cup victory. A determined Indian men's team etched its name in the history books by lifting the Thomas Cup title for the first time with a dominant 3-0 win over 14-time champions Indonesia in the final here on Sunday. India dished out a performance for the ages with World Championships medallist Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth and world number 8 doubles duo of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy producing memorable performances. "As #TeamIndia defeats 14-time #ThomasCup Champions Indonesia to win its 1st ever #ThomasCup2022, @IndiaSports is proud to announce a cash award of Rs 1 crore for the team in relaxation of rules to acknowledge this unparalleled feat!," Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur announced. As #TeamIndia defeats 14-time #ThomasCup Champions Indonesia (3-0) to win its 1st ever #ThomasCup2022, @IndiaSports is proud to announce a cash award of 1 crore for the team in relaxation of rules to acknowledge this unparalleled feat! After being offcolour in the knockout stages, Sen delivered when it mattered the most as he gave India a 1-0 lead with a come-from-behind 8-21 21-17 21-16 win over world number five Anthony Sinisuka Ginting in a superb show of temperament and skill. The country's best doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty then showed nerves of steel as it saved four match points in the second game to eventually outwit Mohammad Ahsan and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo 18-21 23-21 21-19.

Mark Noble's farewell defuses drama of Manchester City's title defence



London, May 16: End-of-season games often have a slightly curious dynamic, a sense of being played at cross-purposes. On the one hand, there was Manchester City battling for the win as they pursue a fourth league title in five years. On the other, West Ham basking in the knockings of a season well done and determined to celebrate the final home game of one of their greatest recent players, Mark Noble. When Noble came on with quarter of an hour remaining, what did that mean? He had played just 308 league minutes previously this season.

Would he have come on had this not been his grand farewell? Does it matter? Would Liverpool fans who, if social media was anything to go by, were bizarrely aggrieved by the VAR award of an obvious penalty, have been aggrieved that West Ham in effect turned the final quarter of an hour into a testimonial? As it was, with Lukasz Fabianski saving that Riyad Mahrez penalty, the score remained 2-2, meaning that there is still life in the Premier League title race, that there remains the possibility that Steven Gerrard could at last win Liverpool a league title by leading his Aston Villa side

to a point or better at the Etihad next weekend. But the Noble factor shaped the game. This was, after all, as the pitchside announcer insisted, Mark Noble Day: the post-match obsequies were so maudlin they might have been a funeral on EastEnders. There were montages - "one of our own", "Canning Town-born, claret-and-blue-raised", "that Custom House grit"; a voiceover from Danny Dyer; Ben Shephard on the pitch; testimony from fans, at least one of whom had named their dog after him; clips of him in various scenarios in various seasons, hair magnificently consistent (his son, happily, seems to have inherited the family parting); and a minute's applause in the 17th minute in celebration of his No 16 shirt. Pep Guardiola gave him a hug and a lengthy lecture at the final whistle. Even Prince Albert II of Monaco came to pay his respects. This has been another good year for West Ham.

IPL 2022: Royals boost playoff hopes as bowlers keep LSG in check

Guwahati, May 16 : It was a strange sort of Powerplay from Lucknow Super Giants. Even if the ball was coming on to the bat, the Brabourne Stadium pitch wasn't an out-right belter. Still, Quinton de Kock tried to force Trent Boult on the up through a cordon of backward point, point and cover, and found the middle fielder. Ayush Badoni was sent at No.3 for some quick runs but Boult trapped him plumb in front first ball with an inswinger. After seeing two wickets falling in two deliveries, KL Rahul went into a shell for a couple of overs, even leaving regulation length balls outside off. Was it because

Yashasvi Jaiswal had taken 20 off the last over of RR's Powerplay, or was it because LSG were 23 for 2 after five overs? Suddenly, Rahul, on 4 off 16, switched to hyper-attack mode; he lofted Prasidh Krishna for a gorgeous six over extra cover, but then sliced a short ball into point's hands two balls later. From 29 for 3, it was going to take some chasing against the likes of Yuzvendra Chahal and Ravichandran Ashwin. Chahal went for a few, unlike the unhittable Ashwin, but also had Deepak Hooda stumped for 59 off 39 in the 16th. If the spin duo wasn't enough, left-arm seamer Obed McCoy, in

just his third IPL game, was hard to get away with his slower-ball variations, from dipping full deliveries to sticky bouncers. Since he almost messed up RR's chase against Punjab Kings with a 32-ball 31 last week at Wankhede Stadium - where he was misfiring even wide balls to fielders - Devdutt Padikkal has been a transformed batsman. On a difficult DY Patil Stadium surface where the ball was holding up, he began to play attacking strokes as soon as he came in against Delhi Capitals. It was not a pitch where he would get everything off the middle of the blade, but the intent was unmistakable.

FA Cup final win encapsulates essence of Emma Hayes's Chelsea

Wembley, May 16 : Chelsea are not a sentimental team by nature. Nor are they a team who appear overly pre-occupied by questions of style and process. They can play football from the stars and football from the gutter - often in the same game, occasionally even in the same move. They are not, by any stretch of the imagination, an ugly or unappealing side to watch. But nor, by the same token, do they crave approval in the slightest. What does this mean in practice? If you are Jess Carter, it means that, when Lauren Hemp starts running at you with 80 minutes played in the FA Cup final, at the head of a five-on-three Manchester City counterattack, you immediately and instinctively chop her down. If you are

Sam Kerr, it means that even when you have barely had a touch of the ball all game, you still somehow leave the pitch with two goals and a medal round your neck. If you are Erin Cuthbert, it means that even in the thick of a bruising and broken midfield battle you can locate the one moment of pure balletic grace that will turn the game on its head. And if you are Emma Hayes, it means you have no hesitation in substituting off one of your substitutes to close down the game, even when that player is Ji So-yun, an all-time great playing her last ever game for your club. Maybe for the neutral or the purist there was a certain unsatisfying imperfection to the way Chelsea won this: a deflected goal past a distraught



goalkeeper in a game that could really have gone either way. In fact, it was hard to imagine a better expression of what Chelsea do, what they stand for, how they win. The freakish lob, the 25-yard screamer, the lucky ricochet: Hayes celebrates them all just the same like the owner of a provincial construction firm who has just received a frankly astonishing county court judgment in her

rotten luck or one can call it a lack of composure. Ultimately, when they wake up on Monday morning nursing bruises and a broken heart, it does not remotely matter. Certainly City seemed keen to match Chelsea physically, aggressively asserting their territory, tightly marking the main attacking threats. It was a niggly, grapply opening, analogous to the bit at the start of a Scrabble game where both players seem intent on assembling a thicket of annoying and usually fictional two-letter words. Kerr's opening goal was probably what the game needed. City came forward, shed a few inhibitions and equalised through Hemp, who cut inside and smashed the ball in with her weaker right foot.

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