



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Re-examination of candidature

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 17 : The crime investigation department (CID) of Assam Police on Tuesday announced that it will re-examine the candidature of applicants who have submitted false information during their recruitment. The CID said that it will investigate into as many as 414 candidates, who have allegedly falsified information during the recruitment process. According to reports, a case numbered 5/2022 has also been registered with the CID.

Helpline number

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 17 :

The Kamrup (M) district administration has released a helpline number for the citizens during the monsoon so as to get emergency help from the administration during flood. The numbers released by the administration are- 0361-1077/9678471071. The numbers will be available 24x7 and citizens with any help can call in this number. Notably, Guwahati reels under artificial flood since Tuesday morning due to incessant rainfall. Waterlogging in several areas have also been reported due to rain. Many citizens are stuck in flood and landslides reported from several areas of the city.

Ferry services

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 17 :

Ferry services between Guwahati and North Guwahati on the Brahmaputra River have been suspended on Tuesday amid rising water levels. Water levels in the Brahmaputra are reaching dangerous levels as heavy rains lashed several parts of the state and the Northeast. Officials informed that all ferry services from North Guwahati have been suspended as a result. The ferry piers have been submerged due to rising water levels, they said. Meanwhile, the suspension of services has caused problems for people preferring to use ferries as a mode of transport.

Senior Journalist Prasanta Rajguru awarded Parag Kumar Das Journalism Award



Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 17 :

Senior journalist and editor in-chief at Prag News, Prasanta Rajguru was presented with the Parag Kumar Das Journalism Award for the year 2022 at the Guwahati Press Club. The award was given at an event organised on the occasion of the 26th death

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Flood: around two lakh people affected in 20 districts, 7 dead



Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 17 :

Around 2 lakh people in 20 districts of Assam have been affected by floods, with the hill district of Dima Hasao getting cut off from the rest of the state after

landslides triggered by incessant rain snapped rail and road links. Two flood-related deaths were reported in Cachar district, while three fatalities due to landslides were earlier recorded in Dima Hasao. With two more people dead in

Cachar district, the number of dead rose to seven in the ongoing pre-monsoon floods and landslides in

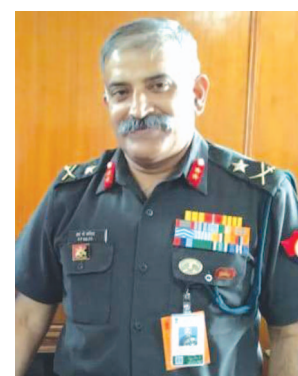
Assam, where over two lakh people so far have been affected in 24 out of 33 districts since April 6, officials said. Presently, 20 districts are flooded. Officials of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said two people died in southern Assam's Cachar district during the past 24 hours while five died earlier in landslides in Dima Hasao (4) and Lakhimpur (1) districts. According to the officials, six people remained missing in Cachar district due to the floods and landslides. An ASDMA bulletin said at least 2,02,385 people were affected and around 6,540

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Talks On Land Border Law Progressing: Lt Gen RP Kalita

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 17 :

Lieutenant General Rana Pratap Kalita, the general officer commanding-in-chief (GOC) of the Indian army's Eastern Command on Monday said that the talks on Land Border Law has progressed. Lt Gen Kalita highlighted the importance of infrastructural development along the international borders with China in Arunachal Pradesh while addressing the media in Guwahati. However, he said that the Indian army faced difficulties in upgrading the infrastructure along the international border with China due to geographical



constraints, as he acknowledged problems at the border. Kalita stated that, "Discussions over the implementation of Land Border Laws is underway. We are taking up several infrastructural works along the border with China in Arunachal Pradesh." He

then said, "Construction of roads and an airport is underway along the Indo-China border. We are ready for any situation that may arise at the borders." The GOC of the Indian army's Eastern Command also said that plans were in place to develop possible tourist destinations along the borders. Lt Gen Kalita then spoke on infiltration and insurgency in the Northeast. He admitted that infiltration was taking place in the Northeast and highlighted the law and order in Manipur as a possible weak link. He further spoke on the recent incidents of youths

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CBI searches at multiple locations linked to P Chidambaram's son Karti

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 17 :

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday conducted searches at premises linked to former Union minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram's son Karti in connection with an ongoing case against the latter. The CBI action is in connection with a fresh case against the Chidambarams' alleged involvement in the issuance of visas to the Chinese nationals for illegal

gratification. According to news agency ANI, the central agency is conducting searches at nine locations across several states linked to Karti Chidambaram since Tuesday morning. The CBI searches started at 8 AM and are continuing. The CBI is also recording the statements of the persons who are at the house of Chidambaram. The CBI searches are being conducted at various locations

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India rejects 'farcical' Pakistan resolution on J&K delimitation move



Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 17 :

India on Tuesday outrightly rejected what it termed a "farcical" resolution moved in Pakistan's National Assembly against the delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir. The Foreign Ministry issued a statement in which it said, "We categorically reject the farcical resolution passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan on the subject of the delimitation exercise in the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir." "Pakistan has no locus standi to pronounce on or

interfere in matters that are internal to India, including the Indian territories under Pakistan's illegal and forcible occupation," it underlined. The entire territory of the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has been, and shall always remain an integral part of India," the government said, calling the resolution passed by Pakistan National Assembly "farcical". "The delimitation exercise in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is a democratic exercise based on the principles of extensive stakeholder consultation and participation," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said. As

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Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 17 :

Supreme Court orders that DM Varanasi shall ensure that the area where the Shivling is reported to be found, shall be duly protected. Supreme Court also orders that direction to protect the area where Shivling is reported to be found shall not in any manner restrain or impede access of Muslims to the mosque or use of it for performing prayers



and religious observances. Today (May 17), the Supreme Court is slated to hear the plea seeking a stay on the survey of the Gyanvapi Mosque

Gyanvapi Masjid Case

Protect 'Shivling' area, but don't stop Namaz, says SC

complex in Varanasi. A bench, headed by Justice DY Chandrachud, will hear the plea of the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee. The three-day-long court-monitored videography survey of the Kashi Vishwanath Temple-Gyanvapi Mosque complex in Varanasi concluded on Monday. Commissioner of Police Varanasi, Satish Ganesh thanked the people of Kashi for their cooperation during the three-day survey, and said, "We spoke with all stakeholders and reached a consensus that it's important to follow court's order. We also cleared people's misconceptions and worked on confidence building. The three-day survey has ended." The Supreme Court today asked the Varanasi administration where ex

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Assam Braces for Very Heavy to Extremely Heavy Rainfall till May 20;

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 17 :

While the northeastern states have been experiencing rainfall activity for a while now, the rain spells received a major boost in terms of their strength and distribution last week due to the influence of Cyclone Asani. Now, it appears the region is unlikely to be spared by the rain gods anytime soon. Forecasts by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) indicate that the intensified conditions will continue across Northeast India this week. Under the influence of strong and moist south-westerly winds blowing in from the Bay of Bengal, the following conditions are to be expected: Isolated heavy to very heavy rains over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim from Monday to Friday, May 16-20; Isolated extremely heavy falls over

Meghalaya from Monday to Tuesday, May 16-17; Isolated heavy rains over Mizoram and Tripura from Monday to Tuesday, May 16-17. According to weather.com meteorologists, precipitation up to 50-80 mm/day is on the cards for the northeastern states this week, although parts of Assam and Meghalaya may experience rainfall in excess of 100 mm/day on Monday and Tuesday. In

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Assam HS 1st Year Examination Suspended Until Further notice



Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 17 :

The Higher Secondary First Year Examination scheduled to be held from May 18 has been postponed. Order issued by Assam Higher Secondary Education Council (AHSEC) dated May 17, states, "The HS First Year Examinations to be held w.e.f. 18th May 2022 to 21st May 2022, being conducted by AHSEC are sus-

pending until further order due to prevailing inclement weather and in view of damages being caused by the natural calamities in the state." "Further, in the case of Dima Hasao District, all the examinations to be held w.e.f. 18th May 2022 to 1st June 2022 is suspended until further order due to disruption of surface communication," the notification added.

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Lucknow to be renamed as Laxmanpuri soon? Yogi Adityanath's TWEET sparks debate

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 17 :

The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh is apparently back to its name changing spree. A tweet by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has sparked off speculations about the name of Lucknow, the state capital, being changed in the coming weeks. In the tweet welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Lucknow on Monday evening, Yogi wrote:



"Sheshavatar Bhagwan Laxman ki pawan nagri Lucknow mein apka swagat aur abhinandan." This has led to a debate on social media about the name of Lucknow being changed to Laxmanpuri. A grand

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Hundreds of Ukrainian troops evacuated from Mariupol steelworks after 82-day assault



Mariupol, May 17 : More than 260 Ukrainian soldiers, many of them wounded, have been evacuated from the besieged Azovstal steel plant in the port city of Mariupol, appearing to cede control of the city to Russia after 82 days of bombardment. Ukraine's deputy defence minister Hanna Maliar said late on Monday that 53 heavily wounded soldiers were evacuated to a hospital in the Russian-controlled town of Novozovsk. More than 200 others were transported through a corridor to Olenivka, Maliar said. The

General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces said that the soldiers defending the steel plant had "performed their combat task" and now the main goal was to save the lives of personnel. By holding the steelworks, they stopped Russian forces from rapidly capturing the southern city of Zaporizhzhia, its statement on Facebook said. It was unclear how many soldiers remained in the steel plant, but Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said: "We hope to save the lives of our boys". "I want to

underline: Ukraine needs its Ukrainian heroes alive. This is our principle," he said in a video statement. The evacuation is likely to mark the end of the longest and bloodiest battle of the Ukraine war and a significant defeat for Ukraine. Mariupol is now in ruins after a Russian siege that Ukraine says killed tens of thousands of people in the city. For Ukrainians, the Azovstal plant has become a symbol of resistance, with hundreds of troops continuing to fight on there even after the rest of the city had fallen to Russian forces.

Some 600 troops were believed to have been inside the steel plant. The regiment, which has in the past had nationalist far-right affiliations, was a militia formed to fight the Russians after the invasion of Ukraine in 2014 but has become a unit of the Ukrainian national guard. It said its troops in Mariupol, on the Sea of Azov in the south-east, had held out for 82 days, buying time for the rest of Ukraine to battle Russian forces and secure western arms needed to withstand Moscow's assault.



Students of a branch school of Lhasa Experimental Primary School have lunch in Lhasa

Left parties call for nationwide protest against inflation and unemployment from May 25 to 31

New Delhi, May 17 : The Left parties have called for a nationwide protest against inflation and unemployment, starting May 25 to 31 while also rolling out a list of demands

period. Rolling back of surcharges/cess on petroleum products, restoration of the wheat supplies through the Public Distribution System (PDS), strengthening the

imposing unprecedented burdens on the people. Crores are suffering and are pushed into deeper poverty with growing hunger pangs. Coming on top of unprecedented and growing

products have increased by 70 per cent, vegetables by 20 per cent, cooking oil by 23 per cent and cereals by 8 per cent. Wheat, the staple diet of crores of Indians, is seeing a price rise of over 14 per cent, making it unaffordable. Wheat procurement has declined," added the statement enumerating the instances of inflation in the country. The joint statement further criticised the government over the wheat procurement policy and claimed that the Centre has procured less

than half of the last year. "This year procurement will not cross 20 Metric Tonnes as against the target of 44.4 Metric Tonnes. The continuous hike in prices of petroleum products and cooking gas cylinders and the acute shortage of wheat is propelling this overall inflation. The reported Coal shortages are pushing up the cost of electricity," the statement said. The parties demanded an increase in the MGNREGA allocation, legislation on an employment guarantee

scheme for urban areas and filling up all vacant posts. Sitaram Yechury, General Secretary, Communist Party of India (Marxist), D Raja, General Secretary, Communist Party of India, Debabrata Biswas, General Secretary, All India Forward Bloc, Manoj Bhattacharya, General Secretary, Revolutionary Socialist Party, Dipankar Bhattacharya, General Secretary, Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist)-Liberation were the signatories of the joint statement.

McDonald's to sell its business in Russia after 30 years

Moscow, May 17 : McDonald's is to sell its business in Russia, after 30 years of operating its restaurants in the country, in the light of Moscow's war on Ukraine. The fast food operator said the humanitarian crisis caused by Russia's invasion and the unpredictable operating environment meant continuing running restaurants in the country was "no longer tenable" or "consistent with McDonald's values". The company intends to "de-arch" the outlets, removing the McDonald's name, logo, branding and menu, before they are sold to a local buyer - the first time it has taken such measures in a major market. It will, however, retain its trademarks in Russia, where Chris Kempczinski, the chief executive of McDonald's, said the company "embodied the very notion of glasnost". Kempczinski said the "dedication and loyalty to McDonald's" of those employees and local suppliers made the announcement of the sale "extremely difficult". He added: "However, we have a commitment to our global community and must remain steadfast in our values. And our commitment to our values means that we can no longer keep the Arches shining there." In a letter to employees, he said: "It is impossible to ignore the humanitarian crisis caused by the war in Ukraine. And it is impossible to imagine the golden arches representing the same hope and promise that led us to enter the Russian market 32 years ago." The planned sale comes after McDonald's said in March that it was temporarily closing its 850 restaurants in Russia, including its site in Pushkin Square in Moscow, which was the first in the country. When the store opened on 31 January 1990, thousands of people lined up for hours to taste the Big Mac, a symbol of American capitalism. The Chicago-based company owns 84% of its stores in Russia, and has said that its restaurants there and in Ukraine contributed 9% of its annual revenue, or about \$2bn (£1.6bn). The restaurants in Ukraine remain closed and McDonald's said it continues to pay full salaries for its employees there.

New Zealand banks predict 20% drop in house prices over next year

Wellington, May 17 : New Zealand's house prices are on track to drop by up to 20% in the next year - the biggest drop since the 1970s - two of the biggest banks have predicted, which would take prices back to where they were just over a year ago. For years, the country has been plagued by a runaway housing market. The cities of Wellington and Auckland have some of the least affordable property markets in the world, and homeownership rates have been falling since the early 1990s across all age brackets, but especially for people in their 20s and 30s. Now, New Zealand is in the midst of some of the largest drops and slowdowns since the aftermath of the global financial crisis. The number of houses sold in April was down 30% from the month prior, according to the Real Estate Institute and, according to Westpac, prices fell by 1.1% in April - now down 5% from their peaks in November.



A contestant performs during a Chinese language competition in Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria.



in front of the Centre. The parties have also directed their units across the country to carry out a coordinated nationwide struggle during the stated

PDS by the distribution of essential commodities including pulses and edible oil feature in their list of demands. "Unabated galloping price rise is

levels of unemployment, this is compounding people's miseries," said a joint statement by the Left parties. "Over the last year, the prices of petroleum

Turkey says it will not approve Sweden and Finland joining Nato

Moscow, May 17 : Turkey has said it will not approve Sweden and Finland joining it as Nato members, hours after Stockholm followed Helsinki in a historic Nordic security policy shift by formally confirming that it intended to apply for membership of the alliance. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said diplomatic delegations from the two countries, which have reversed decades of military non-alignment in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, should not even bother coming to Ankara to discuss the move. "We will not say yes to those [countries] that apply sanctions to Turkey to join the security organisation Nato," Erdoğan said. "They say they will come to Turkey on Monday. Will they come to persuade us? Excuse us, but they shouldn't bother." The Turkish president's comments came as Sweden's prime minister,

Magdalena Andersson, said "a broad majority" in parliament backed Nato membership as "the best thing for the security of Sweden" - drawing a warning from Moscow. Sweden was "leaving one era behind us and entering a new one", she said. The Finnish government confirmed its intention to join Nato on Sunday, shortly before Andersson's ruling Social Democrats abandoned 73 years of opposition to the idea. Andersson said Sweden's Nato ambassador would formally hand over Stockholm's application to the alliance headquarters in Brussels "within the next few days" and that the membership request would be submitted simultaneously with Finland's. Ankara first raised objections to Finnish



and Swedish membership on Friday, citing their history of hosting members of Kurdish militant groups and Sweden's suspension of arms sales to Turkey since 2019 over Ankara's military operation in Syria. The justice ministry said on Monday that over the past five years the two countries had failed to respond

positively to extradition requests for 33 people Turkey says are linked to groups it deems terrorist, namely the Kurdistan Workers' party (PKK) and followers of Fethullah Gülen. Nato would become "a hatchery" for terrorists if the two countries joined, Erdoğan told a news conference on Monday.

Ferdinand Marcos Jr urged to stop pretending he has an Oxford degree

Manila, May 17 : The images of a besuited Ferdinand Marcos Jr, clad in a top hat and leaning nonchalantly on a Rolls-Royce, dating from his time in Britain in the 1970s are as you may expect from the playboy scion of a kleptocratic dictator. Yet as the Marcos family returns to power in the Philippines after a landslide presidential victory by Marcos Jr, he is facing calls to stop misrepresenting the circumstances of his studies at Oxford. The university has confirmed that he did not

complete his BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics after enrolling in 1975. "According to our records, he did not complete his degree, but was awarded a special diploma in social studies in 1978," Oxford said in a response to a freedom of information request lodged by a UK-based Filipina supporter of Marcos Jr's nearest rival in last week's election. Marcos Jr, nicknamed "Bongbong", has claimed in interviews that Oxford issued him with a bachelor's degree, while his

official spokesperson has said that the politician and his team "stand by the degree confirmation which was issued by the University of Oxford". His website states: "He completed his undergraduate studies at Oxford University and graduated - with a special diploma in social studies." But a UK-based Filipina supporter of Marcos Jr's rival Leni Robredo, who lodged the FOI request, said of Marcos: "He should stop misrepresenting his special diploma, which is clearly not a degree."

Musk says he could seek lower price for Twitter as he focuses on fake accounts

Washington, May 17 : Elon Musk has suggested that he could seek to pay a lower price for Twitter, as the social media company's

would-be owner expressed further concerns about the presence of fake accounts on the platform. The Tesla CEO said reducing his agreed \$54.20 per share offer wouldn't be "out of the question", days after putting the \$44bn (\$36bn) deal "on hold" after he queried the number of spam accounts on Twitter. Musk told the All-In Summit in Miami that the deal going through depended on Twitter's response to his concerns about fake accounts. "It really depends on a lot of factors here," he said in comments reported by the Financial Times. "I'm still waiting for some sort of logical explanation for the number of sort of fake or spam accounts on Twitter. And Twitter is refusing to tell us. This seems like a strange thing." Twitter has repeatedly stated in its quarterly results over the years that fewer than 5% of its users are spam or fake accounts. Using a term that can be cited when companies want to reprice or scrap deals, Musk said it might be a "material adverse misstatement" if it emerges that Twitter's fake or bot accounts amount to far more than 5%. "Like if you said, OK, I'm going to agree to buy your house," he said. "You say the house has less than 5% termites. That's an acceptable



number. But if it turns out the right per cent is 90% termites, that's not OK." Lawyers have questioned whether Musk can walk away from the deal - or seek a new agreement at a lower price - by focusing on the bots issue. The deal agreement includes a \$1bn break fee if Musk walks away, although Twitter can also enact a clause that could force Musk to complete the deal at \$54.20 per share. Twitter shares closed Monday down just over 8% at \$37.39, below where the stock was just before Musk disclosed that he was Twitter's largest shareholder. Meanwhile, Musk's relationship with Twitter's management reached a new low on Monday after he tweeted a poo emoji at the platform's chief executive. Musk was responding to a detailed Twitter thread posted by his Twitter counterpart, Parag Agrawal, explaining the company's policy on spam accounts. Musk has disputed Twitter's assertion that less than 5% of its users are fake or spam accounts and has said he will carry out his own audit.

Guest House

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Car Parking At POGL
Brahmaputra,
Chandmari, Guwahati-21
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9707183470

NFR started restoration in affected areas



Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 17: The massive landslide in more than 50 locations spreading all over the Lumingding – Badarpur hill section has completely disrupted the rail communication of the hilly states like

Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram and South Assam with the rest of the country since last Saturday. Nearly 2400 stranded railway passengers were rescued under challenging circumstances over-

coming all odds from New Haflong and Ditocherra. Cooperation from District authorities, NGOs, Assam Rifles and Indian Air Force helped tremendously in this demanding and challenging situation. Due to the multi-agency co-operation humanity could be saved from the fury of Mother Nature. Now with the evacuation process

being over, N.F. Railway is targeting speedy restoration work in the entire section. N.F. Railway authorities are in touch with different organisations in this regard. But continuous inclement weather coupled with the difficult terrain is affecting the restoration work. Actual assessment of damage can be ascertained only after the water level recedes. The

restoration work will need a huge quantity of materials, manpower and machines. Movement of heavy machinery and materials is very difficult due to frequent breaches in portions connecting roads with railway lines owing to the landslides. However, N.F. Railway is trying to speed up the restoration work by arranging materials from various sources including far-flung areas. Once the weather becomes conducive the restoration work is expected to gain momentum. Restoration works in nearly 12 locations have already been completed.

Flood scene in Nagaon : 58,975 people affected

Assam Rising, Nagaon, May 17: The flood scene in Nagaon district remains unchanged and the overflowing water from the Kapili river has submerged more villages in Kamrup and Raha revenue circles on the fourth day too. The district administration as well as the district disaster management authority, Nagaon deployed emergency rescue teams, SDRF personnel in those flood ravaged areas in Kamrup as well as Raha revenue circles and rescued over 250 flood victims till the time of filing this report today, sources added. As per the latest report issued by district disaster management authority, Nagaon, the flood water inundated over 118 revenue villages among which 86 revenue villages under Kamrup revenue circle while 32 revenue villages under Raha revenue circle. Besides, over 58,975 people have been directly affected in the fresh wave of flood and also destroyed over 8137 hectares of land with various crops in those two revenue circles. Meanwhile, one man was reportedly missing today in the flood. Further, the flood water submerged over 7 kilometres of the PWD road from Majgaon Chariali to Changkhula RCC bridge and also affected 17,929 domestic animals till today. Significantly, the district administration has already set up 6 relief camps among which 4 in Kamrup revenue circle and 2 in Raha revenue circle where 246 inmates are taking shelter till filing of this report.

LGBIA started 'Meet & Greet' area



Assam Rising Borjhar, May 17: 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.

Manash Borah debate to be held on May 31

Assam Rising Guwahati, May 17: The 11th Manash Borah Memorial Northeast Inter-Institutional Debating Competition will be held at IITA, Machkhowa here on May 31 next. The competition is sponsored by the Manash Borah Memorial Trust and it is organised by Old Boys Association, Sainik School Goalpara (OBASSG). The topic for this year's competition is, in the opinion of the house "India's stand

on Russia-Ukraine conflict is a matter of choice, not compulsion". Debaters can speak either in Assamese or English. An institution can be represented by a team of two debaters, one speaking for the motion and the other against the motion. The competition is open to students from Class XI to PG. The last date for confirmation of participation is May 22 next. The three candidates

who have judged the first, second, third-best debaters in the competition will receive a cash prize of Rs. 8000, 6000, 4000 and Consolation Prizes (Two) Rs. 1000 respectively. For further information participants can log in to the OBASSG's official website : www.obassg.com or contact jagadish2030@gmail.com, abhigyan99@gmail.com, 8474023286, 9854040350.

Guwahati Bhaona Samaroh-2022 held at USTM

Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 17: The Guwahati Bhaona Samaroh-2022 which began from May 14 has ended here today magnificently with the staging of the play "Kurma Avataar" Bhaona (mythological play) by the artists of Panchajanya Natyagosthi from Malow Ali, Jorhat at the Central Auditorium of the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM). The programme was jointly organized by Cultural Forum, USTM and supported by IQAC, USTM and Directorate of Cultural Affairs, Assam. The function began with lighting of the lamp by Mrs Mrinalini Devi, Vice President, Assam Sahitya Sabha; Satradhikar Prafulla Pran Mahanta, Belguri Satra, Narayanpur; Mahabul Hoque, Chancellor, USTM; Prof GD Sharma, VC, USTM; Dr Balendra Das, Pro-VC, USTM; Padmashree Surjya Hazarika, Prabhat Ch Das, Assam Sahitya Sabha; Dr Sikha Bezbarua Goswami, President, Guwahati Bhaona Samaroh; Prabhat Bordoloi, Secretary Guwahati Bhaona Samaroh and others. It was attended by hundreds of USTM students and cultural enthusiasts. Welcoming the audience including artists and Vaishnavite scholars to



USTM, Mahabul Hoque, Chancellor, USTM said, "We are very happy to host this Bhaona as this will boost our students because they will get new ideas about the cultural heritage of the region". Addressing the gathering, Mrinalini Devi, Vice President, Assam Sahitya Sabha said, "We hope that the invaluable contribution made by Mahapurush Sankaradeva will always encourage and support the Assamese nationality to achieve newer heights." The keynote address was delivered by Prabhat Ch Das, Jt. Secretary, Axom Adarsha Siksha Sansad, Assam Sahitya Sabha. He thanked

USTM for hosting the Bhaona and said that Sankaradeva first used songs and dramas as effective means of reforming and reconstructing the society. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Balendra Kr Das, Pro VC of USTM said, "We are very happy that Guwahati Bhaona Samaroh-2022 has come for performance at the Central Auditorium of USTM and the whole USTM family is welcoming them because this is a place where a mosaic of north-eastern students are studying and they should know their heritage".

NGO Antorik Sonjog launched website

Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 17: Antorik Sonjog, an ISO 9001-2015 Certified NGO in Guwahati, launched a website on May 16 at a meeting hall of Bishnu Nirmala Bhawan here. Renowned artist, veteran noted actor Kulad Kumar Bhattacharya launched the website named www.antoriksonjog.org at this event. The event was attended by renowned writer and railway claims tribunal officer Leena Sharma, Joint Commissioner of Assam Police and poet-actor Parthasarathi Mahanta, Guwahati Municipal Corporation Commissioner Debashish Sharma as distinguished guests, Senior journalist Gautam Sharma, senior journalist, Pranay Bordoloi, writer-critic Mayur Borah and many more. Chitralekha



Soukadhara lit the light at the event. Other dignitaries like Ripunjay Gogoi, Mantu Saikia, Gopal Jalan, Avani Bora, Mridul Kumar Handique, Anil Saikia and many more graced the occasion with their presence. It may be noted that the main objective of this voluntary organization, founded in 2020 by Papari Soukadhara Borthakur, is to provide assistance and support to the elderly people who are alone at home. Many people from Assam as well as other states across India have

already benefited through the service of interconnection.

Statue of Journalist Parag Kumar Das Unveiled in Golaghat

Assam Rising, Golaghat, May 17: Today a statue of radical journalist, human rights activist Parag Kumar Das was unveiled in Golaghat. Today is the 27th death anniversary of firebrand journalist Parag Kumar Das who was assassinated in Guwahati on this day in the year 1996. Golaghat Media Forum an organization of media persons in Golaghat today observed its third Foundation Day. Golaghat Media Forum has taken an initiative to set up a statue of great journalist and human rights activist Parag

Kumar Das in Golaghat as a mark of respect and tribute to him and as such today the statue was unveiled. The statue was unveiled by Deputy Commissioner of Golaghat Mrigesh Narayan Baruah on behalf of local MLA and state finance minister Ajanta Neog. Officials and members of Golaghat Media Forum along with several other organizations paid tributes to Parag Kumar Das on his death anniversary. The Statue is located at Pramodabhiram Das Park in front of Golaghat Municipal Board.



Quiz Competition held at Chhaygaon

Assam Rising, Chhaygaon, May 17: Bhupen Thakuria and Khagen Bayan Memorial Quiz Competition is held on State Level at Chhaygaon College yesterday under the initiative of Dakshin Kamrup Quiz Forum. In Bhupen Thakuria Memorial Inter-School Quiz Competition, which is attended by 54 teams from 30 schools and where is ranked first by the Team of Chhaygaon Higher Secondary School, Second and - Third position bagged by Madhavdev

High School, Bhagawatipara and Jatiya Vidyalaya respectively. In the Khagen Bayan Memorial open quiz competition 48 teams. Here first prize got by Bhupal sharma and Rubul kalita (Nalbari), Second prize bagged by Dul Hazarika and Rajibul Awal (Nagaon-Barpeta) and Third went to Bishwajit Sharma and Kamal Medhi (Guwahati). It is to be mentioned that Kalpajyoti Kalita and Banjit Kalita conducted the school level quiz competition and the open session was con-

ducted by Manash Pratim Das. Notable here is that Naba Kalita, Principal in-charge, Chhaygaon College inaugurated the competition and other dignitaries like Apurba Thakuria, Inspector of Schools (Kamrup) Dr. Nagen Kalita, President, Chhaygaon College Management Committee, Kamal Thakuria, Academic Officer, Chhaygaon College, Neelkant Kambar Principal-in-charge of Hekera Higher Secondary School and family members of late Bhupen Thakuria-Khagen Bayan graced the occasion with their presence.

Flood scene in Nagaon : 58,975 people affected

Assam Rising Nagaon, May 17: The flood scene in Nagaon district remains unchanged and the overflowing water from the Kapili river has submerged more villages in Kamrup and Raha revenue circles on the fourth day too. The district administration as well as the district disaster management authority, Nagaon deployed emergency rescue teams, SDRF personnel in those flood ravaged areas in Kamrup as well as Raha revenue circles and rescued over 250 flood victims till the time of filing this report today, sources added. As per the latest report issued by district disaster

management authority, Nagaon, the flood water inundated over 118 revenue villages among which 86 revenue villages under Kamrup revenue circle while 32 revenue villages under Raha revenue circle. Besides, over 58,975 people have been directly affected in the fresh wave of flood and also destroyed over 8137 hectares of land with various crops in those two revenue circles. Meanwhile,

one man was reportedly missing today in the flood. Further, the flood water submerged over 7 kilometres of the PWD road from Majgaon Chariali to Changkhula RCC bridge and also affected 17,929 domestic animals till today. Significantly, the district administration has already set up 6 relief camps among which 4 in Kamrup revenue circle and 2 in Raha revenue circle where 246 inmates are taking shelter till filing of this report.

National Dengue Day started in Lakhimpur

Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, May 17: Along with the rest of the country, the National Dengue Day was also begun to be observed in Lakhimpur district under the aegis of Lakhimpur district Health Department from Monday to check dengue and to make the district a dengue-free one. The Day was begun to celebrate at the office of the Lakhimpur district Health Department in North Lakhimpur from Monday and the celebration will be continued upto May 31 next. In keeping with the Day, a special campaign named 'Dengue-free Assam' was also opened on Monday. Moreover, in keeping with the Day, an online quiz competition is also organised where participants could take part through the website 'www.nhm.Assam.gov.in'. In the inauguration ceremony of the Day, which was inaugurated by Dr. Queen Baruah, Dr. Silpi Saikia, Dr. Pulak Borgohain, Dr. Jatindranath Medak, District Malaria Officer C. S. Pegu, District Media Expert Daisy Gogoi and workers of District N V B D C P Unit were present.

Remembering journalist Parag Kumar Das in Margherita

Assam Rising Margherita, May 17: The late Parag Kumar Das was the journalist who could challenge the nation with pen. He is always a source of inspiration for the new generation. fearless journalist and human rights activist late Parag Kumar Das passed away today. The Margherita Journalists Association also remembered the late journalist with reverence on his death anniversary. Everyone present paid homage to the late journalist and human

rights activist by lighting a lamp and garlanding the image. The death anniversary of the eminent journalist was celebrated in a special manner at the association office in Margherita. Ranajyoti Neog, General Secretary, Assam working journalists Association, Senior Journalists Ram Prasad Ahmedkar, Margherita Journalists Association President Prath partim Goswami, Deputy Secre-



taries Sameeran Barthakur and Bikas Baruah, General Secretary Prasanta chetia, Assistant Secretary

Tapan Dey, Treasurer Mithun Baruah, AASSA Tinsukia district General secretary Ramanuj Lakra,

Abdul Alim, Zahid Ali were among the members of the Margherita Journalists Association.

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Assam is ravaged by floods

Assam is ravaged by floods. It displaces thousands and damages property worth billions-but lessons are rarely learnt. While natural topography and excessive rainfall are obvious causes, floods are also caused by human intervention-like encroachment of river banks and wetlands, lack of drainage, unplanned urban growth, hill cutting and deforestation. As per the Brahmaputra board's latest annual report, the main reasons behind the instability of the river are high sedimentation and steep slopes. Additionally, the entire area falls in an earthquake-prone zone and experiences high rainfall. The Brahmaputra board is a central government body that is tasked to carry out surveys and investigations in the Brahmaputra Valley and to prepare a master plan for the control of floods, bank erosion and improvement of drainage. The region is also extremely vulnerable to breaches of embankments. Floods happen due to a breach of embankments. More than 80% of these embankments have not been reinforced in several decades because there is a huge contractor-administration nexus that benefits monetarily from a flood situation. According to data released by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), 2017 has been the worst of the last four years in terms of floods. In 2014, due to floods, 1,846 villages were affected and about 1.6 million people were displaced. In 2015, the number of affected villages was 1,031 and about 1.5 million people were displaced. The numbers saw a huge jump in 2016 with 2,893 villages affected and about 1.7 million people being displaced. Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) reported heavy rain, flooding and landslides affected around 25,000 people across several districts in the state from 13 May 2022. Three people died in a landslide in Dima Hasao district. The overflowing Barak river flooded wide areas of Cachar District. ASDMA said around 21,00 people were affected, 70 homes destroyed and hundreds of homes damaged. Troops from the Assam Rifles conducted flood relief operations and rescued dozens of people from flooded areas of Balichara and Borkhola in Cachar District. ASDMA said that parts of Dhemaji, Hojai, West Karbi Anglong, Nagaon and Kamrup districts were also affected by flooding. As of 15 May, relief camps have been set up in Hojai and Cachar to house some of those displaced by the flooding. Assam Rifles troops also provided assistance to more than 1,000 train passengers who were stranded after flooding and landslides disrupted rail services between Haflong and Guwahati. India's Central Water Commission Official Flood Forecast reported the Barak River at Badarpurghat in Cachar district was 17.14 metres and above danger level of 16.85 metres.

Be a Citizen Journalist

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

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Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

China has avoided the grim US Covid toll. But at what cost?

In Pyongyang, Covid is spreading fast, and one capital where the North Korean disaster is surely being watched with rapt attention is Beijing. North Korea, like China, has made a virtue of its authoritarian system being better suited to Covid control than the democracies. Unlike North Korea, China has been rolling out vaccines for more than a year, but like its neighbour, it has millions of older people who have never taken the jab. China's leaders can see in their neighbours a Covid situation that they fear could be their fate if the virus takes hold and they have responded with a lockdown in the mega-city of Shanghai that has lasted seven weeks and shows no immediate signs of ending. As locals stay confined to their homes, drones fly near apartment blocks, intoning the phrase: "Control your soul's desire for freedom." China can still argue that in absolute terms its "zero-Covid" policy has had remarkable success in preventing deaths. Last week, Joe Biden mourned the grim toll of a million American deaths from the disease, whereas China's official figures suggest only 5,000 deaths in a population four times the size. Even if

one assumes that the real figure is several times higher, it is still a remarkable achievement. But it has come at a price; there is no clear policy for how China can reopen its borders to live with a virus that scientists expect to become endemic, or how to deal with it, other than with repeated lockdowns that harm the fragile economy and have led to increased panic as whole households are taken to quarantine because one case has been detected in an apartment block. That reopening is unlikely to happen in 2022.

One of the main reasons for keeping China's doors closed is the need for a smooth ride toward the 20th party congress, which is likely to be in October, where Xi Jinping is set to be chosen for an unprecedented third term as China's leader. The zero-Covid policy, in which the virus is to be eliminated from China, is personally associated with Xi and it would be immensely difficult to change the narrative before the congress. Therefore other ways of explaining the lockdown have taken hold. One is the story that China's system allows a more efficient, if

controversial, deployment of mass mobilisation combined with high-quality science. Social media has been filled with discussions of the "dabai", literally "big whites", health enforcement workers, dressed head to toe in white PVC PPE, who spray disinfectant in suspect households and who have the power to compel people into quarantine. For some, they are symbols of a futuristic modernity. Their critics say that they represent the

Rana Mitter

However, the online discussion misses a key point: the dabai are just ordinary officials and workers. By deflecting attention to the harsh tactics of workers on the ground, the public is distracted from discussing the national-level policy (a discussion that censorship mostly prevents). Meanwhile, China continues to search for one possible solution to the long cycle of lockdowns: an effective Chinese mRNA vaccine that mimics the working of the highly effective Pfizer and Moderna jabs. China's national pride means that it won't import the western

11% growth in Unilever's India sales in the final three months of 2021 came from price increases. The underlying volumes - commodities going out the factory doors - rose only 2%. Rivals fared worse. India's broader consumer industry saw volumes fall, with rural areas recording a 4.8% decline, compared with a 0.8% drop in cities, according to NielsenIQ. As India's largest consumer business, Unilever managed to walk a tightrope between quantity and price. But then commodity cost pressures became too intense to keep up the illusion of affordability. Hence, the January bump, when a Rs 10 Surf Excel bar got marked up to 12 rupees, and the cheaper Wheel brand of detergent powder saw its price raised by Rs 1 to Rs 31 for a half kilo. This capitulation of some small packs to non-magical pricing - plus the 41 mentions of "inflation" on that quarterly earnings call - should have given the Reserve Bank of India a warning: The dam was breaking; costs were weighing too much on even the profitability of large firms for them to observe the niceties of consumer psychology. Yet, to delay what even then looked like an inevitable increase in interest rates, the RBI went ahead and projected inflation

at a benign 4.5% for the financial year ending in March next year. That was in February. The first rate hike - a 40 basis point move - came on May 4. By then India's inflation problem was already entrenched, and getting worse. Last month, the 500-ml pouch of Vim dishwashing liquid went up from Rs 1 less than the magic price of Rs 100 rupees to Rs 4 more. Pranjal Bhandari, the India

Andy Mukherjee

economist at HSBC Holdings Plc in Mumbai, estimates that only about half of the increases in input costs over the past six months have been passed on to output prices. The cost pass-through is faster in rural areas where unregulated prices of kerosene and bulk diesel have risen more quickly than regulated prices of electricity in cities, she says. "As electricity tariffs are raised over the next 12 months, the urban cost of production and living could hurt growth." Not only electricity. Services demand is still trying to catch up with pre-pandemic levels. As the

ongoing recovery in contact-based industries like travel progresses, they will pass on some of their own cost pressures, mimicking the strategy of consumer-goods firms. Add expensive food to this list, and it's unclear if April's 7.8% inflation rate will go back to 4% - the midpoint of the central bank's tolerance range - any time soon. That muddies the outlook for how high India's interest rates need to go, and how much of output growth will have to be sacrificed. What

Unilever calls its magic price points, Dabur India Ltd., a homegrown maker of hair oil and honey, describes as "sacred," Bloomberg News reported Friday. When companies cut weights to defend prices, they also hope that the consumer will return more often. That doesn't always happen. Operating at magic price points is like running a high-school experiment in "titration," dripping a liquid of known properties into another of unknown concentration and stopping when the color changes. Except that unlike any substance in the lab, the consumer is an active participant in this experiment. In a country where families earning

less than the median household income of roughly \$2,300 account for only 10%-15% of overall consumption, a large number of people "would be very conscious about the money outlay and they would be titrating the volume to protect their wallet because their wallet is so small and so limited," Hindustan Unilever Chairman Sanjiv Mehta said on the earnings call. At 8.3%, inflation in the US is also stubbornly high, but at least unemployment there is at a low 3.6% and hourly earnings are rising. In India, it was only in April that employment surged by 7 million after a cumulative decline of 10 million in the previous three months, according to the Center for Monitoring Indian Economy. Of the 900 million who're eligible to work, only two-fifths are employed or looking for jobs. Perhaps the central bank wanted a stronger labor market recovery before raising interest rates. But at least in January - a month before the start of the Ukraine war - it should have read the worrying signs from magic prices. Now it will have to work harder, both to slay inflation and to compensate for its loss of credibility.

At Chintan Shivir, Congress has chosen to win-not with PK, but with SC, ST, OBCs, women

The drawing board has to be brought out. The fact that the Indian National Congress leadership gathered around it in Udaipur for the Nav Sankalp Chintan Shivir Sunday added some historical resonance. Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot and Govind Singh Dotasra, Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee president, left little to imagined comfort for the spirited party warriors who scammed across the hills and valleys of the Taj Aravali Resort. The Chintan Shivir was many things rolled into one - from taking stock of our present to recalling the glory and gore of the past; determining to fight the toxic shadow of the incumbent Narendra Modi government to seriously analysing our ideological positions that suffered an erosion of support at the hands of the purveyors of fake miracles; committing ourselves to retrieve the missing national conversation to rededicating our lives to the revival of our party for the sake of true Indian democracy. The participants of the Chintan Shivir were carefully chosen, determined largely by the organisational and governmental positions they hold with some conspicuous evergreen talent

that saw better days. There were, of course, an impressive array of young and enthusiastic men and women rubbing shoulders with seniors who had been to many Shivirs in the past, each time in challenging moments from where they led the party to electoral prominence. The participants were distributed into six panels - organisation, political, economic, agriculture, social justice and empowerment, and youth. While all the groups hold traditional importance for the Congress, this Shivir saw the debut of an integrated and coordinated effort by the departments of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs), minorities, Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). These four sections - along with women, particularly from the above four categories - make up for an overwhelming majority of our society. In the past, they ploughed their respective furrows, periodically collaborating with one another in the collective struggle against injustice. But this time, the quest for empowerment and the organisational bunching of the four departments under a single overseer unleashed remarkable, positive ambitions. An impact here can well turn the electoral fortunes of the party. These communities were steady followers of the

Congress before 2014 but drifted away later on to regional outfits or the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for a variety of reasons. Reflecting on the developments, we identified a clear path of substantive delivery of entitlements along with identification and active nurturing of political

Salman Khurshid

leadership from among the four groups. Developing leadership is a work in progress, but the project received a boost in the Congress Working Committee (CWC), which approved the proposal to set up a Social Justice Advisory Council to keep the party president updated with emergent issues and dimensions of the backward classes and disadvantaged social groups. This is the age of rapid communication and constant felt deprivation at the hands of the mainstream media, which functions under duress and a willing suspension of disbelief. Therefore, the integration of the separate segments of media, publicity, social media, data collation et al has become

necessary. This was quickly agreed upon by the CWC for streamlining visual and spoken dimensions of our party public outreach. With a more effective presence, we need to attend to better electoral performance management. Let people think that we gave up a golden opportunity by stonewalling Prashant Kishor's offer of in-house election management, the CWC boldly responded to the need of the hour by deciding to set up the department of election management. What we did piecemeal and often with new players each time, smacking of ad hocism, will now be done professionally and on an ongoing basis. If PK can claim to make parties win elections, we have opted for making ourselves win. Of course, we might get professional inputs, but the politics will remain our own domain as the energetic participation in discussions made clear. The self-consciousness, if there was any,

about how to deal with the BJP repeatedly using religion to polarise the electorate has been swept away. The Congress will vigorously return to the masses with crises crossing yatra - the Kashmir to Kanyakumari padyatra being the piece de resistance to commence on Gandhi Jayanti. The cry of 'Bharat Jodo', or Unite India, already resonating in the hearts of more than 400 delegates, will reach every home in the country to assert the spirit of nationalistic fervour of 'Bharat Chodo'. It will be a clear battle between political nationalism and the moral high ground of the Congress party. As Rahul Gandhi put it, "the conversation between the people of India" must begin here and now. The Udaipur Declaration has triggered wholesome conversation in the party, described by Sonia Gandhi as her "(extended) family", as well as across India. "We shall overcome" were her parting words of promise and determination.

PMs' Museum bedazzles and entertains. But it doesn't tell us who we are

When it comes to history and compelling contemporary stories, India is spectacularly rich. And Indian museums, I am afraid, suck big time. But there is something to be said about the Narendra Modi-era museums and his push for big-is-best, gizmo-laden, dazzling interactive spaces for museum-starved Indians. You can see this shift starting from the grand Constitution-shaped, digital-aided Ambedkar Memorial to the

Rajkot Gandhi museum,

Statue of Unity museum to the newly minted Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, or the Prime Ministers' Museum. In just the first month since its launch, Modi appears to be at the top in the 'selfie with your favourite Prime Minister' exhibit at the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya. A vice-premier who some are tipping to move to a top seat on the elite standing committee of the politburo, has hinted that labour unrest is a real possibility and advocated stronger state support for groups in danger of unemployment. The danger of protest is real: during the privatisations of the 1990s, demonstrations in rustbelt cities such as Shenyang in the north-east showed popular feeling rising high as people realised their old factory jobs were doomed.

consciousness - or rashtriya chetna. So, inaugurating every big museum, especially those that weave history with tech-extravaganza, is politically useful for him. He likes to project his own politics as one seeing the nation as a single continuous culture on the path to global modernity. For way too long, Indian museums largely suffered from a crisis of imagination. After the first burst of post-Independence nation-building museums under Jawaharlal Nehru, there were hardly any exciting new ventures. So, the current emphasis on museums is long overdue. The BJP has the numbers, and now has enlisted the museum entity in its narrative-setting endeavour. (Watch out for the Ayodhya Ramayana museum next). Museums have always been intensely political creatures around the world acting as staging ground for knowledge-politics of all sorts. The Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya has injected a steroid shot into New Delhi's thin political museumscape, and raised the bar for Indian museums in general.

Rama Lakshmi

CM Khandu flags in Trans-Arunachal Drive in Tawang



Tawang, May 17: Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Sunday flagged in the 2nd edition of the Trans-Arunachal Drive at Tawang marking the conclusion of the 2000-plus kms adventure drive supported by Mahindra Group. The drive was flagged off by Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein from Pangsau Pass in Changlang district bordering Myanmar in eastern Arunachal Pradesh. Speaking to members of the drive - a mixed conglomeration of off road drivers, media persons, vloggers, bloggers, social media influencers and exponents of tourism

industry - Khandu expressed optimism that they must have got the real taste of what Arunachal offers in the tourism sector. He said when North East is mentioned, most people in the mainland visualize it up to Assam, which in fact is wrong. "People don't have a clear concept of North East. What they think or visualize is much different from reality. This is a region with so much to offer but due to scant media exposure it remains unexplored," Khandu observed. He said absence of mainstream media in the region, particularly in Arunachal Pradesh,

the potential it possesses in the tourism sector still remains hidden. "That's the main reason behind this drive - to offer influencers, media persons covering adventure and tourism sectors and independent vloggers and bloggers something which they personally cannot resist," Khandu revealed on a lighter note. As far as Arunachal Pradesh is concerned, Khandu informed that it is geographically the largest state in the region, which many people do not know. "It is so large and diverse that despite being a native of the state, I too travel around the state

just as a tourist. The moment I step out of my home district, a different tribe, a different topography, a different culture, a different language, a different cuisine, a different everything awaits me!" he explained. Delving more on Arunachal's diversity, Khandu claimed that real Arunachal lies beyond the point where the road ends. "The Arunachal you have seen and experienced is along the roads. Arunachal is beyond it. I invite you to hike to places where roads haven't reached yet and experience Arunachal in real terms," he suggested. "In any case, by now, you must have realized that when it comes to take adrenaline pumping drives and adventures to the next level, Arunachal Pradesh is the place. Our state has the right climate, right terrains, right roads and the right people needed for a drive of a lifetime," Khandu added while expecting that the drive would expose to the world the state's

potentials. He informed that as India was evolving from the Covid pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi started the campaign 'Dekho Apna Desh' to revive domestic tourism. Taking the cue, he said, the state government pushed the 'Dekho Apna Pradesh' to encourage its citizens to travel across their own state and revive the tourism industry that had taken a beating due to long periods of lockdowns. Emphasizing on responsible tourism, Khandu urged the participants of the drive to promote the same. "Please tell your readers, subscribers, followers and fans to follow responsible tourism. Mother Nature is very sensitive to pollution. So tell them - when you visit Arunachal Pradesh, take back beautiful pictures and great memories but leave behind just footprints," he added.

Demands use of anti-conversion law in Arunachal

Itanagar, May 17: The Indigenous Faith and Cultural Society of Arunachal Pradesh (IFCSAP) on Sunday staged protests across the state, including the capital, reiterating its demand for early implementation of the Arunachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 1978 or the anti-conversion law. The IFCSAP members staged the protests at various prayer and cultural centers of the state including the Nyedat Namlo, Golgi Bote Gangging, Kargu Gamgi, Meder Nello, Donyi Polo Namlo, Tancho Klumya, Rangshomhum, etc. The society has also been demanding the renaming of the department of indigenous affairs (DIA) to its already notified name - department of indigenous faith and cultural affairs (DIFCA). IFCSAP general secretary Tambo



Tamin said chief minister Pema Khandu had assured to look into the demands of the society during his meeting with the IFCSAP members in March this year, however, the same is yet to be fulfilled. "We appeal to the state government to live up to its assurance and fulfill our demands at the earliest," Tamin said. The Arunachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 1978, though never enforced in the state, prohibits the conversion from one religious faith to any other religious faith by use of force or inducement or

by fraudulent means and for matters connected therewith. The Act was passed in 1978 and also received the assent of the President of India on October 25 in the same year. Chief Minister Khandu had in 2018 made an announcement to repeal the Act. He had, however, assured that the state government would consider views and suggestions of every stakeholder before that. According to the 2011 census, Christianity accounts for 30.26% of the state's total population with 29.04% being Hindus and 26.2% practicing other religions.

70 avian species spotted in Arunachal

Itanagar, May 17: At least 70 different species of birds were counted during the Himalayan Bird Count in Arunachal Pradesh. From westernmost Ladakh to easternmost Arunachal Pradesh, this was the first edition of the Himalayan Bird Count (HBC) which aimed at celebrating the incredible bird diversity and to bring attention to the threatened habitats of the Himalayas. The event was being organised by Bird Count India, Bird Conservation Nepal and Bhutan-

based Royal Society for Protection of Nature, to bring the Himalayan birding fraternity together for a common good. The Arunachal Pradesh Birding Club also took part in the event along with the rest of the Himalayan states, which was organized in collaboration with Apatani Youth Association, Ngunu Ziro and Ziro Birding Club at Ziro in Lower Subansiri district. The Himalayan Bird Count began at picturesque Siikhelake, a home of

winter migratory waterbirds on May 14 and concluded at Pange camp of Tale Wildlife Sanctuary on May 15, forest officials from the district informed on Monday. Despite continuous rain, the teams led by local birders Bamin Chada and Mollo Tako, managed to count 70 different species at Siikhelake and Pange camp of Tale Wildlife Sanctuary. The important findings during the event include, Gadwall, Sikkim tree creeper, Mrs. Goulds Sunbird, Sultan Tit, Blue fronted Robin and Mountain Tailorbird. The event was supported by Hapoli Forest Division and the state Information and Public Relations Department, the officials added.

Youth BJP leader murdered in Tripura

Agartala, May 17: At a time when the Bharatiya Janata Party in Tripura is making every attempt to quell the rumblings within the state unit, a youth BJP leader was brutally murdered at the Karamchara area under Dhalai district of Tripura. The deceased has been identified as Mihir Das, president of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) of Karamchara Mandal. According to the police, Das was returning home along with some of his party colleagues when they were allegedly attacked by unknown assailants late on Saturday night. Police said all the people in the group were left grievously injured. Police said Das died due to heavy blows on the head by a heavy object. Additional superintendent of police Dhalai district Binay Kishore Debbarma said, "Prima facie evidence suggests that he was brutally assaulted using tea branches.

One injured in blast in Imphal east

Imphal, May 17: One person sustained injuries in an explosion that occurred on Friday evening in Manipur's Imphal East district. As per sources, the blast took place near Mahabir Mandir located at Khurai Ahongei Tilipati area around 8:40 pm. The injured has been identified as Subham Prasad and is currently undergoing treatment at a nearby hospital. Imphal police rushed to the spot soon after the incident and investigation into the case is underway. Meanwhile, Wangkhei MLA Thangjam Arunkumar visited the blast site and also met the injured person at the hospital. No individual or organisations has claimed responsibility for the blast so far.



11 MLAs take oath as ministers in Tripura



Agartala, May 17: Eleven MLAs - nine from the ruling BJP and two of the IPFT - on Monday sworn in as cabinet ministers of the new Manik Saha-led government in Tripura. Governor S N Arya administered the oath of office and secrecy to the newly inducted ministers of the BJP-IPFT coalition government at Raj Bhavan here. Legislators who were sworn in to the cabinet are Jishnu Dev Varma, Ratan Lal Nath, Pranajit Singha Roy, Manoj Kanti Deb, Santana Chakma, Ram Prasad Paul, Bhagaban Das, Sushanta Chowdhury, Ram Pada Jamatia all of the BJP and NC Debbarma and Prem Kumar Reang of the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT). Chief Minister Manik Saha, Union ministers Bhupender Yadav and Pratima Bhoumik and

former CM Biplab Kumar Deb were among those present at the oath-taking ceremony. Government sources said the portfolios of the cabinet ministers would be announced later. Of the 11 ministers, Ram Pada Jamatia of the BJP and Prem Kumar Reang (IPFT) were the only ones

who did not figure in the Biplab Kumar Deb-led cabinet. Mever Kumar Jamatia of the IPFT was dropped from the Saha-led cabinet. The new cabinet would pursue the "unfulfilled dreams of former CM Biplab Kumar Deb", said

Sushanta Chowdhury, shortly after he was sworn in as a cabinet minister. "Everything is moving in right direction there was just a three-day gap in between. We hope to resume work with new zeal and enthusiasm," he told reporters. Chowdhury, who was the information and cultural Affairs (ICA) minister of the previous cabinet, said almost all ministers who have taken oath are old-timers. Only two new faces have been inducted into the cabinet as they were found capable for the job, he added.

UKRA, KYKL cadres held in Kangpokpi & Tengnoupal

Imphal, May 17: In a major breakthrough, Assam Rifles has arrested two cadres belonging to proscribed outfits - United Kom Revolutionary Army (UKRA) and Kanglei Yawol Kunnalup (KYKL) - in two separate operations in Manipur, said an

official. According to the official, the operation was carried out in Kangpokpi and Tengnoupal districts. As per official statement, Keithelmanbi and Moreh Battalion, under the aegis of IGAR (South), in a joint operation with Manipur Police

apprehended two cadres of UKRA and KYKL from Ichum Moriah village in Kangpokpi district and Moreh in Tengnoupal district on Friday and Saturday. Based on specific inputs, troops of Assam Rifles and Manipur Police launched the

operations, which led to the apprehensions of the two cadres, it said. The arrested insurgents have been handed over to Nambol and Moreh Police station for further investigation, it added.



Meghalaya rain death toll rises to 3

Shillong, May 17: The death toll in rains in Meghalaya rose to three on Saturday as one more person drowned in a swollen river in East Khasi Hills district, an official said. "Two persons who went fishing from Mawber village yesterday went missing. One of them was found dead after getting washed ashore downstream. Another one is missing," a senior police officer told PTI. He said the search and rescue operation for the missing person is on. Heavy rains lashed Meghalaya on Thursday night and Friday as the capital city witnessed one of the highest rainfall caused by moisture incursion from the Bay of Bengal, officials said. Two persons died in East Khasi Hills and Ri-Bhoi district on Friday. Landslides were reported at various places across the state causing traffic disruptions in many areas and most rivers crossed their danger marks, they said. The Ministry of Earth Sciences which had also forecast extremely heavy rainfall in Meghalaya on Saturday also warned people to avoid staying in vulnerable structures and avoid travelling to water-logged areas. Mawsynram town, perched at the edge of a ridge in the Southern slopes of East Khasi Hills district, recorded 483.2 mm rainfall on Thursday. Sohra received 104 mm rainfall while Shillong city and Mawkyrwat received 111.5 mm and 184 mm rainfall respectively on Friday.

Contd. From Page 1

Assam HS 1st Year Examination

The order was issued by the Controller of Examination (AHSEC), Pankaj Borthakur. As per reports, this time the AHSEC (Assam Higher Secondary Education Council) will hold the HS (Higher Secondary) examinations with new question papers and new answer sheets. The order was issued by the Controller of Examination (AHSEC), Pankaj Borthakur.

Flood: around two lakh people

single line railway route.The Lumding-Badarpur section in Assam is the only route to connect Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and the southern part of Assam with the rest of the country. This rail link has been cut off for the past four days causing price rise in the essentials. The flood situation in Kamrup of Nagaon district worsens. People have been forced to leave their houses and shift to relief camps. The floodwaters of the river submerged several villages and cropland.The water level of the Kopili river in Nagaon district continues to flow above the danger level mark and has crossed its previous highest level of 61.79 meters.Assam has been hit by the first wave of floods this year due to incessant rainfall for the past couple of days, following which the water levels of several rivers have been gradually increasing.A fire and emergency services personnel said, "We have so far rescued 70-80 people stuck inside their homes in Nagaon till Monday."Moreover, nearly 2 lakh people in 20 districts of the state have been affected due to floods. According to Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), Cachar district recorded two flood-related deaths, while three died in Dima Hasao due to landslides. The calamity has affected 1,97,248 people in 652 villages. The 20 districts that have been affected by floods are Bajali, Baksa, Biswanath, Cachar, Charaideo, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Dima Hasao, Hojai, Kamrup, Karbi Anglong West, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sonitpur, Tamulpur and Udalguri.Hojai is the worst-hit district where 78,157 people have been affected due to the flood followed by Cachar where 51,357 people are affected. 16645.61 hectares of cropland are underwater, the ASDMA report said.Authorities have opened 67 relief camps and relief distribution centres providing shelter to 32,959 people. River Brahmaputra is flowing above its danger mark at Nimatighat while Kopili is flowing above the danger level mark at Kamrup.

Lucknow to be renamed as

temple dedicated to Laxman is already being constructed in Lucknow. demand to change the name of Lucknow to Laxhanpuri or Laxmanpuri has been raised several times by BJP leaders.Lucknow already has several landmarks named after Laxman and these include Laxman Tila, Laxmanpuri and Laxman Park.The Yogi Adityanath government in its previous term, had changed the name of Allahabad to Prayagraj and Faizabad to Ayodhya. This led to a surge in demand for changing the names of several districts including Sultanpur to Kushbhawanpur, Aligarh to Harigarh, Mainpuri to Mayanpuri, Sambhal to Prithviraj Nagar or Kalki Nagar, Firozabad to Chandranagar and Deoband to Devrand.Meanwhile, officials said that they were not yet aware of any proposal to rename Lucknow or any other city.

Senior Journalist Prasanta Rajguru

anniversary of the radical journalist and human rights activist, Parag Kumar Das.The event was started with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by renowned journalist Dileep Chandra.It was followed by noted Assamese writer Dinesh Chandra Goswami handed the award to Rajguru at the event.Meanwhile, professor at the department of Anthropology in Gauhati University, Dwipen Bezbaruah spoke at length about Parag Kumar Das on the occasion.The organizers also felicitated Bibi Borthakur at the memorial event.It was attended by the friends and family of Parag Kumar Das, alongside eminent personalities from the media fraternity.The family then paid rich tributes to the assassinated journalist at the event.It may be noted that Parag Kumar Das, the former editor of Asomiya Pratidin was assassinated by the Surrendered United Liberation Front of Asom (SULFA) on this day in 1996.

Protect 'Shivling' area, but don't

actly the 'Shivling' (symbol of Lord Shiva) was found inside Gyanvapi mosque in the Uttar Pradesh city.The Supreme Court's question to the administration came during the hearing of a petition by the mosque committee that sought a direction to the authorities in Varanasi to stop the survey of the mosque complex."Where exactly was the 'Shivling' found?" Justice DY Chandrachud said."We haven't seen the report," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the Uttar Pradesh government, replied, and sought time till tomorrow to return with details.Mr Mehta said the place where the 'Shivling' was found was sealed to avoid any law and order issues if someone who came to offer namaz (prayers) touched it with their feet. The 'Shivling' was said to be found in a pond, used for "wazoo" or purification rituals before namaz.The Supreme Court then told the Varanasi District Magistrate to ensure the area where the 'Shivling' was found was protected, without impeding Muslims from coming to the mosque for namaz.Yesterday, after a sensational claim by Hindu petitioners that a "Shivling" had been found in a pond at Gyanvapi masjid complex, a local court had ordered it sealed. The "Shivling" was said to be found during a court-mandated filming of the mosque complex following a petition seeking access to pray at a shrine behind the mosque.Muslim petitioners rejected the assertion, claiming it was a "fountain, not a Shivling".During the Supreme Court hearing today, the Muslim petitioners questioned how the city court ordered the place to be sealed when the report of the committee, which surveyed the complex, has not submitted yet."How did the court proceed based on the submission of the other party and seal the place? Look at the way the orders are passed," the Muslim petitioners told the Supreme Court.The Gyanvapi mosque stands next to the iconic Kashi Vishwanath temple. Five women petitioners have asked the court to allow daily prayers before idols on its outer walls as well as other "visible and invisible deities within the old temple complex". The site is currently open for prayers once a year.The Varanasi Civil Court ordered a video assessment of the mosque complex, including three domes, underground basements and the pond, and appointed court commissioners for the task.

Assam Braces for Very Heavy

view of these forecasts, the IMD has issued an orange alert over Sub Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh for Monday, so as to urge the locals to "be prepared" for the heavy rains, thunderstorms and lightning.Moreover, yellow watches have been issued over Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura on the same day, to indicate the need to "be updated" about the inclement weather.Meanwhile, these intense rainfall episodes have been lashing Northeast India, especially Assam and Meghalaya, since Saturday. In fact, the heavy downpours triggered flooding and landslides in Assam, even resulting in the loss of life and property.Rainfall-related incidents have killed at least three people in Assam's Dima Hasao district, while affecting nearly 57,000 people from 222 villages, according to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority. In addition, some 200 homes have been destroyed, while 10321.44 hectares of cultivated land remains swamped in flooding.In the past 24 hours alone, several districts in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya have recorded more than 2 cm of rainfall, with Assam's Majbat witnessing 7 cm. These recent precipitation figures are adding to the already above-average rainfall accumulation that is being recorded by the northeastern states this pre-monsoon season.Between March 1 and May 15, the subdivisions of Sub Himalayan West Bengal-Sikkim (408 mm) and Assam-Meghalaya (634 mm) have both registered 'excess' rains worth 43% and 53% higher than their respective averages for this period.Arunachal Pradesh (665 mm) and Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura (288 mm) accumulated normal rainfall, with the former witnessing only a 9% excess and the latter registering a 14% deficit so far this season.

Talks On Land Border Law

from Assam joining the militant outfit United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I), saying that two districts in Assam in particular were more under the influence of the militant group."Those youths involved with crimes are joining up with ULFA-I," he said.He also mentioned that the Eastern Command of the Indian army will continue to wage a war against the drugs menace.

CBI searches at multiple locations

across Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Sivagangai in Tamil Nadu. Minutes later, Karti Chidambaram tweeted that he "has lost count" of the number of central searches at his offices and residence. According to sources, the investigative agency has registered a fresh case against Karti Chidambaram over alleged foreign remittances between 2010-14. The central probe agency has booked Lok Sabha MP Karti Chidambaram in a new case of alleged illegal gratification, said news agency PTI citing the CBI officials. It has been alleged that the Chidambaram father-son duo allegedly helped the Chinese nationals get visas by flouting rules. A project was going on in Punjab for which Chidambaram helped them in getting visas.Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Tuesday said a CBI team searched his residence in Chennai as well as his official residence in Delhi but "found nothing and seized nothing". The former Union minister also said the "timing of the search is interesting". In a statement, Chidambaram said this morning, a CBI team searched his residence in Chennai and his official residence here."The team showed me an FIR in which I am not named as an accused. The search team found nothing and seized nothing," he said.The CBI has filed a fresh case against Lok Sabha MP Karti Chidambaram, son of P Chidambaram, for allegedly facilitating visas of 250 Chinese nationals after receiving illegal gratification of Rs 50 lakh in 2011, officials said on Tuesday.The agency on Tuesday morning started coordinated search operations at 10 locations in multiple cities in the country, including Karti Chidambaram's residences in Chennai and Delhi, they said.A CBI team also visited the official residence of Karti Chidambaram and Rajya Sabha MP P Chidambaram at Lodhi Estate here, the officials said.

India rejects 'farcical' Pakistan

per the new delimitation order, Jammu and Kashmir will have five parliamentary constituencies namely Baramulla, Srinagar, Anantnag-Rajouri, Udhampur and Jammu.India earlier slammed the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for its "unwarranted" comments on the delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir and asked it to refrain from carrying out its "communal agenda" at the behest of one country, in an oblique reference to Pakistan.In a strongly-worded reaction, MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said on Monday that India "categorically rejected" the OIC's comments criticising New Delhi over the delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir. "We are dismayed that the OIC secretariat has once again made unwarranted comments on the internal affairs of India," Bagchi said."As in the past, the Government of India categorically rejects the assertions made by the OIC secretariat on the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir which is an integral and inalienable part of India," Bagchi was responding to media queries on the OIC statement on the delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir. "The OIC should refrain from carrying out its communal agenda vis-a-vis India at the behest of one country," he said. India has been hitting out at the OIC for its comments on Jammu and Kashmir.In a statement earlier, the general secretariat of the OIC expressed "deep concern over India's attempts to redraw the electoral boundaries" of Jammu and Kashmir, alleging it is a violation of the rights of the Kashmiri people.



Don't accidentally hire a North Korean hacker, FBI warns

Seoul, May 17 : US officials have warned businesses against inadvertently hiring IT staff from North Korea, saying that rogue freelancers were taking advantage of remote work opportunities to hide their true identities and earn money for Pyongyang.An advisory issued by the state and treasury departments and the FBI said the effort was intended to circumvent US and UN sanctions, and bring in money for North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs. The officials said companies who hired and paid such workers may be exposing themselves to legal consequences for sanctions violations."There are thousands of DPRK IT workers both dispatched overseas and located within the DPRK, generating revenue that is remitted back to the North Korean government."These IT workers take advantage of existing demands for specific IT skills, such as software and mobile application development, to obtain freelance employment contracts from clients around the world, including in North America, Europe, and east Asia."The three charged North Koreans are alleged to have carried out their activities on behalf of the government of Kim Jong-un.North Korean workers pretended to be from South Korea, Japan, or other Asian countries, the advisory said. It laid out a series of red flags that employers should watch for, including a refusal to participate in video calls and requests to receive payments in virtual currency.US officials said the North Koreans were mostly based in China and Russia, with smaller numbers operating out of Africa and south-east Asia. Much of the money they earned was taken by the North Korean government.



Guwahati- Residents of Down Town area protest on Tuesday



Protest against the worsening condition of NH No.15 at Boginadi on May 7. Photo- Papu Baruah

Symposium held at Pragjyotish College

Assam Rising, Guwahati,May 17: A symposium was organized by the Department of History, Pragjyotish College on May 11 at the conference hall of the college. Dr. Pradyumna Sarma, Associate Professor in the Department of History, Nalbari college delivered a talk on the topic 'Oral History: An Introduction'. In his speech Dr. Sarma focused on the evolution of oral history as a discipline and threw light on collection, preservation and interpretation of historical information through recorded interviews. He also discussed documentation and archiving. Apart from Pragjyotish College, students and faculty members from B. Boroah College and Pandu College also participated in it. Dr. Nandini Sarma started the event with a felicitation programme. Inaugural speech was delivered by Dr. Manoj Kumar Mahanta, Principal, Pragjyotish College and welcome address was offered by Badan Ch. Mahanta ,Head of the Department of History. The speaker was introduced by Bishwajyoti Dev Mahanta and vote of thanks was offered by Dr. Gargee Sharmah.

Taliban dissolves Afghanistan's human rights commission as 'unnecessary'

Kabul, May 17 : Taliban authorities in Afghanistan dissolved five key departments of the former US-backed government, including the country's human rights commission, deeming them unnecessary in the face of a financial crunch, an official said.Afghanistan faced a budget deficit of 44bn Afghanis (\$501m) this financial year, Taliban authorities said as they announced their first annual national budget since taking over last August."Because these departments were not deemed necessary and were not included in the budget, they have been dissolved," said Innamullah Samangani, the Taliban government's deputy spokesperson.Also dissolved was the high council for national reconciliation (HCNR), the once high-powered national security council, and the commission for overseeing the implementation of the Afghan constitution.The HCNR was last headed by former Afghan president Abdullah Abdullah, and was working to negotiate a peace between the US-backed government of former president Ashraf Ghani and the then-insurgent Taliban.In August 2021, 20 years after invading Afghanistan, foreign forces withdrew leading to the collapse of the government and a Taliban takeover.Samangani said the national budget was "based on objective facts" and intended only for departments that had been active and productive.

Assam police recruitment process postponed due to flood

Guwahati, May 17 : The recruitment process for the police forces in Assam hit a snag on Sunday amid extreme weather conditions prevailing over Northeast.In light of heavy rainfall and landslides across parts of Assam limiting travel, the process for recruitment to Assam Police was postponed today.According to officials, the exam scheduled to take place on May 16, has now been postponed to May 23. The recruitment process was set to take place in the Dima Hasao district of Assam, one of the worst hit districts of the state.Earlier, heavy rainfall and flooding at the Haflong Railway station caused disruption in rail services, leaving commuters stranded.On the request of the district disaster management authority, Assam Rifles under the aegis of Spear Corps, undertook relief work at the Railway station and also made arrangements for evacuating the stranded passengers.Meanwhile, the Physical Endurance Test (PST) and Physical Standard Test (PET) exams have also been postponed for similar reasons and are scheduled to take place on May 23.

Wheat prices hit record high after India export ban

New Delhi, May 17 : Wheat prices surged to a new record high on Monday after India decided to ban exports of the commodity as a heatwave hit production.Global wheat prices have soared on supply fears since Russia's February invasion of agricultural powerhouse Ukraine, which previously accounted for 12 percent of global exports.The spike, exacerbated by fertiliser shortages and poor harvests, has fuelled inflation globally and raised fears of famine and social unrest in poorer countries.Relief for farmers: Centre relaxes norms for shrivelled wheat grains for Punjab, HaryanaIndia, the world's second-largest wheat producer, said on Saturday that it was banning exports after its hottest March on record.New Delhi said factors including lower production and sharply higher global prices meant it was worried about the food security of its own 1.4 billion people.Export deals agreed before the directive issued on May 13 could still be honoured but future shipments needed government approval, it said.However, exports could also take place if New Delhi approved requests from other governments "to meet their food security needs".India, which possesses major buffer stocks, previously said it was ready to help fill some of the supply shortages caused by the Ukraine war.



Rain: ACA postponed the Nuruddin Inter District Cricket Tournament

GUWAHATI: Assam Cricket Association postponed the Nuruddin Inter District Cricket Tournament for two days because of heavy rainfall and prevailing bad weather conditions in Guwahati. The competition will resume on May 18. It may be mentioned here that different parts of the State, including Guwahati, witnessed heavy showers for the last couple of days and three games of the competition were badly affected because of it. All three games were called off after the first day's play and the points were shared between the teams. Also Read - Upper Assam Prize Money Table Tennis Tournament at Dibrugarh The rain even disturbed the travel plan of the participating team also. The Silchar team, which was supposed to start their campaign in the final leg of the competition tomorrow, was stranded at Ditekherra yesterday after the train service was disrupted because of heavy rain. Entire team returned to Silchar today and are expected to arrive in Guwahati on Tuesday. Also Read: Guwahati in good position

Unbeaten Baaeed's run draws comparison with Frankel

London, May 17 : It was always going to happen one day, and on Saturday afternoon the moment finally arrived. A little less than 10 years after Frankel completed a 14-race unbeaten career in October 2012, Baaeed's name was dropped into the same sentence as Sir Henry Cecil's great champion, following his breathtaking success in the Lockinge Stakes at Newbury. It went little further than a general acknowledgement that Baaeed may be the "best since" Frankel, on a British racecourse at least, while Angus Gold, racing manager for the Shadwell operation which owns the four-year-old, cautiously suggested to the Racing Post that he was "not going to say he's in that class yet because



Frankel is the best I've ever seen, although he's heading in that direction." But for as long as Baaeed keeps winning - and on the evidence of Saturday there is nothing among the older horses at least that can give him a serious race - the comparisons will continue, not least because his route through the season could

well be a near-facsimile of Frankel's four-year-old campaign. Next up for the unbeaten winner of seven races is the Queen Anne Stakes, the first race at the Royal meeting next month, in which Frankel produced the greatest performance of his career a decade ago. William Haggas will also look to step him up to a mile-and-

a-quarter later in the season, probably in the International Stakes at York in August, in which, as the trainer pointed out on Saturday, Frankel was "arguably ... at his most imperious" in 2012. If Baaeed's win streak remains intact, the Champion Stakes at Ascot would then be the obvious place to conclude his career, just 16 months after it began at Leicester in June 2021. The dream that one day they might breed the perfect, unbeatable racehorse has kept owners and breeders in the Flat racing game for centuries, and for a great deal longer than there have been

geneticists around, to explain why their quest is all but certain to end in disappointment. Most of the truly great horses of recent decades have endured at least one defeat. Timeform has awarded a rating of 140 or above to 13 horses since 1948, and just two - Frankel and Ribot - went through their entire careers unbeaten. Sea-Bird II, Brigadier Gerard, Mill Reef, Dancing Brave, Sea The Stars (the sire of Baaeed), Shergar and Dubai Millennium are among the 11 who did not. None of those great horses were diminished by defeat.

Late Rhodes goal sends Huddersfield to Wembley final after win over Luton

London, May 17 : Flares usually signal danger but for the pitch-invading Huddersfield fans they are a sign of hope. They are one game away from a Premier League return after Jordan Rhodes came off the bench to score his fourth and most significant goal of the season to send them into the Championship playoff final at Luton's expense. Huddersfield were lucky to be still in the game when Rhodes poked home a free-kick with eight minutes to go to edge the tie but what matters in football is taking chances and, despite a barren season, the 32-year-old striker still knows how to get things done when it matters, a trait Luton lacked. The visitors, missing eight first-team players, should have taken the lead in the 11th minute when Kal



Naismith drifted into space on the left and sent a low cross into the box for Harry Cornick to tap home but he sidefooted the ball from six yards straight at Lee Nicholls, much to the relief of the majority in the ground. Unlike in many playoff semi-finals there was little caution shown by either side. Huddersfield looked to play with great intensity to get through

Luton, while the visitors' pressing was causing problems for the hosts when they attempted to play out from the back. Luton moved the Huddersfield defence around to create gaps in wide areas. Robert Snodgrass took advantage to cut in from the right and curl a shot towards the corner which Nicholls palmed straight out to Amari'i Bell, who could only

jab the rebound wide. Huddersfield going so close to conceding ramped up the tension inside the ground. Danny Ward almost relieved it with a mazy run into the Luton box but he was stretching to shoot and failed to garner sufficient power in his jabbed effort, allowing Matt Ingram to palm it away. Injury meant it was Ward's final action, with Rhodes coming on to replace him before the break. Huddersfield looked unable to cope with the occasion, wanting to take too much time on the ball and being repeatedly caught out by Luton. The visitors maintained their intensity and almost took the lead when Allan Campbell got to the byline to chip a cross to the back post from the right but Bell put his header across goal and wide.

Owen Farrell to make England return from injury but captaincy undecided

London, May 17: Owen Farrell is ready to make his return to the England fold this week with Eddie Jones announcing a squad to begin preparations for this summer's tour of Australia on Tuesday but it remains to be seen if he will resume the captaincy. Farrell missed out on the Six Nations to undergo ankle surgery for the second time this season but he has demonstrated his form and fitness on his return to action with Saracens. Had Saracens won their Challenge Cup semi-final against Toulon

last Saturday, Farrell would have been busy planning for another major final but Jones is able to pick from all 13 clubs for the camp, which runs from Sunday to next Tuesday, given there are no Premiership sides left in Europe. During the Six Nations Tom Curry and then Courtney Lawes led the side and, though Farrell's absence was felt in a campaign that yielded just two victories, there are no guarantees he will return to the role. Lawes was thought to be in danger of missing Northampton's run-in

with a gruesome thumb injury that could have put his place on the tour in jeopardy but he has made a remarkable recovery. Though England suffered defeats by Ireland and France under his watch, the 33-year-old flanker is a popular leader among the squad. Henry Arundell, the 19-year-old London Irish full-back who scored a spectacular length-of-the-field try in the Challenge Cup earlier this month, is also expected to feature in a squad of around 36 players.

Saqib Mahmood and Matthew Fisher ruled out for England with fractures



London, May 17: England's red-ball reset has been hit with a double setback with news that Saqib Mahmood and Matthew Fisher have been ruled out for the remainder of the season with stress fractures of the back. Mahmood had missed Lancashire's past three County Championship fixtures, and after complaining of back pain was sent for scans which confirmed a fracture. Fisher has played once since he

made his Test debut alongside Mahmood in England's tour of the West Indies in March with his Yorkshire coach, Ottis Gibson, describing his problem as "not a stress fracture, a stress reaction". That diagnosis has now changed. With England's new red-ball coach, Brendon McCullum, hoping to name a squad for next month's first Test against New Zealand on Wednesday morning, the

selectors' task becomes ever more complicated as the list of injured bowlers continues to lengthen. Other players McCullum cannot call on include: Jofra Archer, who has not played a first class game for more than a year because of elbow injuries; Mark Wood, who hopes to return from his own elbow issue in the next few weeks; and Olly Stone, who has not played first-class cricket since sustaining his own stress fracture of the

back last summer. Ollie Robinson, after a string of injuries, had food poisoning during Sussex's draw with Leicestershire. Surrey's Sam Curran has publicly targeted the New Zealand series for his international comeback after a long-term back injury, but has so far bowled just 17 overs in four County Championship appearances. The Guardian revealed last week that Durham's Matthew Potts was among those pushing for a call-up to McCullum's first squad. The new England captain, Ben Stokes, had already revealed Jimmy Anderson and Stuart Broad, both controversially rested for the trip to the Caribbean, were certain to return. Meanwhile the England and Wales Cricket Board is expected to appoint Matthew Mott as England's white ball coach this week, the 48-year-old Australian having overtaken Paul Collingwood in the race for the role following interviews last week.

Virgil van Dijk and Mohamed Salah to miss Liverpool's trip to Southampton

Paris, May 17 : Virgil van Dijk and Mohamed Salah will be fit for the Champions League final, Jürgen Klopp has confirmed. The manager said the pair would miss Liverpool's trip to Southampton on Tuesday but could return for the Premier League finale against Wolves. Liverpool's influential defender and leading goalscorer were substituted during the FA Cup win against Chelsea with knee and groin issues respectively. Both will be absent at St Mary's Stadium, where a Liverpool win would reduce Manchester City's lead in the title race to one point with one game to play, but there are no concerns over their involvement against Real Madrid on 28 May. Klopp planned to rest Van Dijk at Southampton before injury intervened. Klopp, asked whether Salah or Van Dijk could feature on Tuesday, replied: "No. Virgil definitely not. That was

pretty much clear before the game already. We thought this was the game [to rest him] because he played really a lot. Saturday-Tuesday again was clear." They are both OK. The target for both would be that they could be involved again at the weekend. Properly involved. On the bench and on for a few minutes or start - we will see with that because that would be perfect for the [Madrid] game. If not, we take each day afterwards. It is very positive and we have no doubt about the Champions League final but we are pretty realistic about the Wolves game. But tomorrow, not." Klopp has reiterated that the financial package it would take to sign Kylian Mbappé is beyond Liverpool's means. The



France international is expected to join Real Madrid when his contract at Paris Saint-Germain expires next month, although there have been reports of another club entering the race for the striker. Klopp, who tried to sign Mbappé from Monaco, insists it is not Liverpool. "Of course we are interested in Kylian Mbappé; we are not blind,"

he said. "I have nothing to say about that [a reported approach] but between Kylian and Liverpool it's all set, it's all fine. We of course like him and if you don't like him then you have to question yourself but, no, we are not, we cannot, be part of these battles. There must be other clubs involved and that is fine. He is a great player."

Chelsea sale in danger of collapse as talks over Roman Abramovich loan stall



London, May 17 : The government is concerned that the £4.25bn takeover of Chelsea could collapse because of the alleged refusal by Roman Abramovich to accept a new sale structure proposed by ministers. With the deadline for the deal to

be completed less than a fortnight away Whitehall insiders have said there are fears of Chelsea going out of business. The government is determined that none of the proceeds from the club being sold to Todd Boehly's consortium go to Abramovich, who put the European champions up for sale when he was hit with sanctions after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Chelsea, whose special operating licence expires on 31 May, require government approval before the deal goes through. But talks over what will happen to Abramovich's £1.6bn loan to the club have

stalled, heightening concerns over the deadline for the sale being missed. The government's proposal is for a two-stage process in which the £2.5bn from the sale to Boehly's group would go into an escrow account, where it would be held until it is satisfied the funds will go to a charity for victims of the war in Ukraine. But Westminster sources have said the deal has been held up by the club's ownership structure. Chelsea's parent company, Fordstam Ltd, owes £1.6bn to Camberley International Investments, a Jersey-based company with suspected links to Abramovich.

Jack Nicklaus says he turned down \$100m to be face of Saudi-backed golf tour

London, May 17 : Greg Norman was not the first choice to be the face of the Saudi-backed LIV Golf Series, whose Saudi Arabian organizers pursued and preferred Jack Nicklaus, according to the 73-time PGA Tour winner. "I was offered something in excess of \$100m by the Saudis, to do the job probably similar to the one that Greg is doing," Nicklaus said in a story with Fire Pit Collective. "I turned it down. Once verbally,

once in writing. I said, 'Guys, I have to stay with the PGA Tour. I helped start the PGA Tour.'" Saudi Arabian organizers launched the new circuit and plan to hold the inaugural event at Centurion Club outside London in June. In addition, five tournaments will be played in the United States and a team match play finale at Trump Doral in Miami at the end of October. The PGA Tour denied requests from



players, including Phil Mickelson, who asked to participate in the London tournament. Players must request clearance to play in the second LIV event

by Tuesday. An unauthorized Mickelson biography, which will be released this week detailing his alleged gambling losses and comments about the Tour and other golfers, has attracted yet more unwelcome attention for the 51-year-old. Previously, Mickelson dismissed Saudi Arabia's human

rights record, including the killing of Washington Post reporter Jamal Khashoggi, by saying it was worth getting involved with the Saudis if it meant gaining leverage to get what he wanted from the PGA Tour. Those comments drew fire and Mickelson did not play in this year's Masters. He last played in an event in January and withdrew from the PGA Championship this week despite being the defending champion.

'Make the opportunity count'

Ricky Ponting's advice to Sarfaraz Khan

New Delhi, May 17 : Before the start of the match against Punjab Kings, Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting told Sarfaraz Khan to 'make the most of the opportunity.' Sarfaraz, opening for the first time in the IPL, didn't disappoint Ponting as he scored a quickfire 16-ball 32 after Delhi lost their in-form opener, David Warner, on the very first ball of the match. While opener David Warner continues to enjoy his purple patch, the second opening slot remains a cause of concern with Mandeep Singh and Srikar Bharat failing miserably in Prithvi Shaw's absence, who has also not fared well this season. Against Punjab, Sarfaraz opened the batting with Warner and the youngster repaid the faith put in him by the Delhi Capitals management. Courtesy swift bursts from Sarfaraz Khan, Delhi Capitals had scored 59 for 2 in the powerplay. "Ricky Ponting told me that make this opportunity count. When we lost wicket (David Warner) on the first ball, in my mind I decided that I will continue to score runs at a brisk



rate. Powerplays are very useful and can give the team the much-needed momentum, so I tried to score as many runs as possible," Sarfaraz told Shardul Thakur in a free-wheeling chat after the match. Sarfaraz

was brutal on left-arm orthodox bowler Harpreet Brar, hammering him for a maximum, a slog sweep and two successive boundaries, as Delhi fetched 15 runs in the third over. "I have faced Harpreet a lot dur-

ing my time at the Punjab Kings. I knew what he is going to bowl," said the 24-year-old. Shardul quizzed Sarfaraz on playing the scoop shot against Rishi Dhawan. He replied: "I am confident of playing scoop shot. I can play other shots as well, but by playing scoop the opponents put a fine leg behind and keep mid-on and mid-off up. That's the idea behind playing the scoop shot." Sarfaraz hammered five boundaries and a six as Delhi raced to the 50-run mark in the fifth over. But Sarfaraz's cameo ended after he mistimed a lofted shot off Arshdeep Singh (3/37) with Chahar taking a running catch. For his four-wicket haul and bowling figures of 4/36, @imShard is our Top Performer from the second innings. Shardul

Thakur (4/36) returned with his career-best IPL figures against Punjab Kings. Thakur removed Bhanuka Rajapaksa and Shikhar Dhawan in one over in the powerplay and then returned to in the death to get rid of dangerous-looking Jitesh Sharma and Kagiso Rabada and put Punjab out of the game. "Whenever I play I try to create an impact. My performances are for the team. I just want to win games for my team," said Thakur. Thakur could have bagged his maiden fiver but David Warner dropped a dolly at long-on. "Personal milestones are important but now points table are such that we need to improve our NRR. As long as I am getting those dots and not conceding boundaries, I am happy with it," he said.

Former junior Wimbledon champion Laura Robson retires at 28

London, May 17 : The former junior Wimbledon champion and Olympic silver medallist Laura Robson has announced her retirement from tennis following

three hip operations. The 28-year-old was thrust into the spotlight aged 14 when she won the girls' title in SW19 and she peaked in the top 30 while still a teen-



ager but has been hampered by injury for most of the last decade. "I had another hip surgery and probably did the best rehab block of my life - I went to all the best specialists and had some incredible people that I was working with just to get me back on court - and then the second time I hit, I just knew. It feels weird to say out loud, but I'm done, I'm retired. I've sort of known that for a while because of what I was told by the doctors last year, but I think it just took me so long to say it to myself, which is why it took me so long to say it officially. "With her natural ball-striking ability and big-match mentality, Robson was quickly marked out for stardom and rose swiftly through the senior ranks, reaching the fourth round at the US Open in 2012 and winning an Olympic silver medal in mixed doubles with Andy Murray. The following season she reached the last 16 at Wimbledon and achieved her highest ranking of 27. But a wrist injury began to trouble her

later in 2013 and kept her out for most of the next two years. She returned in 2016 but did not manage to recapture the same form she had showed in her teenage years and was unable to climb back into the top 100. Her hip problems came to the fore in 2018 and she underwent surgery before returning briefly the following year, with her final match coming in Sunderland in April 2019. Robson went under the knife again later that year and for a third time last January and has now admitted defeat in her efforts to continue her tennis career. "I think overall I'm a much nicer person from going through all of that," said the 28-year-old, who has carved out a new career in TV and radio. "If I keep looking back and thinking 'what if', then I can't move forward. "I think I'm always going to have the feeling that I could have done more, unfortunately. I feel like if I had just had another year or two of being healthy, I don't know what I could have achieved.

Boxing World C'ships

Nikhat Zareen secures India's first medal in Istanbul

New Delhi, May 17 : Continuing her stellar run from the prestigious Strandja Memorial tournament where she won the gold earlier this year, Nikhat out-punched England's Charley-Sian Davison 5-0. (Twitter/Boxing Federation) Asian Championships bronze medalist Nikhat Zareen (52kg) secured India its first medal at the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in Istanbul on Monday by advancing to the semifinals with a superb win. Continuing her stellar run from the prestigious Strandja Memorial tournament where she won the gold earlier this year, Nikhat out-punched England's Charley-Sian Davison 5-0. The 25-year-old Telangana boxer was all pumped up in her highly physical bout against Davison. Both boxers went attacking ferociously against each other in the first round. However, the second round was a one way street as Nikhat pounded her opponent with terrific body shots to tire her out while also landing clean and sharp punches. With the two rounds in the bag, Nikhat then displayed her defensive skills as she no longer felt the need to be on the offensive in the final few minutes of her quarterfinal bout. However, Nitu (48kg) ended



her campaign with a 2-3 split verdict quarterfinal loss to reigning Asian champion Alua Balkibekova of Kazakhstan. The 21-year-old from Haryana, who is a two-time youth world champion, started the bout cautiously, enticing her opponent to come at her but struggled to land punches herself. The Indian tried hard to break Balkibekova's

defences as the Kazakh boxer moved around swiftly. Nitu managed to up the ante in the final round but it was too late as the judges ruled in her opponent's favour. Later in the day, Manisha (57kg), Parveen (63kg), Pooika Rani (81kg), Anamika (50kg) Jaisimine (60kg) and Nadini (+81kg) will compete in their quarterfinals bouts.

More than a slugger

10-time All-Star Pujols makes pitching debut at 42



Busch, May 17 : Albert Pujols had an absolute blast. And not at the plate this time, either. The long-time slugger made his first career pitching appearance on Sunday night, closing out a 15-6 blowout for the St Louis Cardinals over the San Francisco Giants. Pujols, the Cardinals' designated hitter and a 10-time All Star, entered to pitch in the ninth inning for the first time in his 22-year career. His pitches topped out at around 55mph and he gave up a three-run homer to Luis Gonzalez and a solo shot to Joey Bart but managed

to get the final three outs with plenty of margin to spare. "A dream come true to say that I did it," said Pujols, whose 681 home runs are the fifth-most in MLB history. "It was fun. It wasn't fun giving up two bombs. I think the fans had a good time. I'm sure the guys that took me deep did, too." 2018 @WSDashBaseball OF Luis Gonzalez both PITCHED tonight for the @SFGiants & HIT A HOME RUN off *checks notes* RHP Albert Pujols. The 42-year-old Pujols became the oldest player to make his pitching debut since Lena Blackburne brought himself

in at age 42 in his final game as a player/manager for the 1929 Chicago White Sox. With the Cardinals ahead by 13 and the outcome all but decided, Pujols overheard manager Oliver Marmol asking for someone to throw the final inning so the team could avoid using another reliever. "They were looking and I was like, 'I'll do it. Why not?'" Pujols said. He took plenty of good-natured ribbing from teammates. "He's got to keep the ball down," catcher Yadier Molina screamed in the locker room. Pujols had an explanation. "The thing is, I couldn't even get it there. Every time I tried to keep it down, I was bouncing it," he said. LaMonte Wade Jr grounded out against Pujols to end the game. Pujols had a slightly more successful day with the bat than the ball: he was 2 for 3 at the plate with a double. He scored twice and drove in a run.

Australia's Jai Hindley wins Giro d'Italia stage as Simon Yates loses 11 minutes



kilometres to go, as they got their man, Ecuador's Carapaz, into position. Carapaz was joined by five others in a sprint finish, before Romain Bardet, Carapaz and Hindley crossed the line together, with Hindley punching the air having taken his second Giro stage win ahead of Bardet in second and Carapaz third. A gutsy ride from Spaniard Juan Pedro López, the first rider from his

country to hold the pink jersey since Alberto Contador in 2015, enabled him to stay ahead on the general classification. Britain's Simon Yates endured a tough day, crossing the line 11 minutes and 15 seconds back on the stage winner, having been hampered by the knee injury he suffered in a fourth-stage crash. The BikeExchange-Jayco rider was dropped on the final climb of the day. Frenchman Bardet moved up to third in the overall standings, 14 seconds behind López, with Carapaz fourth at 15 seconds. Hindley is fifth, 20 seconds off the pace. The Giro takes a break on Monday, before returning on Tuesday with stage 10 - a 194-kilometre ride from Pescara to Jesi.

Melbourn, May 17 : Australian Jai Hindley of Bora-Hansgrohe came through a packed group of riders to win stage nine of the Giro d'Italia, a gruelling 187-km ride from Isernia to Blockhaus on Sunday, ahead of 2019 champion Richard Carapaz. Australian cricketer Andrew Symonds was a talent who always defied convention and sometimes belief. Having negotiated a series of challenging climbs, Eritrean Natnael Tesfatsion and home favourite Diego Rosa pulled clear of the peloton with 50 kilometres to go, but a spectacular fall by Tesfatsion descending Passo Lanciano ended his race. The peloton quickly closed the gap and a large group assembled, led by Ineos Grenadiers, with 15

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