



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

Vol. No. VII ■ Issue No. 95 ■ RNI-ASSENG/2014/58385 | GUWAHATI ■ MONDAY ■ MAY 23, 2022 | PAGES 8 ■ PRICE RS. 10.00

Elon Musk denies he sexually harassed...

02

Tom Davies's incredible finish lights up Catalans' win at...



07

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dome collapsed

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 22 :

A portion of the newly constructed Meghalaya Legislative Assembly building at Mawdiangdiang collapsed on Sunday. The 70 tonne dome of the Rs 177.7 crore building constructed by a UP-based UPNNRL collapsed at around 12:30 am. However, no injuries have been reported after the incident. According to an Executive Engineer of PWD (Building) overseeing the construction, the collapse might have triggered by a design fault. He said it would take another two weeks to clear the debris.

Cannabis seized

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 22 :

Police seized a massive consignment of cannabis on Saturday in an operation along the Assam - Tripura border and detained two persons in connection with the seizure. The huge cannabis consignment was seized in an operation by a team from Churaibari WP, who acted quickly to nab the smugglers. They stopped and searched a six-wheeler truck during which the cannabis was found. It was found concealed in 44 packets along with scrap metal in the truck, police said. Officials informed that a total of 555 kilograms of cannabis was seized during the operation. The seizure is believed to be worth around Rs 55 lakhs.

Workers killed

New Delhi, May 22 :

Three workers were killed and one had a narrow escape after a fire broke out at a battery manufacturing factory in Faridabad on Saturday. According to a senior fire officer, the building didn't have a fire no objection certificate. "Some batteries exploded and the fire quickly spread to the entire floor. The victims died from suffocation," a police officer said. The blaze has been brought under control and an investigation is underway, said Faridabad Police.

SIT to probe Batadrava Violence: GP Singh

Several persons arrested, OC suspended

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 22 :

Special Director General of Police (DGP), Law and Order, GP Singh said that a special investigation team will be set up to probe the incident that occurred at Batadrava and all people associated with the violence will be dealt with strictly under law. GP Singh visited violence-hit Batadrava in Nagaon district of Assam on Sunday. Singh inspected the incident spot and took stock of the situation at Batadrava where a police station was burned down by locals of the area on Saturday. Speaking to media persons at the spot, Singh also hinted that there is a possibility of Jihadis being associated with the incident and that an investigation will be conducted to find out if



there are any links of the organization with the incident. Singh said, "Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of central Assam Police, Satyaraj Hazarika has been instructed for a thorough and unbiased investigation into the incident. We have to wait till the post mortem report and forensic



reports are out. We will take further action after that." Singh further said, "All the culprits behind the incident will be identified from the video footages. A

forensic team will be engaged to investigate the cause of fire. An investigation will be done against all suspected people involved in it." GP Singh also said

that an investigation will be done to find out the reason for burning all the important documents and files at the police station. Following the death of Safiqul Islam in the custody of police, enraged locals set the Batadrava police station on fire on Saturday. According to allegations made by the locals, Safiqul was beaten to death in police custody after he had refused to pay the bribe demanded by officials of the police station. Massive damages were caused due to the fire as vehicles, arms and ammunition, and important documents were completely gutted. As many as 17 people including 14

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Bulldozers Take Down Homes Of Accused In Assam Police Station Attack

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 22 :

A day after a mob set a police station in Assam's Nagaon district on fire over an alleged custodial death case, bulldozers demolished the homes of at least three people allegedly involved in the violence. A senior police officer said the huts were demolished as part of an anti-encroachment drive. The demolition and the administration's subsequent anti-encroachment argument fits a pattern that has emerged of late in BJP-ruled states and



areas. Last month, BJP-controlled civic bodies razed homes of people allegedly involved in communal violence in Delhi's Jahangirpuri. Homes were also demolished in Madhya

Pradesh's Khargone over

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Quad Summit 2022

PM Modi to be among first global leaders to meet new Australia PM



New Delhi, May 22 :

The second in-person Quad Leaders' Summit in Japan will provide an opportunity for leaders of four countries to review the progress of

the grouping's initiatives and exchange views on developments in the Indo-Pacific as well as on global issues of mutual interest, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday. Modi will be one of the first few global leaders who will meet the newly elected PM of Australia Anthony Albanese,

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

'Never Negotiated Peace with India': CM Sarma Slams Rahul Gandhi on His Assam Remark

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 22 :

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and said that Assam never "negotiated peace" with India. Sarma's reaction came after Gandhi's remarks at the Ideas for India conference at Cambridge University in London. "This is the height of fake intellectualism!



Assam never 'negotiated peace' with India. With

Gandhiji's support, Gopinath Bordoloi had to struggle to keep Assam with Bharat Mata since Nehru left us to be with Pakistan as per Cabinet Mission Plan. Get your facts right, Mr Gandhi," the Assam CM tweeted while sharing a video of a suited and booted Gandhi. During the event in London, Rahul Gandhi launched a series of

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

No One Can Escape Justice: DGP



Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 22 :

The director general of Assam Police (DGP) Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta on Sunday said that strong repercussions await those who think they can get away from justice by burning down a police station. The Assam Police DGP was reacting to the violent incidents that took place in Batadrava in

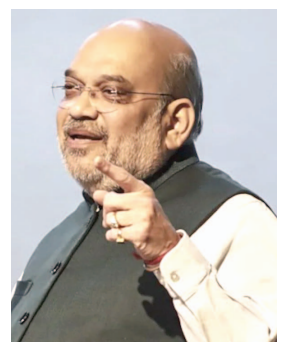
Assam's Nagaon district yesterday. DGP Mahanta penned a long note on social media expressing anguish over the incidents of the day. While he condemned the role of police officials in the custodial death of one Safiqul Islam and ensured that action will be taken against those at fault, he also warned

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Amit Shah Inaugurates Various Projects in Arunachal

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 22 :

On the second day of his visit to Arunachal Pradesh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah attended a public meeting and inaugurated various developmental projects at Namsai. Shah also visited the Golden Pagoda at Namsai along with union minister Kiren Rijiju and State Chief Minister Pema Khandu. Taking to twitter, Shah wrote, "Blessed to have visited the Golden



Pagoda Temple in Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh. Prayed for the peace, prosperity and

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Amit Shah slams Rahul Gandhi, asks him to 'discard Italian glasses' to see development

New Delhi, May 22 :

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday (May 22, 2022) lashed out at Congress for questioning what Prime Minister Narendra Modi did for the northeast region and said that the grand old party won't be able to see development if it keeps its eyes closed. Addressing a public rally in the Namsai district of Arunachal Pradesh, Shah

stated that the northeast region had remained neglected during 50 years of Congress rule and said that it came on the fast track of development only after PM Modi came to power in 2014. He also took a jibe at former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi and asked him to open his eyes and "discard Italian glasses" to see what development Modi has brought to the region. "Rahul Gandhi, open

your eyes and discard Italian glasses and wear Indian ones. Then only, you could see what development Modi has brought to the region, which your party failed to do in 50 years," Amit Shah said. He added that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has ended the "culture of corruption" in the Northeast and funds meant for development

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Qutub Minar complex row Govt denies excavation reports

New Delhi, May 22 :

Union Culture Minister GK Reddy on Sunday (May 22) debunked all the rumors about the excavation by the Archaeological Survey of India at the Qutub Minar complex. Talking to ANI Reddy said, "No such decision has been taken." Union Minister's statement comes after an appeal was filed regarding the restoration of 27 Hindu and Jain temples in the Qutub Minar complex in Mehrauli. According to ANI report, the suit, filed on behalf of Jain deity Tirthankar Lord Rishabh Dev and Hindu deity Lord Vishnu (through their next of friends), seeks restoration of the alleged temple complex, comprising

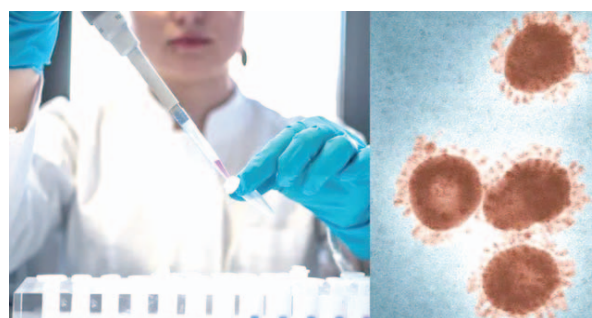


as many as 27 temples. The suit was filed to preserve and protect the religious and cultural heritage of India and to exercise the right to religion guaranteed by Article 25 and 26 of the Constitution of India by restoring

27 Hindu and Jain temples with respective deities which were dismantled, desecrated and damaged under the command and orders of Qutub-Din-Aibak, a

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Monkeypox is a matter of concern: US President Joe Biden



Washington, May 22 :

Amid the rising cases of Monkeypox virus globally, United States President Joe Biden expressed concern about the developing condition and

said that the rare viral cases emerging rapidly in Europe and the United States are a matter of concern, reported PTL. This marks Biden's first public comment on Monkeypox where he said if it turns into the stage of

rapid spread, it will be consequential. According to WHO, there are 92 confirmed cases of Monkeypox in the world right now spread across 12 countries. Biden's comments came as the president was asked about the disease by the reporters at Osan Air Base in South Korea, where he visited troops before taking off for Japan to continue his first trip to Asia as president. "They haven't told me the level of exposure yet but it is something that everybody should be concerned about," Biden said adding

that work was underway to determine what vaccine might be effective. Meanwhile, the World Health Organization (WHO) on Saturday warned that there will be more cases of monkeypox as it expands surveillance in countries where the disease is not typically found. It added that it will provide further guidance and recommendations in the coming days for countries on how to mitigate the spread of monkeypox. "The situation is evolving and WHO expects there will be

more cases of monkeypox identified as surveillance expands in non-endemic countries," the global health body said. According to health experts, the chances of Monkeypox turning into another pandemic are highly low. A senior US administration official said that there appears to be "a low risk" to the general public at this time. Fabian Leendertz, a researcher at the Robert Koch Institute in Germany, described the

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Russia may scrap age limits for soldiers to bolster Ukraine invasion force



London, May 22 : Senior Russian officials have proposed a new law that would eliminate age limits for military contract soldiers, in another sign the country is facing a shortage of infantry to continue its offensive in Ukraine. Two members of the ruling United Russia party who

introduced the law said the move would enable the military to utilise the skills of older professionals. "For the use of high-precision weapons, the operation of weapons and military equipment, highly professional specialists are needed. Experience shows that they become such by

the age of 40-45," it said. Currently, Russians aged 18-40 and foreigners aged 18-30 can enter into a first contract with the army. The lawmakers added that the proposed legislation would also make it easier to recruit civilian medics, engineers and operations and communication specialists. Military experts say Russia is facing unsustainable troop and equipment losses in Ukraine after a series of military setbacks that have forced Moscow to reduce its war aims. Russia initially put about 80% of its main ground combat forces - 150,000 men - into the war in February, according to western officials. In the 82 days since, it has "suffered losses of one third of the

ground combat force it committed," British military intelligence claimed last week. The Russian military has also faced issues of low morale among its troops, as reports have emerged that hundreds of troops are unwilling to fight in what Russia calls its "special military operation". "Russia lacks sufficient ground units with contract soldiers for a sustainable rotation. The troops are getting exhausted - they won't be able to keep this up for a

long period," said Rob Lee, a military analyst. Despite widespread speculation and warnings by western intelligence, the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, has so far opted against ordering a large-scale military draft and formally declaring war on Ukraine, possibly fearing the repercussions such measures would have at home. Instead, the Russian authorities have quietly stepped up their efforts to recruit new contract soldiers.

US accuses Russia of weaponising food in Ukraine crisis and holding global supplies 'hostage'

Washington, May 22 : The United States has accused Russia of holding the world's food supply hostage amid growing fears of famine in developing countries, as a former Russian president warned that the Kremlin would not release vital grain shipments without an end to western sanctions. Speaking at a UN security council meeting on Thursday, US secretary of

state Antony Blinken demanded that Russia lift its blockade of Ukraine's Black Sea ports and enable the flow of food and fertiliser around the world. "The Russian government seems to think that using food as a weapon will help accomplish what its invasion has not - to break the spirit of the Ukrainian people," he said at the meeting called by the Biden administration. "The



A woman shops at a flower market in Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province

food supply for millions of Ukrainians and millions more around the world has quite literally been held hostage by the Russian military," he added. Blinken called on Russia to "stop threatening to withhold food and fertiliser exports from countries that criticise your war of aggression." Russia and Ukraine produce 30% of the global wheat supply and 69% of the world's sunflower oil. Earlier on Thursday, Dmitry Medvedev, a former president of Russia who is now senior security official,

warned that Russia would not continue food supplies unless the west eased its sanctions on the Kremlin. After pleas from western government and the United Nations to Moscow to allow the flow of food to avert possible famine in some countries, Medvedev said on Thursday that Russia was ready to do so but expected "assistance from trading partners, including on international platforms" in return. "Otherwise, there's no logic: on the one hand, insane sanctions are being imposed against us, on the

other hand, they are demanding food supplies," Medvedev said on the messaging app Telegram. "Things don't work like that, we're not idiots." "Countries importing our wheat and other food products will have a very difficult time without supplies from Russia. And on European and other fields, without our fertilisers, only juicy weeds will grow," added Medvedev, who served as president between 2008 and 2012 but is now deputy chairman of Russia's security council.

Boeing's Starliner capsule docks for first time with International Space Station

Washington, May 22 : Boeing's new Starliner crew capsule has docked for the first time with the International Space Station, completing a major objective in a crucial test flight into orbit without astronauts aboard. The rendezvous of the gumdrop-shaped CST-100 Starliner with the orbital research outpost, currently home to a seven-member crew, occurred on Friday nearly 26 hours after the capsule was launched from Cape Canaveral US Space Force Base in Florida. Starliner lifted off on Thursday atop an Atlas V rocket furnished by the Boeing-Lockheed Martin joint venture United Launch Alliance (ULA) and reached its intended preliminary orbit 31 minutes later despite the failure of two onboard thrusters. Boeing said the two defective thrusters posed no risk to the rest of the spaceflight, which comes after more than two years of delays and costly engineering setbacks in a program designed to give Nasa another vehicle for sending its astronauts to and from orbit. Docking with ISS took place at 8.28pm EDT (00.28 GMT Saturday) as the

two vehicles flew 271 miles (436km) over the south Indian Ocean off the coast of Australia, according to commentators on a live Nasa webcast of the linkup. It marked the first time spacecraft from both of Nasa's Commercial Crew Program partners were physically attached to the space station at the same time. A SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule has been docked to the space station since delivering four astronauts to ISS in late April. Much was riding on the outcome, after an ill-fated first test flight in late 2019 nearly ended with the vehicle's loss following a software glitch that effectively foiled the spacecraft's ability to reach the space station. Subsequent problems with Starliner's propulsion system, supplied by Aerojet Rocketdyne, led Boeing to scrub a second attempt to launch the capsule last summer. Starliner remained grounded for nine more months while the two companies sparred over what caused fuel valves to stick shut and which firm was responsible for fixing them,

as Reuters reported last week. The rocket with Starliner aboard launches from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on Thursday.



A kid plays at a park in Xiangfang District of Harbin

UN human rights commissioner criticised over planned Xinjiang visit

Beijing, May 22 : A group of 40 politicians from 18 countries have told the UN high commissioner for human rights that she risks causing lasting damage to the credibility of her office if she goes ahead with a visit to China's Xinjiang region next week. Michelle Bachelet is scheduled to visit Kashgar

and Ürümqi in Xinjiang during her trip, which starts on Monday. Human rights organisations say China has forced an estimated 1 million or more people into internment camps and prisons in the region. The US and a number of other western countries have described China's treatment of the Uyghur minority living there as genocidal, a charge Beijing calls the "lie of the century". In a statement seen by the Guardian before its publication, the politicians from the InterParliamentary Alliance on China (Ipac) accused Beijing of organising a "Potemkin-style tour". In particular, they said they feared the government would use the cover of coronavirus restrictions to prevent the

visit from being as free as it needed to be. The group includes six politicians under Chinese government sanctions, including Reinhard Bütikofer, the German Green MEP and chair of the European parliament's China delegation; Helena Kennedy, the Labour peer; and Iain Duncan Smith, the former Conservative party leader. The politicians highlighted the UN terms of reference for such visits, which specify that the commissioner should be given freedom of movement, conversations with people active in civil society and confidential and unsupervised access to witnesses, all of which could be undermined by China's crackdown in the region and its Covid-19 restrictions.

Chat group leak reveals far-right fantasies of Germany's AfD

Berlin, May 22 : The leaked contents of a WhatsApp chat group associated with Germany's far-right AfD has offered an unfiltered glimpse into party discussions, including fantasies over the imprisonment of Angela Merkel, homophobic attacks and armed resistance. Called the Quasselgruppe, or "yakking group", the chat contains conversations between 76 of the 92 Alternative für Deutschland MPs who entered parliament in 2017 for the first time after the federal election. It contains about 40,000 posts sent from 2017 to 2021 and was passed on by an anonymous AfD member last

summer to journalists from the broadcasters NDR and WDR who were making a documentary about the party. The discussions focus on topics including the US presidential election, the pandemic and how the aggressively nationalistic AfD should position itself with regards to the Querdenker movement, a coronavirus denial group. It also touches on other events that deeply shocked the political world in Germany, such as the storming of the Reichstag building in September 2020 by demonstrators protesting against coronavirus safety measures who were assisted

by AfD members, and the constitutional crisis, also in 2020, triggered by the collaboration between the AfD and the CDU that enabled the election of a state premier in Thuringia. There are calls for regime change, reflecting some of the language widely heard among anti-Merkel street protests in some parts of eastern Germany, with one calling for the "old regime" to be brought to an end, predicting a "ruthless battle" for which it would be necessary to arm. On Merkel, then chancellor, one post read: "This traitor deserves to be sent to prison until the end of her life.



Students learn to make red bean buns during an event on Chinese medicine and culture in Msida, Malta,

Global heating is cutting sleep across the world, study finds

London, May 22 : Rising temperatures driven by the climate crisis are cutting the sleep of people across the world, the largest study to date has found. Good sleep is critical to health and wellbeing. But global heating is increasing night-time temperatures, even faster than in the day, making it harder to sleep. The analysis revealed that the average global citizen is already losing 44 hours of sleep a year, leading to 11 nights with less than seven hours' sleep, a standard benchmark of sufficient sleep. Lost sleep will increase further as the planet continues to heat but it affects some groups much more than others. The sleep loss per degree of warming is about a quarter higher for women than men, twice as high for those over 65 years old and three times higher for those in less affluent nations. The

researchers used data from sleep-tracking wristbands used by 47,000 people over 7 million nights and across 68 countries. Previous studies have shown that rising temperatures



damage health, including increased heart attacks, suicides and mental health crises, and accidents and injuries, as well as reducing the ability to work. Poor sleep has also been shown to have these effects and the researchers said their study suggests that disturbed sleep may be a key mechanism by which heat causes these health impacts. Worryingly, the researchers said, their data showed no signs of people being able to adapt to hotter nights. "For most of us, sleep is a very familiar part of our

daily routine; we spend nearly a third of our lives asleep," said Kelton Minor, at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, and who led the research. "But growing numbers of people in many countries around the world do not sleep enough." "In this study, we provide the first planetary-scale evidence that warmer than average temperatures erode human sleep," he said. "It might actually be the tip of the iceberg, because it's very likely our estimates are conservative.



Washington, May 22 : Elon Musk has denied claims in a news report that he sexually harassed a flight attendant on a private jet in 2016, calling the accusations "utterly untrue". SpaceX, the rocket company founded by Musk, paid the female attendant \$250,000 (£200,000) in a severance settlement after a sexual misconduct claim against the world's richest person, according to the news website Business Insider. The attendant was a cabin crew member who was contracted to work for SpaceX's corporate jet fleet. She accused Musk of exposing his erect penis to her, rubbing her leg without consent and offered to buy her a horse if she performed an erotic massage, according to interviews and documents obtained by Business Insider. Musk, who is worth \$212bn and is also CEO of the electric carmaker Tesla, told his 94.1 million Twitter followers that the allegations were

"utterly untrue". The Guardian has not been able to verify the Business Insider account. SpaceX has been approached for comment. Shares of the electric carmaker skidded more than 10% on Friday amid concerns that the alleged sexual misconduct and Musk's previous political comments could threaten to damage Tesla's brand and sales. The share drop knocked about \$66bn off Tesla's market value and put the stock at its lowest since last August. The alleged incident took place in 2016 and the settlement was agreed in 2018. According to a declaration prepared in support of the claim, the attendant said that after taking the job she was encouraged to train as a masseuse so she could give Musk massages. It was during one of those massages, onboard Musk's Gulfstream jet, that she was propositioned by the SpaceX chief executive. The attendant, who Insider does not name, told her friend

that she was asked to go to Musk's cabin during a flight to London to give a "full body massage". Upon entering the room, she found Musk was "completely naked except for a sheet covering the lower half of his body". The declaration says that during the massage Musk "exposed his genitals" and "touched her and offered to buy her a horse if she would 'do more', referring to the performance of sex acts". The attendant, a horse rider, declined and continued with the massage without any sexual activity. In an interview with Business Insider about the allegations, the attendant's friend said Musk's penis was erect when he propositioned her. According to the declaration, after the incident the attendant felt she was being marginalised in her job. She felt "she was being pushed out and punished for refusing to prostitute herself", says the declaration.

Guest House

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

First ever SAI National Centre of Excellence for sports Inaugurated at New Coochbehar



Assam Rising, May 22: Hon'ble Union Minister State of Railways & Textiles Smt. Darshana Jardosh visited NFR on 21st May 2022. One MOU was signed yesterday in her presence between Railways and Sports Ministry for setting up of India's first ever National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) for Sports in the historic town of Coochbehar. Ministry of Railways, in collaboration with Sports Authority of India (SAI) is set to construct the same. The foundation stone of the National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) for Sports was laid in the presence of Hon'ble

MOS for Railways & Textiles, Smt Darshana Jardosh, Hon'ble MOS for Youth Affairs & Sports and Home Affairs Shri Nisith Pramanik and Shri John Barla, Hon'ble MOS for Minority Affairs at New Coochbehar. Senior officials from the Ministry of Railways and Sports were present on the occasion. With the setting up of this SAI NCOE, Coochbehar will become the national hub for sports. This new centre will provide world class sporting and coaching facilities to aspiring

athletes of not only of Coochbehar but also of the Northeast region. National and International events can be organized in Coochbehar. While many sports persons working in N. F. Railway have brought laurels for the country in International level in-

cluding Olympic, the setting up of this centre will further promote the sporting activities by many folds. Hon'ble Union Minister State of Railways & Textiles Smt. Darshana Jardosh also conducted a window trailing inspection of the New Jalpaiguri to New Coochbehar section on 21st May, 2022 jointly with Hon'ble Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports and Home Affairs Shri Nisith Pramanik. Shri Anshul Gupta, General Manager, Northeast Frontier Railway and senior railway officials were present during the inspection. She also inaugurated the Integrated Video Surveillance System at New Coochbehar Station today. This system will help ensuring safety and security of passengers and Railway Property

by monitoring railway premises on round the clock basis. Smt. Jardosh also inspected a stall featuring local products at New Coochbehar station under 'One Station, One Product' scheme. This scheme promotes "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and makes railway stations a sales hub for local products. A review meeting was also conducted with senior railway officials at New Coochbehar on 22nd May, 2022 where she took stock of the landslides affected railway areas in Lumding - Badarpur hill section. Smt. Jardosh directed railway officials to speed up the restoration works to normalise train connectivity at the earliest in the hill section.

'Banyabondhu' organised cycle rally

Chhaygaon, May 22: An awareness cycle rally is taken out on Sunday by the initiative of Banyabondhu for conservation and awareness of 'River Dolphin' from Rohini Kumar Choudhury High School, Kukurmara to Rampur of greater South Kamrup region. It is to be notable here that the kulsri river has started to dry up and the fish fauna including existence of endangered Gangetic River Dolphins is at stake and urgent need to be conserved it. According to the aware citizens this



cycle rally by 'Banyabondhu' is an praiseworthy step to create more awareness among people about such important matter. Need to be mentioned here that more than 50 people participated in the rally.

Freshers' social & prize-distribution ceremony held

Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, May 22: The freshers' social and prize-distribution ceremony of Kissan



Bidyapith School, Nagaon, North Lakhimpur was held on Friday at the school auditorium. The meeting held on this occasion was started by a chorus performed by the students of the school at 10 a.m. The welcome address was delivered to the

newcomers by the Headmistress of the school Makhani Dutta Bhuyan. In his speech as the appointed speaker, subject teacher (economics) of ADK HS School Sanjib Borah commented that it could not be reached in the main objective of education if the students were not developed by life oriented education. In the meeting, which was anchored by student Kangkona Das and teacher-writer Sukumar Payeng, prizes of different departments of school week-2022 were distributed. Ashish Sameer Saikia and Kangkona Das got

the honour of best male student and female student-2021-22 respectively. Darpan Gogoi got the best player (boy) prize, Barasha Das got the best player (girl) prize, Kangkona Das got the best cultural competitor prize, and Bhaskar Das got the best literary competitor prize. In the meeting, Sanjib Borah released the wall magazine of the school 'Sashwati'. Several students performed songs, dances, acting and recited poems in the meeting. School managing and development committee president Kusharam Das, and the guardians and other local people were present in the event.

USTM signs pact with Guwahati Biotech Park for Startup Ecosystem and Biotechnology

Assam Rising, Khanapara, Ri Bhoi, May 22 : To encourage and support the start-up, incubation and development of innovation led, high growth knowledge based business in the multidisciplinary area of biotechnology, the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Guwahati Biotech Park (GBP) in the presence of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Government of India, Dr Hemant Biswa Sharma,

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Keshab Mahanta Hon'ble minister of Health and Family Welfare, Science and Technology and Information Technology, Assam, Dr Ranuj Pegu, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Assam. On behalf of USTM, the pact was signed by Prof GD Sharma, Vice Chancellor, USTM while on behalf of GBP, it was signed by Shri Kailash Karthik N, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup (R) and CEO, Guwahati Biotech Park. The MoU



was signed on Friday, 20th May 2022. Speaking on the occasion, Prof GD Sharma, VC, USTM said, "The MoU will provide better opportunities to collaborate in developing technology based on various herbs found in North East India. The students, scholars and faculty members will be getting benefitted. Joint project and training in the field of biotechnology will be planned in emerging areas to create ecosystem of incubator and startups." As per the MoU, the two institutions will focus on Internship/training programs for students, Exchange of Resources be-

tween both the organizations in the form of Guest Faculties/ Resource Person etc., creating a Knowledge Sharing Platform to support each other on various activities and events, conducting Sensitization Workshops across North East India on Entrepreneurship and Startup Ecosystem and Biotechnology by both the organizations. Guwahati Biotech Park (GBP) is the first Biotech Park in North East India and is a joint initiative of Govt. of Assam and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt. of India.



Anti Tobacco awareness campaign by Pathik starts

Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 22: NGO Pathik started their 4th edition of Anti Tobacco Awareness campaign with Cyclathon today at Dr. Bhubaneswar Barooah Cancer Institute in association of Dr. Bhubaneswar Barooah Cancer institute, Anupam Jeevan NGO, Consumer Right Organization-Assam Chapter, SMC-89, Topchem and Guwahati Cycling Community. The Against Tobacco Awareness Cyclathon started at 7.00 am in the morning at BBCI with the flag off by the director of BBCI Dr. Amal Katak with an opening speech saying about the current increasing threat of Smoke and Smokeless tobacco users of Assam and Northeast India. The 18 KM long

Cyclathon, starting from BBCI through Rihabari road, Noonmati, via VIP road through Khanapara via G S Road ended at Dispur Supermarket where about 100 cyclists took part in the Awareness drive. With the leadership of the director of Pathik Victor Rajkumar the association of several organization took part in the 4th edition of awareness drive where Dr. Srabana Mishra Bhagawati, Anirban Das, Bhupendra Nath Das, Rajlaxmi Rajashree, Kukil Das, Archana Tiwari, Kalyan Borthakur, Manuranjan Phukan, Uday Buragohain, Tridip baruah, Monalisa Mahanta, Poly Baruah give their own activities towards the awareness drive where GLP Social Circle and Sankar Lal

Goenka gave their supports. The 9 days long 4th Edition awareness drive will be followed by online Essay and Poster competition on May 24 followed by workshop for the health workers and counselors on May 25-26 and debate on May 26 which will be followed by State Art Competition on 29th May at Shardhanjali Kanon and the main event the 4th Edition of Anti Tobacco Walkathon at 6.30 am morning of 29th May at Nehru Stadium ending with the closing ceremony on 31st May at BBCI. For any enquiry for participation the organizers are requesting to call @ 94350-91199 / 86389-67551 or mail to ngopathik@gmail.com. Lets take a step against Tobacco and make the country Tobacco Free.

DGP terms Batadroba incident as an organized, systematic pre-planned attack by fundamentalists' organization!

Assam Rising, NAGAON, May 22: Tense continued here for second day at Nagaon Batadroba on Sunday too after melting the Batadroba PS into smoke on Saturday last by a large number of people of Salmabari area near Dhim. Police had already arrested five persons including two women who allegedly brought the petroleum products into the Batadroba PS campus yesterday and also set the PS on fire. Besides, police also detained other 17 persons in context to the gruesome incident till the time of filing this report. Earlier this morning, the district police administration with a huge police and other security forces rushed to Salmabari area and conducted an eviction drive in which the police administration evicted the houses of two persons identified as Hijbul Ali and Mojibur Rahman who are relatives of the deceased - Safikul Islam and went to the PS along with those attackers yesterday, sources added. Meanwhile Assam DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, Special DGP GP Singh, DIG, Middle Assam Zone Saityaraj Hazarika visited Batadroba PS today. During the visit, the top Cops reviewed the entire incident and also took stocks from the senior district police officials. During the trip, DGP directed the SP, Nagaon to constitute a Special Investigative Team (SIT) to enquire into the entire Batadroba incident and also instructed the district police head to enquire the custodial death of the youth Safikul Islam by an additional superintendent of police officer level police official from the neighbouring district like Morigaon, Hojai, Karbi Anglong district. Moreover, he ordered the district police head to send the postmortem report of Safikul Islam for forensic probe on Monday next so that an impartial investigation can be carried out in connection with the mysterious death of the youth, sources said. While interacting with the local media persons here at Batadroba today, DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta termed the entire episode as an organized systematic pre-planned attack by Ancharul Islam's group which is a branch of Al Qaeda and during the prelimi-

nary police investigation, police had already found its roots behind the incident. He claimed a master conspiracy were being packed behind the incident. - Such acts will not be tolerated at any point and strong action will be taken up against it, Mahanta said. We are examining secretly all the movements of those people working for the Islamic fundamentalists' organizations, DGP Mahanta said, adding that such organizations were trying to set up new sleeper cell in the state as well as in the district by instigating some people. We have found a clear-cut symptoms of those instigations of fundamentalists' organizations here in Batadroba PS incident as someone brought petrol and fire yesterday, Mahanta added. Claiming the presence of various criminals including drugs mafias, dacoits among the attackers, he also said that it might be the part of the pre-planned attack on the PS to destroy the case diaries, FIRs and other documents kept in the PS as during the examination of video clips as well as investigation, police confirmed the presence of several notorious drugs mafias like - Allauddin and some other criminals among the attackers. He hinted it too that such fundamentalists backed incident of barbaric attack on police personnel or other, might take place tonight too at several places in the areas. Referring to the eviction drive initiated by police administration early this morning at Salmabari area, DGP Mahanta said that during the attack on the PS, it was feared that the attackers might have stolen arms and ammunition from the PS and hence police conducted the eviction drive at the houses of two attackers at Salmabari village. If it is needed, police will move to dig out the arms and ammunition from the ground of those attackers, Mahanta reiterated further. Meanwhile, the incharge officer of Batadroba PS put under suspension with immediate effect while the entire staff of the police personnel of the PS were called back to Nagaon police reserve last night itself by Superintendent of Police, Leena Doley, sources added.

Wall Magazine 'Kishalay' inaugurated

Assam Rising, Chhaygaon, May 21: At the historic institution of South Kamrup region Barbhitha Anchalik High School a well written and embellished Wall Magazine is unveiled today. With some thought provoking themes the wall magazine 'Kishalay' is prepared by the trainee students of K.R.D college of education, Chhaygaon who are deputed in the Barbhitha Anchalik High School for practice teaching collaboration with the students of the school and teachers. The wall magazine 'Kishalay' is inaugurated



today by Mainul Haque, distinguished Social Worker and Youth leader of the region. In his inaugural speech he praises teachers and students for their creative activity which has carried a meaningful message towards the society. It is to

be mentioned here that on this occasion Abdul Hamid, headmaster of the school, trainee students like Bhisma Sarkar, Hasina Akhtar, Iftesam Siddiqi, Smita Choudhury and other senior teachers as well as dignitaries were present.

Book Your Ads in The Assam Rising

Text Classified Ad

Classified Display Ad

Display Ad

Special Offer!

www.dainandinbartagroup.in
assamrising@gmail.com
 94010-33823

THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VII, ISSUE NO. 95 MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022

'Lesser known' disease spreading

After Covid-19 ravaged the globe, speculations quickly become rife about any 'lesser known' disease spreading even in another corner of the world. A number of monkeypox cases have been identified in recent days, mostly in young men in Europe. In Europe, infections have been reported in Britain, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. On Wednesday, US officials reported one case of monkeypox in a man who had recently travelled to Canada, where authorities are investigating potential infections. In wake of a spurt in monkeypox cases in some foreign countries, a health expert insisted on observing the evolution of the disease while also advising not to panic. The Centre issued an alert to the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and asked them to keep a close watch on the situation evolving in relation to the monkeypox cases abroad. Everything should be taken seriously. And we should keep a guard but at the same time, there is no need to get panic. We need to study how it is evolving, and how many people are getting affected. Fortunately, it is not that severe as smallpox. Currently we do not know how many people are really dying, whether they've received any treatment or not. We do not know the treatment and maybe the smallpox vaccine can be used as a treatment. Maybe, it can be used as a treatment, but we do not know that yet. Monkeypox is a virus that causes fever symptoms as well as a distinctive bumpy rash. It is usually mild, although there are two main strains: the Congo strain, which is more severe - with up to 10% mortality - and the West African strain, which has a fatality rate of more like 1% of cases. The UK cases are least have been reported as the West African strain. Portugal has logged five confirmed cases, and Spain is testing 23 potential cases. Neither country has reported cases before. Meanwhile, US health officials confirmed that a Massachusetts person tested positive for monkeypox, marking the first occurrence of the rare virus in the United States this year. The patient is an adult male who just travelled to Canada, according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Initial testing was done by the agency on Tuesday, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed it. The UK has also reported 9 cases, mostly among gay or bisexual men. There is no link to travel to a country where monkeypox is endemic, reports said on the coming up cases in the country, and exactly where and how they acquired their infections remains under "urgent investigation", including whether they have further links to each other. But perhaps there is no factor of fear.

Be a Citizen Journalist

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

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

Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

Who tears people away from their families and flies them halfway around the world?

Have recently been thinking about the way we treat people who have broken the law. There is a significant philosophical issue here regarding the kind of societies we, as members of a globalised world, want to live in: if you have lived in a place since infancy or childhood and you commit a crime in that place, should you be punished in that place? Or should you be deported back to the country of your birth? These questions come to mind as I read about the UK's deportation flights. According to analysis by a campaign group, published in the Guardian last week, of 20 Jamaicans facing one recent deportation flight, the majority arrived in Britain as children. (The flight left this week with seven people on board; others remained in the UK pending legal challenges.) In Jamaica we are no strangers to families being permanently torn apart, with

some members sent thousands of miles away. We all know those dark days in our history. In November 2020, the Jamaican high commissioner and the UK government agreed that people who arrived in the UK aged 12 or under should not be deported, and many people were removed from a planned flight in December 2020 on this basis. We would hope that the UK will honour this agreement. We need to have

Lisa Hanna

an open and honest debate about this. Is it humane to displace human beings from one country to another, where they may not have lived for decades and no longer have connections? Is it fair to the recipient country who would now have to bear the burden of trying to reintegrate that person into a society that is foreign to them? And is it fair to that person, who not only has to pay their debt to society through imprisonment but has the additional punishment of having to rebuild their life in a country

Ayodhya toh bas jhanki hai, Kashi Mathura baqi hai (Ayodhya is just a teaser, Kashi and Mathura are next in line)". More than 30 years later, this war cry from the 1990s used by the Bharatiya Janata Party and Vishwa Hindu Parishad during the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi movement has now reached 'Kashi'. The legal dispute over the Gyanvapi mosque complex, which stands adjacent to the Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi, dates back to 1991, the year that the P.V. Narasimha Rao government passed the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act to preserve the "religious character" of a place of worship as it existed on 15 August 1947. More than three decades later, the mosque as well as the law are fighting for their survival. In the past week alone, the Hindu community's claim over the mosque was heard more than once at a local court in Varanasi as well as the Supreme Court, orders were passed to seal the area in the masjid complex where a 'shiva linga' has allegedly discovered, and a report claiming discovery of debris of old temples was submitted in the court. And that is why, the Gyanvapi Mosque row is ThePrint's Newsmaker of the Week. The Gyanvapi mosque is historically believed to have been built by Aurangzeb after destroying the Kashi Vishweshwar temple. One of the sources quoted by experts to prove this claim dates back to 353 years ago, written in 1669 by Saqi Musta'idd Khan, Aurangzeb's contemporary historian. A passage from Khan's book, Maasir-i-

Alamgiri reads, "Orders respecting Islamic affairs were issued to the governors of all the provinces that the schools and places of worship of the irreligious be subject to demolition and that with the utmost urgency the manner of teaching and the public practices of the sects of these misbelievers be suppressed." However, how this history is interpreted is key to how it is accepted and made peace with. For instance, while historians of the Hindu Right use the passage to paint Aurangzeb Alamgir as a religious fanatic who ordered all temples in India to be demolished, secular historians have since attempted to point out how demolitions at the time were largely political - they were often used to punish "disloyal Hindu officers in their service by desecrating temples with which they were associated". Citing this history, several attempts have been made by the Hindu side to reclaim the Gyanvapi mosque area. The original suit in the case was filed in 1991 in the name of the deity 'Swayambhu Lord Vishweshwar,' demanding that Hindus be allowed to "renovate and reconstruct their temple". While this suit was pending, the Gyanvapi mosque's management committee, Anjuman Intezamia Masjid, managed to get a stay on the proceedings from the Allahabad High Court in 1998. The committee had said that such a suit is barred by provisions of the Places of Worship Act, 1991. While this stay continued for the next two decades, another attempt for an ASI survey was made through an application filed in December 2019, a month after the Supreme Court's Ayodhya verdict that gave the disputed site to the Hindus. Despite the high court's 1998 stay, Civil Judge (Senior Division) Ashutosh Tiwari allowed

Trump isn't out there with a gun, but he's enabled this war against black people

Last weekend, just as I finished a live performance in California of Four Questions,

the Grammy award-winning jazz collaboration for which I provided spoken words, word reached me about the racist killing of 10 people as they shopped in Buffalo, New York. I try never to be surprised by evil and never paralysed by despair. Instead, my immediate reaction was "here we go again", with the horror, the suffering and then the now familiar routine of rhetorical gestures and superficial posturing. On Tuesday, Joe Biden described white supremacy as a poison, and he is right, but - as ever - he fails to understand the gravity of his failure to make racial justice a priority; to see this cowardly white supremacy as a threat to American democracy. The simple truth is that you cannot see this latest neofascist attack in isolation. Think of the attack on the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal church in Charleston, when a white supremacist terrorist killed nine African Americans during their Bible study in 2015. Think of the attack on the American Asian community in Atlanta last year, when four people were murdered amid assertions from prosecutors that the attack was fuelled by race and gender hatred. Or the attack on Chicanos in El Paso, Texas, in 2019, when 22 people were killed in an allegedly hate-motivated shooting; and the murder of 11 Jewish Americans at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh the same year by a man who said Jews

"were committing a genocide to his people". White supremacy is as American as apple pie. It was constitutive of the founding of our nation, like a serpent wrapped

Cornel West

around the legs of the table on which the Declaration of Independence and constitution were signed. What we saw in Buffalo at the weekend is another manifestation of it. From what we know, the alleged shooter was a young and gullible man who got caught in the web of neofascist propaganda. But it is important to look beyond him - to look to those who have created this atmosphere of anger and hate. After the death of George Floyd, there was a marvellous display of multiracial solidarity, not just here but around the world. But the US has been unable to fight against this neofascist challenge. The Trump forces have got stronger. They have become the public face of US neofascism, and their targets are black people and indigenous people and LGBTQ people. Trump is not out there with a gun, but he

erstwhile Kashi Vishwanath temple and Shringar Gauri temple within the mosque complex fall under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. The 1991 law exempts monuments covered by the 1958 law. Before the Supreme Court could hear the matter, an application was filed before Civil Judge (Senior Division) Ravi Kumar Diwakar claiming that a Shiva linga was found in the premises of the mosque during the inspection. On Monday, the judge promptly directed the district magistrate of Varanasi to seal the place where the Shiva linga had been allegedly found. The Supreme Court

allowed this order to continue on Tuesday, while directing that this should not "restrain or impede the access of Muslims to the mosque or the use of the Mosque for the purpose of performing Namaz and religious observances". On Thursday, two reports on the videography survey were submitted to the Varanasi court, claiming that debris of old temples were found at the walls outside the barricading, and Hindu motifs such as bells, kalash, flowers and trishul were visible on pillars in the tehkhana (basement). On Friday, the Supreme Court bench refused to interfere with the survey, but transferred the case to a district judge, saying that "a slightly more seasoned and mature hand (should) hear this". It asked the district judge to decide whether the suit by the Hindu side is maintainable on priority basis. The court said that it was taking this decision with "peace uppermost on their minds", and to "maintain balance and fraternity between two communities". Importantly, the court remarked that the 1991 law only bars conversion of religious places of worship, but does not bar "ascertainment of religious character" of these places. The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 prohibits conversion of places of worship-like churches, mosques and temples to a place of worship of a different religion. It also says that any court proceeding regarding any such conversion would cease after the Act comes into force. The law exempted the Ayodhya dispute, and any court proceedings concerning it. But why did a law passed in 1991 set the date of India's independence as the cut-off

date to maintain the status quo of religious sites? Because independence, in the words of the Supreme Court in its Babri judgment, "was a watershed moment to heal the wounds of the past". When this law was being debated in Parliament, BJP leader Uma Bharti did not want 15 August 1947 as the cut-off date, demanding that a time frame be set up "to restore the original glory of all the religious places since the days of Alwan-Qasim". The best way of finding a solution to such disputes, according to her, "is to restore the old traditional glory of all the religious places". In many ways, this quest for "original glory" has made its appearance all over again with the Gyanvapi mosque row. However, all such proposals were rejected. L.K. Advani and a few other BJP leaders staged a walkout, and the Bill was passed even as BJP members "peeped into the House". With the legal battle over Gyanvapi mosque and the Places of Worship Act being used to question the other, the stage is set for the Battle of Kashi. The 1991 law is naturally quoted as a legal protection against any court proceeding that involves the Gyanvapi mosque now. This is especially relevant in light of the Supreme Court's observations on the law in its Babri verdict. The five-judge bench had asserted that the 1991 law is "intrinsically related to the obligations of a secular state", and with this law, "Parliament has mandated in no uncertain terms that history and its wrongs shall not be used as instruments to oppress the present and the future". However, the dispute in turn has also threatened the very existence of this law. Several BJP leaders, including MP Harnath Singh Yadav, Madhya Pradesh in-charge P. Muralidhar Rao, Chhattisgarh's former home minister Brijmohan Agrawal and former Uttar Pradesh minister Sidharth Nath Singh, are pushing for a relook at the provisions of the law. So both, the Gyanvapi Mosque dispute and the 1991 law are fighting for their survival. The battle might be won in courts or in Parliament, but the outcome would decide the future of not just the tangible religious structures in India, but also the intangible foundational structures of secularism and religious freedom that the country was built on.

Letter to the Editor

AP delegation to World Economic Forum is laudable

Dear Editor,

This has reference to the DC News dated 21st May "Jagan to tap investors at WEF" Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister of AP, attending World Economic Forum with his delegation is laudable. This is an earnest effort to tap investors. Their participation is well planned in the areas of Health Care in general with special reference to testing and treating covid patients, Education and Skill Development, Industrialisation, Automation, Mechanisation and, strengthening door step delivery of products, digitalization etc. I am sure the team will be successful in tapping investments.

Kantamsetti Lakshman Rao

Visakhapatnam

LIC listed on the NSE at Rs 872 at 8.11% discount

New Delhi, May 22 : Life Insurance Corporation of India, the country's largest life insurer with a market share of 64.1 percent in terms of premiums, listed on the NSE at Rs 872 at 8.11% discount over its issue price. The script got listed at BSE at Rs 867.20 per share, 8.62% per cent discount over its issue price of Rs 949. The shares of the company at day end closed at Rs 875.45 per share on BSE and at Rs 875.25 per share on NSE. The initial public offering was offered at a lower price band of Rs 902 per share and higher price band of Rs 949 per equity share. The market capitalization of the company post closing stood at Rs. 5.53 lakh crore as per BSE and Rs. 5.52 lakh crore as per NSE, which means that investors lost nearly Rs



50,000 crore on the stock's debut on May 17. With the listing, policyholders and employees also saw their investments turn negative. LIC had offered a discount of Rs 60 to eligible policyholders and Rs 45 to retail investors and employees, which translates into an issue price of Rs 889 a share for policyholders and Rs 904 for retail investors and employees. The firm raised

around Rs 21,000 crore and was valued at Rs 6.01 lakh crore at its upper price band of the issue of Rs 949 a share. According to

Bloomberg research, LIC will become the second-worst listing among 11 firms that listed globally and which raised over \$1 billion this year. ASR Microelectronics Co Ltd in Shanghai, which raised a little over \$1 billion, listed on January 14 at a nearly 34 percent discount. Analysts are concerned that the stock could drop further as retail investors look for listing gains, little growth prospects for the legacy business, risks of further disinvestment by the government and the absence of major incentives

for shareholders. Macquarie Capital Securities (India) Pvt. started coverage of LIC's stock with a neutral rating and a price target of Rs 1,000. "The call here is whether LIC will be able to diversify the product mix in favor of high margin non-par products," analysts led by Suresh Ganapathy wrote in a report Tuesday, noting that the insurer has lost market share in individual business over the past several years due to lack of a "diversified product portfolio and excessive focus on single premium and group business."

Make My Trip partners with banks, NBFCs

Mumbai, May 22 : Online travel firm MakeMyTrip on Thursday said it has partnered with 15 banks, NBFCs and fintech players, including HDFC Bank, IDFC Bank, Capital float and Zest Money, for its 'book now pay later' option while booking flights or hotels. The company's fintech arm TripMoney has established a marketplace attracting 15 banks, NBFCs and fintech players, which also include Kissht, Lazypay and Simpl, among others, to offer easy travel credit to travellers. MakeMyTrip said in a statement. The book now pay later (BNPL) payment has



been introduced on bookings for travel, flight or hotels, on MakeMyTrip as well as on the Goibibo app, it added. "The BNPL and EMI options will help provide easy and quick access to short-term credit for our customers on attractive terms. This will help travellers meet their aspirations to travel more frequently and to newer destinations," Make My Trip Co-Founder and Group CEO Rajesh Magow said. The online travel services firm said the initial response to BNPL on the MakeMyTrip platform has been very en-

couraging and it has witnessed 60 per cent growth in BNPL transactions quarter-on-quarter over the past one year. "Currently, more than 75 per cent customers who opt for BNPL select no-cost EMIs (to be paid within 3 months) while the rest go for longer duration EMIs," it added. Travellers who opt to travel without making any payment at the time of booking are provided short-term credit by the partner NBFCs and banks through an underwriting platform that evaluates customers' creditworthiness using data science models, the company said.

Sri Lanka defaults on debt

Sri Lanka, May 22 : Sri Lanka has defaulted on its debt for the first time in its history as the country struggles with its worst financial crisis in more than 70 years. A 30-day grace period to come up with \$78m (£63m) of unpaid debt interest payments expired on Wednesday. The governor of the South Asian nation's central bank said the country was now in a "pre-emptive default". Later on Thursday, two of the world's biggest credit rating agencies also said Sri Lanka had defaulted. Defaults happen when governments are unable to meet some or all of their debt payments to creditors. It can damage a country's reputation with investors, making it harder for it to borrow the money it needs on international markets, which can further harm confidence in its currency and economy. Asked on Thursday whether the country was now in default, central bank governor P Nandalal Weerasinghe said: "Our po-



sition is very clear, we said that until they come to the restructure [of our debts], we will not be able to pay. So that's what you call pre-emptive default. "There can be technical definitions... from their side they can consider it a default. Our position is very clear, until there is a debt restructure, we cannot repay," he added. Sri Lanka is seeking to restructure debts of more than \$50bn it owes to foreign creditors, to make it more manageable to repay.

The country's economy has been hit hard by the pandemic and rising energy prices, but critics say the current crisis has been of the previous government's own making. In recent weeks, there have been large, sometimes violent, protests against President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his family due to the growing crisis. The country has already started talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) over a bailout and needs to renegotiate its debt agreements with credi-

tors. Later on Thursday, an IMF spokesman said the current talks on a potential loan programme were expected to conclude on Tuesday. Sri Lanka's government has said previously that it needs as much as \$4bn this year. Mr Weerasinghe warned that Sri Lanka's already very high rate of inflation was likely to rise further. The country's main lending rate remained at 14.5%, while the deposit rate was kept at 13.5%.

Rupee hits record low against US dollar

Mumbai, May 22 : The Rupee on Thursday opened at a record low against the US dollar amid unabated foreign fund outflows and concerns over aggressive rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve to tame inflation. A stronger greenback in the overseas markets and surging crude oil prices also weighed on the rupee. On the interbank foreign exchange market, the Rupee plunged 12 paise to 77.74 against the American currency in early trade on Thursday. On Wednesday, the rupee declined by 17 paise to close at its fresh lifetime low of 77.61 against the US dollar on Wednesday. Meanwhile, share markets also tumbled in early morning trade on Thursday. Sensex was down by 2 per cent or 1,085.18 points to 53,123.35 and Nifty 50 fell by 2.01 per cent or 326.60 points to 15,913.70.

Vijay Shekhar Sharma reappointed Paytm MD & CEO

Mumbai, May 22 : Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma has been re-appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of the fintech company, the company informed the exchanges on Saturday. Sharma has been reappointed to the post for a period of five years with effect from December 19, 2022. In the same notification, the company also informed that MadhurDeora, the Chief Financial Officer of the company, has been appointed as an Additional Director w.e.f.



May 20, 2022 for a period of five years. In a separate release, the company said that the Board of Directors of One 97 Communications in a meeting on Friday approved the proposal to invest up to Rs 950 crore in Paytm General Insurance Limited (PGIL) in tranches, over a period of 10 years and to hold upfront equity stake of 74%. Post this investment, PGIL will become a subsidiary of the company. The company reported its March quarter results on Friday. Its net loss widened to Rs 761.4 crore compared to Rs 441.8 crore in the same quarter last year. The company's average Monthly Transacting Users (MTU), i.e., the number of unique users with at least one successful payments transaction in a month) has grown by 41 per cent YoY to 7.09 crore, it said in a statement. The company said all lending offerings have scaled up significantly over the last year, seeing increased adoption by users. The number of loans at 6.5 million, grew 374% YoY. Contribution profit (defined as revenue from operations less direct costs) improved to 35% of revenue in the quarter from 21.4% in Q4 FY2021.

Actress Alishmita Goswami inaugurated "Edit Unisex Salon"

Guwahati, May 22 : A unisex salon named "EDIT" was inaugurated recently near the LGBI Airport at Borjhar. Renowned Assamese film actress Alishmita Goswami duly inaugurated Edit Unisex Salon in presence of Owner Partners Dhiraj Khattar, Yogesh Upadhyay and Jitendra Khattar and other dignitaries. On the occasion of the inauguration, actress Alishmita Goswami said that with the opening of this "EDIT" Unisex Salon away from the city but near the airport, not only the local people but also people coming from the country and abroad can take advantage of this service. She said that there was a lack of a state-of-the-art and fully equipped unisex parlor in this area for a long time, which has been completed recently. On this occasion, the head of the salon, Khattar said that he has a seating arrangement for a total of six people at a time, spread over 1200 square feet, called in to provide better services to the customers.



Delhi, May 22 : India is quite capable of filling the gap created in the global market due to the crisis in Sri Lanka, says the Tea Board Chairman. Tea Board of India expects the country's tea exports to grow to nearly 300 million kg (mkg) in the next three to five years. Tea export is likely to touch 240 mkg in FY-23, backed by

a good demand from existing markets and addition of some of the lesser explored ones. According to Saurav Pahari, Chairman and Deputy Chairman, Tea Board, India is "quite capable" of filling the gap created in the global market due to the ongoing economic crisis in Sri Lanka. "We are looking at export-led growth and

aiming to achieve close to 300 mkg exports in the next five years. Quality will play a huge role in this. We want to compete aggressively with Kenya and Sri Lanka. Our orthodox production is good enough to cater to the markets," Pahari told the media at an event held on Saturday as part of International Tea Day, organised by the Tea Board in collaboration with Indian Tea Association (ITA). India exported close to 195 mkg of tea in 2021 as the payment issue in Iran and the high freight charges and poor availability of containers impacted exports. The country exported close to 256 mkg of tea in 2019, which was among the highest in recent times. "We are exploring target markets (for ramping up exports) such as North America, Western Eu-

rope, Canada and South Korea among others. Once the geo-political situation improves, exports would not just bounce back to pre-pandemic levels but grow at a much higher pace," he said. The industry expects orthodox tea producers to benefit from the lower crop in Sri Lanka, both in terms of volume and value of exports, particularly to countries such as Iraq, Iran, CIS (mainly Russia) and the UAE. The Tea Board would also work closely with the industry to ramp up domestic consumption of tea. The aim would be to make tea more appealing for the younger population. "One of the main thrust areas of our promotional activities would be improving domestic consumption by at least 30 percent moving forward," he said.

Delhi, May 22 : Credit cards are a progressive tool for meeting short-term financial goals. In fact, modern credit cards even make purchases a lot more affordable with the many features they come equipped with. For instance, with the right credit card, you can make big-ticket expenses affordable by splitting the payment into installments. There are many benefits of such a provision, with the most important being that it reduces the strain on your savings. It also comes in handy when learning how to improve your CIBIL score as such

features can help you establish a repayment track record. In fact, there are many ways in which your credit card can be used to boost your CIBIL score. This is because it is a credit instrument and using it wisely adds to your credit exposure and mix. Moreover, with banks and financial institutions relying heavily on CIBIL scores to gauge whether to grant loans or credit cards, it is important that you use it wisely. It is also prudent to know how to improve CIBIL score with a credit card as it is quite easy to do so. To know the



different ways to increase your CIBIL score with a credit card, read on. 1. Select the right type of credit card to avoid multiple applications. Credit cards have now become a lot easier to get and many lenders will extend spe-

cial offers to you. Keep in mind that each offer will lead to a credit application, and these will require issuers to make a hard inquiry into your CIBIL report. Hard inquiries lower your CIBIL score, which is why you shouldn't

be quick to accept all the offers you get. Ideally, you should only select a credit card that best suits your purchasing habits. This way, you can make the most of any benefits or perks offered, without requiring several active credit cards. 2. Maintain the ideal credit utilisation ratio and do not use the entire limit. The maximum limit on your credit card is assigned to you by your issuer based on their evaluations of your financial and credit profile. While you can access the full limit assigned to you, it is important to use your credit card limit wisely. Ideally, you should strive to maintain a credit utilisation ratio of 30% or lower. This is based on your total limit and exceeding this limit will reduce your CIBIL score. So, if you want to improve your score, it is proven that maintaining the right ratio helps and will work favourably when done consistently. 3. Pay your credit card bills promptly. The most important rule of using credit cards is to ensure that you can make timely payments. There is

a specific payment window and you usually have the option to either pay the minimum amount or the entire outstanding amount due. To improve your CIBIL score, always pay the full credit card bill and not just the minimum amount. 4. Monitor, plan, and predict card expenses. The easier way to maintain an adequate credit utilisation ratio is to monitor your expenses and spend within the limit. You can do so by checking your credit card statements every month. These will have details of your transactions, available limit, outstanding balance, and more. Use this information to evaluate your spending pattern and take appropriate action in case of overspending. If you have multiple credit cards, plan and distribute your spending across these to ensure that you don't overuse any one single card. Doing so will help you maintain a healthy credit card limit, which can come in handy in an emergency. These tips should assist you in understanding the different ways to make the most of a credit card, while also using it to improve your CIBIL score. Knowing how to improve your CIBIL score is important and a credit card can be helpful in this regard. Remember, good credit health begins with good financial habits. Stay alert to any changes in your CIBIL report and you can do so easily when you check CIBIL score for free on Bajaj Finserv. Use the service, access a customized credit health report, and monitor your financial wellbeing with ease.

Paytm forms general insurance JV to invest Rs 950 cr

Mumbai, May 22 : Digital financial services firm One97 Communications, which operates under Paytm brand, on Saturday said it has formed a joint venture general insurance company in which it has committed to invest Rs 950 crore over a period of 10 years. The proposal to set up joint venture firm Paytm General Insurance Limited (PGIL) was approved by the board on May 20, the company said in a regulatory filing. Initially, One97 Communications (OCL) will hold a 49 per cent stake in PGIL while the remaining 51 per cent stake is to be owned by OCL's managing director Vijay Shekhar Sharma-led VSS Holding Private Limited (VHPL). Post the investment, Paytm will hold 74 per cent stake in PGIL, reducing VHPL's stake in the company to 26 per cent. The decision of Paytm board came after its group firm's transaction into a share purchase agreement to acquire Raheja QBE General Insurance Company Limited did not consummate within stipulated time frame. In its exchange filing, OCL said that it has reappointed Sharma as its managing director for five years. MadhurDeora, the company's Group CFO and president, has been appointed on its board as a whole-time director for the next five years.



Contd. From Page 1

No One Can Escape Justice: DGP

those culpable for the later incidents of the day which involved the burning down of the police station by a mob of angry locals. Mahanta wrote, "One Safiqul Islam (39yo) was brought to Batadrava Thana on 20/05/22 at 9:30PM after a complaint of him being drunk. He was in fact lying on a public road when he was brought in. He was booked after medical check up. The next day he was released or handed over to his wife. His wife even gave him some water/food. Later he complained of sickness and he was taken to two hospitals, one after another. Unfortunately he was declared dead." He added, "We take this unfortunate death very seriously and have put the OC on suspension and rest of the staff of the Batadraba thana Closed. If there is any foul play at our end, we mean to find that and punish the guilty according to the law. No two thoughts.""But what took place later that day, we all know. Some local bad elements took law onto their own hands and burnt down the thana. These bad elements came in all forms women, men, young and old. But the preparedness with which they came, the ferocious, organised attack they staged on police has made us think deeper," the Assam Police DGP wrote. Mahanta went on to write, "We don't think these are grieving relatives of the dead, but as we have identified, they were bad characters and their relatives with criminal records- records that were there within the thana. Proof, incrementing evidences all- burnt down. So don't think this is a simple action-reaction incident. There's much more to it. We'll get to the bottom of this.""So respected peace loving people of Assam, this is our assurance to you, while we will not let go of any police personnel who's found guilty, we will act even tougher against elements who think that they can escape Indian justice system, by burning down Police Stations. We will simply not allow this. Let this be a warning to all antisocial/criminal elements," he added.

SIT to probe Batadrava Violence

women have been arrested for setting fire to the police station based on video evidence of the incident, reports added. Nagaon district authorities on Sunday, May 22, bulldozed houses of several families who were allegedly involved in setting the Batadrava Police Station on fire on Saturday. The step was taken by the authorities after a mob set fire to a part of the Batadrava Police Station following an alleged case of custodial death of a local resident. Safiqul Islam, a resident of Salonibari, was on his way to Sivasagar district on Friday night on a business trip when the Batadrava police allegedly stopped him and demanded Rs 10,000 and a duck from him. When Safiqul failed to meet their demands, the police allegedly took him to Batadraba police station and asked him to call his family members to arrange the money and the duck. Safiqul reportedly called his wife and asked her to bring the money and duck to the police station. Safiqul's wife arrived with only the duck as she failed to arrange the money. The police then allegedly started beating Safiqul in front of his wife. She rushed to arrange the money but when she returned with the money, she was told her husband had been sent to the Nagaon civil hospital. When she reached the hospital accompanied by other family members, Safiqul's body was lying in the morgue. Safiqul's family members along with hundreds of villagers brought his body to the Batadraba Police Station and started protesting. The protest ended in a scuffle between the mob and the police. The mob vandalised the police station and set it on fire. Two policemen were injured in the incident. SP Leena Doley said that three miscreants were arrested and an investigation into the matter has been initiated. He SP also assured to inquire into the allegations levelled against police personnel and action will be taken against them if found to be guilty. On Sunday, bulldozers demolished the houses of the accused who set the police station on fire.- DIG Satyaraj Hazarika said that 20 people have been detained in the case and the police station in-charge has been suspended.

Amit Shah Inaugurates Various

progress of our great nation."The Golden Pagoda is also known as Khongmu-kham in the local Tai Khamti language. Being considered sacred and very significant to the Buddhists, it is a temple complex situated on about 20 hectares of land and is built in a Burmese architectural design. Amit Shah embarked on his two-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh on Saturday and attended various programmes in the state. Shah interacted with the office-bearers, core group and karyakartas of the Arunachal BJP yesterday. He also visited the Parashuram Kund, the divine pool situated in the lap of nature in Lohit district and laid the foundation stone of 51 feet high bronze idol of Lord Parashuram in Parshuram Kund on Saturday. After in the day, he will review the security and development, and interact with Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Services Selection Board (SSB), Assam Rifles, Border Road Organisation, and National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) personnel, here at Namsai. He will also take part in Bada Khaana, a collective feast where all ranks of Army personnel and Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) troops eat together.

Bulldozers Take Down Homes

allegations of rioting. Critics said these demolitions targeted one community. Authorities have denied the charge and stressed that they were routine drives against encroachment. Following the demolitions in Assam, Special DGP GP Singh said, "A demolition drive has taken place. There was an allegation that some of those who attacked the police station yesterday had encroached land. Even if they had documents, they were forged. So today, a few huts were demolished." A total of 21 people have been taken into custody in connection with yesterday's violence in Assam that left three policemen injured. The attack on the police station was not an "action-reaction incident" but was carried out by criminals to destroy case records, state police chief Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta said today. Those in the mob alleged that policemen killed Safiqul Islam, a 39-year-old fish seller, after he was unable to pay a bribe. In a social media post, Mr Mahanta said Islam was brought to the police station after police received a complaint of public drinking. "He was in fact lying on a public road before he was brought in. He was booked after medical check up. The next day he was released and handed over to his wife. His wife even gave him some water/food. Later he complained of sickness and he was taken to two hospitals, one after another. Unfortunately he was declared dead," Mr Mahanta wrote. He stressed that the Assam police takes this death "very seriously" and has suspended the officer in charge of the police station. "If there is any foul play at our end, we mean to find that and punish the guilty according to law. No two ways about it," he said. The state police chief then went on to talk about the attack on the police station. "Some local bad elements took law onto their own hands and burnt down the thana. These bad elements came in all forms women, men, young and old. But the preparedness with which they came, the ferocious & organised attack they staged on police force has made us think deeper," he said. "We don't think these are grieving relatives of the dead, but as we have identified, they were bad characters and their relatives with criminal records- RECORDS that were there within the thana. Proof, incrementing evidences- all burnt down," the police chief wrote, adding, "So don't think this is a simple action-reaction incident. There much more to it." He then assured the people of the state that while no police personnel found guilty will be spared, the force will crack down on elements "who think that they can escape Indian justice system by burning down Police Stations". District police chief Leena Doley said, "We have video footage and media persons have also helped us. We are identifying the people involved in the attack on the police station and will take action. We are also investigating if there was any custodial torture (to Islam)," he said. State Cabinet minister Pijush Hazarika said, "If there was a custodial death, we will investigate and take action but we will not tolerate a mob burning down a police station. We we will take extreme action," he said.

Amit Shah slams Rahul Gandhi, asks him

work now get percolated to the last man, whereas middlemen siphoned off most of the amount during the Congress rule." Development funds for the region were siphoned off by middlemen during the Congress rule. But with the NDA under PM Modi coming to power at the Centre in 2014, the culture of corruption has ended and every single penny is being utilised with utter transparency. The prime minister has ensured that development funds get percolated down to the last man," Shah said.

Qutub Minar complex row Govt denies

commander of invader Mohammad Ghori, who established slave dynasty and raised some construction at the same very place of temples naming it as, Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque," the suit said. The suit claimed that according to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) 27 Hindu and Jain temples were demolished and Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque was raised inside the complex reusing the materials and sought to "restore" the demolished temples. The suit sought to declare that Lord Vishnu, Lord Shiva, Lord Ganesh, Lord Sun, Goddess Gauri, Lord Hanuman, Jain deity Tirthankar Lord Rishabh Dev have the right to be "restored" within the temple complex at the site of Quwwatul Mosque Complex, Mehrauli, south-west Delhi "after rebuilding it with the same honour and dignity". However, on Tuesday (May 17) the Saket Court adjourned the hearing for May 24.

Monkeypox is a matter of concern: US

outbreak as an epidemic. Monkeypox is usually a self-limited disease with symptoms lasting from two to four weeks. The virus is transmitted from one person to another by close contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials such as bedding. According to the WHO, Monkeypox typically manifests in humans with fever, rashes and swollen lymph nodes and may lead to a range of medical complications. It can also take a severe form, with the WHO saying the case fatality ratio has been around 3-6 per cent in recent times.

PM Modi to be among first global leaders

whose election comes right before the summit. In his departure statement ahead of his visit to Japan from May 23-24, Modi noted that the newly-elected Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will be joining the Quad Leaders' Summit for the first time. "I look forward to a bilateral meeting with him during which the multifaceted cooperation between India and Australia under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and regional and global issues of mutual interest will be discussed," Modi said. "We will also exchange views about developments in the Indo-Pacific region and global issues of mutual interest," he said. Modi said during his visit he will also hold a bilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden, where they will discuss further consolidation of the multi-faceted bilateral relations. "We will also continue our dialogue on regional developments and contemporary global issues," he said. Modi said he will be visiting Tokyo at the invitation of his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida, and noted that in March 2022, he had hosted Kishida for the 14th India-Japan Annual Summit. "During my visit to Tokyo, I look forward to continuing our conversation further, with an aim to strengthen the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership," he said. In Japan, Modi said, he will also participate in the second in-person Quad Leaders' Summit, which will provide an opportunity for the leaders of the four Quad countries to review the progress of initiatives taken by the grouping. The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue comprises India, the US, Japan and Australia. In his statement, the prime minister also said economic cooperation between India and Japan is an important aspect of their Special Strategic and Global Partnership. "During the March Summit, PM Kishida and I had announced our intention to realize JPY 5 trillion in public and private investment and financing over the next five years from Japan to India," Modi said.

'Never Negotiated Peace with India': CM

attacks against the BJP and PM Modi and hit out at the government for promoting a "private-sector monopoly" in the country. "What emerged out of freedom movement was a negotiation between these states and identities and religion. So, India emerged bottom-up and all these states UP, Maharashtra, Assam, and Tamil Nadu got together and negotiated peace. From this union of states, which required a conversation, emerged the instrument of that conversation- the Constitution, the idea that one man will have one vote, the election system, the IITs, and the IIMs," Rahul Gandhi said during the conversation. Meanwhile, the BJP also retaliated against Rahul Gandhi and accused him of harming India in his "hate" against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and alleged his frequent critical remarks about the country from foreign soils amounted to "betraying" it. BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia launched a sharp attack on the Congress leader for his remarks at a conference in London where Gandhi accused the ruling party of spreading "kerosene all over the country, you need one spark and we will be in big trouble". "In his fierce hate against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he has been making comments against India, the BJP leader told a press conference where he also cautioned the Congress against speaking ill about India in foreign countries. It is the Congress which has been carrying kerosene oil to incite riots since the 1984 anti-Sikh riots," he alleged, dubbing Gandhi a "part-time, immature, unsuccessful leader of a hopeless Congress" who has often spoken negatively about the country in foreign places like the US, the UK and Singapore. "He keeps making such comments frequently and it will not be wrong to say that this amounts to betraying the country," Bhatia said. The opposition leader, who is on a tour of the UK, had an interaction session at the 'Ideas for India' conference organised by non-profit think-tank Bridge India on Friday. He attacked the BJP government and said Indian democracy is a "global public good" and a central anchor for the planet, and if that cracks, it is going to cause a problem for the planet. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also attacked Rahul Gandhi on his comments quoting unnamed European bureaucrats that the Indian Foreign Service has completely changed and become arrogant, on Saturday said it is called defending national interest. Reacting to the Congress leader's remarks, Jaishankar tweeted that the change in the Indian Foreign Service is a reflection of confidence. "Yes, the Indian Foreign Service has changed. Yes, they follow the orders of the Government. Yes, they counter the arguments of others. 'No, it's not called Arrogance,' Jaishankar said. "It is called Confidence. And it is called defending National Interest (sic)," the minister said.

Ujjal Bhuyan to be the New Chief Justice of Telangana HC

Guwahati, May 22 : Justice Ujjal Bhuyan will be the new Chief Justice of Telangana High Court. Incumbent CJ Justice Satish Chandra Sharma has been transferred to the Delhi High Court as its chief justice. The Supreme Court collegium on Tuesday conveyed to the Centre its resolve to elevate Justice Bhuyan, a senior judge in Telangana High Court as the new chief justice. However, the decision will come into effect upon a notification by the centre after the assent of President Ram Nath Kovind. Bhuyan, who is an origin of Assam and son of former advocate General Suchendranath Bhuyan, completed his schooling in Guwahati and graduated from Kirori Mal College in Delhi. He later came back to Guwahati for pursuing LLB and LLM courses from Gauhati University. After enrolling with the Bar Council of Assam, he started his practice at the Gauhati HC. He represented the income tax department for 16 years as its standing counsel and also as a senior counsel and in the process became an expert on taxation. Designated as a senior counsel by the Gauhati HC in September 2010, Justice Bhuyan later became an additional advocate general of Assam in July 2011. He was elevated as an additional judge in Guwahati HC on October 17, 2011, and was confirmed on March 20, 2013. He was transferred to Bombay HC on October 3, 2019. He served there for two years before transfer to Telangana HC on October 22, 2021. He also heads Telangana state legal services authority as executive chairman.

Fake report in CIA's name against ex-Tripura CM Biplab Kumar Deb, wife files police complaint

Agartala, May 22 : Three days after Biplab Kumar Deb resigned as chief minister of Tripura, his wife Niti Deb has filed a police complaint, alleging that a fake report attributed to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is being circulated on social media in the name of her husband. In her complaint lodged at West Agartala Police Station on Tuesday, Niti stated that she received a message on WhatsApp on May 16 and its content "was absolutely false, defamatory and full of incitement". "On inquiry, I found that the WhatsApp number itself is fake and probably used unauthorisedly. The contents are attributed to Central Intelligence Agency, while on initial personal enquiry, I have grave doubts that the so-called report is actually non-existent and being circulated in the name of the ex-chief minister so as to create sensation and also infringe the security and sovereignty of the nation as a result of a deep-rooted conspiracy," she wrote in the complaint.



Services of special trains running between Guwahati - Kolkata and Guwahati - Deoghar extended

Guwahati, May 22: Northeast Frontier Railway has been decided to continue the services of two pairs of special trains running between Guwahati- Kolkata and Guwahati - Deoghar for the benefit of passengers. Services of Guwahati - Kolkata - Guwahati bi-weekly summer special train have been extended to run up to 31st July, 2022 for 18 trips from each direction. Moreover, services of Guwahati - Deoghar - Guwahati Special have been extended to run up to 27th June, 2022. Train No. 02518 Guwahati - Kolkata bi-weekly superfast special will be continued to run two days a week- on every Wednesday and Saturday leaving Guwahati at 21:00 hours to reach Kolkata on Thursday and Sunday at 15:55 hours. In return direction, Train No. 02517 Kolkata - Guwahati bi-weekly superfast special will be continued to run two days a week- on every Thursday and Sunday leaving Kolkata at 21:40 hours to reach Guwahati on Friday and Monday at 15:55 hours. Train No. 05626 Guwahati - Deoghar weekly special will be continued to run on every Sunday leaving Guwahati at 08:30 hours to reach Deoghar on Monday at 7:00 hours. In return direction, Train No. 05625 Deoghar - Guwahati weekly special will be continued to run on every Monday leaving Deoghar at 19:30 hours to reach Guwahati on Tuesday at 16:05 hours. The details of stoppages and timings of these trains are available on IRCTC website and through NTES. Passengers are requested to verify the details before undertaking their journey.

Professor arrested for emails criticising Assam Government, Chief Minister

Guwahati, May 22 : An Associate Professor of a college in Assam's Hailakandi district was arrested for allegedly sending emails to officials criticising government policies and using unparliamentary words against the state Chief Minister, a police officer said. Police had registered a suo moto case against the professor, leading to his arrest, he added. The officer in-charge of Hailakandi sadar police station, Ampee Daolagupu, said the accused had allegedly sent out emails to the official email account of the District Superintendent of Police condemning government policies and also used unparliamentary terms against the Chief Minister and the Education Minister. He had also purportedly criticised the National Education Policy 2020 and the ongoing 'Gunotsav' in the state, an exercise by the Education Department to evaluate government schools in the email, Daolagupu claimed. "Besides the email to the SP, he had sent similar ones to other government officials of the district also," he added. "We started questioning him on Thursday and finally, today we arrested him," the OC said. When contacted, the Principal of the college claimed that he had no official information regarding the arrest of the Associate Professor.

Dominica Withdraws Case Against Fugitive Mehul Choksi Over "Illegal Entry"

New Delhi, May 22 : Authorities in Dominica have "discontinued the proceedings against Fugitive diamondaire Mehul Choksi over his 'illegal entry' into the island nation, officials said today. Choksi, who is wanted by the CBI and Enforcement Directorate in connection with ? 13, 500 crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud case, had gone missing on May 23 last year from Antigua, and mysteriously surfaced in Dominica. He flew back to Antigua in July last year after being granted bail by the Dominica High Court on medical grounds. Choksi had contested his case against the 'illegal entry' claim, alleging that he was kidnapped from Jolly Harbour in Antigua on May 23 by policemen looking like Antiguan and Indian and brought to Dominica on a boat. He has been staying in Antigua since 2018 as a citizen. The CBI recently registered a fresh case against the fugitive diamondaire and his company Gitanjali Gems for allegedly defrauding the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI). Choksi and his nephew, Nirav Modi, are accused of duping the PNB of ? 13,500 crore in total using Letters of Undertaking (LoUs) and foreign letters of credit (FLCs) by bribing its officials at the Brady House branch in Mumbai. Choksi had taken the citizenship of Antigua and Barbuda in 2017 using the Citizenship by Investment Programme even before fleeing India in the first week of January 2018, while Nirav Modi is lodged in a London prison after repeated denial of bail, and is contesting extradition to India.

Assam resident offers namaz standing on tricolour in Delhi airport, arrested

New Delhi, May 22 : A man from Assam was arrested by the Delhi Police for using the national flag to offer namaz inside the Indira Gandhi International Airport. The incident took place on 8 May and the man, identified as Mohammed Tariq Aziz, was released on bail the same day. "Md Tariq Aziz, resident of Assam, came from Dubai by flight 6E24 and had to further go to Dimapur by Indigo flight 6E 5398. At about 0046 to 0050 hrs, he spread the Indian national flag on the floor and by standing on it he was praying namaz, between boarding gate 1 and 3. His activities were found suspicious and undesirable. He has disrespected the national flag," read the FIR filed by the police. Aziz was first detained by personnel of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which manages security at airports across the country, and later handed over to the Delhi Police. A case was subsequently filed by the Delhi Police under the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971. It's a bailable offence. This Act states that "whoever in any public place or in any other place within public view burns, mutilates, defaces, defiles, disfigures, destroys, tramples upon or [otherwise shows disrespect to or brings] into contempt (whether by words, either spoken or written, or by acts) the Indian National Flag or the Constitution of India or any part thereof, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both". The Delhi Police also seized Aziz's passport, a photocopy of his boarding pass and the tricolour.



Assam mountaineer Hedayat Ali felicitated for scaling Everest
Guwahati, May 22 : Assam mountaineer Hedayat Ali felicitated for scaling Everest. Explorers and Assam Olympic Association felicitated the mountaineer in Guwahati. Addressing the gathering Ali today said, " I was dreaming to scale Mount Everest since I first participated in an expedition at Sikkim at the age of 15. There after a couple of occasions, last time in 2021, I tried to climb the highest peak of the earth but wasn't successful due to different reasons. However my family always encouraged me and due to it I finally scaled Mount Everest at the age of 50 plus. Also Read - McLroy grabs lead as Woods falters Sharing his final moment in the expedition Ali said, " I started from camp IV on May 11 around 7-30 PM and reached the summit at 8-30 on May 12. The entire part of the trekking was very challenging as a minor error could end my life. So I decided to stay calm and faced all the challenges that would come on my way. I admit, touching the peak is an unforgettable memory for me." The function was attended by the president and the secretary of Explorers Rajiv Prakash Baruah and Pranoy Bordoloi respectively, the secretary of the Assam Olympic Association Lakhya Konwar and the president of the Assam Sports Journalists' Association Subodh Malla Baruah.

'Wham, two finals-it's the most exciting time of my career'

Liverpool, May 22 : It is little surprise that Jürgen Klopp is enjoying the time of his life as he prepares to lead Liverpool into a season-defining week. The German has the exciting possibility of lifting the Premier League and Champions League in the space of six days. Real Madrid are the opposition in Paris next Saturday but Manchester City stand in the way of Klopp and Liverpool first, and the challenge is an exciting one for a man who has already won one Premier League and two Bundesliga titles. The weekly battle to match Pep Guardiola's side is keeping Klopp invigorated, knowing he and his team have been consistently at their best. Klopp knows the pain of 2018-19 when City pipped Liverpool to top spot. Once again it goes down to the final day of the season, with Liverpool realistically needing to beat Wolves and for City to drop



points against Steven Gerrard's Aston Villa. "I've been lucky enough to have had a few exciting times," Klopp said. "If you ask my missus she asks why [does it] always go down to the last match. It happens incredibly often." It's the most exciting time of my career. "A 12-point gap has been cut to one to set up a tantalising final day. There is the prospect of losing the league on goal difference or

role of being the hunter, ready to capitalise on any City slip-up to keep the pressure on them. Trying to catch a team that have secured 455 points in the past five seasons is a glorious challenge, one Klopp is entrenched in. When Klopp felt Liverpool needed a catalyst in January he did not hesitate to sign Luis Diaz for £37m. He saw the squad required something different, especially with the absence at the Africa Cup of Nations of Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mané, and carefully selected the Colombia winger, who has integrated seamlessly into a tight-knit group. If Liverpool do end up with the Premier League trophy on Sunday, the decision to acquire Diaz could be the one that made the difference in the pursuit of City, especially when Guardiola stuck with what he had. Success is often summarised by honours lists and how many trophies a person has won. For Klopp, he can see the bigger picture of achievement in sport. This Liverpool side are everything he wants them to be in terms of style and personnel. They take on his instruction and each player performs his role in the manner the manager demands. The team spirit is an important part of everything Liverpool do. Klopp is effusive about the qualities the departing Divock Origi has brought down the years. He knows these characters, who lack the capability to start every week, are imperative within a successful club that want to challenge for four trophies a season.



Saracens turn on style in second half to sink Saints and seal home semi-final

Northampton, May 22 : "Sometimes you need a punch to the face." The Saracens director of rugby, Mark McCall, offered this line in reference to his team's surprise defeat last week to Toulon in the European Challenge Cup semi-final. But the same Spartan logic applied to this latest bonus-point victory in the Premiership that underlined their title credentials and secured a home semi-final in their first season back in the top flight. That 25-16 reverse in France dumped Saracens out of a competition they looked destined to win. And for the first 40 minutes here, including eight minutes with a two-man-advantage, they were disjointed. Despite bossing territory and possession they went into the break 9-10 down. What followed was a resounding reminder that this is an organisation that holds itself to a higher standard. They exploded into the second period and were in the lead through Nick Tompkins who started and completed a move one minute after the restart. Then Rotimi Segun burst through the middle and was halted five metres short. A swift recycle, a bullet pass from Owen Farrell and a neat shovel from Alex Goode provided a walk-in for Alex Lewington. The game was made safe when Theo McFarland blocked Alex Mitchell's kick and dotted down. Farrell's conversion opened a 28-10 lead. It was Farrell who registered the first points with two penalties early in the contest. When Saracens next won a penalty they went to the corner and most inside the StoneX assumed their vaunted maul would triumph. But Northampton defended fanatically. Courtney Lawes and Api Ratuniyarawa were chaotically disruptive. Even when their pack lost a combined 507lb after Alex Coles and Lewis Ludlam were sent to the sin-bin within two minutes of each other, Northampton kept Saracens at arm's length. Dan Biggar halved the gap before Tommy Freeman's scything line against the grain saw him score a sucker-punch try. Farrell kicked another penalty late in the half but the Saints held their advantage. With a World Cup winner, a Six Nations grand slam champion, and six British and Irish Lions among their starters, Saracens knew they had to live up to the hype. They duly delivered with a nine-minute, three-try blitz. Northampton refused to quit and landed a blow of their own with substitute Rory Hutchinson scoring from close range. But his simple finish was cancelled out by McFarland's sumptuous second. The Samoan has represented his country in basketball and he showed why with a spectacular horizontal slam-dunk finish.

Kylian Mbappé decides to stay at PSG instead of joining Real Madrid



La Liga , May 22 : Kylian Mbappé has turned down the chance to join Real Madrid and will instead sign a new three-year contract at Paris Saint-Germain after months of speculation over his future. But his decision has sparked consternation in Spain, with La Liga swift to file a complaint, calling the deal "scandalous". The France forward telephoned Florentino

Pérez on Saturday to communicate his decision having opted against a move to La Liga despite holding positive talks with the Spanish champions only last week. Mbappé is believed to have wanted to explain to the Real president why he had chosen to stay at his hometown club before it emerged in the media. The 23-year-old - whose contract at PSG expires at the end of the season - has agreed a lucrative extension until 2025. Mbappé and the club president, Nasser Al Khelaifi, posed holding a "Mbappé 2025" PSG shirt before the last Ligue 1 game of the season against Metz as the crowd erupted when Al Khelaifi broke the news at the Parc des

Princes. "I have chosen to extend my contract at Paris Saint-Germain, and I am very happy. I am convinced that here I can continue to grow within a club that gives itself all the means to perform at the highest level," he said in a club statement. "I am also very happy to be able to continue playing in France, the country where I was born, grew up and flourished." However, his decision has sparked outrage at La Liga, which released a strongly worded statement on Saturday night that read: "It is scandalous that a club like PSG which last season reported

losses of more than €220m after accumulating losses of more than €700m in prior seasons [while reporting sponsorship income at a doubtful valuation] with a cost of sports staff around €650m for this 2021-22 season, can face an agreement of these characteristics while those clubs that could accept the arrival of the player without seeing their wage bill compromised, are left without being able to sign him." Mbappé joined PSG from Monaco in 2017 in a deal worth up to €180m and has established himself as one of the world's best players.

Tom Davies's incredible finish lights up Catalans' win at struggling Hull KR



London, May 22 : There is no doubting Tony Smith has changed the perception and the ambition of Hull KR during his three years in charge. However, there is a danger his reign could end with somewhat of a damp squib if this form continues. It is now four consecutive defeats in league and cup for Rovers, which have come since Smith announced he would be leaving at the end of the season. That is almost certainly a coincidence but given his side have fallen out of the Super League playoff places and suffered defeat in the Challenge Cup semi-finals, there is understandably cause for concern about their season petering out. There was certainly an improvement on recent performances

that kept them within two points of the Super League leaders, St Helens. "We needed to take a couple more of those chances in that first half," said Smith. "They wore us down but the effort was great. We've turned the corner a bit." Buoyed on by a boisterous home crowd, Rovers were good value for their early 8-0 lead, the try coming when Crooks leaped highest to snare Rowan Milnes' well-weighted kick. Coote converted and then added a penalty but as half-time approached Catalans began to come into the contest. The try that halved the deficit came courtesy of a miraculous finish from Tom Davies, who grounded the ball in mid-air after being sent away by a flick pass from Tyrone May. "We were way

off the mark in that first half, but we only conceded one try and if you can defend your line, you give yourself a chance," said the Catalans coach, Steve McNamara. The second half was a different story. Rovers huffed and puffed but the game swung on an interception from the young French centre Mathieu Laguerre, who picked off a Will Dagger pass to race the length of the field. Arthur Mourgue converted to put Catalans ahead for the first time and they never looked back. Fouad Yaha replicated Davies with an equally acrobatic finish to put daylight between the sides, before two penalties from the boot of Mourgue in the final quarter eased any nerves among the Catalans players.

Joe Marchant sparks Harlequins comeback win over Gloucester

Twickenham, May 22 : It is an understatement to say Harlequins do not always make life easy for themselves but another of their trademark comebacks, inspired by Joe Marchant, sealed the champions' place in the playoffs and boosted their hopes of a return to Twickenham next month. Take nothing away from Gloucester's first-half performance - Harlequins were 17 points down at half-time because the visitors were superior in practically every department - but once they got on a roll and Danny Care and Marcus Smith started to play with the zip they so often do, the visitors capitulated. Harlequins scored three tries after the break, Gloucester failed to register a single point. Marchant scored two of those and was on song throughout. He was left out

of the most recent England squad and though Eddie Jones chose to rest a number of established players, it is unclear whether the 25-year-old can be considered one of those, or simply omitted. The Harlequins coach, Tabai Matson, said: "He was phenomenal again. He does an amazing job for us. I'm not sure what [England's] long-term view around selection is. They want different things from players but against France I thought he was the best player on the field that day. He can be a world class centre, play wing, play full-back. He's a really balanced athlete." In addition to Marchant's second-half double, Cadan Murley scored the fourth and vital try which edged Harlequins in front with 12 minutes remaining - adding to Alex Dombard's first-half effort. It was not vintage

Harlequins and they will have to sharpen up if they are to retain their crown, but their prospects are considerably brighter than at half-time here. "One of the things I love about this team is that if there's time on the clock then they believe they can score," added Matson. Gloucester had not won here on seven previous visits - a run dating back to 2003 - and they set about breaking that streak from the moment they barged Harlequins' driving maul into touch in the first minute. They were dominant at the breakdown and went in at the interval three tries to one ahead. The first came from Ben Morgan at the back of a driving maul - such a powerful weapon for Gloucester this season. Harlequins responded shortly afterwards - a suicidal pass from Ruan Ackermann went straight to Danny Care and Dombard went over next to the posts. Gloucester were undeterred and regained the lead through Freddie Clarke after smart work from their fleet-footed fullback Santiago Carreras. Joe Marler was then summoned from the bench far earlier than expected but another turnover for Gloucester provided try No 3 for Chris Harris, who was teed up by the captain Lewis Ludlow, running a clever line on Adam Hastings' inside shoulder. The Scotland fly-half added a drop-goal for good measure.



Matt Fitzpatrick in frame going into final round of US PGA Championship

Southern Hills, May 22 : An English golfer was on a roll in the early stages of the US PGA Championship. 'Long Jim' Barnes, who emigrated to the United States from Cornwall, won this event - then in match play form - in 1916 and 1919. It was not played during the two intervening years. Staggeringly, in more than a century that has passed since there has been no flag of St George adjacent to a US PGA winner. History will

therefore not be on Matt Fitzpatrick's side on day four at Southern Hills but it dictates how significant a success for the Yorkshireman would be. Fitzpatrick's third round of 67 represented a firm statement of intent at a venue he sensed did not suit his game upon initial viewing. This was a performance typified by grit and determination. Fitzpatrick made bogey on the first two holes before steadying himself to reach the turn in par. A birdie at the 13th edged Fitzpatrick

under par for the day - a strong enough position - before terrific birdies at each of the last two. Fitzpatrick's six under par sits three from the lead, somewhat incredibly held by Mito Pereira. More of him later. "With the start I had, it easily could have got away from me," said Fitzpatrick. "I was really proud of the way that I battled back and didn't really let it faze me. I would happily go back and tee off now if I could." Pereira, ranked 100 in the world, had only ever played in one



major before this one. He missed the cut. The Chilean refuses to let his tilt at the Wanamaker Trophy fall by the wayside. Pereira would be an extraordinary winner; he even gave up golf for

two years during his teens because the sport was boring him. He signed off with a birdie to complete round three's 69. This marked his highest score of the tournament.

Chopra says he is not losing sleep over his international rivals' 90m-plus throws

New Delhi, May 22 : Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra is not losing sleep over some of his top international rivals producing big early season performances but made it clear that he would want to join the 90m club this year. Reigning world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada and Tokyo Olympics silver winner Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic had come up with 93.07m and 90.88m throws respectively in the Doha Diamond League on May 13. "I don't take pressure of distance. Peters and Vadlejch must be working hard and so doing well. It is also my dream to cross 90m and will try to do that this year in some competition," Chopra said at a virtual interaction from his training base in Turkey. "I know competition is tough and growing. It also depends on the day's performance, weather and other conditions, how we manage them. I normally don't think about surpassing anybody's performance or record. I just go out to give my best." The 24-year-old Chopra is currently training at the Gloria Sports Arena in Antalya, Turkey along with his coach Klaus Bartonietz. He has a personal best of 88.07m and won gold in Tokyo Olympics with a throw of 87.58m. His first competition of the season will be in



Turku, Finland at the Paavo Nurmi Games where he will face Peters, another top thrower Johannes Vetter of Germany who has thrown over 90m several times. "I don't have to hit 90m straightway, 86 or 87m at the start of season will be fine," said Chopra who will be taking the field for the first time after 10 months since winning gold in Tokyo on August 7 last year. His next event will be on June 18 at Kuortane Games in Finland where he had finished third last year with Vetter taking the gold before the Tokyo Olympics. Chopra is planning to feature in the top-flight Diamond League Meeting in Stockholm on June 30 before heading for the June 15-24 World Championships in Eugene, USA. Vetter, however, flopped during the Olympics after he produced a series 90m-plus throws in

the lead-up to the Games in Tokyo. He was eliminated after the first three throws in the final. "My main target this year is to do well in World Championships. Then there is the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham (July 28 to August 8) where I will defend my gold (won in 2018 CWG)." He had earlier said that winning a medal in the World Championships will be his main target this year. Chopra said he may or may not take part in the Monaco Diamond League (August 10) which happens just a couple of days after the CWG. He will also decide whether to take part in the Lausanne leg of the Diamond League on August 26. "We will take a call after the CWG whether to take part in Monaco Diamond League or not, whether to go for (Diamond League) points or not." We had planned ear-

lier considering the Asian Games. As the Asian Games are postponed we may rework our plans." Then, there is Diamond League Final in Zurich on September 7 and 8, if Chopra qualifies. "My aim is also to end season injury free. I am starting 40-45 days before the World Championships so that I can peak there. I am going to have three events next month in the space of just over two weeks." Initially, I had planned to compete in Doha Diamond League (May 13) but dropped later. I could have started a bit early had we known that Asian Games would be postponed." Asked about his training and preparations for the season ahead, he said, "The off season

was good. I have started throwing training, two throwing sessions in a week. I also do sprinting, lifting weight etc. I have started working on my technique, on my runway, picking up speed and blocking." "I don't need to make major changes, mostly focussing on my technique, which angle I have to throw, on my blocking, from where I have to start my runway. I don't want to get injured while doing major changes." Chopra had the likes of Vetter and 2016 Rio Olympics gold medallist Thomas Rohrer for company at Antalya for a few days. Javelin world record holder Jan Zelezny of Czech Republic was also there for some time. "I had interactions with them but

not much. We generally talked about the state of javelin throw in the world and in India. Sometimes, we also speak about our technique." "I don't feel like a star in front of Zelezny. They came for training and had left now. Not many people know us here." Two top Indian athletes failed dope tests recently and Chopra urged the youngsters to shun shortcut to success. "My message is don't go for short cut to success. Work hard with patience. You will achieve your dream with time." I am not talking about any individual here but you can take care of things you can control like having good food, proper rest and sleep, hard work and belief in yourself."



IPL: MI knockout DC to give RCB playoff berth

Kolkata, May 22 : Rishabh Pant would like to forget this game. First, he dropped a sitter of a skier off Kuldeep Yadav's bowling to give Dewald Brevis a reprieve on 25. Shardul Thakur spared his captain's blushes by removing the batsman a couple of overs later. Then, he had Tim David caught behind for a golden duck. The on-field umpire didn't hear the nick and Pant decided against taking the review. Ultra showed a spike and to rub salt into the wound, David went on to score an 11-ball 34 to slam the playoffs door shut on Delhi Capitals. Ricky Ponting sat motionless in the dug-out. Pant had a noticeable lump in his throat. Chasing 160 for victory, Mumbai Indians won by five wickets with five balls to spare. About 17 kilometres away, in their hotel at Bandra, Royal Challengers Bangalore players and staff must have heaved a collective sigh of relief. The IPL knockouts will have Virat Kohli's stardust. The final playoff place was DC's to lose. Prithvi Shaw was back from illness and on paper, they boasted serious hitting might down to Rovman Powell at No. 6. MI had checked out of the season and were expected to give a perfunctory presence. Jasprit Bumrah, though, decided to play for pride. At times in his first spell, he was nigh-on unplayable. It was unadulterated Test match bowling with the white ball, fascinating to watch but very difficult for the batsmen to counter. David Warner fell to Daniel Sams. Mitchell Marsh came to the crease, carrying his good form. But Bumrah's delivery was special, just nibbling away off good length and taking the outside edge to Rohit Sharma at first slip. The MI skipper took a fine diving catch, while Marsh was gone first ball. Shaw got a searing bouncer. It climbed diagonally off a length, took the glove and ballooned behind the stumps. Ishan Kishan took an excellent diving catch to put DC on a slippery slope. Sarfaraz Khan perished to Mayank Markande and at 50/4 in the ninth over, DC were under pressure. Pant was there but he didn't have the licence to hit. Powell joined him and targeted the spinners. There had to be aggression from one end, although building a partnership at that stage was the priority. The Jamaican took a couple of sixes off Hrithik Shokeen and another one off Markande. MI's cricket during that period became very sloppy, through misfields galore, but DC's run-rate still hovered around seven-and-a-half per over. After 15 overs, they were 106/4 and a below par total looked to be on the cards. Pant tried to up the ante, hitting a couple of fours and a six against Ramandeep Singh, but lost his wicket in the same over, chasing a wide delivery. DC stared at uncertainty. RCB hoped Powell was the last power-hitter standing and he had to overcome the Bumrah challenge. A rare half-tracker was pulled for a six. The response from the fast bowler was a yorker that took out the off stump. DC were still delicately placed and 159/7 was a below par total. Bumrah's brilliance had upset the apple cart.

Iga Swiatek a Pole apart with the strengths to take Paris by storm



Paris, May 22 : As the new tennis season slowly com-

menced last year, the then 19-year-old Iga Swiatek was still in the process of testing the limits of her own strengths. The beginning of 2021 had marked her first tournaments since a transcendent French Open title in October 2020 and after admirably reaching the Australian Open fourth round, Swiatek lost in three tough sets to the former world No 1 Simona Halep. When she spoke after that match, Swiatek marvelled at how much more space Halep had within her game to alter her tactics and solve problems on the court, something she thought she lacked. "I think

that's the difference between the champions and less experienced players," she said, smiling sheepishly. "Because I didn't feel like I had many options." At the time, it seemed an amusing comment from a player with so much talent at her grasp. Seventeen months later, it is hard not to think about how quickly things have changed whenever she is on the court. Swiatek is already that champion in the eyes of all the other players, and every single time she has competed over the past three months she has been the one with a deeper toolbox, crushing all challengers. "Right now I can find solutions and use different skills to sometimes come back and sometimes just have an advantage over my opponent," she said on the eve of the Italian Open, the final big event before the French Open. "That's basically the thing that I'm most proud of, because I was working really hard on that. Last year I felt like I didn't have many choices."

Ada Hegerberg inspires Lyon to Champions League win over Barça



Barcelona, May 22 : Ada Hegerberg said Lyon "let the football talk" after the French side reasserted itself as the dominant force in European women's football in style with three first-half goals to beat holders Barcelona in a blistering final. Hegerberg was the star, the Champions League record goalscorer holding up the ball in the buildup to the first goal from Amandine Henry, scoring the second and providing an assist for the

third, scored by Catarina Macario. The usually fluid Barcelona struggled to cope with the force of Lyon on the transition and the French side's careful game management of a two-goal lead, once Alexia Putellas pulled one back after the break. "It's completely normal to talk about Barcelona," Hegerberg said. "They were the last winners. Football is fresh, it's all about the next move." Before the final nobody was really sure what to expect. Three years ago, there had been a clear

gulf between the old and new money of Lyon and Barcelona, with the latter humbled. They conceded four times in 30 minutes as Lyon ran riot, spearheaded by Hegerberg with a 17-minute hat-trick. That defeat has fuelled Barcelona's plans since. It set the benchmark the Catalan club needed to reach, and they have invested and built accordingly. A 4-0 defeat of Chelsea in last year's final showed signs of the swagger that they had faced two years prior. But still the question remained: had they closed the gap on Europe's dominant force? By the 33rd minute the answer was emphatically: no. In stifling humidity Lyon exploded to life. Within six minutes they had taken a deserved lead. In front of the France manager, Corinne Diacre, Henry beat the Uefa player of the year, Putellas, to a stray pass, edged free and sent her

shot twisting into the top corner from 35 yards. It was a statement opener. A perfect ball from Selma Bacha on the left was the headed down powerfully by Hegerberg, under a flying Mapi León and the diving Sandra Paños. It was a 59th Champions League goal in 60 games and her sixth in the final of the competition. The Norwegian forward would be instrumental in Lyon's third, too, linking up with Melvine Malard before teasing the ball towards Macario at the back post, the US international hurrying it over the line. Three goals down with 33 minutes played is not a familiar position for the often rampant Barcelona to be in. It was the first time they had gone two goals behind in the first half since the 2019 final and the first time they had trailed by three in any match since that final.

Emma Raducanu ready for deja vu against qualifier on French Open debut

Paris, May 22 : As Emma Raducanu makes her French Open main draw debut on Monday, she will enter the court filled with positive memories on her return to Paris for the first time in four years. The last time Raducanu competed here was at the French Open juniors in 2018, where she lost in the second round to Clara Tauson of Denmark. She



also enjoyed trips to Paris with the LTA when she was much

younger for junior events. "Four years ago, it sounds like a really long time and it's gone by really fast," said Raducanu, smiling. "I remember 2018 was a really good year for me in juniors. I started playing that year, played a free grade twos [a junior tournament] and then I did pretty good at Wimbledon and the US Open. I also won my first title when I was 15, a 15k in Israel." "I've defi-

nately been through a lot more experiences on the court and also off the court but as a person I am the same, genuinely, nothing has changed. I'm still that kid." Raducanu will face a different youngster in an interesting first-round match after the qualifiers were finally placed and 17-year-old Linda Noskova was drawn to face the Briton.

The bond of love and devotion.

100% DEPENDABLE... That's our guarantee !

CHIMNEYS WITH APPS | R.O. WATER PURIFIER | HOBS | GAS STOVE | OTHER KITCHEN APPLIANCES

Abhayapuri-94350-22784 | Agartala-98560-93668 | Baihata chariali-94351-42568/98641-40488 | Bangaigaon-7002184811, 9435547654, 9435121367 | Barpeta road-94350-17865 99541-41975 | Barpeta town -94350-25127 | Bhawanipur-7002206773 | Bandardewa-98649-84753 | Bijoynagar -99570-98392/94010-01157/94353-40662 | Boko-94010-02588 | Chaygaon-9435014549 | Dadara -98546-98027 | Dhupdhara-96785-16189 | Dhamaji-99546-51322 | Dhubri-94350-29279 | Diphu-94350-66701/94350-66643 | Dudhnoi-94357-21505/94351-28048 | Goalpara-70023-10904/88762-23858 | Golaghat-96132-30384 | Guwahati -94355-59057/97065-94950 | Hajo-94353-47024/88763-09327 | Hojai-94357-29521/84028-59256 | Jorhat -94350-53934/98541-06776 | Kharupitia -98541-44223 | Kokrajhar-97070-29429/99548-88721/94354-81234 | Karimgunj-97061-39061 | Krishnai-88224-15337 | Lumding -94351-63327/97066-14137 | Mangaldoi -94350-87284/94351-86435/97065-39174/73994-79163 | Mirza-98540-71983/99572-81858 | Morigaon -94350-64986/80111-17171 | North lakhimpur-88224-21077 | Nagaon-97061-79408/94355-18665 | Nalbari -98644-14515/98540-30209 | Pathsala-80110-06658 | Dhekiajuli-98548-29934 | Dibrugarh-98548-11265 | Rangia -94351-05888/96782-26563 | Silchar -97061-39061/70054-86129 | Silapathar-70028-94393 | Shillong-90869-66640 | Suwalkuchi -98643-54859 | Tinsukia-94350-35156/94350-35511/94350-36463 | Tezpur-97060-73481 | Tihu-97068-53124 | Udalguri-97063-46492

Trade enq. 9435146909/9435559057/9435559056 www.capsindia.in Toll Free: 1800 103 4646