



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

Vol. No. VII ■ Issue No. 96 ■ RNI-ASSENG/2014/58385 | GUWAHATI ■ TUESDAY ■ MAY 24, 2022 | PAGES 8 ■ PRICE RS. 10.00

Liz Truss rejects plea from Biden ally not ...

02

Jesse Marsch watches Leeds United nightmare turn into American dream

07



NEWS IN BRIEF

Engineer surrendered

Assam Rising

Guwahati, May 23 :

An engineer of the irrigation department, who is wanted on graft charges, has surrendered himself before Udalguri court in Assam on Monday. The engineer, identified as Satyaram Kalita, is accused of being involved in a massive Rs 4 crore 18 lakh scam. Kalita had been on the run since November 2021 after a case was registered against him. The case was lodged by former farmer leader Pankaj Asomiyia at Udalguri's Tongla police station. Notably, the accountant of the department, Prabhat Kalita, was arrested on March 7 this year in connection to the case. Last month, the CID and Assam Police in an operation launched at Assam's Nagaon district have arrested nine people in connection to an alleged misappropriation of scholarship fund case.

Batadrava incident

Assam Rising

Guwahati, May 23 :

In the Batadrava incident of violence with police officials claiming that there was a deliberate attempt to burn down the documents and files in the police station. According to the police, prior to the torching of the police station, a group of people was seen setting the files containing important documents on fire. An infamous drug lord, identified as one Lalu from Dhing in Assam was seen in a video pelting stones at the police station, informed police. According to reports, he is a mastermind of the drug nexus in Dhing in the Nagaon district of Assam. He was identified from a video footage of the incidents of violence that took place in Batadrava on Saturday.

Road accident

New Delhi, May 23 :

Two bikers were killed in a hit-and-run accident that took place in Dhekiajuli under Assam's Sonitpur district on Sunday evening. The incident took place at National Highway 15 near Bhotpara village. According to the sources, a speeding vehicle collided head-on with the bike and fled from the scene immediately. Both the bikers died on the spot. The deceased were identified as Bikram and Rohan. It is learned that the victims were en route Tinkhuria Tea estate from Dhekiajuli when the accident happened.

Admission to madrassas 'rights violation': CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

CM urged parents to teach Quran to their children, but at home

Assam Rising

Guwahati, May 23 :

The word 'madrassa' should cease to exist, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said as he stressed "normal education" in schools for all. He was responding to a former chancellor of the Hyderabad Maulana Azad University who hailed the Assam government's decision to dissolve all madrassas and turn them into general schools. "Till the time this word (madrassa) exists, children will not be able to think about becoming doctors and engineers. If you tell children that they will not become doctors or engineers if they study in madrassas, they themselves will refuse to go," he said amid roaring applause from the crowd. "Teach the Quran to your children, but at home," the chief minister said, adding that children are admitted to madrassas "in violation of their human rights". "The stress should be on science, maths, biology, botany, zoology. There

should be normal education in schools. Religious texts can be taught at home.



should be normal education in schools. Religious texts can be taught at home.

But in schools, they should study to become doctors, engineers, professors and scientists," Sarma said when asked how he plans to help put more Muslim students in colleges and universities. Students in madrassas are extremely talented - they can memorise every word of the Quran by heart, the former chancellor pointed out. "All Muslims were Hindus," Sarma said in a sharp retort, adding, "No one was born a Muslim (in India). Everyone was a Hindu in India. So, if

a Muslim child is extremely meritorious, I will give partial credit to his Hindu past." In 2020, Assam decided to dissolve all government-run Madrassas and convert them into general educational institutions in a bid to 'facilitate the secular education system'. This year, the Guwahati High Court upheld the Assam Repealing Act, 2020, under which all provincialised (government-funded) madrassas were to be converted into general schools in the state. 13 people had filed a petition in the High Court in 2021 challenging the government's decision to convert the state-funded madrassas to general schools. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma

Assam flood: Death toll rises to 24

Nearly 7.19 lakh people affected



Assam Rising

Guwahati, May 23 :

As many as six more persons died in Assam due to the flood, taking the overall death toll to 24, according to Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) on Monday. Of the six new deaths, four were reported from Nagaon and one each from Hojai and Cachar districts. Of the 24 deaths, 19 died in floods and five in landslides in

different districts. Meanwhile, over 7.19 lakh people have been affected in 22 of the state's 34 districts. An ASDMA release said, a total of 7,19,425 people, including 1,41,050 children, of 2,095 villages in 22 districts have been affected. It said that a total of 26,489 stranded people have been evacuated with the help of disaster response forces

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Flood tragedy in Dima Hasao man-made, says former MLA



Assam Rising

Guwahati, May 23 :

Termining the tragic flood situation in Dima Hasao a "man-made disaster", former legislator and leader of the Autonomous State Demand Committee (ASDC), Samarjit Haflongbar has written to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma urging him to take steps to curb

massive extraction of riverstone, illegal mining of forest timber in the district. "Uncontainable massive extraction of riverstone, illegal mining of coal and smuggling of forest timber under present North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC) chief executive member (CEM) Debolal Gorlosa has led to the disaster. These

activities have increased water current besides weakening either side of riverbanks such as Jatinga, Mahur, Langting and other rivers along with other streams and tributaries," wrote Haflongbar. Continuous rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms triggered flash floods and massive landslides in the Dima Hasao district recently. As roads collapsed, railway tracks got washed away and bridges caved in, the district got cut off from the rest of state. Even as road communication was restored through the Lumding-Haflong

road, many remote villages remain cut off due to landslides coupled with electricity and Internet cut. "Earlier manual stone collection under containable manner with its restriction in bridge standing areas besides human-populated areas, are now replaced by extraction with using heavy machinery excavating the entire river bed. This needs to be stopped immediately for the greater interest of preserving the environment and maintenance of ecological balance besides giving full

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Repeat of Nagaon-like attack unlikely: CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

Assam Rising

Guwahati, May 23 :

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said that Nagaon-like incident - wherein a police station was torched by a mob after death of a person allegedly in police cus-

today - is unlikely to be repeated in future as his government has taken stern action in the case. After preliminary investigation in the Saturday's incident in central Assam's Nagaon district hinted at involvement of some migrants who had allegedly encroached on government land, at least five houses were demolished by the district authorities. Action against encroachment by migrants, who are in majority in many districts of the state, will continue, Sarma said while speaking at the 'Panchjanya Media Conclave', organised by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)



mouthpiece. "We (Indians) are in minority in several districts of Assam while migrants are in majority. In one such area, a mob burnt down a police station. We

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Eye on China, US Launches Unconventional Trade Agreement Ahead of Quad Summit

New Delhi, May 23 :

It is not a "traditional trade deal", but a "new model of economic arrangement that will set the terms and rules of the road for trade and technology and supply chains for the 21st century". This is how US National

Security Adviser Jake Sullivan described the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF). The IPEF was launched in Tokyo on Monday in the presence of Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. The launch

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Mehbooba Mufti Slams Assam CM's 'Madrassa' Remark



New Delhi, May 23 :

Taking strong objection to the 'madrassa should be abolished' comment, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti accused Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of being in a race with his counterparts in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, on Monday. The former Jammu and Kashmir Chief

Minister noted that the race was "who could hassle the Muslims, the minority in the most". The Gupkar Alliance member further noted that issues of temples and mosques were being raised so as to provoke Muslims into reacting. "If Muslims react, these people will get a chance to execute another episode like that in Gujarat or Uttar Pradesh," she said, and concluded, "The British pitted Hindus against Muslims, today BJP is doing it. The Prime Minister is watching silently, and so BJP thinks what the members are doing is right." Hailed by the former chancellor of the Hyderabad Maulana Azad University for dissolving all madrassas and turning them into general

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Gyanvapi Masjid row

Hindu devotees refer British era govt stand taken in 1936 civil suit



New Delhi, May 23 :

Hindu women plaintiffs who have filed a civil suit before Varanasi court seeking declaration and asserting the right to Darshan and worship Hindu deities whose idols are located on an outer wall of the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi has referred to

stand taken by the British government in a 1936 suit seeking it to be declared as Waqf property. In an affidavit filed through advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, three of the five women devotees said that in 1936 one Deen Mohammed has filed a civil suit without impleading any member of the Hindu community but impleading only

the Secretary of State for India through District Magistrate, Benares and Anjuman Intajamia Masjid, Benares for granting declaration that the land bearing situated in the city measuring (1 Bigha 9 Biswa and 6 Dhurs) together with enclosure all-around described in the plaint was Waqf in possession of that plaintiff (Mohammed). The affidavit has been filed in response to the plea of the Committee of Management Anjuman Intezamia Masjid which manages Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi seeking quashing of the recent survey of the mosque. The affidavit said that the 1936 suit said that Muslims had the right to say their prayers

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Covid-19 pandemic created one new billionaire every 30 hours, finds Oxfam's 'Profiting from Pain' report

New Delhi, May 23 :

Releasing a report titled 'Profiting from Pain', Oxfam International on Monday (May 23, 2022) said that the Covid-19 pandemic has seen one new billionaire emerging every 30 hours, while nearly one million people could be pushed into extreme poverty every 33 hours this year. As the rich and powerful from across the globe gathered in the Swiss

town of Davos for the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2022, Executive Director of Oxfam International Gabriela Bucher said that the decades of progress on extreme poverty are "now in reverse" and millions of people are facing "impossible rises" in the cost of simply staying alive. "Billionaires are arriving in Davos to celebrate an incredible surge in their fortunes. The pandemic and now the steep increases in

food and energy prices have simply put, been a bonanza for them. Meanwhile, decades of progress on extreme poverty are now in reverse and millions of people are facing impossible rises in the cost of simply staying alive," said Gabriela Bucher, Executive Director of Oxfam International. The report released by the Nairobi-based charity also found that the number of billionaires had risen by 573 to just under 2,700 from



2020. Their cumulative wealth had risen by nearly

\$3.8 trillion to \$12.7 trillion,

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

In the firing zone: evictions begin in West Bank villages after court ruling



West Bank, May 23: Below the dusty plateau, home to Khribet al-Fakhiet village, on the southern edge of the occupied West Bank, sheep, goats and camels belonging to Palestinian Bedouin roam the hills. The Israeli town of Arad glitters in the distance and, across the valley to the east, the mountains of neighbouring Jordan rise up to meet the sky. Much closer to home, the illegal Israeli settlement of Mitzpe Yair looms from the next ridge. Bone-shattering unpaved roads

crisscross this poverty-stricken, hilly semi-desert, part of the 60% of the West Bank that is under full Israeli control. Palestinians call it Masafer Yatta, a collection of villages with a population of about 1,000. To the Israeli state, however, this is Firing Zone 918, a military training area in which civilians are prohibited. The fight for control of this 3,000 hectares (7,410 acres) is one of the fiercest battles of the Israeli occupation. Earlier this month, Israel's supreme

court finally ruled in a two-decade-old legal case over the area's fate: the land can be repurposed for military use, upholding the Israel Defence Forces' (IDF) argument that Palestinians living here could not prove they were resident before the firing zone was established in 1981. The decision - one of the most significant on expulsions since the occupation began in 1967 - paved the way for the eviction of everyone living here. The long-feared demolitions, which UN experts have said may amount to war crimes, have already started. Last week, 11 homes and workshops in Fakhiet were demolished. Another nine structures in nearby al-Majaz

were torn down with bulldozers by an Israeli company, to whom the state contracts out the demolition work. IDF soldiers and police, tasked with securing the perimeter, looked on. Mohammed Ayoub, a farmer, and 17 members of his extended family in Fakhiet were made homeless in the space of 30 minutes, and all are now living in a single tent. "It's too hot for the small children and too crowded for so many people," he said. "We will rebuild because this is our home. They may come back and destroy it again ... Home is supposed to be a safe place." The IDF did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the demolitions.



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

Dozens dead, millions stranded as floods ravage Bangladesh and India

New Delhi, May 23: Heavy rains have caused widespread flooding in parts of Bangladesh and India, leaving millions stranded and at least 57 dead, officials say. In Bangladesh, about 2 million people have been marooned by the worst floods in the country's north-east for nearly two decades. At least 100 villages at Zakiganj were inundated after floodwater rushing from India's north-east breached a major embankment on the Barak River, said Mosharrif Hossain, the chief government administrator of the Sylhet region. "Some two million people have been stranded by floods so far," he said on Saturday. Many parts of Bangladesh and neighbouring regions in India are prone to flooding, and experts say climate change is increasing the likelihood of extreme weather events around the world. Dozens of people were killed in India during the week in days of flooding, landslides and thunderstorms, according to local disaster management authorities. In Assam state, which borders Bangladesh, at least 14 people died in landslides and floods. Assam authorities said on Saturday that more than 850,000 people in about 3,200 villages had been affected by the floods, triggered by torrential rains that submerged swathes of farmland and damaged thousands of homes. Nearly 90,000 people have been moved to state-run relief shelters as water levels in rivers run high and large swathes of land remain submerged in most districts. West of Assam, at least 33 people were killed in Bihar state in thunderstorms on Thursday.

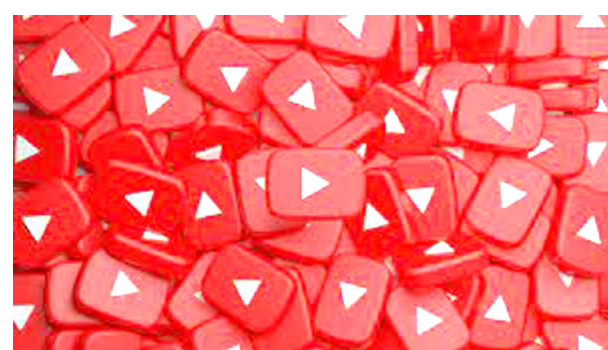
Ukraine forces prepare for possible attack on Belarusian border

Moscow, May 23: Ukrainian forces have built a new line of defences along the country's previously unfortified northern border with Belarus amid signs of another attack. Russian forces invaded Ukraine through the Belarusian border in February when they tried to capture the capital, Kyiv. On 10 May, Belarus's army chief, Viktor Gulevich, announced the deployment of Belarusian special forces and equipment in response to what he described as a "southern threat" from Ukraine and Nato. Belarus has been conducting military drills its border with Ukraine since early May. Belarusian President, Aleksandr Lukashenko, has been Russia's closest ally in its war in Ukraine. On Tuesday, Lukashenko urged the Russian-led military alliance, the Collective Security Treaty Organisation, which met in Moscow, to remain united on Ukraine and accused the west of prolonging the conflict. The Guardian was given access to Ukraine's border positions on the condition that it did not disclose the exact locations or the surnames of the Ukrainians serving. In the forests along the Belarusian border, a Ukrainian territorial defence unit made up of fighters between the ages of 19 and the mid-60s, is manning a network of trenches and positions constructed since the February invasion. Before February, much of Ukraine's border with Belarus consisted of small kiosk-like checkpoints which Russian tanks broke through with ease. Two days after the invasion, Ukraine closed all its border crossings with Belarus and Russia. In their analysis of the threat from Belarus, the UK's Ministry of Defence said last week that the presence of Belarusian forces on the border would probably prevent Ukraine from deploying support operations on its Donbas front.



Birds rest in the Minjiang River estuary nature reserve in southeast China's Fujian Province

London, May 23: YouTube has taken down more than 70,000 videos and 9,000 channels related to the war in Ukraine for violating content guidelines, including removal of videos that referred to the invasion as a "liberation mission". The platform is hugely popular in Russia, where, unlike some of its US peers, it has not been shut down despite hosting content from opposition figures such as Alexei Navalny. YouTube has also been able to operate in Russia despite cracking down on pro-Kremlin



content that has broken guidelines including its major violent events policy, which prohibits denying or trivialising the invasion. Since the conflict began in February, YouTube has taken down

channels including that of the pro-Kremlin journalist Vladimir Solovyov. Channels associated with Russia's Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs have also been temporarily suspended from uploading

Liz Truss rejects plea from Biden ally not to rewrite the Northern Ireland protocol



Washington, May 23: Liz Truss is resisting pressure from a close ally of Joe Biden not to rewrite the Brexit deal's Northern Ireland protocol, saying she will not let the impasse "drag on". The foreign secretary is facing concerted pressure from senior US politicians on the issue. Nancy Pelosi, the speaker of the House of Representatives, has already warned that she could endanger any hopes of a free trade deal with America. The protocol, which is part of the 2019 divorce treaty with the European Union, was designed to avoid placing a trade and customs border

across the island of Ireland, instead placing it in the Irish Sea. Unionists say this undermines Northern Ireland's position in the UK and Downing Street is threatening to unilaterally change or even dump the protocol. Truss was confronted yesterday by a delegation led by congressman Richard Neal, a senior Biden ally. There are concerns in Washington about tensions between London and Brussels and the impact on the Good Friday agreement if the British government goes ahead with its threats. However, it is understood that Truss

said she was "defending the Good Friday agreement" rather than endangering it. She is understood to have said the protocol was having a severe impact and she could not let the "situation drag on" if the EU did not produce a reasonable solution. Business groups in Northern Ireland dispute that there is a problem, and have suggested that while the arrangements did cause disruption early on they are now cushioning the region from the impact of Brexit. Neal brought a delegation from the powerful congressional ways and means committee to Truss's country retreat at Chevening in Kent. He had earlier held talks with EU officials in Brussels and had met Keir Starmer, the Labour leader. The meeting came just days after Truss declared that she had a plan for reworking parts of the protocol if a negotiated solution with the EU failed. The impasse has intensified after the DUP refused to take part in Northern Ireland's power-sharing administration unless major changes were made to the way the Brexit deal was operating.

'If my £6.5m Kent mansion is sold now it could help fund Putin's war'

Moscow, May 23: It is one of Britain's most controversial property sales. A former multimillionaire banker warns that proceeds from the disposal of his £6.5m Kent country estate risk being sent to help fund Vladimir Putin's war machine. Ilya Yurov, 50, who is originally from Moscow, is being pursued with two former colleagues for \$900m (£720m) from the National Bank Trust in

Russia after losing a high court case. National Bank Trust is tasked with recovering billions of pounds from around the world to send back to Russia, but to date has escaped the UK sanctions list. As revealed by the Observer last week, it is majority owned by the Central Bank of the Russian Federation and was once promoted by the actor Bruce Willis. Yurov bought Oxney Court in Kent, an 17th-

century gothic-style mansion with crenellated walls and towers, in 2012. The property was destroyed by a blaze during the first world war when it was commandeered as an operation headquarters and place of recuperation for soldiers returning from the front. It was meticulously rebuilt in 1998. The 14-hectare (35-acre) estate, with tennis court and pool, has been put on the market for £6.5m to help pay his debt.

Seven centuries of Irish archives painstakingly recreated after being destroyed in civil war

Dublin, May 23: In June 1922, the opening battle of Ireland's civil war destroyed one of Europe's great archives in a historic calamity that reduced seven centuries of documents and manuscripts to ash and dust. Once the envy of scholars around the world, the Public Record Office at the Four Courts in Dublin, was a repository of documents dating from medieval times, and packed into a six-storey building by the River Liffey. It was obliterated when troops of the fledgling Irish state bombarded former comrades who were hunkered down at the site as part of a rebellion by headline republicans against peace with Britain. Each side blamed the other for the destruction, but there was no disputing the consequences. "At one blow, the records of centuries have passed into oblivion," said Herbert Wood, deputy keeper of the



public records. The ruins stood as a testament to loss and a harbinger of the destruction of European cultural treasures in 20th century wars. Now, on the eve of the disaster's centenary, a virtual reconstruction of the building and its archives is to be unveiled. Historians, archivists and computer scientists have spent five years piecing together much of what had been thought lost for ever. "When we began the project, the story was that everything had been lost. But it turns out we have been able to recover hundreds of thousands of documents," said Peter Crooks, director of Beyond 2022: Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland. "We could not have known the scale of the materials that were out there." Retrieved material includes details about the Cromwellian land redistributions that shaped modern Ireland.

Human skull found by Minnesota kayakers 8,000 years old, experts say

Minnesota, May 23: Native American officials will be given a partial skull discovered last summer by two kayakers in Minnesota after investigations determined it was about 8,000 years old. The kayakers found the skull in the drought-depleted Minnesota River about 110 miles (180km) west of Minneapolis. Renville county sheriff Scott Hable said. Thinking it might be related to a missing person case or murder, Hable shared the skull with a medical examiner and eventually to the FBI, where a forensic anthropologist used carbon dating to determine it was likely the skull of a young man who lived in that area between 5500 and 6000 BC, Hable said. "It was a complete shock to us that that bone was that old," Hable told Minnesota Public Radio. The anthropologist determined the man had a depression in his skull that was "perhaps suggestive of the cause of death". After the sheriff posted about the discovery on Wednesday, his office was criticized by several Native Americans, who said publishing photos of ancestral remains was offensive to their culture. Hable's office removed the post, according to the sheriff. "We didn't mean for it to be offensive whatsoever," Hable said. Hable said the remains will be turned over to Upper Sioux Community tribal officials. Minnesota Indian Affairs Council cultural resources specialist Dylan Goetsch said in a statement that neither the council nor the state archaeologist were notified about the discovery, which is required by state laws that govern the care and repatriation of Native American remains.

Guest House

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



Carcass of wild elephant found at Kandali

Assam Rising Nagaon, May 23: The carcass of a wild elephant was found in 13 no tea estates near Kandali PRF under Kothiatoli forest range early this morning.

The patrolling forest personnel witnessed the carcass, sources said, adding that the department concerned disposed of the carcass of the dead elephant

after postmortem. The official concerned of the range suspected that the elephant might be killed due to fighting among themselves of a herd, sources said.

Cattle vaccination drive held

Assam Rising Guwahati, May 23: A massive vaccination drive of cattle is on in all the ranges falling under the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNP&TR) to prevent the spread of diseases from domestic animals to wild animals. Disclosing this information, Director, KNP&TR, Jatin Sharma said

that the intensive vaccination drive of cattle is going on in Kohora, Bokakhat Chapori, Burapahar, Agratoli and Laokhowa ranges of the park. He said that veterinary officers, FVOs and BVOs with support from NGOs like Corbett Foundation, Bhumi and

Aaranyak are conducting the vaccination drive. "As many as 10,935 cattle and 511 buffaloes covering 2,275 households of 62 fringe villages were vaccinated till Saturday," added Sharma. The Director of the park informed that the cattle vaccination drive is to prevent diseases like HS (Hemorrhagic Septicaemia), BQ (Black Quarter) and FMD (Foot and Mouth Disease). "Cattle enter the KNP&TR to graze and come in contact with wild animals. The only way to check the spread of diseases is through such vaccination drives," said a park official.

Chirang district admin ready with possible preparedness measures

Assam Rising, Kajalgaon, May 23: With regard to the flood situation, the Chirang district administration has taken all possible preparedness measures to face any unwarranted situation that may arise during a flood situation. This was informed by Deputy Commissioner, Chirang, Narendra Kumar Shah while addressing a press meet on Monday in the conference hall of



the Deputy Commissioner's office at Kajalgaon. He informed that based on the past experiences, villages had been mapped based on their flood vulnerability and categorized as high vulnerable, moderate and low. He said, "For immediate relocation of the affected people from the inundated areas, relief shelter places have already been identified in different locations of the district. Altogether, 96 such locations have been identified in all 3 revenue circles as 39 locations in Bengtal Revenue Circle, 14 in Sidli Revenue Circle and 43 in Bijni Revenue Circle and for providing immediate GR assistance to the affected people, vendors or suppliers have been identified". He apprised that the Assam government had already allocated 100 MT rice for Chirang district under Open Market Sales Scheme (OMSS) for distribution during flood time and 50 percent advance payment made by them to the FCI, Bongaigaon so as to free lifting of rice during critical time. "And for the flood affected animals, arrangement for wheat bran or rice bran, etc have been made and in collaboration with Veterinary department and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Chirang we have arranged to cultivate green fodder in around 18 bighas of land in the district so that in case of necessity, these may also be utilized", he added. He also said about the Water Resources department to whom they had already put on the job to complete the flood related works immediately. In regard to arrangement of rescue operation, he informed that as of now, there are 3 numbers of functional Inflatable Rubber Boat (IRB) with 5 SDRF personnel at Kajalgaon Fire Station and a NDRF team prepositioned in Bongaigaon district for the entire flood season along with planning to mobilize the support from SSB and Army for any such rescue operation and asking all heads of departments to remain alert throughout the monsoon season to act as per their departmental contingency plan whenever flood occurs. "With all necessary preparedness measures taken by the departments in general and support from the public in particular, it is hoped that we would be able to reduce the impact of flood to the maximum possible extent if at all it occurs", the Deputy Commissioner hoped and urged to the people of Chirang through the media to remain alert and not to be panic during flood and extend all possible support to the people engaged in relief work to serve promptly and effectively. He appealed to people in need of support to dial at the District Control Room numbers: 03664242316, 9435105936 and Toll free number: 1077 for any kind of assistance related to flood. During the press meet, Deputy Commissioner Narendra Kumar Shah was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioners Ajit Kumar Sarmah, Nirmali Baruah and other officials of district administration.

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

RPF of NFR rescued 4 persons including minors

Assam Rising Guwahati, May 23: Alert Railway Protection Force (RPF) of N. F. Railway successfully rescued 4 persons including minors on May, 20. All of them were rescued from trains, railway premises and stations in different operations conducted over N. F. Railway and handed them over to respective family members/parents/guardians, GRP or ChildLine/NGOs for their safe custody and further necessary action. In May, 20 information was received from Station Master/Indoor/Guwahati that one male person aged about 41 years, had fallen down from train no. 05802 DN Guwahati- New Bongaigaon Manas Rhino Passenger at Km. 9/6-7 in between Guwahati- Kamakhya section at about 18:00 hours. Immediately, Assistant Sub-

Inspector of RPF/Guwahati Post, rushed to the spot and detected the said male passenger in injured condition at the same location. On interrogation, the person stated his identity as Krishna Das belongs to Tulsibari, Kamrup and was traveling by train no. 05802 DN from Guwahati to Rangiya. He further stated that during the journey, he went near the door to spit out and slipped and fell down from the train. Immediately, RPF personnel called 108 Ambulance and sent him to the GMCH, Guwahati for medical treatment. Matter was also informed to his wife Sabita Das over phone. On the same day, RPF Meri Saheli team of Kishanganj, led by Sub Inspector while checking at Kishanganj railway



station, rescued one minor boy at about 17:20 hours, S/o- Md. Tafjul Haq and resident of Lalbari Tapu village, under police sta-

tion Pothiya of Kishanganj district (Bihar), who was left behind by his father during a train journey. Matter was informed to his father and later handed over to him after proper verification. Again, in May, 20 Assistant Sub-Inspector and Constable of RPF Post/Dimapur, during routine checking at Dimapur railway station, rescued two run away minor boys. Both are residents of Kamakhya Colony, Lumding (Assam). The boys were unable to give any contact number of their guardians/ rela-

tives. Later, the rescued boys were handed over to Childline / Dimapur (Nagaland) for safe custody & further necessary action. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has been alerted to look out for the movement of children in a suspicious manner, traveling alone or without proper guardians etc. A new initiative under "Meri Saheli" has been formed over N. F. Railway and functioning round the clock to make aware women/child passengers about the safety/security and use of Helpline No. 139 in case of any exigency.

Assam Rifles conducts rehabilitation camp

Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, May 23: Lokra Battalion of 21 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) had organised a rehabilitation camp for children with special needs at Assam Rifles High School Lokra under Sonitpur district on Sunday. The Camp was attended by the children having issues like delayed speech, speech impairment

or communication problems. All children were analysed by audiologist Dr Ayub Ali Thakuria, Director, Children & Speech Rehabilitation Centre, Goalpara along with Rakesh Lahakar, special educationist of Sishu Sarothi, NGO Guwahati. During the Camp, parents were also guided with the various parenting techniques and methods to

groom their children. A total of six children and twenty families benefited from the event. At the end of the camp, the commandant, Lokra Battalion interacted with the children and parents to know their well being.

Workshop on Research Ethics held in USTM



Assam Rising Guwahati, May 23: A two day workshop on "Research Ethics" was held successfully by Department of Sociology, University of Science & Technology Meghalaya in collaboration with Department of Sociology, Manipur University on May 20-21. The workshop was conducted in hybrid mode. Several eminent sociologists from across the region provided their valuable insight on various pivotal points of the application of fundamental ethical principles to research activities which include the design and implementation of research, respect towards society and others, the use of resources and research outputs, scientific misconduct and the regulation of research. Research Scholars as well as PG students of all the batches of sociology from both the universities attended the event quite enthusiastically. The inaugural session was graced by Honourable Vice Chancellor Prof. G. D. Sharma, VC, USTM, and Prof. N. Lokendra Singh, VC, Manipur University along with Prof. Chandan Sharma from Tezpur University who was the Key note speaker. Prof. Chandan Sharma spoke on the harmonious grounds where personal and professional ethics

meet when it comes to research. He also emphasized on various empirical points of do's and don'ts in academic research. The other eminent speakers who addressed the workshop were Prof. Kshetri Rajendra Singh, HOD, Sociology, Manipur University, Prof. Soibam Jibonkumar Singh, Head, Department of Anthropology and Chairman, Institutional Human Ethics Committee, Manipur University, Prof. Temjensosang, Department of Sociology & Dean RDC, Nagaland University, Nagaland and Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Associate Prof., Sociology, USTM. The areas in which the concerned speak-

ers provided their significant knowledge were diverse yet necessary in research such as: Ethical Dilemma in field work, Ethical Guidelines in Bio-social research, Publication ethics and informed consent in academic research. All the sessions were smoothly coordinated by the organizing committee members of both the universities. It is to be noted that this workshop marks as the first academic exercise between the concerned universities as they recently signed MoU to strengthen further academic collaboration.

GU Officers Association new body formed

Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 23: In the Annual General Body meeting of Gauhati University Officers Association (GUOA) held today at G.U. Campus, a new Executive body has been formed for the session 2022-23 with Dr. Ranjan Kr. Kakati, Director, Students' Welfare, G.U. as President and Mrs. Dipika Choudhury, Asst. Librarian, KKH Library, G.U. as General Secretary. Jnanendra Kr Mahanta and Sanjib Baruah both have been elected as Vice- President, GUOA. Bikash Dutta has been elected as the Treasurer while Dr. Rituparna Borah elected as Sports and Cultural Secretary, Prof. Pratap

Jyoti Handique, Vice – Chancellor, G.U. and Dr. H.K. Nath, Registrar, G.U. attended the opening session of the meeting of GUOA. The Annual Journal of GUOA "Satirtha" was released by the V.C., G.U. In his speech Prof. Handique mentioned that Officers play a vital role for greater development of the university and a holistic environment should be created for progress and improvement of the university in every field. A prize distribution ceremony was held wherein prizes were distributed to all the winners of the last annual sports of the association.

TENDER NOTICE

Tender for construction of Forest Guard Quarter. Anti poaching Camp and Beal Office is hereby invited from intending contractors for execution of the following works-

Name of Division	Name of work	Quantity	Location	Amount (Rs)
	Forest Guard Quarter	1 No.	Garampani	12,00,000.00
	Anti poaching Camp	1 No.	Kowani	12,00,000.00
	Beal Office	1 No.	Sarupathar Beat	14,00,000.00

Detailed tender paper/documents etc. will be collected from Divisional Forest Officer, Golaghat Division from 23/05/2022 on payment of **Rs 500.00** (Rupees five hundred) only, in the shape of Bank Demand draft payable in favour of the Divisional Forest Officer, Golaghat Division, Golaghat on any working day during office hours till 22/06/2022.

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer
Golaghat Division Golaghat

Janasanyog/C/3007/22

Letter No. FNST/B/MCA's Sale/2022/2496

SHORT E-AUCTION NOTICE

Under the provision of Rule 32,33,34,35,36 & 37 of Assam Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2013 and its subsequent amendment, bids are invited online by the undersigned from registered company/Firms/Societies/Individuals etc. For the award of the contractor/permit for the following Minor Mineral Concession Area (Mahal).

Sl. No	Name of Mining Contract Area	For the period	Area (in Hect.)
1	Debasthan ordinary Sand & Gravel Mining unit No.2	7 Years	5.0

Details of e-auction will be available on <https://assamforestonline.in/index.php> portal from 30-05-2022 to 20-06-2022.

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer,
Nagaon South Division, Hojai

Janasanyog/C/2978/22

INDIA CARBON LIMITED

Regd. Office : Noonmati, Guwahati 781020, Assam
CIN NO : L23101AS1961PLC001173
Ph No. : (033) 22487856/9, Fax No. : 91-33-2230-7507
E-mail : ic@indiacarbonltd.com, Website : www.indiacarbonltd.com

Extract of Standalone Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended 31st March, 2022

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ending 31.03.2022 (Audited)	Year ending 31.03.2022 (Audited)	Quarter Ending 31.03.2021 (Audited)	Current Year ending 31.03.2022 (Audited)	Previous Year ending 31.03.2021 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations	11481.43	45612.37	5711.13	45612.37	19624.61
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(191.00)	11627.03	1967.06	11627.03	5220.59
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(191.00)	11627.03	1967.06	11627.03	5220.59
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(699.73)	8134.83	3237.85	8134.83	5292.48
5	Total comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after Tax) and other comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(634.55)	10314.60	4770.96	10314.60	8993.55
6	Equity Share Capital	265.00	265.00	265.00	265.00	265.00
7	Earning Per Share (of Rs. 10 each) (Not Annualised)					
	1. Basic :	(26.40)	306.97	122.18	306.97	199.72
	2. Diluted :	(26.40)	306.97	122.18	306.97	199.72

Notes :

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter / Year ended 31st March, 2022 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid results are available on the Stock Exchange Websites, www.cse-india.com and on the Company's website www.indiacarbonltd.com.
- The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company in their meeting held on 23rd May-2022.
- Figures have been regrouped or rearranged wherever necessary.

For M/s India Carbon Limited
Sd/-
Rakesh Himatsingka
Managing Director
DIN: 00632156

Place : Kolkata
Date : 23rd May, 2022

THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VII, ISSUE NO. 96 TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022

Voters turned their back

After almost a decade of conservative leadership, voters turned their back on the ruling coalition, instead backing those who campaigned for more action on climate change, greater gender equality and political integrity. For much of its history, Australian politics has been dominated by the two major parties: the Liberals on the center-right and Labor on the center-left. But this election threw all the balls up in the air, tossing more than a few to minor parties and Independents who were fed-up with the two-party system. Election results showed a strong swing towards Independents who campaigned on issues relating to the climate. The candidates -- many first-time entrants to politics -- were seeking cuts to emissions of up to 60% -- more than twice as much as promised by the ruling conservative coalition (26-28%) and also more than Labor (43%). Known as teal candidates, they targeted traditionally blue Liberal seats with more green-leaning policies. "Millions of Australians have put climate first. Now, it's time for a radical reset on how this great nation of ours acts upon the climate challenge," said Amanda McKenzie, CEO of the research group the Climate Council, on Saturday's election result. Australia has long been known as the "lucky country," partly due to its wealth of coal and gas, as well as minerals like iron ore, which have driven generations of economic growth. The ruling conservative government had been called a climate "holdout" by the United Nations Secretary-General after outlining a plan to get to net zero by 2050 by creating massive new gas projects. Incumbent Scott Morrison had said he would back a transition from coal to renewable energy, but had no plans to stop new coal projects. Labor Party leader Anthony Albanese promised to end the "climate wars," a reference to the infighting that has frustrated any efforts to push for stronger action on climate over the past decade and even cost some prime ministers their jobs. Labor has pledged to reach emission net zero by 2050, partly by strengthening the mechanism used to pressure companies to make cuts. But research institute Climate Analytics says Labor's plans aren't ambitious enough to keep the global temperature rise within 1.5 degrees Celsius, as outlined in the Paris Agreement. Labor's policies are more consistent with a rise of 2 degrees Celsius, the institute said, marginally better than the coalition's plan.

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

As a psychologist helping Ukrainians, I am a witness to the terrible traumas of war

All four of my grandparents survived the second world war, and all four were scarcely willing to talk about it, having either survived the siege of Leningrad or come back from the frontline wounded. On the rare occasions they did, their memories would leave them devastated. The lifelong PTSD they experienced was quite possibly one of the reasons I became a psychologist. I wanted to do something to end the vicious circle of trauma, abuse, self-neglect and fear. But during my training, I could never have predicted the way I would be applying my skills a decade later. On 25 February, the day after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, I volunteered to join several crisis hotlines where psychologists were working to support those affected by the war. I couldn't stop the war, but at least I might try to lessen the damage. My colleagues come from many different countries - some of the Ukrainian psychologists kept working between bombings, while others had evacuated to a safer place.

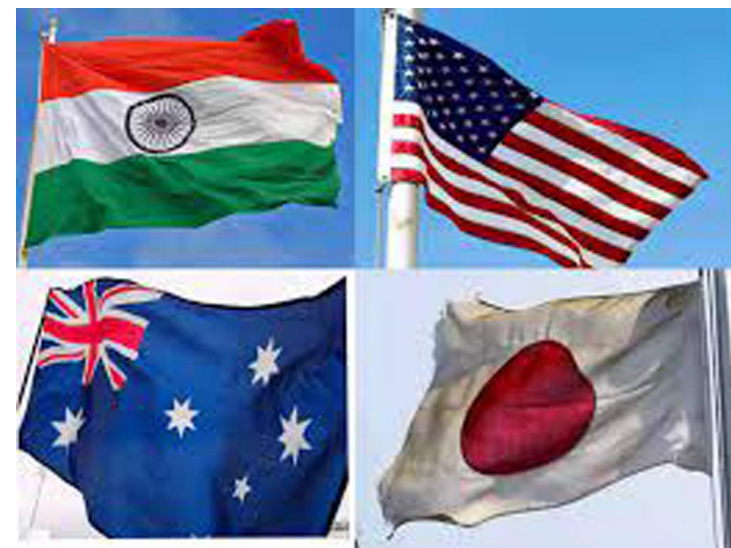
Quite a few of us, myself included, are living abroad in safety - a privilege too often taken for granted. During the first weeks of the war, most of the Ukrainian people who texted or called us had either just been evacuated or were still in areas of heavy shelling. Those who managed to escape were suffering from survivor's guilt, along with shock from the war in general. Those who stayed were experiencing shock in a different way, trying to navigate through their daily

Anna Shilonosova

spikes of anxiety. My first client was a person besieged in Ukraine. Their whole family had been hiding in a bomb shelter for days and they were experiencing panic attacks, partly from the sudden responsibility of having to care for elderly relatives and beloved pets. They had to make the kind of decisions no one should have to face. As the war developed, everyone's stress tolerance was wearing thinner and thinner. Those who fled Ukraine reported apathy and a loss of the will to live. Old

traumas have resurfaced, tightening their grip and making it harder to breathe. Those who were still besieged were getting weaker mentally and physically, and they were finding it harder to cope with the sleep deprivation and constant levels of tension and alertness. In such situations, the main way we can offer support is by validating the person's feelings; helping them find things they can control; and finding self-regulatory techniques that work, such as body relaxation or breathing techniques.

It became the eerie norm to receive text messages from people who had managed to come online in pauses between hiding in the shelter from bombs. However, none of us could get used to having to guess whether a delay in response meant the person had no network connection, or that they were no longer alive. Messages such as "I feel drained", "I need an urgent vent call" and "I need to talk to someone, I feel it's taken a toll on me" started to appear in our internal specialists' support chats more often.



The Phram, it was called: like an angry Makkara, the vehicle of the sea god, Varuna, part elephant-part crocodile, the strange beast rose from the sea, bearing death. The East India Company's ingenious deception lacked the cunning of the Trojan Horse but made it up with lethality. Forty-eight-pound guns, mounted on a floating platform, let loose at the Maratha fortress of Gheria, as it drifted close to the walls. European soldiers, African mercenaries, Bombay sepoy, Pathans: the infantry massed for the kill. Like so many brilliant ideas, this one ended in disaster: The Phram sank before it did any damage. To make things worse, historian Anirudh Dasgupta has recorded, "widespread drunkenness prevailed in the ranks due to the supply of free rum to boost morale." Three centuries ago this year, Kanhoji Angre-victorious at Gheria, and architect of Maratha triumph over the combined navies of two great imperial powers, England and Portugal-could finally bask in the sunshine of being the unrivalled king of the Konkani coast. Later this week, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets with leaders of the four-nation Indo-Pacific quadrilateral alliance, the Quad, the question of Indian naval power will lie at the core of their discussions. Faced with the rise of China,

he'd left off. Among other things, his crew seized a ship carrying an East India Company official to its trade outpost in Surat. The officer was killed; Kanhoji kept the ship and raised a ransom of thirty thousand rupees for his wife. As a commander of the crown, he was entitled to a customary chauth-or fourth-of the proceeds. These actions, though, were no different from those of the great maritime powers. The Portuguese had long preyed on merchant traffic in the Red Sea, bearing treasures from Mughal-era notables for the custodians of

Praveen Swami

Mecca. The East India Company - founded, historian GV Scammell reminds us, by men "experienced in and enriched by Atlantic privateering-in turn profited from the capture of Portuguese traffic and assets from East Africa to South China. Like the modern Indian ocean, the world Kanhoji inhabited was also a competitive one. Those who aspired to rule the seas needed treasure. The Indian Navy may have received a significantly-enhanced budget this year, but it's still well short of what it believes it needs. Through the last decade, expert Sameer Patil has noted, the defence budget has barely kept up with inflation. From early in the eighteenth century, contestation between Kanhoji's forces and the East India Company escalated. Appointed deputy chief of the Maratha navy in 1690, Kanhoji rose to its leadership in the course of the next decade. "Vessels of all nations were attacked," Grant Duff wrote in a memoir, "[and] repeated descents were made along the coast... Few of the defenceless

mercantile towns, from Travancore to Bombay," he lamented, "escaped a visit from these depredators." Even though Kanhoji's ships lacked the firepower of the English fleet, historian Anirudh Dasgupta has recorded, he proved an adroit tactician. He avoided direct line-to-line confrontations with English ships, slipping into shallow waters under the protection of shore-based artillery when confronted. In 1718, the East India Company attacked Kanhoji's fort at Kandheri, with apparently overwhelming forces, and intelligence provided by a defecting Portuguese mercenary. The walls, though, proved impervious to English naval artillery. The use of The Phram did not alter their fortunes in 1720. Faced with Kanhoji's growing power, Portugal and England allied in August 1721, committing themselves to a joint attack. This time, they picked the fortress of Kolaba, "enclosed by a wall from twenty to twenty-five feet high and about 700 paces in circuit, with two gates, main gate in the north-east and a small gate in the south, and seventeen towers." The key to taking this dangerous objective, Edward Teggins has written, rested on finding an open gate: Instead, "the only means of access was a narrow flight of steps which was heavily guarded." Fifty attackers were killed. The naval bombardment, too, proved ineffective. The third day of battle saw generals Pilaji Jadhav and Peshwa Baji Rao appear to support the fort, leading the panicked Europeans to withdraw. For modern Indian strategists, this ought to be a second lesson: a determined and well-led force can face those far superior to them. European technological superiority did not automatically translate into victory. Leaving aside some occasional raiding, Kanhoji's rule was unchallenged after 1722: one challenge from the Sawant of Kudal ended with the upstart king's villages being

burned to ashes. Leaders like the Siddi of Janjira cast an occasional covetous eye on Kolaba but were easily bribed. Kanhoji tried to make peace with Portugal and even reached out to England in 1724. Five years later, though, he died, leaving behind six known sons from his wives and many concubines. Even though Kanhoji's navy held its own against two great imperial powers, its fleet never truly modernised. Transitions from reliance on oars to an oceanic fleet driven by sails never took place. His navy heavily relied on foreign gunners, often mercenaries, and fell behind on technological developments in artillery and musketry. Perhaps most importantly, the Angria forts were vulnerable to being choked since they depended on the hinterlands for supplies. The Maratha navy, scholar Surendra Nath Sen noted in a 1941 book, "was like a child of arrested growth. It progressed satisfactorily up to a point, and then progress stopped." Like so many medieval stories, this one too did not have a happy ending. Kanhoji's sons fought amongst each other. The English backed their rivals, and the Portuguese and Dutch allied in open hostility. Peshwa Baji Rao himself eventually turned against Kanhoji's successor, Tulaji, believing the Angre navy to be a bigger threat than the East India Company. Following Kanhoji's death, the growth of European economic power had inexorable consequences: even though Tulaji could terrorise merchant shipping, he could never pose a genuine threat to the powers. The most important lesson, then, is this: India's naval power reach and influence can't be independent of its overall economic power. Former Navy chief Admiral Arun Prakash has long argued for India to show greater vision in its pursuit of maritime capacities, and work to become a genuine ship-building power. China doesn't just have the world's largest navy but is also the world's biggest shipbuilder.

Goodbye to the age of rage

Why Piers Morgan's outrage journalism is flopping

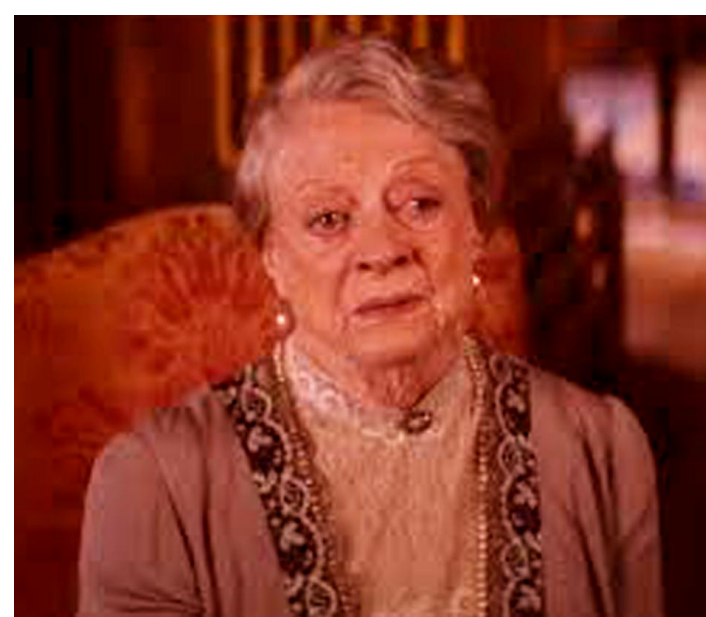
Despite the millions Rupert Murdoch has invested in his newly launched television channel, and the supposedly magnetic presence of Piers Morgan, its numbers have sometimes been so low that the official

broadcasting rating agency has not registered a single viewer. Last Wednesday, Piers Morgan Uncensored, the nightly showcase of debate and un-woke opinions intended to be TalkTV's centrepiece, was said to have attracted 24,000 people, and then lost over half of them, leaving with it with an estimated audience of 10,000. Over at GB News, the similarly right-inclined talk-based outlet that has survived its equally disastrous launch, it was presumably pints of bitter and sausage rolls all round: that night its competing offering - hosted by the somewhat niche Canadian pundit Mark Steyn - reportedly won the ratings battle with a princely initial viewing figure of 54,000. It was for research rather than recreation that I watched Morgan's show that night. It was an underwhelming experience: a very long hour of the host affecting to be what Noel

the rest, it is probably best not to look like someone going through the motions. Even if Morgan's show - and, indeed, TalkTV itself - prove beyond rescue, they are one small part of a change that may well be here to stay, born in the madly polarised world of American news broadcasting and then taken to its logical conclusion by social media. Thanks partly to an anarchic, amateurish spirit that seems truer to its Brexit values than the slickness of Murdoch's new offering, GB News might just about endure: though its ratings are not exactly mass-market, they seem significantly higher than Talk TV's (Nigel Farage's Monday-Thursday show has recently

John Harris

attracted a peak audience of 99,500), and the channel exerts a much bigger influence through the clips it endlessly circulates online. Talk-based radio has probably never been as high-profile as it is now, and the millions who listen to such voices as the US podcaster Joe Rogan - said to have sold his show to Spotify for £75m - shows that the market for a mixture of comedy, ranting, conspiracy theory and "debate" is huge. Scroll through your news feed, or flick through YouTube, and the sense of a profound shift in how many people receive and understand what some people still call "the news" will be confirmed: in an ocean



of "talk", the complexities and nuances of the real world are always in danger of disappearing. The "legacy" media have long since been infected by the same virus. The best news broadcasting, it seems to me, is necessarily based around reporting. Its polar opposite is exemplified by the insane levels of attention paid by orthodox news outlets to such people as Farage and Laurence Fox, and the comically mouthy pundits - from both left and right - who endlessly appear on TV news channels, and aim to sooner or later make it on to BBC One's Question Time. The first demands resources, time, care and attention; punditry and polemic, by contrast, require little more than cab fares and paltry appearance fees. Herein lies one overlooked danger in the government's hostility to the BBC and its plans to privatise Channel 4: if broadcasting is left

to the market, the reduction of news to "talk" will only accelerate. Clearly, there was never a golden age of bias-free reporting, the media has always promoted loudmouths, and its big players have long used their clout to exercise power without responsibility. But in the pre-"talk" era, the dominant model of success in news and current affairs began with vox pops and door-knocks, and moved on to dedicated work on breaking big stories. That ideal still exists. But a much more alluring career path now centres on sitting behind an expensive-looking microphone, endlessly venting, and trying to pile on likes and subscribers. If something happens, the point is not to go out and understand it, but to quickly take a position and sound off about it: your job is not really to cover the news, but to see if you can make headlines yourself. "Talk" culture, moreover, has long since bled into politics.

MoU signed in the presence of Amit Shah between Arunachal Pradesh govt&NDU

Namsai, May 23 : Terming Arunachal Pradesh a "jewel in India's crown", Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday asserted that people of the northeastern state bordering China are filled with patriotism and greet each other with 'Jai Hind' instead of the usual 'Namaste'. Shah, while addressing a rally after signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Arunachal Pradesh government and the National Defence University (NDU) for the establishment of a campus at Pasighat in East Siang district, said the institution will give the youths of the state the opportunity to serve the country. "Whenever we come to Arunachal Pradesh, we return with energy and patriotism. There is probably no other place in the



country other than Arunachal Pradesh where people greet each other with 'Jai Hind' instead of the usual 'Namaste', Shah said. He said that after Gujarat, the second campus of the NDU will be in Arunachal Pradesh. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has established two famous universities in the country the National Defence University and the National Forensic

Science University. "The defence university will create trained manpower for the army and paramilitary forces. The youths of Arunachal Pradesh are not only patriotic but also physically fit. The institution will provide them the opportunity to serve the nation," the Union home minister said. He said projects worth Rs 1,180 crore are either completed or will be inaugurated soon.

"A total of 33,466 families and 800 self-help groups in the state were benefited through various start-ups worth Rs 394 crore, while 22 projects worth Rs 436 crore have been completed and inaugurated during the day and another 25 projects worth Rs 350 crore would be launched soon," he said. Shah inaugurated and laid the foundation for 40 projects worth around Rs 1,000 crore during the day. He said the 2,000 MW Lower Subansiri hydroelectric power project will be operational by 2023, and it will benefit the state immensely. Work on the 2,880 MW Dibang mul-

tipurpose project, the biggest in the world, will start soon while the 600 MW Kameng project is already functioning. Shah said that when Chief Minister Pema Khandu assumed charge, the state's annual budget was only Rs 12,500 crore, but it has now increased to Rs 26,000 crore. Similarly, the state's GDP has also tripled to Rs 30,000 crore from Rs 10,000 crore. "Around 3,000 villages have 4G connectivity while plans are afoot to expand it to 1,680 more villages," he said.

Union Minister Pradhan grace NEHU convocation

Shillong, May 23 : Union Minister for Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan graced the occasion as the Chief Guest for the 27th convocation of North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) on Saturday at the university campus in Shillong. Pradhan was joined by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma as the Guest of Honour. A total of 15,955 degrees were awarded today during the convocation, of which 117 were PhD, 8 were M.Phil, 1559 were PG degrees, and 14,271 were Bachelor's degrees. During his address, the Union Minister stated that it was time for the student community to give back to society and urged the passing out students to



be job creators. He further mentioned that National Education Policy (NEP) which the Union Government has brought out would bring good reforms in the education sector, which will ultimately help build a stronger nation. He further stated that the PM has re-emphasised an important thing that all local and regional languages are all national languages, and it is an important feature of the NEP. He also mentioned not to forget their roots and take responsibility for society. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma congratulated the students who got their degrees today and thanked the Union Minister for exempting Meghalaya from the purview of CUET. He also emphasised remembering the larger goal and purpose in life and to take calculated risks to reach the next level. He urged the students not to get disheartened by failure nor let success get into their heads. Later the Union Minister and Meghalaya Chief Minister and State Education Minister Lakhmen Rymbui and other

officials held a review meeting on education, skill development and entrepreneurship at NEHU. After the meeting, the Union Minister stated that Meghalaya is going to be the ideal state for a lot of governance units of this country. He added that the State Government is aggressively and proactively implementing the National Education Policy. The Union Minister further said all the Central Government educational institutes located in Meghalaya are working in tandem, and henceforth they will be part of the policy process. These educational institutes will complement and be knowledge partners of the Meghalaya Government and will jointly work together. He emphasised that there are 15 lakh students in Meghalaya, and both the State and Union governments have to create productive manpower for the future. Later in the day, Pradhan visited Umsning Presbyterian school. He said Neurosurgeon, pilot, engineer, soccer player, and musician - ambitions & aspirations of future leaders from this school in RiBhoi district of Meghalaya would reaffirm the faith that India is going to become a knowledge society.

Five police personnel suspended for subletting govt quarters



Imphal, May 23 : Manipur government continues to take stringent action against government employees violating the rules and renting out their allotted government quarters to other families. On Tuesday, five more police personnel, including one woman constable, were suspended from their services after they were found subletting the government quarters allotted to them. The suspended police personnel have been identified as Mutum Romen Singh of Heingang police station, Mangvung Hatkhoham Haokip, a woman

constable of B Company at 9th India Reserve Battalion (IRB) at Khuman Lampak and presently attached with SP Tengenoupal, Ngangom Shantikumar Singh of Bishnupur district police, Pougongrei Gangmei of 6th IRB (Adm-Coy) and Y Priyokumar Singh of Imphal West police station. The suspended police personnel are prohibited to leave their respective headquarters without taking prior permission from their concerned authorities. Moreover, they will get subsistence allowance as admissible under rules during their suspension pe-

riod. According to chief minister N Biren Singh, three more police personnel are under investigation for allegedly subletting their quarters to unauthorised families. CM Biren Singh also urged the government employees to maintain ethics and serve society with sincerity. Those employees who misused power will face severe consequences, Singh further warned. Earlier, four other government employees, including one IRB follower, were suspended for subletting their government allotted quarters to unauthorised families. To streamline proper allotment of government quarters both at district headquarters and in Imphal, the state government has already constituted verification teams at the state level as well as at the district headquarters level for verification or checking of government accommodation or quarters.

Manipur CM flags off initiative for students and job seekers

Imphal, May 23 : Aiming to provide a one-stop solution for career and livelihood to students, job seekers and entrepreneurs, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Friday flagged off three vehicles of 'Career on Wheels', an initiative of 'Advancing North East' from the Chief Minister's Secretariat in Imphal. 'Advancing North East' is a website providing a one-stop solution for career and livelihood to the youth of the Northeast. The portal acts as a virtual mentor in the field of education, employment, and entrepreneurship. Speaking on the sidelines of the ceremony, CM Biren Singh said that the website was launched by the President of India Ram

Nath Kovind recently from Assam. He said the vehicles and the official teams would travel to all districts of the state and visit the educational institutions to meet students. The chief minister further said that the portal would provide informed counselling to the interested students on various issues including higher education, start-up projects, entrepreneurship, training, among others. The event was also attended by officials of the North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFi) and Advancing North East. According to Prithviraj Neog, Assistant Manager of NEDFi, the portal has been developed by NEDFi and is be-

ing funded by the North Eastern Council, Ministry of DoNER. As a part of the portal's outreach campaign, the 'Advancing North East- Career on Wheels' will cover all the districts of the northeastern region in the coming months in a bid to create awareness among the students and youths of North East on how to use the portal for making an informed decision about their career and livelihood, he said. The event was also attended by Additional Chief Secretary V Vumlungmang; N Kulkarani Devi, Director, Department of Planning, Govt. of Manipur; PVSLN Murty, Chairman and Managing Director, NEDFi; S K Baruah, Executive Director NEDFi and other senior officials.



Arunachal CM pitches for advance warning system

Itanagar, May 23 : Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu Thursday stressed on the need for putting in a robust advance warning system to avert the loss of lives due to disasters. Chairing a meeting on monsoon preparedness, Khandu insisted that the State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) should be active round the clock during the season and said the SDRF and NDRF should avoid granting leave to its personnel and remain alert with full strength. "Human life is precious. We must go to the extreme to prevent loss of lives," the chief minister said. He also called upon the officials of the state disaster management to not depend only on telephonic or WhatsApp messages but personally contact their officials in the districts in case any warning has to be conveyed. "Though we do not want any disaster to fall upon us, we cannot deny the fact that nature is unpredictable and we need to be prepared. Arunachal Pradesh, owing to its strategic geographical location, has to face the situation every monsoon," he said. Appreciating the system adopted by the department of disaster management for keeping track of all weather forecasts by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) and sending warning messages to vulnerable districts, Khandu observed that bad weather often disrupts data services. The officials at the state disaster management authority (SDMA) should personally call the district administrations or the district disas-



ter management officers concerned to ensure that the warning is conveyed in advance, he said. Lauding the Capital district administration for evacuating 17 households from vulnerable areas within the state capital, Khandu directed all deputy commissioners to follow suit so as to avoid any loss of human lives. To the concerns raised by the SDMA and deputy commissioners regarding provision of immediate relief to disaster victims, the chief minister advised the state finance department to coordinate with the SDMA and ease release of funds for the purpose. He also endorsed the suggestion to equip police stations with basic equipment and first aid kits for relief operations as police is the first approach in case of any disaster related incident. He requested SDMA to work on it and do the necessary immediately. As far as funds are concerned, he said SDMA has sufficient funds. "At least four months of monsoon lie ahead. Let's be

fully prepared," Khandu added. Disaster Management advisor Tanpho Wangnaw, who has been visiting vulnerable places and recent landslide-hit areas in the state capital, blamed rampant and illegal earth-cutting by citizens as the major cause of landslides. Advocating strict action as per law against persons indulging in illegal earth-cutting, Wangnaw also raised concern over failure of officials, especially in the districts, in submitting reports on disasters and losses incurred. He said, for want of reports, the SDMA is unable to process immediate relief for the victims, which amounts to injustice. As per details provided by SDMA, till Wednesday 14 districts, 33 villages and about 3000 people have been affected while 7 persons have died - 4 in Itanagar capital region and 3 in Kurung Kumey. Two persons are reported missing, one each in Itanagar and Anjaw. At least 7.6 hectares of cultivated fields have been destroyed while 392 houses have been damaged across the state.

Tengam Celine Koyu, Miss India finalist

Itanagar, May 23 : Femina Miss India 2022 finalist from Arunachal Pradesh Tengam Celine Koyu has joined hands with Child Help Foundation (CHF) to help raise funds and provide financial aid to underprivileged kids suffering from childhood cancer. CHF is a pan-India nonprofit organization spearheaded by a team of young, dynamic, spirited and experienced individuals, who are sincerely dedicated to nurturing the needs and necessities of neglected children. The foundation has been instrumental in saving the lives of countless children over the years. Sharing details of her collaboration with the foundation on social media, Celine said childhood cancer is one of the leading causes of child death around the world with India ranked at the top. "India tops the ranking chart when it comes to overpopulation and due to this, majority of the underprivileged infants and children fall prey to severe health conditions such as heart ailments and cancer," she said. Their parents can't do much due to financial restrictions and lack of information, so we can help protect these lives through love, prayers and crowd funding, Celine added. She has further appealed to the people of the state to come forward and help the CHF in its endeavor by donating whatever amount possible and help the needy kids live a safe and happy life.

Centre releases fund for Kohima and Mon Medical College

Kohima, May 23 : The Nagaland government, on Saturday notified that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) released its share of Rs 170.10 crore for the Kohima medical college, and Rs 232.23 crore has been released for the Mon medical college. In 2014, the Ministry approved the establishment of the Medical College in Kohima with an intake capacity of 100 MBBS seats at District Hospital Kohima-Naga Hospital Authority Kohima (NHAK) for Rs 189.00 crores under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for "establishment of new medical colleges by upgrading district/referral hospitals". The government, through an official update, said that as per the Guideline of the Scheme, one of the eligibility criteria was a district hospital or a referral hospital with a bed strength of 200 or more. Private hospitals are not eligible for the Scheme. The college is initially expected to function with two

plots, the administrative, academic, hostels, and staff quarters at Phriebagie and a teaching hospital at Naga Hospital Kohima, which is permissible under the Regulations of the National Medical Commission (NMC). Given space constraints and instability of land at the Naga Hospital Kohima campus, the government said that it is difficult to develop the hospital into a 500-bedded Teaching Hospital, which must be in place by the third inspection as per the NMC Regulations. The government said that a dedicated 500-bed teaching hospital will be established at Phriebagie, along with the construction of a 150-bed hospital through State Resources which is nearing completion. The department has also approached the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for setting

up a 400 bedded Teaching Hospital. Although the Centre has approved the establishment of the Medical College in Kohima, the acquisition of land was completed only in February of 2018, the government said. The Master plan was later approved in October of that year and construction works commenced in 2019. The execution of works was then severely affected during the COVID-19 pandemic and despite the initial delay, all works are in full swing and the construction works are expected to be complete within this year, as per the government. So far, the Central Government has released its share of Rs 170.10 crore out of which an amount of Rs 77.73 crore has been utilized and the balance amount is available with the Government. "The project was never grounded nor exhaustion of funds,"



the government said refuting media reports. "Considering the absence of iconic National Institutions in the State and limited financial and human resources, it is felt that the Medical College will be best run as a Central Institute, whereby the college maybe even brought under the control of Nagaland University as practised

elsewhere. However, the Central Government has conveyed its inability," the government update said. It informed that the State Government has also created 60 posts required for obtaining a Letter of Permission (LOP) from the NMC and the advertisement for the post of Director was already published widely and the advertisement for the remaining posts will be issued shortly.

Contd. From Page 1

Assam flood: Death toll rises to 24

and volunteers. In all, 624 relief camps and 729 relief distribution centres have been opened in all the affected areas.A total of 1,32,717 people are staying in the relief camps. Over 1,30,596.12 hectares of crops have been affected.The Army, Assam Rifles, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Indian Army, Civil Defence, Paramilitary forces, Indian Airforce, along with the district administrations, have been helping the district administration in the safe evacuation of people from affected areas.According to the ASDMA release, so far, 25 MT of essential Commodities have been airdropped with the help of the Indian Air Force (IAF) in Dima Hasao.It said that four team of NDRF with 20 boats have been deployed in Cachar, Hojai, Nagaon and Dima-Has.A team of specialists from NESAC/ISRO is al-ready doing rapid damage assessment in Dima Hasao using drones and satellite data to inform the post-disaster need assessment later.Assam Govern-ment has allotted additional Rs 2 crores each to Cachar and Dima Hasao districts for releasing relief to the affected people. Hojai district has re-leased an additional budget of Rs 3 crore for providing gratuitous relief to flood-affected people.Meanwhile, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) officials from Dima-Hasao informed that the road connectiv-ity from Jatinga to Retzawl village was temporarily restored. Indian Air Force on Sunday continued its relief efforts in flood-affected areas of Assam with the help of airlift rescue teams (choppers) and provided rel-ief materials to the people."FloodReliefInAssam Efforts are continuing to evacuate citizens and airlift rescue teams and relief material to areas cut off due to floods in Assam. IAF has deployed its transport aircraft and helicopters for the task," IAF tweeted.The IAF deployed An-32 transport aircraft, two Mi-17 helicopters, a Chinook helicopter and a ALH Dhruv and evacuated 119 passengers stranded at Ditokchera railway station with the help of Mi-17 helicopters on Saturday.It had positioned 20 NDRF personnel in the flood-affected areas while working closely with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the state government.A total of 24,749 stranded persons have been rescued with the help of the Indian Army, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), NDRF and volunteers.As per the NDRF Inspector Mahip Mourya, the teams deployed for the res-cue operation have rescued 500 people from the flood-affected villages of the Hojai district."Many did not want to leave their homes so we took relief and ration materials to them at their homes," Mourya added.According to reports of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), 499 relief camps and 519 relief distribution centres are opened in all affected areas, in which a total of 92,124 inmates are currently staying in the camps.The ASDMA reports also suggested that a total of 8,39,691 people from 3,246 villages in 32 districts have been affected by the flood, of which six have been affected by landslides in Assam.As per the data, there has been a loss of 14 human lives (9 in flood and 5 in Landslide) in the first phase of the flood and 100,732.43 hectares of cropland have also been affected by the natural calamity in the state.Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has already predicted a wet spell over North-west and East India from May 21 to May 24 with its peak intensity on Monday (May 23).

Admission to madrassas 'rights

said that entry to religious institutions like Madrasas should only be al-lowed at an age when student students can independently take their own decisions.Speaking to reporters, CM Sarma said, "Madrasa should be a sys-tem of education that can give students the choice to do anything in the future. Entry to any religious institution should be at an age where they can make their own decisions."In March this year, the state BJP unit alleged that "anti-national activities" are going on in many of the private madrassas in the state and urged the administration to "keep a close watch if education is imparted in those private madrassas on the lines of government madrassas". They alleged that Islamic terror outfit 'Al-Qaida in Indian Sub-continent' (AQIS) has sprung up in the Madrasas situated in char-chapori (riverine) areas in the form of sleeper cells covering a wide network and the process has caught pace in the past couple of years.Referring to the arrest of five youths from Barpeta district's Chakaliyapara Madrassa by Assam Police recently, the BJP said, "this has exposed the wide network of the extremist outfit in the majority of the madrassas in the char-chapori areas of the state."Earlier yesterday, CM Sarma advocated for closing down of all madrasas and said that religious teachings should be kept to homes.CM Sarma was speaking at an event titled 'Media Mahamanthan' in Delhi organised by Panchjanya, a national weekly .The Assam CM stressed on the need to close down madrasas so that children can take up professions like engineering or medicine.He said that students should get "normal education" instead of religious teachings in schools which will enable them to move forward in life.

Repeat of Nagaon-like attack

have taken action that was needed...I don't think these people will dare to do such a thing in the future," Sarma said.The Assam government has cleared close to 5,000-6,000 hectare from encroachment while 'lakhs of hectares are yet to be reclaimed", he said, adding that 12 districts have a large migrant population and his government's efforts are on to stop further encroachment.The event was attended by chief ministers of some of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled states, such as Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.Joining the event virtually, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath highlighted measures taken by his government against en-croachment and to improve law-and-order situation in the state. Ever since the BJP has come to power in Uttar Pradesh, there has been no incident of communal riots, Adityanath said."There were 700 big riots in the state between 2012 and 2017. Earlier, there used to be curfew in cities. In the past five years, there have been no riots," he claimed.While there were reports of violence on Ram Navami in other states, no such incident happened in Uttar Pradesh, he further said. Adityanath also high-lighted his government's initiative to remove loudspeakers from reli-gious places. Loudspeakers at religious places had become a major po-litical issue that rocked several states recently.Uttarakhand chief minis-ter Pushkar Singh Dhami spoke about the special drives being taken by his government to clear encroachment and identify migrants besides efforts being made to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)."We will be forming a committee on Uniform Civil Code. It will have legal experts and stakeholders...We will implement the Uniform Civil Code for which we are making preparations and we want other states to fol-low suit," said Dhami.Himachal Pradesh chief minister Jairam Thakur used the platform to dismiss the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as a possible contender in the upcoming assembly elections in the hilly state."I feel that such parties (AAP) don't have a long (political) future. They don't have any ideological base. They try to attract people's attention by be-ing in the news, but this will not last long," Thakur said. "They have been successful in Delhi and Punjab, but the political situation in these states is different from Himachal Pradesh...They had to dissolve the state unit. For the past one-and-a-half months, they have not been able to find a state unit chief."Elections to the 68-member Himachal Pradesh assembly are scheduled for later this year.When asked about his government's announcement to provide 125 units of free electricity to state's residents, Thakur said the move was not to counter any political party. "We are a power surplus state and we have taken this decision to provide benefit to the poor people. This will benefit over 1.2 million families," he said.Goa chief minister Pramod Sawant and his Manipur counterpart Biren Singh spoke about the various initiatives and welfare measures taken by their respective BJP-led governments.

Mehbooba Mufti Slams Assam CM's

schools in Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the word madrasa "should cease to exist". "Till the time this word (madrasa) exists, children will not be able to think about becoming doctors and engineers. If you tell children that they will not become doc-tors or engineers if they study in madrasas, they themselves will refuse to go," the BJP leader said."Teach the Quran to your children, but at home," the Assam Chief Minister further said, adding that stress should be on science, maths, biology, botany, and zoology."There should be normal education in schools, and students should study to be-come doctors, engineers, professors and scientists" he said. The statement comes months after the Gauhati High Court dismissed the writ petitions filed against the Assam Repealing Act of 2020 that repealed the Madrassa Education Provincialisation Act. The state Assem-bly had in 2020 passed the Assam Repealing Act of 2020 to convert the state-funded Madrasas into general schools.

'India-Japan key pillars of stable,

freedom, and a rules-based international order, as well as convergence in the regional and global outlook, are the bedrock of ties between India and Japan as trusted and natural partners."These deep links laid a strong foundation for a modern India-Japan partnership that continues to blossom even as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic ties, `` PM Modi wrote.In the opinion piece, the Prime Minister talked about his own conviction regarding this partnership which began in 'my early days as Chief Minister of Gujarat'. He said that it was not just the sophistication of Japanese technology and skills, but also the seriousness and long-term commitment of Japan's leadership and businesses, that made Japan Gujarat's preferred industrial partner and the most prominent presence in Vibrant Gujarat Summits since its inception.PM Modi stressed that Japan has also proved to be an invaluable partner in India's journey on the path of development and modernization. "From the automobile sector to industrial corridors, Japanese investm-ents and development assistance have a truly pan-India footprint. The iconic Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail project symbolises Japan's extensive collaboration in some of the most important endeavours to build a New India," noted PM Modi."We have traversed a long distance since we established diplomatic relations in 1952. In my view, though, the best is yet to come. Today, as both India and Japan look to re-invigorate and refashion our econo-mies in a post-Covid era, there is immense scope to deepen our engagement across the entire spectrum from trade and investment to defence and security."In the last few years, PM Modi said India has embarked on a journey to build a strong foundation for the manu-facturing sector, services, agriculture and digital technology infrastructure. The Prime Min-ister said he views Japan as an indispensable partner in India's continuing transformation."For Japan, India's speed and scale combine with the ease of doing business, attractive incen-tives, bold reforms and ambitious plans to create unmatched opportunities. We have also fostered a dynamic startup ecosystem in India, with over 100 unicorns. The Japanese cap-ital is already playing an important role in this effort. And there is potential for a great deal more," he said.Appreciating the people-to-people links between India-Japan, PM Modi said many Indians are now working in Japan and contributing to the Japanese economy and society, just as Japanese executives are contributing to economic development in India. "I am convinced that such complementarities can be enhanced manifold." He further noted that the India-Japan partnership has a greater imperative and serves a larger purpose."The Covid pandemic, global tensions and disruptive challenges to stability and security in our own Indo-Pacific region have underlined the need for building resilient supply chains, a human-centric development model and stable and strong international economic relations, capable of resisting coercion and exploitation. Our partnership will help advance these goals," he said."In doing so, we will also contribute towards building an open, free and inclusive Indo Pacific region, connected by secure seas, integrated by trade and investment, defined by the respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity and anchored in international law," he added.Further emphasizing the importance of the strategically located Indo-Pa-cific region, the Prime Minister said both the countries can be important pillars of the re-gion. "That is why our partnership is expanding across a broad range of areas. Our defence ties are growing rapidly, from exercises and information exchanges to defence manufactur-ing. We are doing more in cyber, space and underwater domains."Besides security, PM Modi said together with like-minded partners in the region and beyond, in institutions and arrangements like Quad, all member countries are promoting initiatives for develop-ment, infrastructure, connectivity, sustainability, health, vaccines, capacity building and humani-tarian disaster response in the region. "A peaceful and prosperous Indo Pacific region will be critical for a better future for the entire world."Lastly, PM Modi further pointed out that crises tend to magnify challenges and accelerate our transition to the future. "For this re-ason, at this pivotal moment for the world, our partnership now faces larger responsibility and greater urgency. Based on all that we share dearly and all that we have built over decades, India and Japan are ready to respond to this calling," he spelt out.

Covid-19 pandemic created one new

the report said, analysing data from Forbes. "Those in the food and energy sector enjoyed a windfall in revenues from soaring commodity prices," it added.The report also stated that billionaires' wealth has risen more in the first 24 months of Covid-19 than in 23 years combined. Oxfam also claimed that the total wealth of the world's billionaires is now equivalent to 13.9 percent of global GDP, which is a three-fold increase (up from 4.4 percent) in 2000."Billionaires' fortunes have not increased because they are now smarter or working harder. Workers are working harder, for less pay, and in worse conditions. The super-rich have rigged the system with impunity for decades and they are now reaping the benefits. They have seized a shocking amount of the world's wealth as a result of privatization and monopolies, gutting regulation and workers' rights while stashing their cash in tax havens - all with the complicity of governments," Bucher said. "Meanwhile, millions of others are skipping meals, turning off the heating, falling behind on bills and wondering what they can possibly do next to survive. Across East Africa, one person is likely dying every minute from hunger. This grotesque inequality is breaking the bonds that hold us together as hu-manity. It is divisive, corrosive and dangerous. This is inequality that literally kills," the Executive Director of Oxfam International added.Oxfam said that today, 2,668 billionaires - 573 more than in 2020 - own \$12.7 trillion, an increase of \$3.78 trillion. The report also said that the world's ten richest men own more wealth than the bottom 40 percent of human-ity, 3.1 billion people."The richest 20 billionaires are worth more than the entire GDP of Sub-Saharan Africa," the report added."A worker in the bottom 50 percent would have to work for 112 years to earn what a person in the top 1 percent gets in a single year," the authors of the report said.The Covid-19 pandemic has also created 40 new pharma billion-aires, Oxfam said. It added that the pharmaceutical corporations like Moderna and Pfizer are making \$1,000 profit every second just from their "monopoly control" of the vaccines against Covid-19."They are charging governments up to 24 times more than the potential cost of generic production. 87 percent of people in low-income countries have still not been fully vaccinated," Oxfam stated.The combination of coronavirus outbreaks, rising inequal-ity, and rising food prices could push as many as 263 million people into extreme poverty in 2022, Oxfam said."Inequality, already extreme before Covid-19, has reached new levels," it added.According to the World Bank, the extremely poor are those living on less than \$1.90 a day.Food prices, which have already been pushing higher during the pandemic due to Covid-19 disruptions and weather woes, took another jump higher when the Russia-Ukraine war roiled supplies of grains and oils."The single most urgent and structural action that governments must take now is to implement highly progressive taxation measures that in turn must be used to invest in powerful and proven measures that reduce inequality, such as universal social protection and universal healthcare," the report said.

Flood tragedy in Dima Hasao man-made

protection to human life from unexpected natural calamities such as floods," he said through the letter.Haflongbar also sought Rs 300 crore for restoration of road connectivity from the Chief Minister. "Under the circumstances, your esteemed privileges are requested to kindly look into the matter and sympathetically make necessary arrangements to pro-vide a sufficient fund as stated considering the state of affair in top priority basis in the matter," the letter read.Haflongbar said the recent downpour has damaged both public and private properties in within Dima Hasao district, mainly in Haflong, Harangajao and Maibang sub-division such as Diger area covering Hajadisa and Wajao constitu-ency besides nearby village areas."A large number of houses was either destroyed by landslides or washed away in swelling rivers of Mahur, Jatinga and other tributaries. Moreover, three individual buildings were also affected by in increasing Jatinga river water near Hamdhan Mohan Haflongbar bridge. Around 90 private houses of Haflong Muolhoi have been affected, some of them completely damaged by the landslide in the continuous downpour," he said.He also said that the irrigation bundh along with irriga-tion canals too have been damaged due to the torrential rain.Thousands of bighas of paddy field covering Hajadisa, Nobdilangting, Drangbra, Wajão, Kepre, Nablaidisa, Didambra, Drunbra, Digerma, Digerkeo, Doirangikro, Prasadindik (Dimakro), Pathbra were damaged due to flash floods and landslides, he further informed.

Eye on China, US Launches

was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as India is among 12 initial partners of the IPEF.The other nations are Aus-tralia, Brunei, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Together, these 12 countries represent 40% of the world GDP.Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra had said in a brief-ing last week that India's participation was under discussion.In Japan for Quad Summit, PM Modi Impressed with Little Boy's Hindi Fluency; Hailed by Indian Diaspora"We all do realise that in so far as the Indo-Pacific region is concerned, the eco-nomic segment of it is a very important segment, both in terms of harnessing the opportunities of economic partnership that are available in the region, whether they are in various dimen-sions of economic areas, or they are related to capacity build-ing," he said."It is going to be a wide-ranging and comprehen-sive set of countries from across the region, a mix of different kinds of economies," said Jake Sullivan.The aim is to cover supply chains, the digital economy, clean energy transforma-tion, investments in infrastructure as well as worker standards under this agreement without having a traditional trade deal that may find resistance in the US over public concerns of job losses.US Trade representative Katherine Tai had referred to trade deals as a very 20th century tool while discussions were underway since last year on IPEF.The announcement of the unveiling of IPEF hasn't gone down well with China. Global Times said, "...embedded in a deep political and strategic pur-pose, the IPEF is a geo-strategic framework rather than an eco-nomic framework." It has also been referred to as a closed club in China.Jake Sullivan rebutted this when he said, "It's just flatly untrue to call IPEF closed. It is by design and definition an open platform. And we do expect, in addition to the countries that join for the launch, others will come along in the months and years ahead. That being said, the breadth of participation tomorrow was such that it will very much show that it's any-thing but a closed club. It is a very wide-ranging membership."In the region, China is part of the economic framework with the ASEAN countries called the Regional Comprehensive Eco-nomic Partnership. RCEP is the world's largest trade bloc. It has 15 members, which includes 10 ASEAN countries plus China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.India had exited the RCEP negotiations over "significant outstanding issues". This largely pertained to India's concerns over unbridled exposure to Chinese products as there were inadequate safe-guards against surge in imports as per Indian assessment. The other concern also being about circumvention on rules of ori-gin, which means the source of product.Two other Quad coun-tries, Japan and Australia, are part of the RCEP. The US is not part of RCEP either. So can IPEF be seen as a counter to RCEP?While answering questions about RCEP, Jake Sullivan also said, "It is going to be a big deal and is going to be a sig-nificant milestone in US engagement in the Indo-Pacific. And at the end of the President's first term, I think we will look back and say this was a moment where the US engagement in the Indo-Pacific got kicked into a different gear."

Gyanvapi Masjid rowHindu

especially 'Alvida' prayers and to exercise other religious and legal rights as the need and occasion arise."It is submitted that the Muslims had filed the above-mentioned suit only for declaration without seeking any consequential relief. This suit was filed even without impleading any person from the Hindu com-munity. Therefore, the judgement passed in the suit is not bind-ing upon any member of Hindu community but any document, map, evidence or statement of any witness can be referred to or relied upon by the members of Hindu community", the affida-vit said.It referred to a written statement filed in the Civil Suit on behalf of the Secretary of State for India in Council refuting the plaint allegations and it was stated that 'the idols and the temple which stand there existed since long before the advent of the Mohammedan Rule in India'.The affidavit said that in substance the Government of India (during the British era) in the written statement filed in Civil Suit stated that--"The entire plot of land on which the Mosque, 'pacucca' courtyard stray grave, staircase in front of the gate, together with 'pucca' en-closures all around and a 'pipal' tree stand belongs to Government and has never been dedicated nor could have been dedicated to the Mosque.?It further stated the written statement had said that 'the idols and the temple which stand there have existed since long before the advent of the Mohammedan Rule in India. The other allegations made in the said paragraph are denied. It is submitted that the non-Muslims have been using the land for their religious purposes as a matter of right and have got a right of way over it. The allegation that they were permitted by per-sons in charge of the Mosque is unfounded and baseless".The affidavit further said it was stated in the statement that 'the land in question was ever stamped with the character of 'Waqf' land'. "It was never dedicated to God, nor could it have been dedi-cated and God has no proprietary interest. The Mohammadans of that time or for the matter of that Aurangzeb himself was not the owner of the site in which the old temple of Vishwanath existed and which was demolished by Aurangzeb owing to the religious antipathy, hence it could not have been dedicated ac-cording to the true spirit of the Mohammadan faith".It further said that the historians have confirmed that Islamic ruler Aurangzeb had issued an order on April 9, 1669, directing his Administration to demolish the temple of Lord Adi Visheshwar (Kashi Vishwanath temple) at Varanasi. "There is nothing on record to establish that the then ruler or any subsequent ruler has passed any order to create a Waqf over the land in question or for handing over the land to any Muslim or body of Mus-lims. The copy of 'farmaan/' order issued by Aurangzeb is re-ported to be maintained by Asiatic library Kolkata," the affida-vit said.It said that the property in question does not belong to any Waqf and the property had already vested in deity 'Adi Visheshwara' lakhs of years before the start of the British Cal-endar year and is continuing to be the property of the deity."No Waqf can be created on the land already vesting in a deity. In the historical books written during the Mughal regime and thereafter even Muslim historians have not claimed that Aurangzeb after demolishing the temple structure of Adi Visheshwara had created any Waqf or thereafter any mem-ber of the Muslim community or Ruler was dedicated such property to Waqf," it said.The affidavit added that a Mosque can be constructed over the property dedicated by a waqf, who should be the owner of the property, and construction raised under the orders of any Muslim ruler or by any Mus-lim over the land of a temple cannot be construed as Mosque.The Hindu devotees in the 2021 civil suit said that their plea is decided first by the district judge to whom their case has been transferred on Friday last. "The religious char-acter of the property has to be determined first before de-ciding the application filed by the Petitioner (Mosque com-mittee) herein under Order 7 Rule 11 for proper adjudica-tion of the matter in issue", it said, adding that the appeal of the Mosque Committee is not maintainable.

Surrey and Middlesex lead way before break: county cricket



London, May 23 : After seven rounds of the Championship it is the two London clubs, Surrey and Middlesex, who go into the white-ball break on top. Surrey look down on the rest of Division One, Yorkshire unable to break through Warwickshire's defences at Headingley. Sam Hain and Will Rhodes both made centuries, batting undefeated all day in a partnership of 227 for the fourth wicket. Yorkshire had to settle for a fifth draw in six games. Joe Root hurt his thumb in the slips but soon returned to the field with the offending digit strapped up. Essex took only 21 balls to winkle out the final wicket at Old Trafford and complete an innings victory, Lancashire's first home defeat since the 2018 Roses match. Forty-five spectators watched Luke Wood smash three boundaries before parrying Jamie Porter into the gloves

Clinical Carrow Road win highlights Conte's transformation of Tottenham

Norwich, May 23 : At the end of this hazy, fun, end-of-term romp Antonio Conte could be seen striding out across the Carrow Road turf to join his players in front of the Tottenham support, who had spent the last hour basking and lolling and running through their repertoire of songs, serenading not just the players or the excellent transport links now in place for any potential trip back to Woolwich for their north London neighbours, but above all Conte himself. Conte had come to Norfolk sporting a kind of narrow-boat chic, blue leather yacht shoes, nautical slacks, navy sweater. As the players celebrated he moved among the white shirts like a general in the field, with a hug here, slap of the chest there, a barked word of praise. The Tottenham fans sang his name again. And in that moment the whole afternoon seemed to turn a shade of Antonio. Spurs will now return to the Champions League after two years away, a moment that might just end up a key note in the club's modern history. And for Conte this is a tangible feat of coaching on the hoof, albeit one that now poses its own questions to Tottenham's owners. For now, this was an afternoon when everything went right here for Spurs. At Carrow Road they met a Norwich team who weren't so much thinking about the beach as already dozing under a parasol with a detective novel over their eyes. By the end it had become a stroll, a beano on the Norfolk coast. A 5-0 win was capped by the most deliciously received moment of the afternoon as Son Heung-min pinged Spurs' fifth goal, and his second, into the top corner, to ensure he will share the Premier League Golden Boot with Mohamed Salah.

Jesse Marsch watches Leeds United nightmare turn into American dream



London, May 23 : As the Leeds players sprinted across the pitch to celebrate with their fans at the final whistle, Jesse Marsch had a moment to himself. After a nerve shredding

afternoon during which the American went through every emotion watching his team eventually secure their Premier League status for another season, it must have felt like

under their new coach, Mickey Arthur. But it is Middlesex who top Division Two after a 23-point six-wicket win at Lord's. Durham were dismissed for 188, despite a career-best 45 from the nightwatchman, Matt Salisbury, with Ben Stokes making a two-ball duck. Toby Roland-Jones took six for 35 and John Simpson nine catches in the match, a Lord's record. Despite a couple of scares Middlesex's batters then romped to victory. And that's it from me Thanks for hanging around over the last seven rounds, it's been (to coin an upcoming competition) a blast. Wins today for Essex, Notts and Middlesex, and it is the two London clubs that go into the white-ball break in prime position. CCLive! returns on June 12, till then, enjoy the summer!

Klopp insists league heartbreak will motivate Liverpool for European final

London, May 23 : Jürgen Klopp said the disappointment of missing out on the Premier League title would increase Liverpool's desire to win the Champions League final, although Thiago Alcântara could be absent against Real Madrid after sustaining a suspected hamstring injury. Liverpool were given hope of claiming a 20th league championship when Aston Villa took a 2-0 lead at Manchester City but the champions' stirring comeback meant victory over Wolves, and a 92-point season, went unrewarded. Klopp insisted his treble chasers would turn their Premier League deflation into a motivation when meeting the Spanish champions in Paris on Saturday. The Liverpool manager said: "I can imagine it was much worse for the people at home watching on TV all over the world who were Liverpool fans. When Aston Villa were 2-0 up they were thinking: 'Wow, it could really be!' I was not really aware of it, but now I have heard the whole story after the game." "With all the things that happened I'd have preferred it if they had been 5-0 up after 10 minutes, to be honest. Of course it makes it more difficult. The season was so close, so tight, moments, decisions, only one point

Manchester City, May 23 : The greatest lie in sport is that winners embody strength and character, that losers embody frailty and brittleness. That victory is the inevitable function of mental fortitude and warrior spirit, and defeat its opposite. Manchester City's eighth English league title was clinched at their moment of greatest weakness, in one of their worst performances of the season, from a place where all hope had deserted them. And it felt perfect. As delirious fans hurdled the barriers and poured on to the great green expanse, as the goalframe into which City had scored three goals in five minutes caved and snapped under the weight of the throngs atop it, you could already sense the events of the afternoon

passing into legend. History will lend this game a ring of inevitability. The record books will simply log it as another City title: their fourth in five years, Pep Guardiola's 10th, another silhouette to add to the mural. We will spend the days ahead chewing over where it was won and lost, what City did right and Liverpool did wrong, what it means for the legacy. But none of this will really capture the utter despondency that gripped this stadium: the incoherence, the frustration, the rage and anguish of a team and their people staring into the abyss. Sometimes it can be hard to glimpse the human face behind this sprawling super-club, with its empire of satellites, its bottomless pockets, its frictionless passing triangles, the sense of



and we face an incredibly experienced team, but that's really OK. Losing the league today increases the desire to put it right next week." Thiago headed straight down the tunnel in first-half stoppage time and hobbled through the post-match lap of honour. Klopp did not elaborate on the extent of the influential midfielder's injury but confirmed Divock Origi, who was given a rousing send-off before his summer departure, would miss the final with a muscle problem.

apart. What I learned about life is that if you stay on track and keep going, you get the reward. Not today the maximum reward, but we will get it. But it's up to us to keep going." Klopp added: "This season is absolutely incredible and it doesn't end today. It ends next week. And we will try absolutely everything. It's never happened before that you are completely without knocks going into a final. We had our knocks, obviously. We now have five days to prepare the final

Gündogan joins Manchester City heroes in a win for the club's people



something pristine and merciless that you will never quite be able to touch. City is money, it's a political project, it's art, it's vanity, it's power. But like any club it's also its people, people who suffer and fear like any other. And for 76 minutes City showed us something we have so rarely seen in the Guardiola era: genuine vulnerability, genuine hurt, a superhuman team playing on human emotions. That skittishness was there right from the start. It was there from the first press by Gabriel Jesus, charging down the goalkeeper and forcing him to punt the ball straight out of play. From the uncertain early touches of Aymeric Laporte. From Aston Villa's nihilistic time

wasting. From Guardiola bawling at a ball boy. From the muted cheer that greeted the news that Wolves had scored at Anfield. Nobody was getting excited because nobody was remotely enjoying themselves. With a pounding inevitability, Liverpool equalised. Shortly before half-time the right-back Matty Cash headed in a cross from the left-back Lucas Digne. Various members of City staff angrily pointed at things. The moment the ball hit the net, several hundred City fans immediately stood up and disappeared down to the concourse for a pint, a pie, a cry and a rethink of their life choices. In a way, City needed Villa to score again. Philippe Coutinho's goal was

a slap in the face, a bucket of freezing water, the cold hard truth that cuts you to the core. Going 2-0 down seemed to crystallise City's mission. Meek, translucent through-balls and inky dinky crosses were no longer going to cut it. Patience and composure were no longer going to cut it. The Guardiola mood book - mostly pastels, the odd flash of teal - would be flung out of the window. Nothing less than the holy fire of purgation would do from here. The heroic lunges that had previously formed an impregnable barrier to goal were now finding only fresh air. City's midfield, bolstered by the clever İlkay Gündogan, was beginning to motor. First Raheem Sterling crossed for Gündogan to head in. Next it was Oleksandr Zinchenko with the presence of mind to cut the ball back, Rodri with the precision to find the bottom corner. Three minutes later, with the Etihad Stadium on the very brink of rapture, Kevin De Bruyne located his rampaging beast mode, rode two tackles, and slid the ball over for Gündogan's finish.

Max Verstappen wins dramatic Spanish F1 GP after Charles Leclerc retires

Paris, May 23 : There were no easy rides at a dramatic, incident-packed Spanish Grand Prix but perseverance was most certainly rewarded. Indeed, for Mercedes the tide turned in Barcelona with Lewis Hamilton finishing fifth having dropped to 19th and his teammate George Russell taking third. Proof positive that their car is on track to once more challenge at the front. Max Verstappen's win was a struggle against the odds through technical problems that enabled him to leap into an unexpected championship lead. The celebratory atmosphere at Red Bull stood in stark contrast to the heartbreak at Ferrari. Charles Leclerc had been dominant from pole until his race fell apart with a power unit failure just short of the midway point. Leclerc's

19-point lead in the drivers' championship has switched to a six point advantage in Verstappen's favour after six meetings with 16 races remaining. The title remains a distant dream for Mercedes but Hamilton acknowledged the significance of his comeback drive, claiming Mercedes could yet be in the mix for victories. "A race like that is like a win, and feels better more often than a win when you have come from so far back," Hamilton said. "It is a great sign we are going in the right direction and that gives me great hope that at some stage we will be fighting for a win." Equally Russell's third-place finish was superb and thoroughly deserved - earned on pace and merit, it too represented the potential in both car and driver. "As a team I feel like we have turned

a page, I feel like this is the start of our season," Russell said. "We have finally solved our issue and now we can focus on bringing more performance. We are six races behind but there is no reason we can't claw this back." This was the weekend Mercedes had identified as make or break in terms of assessing whether their car concept for this year was sound enough to continue to pursue in next year's model or whether - as the team principal, Toto Wolff, noted - it was time to admit they had got it wrong. There will be huge sighs of relief audible from Barcelona back to Brackley that their performance indicates the design does indeed have legs and potentially some fearsome pace in them in future.

Richard Kilty rips into teammate Reece Prescod over CJ Ujah Olympic drugs ban

London, May 23 : Richard Kilty has ripped into his fellow sprinter Reece Prescod for talking "fucking bullshit" after he suggested that CJ Ujah should not be ostracised for a drug ban that cost Team GB a 4x100m silver medal from the Tokyo Games. Kilty is still heartbroken after losing his medal after Ujah tested positive for two banned substances in one of the worst scandals in British Olympic history. And he was angry when asked about Prescod, a reserve for the relay in Japan, becoming the first British athlete to publicly forgive Ujah last week. "Reece is not in a position to forgive anybody because he hasn't lost a medal," Kilty said. "It's fucking bullshit what he said to be honest, it's as simple as that. I'm not going to be politically correct. People say that the sport needs more honesty, but he hasn't lost an Olympic medal. Would he say that if he lost an Olympic medal?" The Guardian can reveal that Prescod was also voted off the British 4x100m squad after failing



to turn up on Thursday for relay practice in Loughborough, and as a result was nowhere to be seen when the two GB teams raced in Birmingham on Saturday. However Kilty insisted the relay team were determined to make up for what had happened by winning gold medals in the world championships, Commonwealth Games and European championships later this summer. "I don't like to run angry," he said. "We run better when we're happy and right now it's a very happy squad. But everybody knows how I feel. Anybody who has lost an Olympic medal, it's heartbreaking. People can't understand that until they've

gone through it themselves." However it's inspired me to press on for the next couple of years. We can go out there and win golds." Meanwhile the speed of the new track at the Alexander Stadium, which will host the Commonwealth Games, has been questioned by some of the world's top athletes. Speaking after finishing second in the 100m in the Diamond League meeting in a time of 10.18sec, the former world champion Yohan Blake said: "I don't know whether it is the cold or what, but I know I am in great shape and the track was not quick. The breeze was positive. But I didn't feel the bounce that I normally get."

Norrie expects top players to skip Wimbledon after ATP decision

London, May 23: Cameron Norrie believes that some top players will decide not to compete at Wimbledon this year after the ATP and WTA opted to revoke ranking points from the tournament in light of the decision to ban Russian and Belarusian players this year. Norrie, the British No 1, also said that without players being able to compete for ranking points at Wimbledon, the tournament will more closely resemble an exhibition event. "Obviously it's an extremely difficult situation with everything going on with the war, but for me it's tough," Norrie said. "Having a home slam and not having to gain any ranking points from that and the tradition of it. You're not really playing for anything, you're playing this almost like an exhibition so for me it was tough to see that and obviously it's a really tricky situation but I would have liked to see it still have points, still have something on the line." Norrie says he informed the ATP player council of his opinion regarding the points removal. Asked about whether he thinks the majority of players are against the points removal, Norrie said he believes they are now that the previous year's points would not be



frozen and there will be no opportunity to defend them. "Wimbledon is still such a special event," he said. "But I think you'll see a lot of top players not playing, just resting and getting ready for the hard-court events. Making sure that they're ready for those. Especially those that don't worry too much about the money. So I

could see a few top players not playing because of that." Sloane Stephens, a former French Open finalist and US Open champion, affirmed her support for the WTA's decision to remove Wimbledon points. Stephens is part of the WTA player council and she said that the tours had been "backed into a corner" when they made the

decision. "Obviously I support our CEO, I support my council, I support the players. The decision that's been taken obviously wasn't taken lightly. I think when you are backed into a corner and that's all you can do, I think that's why the decision was made, and I support it." Stephens, who reasoned "there has been a lot of mishandling" of the situation and the press were not privy to all the factors in the WTA's decision, decided not to reveal any other issues: "No. Snitches get stitches, so no," she joked. "But I can tell you that we worked really hard to try to make sure that everyone had a fair opportunity to play, and at the end of the day that's not what happened." Dominic Thiem, the former No 3 who lost in straight sets in Paris as he continues to return from a wrist injury, noted that the decision will be difficult for some players including Matteo Berrettini and Novak Djokovic at Wimbledon, but he said that this debate is less significant in the bigger picture. "We always have to keep in mind I think the big picture that Wimbledon or all our tennis world, it's just really no problem at all, the real problem is there in Ukraine and let's hope that

there is peace very soon again," Thiem said. Norrie was speaking a day after he clinched his fourth career ATP title at the 250 event in Lyon, defeating Alex Molcan 6-3, 6-7 (3), 6-1 for his first ATP clay court title. As he looks to follow up a tremendous breakthrough season last year and maintain his status at the top of the sport, Norrie continues to handle himself well. With his victory, Norrie is up to 11th in the ATP race, the same spot he stands in the official rankings, and he has already reached three finals this year. The obvious next step for him is a deep run at a grand slam tournament. Norrie has reached the third round at all four grand slam events but, partly a consequence of some difficult draws, he has never reached a fourth round. He has a good opportunity to do so this year, with the out-of-form 21st seed Karen Khachanov the highest ranked player in his section and no dangerous unseeded players nearby. Norrie will start his French Open against the French wildcard Manuel Guinard on Monday and Emma Raducanu will follow Norrie on Court Simmone Mathieu. Iga Swiatek will open play on Philippe Chatrier while Djokovic and Rafael Nadal will play back-to-back into the evening.

Cheteshwar Pujara Included In Squad For England Test

New Delhi, May 23 : Cheteshwar Pujara has made a comeback to India's Test team while youngsters like Umran Malik and Arshdeep Singh have received an India call-up as the All-India Senior Selection Committee on Sunday named the squads for the upcoming five-match T20I series against South Africa, beginning June 9 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi, and the rescheduled 5th Test against England, which will be played in Birmingham in the first week of July. The senior pros -- Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Jasprit Bumrah have all been rested for the T20Is, while youngsters, who have impressed in the ongoing IPL 2022, have been given an opportunity. KL Rahul will be leading the side while pace sensation Umran Malik has earned a maiden call-up. Veteran wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik has also made his way back into the squad on the back of some strong performances for Royal Challengers Bangalore this season. Hardik Pandya, who is leading Gujarat Titans in the ongoing IPL season, has also returned to the squad. Hardik had last played for India in the 2021 T20 World Cup in UAE. Yuzvendra Chahal and



for Sussex in County Championship Division 2. Back to the T20I squad for the series against South Africa, Mumbai Indians wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan had an underwhelming IPL, but he has retained his spot, while Ruturaj Gaikwad is there in the team as well. The likes of Shreyas Iyer, Deepak Hooda, Axar Patel and Ravi Bishnoi are also a part of the T20I squad. From the previous T20I series against West Indies and Sri Lanka, Venkatesh Iyer has retained his place. India squad for SA T20Is: KL Rahul (c), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ishan Kishan, Deepak Hooda, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant (vc) (wk), Dinesh Karthik (wk), Hardik Pandya, Venkatesh Iyer, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep Singh, Umran Malik. TEST Squad for 5th Test vs England - Rohit Sharma (Capt), KL Rahul (VC), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Hanuma Vihari, Cheteshwar Pujara, Rishabh Pant (wk), KS Bharat (wk), R Jadeja, R Ashwin, Shardul Thakur, Mohd Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Prasidh Krishna.

Jason Kubler: Australia's third tennis Special K breaks through at French Open



Paris, May 23 : With the light fading in Paris on Sunday night, a one-time prodigy of Australian tennis enjoyed arguably the finest moment of a career that has been sadly restricted by injury. Well over a decade after matching the junior deeds of 13-time French Open champion Rafael Nadal, Jason Kubler finally broke through for his first ever win at Roland Garros. After making it through qualifying in his fourth visit to Paris as a senior,

Kubler was able to hold his nerve at critical times when defeating American Denis Kudla 7-6 (5), 7-6 (2), 7-6 (3). He closed out the triumph with the shot that once seemed destined to carry him a long way in tennis when crunching a brilliant backhand down the line for a winner. It is a good thing he did, for the post-Ash Barty era in grand slams would have started on a very bleak note otherwise given the other four Australians in action on day one exited early. Afterwards, the fans who stuck around after dark on Court 13 clamoured for selfies with the 29-year-old, adults and kids among them. Kubler was happy to oblige every one of them. "It is still weird thinking someone wants your autograph. It is just me. It is not like I am anyone super famous," he said. "I don't know if I saved the day [for Australia] but I am personally happy that I won through. It is only the second time that I have won

a main draw match, so in itself it is pretty exciting." When it comes to the Special Ks of Australian tennis, Kubler has been very much the third billing behind Nick Kyrgios and Thanasi Kokkinakis throughout a testing senior career. He is older than the Australian Open doubles champions, who have also endured more than their fair share of injury and motivation issues, but he too was once considered a likely star. The Brisbane resident was the world's top-ranked junior at the age of 16. He swept the junior Davis Cup, something only the legendary Nadal had managed previously. A baseliner by trade, he was blessed with a beautiful double-handed backhand and his serve and forehand packed a punch as well. But then chronic knee pain cruelled his rise. His grand slam timeline tells the story. As a 17-year-old, he debuted in the Australian Open. Eight years passed until his next

appearance in a major, again in Melbourne, in 2018. There have been 49 grand slam tournaments played since his major debut and he has only been fit enough to compete in 15 of them. Six have resulted in main draw appearances. Even making it through qualifying was a bonus. "Even looking back at qualies, some of the matches I should not have even won," he said. Comebacks can be hard at the best of times, as US Open champion and dual-French Open finalist Dominic Thiem is finding after posting his seventh straight loss since returning earlier in the day. Kubler could not say afterwards how many times he has attempted to return to the court. As other Australians chased glory on the hard courts in North America, Kubler was plying his trade in lowly clay courts through South America in what was a lonely experience at times.

Guardiola salutes his 'legends' after Manchester City's title triumph

Etihad, May 23 : An ecstatic Pep Guardiola hailed Manchester City as "legends" after claiming the Premier League title in dramatic fashion. His team came from two goals behind with 14 minutes left to beat Aston Villa 3-2, pip Liverpool by a point and retain the championship, the final whistle met with pandemonium from fans who invaded the pitch. The triumph moved Guardiola to tears, with this the second time since he took over in summer 2016 that City have successfully defended the title and a fourth Premier League crown in five years. When Philippe Coutinho scored on 69 minutes to add to Matty Cash's first-half opener, an afternoon that began in jubilant mood had City teetering on the edge of disaster. Yet they some-



how rallied, with Ilkay Gundogan, a 68th-minute replacement, the hero as he twice scored. The German struck on 76 minutes, then Rodri levelled 120 seconds later, before Gundogan scored a memorable winner with nine minutes remaining. This set up the scenes of sheer delight from City supporters when the match was finally over. Liverpool's win at home to Wolves meant victory was required to seal the title. Guardiola

said: "Four Premier Leagues - these guys are legends already; people have to admit it. This group of players are absolutely eternal in this club because what we achieved is so difficult." First one 100 points [in 2017-18], second one in Brighton [final day, 2018-19], the third without people and this one with people [is] the best. "This is the fifth anniversary of the Manchester Arena [bombing]. This is a special day

for us; we want to share it with the families who suffered in this terrible event." I want to congratulate Liverpool for what they've done. The magnitude of our achievement is because of the magnitude of this rival. That makes us feel more proud because we know which team we face and we are incredibly happy." Guardiola was asked whether he had any doubt at 2-0 down. "Of course a lot of thoughts, so difficult; always I had the feeling we needed a goal," he said. "This is the most difficult game to win - you have to close something that has taken 10 months. Serve to win Wimbledon is the most difficult, say the tennis players, and it was similar today." Of the atmosphere, Guardiola said: "The best I lived since I was here. Today was so special."





The bond of
love and devotion.









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 | Bhandarawa-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