

# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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**Scientists identify 'trigger molecule' for Covid-...**

02

**Andy Murray insists Wimbledon 'not an exhibition' in ...**

07



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Dacoit gang Assam Rising Guwahati, May 26 :

Jorabat Police of Assam, a five member dacoit gang has been arrested on Wednesday night. The dacoits were travelling in an auto towards Guwahati. They were arrested at Jorabat at around 12:30 am after the police launched operations based on secret information. The arrested dacoits have been identified as Nasir Ali, Rediyan Boro, Hari Chandra Deb Barman, Biki Chettri and Moni Kalita. Many sharp weapons and other equipments have been recovered from the dacoit's possession.

### Railway infrastructure Assam Rising Guwahati, May 26 :

The Indian Railways has begun the restoration works to rebuild the railway infrastructure damaged in Assam's Dima Hasao, which was ravaged by floods and landslides. According to the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), incessant rains caused floods and landslides which damaged the railway network at 60 locations in Dima Hasao under the 170 kilometer long Lumding-Badarpur section. Chief public relations officer (CPRO) of NFR, Sabyasachi De was quoted by ANI as saying that the railways has started restoration works at 10-11 of the locations destroyed by the floods.

### AATSA protests

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, May 26 :

The labourers of the Prabhat Tea Estate in association with the Rupai Saising Committee and the All Assam Tea Students Association (AATSA) staged a two hours long protest in front of the tea estate office at Doom Dooma in Tinsukia district of Assam on Thursday. The protesting daily wage labourers and the students demanded their basic necessities to be fulfilled by the government. The workers demanded their daily wages be hiked to Rs 351, construction of permanent houses, repair of damaged roads of the tea garden, employment of educated unemployed youths of the tea garden along with other issues related to the tea garden.

## Learning at home for 78% of school students during pandemic was 'burdensome': NAS report



New Delhi, May 26 :

The National Achievement Survey (NAS)-2021 conducted by the Ministry of Education has come with startling outcomes wherein the majority of students found that learning at home during the pandemic was

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

## CM inaugurates 3 Model High Schools at Biswanath TG



Assam Rising  
Guwahati, Biswanath  
Chariati May 26 :

Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today inaugurated one "model high school" each in three tea estates of Biswanath district as part of the 96 such educational institutions that would become operational in various districts of the state by end of this

month. Addressing a number of public rallies related to the inaugural events at Pratapghur, Hatinga and Sakomatha Tea Estates where these schools were inaugurated, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma stated these institutions will act as factories producing human resources who will make every members of their community proud through their achievements in life. "I

am confident these schools will be able to meet the aspirations of each and every parents from the tea tribe communities who want to see their children receiving the same education as that of the wards of parents from

other regions," the Chief Minister stated, adding: "Earlier, many children from the tea garden areas had to either drop out of the formal education system or didn't even enrol into any school owing to a number of factors, primarily financial. These schools are opening an window of opportunity for such children as well. I would like to appeal to the parents to not deprive their children of the education they deserve and to make best use of these schools." The Chief Minister also said that within a period of 2-3 years, these model high schools will be upgraded to higher secondary levels and that there were plans to establish graduation degree colleges too for the benefit of the tea garden communities. The Chief Minister further said that these schools shouldn't be seen as means to impart

basic education alone but a medium through which doctors, engineers, magistrates, police officers and bureaucrats of tomorrow will be produced. "Children from tea garden areas must aspire to touch the sky like their counterparts from other communities. I have a dream where children from the tea garden areas will be serving the society as doctors, engineers, magistrates and police officers and I am confident that my dream will come true very soon," Chief Minister Dr. Sarma added. Making a strong push for penetration of formal education in each and every families living within the tea garden areas, the Chief Minister said that education is the single most powerful weapon through which the economically backward tea tribe communities will be

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

## BJP readies gameplan for 2024 elections

To focus on winning 144 Lok Sabha seats from rivals

New Delhi, May 26 :

While the BJP has planned a series of events to celebrate eight years of Narendra Modi-led NDA government at the Centre, the saffron leadership has also chalked out a massive blueprint on how to wrest the 144 Lok Sabha seats it lost to the rivals in the last General Elections. According to the sources, the blueprint for this was prepared during the day-long meeting at the party's headquarters in Delhi on Wednesday. During the crucial meeting, top party leaders deliberated on how to popularise the NDA government's various welfare schemes and policies among the masses. The saffron party



has decided to focus on these 144 Lok Sabha seats where its candidates lost to their nearest rivals in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. As per the strategy, top leaders and Union Ministers from the party will visit these 144 parliamentary constituencies across the country and interact with party workers and beneficiaries of various welfare

schemes. This will be part of the party's massive outreach exercise to mark eight years of the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre. On Wednesday, BJP president J P Nadda held a meeting with Amit Shah, BL

Santosh and top ministers and deliberated on the exercise to be held between May 30 and June 15 and to finalise the tour plans. According to party sources, the constituencies to be covered by Union ministers were selected based on the party's organisational strength and electoral performance. These constituencies are currently represented in Lok Sabha by members from the opposition parties and the BJP is relatively weak there, the sources

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

## AHSEC Asks Institutes To Report Inability To Conduct Exams Amid Floods



Assam Rising  
Guwahati, May 26 :

The Assam Higher

Secondary Education Council (AHSEC) instructed heads of institutions to inform the

### ED raids multiple locations in money laundering probe



New Delhi, May 26 :

The ED on Thursday (May 26, 2022) raided multiple locations in Maharashtra as part of a money laundering probe against state transport minister Anil Parab and others linked to alleged irregularities in a land deal in coastal Dapoli area of Ratnagiri district

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

## Top Leaders In Race As Congress May Get 11 Rajya Sabha Seats

New Delhi, May 26 :

The Congress is likely to get 11 Rajya Sabha seats in the upcoming election cycle with some of its top leaders, including P Chidambaram and Jairam Ramesh, eyeing another term. This will also help the Congress strengthen its party position in the Upper House of Parliament from the current 29 to 33 members. Some other top Congress leaders, including Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand

Sharma, Mukul Wasnik, Randeep Surjewala, Ajay Maken and Rajeev Shukla, are waiting in the wings to get a Rajya Sabha nomination. Of the 55 vacancies arising in the Rajya Sabha in the next two months, seven Congress members -- P Chidambaram (Maharashtra), Ramesh (Karnataka), Ambika Soni (Punjab), Vivek Tankha (Madhya Pradesh), Pradeep Tamta (Uttarakhand), Kapil Sibal (Uttar Pradesh) and



Chhaya Verma (Chhattisgarh) -- will be completing their terms. The Congress will be gaining three to four seats in the Upper House if it manages to get all the three seats that are falling vacant in Rajasthan. While the party will get two seats in Chhattisgarh,

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

## Cachar District Selected For District Development Plan Award

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, May 26 :

Cachar district in Assam was on Monday selected as the best district in the state to receive prestigious district development plan awards for the year 2020-2021. It's another feather in the cap of the district administration which will be presented the award for excellence in

innovation and best practices in the field of skill development. The award will be presented by the Ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship on DSDP awards ceremony at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi on June 9. On behalf of the Cachar administration, district collector Keerthi Jalli will receive the award. Rajesh Aggarwal,

secretary to the Ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship, government of India congratulated Assam chief secretary Jishnu Baruah in an official letter on May 18. It is pertinent to mention here that District Skill Development Plan (DSDP) for the year 2020-21 submitted to Ministry of skill development and

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6





# Jammu and Kashmir: TV artiste Amreen Bhat shot dead in Budgam



**New Delhi, May 26 :** In another tragic killing in Jammu and Kashmir, a woman was shot dead and her minor nephew wounded by terrorists at her residence in the Budgam district. The woman has been identified as Amreen Bhat, a TV artiste, who was shot dead by terrorists at her house in Chadoora, ANI reported. She was taken to a

hospital where doctors declared her dead. Her 10-year-old nephew also received a bullet injury on his arm, the J&K police added. "At around 1955 hrs, terrorists fired upon one lady Amreen Bhat D/o Khazir Mohd Bhat R/o Hushroo Chadoora at her home. She was shifted to hospital in

injured condition where doctors declared her dead," the police said. According to the police, three terrorists of the proscribed terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were behind the gunning. The area has been cordoned off and the police have registered a case. A probe is underway, the J&K police said. National Conference leader Omar Abdullah expressed "shock" and grief at the heinous attack. "Shocked & deeply saddened by the murderous militant attack on Ambreen Bhat. Sadly Ambreen lost her life in the attack & her nephew was injured. There can be no

justification for attacking innocent women & children like this. May Allah grant her place in Jannat," the former J&K Chief Minister tweeted. He added, "Her nephew is a young 10 year old boy. Yesterday it was a police constable's daughter injured in an attack & today this young 10 year old child. How does anyone justify these attacks?" This incident comes a day after a cop was shot dead and his 7-year-old daughter injured after terrorists attacked them outside their Srinagar home.

The spate of killings has increased in Jammu and Kashmir over the past few months, with terrorists even targeting civilians and non-locals. Meanwhile, Kashmiri Pandits have been agitating against the J&K administration over the killing of a government employee Rahul Bhat. Bhat was killed by terrorists inside the Tehsil office in Chadoora of Budgam district of Central Kashmir on May 12. The protestors are demanding the relocation of all migrant Kashmiri Pandits, who got jobs under the prime minister's package, to safer places.



Citizens walk past the yard of an ancient academy along the Grand Canal in Cangzhou City, north China's Hebei Province

## Scientists identify 'trigger molecule' for Covid-related changes to smell



**Washington, May 26 :** Scientists have identified the "trigger molecule" that makes pleasant aromas smell like burning rubbish or sewage in people whose sense of smell is disrupted by Covid. The loss of smell is a defining symptom of Covid-19, with about 18% of adults in the UK estimated to have been affected. Some people also experience disturbances in their sense of smell - a condition known as parosmia - but the biological basis for this has remained a mystery. Now scientists have identified a highly potent odour molecule that appears to be a trigger for the sense of disgust experienced by many of those with parosmia. The molecule, called 2-

furanmethanethiol, found in coffee, was described by those with a normal sense of smell as being coffee- or popcorn-like, but those with parosmia typically described its scent as disgusting, repulsive or dirty. Dr Jane Parker, the director of the Flavour Centre at the University of Reading and co-author of the research, said: "This is solid evidence that

it's not 'all in the head', and that the sense of disgust can be related to the compounds in the distorted foods. The central nervous system is certainly involved as well in interpreting the signals that it receives from the nose." According to one recent international survey, about 10% of those with Covid-related smell loss

experienced parosmia in the immediate aftermath of the disease, and this rose to 47% when the respondents were interviewed again six or seven months later. Some of the most common triggers for parosmia include coffee, chocolate, meat, onion and toothpaste. The latest study investigated whether there were particular compounds within these substances that were to blame. By trapping the aroma of coffee, the team were able

to test individual coffee compounds on volunteers who had parosmia and compare their reaction with those who didn't. From the hundred or so aroma compounds present in coffee, people with parosmia could point to those responsible for the sense of disgust. Among the 29 volunteers, scientists found 15 commonly identified compounds that triggered parosmia, with the prime culprit being a chemical called 2-furanmethanethiol, which 20 of the volunteers said had a horrible smell.

## Alleged Wagner Group fighters accused of murdering civilians in Ukraine

**Kyiv, May 26 :** Two alleged Wagner Group fighters from Belarus have been accused of murdering civilians near Kyiv, making them the first international mercenaries to face war crimes charges in Ukraine. Ukrainian prosecutors late on Tuesday released the names and photographs of eight men wanted for alleged war crimes - including murder and torture - in the village of Motyzhyn. Several are believed to have fought in Syria. They say five are Russian soldiers, one is a Russian mercenary with the Wagner Group and the final two are Belarusian mercenaries. The Guardian has previously reported



on the alleged involvement of the soldiers named by prosecutors on Tuesday in the systematic torture and murder of civilians in Ukraine including the head of the village council and her husband and son. There have been reports of Wagner fighters on the ground in Ukraine, but these are the first charges against allegedly serving mercenaries, and the first non-Russians charged. Established in 2014 to support pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine, Wagner is allegedly funded by Yevgeny Prigozhin, a powerful businessman who is closely linked to Vladimir Putin and has faced western sanctions. Russia has used paid fighters to bolster its forces since the start of the war. It was estimated to have deployed between 10,000 and 20,000 mercenaries from Syria, Libya and elsewhere, including Wagner Group fighters, in its offensive in Ukraine's Donbas region, a European official said last month. A survivor had previously described to the Guardian how Russian soldiers who were perpetrating a sadistic killing spree lasting days in the village had described Ukraine as a "fairytale" compared with Syria. Prosecutors said Sergey Vladimirovich Sazanov 51, born in the town of Rechitsa in Belarus, was one of about 300 Wagner mercenaries who participated in a February 2018 offensive in the Syrian province of Deir ez-Zor. They cited the open source research group InformNapalm. Another man, Alexander Alexandrovich Stupnitsky, 32, a native of Orsha in Belarus, was identified as a liaison officer for the assault platoon of the Wagner Group's 1st reconnaissance and assault company.

## Guest House

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

## CORRIGENDUM

It is for information of all concerned that earlier tender notice No.82 Dated 26-05-2022 vide Janasanyog/C/3156/22 of Conservator of Forests, Eastern Assam Circle, Jorhat for erection of fitting and fixing fencing material of various divisions under EAC, Jorhat of CAM PA, is hereby modified as follows.

Sl. No.	Schedule	Start Date	Start time	End Date	End Time
1	Publishing Date				-
2	Tender Download	01/06/2022	09:00 AM	21/06/2022	02:00 PM
3	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	06/06/2022	11:30 AM	06/06/2022	03:00 PM
4	Bid Submission Date	06/06/2022	03:00 PM	21/06/2022	03:00 PM
5	Eligibility Bid Opening Date (Part-I)	23/06/2022	11.00 AM	-	-
6	Price Bid Opening Date (Part-II)	To be announced later	-	-	-

The other terms and conditions shall remain the same.

Janasanyog/C/3249/22

DCF o/o Conservator of Forests  
Eastern Assam Circle, Jorhat



## Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority

STATFED Building, Bhangagarh, Guwahati - 781005  
Website: [www.gmda.assam.gov.in](http://www.gmda.assam.gov.in) Tel: 0361-2529650/9824  
E-mail: [ceogmdaghy@gmail.com](mailto:ceogmdaghy@gmail.com) Fax: 0361-2529991  
No. GMDA/DEV/115/2022/18 Dated: 26-05-2022

### SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders in prescribed format eventually to be drawn up in P.W.D. F-2 Form (Modified) affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of ₹8.25 (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only from reputed, experienced & financially sound individuals/ firms are invited by the undersigned at the office of the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority for the following works and will be received up to **2:30 P.M. on 03-06-2022** and will be opened at **3:00 P.M.** on the same day. In case of unscheduled holiday on the date of opening of the tender, the tender will be opened on the next working day at the same time and place. The Detailed Tender Papers may be obtained on all working days from **27-05-2022 to 02-06-2022** on payment of non-refundable tender fee of ₹500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred) only against the work at GMDA's cash counter up to **2:30 P.M.**

Sl. No.	Description of Work	Approx. value of work (₹)	2% Earnest Money (₹)
1.	Supply & Installation of pre Fabricated and modular decorative structural patios made of sustainable materials in Hengrabari Park.	23,65,348.00	47,307.00
2.	Supply & Installation of pre Fabricated and modular sitting arrangement made of sustainable materials in Hengrabari Park.	14,34,627.00	28,693.00

Sd/- **Chief Executive Officer**  
Guwahati Metropolitan Dev. Authority  
Bhangagarh, Guwahati - 781005

### SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No. M/NIT/M&R/4/2021-22/735

Sealed tender affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and twenty five paise) only is hereby invited from the eligible registered contractors/surveyor of Irrigation Department in prescribed form subsequently to be drawn in APWD F-2 form of Tender Agreement for the following works under M&R for the year 2021-22 which will be received by the undersigned up to 2.00 p.m. of 02-06-22 and will be opened on the same day at 2.30 p.m. in presence of the interested tenderer(s) or their authorized representatives. In the event of any reason, if the office remain closed in the specific date, the tenders will be received/opened on the next working day at the same time and same place.

Detail N.I.T, terms and conditions, etc may be had from the office of the undersigned on payment of non-refundable tender fee of Rs. 250.00 (Rupees two hundred fifty) only in the form Bank Draft (BD) duly pledged in favour of the undersigned up to 12.00 O' clock (noon) on 02-06-22.

Sl No	Name of Scheme	Approx Amount
2	Re-tender of Repairing and renovation of Kabaichupa DTWIS (pt no.-1) under M&R for the year 2021-22. (Group-2)	Rs.3.00 lakhs (Three Lakh only)
3	Re-tender of Repairing and renovation of Pithakhawa DTWIS under M&R for the year 2021-22 Rs.3.00 lakhs (group-3)	Rs.3.00 lakhs (Three lakh only)

**Earnest Money :** 2% against work value (1% for SC/ST/OBC) in the shape of Bank Draft/ Call deposit drawn from any Scheduled Bank guaranteed by RBI and duly pledged in favour of "The Executive Engineer, Mangaldai-Dalgaon-Sipajhar Division (Irrigation) Mangaldai" is to be submitted along with the tender.

**Time of Completion :- 30 (THIRTY) days only.**

**Head of Account:- "2702-02-103-0152-000-17-05-EE-V-GA"**

### Special Clauses :-

- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the tenders without assigning any reason there of or stop the process of tender at any time and shall bear no liability whatsoever consequent upon such decision and also not bound to accept lowest tender rate.
- Payment of bill etc will be made subject to the availability of fund under the concerned Head of A/C and it is also clear that no interest etc will be made for such inconvenience as agreed.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Mangaldai-Dalgaon-Sipajhar Division (Irrigation)  
Mangaldai

Janasanyog/C/3232/22

## Biden signs police reform executive order on anniversary of George Floyd's murder



**Washington, May 26 :** With Congress deadlocked, Biden said he was using the powers of the presidency to advance his campaign promises and deliver police accountability and reform "that is real and lasting". Biden was joined at the White House for a signing ceremony by Floyd's family as well as relatives of Breonna Taylor, who was killed when police executed a no-knock warrant at her apartment in 2020. In remarks preceding the signing, Biden praised them for their efforts to push for change even as they grieve. It also calls for the creation of a new national standard for accrediting police departments; establishes a

national database to track police misconduct; further restricts the transfer of military equipment to police departments; and requires agencies to implement new tools to screen for inherent bias among officers as well as recruits, including those who promote unlawful violence or harbor white supremacist views. The order, the president said, was "a measure of what we can do together to heal the very soul of this nation, to address profound fear and trauma, exhaustion that particularly Black Americans have experienced for generations". When the ceremony concluded, Biden invited Floyd's young daughter, Gianna, to sit in his chair and handed her the pen he had used to sign the order. Remarkably how tall she'd grown since the last time he saw her, Biden turned to the audience and recalled that Gianna told him the first time they met: "My daddy is gonna change the world." Biden began his remarks by addressing the massacre of 19 children and two teachers in Uvalde, Texas on Tuesday.

"We're here today for the same purpose - to come together and say, 'Enough,'" he said. Wednesday's action, which will apply to more than 100,000 federal law enforcement officers, reflects the delicate balance Biden has sought to strike on policing after promising to do "everything in my power" address racism and excessive use of force. Civil rights groups and racial justice activists have pushed him to fulfill his pledge while Republicans, seizing on concern over crime, have sought to cast Democrats as soft on crime. Floyd was killed on 25 May 2020, when a white Minneapolis police officer pinned his knee on Floyd's neck for more than nine minutes. Floyd, who was Black, was handcuffed and pleading that he couldn't breathe. His death ignited a national movement against racial injustice and dramatically shifted long-held views on racism and policing. But translating the outcry into legislative action has proved elusive for Democrats, who narrowly control both chambers of Congress.



Children in the music class practice chorus at the Renmin Town Central Primary School in Anda City, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province,





## Assam Rifles organised yoga Utsav

**Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, May 26:** Lokra Battalion of 21 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) organised Yoga Utsav to commemorate the 8th Inter-

national Day of Yoga at various locations of Itakhola, Balipukhri and Dhekiajuli in the districts of Biswanath Charali and Sonitpur, Assam on Tuesday, stated a press release. The event was

aimed to give wider publicity of the International Yoga Day and to educate all as to how yoga helps in improving the health and the lifestyle to tackle the stressful and busy routine.

## Bharatiya Sikshan Mandal meet held at LCC

**Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, May 26:** A meeting of Bharatiya Sikshan Mandal was held at Lakhimpur Commerce College (LCC), North Lakhimpur today. The meeting was inaugurated by Dr. Muhidhar Pujari, President of the Governing Body of the college and attended by Prof. (Dr) Hari Prasad Sarma, Bharatiya Sikshan Mandal's Gauhati University Unit and the organization's Uttar Asom Prant President Dr.

Nilmohan Roy. The welcome address of the meeting was delivered by Principal of LCC Dr. Lohit Hazarika. The meeting coincided with the release of the annual college magazine of Lakhimpur Commerce College edited by Benimadhab Buragohain and supervised by Dr. Sikkhamoni Borgogain. The meeting was also addressed by Dr. Nilmohan Roy, President of Bharatiya Sikshan Mandals Uttar

Asom Prant. The Principal of Dhemaji Girls College Dr. Pushpa Borgohain, Vice Principal of Lakhimpur Girls' College Kanan Sevak Khandetray, Associate Professors from LTK College, Lakhimpur Girls' College and North Lakhimpur College Dr. Swapna Dutta, Dr. Siva Sarma, Dr. Barnali Bora and many from the neighbouring colleges were attended in the meeting.

## Ex AAMSU leader arrested with illegal arms

**Assam Rising, Nagaon, May 26:** Former self-styled leader of All Assam Minority Students' Union (AAMSU) - Kamruzzaman was arrested with illegal arms and ammunition at the office premise of Superintendent of Police, Nagaon last evening. Sources claimed that the minority student leader forcefully tried to enter into the office of SP,

Nagaon. When the on-duty police personnel checked him at the entry gate, police recovered one pistol and other ammunition without proper authorised documents, kept on his waist. Police immediately seized the arms and ammunition and also arrested the minority student leader, sources said. In

this regard, a case was registered against him in Nagaon PS and further investigation is on, sources added. Significantly, he was provided two security personnel for his personal security a few years back, sources said further.

## Drugs awareness programme held at Hojai

**Assam Rising, Hojai, May 26:** A Drugs Awareness Programme was organised by District Police Administration, Hojai in collaboration with Drug De-addiction Centre, Doboka run by North East Rural Welfare Society, Doboka at the Community Development Cell, Haji Anfor Ali College, Doboka under Hojai District on Wednesday. The programme was presided over by Abdul Rahman, noted social worker. Many distinguished guests spoke on this occasion on the harmful impact of drug addiction. They all apprised the guests along with the hundreds of students who were listening to them patiently that how Drug addiction is dangerous to our health and society. They



also suggested how Drugs addiction can be stopped and uprooted from the society. Aradhana Barua, Psychologist; Dr. H Haque; Dr. MH Barbhuyan, Principal, Haji

Anfor Ali College, Doboka; Dr. Eshaq Ali, Medical Officer-in-Charge, Doboka Hospital; Mintu Sandikh, Officer-in-Charge, Doboka Police Station; Abdul Jalil

Patwari, retired teacher; Dr. Chandan Kumar Roy, Dr. S. Haque; Sub-Divisional Medical Officer and many other guests were present in the meeting.

## Drug dealer arrested in Tamulpur

**Assam Rising, Tamulpur, May 26:** A notorious drugs dealer has been arrested by Tamulpur police in Tamulpur district on May 25. A big team of Tamulpur police raided the house of Riayul Ali in Khandigarh village and arrested him. "We had received a secret information that drugs was being sold out of Ali's residence. Based on that, a team was formed under the supervision of Additional SP of

Tamulpur Partha Pratim Saikia. This team raided Ali's house early in the morning today. He has been apprehended and an investigation has been launched," Superintendent of Police Pankaj Yadav told media. The police official further revealed that a number of items — 108 gms of heroin, Rs. 35000 in cash, a bike, one Alto car, and a tractor — have been seized from the suspected drug dealer.

## Indian Army organised seminar in Philobari

**Assam Rising, Kakopather, May 26:** With an aim of upliftment of youth in the region, the Rupai Battalion under the aegis of Spear Corps organised "Career in Indian Army" seminar for Officers' Selection through various entries on May 24 at Philobari Senior Secondary School, Tinsukia district. This was the third seminar organised by the Battalion

and was aimed at spreading awareness amongst the youth on how to get selected as an officer in the Indian Army. The students were educated regarding various entries and procedures for selection as an officer in the Indian Army. They were also given a glimpse of training at the academy and life as an officer of the Indian Army. Under

the initiative, the Indian Army will provide continuous guidance and support to the aspirants who want to join the Indian Army as officers. The seminar was attended by 150 (80 Boys and 70 Girls) students. The seminar was well received by the students, teachers and school administration. During interaction with Media



persons, students, teachers and guardian unanimously acknowledged the efforts of the Rupai Battalion to guide the youth in the right direction.

## USTM organised workshop on Quality Paradigm

**Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 26:** The Department of Business Administration, USTM in collaboration with Mizoram University conducted a workshop on "Quality Paradigm- Theory & Praxis" on May 24 at the university campus. Prof. L. Shashikumar Sharma, Head, Department of Management, Mizoram University and Hrishikesh Acharya, Managing Director (Operation), Sitajakhala Dugdha Utpadak Samabai Samiti Ltd were the

resource person of the workshop. Both the resource persons shared their views on Quality Paradigm in both theoretical and practical approach. Prof. L. Shashikumar Sharma highlighted the history and evolution of Quality through a series of gradual refinement over the period of time. He also highlighted upon Industrial Revolution in early 19th century and explained how quality came



into the industrial revolution. He focused on Deming's View/ Philosophy of Quality. Hrishikesh Acharya addressed many industrial challenges on

the basis of quality and shared personal industrial exposure. He also highlighted upon the aspects of Quality Metrics like ISO, FSSAI, BIS. Quality of goods and services has long been a priority for society. These challenges can be addressed using the Quality Improvement

Paradigm (QIP): (1) Developing an adoption path from an organization's existing state to a product line approach; (2) constructing a development process to meet the organization's adoption path; (3) evaluating product line development processes as the project progresses.

## Guwahati to host two-day NADI 3 Conclave

**Assam Rising, Guwahati, May, 26:** A galaxy of leaders and experts are set to arrive in Guwahati to attend the third edition of the Asian Confluence flagship dialogue NADI Conclave - NADI 3 "Asian Confluence River Conclave" on May 28 and 29 next. Organized by think tank Asian Confluence, headquartered in Shillong, in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the Act East Policy Affairs Department of Government of Assam, the North Eastern Council and other partners, the goal will be to articulate and activate a collective vision of sub-regional cooperation in the Bay of Bengal region and with South-East Asia, keeping North East India and Assam at the epicenter of activity. The Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies is the country partner for the event and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, IIT Guwahati and Guwahati University, are knowledge partners. The two-day conclave will be inaugurated by Dr S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister, Government of India, Dr. AK Abdul Momen, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh and the Foreign Minister of Thailand, along with Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister of Assam in the presence and High Commissioners and Ambassadors of

several countries, top experts and scientists and other dignitaries. Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Finance, Government of India, will deliver the valedictory address of the conclave on May 29. NADI (Natural Allies in Development and Interdependence)? recognizes the region's south of Himalayas from Ganga, Brahmaputra to Mekong as a contiguity of river basins?with common challenges that require close cooperation beyond their political borders. It is also aimed at building confidence in the key role of?North Eastern Indian?region?in taking forward India's strategic initiative for energy and water security in the neighborhood, and the Bay of Bengal region leading towards a vibrant and secure Indo-Pacific.? NADI 2022 will bring together all major stakeholders such as government, the diplomatic community, scientists, corporates, civil society and diverse riparian communities who will brainstorm on specific actions to foster a people-centric regional narrative around caring and sharing of our shared riverine resources for sustainable development. NADI uses

the symbols and narratives of our shared rivers, and shared waters to encourage shared ideas on collaboration with emphasis on 5Cs: Connectivity, Culture, Commerce, Conservation, and Collaboration in the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna basin. While addressing the media Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Conclave said, "It is a matter of pride for us that NADI is being hosted in Guwahati. We are really grateful to the Government of Assam and its dynamic leadership Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma and the Ministry of External Affairs for championing this cause as primary sponsors to help us convene the third edition of the NADI conclave along with other partners. A well planned collaboration with the states of North East and neighboring countries on management of shared waters can alleviate disasters to a large extent and catapult the region to being a hub of connectivity and green commerce". Manvendra Singh, IAS, Secretary of the Act East Policy Affairs Department, Government of Assam present also interacted with media.

## Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha provides relief to flood victims in Kampur

**Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 26:** Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, Assam Pradesh State President Siddhangku Ankur Barua and others distributed flood relief to the flood affected people of Kampur. The organisation distributed flood relief at Tetelisara Panchayat under Bahrapur constituency in Nagaon district. Flood relief also distributed in two places in their Kampur panchayat. The Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha provides food bags to about 200 families to provide some relief to the people of the two panchayats affected by the kapili river. State President Siddhangku Ankur Baruah was accompanied today by Nagaon District BJP President Avijit Nath, State Vice President Tapas Kalita, State Secretary Ishaan Bharali, Nayan Hazarika, District Youth President Sundar Sharma, State Function bearers Abhinav Goswami, Sanjeev Deka, Nripen Rajvanshi and Moon Das. State Youth president Barua said that youth front workers are helping the distressed people in flood situations in different parts of the state. He urged the functionaries to stay with the public and serve till the situation is fixed.

## Awareness programme on Payment of Taxes held



**Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, May 26:** "Communicating the Importance of Paying Taxes and Ease of Tax Compliance to the Prospective Taxpayers", an extension programme of the Commissioner of Income Taxes, NER was successfully conducted at Biswanath college on May, 25. The programme was organised in association with IQAC, Biswanath College and supported by the Department of Commerce of the college. The interactive programme was attended by Mr. Babul Prasad Verma, ITO, Tezpur, Ramendra Bhoumick, ITO, W-1, Tezpur, Priyadarshi Nirala, and Maithili Saran Gupta, as resource persons. In the welcome speech at the beginning of the programme Dr. Chintia Mani Sharma, Principal of Biswanath College, elaborated the importance of payment process of various taxes to the student community. He appreciated the initiatives taken by the income tax department to address this much important issue to create awareness among the student community. In his deliberation, Babul Prasad Verma explained the need of collecting taxes which is a key factor for national growth and social security. He also stressed the importance of taxation drawing the context of ancient Indian scripts like 'Manushmriti' and 'Arthashastra'. In his presentation, he elaborated on the modern Indian system of taxes which was started from 1860, by the British Government. The process of paying taxes, getting refund of excess payment to taxes and redressal of grievances were also explained to the audience. Five students from Biswanath College also elaborated their views on the importance of paying taxes during the programme. One open quiz session on various aspects of the Indian Taxation System was also conducted by Ramendra Bhoumick. Participating students were awarded by memento presented from the Income Tax Department. The programme was attended by more than two hundred students besides Dr Naresh Thakur, Coordinator (IQAC), Dr Debashis Sarma, Assistant Coordinator (IQAC), Ramananda Bora, Vice Principal and faculty members of various departments.

**Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority**  
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No. GMDA/DEV/122/2022/18 Dated: 26-05-2022

**CORRIGENDUM**

In reference to this office Short Tender Notice No. GMDA/DEV/122/2022/6, dated 18-05-2022 and GMDA/DEV/122/2022/7, dated 18-05-2022, this is to inform all concerned that, the last date & time of submission of Online bids for procurement of Sodium Hypochlorite Solution & Ferric Alum is hereby extended till **04-06-2022 up to 3.00 P.M.** Accordingly the last date & time of opening of bids is also extended till **06-06-2022 up to 3.00 P.M.**

Further, in respect of supply of Sodium Hypochlorite solution, the specification should be read as "conforming to (IS 11673:1992) Grade-II" instead of "ISI marked" as appeared in the NIT due to oversight.

All other terms & conditions of the NIT & Detailed Bid Documents issued earlier shall remain unchanged. This Corrigendum may be seen and downloaded on Govt. e-tendering portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> and in GMDA's website [www.gmda.assam.gov.in](http://www.gmda.assam.gov.in).

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer  
 Guwahati Metropolitan Dev. Authority  
 Bhangagarh, Guwahati - 5

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## THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VII, ISSUE NO. 99 FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2022

## The Texas massacre

In the 10 years since the Sandy Hook massacre, when 20 children and six educators were murdered in an elementary school in Connecticut – during which there have been, in the United States, hundreds of further school shootings, 27 this year alone – this question has attained a rhetorical force divorced from its actual utility. That the US is a country in which decisive political action to curb gun ownership will never follow a mass shooting requires, at this point, no further evidence. Nonetheless, the question remains necessary; a howl of pain that, on Tuesday night, was heard in various forms across the country. “What are we doing? What are we doing?” asked Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut, his voice breaking on the floor of the Senate. In a much-viewed clip, Steve Kerr, an NBA basketball coach speaking at a pre-game press conference, reeled off a list of recent shootings in Buffalo and southern California, before slamming the desk and shouting, “When are we going to do something?” On Tuesday night, President Biden addressed the nation. It was a combination of unnerving – the president seems increasingly frail, always on the cusp of losing the next word. But it was also one of those moments in which one is reminded of Biden’s gift for unscripted humanity. The president spoke from experience of losing a child, the sense of “having a piece of your soul ripped away”. His voice, loaded with pain, was startling in its authenticity. “There’s a hollowness in your chest,” he said, “and you feel like you’re being sucked into it and [are] never going to be able to get out.” And he let his anger show. “When in God’s name are we going to stand up to the gun lobby?” he said. “Where in God’s name is our backbone?” Several times he repeated it: “for God’s sake”. If this was cathartic for those watching, it was also bizarre; that a man with the most powerful position on Earth could be reduced to this state of frustration. It never gets less insane, the power of the National Rifle Association and the relationship of millions of Americans to their guns, alongside the consequence of that irrational force. Late Tuesday night, local ABC news anchors in Uvalde were still reporting the sounds of screams issuing from the civic centre, as families were notified that their children were among the dead. On Wednesday morning, Americans woke to social media timelines filling with the photos of dead teachers and children.

## Be a Citizen Journalist

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

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## Letter to The Editor

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

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

## Dr Rashmi Gogoi - a sincere &amp; punctual principal

I am still a student at the age of 47. Also I served as a teacher for a long period of time i.e. over 20 years. So I think I can easily understand the external and internal matter of any educational institution. I met many headmasters, principals during my journey of student life as well as teaching life but

one figure whose personal behaviour immensely influenced me is unforgettable until my last breath. That figure is none other than Dr Rashmi Gogoi who is the principal of Bongaigaon Law College under Bongaigaon district. This doesn’t mean that others are not like her. I don’t see overshadow in her as a principal who maintains punctuality, discipline properly in the college since she had joined in the college. It is a matter of pleasure that Dr Gogoi, a very young lady with a constant smiling face

who could become principal by virtue of her required degree who hails from Sivasagar district prior to her marriage and now Bajali district owing to conjugal life. Recently I approached her seeking an advice, when I apprised about my problem, I was very nicely tipped off how to proceed with my study

principal who is dedicating her full positive attitude towards the college, so hundreds of pranam from my end. Many principals have come and many principals have gone from this college, I expect to stick to the chair of principal by this honest, sincere, punctual and a figure of discipline. We the students and the people of Bongaigaon are really fortunate for getting such a principal. May God give strength to continue in her respective duty.

## ■ Sanjib Kumar Ray

## The food crisis is what happens when global chains collapse



All my life, the widely shared assumption has been that there will always be food to buy - albeit at a price. No more. Suddenly, Russia's successful blockade of Ukraine, choking off its crucially important exports of grain and oilseeds, has challenged all that. The west is right to hail Ukraine's remarkable achievements on the battlefield - but Russia holds cards in this war that may yet prove to its decisive advantage. When the UN secretary-general warns of the spectre of a world food shortage, take notice. Equally, the governor of the Bank of England has been much derided for warning of a food apocalypse: he may choose his words clumsily, but he is right. What is provoking these warnings is that there is no way to replace Ukrainian grain exports, which constitute 9% of the world's, made worse by the decline in Russia's grain exports.

Only a fraction of Ukraine's cereal harvests can find their way into global markets via road or through ports in Romania - and Russia has no intention of lifting its blockade while it faces sanctions that may last years, given the stalemate in Ukraine. The price of grain is thus certain to rise - it is already 59% higher than in January - reflecting that there is less to go around. Those who can't pay will simply go without, raising the prospect of famine spreading to hundreds of millions in poorer countries and a new flood of refugees. Nor will Britain be unaffected, although it is largely self-sufficient in grain. Overall, we rely on imports to meet around half our food demands. All over the world, countries facing shortages of grain and other foodstuffs are simply halting their food exports; already, 22 countries have prohibited 10% of all food trade. Our four major food suppliers are our EU neighbours and former partners, now all too often turned into

**Will Hutton**  
enemies: France, Ireland, the Netherlands and Germany. Yet, just at this moment the Johnson government, with its habitual reckless incompetence and obsessive hatred of all things EU related, is prepared to risk an EU trade war by unilaterally abrogating the Brexit treaty. The UK may not want to damage crucial EU food imports, already deferring any regulatory checks until the end of next year. But why should EU member states play ball with a country whose leader they regard as a deceitful clown in hock to the worst of his party's right, who never loses the chance to criticise the common agricultural policy (CAP), built to ensure European food security? Suddenly the

CAP looks like a strategic asset, with the EU recently moving to strengthen its farmers' productive capacity and self-sufficiency in ways wholly at odds with Britain's disdainful neglect of its own farmers. The EU may decide in response to Britain's provocation that EU food security is of paramount importance, directing food exports only to where there is more need than Britain - for example, increasing its already hefty food support to Ukraine - or just making haulage and shipping regulatory requirements even tougher. They can do so, secure that EU producers can sell their food elsewhere, so creating food shortages in Britain. If the EU does not wish to go so far, it has other effective levers to make Boris Johnson back down. Russia is the world's biggest exporter of fertilisers, whose price has now soared 300% following the west's trade sanctions. The UK produces only two-fifths of the fertiliser our farmers need, the balance imported mainly from the EU. Germany in particular. Fertiliser and chemical production is an area where Brexit UK sees "opportunity" in diverging from EU single market rules that assure high product and safety standards, and is a key import into Northern Ireland. The EU has only to suspend or curtail EU fertiliser exports to Britain, concerned about our desire to weaken those rules, to crucify British agricultural production, which is already reeling from sky-high feed and fuel costs. We are so badly governed by ministers and a party living in a sealed right-wing bubble that food rationing in 2023 is a real risk. More Brexit voters might think they were lied to. The larger point

is that confidence over the past 30 years that globalisation was here to stay has led to the world's food production and distribution system becoming profoundly interdependent, concentrated in a few countries and a few powerful agribusiness companies. As my colleague George Monbiot argues in his powerful book *Regenesys*, the system has become ever more market-based and less resilient, with some countries, notably Britain, assuming that there was no need for wasteful things like storage facilities, food reserves or ensuring strong domestic environmentally sustainable production. Food, animal feed and fertilisers would flow seamlessly through safe international supply chains: domestic farmers' margins could be squeezed to the bone. "Global" Britain could take this one step further, throwing off the crippling "shackles" of the CAP and buying cheap food from wherever, careless of UK farmers, quality food and the environment - hence the absurd trade deal dramatically favouring Australian farm producers over British ones, one of foreign secretary Liz Truss's proudest achievements to please the Brexit right. Today the whole intellectual edifice looks profoundly stupid - even dangerous. Resilience and sustainability in food production and distribution, along with ensuring everyone can afford to eat a healthy diet, constitute a foundational building block in our civilisation - even if mocked by Tory backbenchers and undermined by Brexiters. Last week's rise in inflation to 9% was driven by uncapped energy bills and escalating food prices. Britain's inflation rate - the highest in the G7 - is because we have the least resilient, most market-based system for delivering key goods and services, and we are not a member of one of the big blocs partly able to protect itself from worldwide trends. We are a cork being thrown helplessly around the global ocean. The curtain is finally coming down on the great Thatcherite experiment. The tragic pity is that so many millions are going to find out the hardest way - through eating crap food or, worse, going hungry - just how wrong-headed their leaders have been.

## Sri Lanka may be a teaser for a global default crisis

High school teacher S. Jeeva has spent two days in the baking sun lining up for cooking gas in the north of Sri Lanka's capital. He's been standing with thousands of others waiting for a delivery that, so far, hasn't come. Meanwhile, many of his students, who will sit for important national exams Monday, have joined protests against the government at the waterfront along Colombo's iconic Galle Face Green. Both are symbols of the economic and political crisis gripping the nation - the result of decades of corruption and financial mismanagement that pushed the country to default on May 19. It is, Jeeva says, his students' democratic right to protest and demand a better government. Daily life has become such a struggle that it is impossible for them to study. "How can they memorize their material if they have no lights, no power, no fuel to get to school," the 32-year-old language teacher told me. An endless row of empty blue LPG gas cylinders lines the street next to him. These teenagers should be thinking about their future and preparing for university - instead they are worrying about how the island nation will ever emerge from under its pile of debt. What happens in Sri Lanka matters way beyond its borders. Global markets see it as a bellwether for a raft of potential defaults across the developing world as countries face a growing, post-pandemic debt burden. Armed soldiers are on the streets and there's days-long queues for gasoline and cooking gas. Harvests are down by 50% because farmers either cannot afford to cultivate crops, or they're only growing enough for themselves because there's no fuel to transport what they've produced. Pharmacies are running out of medicine; and hospitals are dangerously short of lifesaving drugs and

devices. Incomes are shrinking and inflation is accelerating above 30%. Parents are eating just one meal a day so their children can have three, while doctors report that patients are rationing essential medicines for serious conditions like heart disease and diabetes. There's also growing unrest - protesters may not be burning down the family homes of the ruling Rajapaksa clan as they did on May 9 - but there are daily demonstrations throughout the country calling for the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa (his brother Mahinda stepped down as prime minister on May 10 after that deadly violence.) Police and security forces are pushing back with water cannons and tear gas. It's a tactic that risks tipping the country further toward a broader rebellion. How did Sri Lanka go from being named by Lonely Planet the world's best travel destination for 2019 to nearly running out of foreign reserves and defaulting on its debts? The warning signs were there from the moment the powerful Rajapaksa clan retook control of the country following a sweeping election victory in November 2019. Their divisive dynastic politics, combined with questionable financial decisions - including heavy capital-market borrowing that now accounts for some 38% of the debt - go a long way to explaining its path to ruin. Yes, the pandemic was a disaster for the tourism-reliant economy, and so too were the deadly Easter Sunday bombings in 2019 that ushered in a return of the Rajapaksa dynasty, but the rot had set in well before that. Sri Lanka's interest payments on decades of borrowing are now almost equal to the principal, as political economist and senior lecturer at the University of Jaffna, Ahilan Kadirgamar, noted. Importantly, Sri Lanka has lost its agency - with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and its bilateral lenders, China, India and Japan - if it ever had any to begin with. Kadirgamar

says the country has never set its own terms for its development: It has always been at the mercy of external powers. There have been 16 IMF agreements since 1965. "This time it is much more desperate," he told me. "We cannot even pay for the next shipment of fuel even though the ship is sitting outside our port." There are many other emerging-market economies with similarly unsustainable debt that are facing the possibility of default, says Kadirgamar. "Things are unraveling across the globe, with the disruptions from Ukraine and Russia on a scale we have not seen in recent history." The international community is watching the situation and wondering: Can Sri Lanka's crisis be solved via a framework applicable to other countries? In South Asia, Pakistan is teetering on the edge economic peril. If the government doesn't increase fuel prices, it is in danger of defaulting in just three months. It needs an IMF program to avoid this eventuality. The World Bank noted in March as many as a dozen developing economies may be unable to service their debt in the next year. The biggest challenge for these nations, it says, is sovereign debt restructuring, just like Sri Lanka. The Group of Seven economic powers announced their support for debt relief efforts for Sri Lanka on May 19. Assistance may also come up at the Quad meeting in Tokyo on Tuesday, where the leaders of the US, Japan, India and Australia will hold talks on issues of regional concern. In the meantime, Sri Lanka is negotiating with the IMF for a bailout that will help it negotiate debt

restructuring with its creditors. The country has previously said it needs between \$3 billion and \$4 billion this year to pull itself out of crisis, but the true extent of its debt has yet to be exposed. Only last week, new Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe (in his sixth time serving in this role) revealed a previously undisclosed debt of \$105 million to a Chinese bank that had also fallen due.

Letter to the Editor  
Unsung heroes of the time dedicated for Nature

Sir,

In our day to day life we frequently witness cruelty of a section of people towards our Mother Nature. Peoples have dream to build their dream house by destroying the nature. The government machineries also seen feeling no any hesitation to destroy environment in the name of development. While most of us conveniently forget about our mother natures sickness some people are dedicating their most of the time of their life on saving the nature. Harendra Morang, a college professor based in Tezpur is one of the most dedicated unsung hero who has utilised his free time by giving to the nature with missionary zeal. He gave birth 'Udrupan' in 2015. In the banner of this organisation he almost planted thousands of trees along with the help of other conscious folks at different urban spots of the Tezpur. While talking to him he told us that 'Udrupan' uses to taking care of the plants till the mature age. It is indeed a great move towards the conservation of our environment. On the other hand Kumud Barua, from Biswanath also has contributed a lot towards the nature. He also planted hundreds of trees in the township of Biswanath and Tezpur. There is another unsung hero named Hari Karua from a rural periphery of Tezpur who is also unconditionally carrying out his plantation in several campuses of schools situated in rural areas near Tezpur. These are some examples of real heroes of our society who have contributed a lot for the overall benevolence of our nature. We also have some responsibilities to free our hands towards our nature, to contribute some of our time for making our environment more green and clean. yours etc.

**Aditya Kr. Nath**  
Tezpur



## David Zaslav gathered movie-studio executives



**London, May 26 :** Days into his role as CEO of Warner Bros. Discovery, WBD - 4.90%? David Zaslav gathered movie-studio executives and grilled them about a recent string of box-office flops, including "Cry Macho," a Clint Eastwood neo-Western. Warner Bros. executives conceded they had doubted the movie would turn a profit, people familiar with the meeting said. Why, Zaslav asked, was "Cry Macho" made if they had reservations? When they replied that Eastwood had given the studio many hits and never delivered a movie late or over budget, he answered: We don't owe anyone any favors. "It's not show friends, it's show business," he told them, quoting from the 1996 Tom Cruise movie "Jerry Maguire." Zaslav, who last month took over the company resulting from Discovery's merger with AT&T Inc.'s WarnerMedia, has given every indication

he wants to be a talent-friendly mogul, schmoozing with industry personalities at the Beverly Hills Hotel. But the 62-year-old cable-industry veteran, a protégé of the late Jack Welch, longtime CEO of General Electric Co., has shown he isn't afraid to ruffle the industry's elite. He and his team have been scouring the company's books, making it clear spending needs to be reined in. They have abandoned projects they consider costly and unnecessary. That included pulling the plug on CNN+, barely a month after previous management launched the streaming service, and canceling a DC. He has given an unwelcome jolt to executives in the WarnerMedia empire who were happy when AT&T decided to part with it in the merger, hoping there would be less financial scrutiny-not more. "It's the first time they've had a leader there who is challenging them and asking the right questions," said Ari Emanuel, CEO of Endeavor, which owns talent agency WME. "When there are things he wants, he goes after them in a very aggressive manner," he said of Zaslav. Heavier BurdenRatio of debt to earnings before interest,taxes, depreciation and amortizationSource: RBC Capital MarketsNote:

Ratios are as of March 31 except for WarnerBros. Discovery, which was management's forecastfor the merger's close in early April. Warner Bros.Discovery Paramount DisneyComcast0 times12345.Select streamers' global subscriber baseSources: The companies; Wells Fargo (Discovery+, Paramount+)Note: As of 1Q 2022. Hulu majority-owned by Disney.Owned/controlled by Walt DisneyOwned by Warner Bros. Discovery Netflix Disney+HBO MaxHulu Paramount+ Discovery+0 million100200. Zaslav, who starts working at 6 a.m. and holds meetings as early as 7 a.m., is looking to be more hands-on than his predecessors. Creative executives now report directly to him, a change that led to the ouster of many executives who once held these intermediary roles. "Command and control" is a favorite phrase for Zaslav-Zas to friends and colleagues. "Zas is not particularly patient," said Margaret Loesch, now retired, who ran Discovery Kids for him. "He is going to want to change things quickly." His axing CNN+ was "pure Zas," she said. Zaslav has few options other than drastic moves.

**Mumbai, May 26 :** The first movie had made a splash when it was released on Netflix. With its steamy scenes, the handsome cast, its Fifty Shades of Grey premise, and its romanticization of abusive relationships, the film was much talked about on social media. Adding to that, it was objectively underwhelming and devoid of real substance which made the movie a target for mockery and incinerating commentary videos on YouTube. Based on the novel of the same name by BlankaLipi'ska, 365 Days followed our heroine, Laura Biel (played by Anna Maria Sieklucka), who gets kidnapped by a handsome, brooding Italian gangster named Massimo (Michele Morrone). Besotted by her angelic beauty, Massimo keeps her hostage and asks her to live with him for exactly one year. If Laura doesn't fall in love with him by the end of the year, he will let her go. The ending is inevitable. The bored Laura falls hard for the mysterious gangster and they get it on. There's also mafia rivalry and mind games which occur throughout the movie, but we know no

one watched it for that. The sequel, 365 Days: This Day, begins with Laura and Massimo making out passionately right before their wedding to some pop music. The filmmakers are essentially saying, "You came for the sex scenes, isn't it? Here, take it!" Then we see the couple tying the knot in a lavish Sicilian wedding sequence with even more background pop music. And then there's the honeymoon. Cue the rollout of more Rated R scenes. The first half of this erotic "thriller" is basically a montage of said scenes as well as Laura and Massimo doing leisurely activities in pretty locations. With crisp cinematography, a neverending pop music playlist and characters dressed in designer clothes, the film looks more like a music video or an extended commercial. Then there are more scenes of the couple attending parties. This is followed by Laura and her best friend Olga going on a girls' trip in their shiny car in a scene straight out of a tourism ad. In fact, there is less spoken dialogue and more background music throughout the course of this movie. One could argue that each scene has a song assigned to it. The overall pop soundtrack of this movie is not bad. In fact, even the soundtrack in the preceding film was touted by many as its sole redeeming factor. No doubt this movie was sponsored by companies behind cars, vibrators, shades and jacuzzis, judging by the nu-



merous close ups of these items in the movie which seems more like an extended music video than anything. The characters are paper thin, coming off as corny with equally corny dialogues. There is no moment in this film in which we feel empathy for these people or care about what happens to them. The plot itself is bare-thin and insignificant. By the second half of the movie, the couple's fairytale honeymoon is brought to an end thanks to the husband's unavoidable mafia duties which he needs to tend to. So the bored Laura is left alone by herself with nothing to keep her busy. She walks around the estate and encounters a mysterious young man named Nacho (Simone Susinna). Nacho's introductory scene is laughably cringe - almost bordering on parody - as the camera caresses his muscles, tattoos and face like they do in advertisements for men's grooming products. Nacho claims to be the new gar-

dener at the estate. But this guy is not what he claims to be and once again, the couple's marriage is thrown against the rocks by dangerous outside forces. It's unbelievable how the plot is crammed into the second half of this movie, and if stripped to its essential scenes (cutting out the sex/party/travel scenes), it would only last for twenty minutes. Such is the state of the plot of this film. Just like its predecessor, 365 Days: This Day is another unintentionally funny, slightly amusing, and mostly boring uninspired piece of Netflix content. There is no way the makers of this film don't realize how bland and embarrassing this movie is and how people perceive it. All that matters is that the film grabs people's attention, is talked about by reviewers no matter how negatively, and has people checking out the movie for curiosity. And so far, it seems like

people are watching it. This thriller, directed by Barbara Bialowos and Tomasz Mandes, is ranking at #5 on Netflix's Movies Today as of writing this. Not all movies have to be serious or need to make complete sense. This sequel, with its lazily written plot and clunky English dialogues, could have been made into a campy thriller. All the energy and focus could have been put into making this movie entertainingly slapstick and self-aware about its caricature of mafia characters and overall lack of logic. But instead, it tries to be stylish and pretty, glamorous but not too out-there, not quite here nor there; and as a result, it makes for an un compelling film. However, some audiences aren't concerned about the blandness or lack of plot in a movie as long as they can hang out with their friends, munch snacks and watch a flick where they can make fun of the characters. Perhaps in that way, this film will prove useful.

## Arjunstop down wedding rumours

**Mumbai, May 26 :** Arjun Kapoor and Malaika Arora have happily embraced their relationship in the public eye but much like any popular celebrity couple, they are often faced with wedding rumours. Recently, a few publications reported that Arjun and Malaika might be tying the knot in December and Arjun could not hold himself back from reacting to those rumours. The reports also suggested that the wedding would be a low-key affair with their close friends and family members in attendance. But it looks like there is no substance to the reports as hours after this rumour started doing the rounds, Arjun took to Instagram and wrote, "Love how everyone seems to know more about my life than I do." While he has not specified the subject he is referring to, it appears that the SardarKa Grandson actor is talking about another set of wedding rumours.



Arjun and Malaika have been together for a few years now and have often expressed their fondness for each other in various interviews. In a chat with Janice Sequeira on Social Media Star, Arjun said that he opened up about the relationship because he wanted to show respect towards Malaika. He said, "I think where the personal life is concerned, instead of having speculation... What happens

is that at one point, you realise that the more you let people speculate and write randomly or write without keeping certain emotions in mind, it makes the relationship or the feelings you have towards each other come across as frivolous. And if there is a quest to have a relationship, then it's better to just give it respect on your own by stepping out and saying, 'this is our bound-

ary, and now we are together'. " In an earlier conversation with Film Companion, he had stated, "I don't try to be overly talkative about my personal life, because I feel you should respect your partner, and there is a past there... And I've been in that situation where I've seen things pan out publicly and it's not always very nice, because there are kids affected."

## Nysa Devgan is oozing diva vibes in pics from KanikaKapoor's wedding reception

**Mumbai, May 26 :** Singer Kanika Kapoor's wedding reception was an intimate affair with only family members and friends in attendance. Ajay Devgn's daughter Nysa Devgan also attended the event with her friends Vedant Mahajan and Orhan Awatramani. At the event, hosted at Victoria and Albert Museum of London, Nysa wore a perfect body-hugging pink dress, which she paired up with hot pink block heels. Nysa's friend Orhan shared many photos from the reception on his Instagram account. One of the photos featured Orhan and Guru Randhawa, while another picture featured Nysa, Vedant and Kanika. Orhan shared the pictures with a caption that read, "I'll go around a time or 2, just to waste my time with you." As soon as he dropped the photos, his friends dropped comments on the post. "Wasting time never looked this good," wrote Janhvi Kapoor, while Banita Sandhu thanked Orhan "for the viewing experience". Fans dropped adorable comments for Nysa Devgan too. "Nysa is love man," a comment read, while



another fan praised Nysa's fashion sense. Meanwhile, Kanika Kapoor is on cloud nine. The singer, who married businessman Gautam Hathiraman on May 20, shared her wedding photos on her Instagram account. "And I said YES.

## Karan Johar Birthday Bash

**Mumbai, May 26 :** Karan Johar is one of the most successful filmmakers in the world. His body of work along with the movies produced by his banner Dharma Productions have been able to win the hearts of millions worldwide. His 50th birthday bash is a star-studded event where the biggest of names from the entertainment industry have graced the party. The party is full of glitz and glamour and is expected to go on till wee hours. It is, without a doubt, the biggest gathering in the entertainment industry this year. The party is graced by some of the biggest names in the entertainment industry. Shahid Kapoor and Mira Rajput look stunning together. While Shahid Kapoor looks stylish in his white tuxedo, Mira Rajput looks exquisite in her glimmering black

outfit. Sidharth Malhotra in his clean-shaven look is a literal eye-candy. He looks outstanding in his shining black blazer as he stands in front of the paparazzi for a click. Anushka Sharma raises the temperature with her elegant black gown and high heels. Other celebrities that graced the occasion with their electrifying presence include Salman Khan, Rithvik Roshan, Rohit Shetty, Rashmi Mandanna, Raveena Tandon, Tabu and Badshah. The invitees have got the social media buzzing as they have created a media frenzy at Karan Johar's pad. Karan Johar is busy with a lot of things in his hands. He is almost done with his shoot on his next directorial venture, Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani with Alia Bhatt, Ranveer Singh, Shabana Azmi and Dharmendra which re-



leases on 10th February, 2023. Before the release of his next film, he has already announced that he will next be working on an action film from April 2023. Apart from his own directorial ventures, Karan Johar's production houses Dharma Productions and Dharmatic are producing almost a dozen different projects which

will either see a theatrical release or a digital release. The most awaited project of Karan Johar is hands down the next season of Koffee With Karan which will have the biggest of names from the Indian entertainment industry. For the first time ever, the episodes will directly premiere directly on an OTT platform.

## Kangana'sDhaakadbombs :Aayush quits Salman Khan's film

**Mumbai, May 26 :** The world of entertainment has been very exciting today and we bring you a wrap of all the trending Bollywood news of the day. From Kangana Ranaut's Dhaakad getting bombed at the box office on the opening day to Aayush Sharma quitting Salman Khan's Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali, here's a look at the top trending entertainment news today. "Yes the team of Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali had begun work and shooting for the film. But some issues seem to have crept up between Aayush and

SKF. Following these creative differences, Aayush has decided on opting out of the project altogether. Aayush Sharma started shooting for his portions of the film, and even completed a whole day's worth of shooting. However, certain differences between him and the production house arose which ultimately led to him opting to walk out of the film," a source was quoted as saying by Bollywood Hungama. "I didn't mean to start any riot or any kind of debate. It just so happened without an agenda. It was an opinion I voiced. It was an



honour and a privilege to see the certain lines come out of the Prime Minister's mouth. Everybody who looks upon their language with regard and respect, it's an overwhelming thing to see him speak this way," Kiccha told NDTV in an interview. Speaking about his heated Twitter exchange with Ajay, Kiccha said, "I was not trying to take on anyone. I have the right to say what my opinions are when it comes to cer-

tain topics. Kangana's Dhaakad has earned only 50 lakhs on day one will Kartik's Bhool Bhulaiyaa had a bumper opening of rupees 14 crore at the box office. She took to her Instagram stories and congratulated Kartik, she wrote, "Congratulations to Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 for ending the dry spell at the Hindi box office... congratulations to the entire team of the film.". The Dhaakad actress tagged both Kartik and Kiara in the post.

## Shehnaaz Gill bonds with Arbaaz Khan's girlfriend

**Mumbai, May 26 :** Baba Siddiqui's 51st birthday bash was a starry affair as always. Shehnaaz Gill stole the show as she attended the do in a Punjabi dress by Kiran Sandhu. The styling of the outfit was done by Ken Ferns. The Bigg Boss 13 contestant and Honsla Rakh actress came to the event with designer Ken Ferns, Kaushal Joshi and his fiancée. Shehnaaz Gill was the cynosure of all eyes at the event. As per an EXCLUSIVE report by BollywoodLife, Salman Khan ensured that she did not feel left out at the bash that had superstars like Shah Rukh Khan and Sanjay Dutt. It seems Shehnaaz Gill won over everyone from the red carpet itself. Here is how. Baba Siddiqui's daughter Arshia is a huge fan of Shehnaaz Gill. From escorting her inside the venue to being by her side 24x7 she made sure that Sana did not feel out of place. It was her first Ifaar party and she ruled it like a queen. Take a look at this video of Arshia Siddiqui and Shehnaaz Gill.... The woman on her left in blue is Arshia Siddiqui. Arbaaz Khan's girlfriend Giorgia Andriani sat besides Shehnaaz Gill. The two women were chatting like besties. She is the girlfriend of Arbaaz Khan and a part of the Khan family. In the same row, we can spot Andriani's parents, and Ayush Sharma and Arpita Khan Sharma. Another cute picture of Zareen Khan looking adorably at Shehnaaz Gill has also emerged from the celebrations.



Contd. From Page 1

## Akhilesh Yadav's Party Names

the Samajwadi Party has from Uttar Pradesh. Former Congress leader Kapil Sibal and Javed Ali Khan are the other two candidates that the Samajwadi Party is backing.Sources say Mr Yadav had promised to send Jayant Chaudhary to the Rajya Sabha but they had a disagreement. Mr Yadav wanted him in the upper house under the Samajwadi Party's banner but Mr Chaudhary insisted on going as his own party RLD's candidate with support from the Samajwadi Party.The Rajya Sabha elections next month will include 11 Uttar Pradesh seats.Overall, the election for 57 seats, spanning 15 states, will be held on June 10.The BJP, which recently returned to power in the politically crucial state with a massive win, is set to maintain its dominance in the upper house by occupying around 80 per cent of the total seats.Uttar Pradesh sends 31 MPs to the upper house; 11 of them are set to retire on July 4. This will include five from the BJP, three from the Samajwadi Party, two from Mayawati's BSP and one from the Congress. At present, the BJP has a strength of 22, while Samajwadi Party has five. The BSP and the Congress have three and one each.

## CM inaugurates 3 Model High

able to raise their socio-economic status to that of other communities. The Chief Minister made an appeal to tribe communities, asking them to desist from adding salt to their daily cup of tea, so that the health issues which arises out of this unhealthy practice can be avoided. At Gelahatinga Tea Estate Model High School, the Chief Minister sat with students of the educational institution and had mid-day meal lunch with them. Later in the day, the Chief Minister made a visit to the under-construction new medical college at Biswanath town and instructed the contractor and the concerned officials to ensure completion of construction by 2024. The Chief Minister was today accompanied by Member of Parliament (Tezpur Lok Sabha Constituency) Pallab Lochan Das, Members of Legislative Assembly Promod Borthakur, Ranjit Dutta, Padma Hazarika, among others.

## BJP readies gameplan for 2024

said.During the outreach campaign, half-a-dozen Union ministers, including Dharmendra Pradhan, Smriti Irani and Jyotiraditya Scindia, will visit West Bengal, sources said. Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya will visit Punjab, along with some other Union ministers. West Bengal is currently governed by the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress, while the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party is in power in Punjab.The Union ministers will spend two-three days in the states assigned to them. They will interact with party workers and beneficiaries of government schemes and hold press conferences.Wednesday's meeting at the BJP headquarters concluded with a speech by former BJP chief and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Union ministers Pradhan, Irani and Kiren Rijiju also addressed it. The BJP will celebrate the Modi government's anniversary from May 30 to June 15 on the theme of 'Sewa, Sushashan and Gareeb Kalyan' (service, good governance and welfare of the poor).In the recent meeting of its office-bearers in Jaipur, the BJP had announced that all Union ministers would visit different areas across the country to mark eight years of the Narendra Modi government and take feedback from people on various welfare schemes.

## ED raids multiple locations

and other charges, officials said.Locations in Dapoli, Mumbai and Pune are being searched after the federal agency filed a fresh case under the criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).Parab (57), is a three-time Shiv Sena legislator in the Maharashtra legislative council and is the state transport minister.The Enforcement Directorate (ED) action pertains to the allegations of purchase of a parcel of land at Dapoli by Parab in 2017 for a consideration of Rs 1 crore but it was registered in 2019. Some other charges are also being probed by the agency.It is alleged that the land was subsequently sold to a Mumbai-based cable operator Sadanand Kadam in 2020 for a consideration of Rs 1.10 crore. In between, a resort was built on the same land from 2017 to 2020.An Income Tax Department investigation earlier had alleged that the construction of the resort started in 2017 and over Rs 6 crore was spent in cash on construction of the resort.Parab has been questioned by the ED in the past in another money laundering case linked to former minister Anil Deshmukh.

## Learning at home for 78%

"burdensome". The survey said that at least 78 per cent of school students found learning at home "burdensome", while 24 per cent of them did not have a digital device at home.The survey, conducted across the country for classes 3, 5, 8 and 10 on November 12 last year, also highlighted that in India 48 per cent of the students commute to school on foot, adding that the learning levels (achievements) of students drop as they progress to a higher class.In the NAS survey, about 34 lakh students of 1.18 lakh schools in 720 districts from both rural and urban areas have participated. The last NAS was held in 2017.According to the report released on Wednesday, at least 78 per cent of students said that they found learning at home during the pandemic burdensome with a lot of assignments, 45 per cent of the students said online learning was joyful, 38 per cent of the respondents faced difficulty in learning, while 24 per cent of the students claimed they had no digital device at home.Fifty per cent of the students, however, said that there was no difference in learning at home and school and 80 per cent said that they learn better in school with the help of peers, while 70 per cent of the students said they had a lot of time to learn new things at home during the pandemic.Notably, the NAS covered government, government-aided and private schools. Schools were closed for several months across the country in view of the pandemic. The subjects covered were Language, Mathematics and EVS for classes 3 and 5; Language, Mathematics, Science and Social Science for class 8 and Language, Mathematics, Science, Social Science and English for class 10."The objective of NAS 2021 is to evaluate children's progress and learning competencies as an indicator of the efficiency of the education system, so as to take appropriate steps for remedial actions at different levels. It will help to unravel the gaps in learning and will support state and UT governments in developing long term, mid-term and short-term interventions to improve learning levels and orient on differential planning based on survey data," PTI report quoted a senior MoE official as saying.The official further said, "The achievement tests along with the questionnaires -- pupil questionnaire, teacher questionnaire and school questionnaire -- were developed and translated in 22 different languages by NCERT. This nationwide survey was administered by the CBSE in one single day at the same time. The survey was managed through the technology platform designed and developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC)." The report further said that average performance of students at the national level in a scaled score of 500 starts decreasing in higher classes. For example, the national average performance of a class 3 student in language is 323 out of 500, but the same dips to 260 in Class 10. Similarly, in mathematics the national average score is 306 at class 3 level, which comes down to 284 in class 5; 255 in class 8; and 220 in class 10.Presenting the state-wise performance, the NAS report said that the performance of the majority of states/union territories was significantly below the overall national score, while states such as Punjab, Kerala, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and union territories such as Chandigarh showed better results than the national average.It further added that the average achievement of schools in rural areas remained lower than the schools in urban areas in the same states/UTs. For instance, the average achievement of schools in rural areas remained lower than their urban counterparts across all states and UTs, excluding Manipur and Daman and Diu, in Language in class 8.In terms of social-group-wise performance, the average performance of SC, ST and OBC students remained low in almost all classes across the states, in comparison to the general category students. For instance, in class 10 English, the national average score of general category students stood at 308 while it was 283 for SC students, 280 for ST and 289 for OBC students. GJS, the report added.

## AHSEC Asks Institutes To Report Inability

inability to conduct examinations. It may be noted that many institutions have been taken up for setting flood relief camps as parts of the state remain heavily affected by floods and landslides resulting from incessant rains in Assam.However, AHSEC instructed such heads of institutes to make an alternative arrangement if possible.Moreover, it asked institutes that are not affected by floods to continue with conducting examinations as per schedule released earlier.The notification read, "No. AHSEC/EXB/11/47/18-19-20/270 Whereas, information are being received from some of the Head of the Institutions of the state regarding setting up of flood relief camps in their institution and informed that conduct of the remaining examinations of HS 1 year would not be possible in their institutions.""Besides, whereas some of the Head of the Institutions informed that the area covered by their institutions are not affected by the flood and they are fully prepared for conduction of the remaining examinations of HS 1 year," it added.It further mentioned, "In view of the above, it is notified that the Head of those institutions where flood relief camps are set up may make alternative arrangement for conduction of the said examinations, if possible. Otherwise, such Head of the institutions will submit report to AHSEC with justification regarding their inability to conduct the examinations for further necessary instructions from the AHSEC."The notification also said, "The Head of those institutions which are not affected by flood will proceed to conduct the said examinations as per schedule communicated earlier.""Further, a separate notification with regard to the suspended earlier examinations (18th 20th and 21 of May, 2022) will be issued in due course of time," it further added.

## Top Leaders In Race As Congress May

where it is in power, it will get one seat each in Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand and Maharashtra, where it shares power with other like-minded parties.The Congress is also likely to get one seat each in Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka on the strength of its MLAs in these states.Sources said while Mr Chidambaram and Mr Ramesh are hopeful that the party leadership would give a nod to them for another term, there are a host of other leaders who are waiting for a Rajya Sabha berth for some time now.Mr Chidambaram is eyeing the lone Rajya Sabha seat from Tamil Nadu. He has already met Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK leader M K Stalin. However, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi's team is pushing for a young face in Praveen Chakravarty, the head of the party's Data Analytics department, for the seat.Three-time Rajya Sabha member Mr Ramesh will get a fourth term if his name is cleared for the lone seat in Karnataka, from where Mr Surjewala is also a contender.In Haryana, Mr Surjewala, Kumari Selja and Kuldeep Bishnoi are vying for the lone seat, but former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda is pushing for the nomination of Anand Sharma. The former Union minister is a prominent member of the "Group of 23" and is considered close to Mr Hooda, who is also a member of the grouping.Sources said Kapil Sibal was offered a Rajya Sabha berth by ally Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), but the Congress leadership was not ready. Mr Sibal quit the Congress on Wednesday and got a Rajya Sabha nomination from Uttar Pradesh as an Independent with the support of the Samajwadi Party (SP).In Chhattisgarh, the Congress has two seats and Mr Shukla is vying for another term from the state.The Congress will surely get two seats from Rajasthan and may also get another seat with the support of some MLAs. Mr Maken and Mr Azad are said to be strong contenders for the seats.In Maharashtra, where the party shares power in the Maha Vikas Aghadi government, it may get one Rajya Sabha seat, and Wasnik and Avinash Pande are in the race for it.The race is also between the old guard in the Congress and the young leaders, who are keen to get a Rajya Sabha nomination, keeping in view the party's push for the youth. However, this may not happen immediately as the "50 below 50" formula will not be applicable in the current Rajya Sabha nominations, the sources said.

## Cachar District Selected For District

entrepreneurship, government of India.Out of 450 plans submitted to the Ministry, 30 DSDP plans were considered for short listing among which Cachar DSDP was under special category.Among 30 DSDP finally Cachar DSDP was selected in entire Northeast region for the "Award for Excellence for innovation and best practices in the field of Skill Development".DSDP Cachar emphasized on district gap and priorities put in for requirements, demand and solutions to the gaps or problem.DSDP prepared by District project manager Assam Skill Development Mission with active support from DC Cachar and also participation from concerned line departments like Agriculture, DICC, Cachar, Assam Rural Livelihood Mission, Cachar.It needs to mention that the DSDP also focused on food processing, crop production, mushroom cultivation, paper bag making and bamboo artisan training.The DSDP envisaged to boost the skill ecosystem in the district as well as promote entrepreneurship through livelihood generation schemes.

## Flood Situation in Assam Remains Grim

the worst affected with over 3.64 lakh people suffering, followed by Cachar (1.63 lakh) and Morigaon (41,000). Till Tuesday, over 5.8 lakh people were affected by the deluge across 17 districts in the state.At present, 1,073 villages are inundated and 51,671.52 hectares of farmlands have been damaged, ASDMA said. It said authorities are running 422 relief camps and distribution centres in nine districts, where 72,698 people, including 15,197 children, are taking shelter.The authorities have distributed 1,020.48 quintals of rice, pulses and salt, 1,538.52 litres of mustard oil, 178.4 quintals of cattle feed and other flood relief items. Personnel of NDRF, army, civil defence, paramilitary forces, air force, civil administration, SDRF, fire and emergency services, police, and volunteers have so far evacuated 26,599 people.Massive erosions have been witnessed in Barpeta, Biswanath, Nagaon, Nalbari, South Salmara, Tinsukia and Udalguri districts. Embankments, roads, bridges and other infrastructure have been damaged by floodwaters in Barpeta, Cachar, Dima Hasao, Goalpara, Karimganj, Morigaon, Nalbari, Hojai, Kamrup, Nagaon and Udalguri districts, ASDMA said.A total of 2,07,371 domestic animals and poultry have been affected in the deluge across nine districts, it said. Brahmaputra's tributary Kopili is flowing above the danger mark at Dharamtul, it added.

# Rape Accused Injured in Police Firing in Kokrajhar

**Guwahati, May 26:** A rapist was injured during police firing in Kokrajhar in Assam on Wednesday night.According to police reports, on Wednesday night, a rape accused identified as Afruddin Islam was taken by the police to the spot where he had hidden the mobile phone in which the rape victim had recorded the entire incident.While searching for the mobile at the Ranipur tea garden area, Afruddin snatched the service pistol from the officer-in-charge of the Salakati police outpost and cocked it to fire upon the police.For self-defence, another police officer opened fire at Afruddin. As a result, the accused sustained one bullet injury in his right leg.After getting hold of him, the police immediately shifted him to the nearby civil hospital for treatment.It may be mentioned that three boys including Afruddin Islam had been arrested by the Kokrajhar Police for raping a minor at Salakati. All three were being interrogated in connection to a case under section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

# Hate speech : PC George, senior Kerala politician, sent to 14 days judicial custody

**Thiruvananthapuram, May 26:** A Kerala district court on Thursday sent senior politician and former MLA PC George to 14 days of judicial custody in an alleged hate speech case. He was arrested by the Kerala Police on Wednesday in a case registered against him for alleged hate speech.Kerala High Court on Monday granted interim bail to PC George in another hate speech case at the Mahadeva Temple at Vennala in the Ernakulam district on May 8. The arrest was made in connection with an alleged hate speech made by him against Muslims in Anantapuri Hindu Maha Sammelan in Thiruvananthapuram on April 30.On the way to Thiruvananthapuram, he was admitted to the general hospital at Ernakulam as he felt unwell but the journey continued shortly after.George said, "I haven't done anything that goes against the country. I don't need anyone's vote who is not a patriot. I haven't done anything illegal. I have respect for the law, that's why I am cooperating. I haven't done anything wrong."Earlier, he was booked by Palarivattom police under IPC 153 and 295 A. He delivered the speech in connection with a Saptaha Yajna event at the Mahadeva Temple at Vennala in the Ernakulam district on May 8. He was arrested by the Thiruvananthapuram Fort police in another case for alleged communal remarks delivered at Ananthapuri Hindu Maha Sammelan. Fort police had registered a case and arrested him from his house in Punjar. Later he got bail from the court. The high court has directed the Thiruvananthapuram court to hear the speech he had made in Ananthapuri Hindu Maha Sammelan and after hearing the speech court cancelled his bail.

## Bharatiya Sikshan Mandal meet held at LCC

**Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, May 26:** A meeting of Bharatiya Sikshan Mandal was held at Lakhimpur Commerce College(LCC), North Lakhimpur today. The meeting was inaugurated by Dr. Muhidhar Pujari, President of the Governing Body of the college and attended by Prof. (Dr) Hari Prasad Sarma, Bharatiya Sikshan Mandal's Gauhati University Unit and the organization's Uttar Asom Prant President Dr. Nilmohan Roy. The welcome address of the meeting was delivered by Principal of LCC Dr. Lohit Hazarika. The meeting coincided with the release of the annual college magazine of Lakhimpur Commerce College edited by Benimadhab Buragohain and supervised by Dr. Sikhamoni Borgogain. The meeting was also addressed by Dr. Nilmohan Roy, President of Bhartiya Sikshan Mandals Uttar Asom Prant. The Principal of Dhemaji Girls College Dr. Pushpa Borgohain, Vice Principal of Lakhimpur Girls' College Kanan Sevak Khandetray, Associate Professors from LTK College, Lakhimpur Girls' College and North Lakhimpur College Dr. Swapna Dutta, Dr. Siva Sarma, Dr. Barnali Bora and many from the neighbouring colleges were attended in the meeting.

## Youth found dead inside house at Nagaon

**Assam Rising , Nagaon, May 26:** One youth, named Paban Bora of Nagaon Borpathori village under Nagaon PS, found dead in his house under mysterious circumstances by some locals. Being informed, local police from Nonoi Outpost recovered his body and sent to Nagaon BP Civil Hospital for post-mortem, sources said, adding that police registered a case in this regard and also detained 3 youths identified as Tajuddin Ali, Jun Ali of Pakhimiria Kutainichuk and Keshabananda Keot of Borpathori village in connection with the incident. According to sources, the youth used to live alone in the house for years and took alcohol with some of his friends last night. During the party with drinks, a dispute took place among them and one of their mate control the situation and left. But the same mate came to the house early this morning and found the body of Paban Bora lying on the floor. Meanwhile, the family members of the deceased as well as local police from Nonoi Outpost rushed to the spot and recovered the body of Paban Bora, sources added.

## ADBU organized workshop on career awareness

**Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 26:** A Career Awareness Workshop was organized by the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology, Assam Don Bosco University on May, 25 at Chandraprava Bora High School ,Azara. The resource person for the workshop was Dr. Buljit Buragohain, a prominent career counsellor of the states and Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering. Apart from clearing the doubts of the students while choosing the right career path, Dr. Buragohain also responded to all the questions. He gave a detailed explanation on how with hard work and dedication, all the students can mould a successful career for themselves. He also informed about the career advice offered through phone (9435188630) on every Saturday from 6 PM to 9 PM. Harajit Das and Tapash Jyoti Kalita , Assistant Professor of the Department of Mechanical Engineering of Assam Don Bosco University were also present in the workshop.

## Sursangam's students receive ‘Future Face Award’

**Assam Rising , Guwahati, May 26:** B. Palkee and Sukanya Bora, the students of Sursangam-an institute of Indian Classical Music and Dance and disciples of the eminent Kathak Exponents Guru Marami Medhi and Meghranjani Medhi, receive the ‘IIDF Future Face Award’ . B. Palkee and Sukanya Bora received the recognition for the years 2022 and 2019, respectively. Both the dancers have been learning Kathak under the guidance of Guru Marami Medhi and Meghranjani Medhi, for more than 12 years. Both the dancers performed on the stage of the IIDF – India International Dance Festival 2022, organized by the Darpan Dance Academy, Guwahati and Samskritiki, Bhubaneswar, in association with the Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Assam, in the aegis of the eminent Odissi Dancer Dr Anjanamoyee Saikia and Shyamhari Chakra. The festival took place on May 21 and 22, at the Ravindra Bhawan. Palkee and Sukanya performed solo Kathak recitals on the 2nd day of the festival and left everyone mesmerized.

## Centre's muscular policy will have dire consequences: Mehbooba Mufti ahead of court order on Yasin Malik

**Srinagar, May 26:** Ahead of a court's verdict on the quantum of sentence for separatist Yasin Malik, former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday (May 25) warned that the "muscular policies" of the Centre will not solve problems and will rather complicate matters. "Jammu and Kashmir is a political problem, a lot of people have been hanged here or given life imprisonment but it did not solve the Kashmir problem, it complicated the matter more. I think the muscular policy will have dire consequences, they will not solve the problems but create more."The PDP chief added, "I understand the muscular policy which has been adopted by the government. India will bear adverse results in Kashmir, the situation will complicate further." Mufti further said that when her father Mufti Syed was Home Minister of India, Yasin Malik was jailed and her father advised the separatist leader to shun the gun and start talking with the government. The PDP chief said her father had initiated a dialogue in Kashmir that started improving the situation and today the situation has totally deteriorated.She also hit out at the BJP-led Central government accusing them of playing the religion card amid rising inflation and unemployment. "They have nothing to tell about their achievements to people of the country so Hindu-Muslim issues are created." They want to occupy all mosques in the country, she alleged adding that they should come up and tell what "they want to do with Muslims" Her remarks came during a party workers convention in the Kulgam district of South Kashmir.



## Carlos Alcaraz into third round after beating Albert Ramos-Viñolas in epic



**Washington, May 26 :** For more than two weeks, ever since he had the audacity to defeat Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal back-to-back en route to winning another Masters 1000 title in Madrid, the noise surrounding the 19-year-old Carlos Alcaraz has been deafening. He has been called the best player in the world by Djokovic, the No 1 player himself. He was, according to some bookmakers, the tournament favourite to win Roland Garros even with Djokovic and Nadal present. He arrived in Paris with expectations higher than they have been for any teenager since Nadal 17 years ago. Yet in a delirious battle on Court Simonne-Mathieu late into Wednesday evening, sixth seed Alcaraz nearly fell at the second hurdle. Alcaraz stood match point down in the fourth set on Albert Ramos-Viñolas's serve, then he trailed 0-3 in a fifth set that threatened to fall from his grasp and he simply could not find his form on so many of the 31 break points he generated. No matter, Alcaraz somehow recovered to defeat Ramos-Viñolas 6-1, 6-7 (7), 5-7, 7-6 (2), 6-4 and reach the third round. The challenge before Alcaraz on the third biggest court was one of the ultimate irritants in the game. Although he has no great weapon, Ramos-Viñolas lives for clay courts where he can prod, push and disrupt opponents into madness. He combines his relentless ability to open up the court through angles with strong movement and steadfast consistency, which has taken him into the top 20 and a Roland Garros quarter-final. After being blown away 6-1 in the first set by an on-fire Alcaraz, the 34-year-old Spaniard slowly dug into Alcaraz's psyche and infuriated him. As Alcaraz's errors flowed, he took the second and third sets and then he broke to serve for the match at 5-4. In the tight deuce game that followed, Ramos-Viñolas had the match point on his racket as he attacked an inside-out forehand, but it hit the top of the net and fell on his side. By cutting out his own errors, keeping the ball in play and striking one outrageous bounce smash winner, Alcaraz survived before edging out the tie-break.

## Dave Brailsford recruited to Andrew Strauss's review of English cricket

**London, May 26 :** Andrew Strauss has recruited Sir Dave Brailsford, the former performance director of British Cycling and director of sport at Ineos, to his high-performance review of English cricket. Dan Ashworth, the former director of elite development at the Football Association, has also been hired as Strauss looks to propel England's men's teams to the top of the rankings in every format. Strauss chairs the England and Wales Cricket Board's performance cricket committee, which is conducting research before producing a proposed pathway to global dominance in time for any necessary restructuring of the domestic calendar to be voted on this year and implemented in 2023. Andrew Flintoff celebrates taking the wicket of Australia's Ricky Ponting during his incredible



second-innings bowling performance at Edgbaston in 2005. The stats of his effort - 22-3-79-4 - could not even have hinted at the full story. Along with a number of figures within the game, the committee has reached out to notable figures in other sports. Brailsford and Ashworth are the standout names and are joined by Kate Baker, the director of performance at UK Sport, Penny Hughes, former chair of Aston Martin, and Simon Timson, who as well as once leading the England

cricket development programme has had leading roles at UK Sport, the Lawn Tennis Association and British Skeleton and is performance director at the Premier League champions Manchester City. "We've never had a set of English men's teams which are the best in the world across all formats at the same time, so whatever we've done in the past hasn't got us to where we want to go," Strauss wrote on the ECB's website, promising to "look outwards to see what we

can learn from other sports and having an inquisitive nature about what's worked well elsewhere". "Once we have identified a set of high-performance principles, we will take these, along with independent analysis and data, and develop a series of options for discussion with the wider game during the summer," Strauss added. "I'm very keen to get to a situation where solid proposals are voted on in September, to give time for counties and the England set-up to prepare for the 2023 season and beyond." One thing the committee will not be seeking to change is the international schedule that England's new Test captain, Ben Stokes, recently described as "ridiculous" and "something that definitely needs looking at", on the grounds that it is not fully under the ECB's control.

## Andy Murray insists Wimbledon 'not an exhibition' in ranking points row



**London, May 26 :** Andy Murray has argued that Wimbledon will not be an exhibition tournament even if it is unable to

offer any points to its participants next month. The former champion's comments come after the ATP and WTA revoked

their ranking points from the tournament following the All England Club's ban on Russian and Belarusian players from competing in light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The opening days of the French Open have been dominated by discussion about the removed ranking points, with some players, such as Naomi Osaka, likening Wimbledon to an exhibition. In a thread on Twitter, Murray offered his opinion from the perspective of a fan: "I follow golf very closely

and have no idea how many ranking points the winner of The Masters gets. Me and my friends love football and none of us know or care how many ranking points a team gets for winning the Fifa World Cup. But I could tell you exactly who won the World Cup and the Masters." Murray continued: "I'd hazard a guess that most people watching on centre court Wimbledon in a few weeks' time wouldn't know or care about how many ranking points a player

gets for winning a 3rd-round match. But I guarantee they will remember who wins. Wimbledon will never be an exhibition and will never feel like an exhibition. The end." Murray is part of the ATP player council, which was collectively in favour of the ATP's decision. However, he has offered no substantial comments since Friday's announcement. Murray opted not to compete in Paris with the grass-court season approaching.

## Roma end 60-year wait as Zaniolo seals Europa Conference League crown



**London, May 26 :** Nicolò Zaniolo's goal earned Roma a first major European title in more than 60 years after a 1-0 win over Feyenoord in the Europa Conference League final in Albania, completing a unique European trophy haul for José Mourinho. The Roma coach, who has also won the Champions League, Europa League and the Uefa Cup, can now add the third-tier European title - the Italian club's first trophy in 14 years - to his medal tally. The 22-year-old Zaniolo earned Roma victory with an expert finish in the 32nd minute, as he became the first Italian to score in a European final since Filippo Inzaghi against Liverpool in the 2007 Champions League. Roma, whose only previous continental title was the Fairs Cup in 1961, held off a spirited comeback from their Dutch opponents, who were twice denied by the woodwork in the second

half, and ensured that Mourinho became the first manager to win a European trophy with four different clubs. "Winning is very difficult. You need many ingredients," Mourinho said in the post-match press conference. "Our team has played 55 games. We reached the final being tired, but we worked on it, kept it hidden. This is a fantastic group of players, that makes me emotional. We struggled in the second half, our opponents played well and they forced us to make defensive changes. Congratulations to

Feyenoord." The Roma captain, Lorenzo Pellegrini, told Sky Sport Italia: "We are a real team, we proved that. Now we have to celebrate and then start again, which is always - difficult after a great victory, but a real team wins, celebrates and starts again." I said yesterday that I never would've imagined at the age of 25 to achieve this with the Roma jersey and the captain's armband. It is a wonderful moment." Given both Roma and Feyenoord came into the contest having already secured Europa League football for next season through their domestic

league positions, it was all about the glory in Tirana. Early on it looked like there was only going to be one winner, as Roma dominated, without troubling Feyenoord goalkeeper Justin Bijlow, playing his first match since 10 March. One chance was all they needed to hold the lead at the interval, with Zaniolo brilliantly bringing the ball down on his chest before slotting in his first goal in all competitions since a hat-trick in the quarter-final against Bodo/Glimt. Zaniolo also became the youngest Italian to score in a major European final since Alessandro Del Piero against Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League in May 1997.



## Assam will host the next edition of the U-17 National Girls Football Championship

**GUWAHATI, May 26 :** Assam will host the next edition of the U-17 National Girls Football Championship. The competition will kick off in four venues in Guwahati from June 18 and 34 teams will participate in it. The secretary of the Assam Football Association Hemen Brahma informed The Sentinel that apart from Nehru Stadium, LNIPE, SAI Complex and Indira Gandhi Athletics Stadium at the Sarusajai Sports Complex will be the venue of the meet. He also added that matches of cluster stages would be held outside the city also.

## Champions Cup win would put Van der Flier on pole for European award



**London, May 26 :** Strangely it is 10 years since an Irishman was last crowned European Player of the Year. The list of past winners is impressive - Antoine Dupont, Maro Itoje, Owen Farrell, Jonny Wilkinson - but an Anglo-French duopoly has existed since 2012 when Rob Kearney, the Leinster, Ireland and Lions full-back, collected the award. This time around the all-action Grégory Alldritt will be a warm favourite if La Rochelle win Saturday's Champions Cup final in Marseille. Should Leinster prevail, though, they have three strong shortlisted contenders in Caelan Doris, James Lowe and Josh van der Flier. It is no disrespect to the excellent Doris and Lowe to suggest the latter would be

a worthy winner. Because the 29-year-old Van der Flier - pronounced as in "fear" rather than "liar" - has been comfortably the most improved top player in the northern hemisphere these past 12 months. This time a year ago he was conspicuously overlooked for the British & Irish Lions tour to South Africa; if it was being picked this week he would be all but inked into the Test back-row. If there has been a recurring image across this season, aside from the blue shirts of the all-conquering French national team, it has been the unmistakable red headgear of Van der Flier, either pouncing repeatedly on breakdown opportunities or being singled out by the TV cameras as the man of the match. He was not named

Ireland's players' player of the year this month on a whim. So what has he suddenly started having for breakfast? The flanker seems to enjoy the joke - "I wish there was a bit of spinach I could put it down to" - but the biggest difference is the way he now approaches the game. There was a time when he was in danger of becoming so bogged down in detail and so obsessed with not making an error of any description that he was starting to limit the all-round contribution he could offer. Instead, encouraged by the Australia international forward Scott Fardy, he made a deliberate effort to try and relax more. The subsequent transformation has been striking. "I guess I've tried to grow my game a bit - to demand the ball more in attack, get a few more carries and involvements and have a bit more of an impact on defence. In the last two years I've probably made more mistakes than I ever have. Before I'd have been quite strict with myself about just doing my role and doing the simple things."

## Raiders reportedly offer Colin Kaepernick first workout since start of NFL exile



offered a deal afterwards. The 34-year-old also threw for undrafted NFL receivers in front of scouts during a half-time session at a college football game earlier this year. Kaepernick last played in the NFL during the 2016 season, when he knelt during the national anthem to protest police brutality and social injustice. He has not played in the league after leaving the San Francisco 49ers at the end of that season, and teams are accused of blackballing him due to his political beliefs. In an appearance on the I Am Athlete podcast in April, Kaepernick pushed back on the idea that his protests were a distraction in the locker room. "That 2016 season, my last year, my

teammates voted me most courageous and inspirational player," he said. "So, when you're talking about the people that are in the building, that has never come out that I've been a distraction. That's never come out that I've been an issue for the people I've played with." Kaepernick has become a popular figure among progressives in American and has fronted several high-profile advertising campaigns. He says he has kept himself in shape and could also boost revenues for the league if he returned. "So if you're talking about the business side, it shows [it's] beneficial," he told the I Am Athlete podcast. "If you're talking about the playing side, come in, let me

compete. You can evaluate me from there. The NFL's supposed to be a meritocracy. Come in, let me compete. If I'm not good enough, get rid of me. But let me come in and show you." The Raiders are one of the more progressive franchises in the conservative world of the NFL. They were the first team to hire a Black head coach and a female chief executive. Last month, Raiders owner Mark Davis spoke complimented Kaepernick during an appearance on NBC Sports Bay Area. "I believe in Colin Kaepernick," Davis said. "He deserves every chance in the world to become a quarterback in the National Football League. I still stand by it. If our coaches and general manager want to bring him in or want him to be the quarterback on this team, I would welcome him with open arms." The Raiders made the playoffs last season and have a talented roster but they play in the AFC West, the strongest division in the NFL, which includes two of the best quarterbacks in football: the Kansas City Chiefs' Patrick Mahomes and the Los Angeles Chargers' Justin Herbert.



## Rajat Patidar: Madhya Pradesh's 'Hanuman' delivers for RCB



**New Delhi, May 26:** "Rajat sankat-mochan hai hamare team ka [Rajat is the problem-solver (another name for Lord Hanuman) of our team]. He has played such kind of innings before but as none came on TV, people didn't know about him earlier. Now that he has scored (on Wednesday night), he has certainly become the Hanuman of RCB," Ishwar Pandey, the veteran fast bowler, tells The Indian Express about his Madhya Pradesh teammate. Patidar has been playing on the domestic circuit for MP since 2015 and has rescued his team from precarious situations

several times in the past. But having played four games for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Indian Premier League 2021, he had gone unsold in this year's auction. A month after the auction, in March, Patidar got a call from RCB head coach Sanjay Bangar, who told him that the franchise was interested in bringing him on board as a replacement player. So Patidar was back at the franchise again, in place of the injured Luvnith Sisodia. And on Wednesday, he was trending on social media after cracking a thunderous unbeaten 112 off only 54 deliveries in the Eliminator

against Lucknow Super Giants in front of a packed Eden Gardens. The 28-year-old Patidar hails from a business family, who are manufacturers of pipes used for irrigation. His family wanted him to concentrate on the business if his cricket didn't work out but Patidar had other ideas. "He always wanted to play cricket and his interest towards his family business was last," Pandey says. "He just loved playing and the good part was that he never shied away from working hard." Patidar had started as a bowler and focussed on his batting only after his Under-15 days. A few years later, he overhauled his batting technique and approach under the guidance of former India batsman Amay Khurasia and has since gone from strength to strength. Things also changed when Patidar met with a knee injury that resulted in a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and required surgery. He came back as a different player who wanted to achieve something major.

## 'A long way to go'

# Raducanu out of French Open after defeat to Sasnovich



**Paris, May 26:** The long, valuable learning curve that is Emma Raducanu's 2022 season continued on Wednesday as another mid-match drop of intensity was enough for the 19-year-old to lose momentum and the match as she was eventually blown off court in Paris. In the face of some inspired, clean shot-making, Raducanu had no response to Aliaksandra Sasnovich as she fell 3-6, 6-1, 6-1 in the second round at Roland Garros. The defeat against the world No 47 means that after five months of the season, Raducanu moves on to the grass court swing with just two wins against top-50 players this year, an indication that higher-ranked opponents are slowly beginning to target the weaknesses in her game. It is something she will hope to address as the tour moves to faster courts. Raducanu cut a positive figure as she

explained in her press conference how she has come to terms with losing: "I think before I

would let the losses kind of affect me more so than I am right now," she said. "Now I just look at ev-

everything as a lesson, and I know exactly where I went wrong, where I can improve, where other people are better than me." The pair arrived on Court Suzanne Lenglen to clear blue skies and a dry heat, allowing the ball to fly through the air and reward those with the nerve to attack. In the early exchanges, Sasnovich fed Raducanu's backhand too frequently and she paid a significant price. Raducanu broke serve first with a spectacular return game at 2-2, which included a series of angled backhand cross-court winners, before serving well under pressure to take the set. In four of her losses this year, Raducanu won the first set and she has dropped the second set in another three of her wins. Throughout the year, she has continually lost intensity after a struggle with her serve, and a similar scenario played out on Wednesday. As Raducanu dipped, Sasnovich, a former top-30 player enjoying a positive year, took control of the baseline. By the end of the second set, she was teeing off on all returns and burying winners at will. As Sasnovich struck an absurd 19 win-

ners to just four unforced errors in the second set, the remaining question was whether Raducanu could push her out of her comfort zone. Raducanu had one chance at 1-1 as she generated five break points but as they evaded her, the window closed. Raducanu's forehand haemorrhaged errors throughout the set while often resorting to loopy, weak topspin that Sasnovich ate up. In the end, Raducanu's positive clay-court season ended abruptly with two feeble sets. Raducanu's obvious disappointment was lined with positivity later on. After a year filled with injury niggles, including a back injury at the Italian Open two weeks ago that left her not entirely sure of her presence in Paris, perhaps the most positive outcome is that Raducanu felt physically good after two three set matches. "I'm quite happy with the progress that I'm making. I do feel like I'm playing some pretty good tennis and on the practice court I'm definitely working," she said. "Certain things I'm working on on the practice court that are paying off, they don't show immediately. There is a little time lag between when they will actually produce results on a live situation. I'm definitely getting there." Raducanu said at the beginning of the tournament that, as she had not played a professional match on clay before this season, her expectations about how her game would adapt to the surface were low. After reaching a quarter-final in Stuttgart and winning a couple of matches in Madrid, she finishes her first clay season confident that she can be a good player on the surface in the future. "I think that I definitely got stronger as the clay season went on," Raducanu said. "It just takes a lot more to win the point on this surface, and you hit a ball flat, [it] doesn't really do that much. I definitely learnt when to use the shape [top spin]. I still got quite a long way to go on this surface, but overall, I would say I definitely had a good first experience on the clay."

## Isabella Nichols

# 'I was bawling my eyes out, I was going to quit surfing'

**London, May 26:** Isabella Nichols wears a tiny bit of her heart on her sleeve. Sketched in tattoo ink on her right forearm is the outline of a mini Viking ship. It's a salute to her mormor - her Danish grandmother - her birthplace of Denmark and Viking heritage. But it is also a reminder of the warrior spirit that keeps her afloat as she seeks to establish herself among the world's elite surfers. "My grandma was part of a Viking club," Nichols says. "Every morning - rain, hail or shine - all the women of the club would go down to the beach, strip naked and go for skinny dips in the ocean. Even if the ocean was frozen over, they'd use ice chisels to poke holes in the ice. She did this up until she was about



85." The same stoic Viking blood appears to run in Nichols' veins. She made that clear to the world in 2021 when, as a rookie in her first year on the World Surf League's Championship Tour, she coolly defeated seven-time world champion Stephanie Gilmore by exploiting tactical wave priority rules at the Newcastle Cup. Nichols had priority in the semi-final's closing minutes, and Gilmore needed a wave to win. Footage of the stony-faced rookie sitting in the water just inches from a veteran of the sport, ready to pounce on any wave that might offer Gilmore an opportunity, showcased a ruthless edge. "It's a professional sport, if you can get the edge over someone by all means do it. Someone's going to do it to you if you don't do it to them," Nichols says. The 24-year-old Australian from

Coolool on the Sunshine Coast has otherwise remained something of a mystery character; a Billabong rider not seen "in" with social media cliques formed in other teams like Rip Curl and Roxy. It's partly why, when Nichols was catapulted into the mainstream by winning the Margaret River Pro in May, the world was stunned by the raw, uncut emotion unleashed. It was her first win at a Championship Tour event, and the sacrifice that had gone into achieving a childhood dream spilled out in tears onto the West Australian beach. "How did I feel? It's hard to put into words. In surfing, you lose way more than you win," she says. "After everything I'd been through, to win is the most surreal feeling." Just a week prior, Nichols had been eliminated in the second round of heats at Bells Beach. It meant

she not only needed to do well at Margaret River to survive the WSL's harsh new mid-season cut - she needed to win the event. "The low I felt after Bells was probably as low as I've got. I felt this complete devastation. I was in the portable shower bawling my eyes out, crying that I was going to quit surfing," she says. But even Viking blood is human. Nichols and her twin sister Helena know this more than most - as children they were hospitalised when doctors discovered they live with a rare blood disorder called spherocytosis. It classifies them as immunocompromised - a scary label to carry when you qualify for the WSL Championship Tour during a global pandemic. "I didn't want to be the first one to get Covid, to get it and be the test case," Nichols says.

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