



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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Mongolia under pressure to align with Russia and China

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F1 schism with FIA deepens after controversial decisions in Monaco

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Ola, Uber, Rapido

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 31 :

The Assam transport department has issued strict warning to cab association and ride-hailing platforms such as Ola, Uber, Rapido and PayIndia against the recent incidents of the attitude of cab drivers towards customers or passengers. Addressing media persons, transport officer Himangshu Kumar Das said that not all drivers are money-oriented and that some drivers do care about customer's needs. Himangshu Kumar Das said, "The entire cab service is blamed due to a few drivers who are misbehaving with customers either by asking more money, cancelling trips or denying payment methods. Any kind of inappropriate attitude towards customers will not be tolerated from now on. The cab drivers will not be able to demand extra money to customers who are availing a trip."

Road accident

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 31 :

A student leader was killed in a tragic road accident at Jagiroad in Morigaon district of Assam on Monday night. The deceased student leader has been identified as Sangking Madar, a resident of Markuchi area of Jagiroad. Madar lost his life after he was hit by an unidentified vehicle from behind. The accident took place at Amolighat. Madar was the regional president of the Jagiroad Tiwa Students' Union. Meanwhile, another person has also been grievously injured in the accident.

Massive fire

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 31 :

A massive fire broke out at Tukura in Goalpara district of Assam on Monday night. Around six business establishments have been gutted by the blazing inferno that erupted at the midnight. According to locals, the fire erupted as a result of short circuit. Soon after that, the locals informed the police and fire fighting department. The fire was gradually brought under control after the timely arrival of the police and fire tenders. Around six shops and two godowns have been burnt down in the inferno. The Tukura Post Office has also been engulfed by the blazing flame. Many important documents of the post office have been reduced to ashes.

State's biggest solar power project, the Rs 300-crore 70-MW Amguri solar park



Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 31 :

state's biggest solar power project, the Rs 300-crore 70-MW Amguri solar park. The project is being executed by M/s Jackson Power Private

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Assam CM Dr. Sarma attends Garib Kalyan Sammelan at Gargaon

Presents sanction letters to beneficiaries of PMAY and PM Kisan Samman Nidhi



Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 31 :

Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma on the occasion of Garib Kalyan Sammelan where in Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted virtually with the beneficiaries of government schemes, distributed sanction letters to the beneficiaries of PMAY and PM Kisan Samman Nidhi at a

programme held at Gargaon in Sivasagar district today. It may be noted that synchronizing with the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to commemorate 75 years of India's independence, Prime Minister Modi addressed the beneficiaries at a programme held in Shimla today. The objective of the programme was to assess how these schemes have brought about ease of liv-

ing to the citizens. The interaction with the beneficiaries has essentially highlighted the impact of the

schemes like housing, availability of potable water, food, health and nutrition, livelihood and financial inclusion etc on people. It is expected that this interaction will not only highlight the people-centric approach of these schemes leading to ease of living of citizens but also enlighten the Government on the aspirations of the people and ensure that no one is left behind in the nation's march to progress. Speaking on the occasion Chief

Minister Dr Sarma said that the State government under the visionary guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been reaching out to the people with several pro-people and pro-poor policies. He said that the government wants all sections of the people to be adequately served so that no one, even those at the bottom of the pyramid, do not stay out of the reach of welfare measures of the

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Plea in SC challenging Assam govt's decision to convert madrassas to general schools



Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 31 :

An appeal was filed in the Supreme Court on Tuesday challenging the Gauhati High Court order upholding The Assam Repealing Act, 2020, under which all provincialised (government-funded) Madrassas are to be converted into general schools in Assam.

The High Court on February 4 had dismissed the petition challenging the validity of the Act and said changes brought about by the legislative and executive action of the State are for the provincialised Madrassas alone, which are government schools, and not for private or community ones. Filing the appeal against February 4 or-

der, Md Imad Uddin Barbhuiya and others sought a stay on the High Court order. "The appeal was filed through advocate Adeel Ahmed stated that High Court had erroneously observed that the "Petitioner Madrassas being government schools, and wholly maintained by the State through provincialisation are hit by Article 28(1) of the Constitution of India and as such, cannot be permitted to impart religious instruction," the plea said. The Act had repealed two laws - the Assam Madrassa Education Provincialisation Act, 1995, and the Assam Madrassa Education

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Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain sent to ED custody till June 9



New Delhi, May 31 :

Delhi Health Minister and AAP leader Satyendar Jain was on Tuesday sent to Enforcement Directorate's custody till June 9 by a court here for questioning in a money laundering case. Special Judge Geetanjli Goel remanded Jain in ED's custody, noting that his custodial interrogation was required to unearth the larger conspiracy. The ED had on Monday arrested

Delhi's Health Minister under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). AAP national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal earlier on Tuesday broke his silence on the arrest of Satyendar Jain by the ED, saying the case is "completely fake and politically motivated". Kejriwal asserted that his government and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) are

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'No entry for BJP in 2024, it won't come to power again': Mamata Banerjee

Purulia, May 31 :

Accusing the BJP-led government at the Centre of destroying the national economy, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said that the saffron party won't win in the next 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The Trinamool Congress chief also dubbed the BJP-led govt at the Centre as "adulterated" and accused it of making faulty decisions like demonetisation and misusing central agencies to silence the



Opposition. The Chief Minister also asserted that there will be "no entry" for the BJP across the country. "The BJP-led government at the Centre

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Sidhu Moosewala's murder Bollywood singer Mika Singh's security cover tightened in Jodhpur



New Delhi, May 31 :

The spine-chilling murder of famous Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala by a group of men in broad daylight has sent shock waves across the globe. Not just his family and friends but also his fans and celebrities worldwide have expressed shock and grief at this unfortunate killing. Moosewala was 28. After Moosewala's brutal killing on road in Punjab, singer Mika Singh's security has been tightened in Jodhpur where he is shooting his reality TV show 'Swayamvar - Mika Di Vohti'. According

to India Today report, cops are stationed outside Hotel The Ummed where the

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BHEJA FRY



The day's income is Rs 300. The entire income will go to apply the job opened by the government.

Assam Government to Spend Rs 1,000 Crores for Sports Infra: Minister Bimal Borah

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 31 :

The Assam government has decided to spend around Rs 1,000 crores for the infrastructure development in the sports sector in the state. This was stated by Assam Sports Minister Bimal Borah on Tuesday. Addressing a gathering, Borah said that the state

chief minister has taken various measures to provide a boost to infrastructure development in Assam. Borah said, "The state government led by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has taken various measures for infrastructure development in the sports sector in the state." "Ten sports complexes at the district level will be constructed and the

cost of each district level sports complex will be around Rs 50 crores," Borah added. "Apart from this, we have decided to construct a multipurpose stadium in 40 assembly constituencies and the cost of each stadium will be around Rs 12 crores. The construction works are going on and all projects will be completed within two years," he stated.



Sidhu Moosewala funeral

Last rites of Punjabi singer performed in his ancestral village



Chandigarh, May 31 : Punjabi singer-turned-politician Sidhu Moosewala was shot dead on Sunday (May 29), sending shockwaves across the nation. Moosewala's last rites are being conducted today and several mourners gathered at the residence of the slain Punjabi singer in Punjab's Mansa district on Tuesday (May 31) morning as the family prepared to conduct his last rites. Accompanied by some relatives, Moosewala's father received his son's body from Mansa Civil hospital, where it was kept for post-mortem, around 8.15 am. The body has been

taken to his residence at Moosa village in Mansa. The last rites of Moosewala, who was killed on Sunday, will be performed on Tuesday. A heavy police force has been deployed outside the residence of the slain Punjabi singer. According to news reports, Sidhu Moosewala's cremation will take place on his agricultural land and his body being taken on his favourite tractor. Mourners, especially the youth and the singer's fans, assembled outside the house to pay their last respects. Several people raised slogans in his favour. Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, known as Sidhu

Moosewala, was shot dead on Sunday by unidentified assailants in Punjab's Mansa district, a day after the state government curtailed his security cover. His cousin and a friend, who were travelling in a Mahindra Thar jeep with him, were also injured in the attack. The 28-year-old Punjabi singer had fought the recent assembly election in Punjab on a Congress ticket from Mansa and was defeated by the AAP's Vijay Singla. Moosewala was among the 424 people whose security

was withdrawn or curtailed by the Punjab Police on Saturday on a temporary basis. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday announced setting up a judicial commission headed by a sitting high court judge to probe the brutal killing of Sidhu Moosewala. The state police on Monday claimed to have rounded up some suspects and got important leads in connection with the killing. It had termed the assassination a case of an inter-gang rivalry and that the Lawrence Bishnoi gang was behind the killing.



Children leave a school in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Mongolia under pressure to align with Russia and China

Paris, May 31 : Mongolia, a squeezed outpost of democracy in north-east Asia, is under renewed pressure from its authoritarian neighbours, Russia and China, to shed its independence and form a triangle of anti-western cooperation in the wake of the war in Ukraine. The country is doggedly pursuing a path of neutrality, coupled with a policy of economic diversification designed to keep its unique culture and still relatively recent independence alive, according to Nomin Chinbat, its culture secretary. A former Soviet satellite state until 1990, and heavily



dependent on China as a market and conduit for its copper and coal exports, Mongolia has to tread carefully. It is three times the size of France but has a population of only 3.5 million, half of whom live in the capital,

Ulaanbaatar. So far it has dodged a definitive position on Ukraine by abstaining in major UN security council votes. However, its governing Mongolian People's party is attending briefings given by United Russia, the biggest party in Russia - which has been interpreted in Russia as support for the war. Doubtless, all this is a disappointment to Volodymyr Zelenskiy, the Ukrainian president, who spent four of his childhood years in the Mongolian town of Erdenet as the son of a Soviet mining specialist. Nomin Chinbat and US deputy secretary of state,

Wendy Sherman, visit the Chojin Lama Temple Museum in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, July 2021. Chinbat, a graduate of the University of East Anglia, is a model of diplomacy when she points out the term ambassador was invented in Mongolia. "Abstaining was a decision that our country had to make because of our geopolitical location," she said. "We have had very healthy and manageable relationships with our two neighbours, but we also have a third neighbour policy that allows us to develop a multi-pillar international relationships with other countries."

EU leaders agree to partial embargo of Russian oil imports

Luxembourg, May 31 : The European Union has agreed to an embargo on most Russian oil imports after late-night talks at a summit in Brussels. The president of the European Council, Charles Michel, hailed the deal as a "remarkable achievement", after tweeting on Monday night that sanctions will immediately impact 75% of Russian oil imports, "cutting a huge source of financing for its war machine". Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, said the ban "will effectively cut around 90% of oil imports from Russia to the EU by the end of the year" because Germany and Poland had committed to renounce deliveries via a pipeline to their territory. Michel added that the package also included removing access to Swift payments for Russia's largest bank, Sberbank; banning three more Russian state-owned broadcasters; and further sanctions against "individuals responsible for war crimes in Ukraine". Von der Leyen called the agreement on a

sixth sanctions package was "an important step forward" and said the bloc had agreed a "massive investment in renewable energy" in order to compensate for the diversifying away from Russian oil. The EU's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, later tweeted: "A landmark decision to cripple Putin's war machine. Our unity is our strength." Volodymyr Zelenskiy had earlier appealed to EU leaders to show unity against Vladimir Putin. At a summit in Brussels, EU leaders had been attempting to find a way to placate the Hungarian prime minister, Viktor Orbán, who has been holding up a deal on the latest sanctions against Putin's war machine. Under a compromise plan that was discussed at the summit, Russian oil transported through the Soviet-era Druzhba pipeline for Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia would be exempt from the EU embargo. In a press conference on Monday night, Michel acknowledged talk of a lack of European unity, adding: "I think that more than ever it is important to show that we are able to be strong, that we are able to be firm, that we are able to be tough in order to defend our values and our interests." Michel said the European Council and G7 was also ready to grant Ukraine €6bn to aid its post-war reconstruction and immediate liquidity needs. However, von der Leyen warned that Ukraine needed €6bn a month just to maintain basic services and "... to give Ukraine a fair chance to rise from the ashes".

What does EU's partial oil ban mean for Russia and rest of Europe?

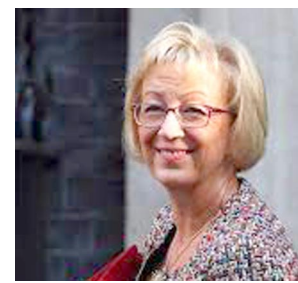
Brussels, May 31 : After nearly a month of wrangling, the European Union has agreed to a partial ban on Russian oil, with the aim of cutting off funding to the Kremlin's war machine. According to the European Council president, Charles Michel, three-quarters of Russian oil imports will be immediately affected, rising to 90% by the end of the year. The EU is banning seaborne oil immediately, which covers about two-thirds of Russian imports to the EU. Oil transported through the critical Druzhba ("friendship") pipeline will be exempt from the ban, a key concession to Hungary, which is heavily dependent on Russian oil. The EU is confident most Russian oil flows will cease by the end of the year, because Germany and Poland, countries on the northern branch of Druzhba, have promised to forgo



its supplies. Countries on the southern branch of the Soviet-era pipeline - Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic - will benefit from the temporary exemption. That's not clear. Ursula von der Leyen, the European Commission president, who has been driving sanctions policy, promised the EU would discuss how to close the loophole "as soon as possible". Hungary is seeking EU cash to retool its oil refineries that can only take Russian crude. Croatia also needs time to boost supplies to its northern neighbour through the Adria pipeline. EU leaders have avoided giving details on the end date of the exemption for central Europe. The EU is paying Russia about €1bn a day for oil and gas, an invaluable source of hard currency for the Kremlin in funding its war against Ukraine. A sharp cut in those financial flows deepens Russia's economic problems in the long term. Some economists have warned, however, that it could have the perverse effect of helping Moscow in the short term, as Russia benefits from high prices. The EU's lengthy discussions have also given Russia time to find alternative buyers. Motorists and businesses will see higher prices at the pumps, as the embargo feeds into higher oil prices. Governments will find it even harder to manage the already soaring cost of living. After the announcement of the EU oil embargo, the price of a barrel of Brent crude hit \$124.10, its highest level since March, although it dropped back a little in later trading. Oil prices have already risen more than 55% this year and are at their highest levels since 2008.

London, May 31 : The former cabinet minister Andrea Leadsom has criticised Boris Johnson's "failure of leadership" - the latest in a string of senior Tory figures to express doubts about the prime minister's future. The former business secretary, who has twice run for the party leadership, stopped short of calling for Johnson to resign but said individual MPs would decide on how best to restore confidence. In a letter to her constituents, Leadsom said she believed it was "extremely unlikely that senior leaders were unaware of what was going on". "I therefore agree with Sue Gray's conclusions that there have been significant failures of leadership, both political and official, in No 10 and the Cabinet Office," she wrote. The MP for South Northamptonshire added: "Each of my Conservative MP colleagues and I must now decide individually on what is the right course of action that will restore confidence in our government." On Monday, the first day of the parliamentary recess, four

more MPs called on Johnson to resign, including Jeremy Wright, a former attorney general. Several Tory MPs told the Guardian they believed the threshold of 54 letters withdrawing support for Johnson was close to being crossed - or may have been already. This would trigger a secret ballot on whether they still have confidence in the prime minister. At least 30 MPs have said the prime minister should resign or call a confidence vote but not all have confirmed they have submitted a letter. Elliot Colburn, a Tory MP with a small majority against the Lib Dems, said he had put in a letter "some time ago", while Nickie Aiken, the Cities of London and Westminster MP whose council turned Labour this month, called on Johnson to bring an end to the situation by submitting a no-confidence letter in himself. The Tory MP Andrew Bridgen also told constituents he had resubmitted his letter. On Tuesday the former Tory leader William Hague said the prime minister was in "real trouble" and he believed a



confidence vote in Johnson

Mass civil legal action to seek compensation for Ukrainian war victims

Kyiv, May 31 : A consortium of Ukrainian and international lawyers is preparing to launch a mass civil legal action against the Russian state, as well as private military contractors and businesspeople backing the Russian war effort, in an attempt to gain financial compensation for millions of Ukrainian victims of the war, the Guardian can reveal. The team, made up of hundreds of lawyers and several major law firms, plans to bring "multiple actions in different

jurisdictions against different targets", including the UK and the US, said Jason McCue, a London-based lawyer who is coordinating the initiative, in an interview in Kyiv. Targets are likely to include the Russian state and private military contractors such as the Wagner Group, which is believed to have been active in Ukraine. But McCue said they would also include business figures linked to these contractors, and to the Russian war effort more

broadly. He believes that it will be possible to go after assets that have already been hit by sanctions as well as those that have not. The class action will be a private case, independent of the Ukrainian state. But according to McCue, they will need access to Ukraine's evidence and intelligence. The Ukrainian MP and businessman Serhiy Taruta is supporting the initiative by facilitating meetings for the lawyers and investigators with Ukrainian officials. Taruta, who is from Mariupol and had investments in the city, lost a large chunk of his business when Russia and its proxy forces took more than half of the Donbas region in 2014.



Customs officers inspect bamboo products to be exported to Indonesia in Ganzhou, east China's Jiangxi Province

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- 2) Up to date Labour License from respective Labour office
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- 4) Undertaking from technical person & photocopy of certificate
- 5) List of Tools & machineries in proper manner

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Assam CM at World No Tobacco Day event

300 young cyclists participated the CYCLOTHON



Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 31: On the occasion of World No Tobacco Day, Consumers' Legal Protection Forum organized CYCLOTHON with the demand to strengthen tobacco control laws to save lives in collaboration with Consumer VOICE, New Delhi and in association with Cycling Association of Assam

Hojai forest divisions welcomes new PCCF Mahendra Kumar Yadav

Assam Rising, Nagaon, May 31: The forest officials from Nagaon forest division as well as Dakshin Nagaon forest division, Hojai welcomed the new Principal Chief Conservator and Head of forest forces Mahendra Kumar Yadav and also expected that both the divisions will achieve a new dimension under his leadership. It is pertinent to be mentioned here that due to retirement of Dr Amit Sahai, PCCF and Head of forest forces on May 31, the state government has appointed Mahendra Kumar Yadav, PCCF (Wildlife) in his place as new PCCF and Head of forest forces. While speaking to this correspondent over phone here, DFO Ganadeep Das said that Mahendra Kumar Yadav (IFS) played an important role in the eviction drives in the encroachment portions of Lumding reserve forest and also spearheaded the forest officials as well as other forest forces during the drive after camping at the reserve forest itself for over week. He said that the department will get more mobilisation under his guidance and grip as the officials of the department concerned experienced all about it during the days of eviction in Lumding reserve forest.

DC & beneficiaries attends PM's interaction programme



Assam Rising, Aalo, May 31: Penga Tato, Deputy Commissioner West Siang district along with the beneficiaries of various central government sponsored schemes and HoDs attended the Live Video Conference of Prime Minister, which was telecast from Himachal Pradesh. During the day, selfies, success stories and video clips of beneficiaries were taken.

Drowning incident: 2 dead in Kamrup (M)

Assam Rising, Palasbari, May 31: In an unfortunate incident, two minor boys died after falling into a water body in the middle of a field at Garal Bhattapara in Kamrup (M) district on Sunday night. According to reports, the two boys had come to the fields on Sunday evening. The family members of the boys went out searching for them after they did not return back home for a long time. On arriving at the field, the family members saw a bicycle and slippers near a ditch. The bodies were then retrieved by the Azara Police in collaboration with State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) from the ditch. The deceased boys have been identified as Bitu Das (12) and Hirakjyoti Das (8) from Bhattapara.

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nary College field, Khanapara. Abhinash Joshi, Principal Secretary Health, Debraj Upadhyaya, IGP (CID), Dr. A. C. Katak, Director, B. Borooah Cancer Institute, Phuleswar Basumatary, Deputy Commissioner of Taxes, Dr. Munindra Narayan Baruah, Director North East Cancer Institute & Research Centre flag of the CYCLOTHON at 6.30 morning where more than 300 youth cyclist participated. In their speech, the dignitaries referred to the recent global youth tobacco survey and said that nearly one fifth of students aged 13-15 years are using tobacco products in India. They also appeal to observe everyday as no Tobacco day. They describe how tobacco causes cancer. The CYCLOTHON started from

Khanapara and cyclists went up to Ulubari and again came back to Khanapara. The youth cyclists make an awareness drive on the demand to strengthen tobacco control laws to save lives, implement vendor licensing in Assam, COTPA amendment, removal of DSA among the common people during the CYCLOTHON. Advocate Ajoy Hazarika, Secretary Consumers' Legal Protection Forum and Dr. Tapan Das, Secretary Cycling Association of Assam moderate the event where the young cyclist participated in the CYCLOTHON emphasized & took oath to build a tobacco free society.

World anti-tobacco day celebrated at Hojai



Assam Rising
Hojai, May 31: World Anti-Tobacco Day was celebrated at Maryam Ajmal Senior Secondary School of Arts, Bishnupally, Hojai on Tuesday. The Guests of the Day were the cooking and cleaning staff of the school who were welcomed with Phoolan Gamusa. The programme began with the inaugural address by Dr.

Samiran Chandra Roy, Bengali subject teacher. In his speech, Dr. Roy highlighted the dangers of tobacco in contemporary society. Many cultural programmes were prepared by the Cultural group of the school that included a very interesting play on the theme "Tobacco Kills" which was highly applauded by all. A play card making competition

also took place. After distributing the prizes to the winners, the Principal, Sajida Ahmed gave a speech in which she highlighted the problems faced by people who consume tobacco. The pledge taking ceremony was organized for all the faculty, students and non-teaching staffs of the school who signed with an oath of making tobacco free society. The motive of enlightening new generation took the shape of a reality. The overall programme was coordinated by Latifa Begum, Anamika Dutta, Rabia Begum, Rubina Begum and Semim Sultana. The program ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Arifa Muskan.

Biswanath district admin conducts eviction drive

Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariati, May 31: Biswanath district administration conducted an eviction drive at Itakhola under Sootea LAC this morning. The eviction drive was conducted at Itakhola commercial centre against the shop owners who had illegally encroached on government land and built their business establishments. A team of Biswanath district administration under the guidance of Akashdeep Kakaty, circle officer of Naduar revenue circle along with other concerned officials reached the site at 6 in the morning. The



civil administration was accompanied by a troupe of CRPF besides four JCBs (excavators). The circle officer warned the shop owners to vacate their shops immediately. The eviction drive was conducted at 8 in the morning

'Tumar Nibir Mayare' to staged in Golaghat

Assam Rising, Golaghat, May 31: A unique drama entitled 'Tumar Nibir Mayare' will be staged at Golaghat Amateur Theatre Society on June 6. On the special invitation by Golaghat Amateur Theatre Society the artists of Swadhin Theatre from Guwahati will stage this drama in Golaghat. The drama is written and directed by Rituparno Das. The uniqueness of this drama is that only two characters are there in the drama and these two characters will be played by Aparna Dutta Choudhury and Satyajit Gogoi. Background music is given by Abhijit Barman, Dhanjit Bodo and Mondip Mahanta. President of Golaghat Amateur Theatre Society Dr. Ajit Baruah and Cultural Secretary Nilofar Mahtabi have appealed to all the drama lovers to watch the same.

Working president of Golaghat Media forum resigns

Assam Rising, Golaghat, May 31: Senior journalist and environmental activist Apurba Ballav Goswami has resigned from Golaghat Media Forum. Goswami had been associated with the Forum since its inception. He was serving as Working President of the journalist organisation. Apurba Ballav Goswami had sent his resignation letter to the president of Golaghat Media Forum where he stated that he had resigned from the post of Working President as well as primary member of Golaghat Media Forum due to some personal problems.

Margherita TE workers stage protest

Assam Rising
Margherita, May 31: Assam Tea Tribes Student Association (ATTSA) and Assam Tea Tribes Women Association (ATTWA) Margherita Branch Committee on Tuesday jointly staged a protest for 2 hours in front of the General Manager office of Margherita Tea Estate regarding various burning issues of Tea Garden workers at Margherita Tea Estate. Mukundor Gowala, the President in charge and Nuwel Patra, the General Secretary of ATTSA Margherita Branch Committee, Dipika Sona, the President and Priya Tanti, the Vice president of ATTWA Margherita Branch Committee led the Dharma protest for 2 hours where more than 2000 Tea Garden workers of Margherita Tea Estate were present and gave slogans such as ATTSA long live, Tea Workers long live, BJP Government Murdabad, Narendra Modi Murdabad, Himanta Biswa Sarma Murdabad etc. Pranjal Baraik, Central Executive Member of ATTSA and Umesh Jal Assistant Secretary of ATTSA Tinsukia district Committee said that the BJP led government had



failed to keep their words which they have said before MP and Assembly Election that after the formation of BJP Government they will pay Rs 351 minimum wages to all tea garden workers of Assam as well as the plantation labour act has not been properly implemented in the tea garden of Margherita Tea Estate as the Labour welfare officers are only for name sake they were never seen doing any welfare activities for Tea garden workers. Pranjal Baraik said that since Independence Tea Garden workers of Assam are treated as Slaves as no Government have did a single development work in the Tea Garden areas of Assam Congress, AGP, BJP and other Political party of Assam just remember during Election as these political parties Treat Tea Garden workers

as vote bank politics. Pranjal Baraik also criticised the BJP Government for forcefully evicting Dolu Tea estate Cachar where more than 5000 Tea Garden workers have turned jobless and for this incident in the upcoming Election BJP led Government has to face the protest of Assam Tea Tribes Students Association (ATTSA) all over in Assam. The ATTSA Margherita Branch Committee also handed over a memorandum consisting of 12 charter demands to the General Manager of Margherita Tea Estate and if they fail to fulfill than strong agitational programme will be taken by ATTSA and if untoward incident occurred than Margherita Tea Estate Management, Administration (Civil) and BJP led Assam Government shall be fully responsible for it, said Pranjal Baraik.

Sustainable Life Goals for Green Environment programme

Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 31: Department of Sociology, University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya has recently conducted a 20-day programme on "Skills to Identify Sustainable Life Goals for Green Environment" from May 7-28. This course was designed with respect for the conservation and sustainable use of resources, social equity, and appropriate development along with competencies to practice sustainable tasks at the workplace of today and tomorrow. The course was conducted in blended mode. Several eminent academicians across



the globe like Dr. Arpita Roy Choudhury, Staff Scientist, Department of Physics, Humboldt University, Berlin & Co-founder and Managing Partner, Data Analysis Tools, Visiting Scientist, Integrative Research Institute for Science (IRIS), Berlin, Germany, Dr. Sekh Rahim Mondal, Professor of Sociology and Founder Director of Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of North Bengal, Siliguri delivered their lecture focusing on

skills to identify sustainable life goals for green environment. In the inaugural session of the first day of the programme, the Vice-Chancellor of USTM Prof. G.D. Sharma enlightened the participants about the need of skill for achieving and suggested future perspective of Sustainable Life Goals for Green Environment. Prof. R.K. Sarma, advisor, USTM spoke about the balanced environment and social progress in Sustainable Life Goals.

Food poisoning: 15 hospitalized including Principal of NKGBV

Assam Rising, Tamulpur, May 31: Sensation prevailed in Tamulpur district after 14 students of the Nagrijuli Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya along with the Principal and warden of the residential school fell ill last night due to food poisoning in Tamulpur district. All of them were admitted to Nagrijuli Model Hospital this morning. The affected students of the residential school who fell ill are identified as Nijara Basumatary (13), Asha Dahal (14), Anamika Rabha (14), Khuchi Sarma (14), Nilamani Das (14), Tanuja Boro (13), Krishna Boro (14), Radhika Pradhan (15), Priya Das (14), Sonia Nayak (14), Dimpi Swargiary (14), Prapti Chetry (14), Mamata Boro (13) and Hina Boro (13) respectively. On the other hand School superintendent and hostel warden Anita Nayak (45) has also been affected by food poisoning and admitted in the same Hospital. It may be recalled that since yesterday night the Principal and the students suffered from stomach ache, vomiting and defecation. When their health deteriorated the Principal along with the students who fell ill immediately this morning admitted to Nagrijuli Model Hospital after spending the night somehow. It is worth mentioning that on Sunday some persons from Kumarikata Patanjali Yoga Kendra in Tamulpur district attended the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya to teach yoga and

supplied some packet juice and other food from them. Moreover the parents of the students also brought various foods to the students on Sunday during their visit. It is not yet known whether the students were affected by the food supplied from Patanjali centre or the students were affected by eating other food. Receiving the information about the incident several higher officials including Tamulpur district Deputy Commissioner Simanta Kumar Das, Tamulpur district Superintendent of Police Pankaj Yadav, Tamulpur subdivision Officer (Sadar) Ramanuj Hazarika rushed to Nagrijuli Model Hospital and took stock about the health condition of the students and reviewed the matter with the doctors. The Deputy Commissioner has already ordered an inquiry by Tamulpur Subdivision Officer (Sadar) Ramanuj Hazarika in connection with the incident and the officer has started investigation. The main cause of food poisoning in the school has not been revealed so far but the exact cause will be known and come to light at the end of the proper investigation. Dr Manohar Das and Dr Giridhar Brahma of the hospital arranged for the emergency treatment soon after admitting the students and the Principal to the hospital. Doctors have informed that all the students and Principal are now out of danger.



PM interaction program at Khetri, Assam on May 31.

THE ASSAM RISING

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The world has been facing a food crisis

The world has been facing a food crisis of a magnitude that has not been seen for many decades. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has warned that "the number of people facing acute food insecurity. The worst food crisis since 1974 broke out in 2007-08. Higher world market prices of food commodities (especially wheat, rice, soya and maize) sparked an unprecedented increase in the number of hungry people. Despite moderately lower prices since the summer of 2008, the number of the hungry continued to rise in 2009. This food crisis has placed the fight against hunger on the international agenda. Since March 2008 governments UN agencies and many social movements have adopted positions on the causes of the crisis and the means to address it. Unfortunately, while these parties are trying to coordinate their activities and suggest new approaches, the old recipes for producing more food are often brought up. Contradictory proposals are made and the thought given to the causes underlying hunger and the food crisis (social, economic and political discrimination and exclusion) has gone largely unheeded. The first Millennium Development Goal, which calls for cutting the percentage of hungry people by half by 2015, is clearly out of reach. But the food crisis might lead to a new world food order based on the three pillars of food assistance, food security and the right to food. Contrary to prevailing ideas, these fundamental causes should not be reduced to wars or natural catastrophes. While armed conflicts and natural catastrophes (mainly droughts and floods) do severely restrict access to food, they affect only 10% of the persons suffering from chronic undernourishment (UN Millennium Project Task Force on Hunger 2005, 3-4). Most researchers now agree that the fundamental causes of undernourishment are political and economic exclusion, social injustice and discrimination (Brunel 2009, 43-59). In J. De Castro's words (FAO 2004, 9): "Hunger is exclusion: exclusion from the land, income, jobs, wages, life and citizenship. When a person gets to the point of not having anything to eat, it is because all the rest has been denied. This is a modern form of exile. It is death in life."

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The Assam Rising
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West must decide the end goal of war. Ukraine is being destroyed



The Russian President, Vladimir Putin, is prepared for a "prolonged conflict" in Ukraine and he is "probably counting" on the resolve of western allies to soften in the face of inflation, food shortages, and rising energy prices. On last Tuesday, Avril Haines, Director of National Intelligence, told the US Congress that Putin still intends to achieve his goals, because in his judgment Russia has a greater willingness to endure challenges than his adversaries. Lt. Gen. Scott Berrier, Head of the Defence Intelligence Agency, acknowledged that the war was "at a bit of a stalemate" with neither side winning. The stalemate could last for a while, but if Russia declares war (as opposed to calling it a military operation) and mobilises

thousands of more soldiers, the situation could change. The sober assessment by two top intelligence officials was in contrast to the rhetoric from other senior US officials, including Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin, who recently revealed that he aimed to see Russia so "weakened" by the current war that it would lose all appetite for mounting similar invasions in the future. "Finland is on the verge of joining NATO," President Sauli Niinisto and Prime Minister Sanna Marin issued a joint statement on Thursday, saying that the country must apply for membership without delay. "Some in Europe share Austin's objective. Gen. Thierry Burkhard, Chief of Staff of the

French military, echoed Austin's sentiments when he said, "The interest of European countries is to weaken Russia." British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss has vowed to go "further and faster to push Russia out of the whole of Ukraine." To be sure, Russia's war against Ukraine has changed Europe's security landscape. Finland is on the verge of joining NATO. President Sauli Niinisto and Prime Minister Sanna Marin issued a joint statement on Thursday, saying that the country must apply for membership without delay. Sweden is expected to follow

Seema Sirohi

it is more politically divided on the question. It's another blow to Russia as it struggles to keep its gains in Ukraine. Kremlin has warned of "consequences" and a definite "symmetrical response" if the two Nordic countries join. Make of that what you will but Russia has at least one NATO member in its corner for the time being. Turkey opposes NATO membership for Finland and Sweden, calling them "home to many terrorist organisations" - a reference to the presence of

Kurdish activists in Sweden. Since NATO membership requires consensus from existing members, the path for Nordic countries to join the alliance is less than clear. Erdogan says Turkey doesn't support Sweden, Finland joining NATO against the background of Washington's expanding war aims and European countries following its lead, no one is talking about peace anymore. Those who did in the past such as Turkey and Israel have given up because the main protagonists - Russia, Ukraine, and western allies - don't seem interested. In Europe's large countries, there is proportionately less talk of autonomy and more of unity under the US leadership. NATO allies continue to pretend they are not directly fighting Russia even though they have provided real-time intelligence and targeting information to Ukraine's military, to say nothing of the billions in military aid. Washington is considering a US\$40-billion military and economic aid package having already sent US\$3.8 billion worth of weapons since the war began. Putin is also playing a pretend game of sorts. He knows he can't "win" against NATO but he can grind on and create a Syria in Europe. His war aims have shrunk from taking over Kyiv and imposing a pro-Russian government to dominating southeast Ukraine.

The Donald and the Kremlin Don

How Trump's toxic legacy helps Putin



Simon Tisdall

Even by Donald Trump's chaotic standards, the "comprehensive peace agreement" for Afghanistan signed by the US in Doha in February 2020 was a huge own goal. The pact posited no binding ceasefire, no power-sharing requirements, and no political roadmap. In return for some mumbo-jumbo about al-Qaida, Trump pledged total, unconditional US and Nato withdrawal within 14 months. This was not peacemaking. This was capitulation. The Taliban could hardly believe their luck. Trump hoped to benefit politically from "bringing the troops home", even though the vast majority had already left. He was otherwise wholly indifferent to the fate of the Afghan people. Military men in the US and UK were agast. So, too, were diplomats, politicians, aid agencies and analysts familiar with Afghanistan. But their warnings of looming catastrophe were ignored. Despite being hobbled by official secrecy, two damning reports this month, one by a US public watchdog, the other by the UK parliament's foreign affairs committee (FAC), lay bare the almost unbelievable incompetence of the two governments. Boris Johnson and the then British foreign secretary, Dominic Raab, failed to effectively challenge the Doha pact, then failed adequately to prepare for the 2021 withdrawal, the FAC report said. On 8 July 2021, Johnson blithely told the Commons there was "no

military path to victory for the Taliban". On 15 August, Kabul fell. Chaos reigned. Evacuees died. Dogs were saved. But many UK-employed Afghan staff and workers were not. Twenty years of nation-building, at a cost of tens of thousands of US, British and Afghan lives, were blown away in a few shameful days. Johnson and Raab should have resigned then, but didn't. There's still time, guys. The report of the US special inspector general (Sigar) blamed the calamity on Trump as well as his successor, Joe Biden, and the then Afghan president, Ashraf Ghani. Biden was certainly at fault. He should have insisted on renegotiating Doha and kept some US forces at Bagram base, outside Kabul. European Nato allies should have voiced their misgivings more forcibly. But responsibility lies primarily with the man who set this lethal geopolitical car crash in motion. While boasting of his prowess as a dealmaker, Trump caved to a gang of feudal warlords, who promptly defaulted to

tyranny. Today's ongoing Afghan tragedy is but one aspect of Trump's toxic legacy. The negative impact of his presidency is still being felt around the world - and time is running out to dispel its noxious after-effects. In two years' time, Trump or a Trump-endorsed Republican clone could win back the White House. His reactionary, disruptive America First agenda may once again dictate the way the US deals, or fails to deal, with the big global challenges of the day. This dire prospect is rendered more likely by Biden's apparent inability, seen in Afghanistan, to fundamentally shift the dial on a range of key international issues. It's little wonder, for example, that occupation-related violence between Israelis and Palestinians in

the West Bank and elsewhere is at its highest level since 2014, according to the UN. Trump abandoned peace efforts and the internationally preferred two-state solution, ignored the Palestinian Authority, and promoted the business-focused "Abraham Accords" between Israel, the UAE and Bahrain. Since neither Gulf state threatened Israel, this was hardly the historic breakthrough he claimed. But it did further marginalise the Palestinians while helping legitimise the "apartheid crimes", as characterised by Human Rights Watch, of successive Israeli governments. Biden recently condemned yet another expansion of illegal West Bank settlements. But he has done little to revive the peace process. Maybe this will change when he visits Israel later this year. Maybe not. Biden also appears to have bowed to Israeli pressure over Iran. Trump stupidly reneged on the 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran. Since then, Iran has reportedly moved steadily closer to acquiring nuclear weapons capability. Trump's blunder, coupled with repeated Israeli and US assassinations of prominent Iranians, has increased tensions. Yet despite a firm promise, Biden has been unable to revive the deal. Now it seems he's giving up. Trump made a fool of himself trying to charm the nuclear-armed North Korean dictator, Kim Jong-un. His photo-op summitry boosted Kim's prestige for zero return. Kim has lately been firing off ballistic missiles like there's no tomorrow. The way he's going, there may not be. Yet North Korea is another tinderbox issue on which Biden has nothing new to say. His visits to South Korea and Japan last week underlined how much he has neglected China and the Indo-Pacific region, ostensibly his top overseas priority. Trump's attempts to pressure China punished America. He picked trade fights that hurt US exporters and boycotted the Trans-Pacific Partnership - more own goals. Now Biden is belatedly trying to pick up the pieces, reassuring Taiwan of US military backing, strengthening regional alliances, and launching a multi-country an "Indo-Pacific Economic Framework" to counter China. While some of his problems are self-inflicted, Biden's struggle to repair the global damage wrought by Trump's four-year rampage has been made infinitely more difficult by Russia's war in Ukraine.

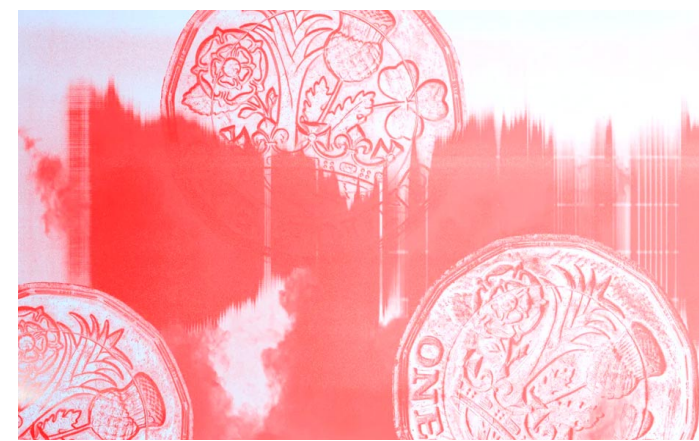
This age of inflation reveals the sickness ailing Britain's economy: rentier capitalism

William Davies

Inflation in the UK has hit its highest level in 40 years, particularly thanks to the dramatic rise in energy and food prices. This fact has provoked panic among some commentators and policymakers that Britain is about to relive the inflationary turbulence of the 1970s, and has prompted Rishi Sunak to announce a last-minute £15bn "cost of living package" partly funded by a one-off tax on energy companies. Andrew Bailey, the governor of the Bank

of England, has already been the subject of outrage for suggesting that workers should show "restraint" in their pay demands, to prevent an upward spiral in wages and prices as seen in the 1970s. Right now, with inflation at 9% and employers expecting to increase pay this year by just 3%, Bailey should be able to relax on that front. Inflation aside, the differences between Britain's economy of 2022 and that of 40 years ago are stark. In 1982, unemployment hit a postwar record, at more than 3

million, as manufacturing employment plummeted. Today, Boris Johnson boasts of record low unemployment. Trade union coverage was still over 50% in 1982; today, it's less than half that, and almost half of that again in the private sector. The inability of most workers to negotiate collectively for wage increases is one of the principal reasons why Bailey sounded so out of touch, and why comparisons with the 1970s miss the mark. We are not witnessing a rerun of the 1970s and early 80s. But there are other reasons to consider the relationship between the crisis now facing Johnson's government and that which confronted Margaret Thatcher in her first term in office. Put simply, the crisis today is a legacy of how that previous crisis was handled. It is worth remembering that inflation represented the dominant economic policy challenge through most of the 1970s. It was inflation that prompted the historic reckoning by Jim Callaghan at the 1976 Labour party conference, heralding the end of the Keynesian consensus: "We used to think that you could spend your way out of a recession, and increase employment by cutting taxes and boosting government spending. I tell you in all candour that that option no longer exists." Politicians and experts disagreed over the solution to inflation, but the urgency of finding one was widely accepted. In the political imagination of the 1970s new right that emerged from thinktanks on both sides of the Atlantic, the problem of inflation was tied up with a whole host of broader social and moral crises: overpowerful unions, an excessively generous welfare state, the



weakening of entrepreneurship, family breakdown, disdain for capitalists. What all of these problems had in common, from this perspective, was a failure to respect the ultimate value of money. Britain would beat inflation by rediscovering its respect for property, hard work, fiscal discipline and responsibility. The medicine administered by Thatcher was socially devastating. The monetarist doctrine, originally developed by Milton Friedman, which held that governments should target the amount of money in circulation then set interest rates accordingly, caused interest rates to rise to such punitive levels that Britain entered the deepest recession since the 1930s. Inflation fell, eventually, but only after whole industrial regions, towns and cities had been dragged down with it. The collapse in trade union membership was as much an effect of the destruction of unionised jobs as it was of anti-union legislation. What is the significance of this today? Reflecting back on the upheavals of that time, many political economists have come to view monetarism as a deliberate political project that sought to re-establish the supremacy of asset owners and financial elites. After all, it was quite clear who suffered most from inflation, and who would benefit most from having it flushed out: creditors and the wealthy. It was only after Thatcher had strangled the life

out of inflation (and much else besides) that the City and the housing market could begin their dramatic ascent that, aside from the wobbles of the early John Major years and the 2008 banking crisis, has continued ever since. Viewed this way, Thatcherism wasn't so much an unleashing of "enterprise" or risk-taking, as its supporters have always claimed, but rather an unleashing of capital to chase the highest returns possible, regardless of any broader social or economic benefit. In his book *Rentier Capitalism*, the social and economic geographer Brett Christophers has shown that the central effect of Thatcherite reforms was to open up whole new income streams that owe little to productivity and a great deal to gaining a stranglehold over those who depend on rentiers. We can see this in the outsourcing specialists such as Serco and G4S that hover around government departments to secure lucrative long-term contracts, using legal muscle to protect themselves against any downside; in the descent by private equity funds on essential adult and children's care to extract abnormal profits, largely through squeezing an already disempowered workforce. We can see it in the way that house prices and rent have become entirely unmoored from wages. Rent-seeking extends well beyond the sphere of "the market", to extract revenue from - and raise the cost of - the basic necessities of life.

IOC plans to transport fuel to Tripura via Bangladesh

Tripura, May 31: PSU major Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) on Sunday said it is looking to transport fuel to Tripura through Bangladesh as the rail network has been totally snapped due to massive landslides in Assam. After the only rail link connecting Assam's Dima Hasao district and Barak Valley, Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura with the rest of the country was washed away earlier this month, the company started moving all its supplies by road via Meghalaya, bearing more than double the cost. "After the Dima Hasao landslides, the only way to reach Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and southern Assam was the road connectivity via Meghalaya. This route is also landslide prone," Indian Oil Corporation Executive Director (IndianOil-AOD) G Ramesh told PTI. The situation forced the IOC, state governments and the Centre to scout for alternative ways to supply fuel to the southern region of the Northeast, he added. Ramesh said that the IndianOil-AOD, the company's North East division, had in 2016 sent a few consignments to Tripura via Bangladesh when the supply was badly hit due to pathetic road conditions in Barak Valley in Assam. "We are trying to



revive that six-year-old network as an alternative route. Currently, we are talking to the Bangladesh government through the Centre. We are hopeful that positive news will come soon," he added. The company is planning to send its convoys of fuel through Dawki in Meghalaya to Bangladesh. It will then re-enter India at Kailashahar in Tripura. Once the discussion is finalised and an agreement is signed, the IndianOil-AOD will move its products from primarily Betkuchi depot in Guwahati to Dharmanagar depot via Tripura through the neighbouring nation. "In

the first place, we may not send a full convoy. We are looking to send a pilot convoy carrying petrol, diesel and LPG. The pilot consignment may carry 80-120 KL of fuel only," Ramesh said. Another senior official of the company, who wished not to be named, told PTI that IOC was initially planning to move 1,400 KL of fuel via Bangladesh at a total transportation cost of Rs 57.78 lakh against Rs 34.22 lakh on the rail route. The distance for transporting different types of fuel from IOC's Betkuchi depot to Dharmanagar depot via Bangladesh will be 376 km, including 137 km inside the

neighbouring country, against 579 km in the normal route through the Meghalaya-Barak Valley. On September 9, 2016, IOC had flagged off seven tankers carrying 84,000 litres of kerosene and diesel from its Guwahati depot to Tripura through Bangladesh for the first time, to avoid the dilapidated national highway in Assam. After the destruction of the rail link, the IOC is supplying all its fuel through

road via Meghalaya. This has added a huge amount to the company's balance sheet, an IndianOil-AOD spokesperson said. "The monthly transportation cost for Barak Valley, Mizoram and Tripura was Rs 4.71 crore via rail. But now, our cost has gone up to Rs 10.56 crore a month when the products are delivered by road," IndianOil-AOD Manager (Corporate Communication) Shekhar Jyoti Dutta said. For Manipur, the products were being taken through roads earlier and it is continuing without any disruption, he added. Massive land and mudslides, coupled with incessant rains for days, wreaked havoc in nature's paradise Dima Hasao and all the means of communication were thrown out of gear. While the road links are mostly restored, the train services connecting Dima Hasao, Barak Valley, Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur with the rest of the country are expected to resume in July.

Aizawl, May 31: The Mizoram government on Monday instructed five divisional forest officers (DFOs) to conduct verification wherever national highways are being widened or expanded across the state. The move comes in the wake of a silent protest launched by a well-known Mizo social activist over the alleged environmental violations at construction sites by the National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL). The Centrally-owned company is currently executing widening works of four national highways- NH-09 (Seling - Zokhawthar), NH-102B (Keifang - Manipur), NH-302 (Lunglei - Tlabung) and NH-54 (Aizawl - Tuipang) inside Mizoram. Mizoram Principal Chief Forest Conservator Jitendra Kumar said the division forest officers of Aizawl, Lunglei, Thanzawl, Tlabung and Champhai have been instructed to conduct site verification within their respective jurisdiction to ascertain if there are violations of the Mizoram (Forest) Act, 1955 and the Forest (Conserva-



tion) Act, 1980, by the NHIDCL. In case there is any violation, works might be stopped immediately as per provisions of the relevant act or rules, he said, adding that the DFOs were asked to submit their findings effectively by Tuesday. Kumar said the state government is keen on protecting the environment and making green forests. The government is also keen on working with NGOs and other stakeholders to protect the environment, he said. On May 25, the state environment, forest and climate change department had served a show-cause notice to the NHIDCL to explain the alleged environmental damage within a week, he said. The company is yet to respond, he added. On Friday, well-known Mizo social activist Vanramchhuangi alias Ruafela Nu had launched her indefinite silent sit-in protest in front of the state Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department's office in Aizawl in protest against the alleged environmental violations. The social activist has demanded a stay order on widening works of the four National Highways being undertaken by the NHIDCL. The 62-year-old activist, however, suspended her indefinite strike on Monday after an assurance from the state government that immediate action would be taken. "I have suspended my silent protest after the chief forest conservator assured me of immediate action against the environmental violations by NHIDCL. I will closely look into the matter and necessary measures would be taken if there is no positive result," she told to the media. Ruafela Nu has alleged that rivers and forest lands are being

destroyed indiscriminately due to the construction or widening of National Highways across Mizoram over the past 3 years. Earlier on Friday, Ruafela Nu also submitted a memorandum to the chief forest conservator demanding a stay order on development works on National highways currently executed by NHIDCL. Among others, she also demanded that the NHIDCL should restore the damage it has done to the environment and only developmental projects with reliable EIA done through a credible agency should be given clearances. In her memorandum, Ruafela Nu alleged that the NHIDCL has completely disregarded and violated Environment Management Plan (EMP) within the framework of the EIA and also social considerations while disposing of their spoil soils by callously shoving them down the constructed slope, wiping away all biodiversity which are in the way of the disposed spoil soils. "The worst affected being the rivers and smaller tributaries which are completely covered by these muck and 99.9% of our seasonal and perennial rivers are not visible anymore," she said. She also alleged that the enormous siltation which has destroyed agricultural lands and polluted the state's main water subsistence is a result of disregard and negligence of environmental laws and regulations by the NHIDCL and all governmental stakeholders involved at every level. However, an official of the environment, forest and climate change department said that an environmental clearance is not required in connection with widening of existing national highways, which are shorter than 100 km. He said that the national highways, the widening work of which are currently undertaken by the NHIDCL in Mizoram, are shorter than 100 km.

Over 30K people turn up on ShiRock 2022 closing night



Ukhrul, May 31: The last day of ShiRock 2022, one of the key entertainment events of the 4th edition of the state level Shirui Lily Festival, witnessed a massive footfall in Manipur's hill district of Ukhrul on Saturday. According to the organisers, at least 30,000 people across all age groups from different parts of Manipur and elsewhere gathered at Bakshi ground to witness the maiden performance of the Monuments, a British progressive metal band. Unlike the previous editions, this year the annual rock musical entertainment which is part of the Shirui Lily festival focused to promote talents from the northeast region. The

Monuments are the only international rock band featured in the latest edition of the ShiRock carnival. "Unbelievable and absolutely extraordinary. I have no words other than insane," said Andy Cizek, Monuments vocalist, right after the electrifying performance to entertained the crowd. Notably, the Monuments had earlier performed in Mumbai and Bengaluru in 2020. And despite their debut performance in the northeast region, it was well received through their soaring choruses. Upcoming local artists Yungyung and Kakami from Manipur opened the show with their rock-filled performances.

The evening also saw another performance from the Prophets from Mizoram, the winner of the rock band competition at ShiRock 2022. They received a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh. Another band from Meghalaya, Symphonic Illusions, and IBHK from Manipur bagged second and third and received Rs 5 lakh and Rs 1.5 lakh, respectively. This year, ShiRock has featured 16 of the finest rock bands from the north east region for the competition. Over the years, the music carnival has hosted some of the legendary rock bands like American rock band Extreme, Scottish band Nazareth, American glam metal band Steelheart and Queensryche, an American heavy metal band.

Agartala, May 31: A group of ex-militants have threatened to resume persistent protests across Tripura for being deprived of the benefits supposed to be accrued upon them as per the peace accord. Deprived Returnees Movement Committee (DMRC) has also announced that on June 5 a national highway blockade would be staged at Assam-Agartala national highway which shall continue indefinitely if their demands are not met. Addressing a press conference at Agartala Press Club on Monday, DMRC general secretary Amrit Reang said the central and the state governments have made a bunch of promises at the time they laid down arms in search of a dignified mainstream life. But, all these promises turned out to be empty as a large chunk of the returnees are deprived of the benefits. "All these things are on pen and paper only. On several occasions, we spoke to senior officials and even handed over drafted memorandums as well as explaining the hardships of our people. But all these turned out to be futile exercise as we see no positive step on behalf of the state government," said Reang. In October last year, the DMRC group had met senior officials of the Tribal Welfare department. During the



meeting, the representatives highlighted all the crucial points pertinent to the extension of benefits to deprived militants but nothing had been done. Reang further alleged terming the delay as a "deliberate attempt of depriving us". Expressing disappointment over the role of state government, he said, "We have staged protests earlier also; every time the top officials try to placate our grievances with assurances that are never kept. Reacting to the issue, Tripura Tribal Welfare Department Director Vishal Kumar said, "All the recognized returnees have been given the benefits assured in the agreements. There are two large groups who now claim that they also deserve to be treated as ex-militants and all the benefits should be given to

them as well." "But, they are neither recognized by the Central government or the state government as ex-militants. Those who are leading the protests are verified ex-militants but without any documented proof, it is impossible to launch a welfare scheme for such a large population at this point," he added. According to the director, the total number of aspirant beneficiaries for the special benefits is above 23,000 people scattered across various parts of the state. "As per the eligibility criteria, they can be absorbed into existing schemes of the state and central government but what they are asking for is impossible," he said. The returnees organization has demanded free distribution of power tillers, abolishment of pending cases, benefits under livestock rearing schemes, etc.

5 tourists, local driver die in road accident in Sikkim

Gangtok, May 31: In a tragic road mishap, five tourists hailing from Maharashtra and a local taxi driver lost their lives in a road accident at Khedung, near Lachung in Sikkim's Mangan district. The vehicle in which they were travelling met with an accident around 8 pm on Saturday at Khedung cliff, some 13 kilometre downhill from Lachung. The deceased have been identified as Suresh Punamiya, Toral Punamiya, Devanshi Punamiya, Hiral Punamiya and Jayam Parmar. The driver has been identified as Somi Biswakarmathe. Lachung Police Station has recovered the bodies from the accident site and has initiated further proceedings in the case.

Assam Police lathi-charge in West Khasi Hills

Shillong, May 31: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma has asked the police to investigate the Malang-Salbari incident, after a video of the Assam Police personnel resorting to lathi-charge on the residents of Malang Huhapra village in Meghalaya's West Khasi Hills District went viral. Sangma said he had also discussed the matter with his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday. Speaking on the assault of the villagers of Malang-Salbari, Sangma said "We have asked our police to investigate the issue. Last evening, I discussed with the chief minister of Assam, and he assured me that such incidents would not happen again. He also assured me that necessary instructions will be given to the SP and the police of the district to ensure that such kinds of situations do not happen in future." The chief minister stressed the need to handle such incidents with utmost care and restraint, considering the ongoing border talks with Assam. "We need to ensure that whatever the situation may be, we need to handle



with care, and we need to show restraint," Sangma added. Sangma said that he had asked Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to take necessary action on the matter.

MLAs represent Centre's voice: Nagaland BJP on NSCN-IM warning

Kohima, May 31: Days after the NSCN-IM warned the Nagaland BJP and legislators to not go overboard with the Naga peace talks, the state BJP has said that it will "not shy off" and continue to be at the forefront in advocating for an early and amicable solution of the long-standing vexed Naga political issue. The party took a jibe at Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, who leads the core committee on Nagaland Political issue, and the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) for remaining "silent" over the issue. At this crucial juncture, the BJP said that all leaders need to speak out, and that it is disheartening

that some leaders and their party are maintaining comfortably stoic silence over the matter despite holding influential positions, like leading the Core Committee, as ignoring it will in no way add anything to our collective aspirations of the long-standing political solution. According to the BJP, leaders need to let the public know what they think and want as they represent the voice of the people. Referring to the NSCN-IM's statement, the BJP said that those blaming a few legislators for being vocal and voicing out their opinion on the Naga issue needs to understand that the legislators, in a way, represent the voice of the Centre and their voices can-

not be ignored or dismissed. Rather, the party is of the opinion that the these leaders should be appreciated for voicing out the undeniable and uncomfortable truth that all are aware of, but is not comfortable enough to say it out loud in public. "Despite the multitude of opinions and allegations hurled against our legislators in recent times, it needs to be accepted by all if we are really craving for a solution. We need to be more vocal about what is happening, what we want to achieve, what we need to hold on to and what we need to let go," an offi-



cial update from the party said. The party said that its leaders need to speak out as it is high time that the BJP, as a political party, continue to do its part in facilitating an early and amicable

solution, and the Naga people needs to know the truth since the Naga issue is not something that can be kept in the dark. "Everybody deserves to know what is going on and what

will happen. BJP Nagaland shall never shy off from advocating what is needed to be told because we stand with the Nagas in its aspirations for an honorable and acceptable solution," the BJP said.

Contd. From Page 1

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain

"hardcore honest". "I have studied the case against Jain. It is completely fake and motivated by political reasons and he has been deliberately framed." "We have faith in the judiciary. Jain will come out clean and the fake case will not sustain," the chief minister told reporters during an inspection of a road development programme of his government. Jain, who holds various portfolios including health, home and power in the Kejriwal government in Delhi, was arrested by the Enforcement Department (ED) in a case of money laundering on Monday. Delhi units of the BJP and Congress have welcomed Jain's arrest in the case. The BJP has demanded that Kejriwal should remove Jain from his Cabinet. In January, ahead of the Punjab Assembly polls, Kejriwal claimed he had learnt from sources that Jain could be arrested by the ED. Immediately after the arrest of Jain on Monday, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and AAP MP Sanjay Singh had lashed at the BJP, but Kejriwal did not react to the development. Sisodia had claimed that Jain was arrested by the ED in a "fake" case because he was made in-charge of the AAP in poll-bound Himachal Pradesh, where the BJP was afraid of losing the elections. Singh had said that Jain's arrest was aimed at defaming the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) before the polls.

Assam CM Dr. Sarma attends

government. He, therefore, asked the people of the state to come forward and avail of the benefits of the government schemes. While presenting the sanction letters to the beneficiaries of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, Chief Minister Dr Sarma requested the farmers of Assam to take full benefits of the scheme. He said that the government has both the resources and intensity to bring more beneficiaries under the ambit of this flagship programme. Farmers of the state should come forward and use this scheme for their welfare. The Chief Minister while disbursing the first installment of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana scheme to five lakh beneficiaries in the programme, urged them to make good use of the amount. He said an appropriate and wise utilization of the installment amount would entitle them to second and third installments. He also asked them not to fall prey to any unscrupulous elements who might in the name of giving them houses under PMAY take away the amount as their commission. He also said that his government is working to lend dignity to the lives of everybody as the government is committed to promote a socio-economic- academic empowerment narrative based on the Prime Minister's vision of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Biswas and Sabka Prayas. It may be noted that today at Gargaon, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma handed over the first installment of PMAY to around 15 thousand beneficiaries of Sivasagar and Charaideo districts to the tune of Rs 32500 per beneficiary. There are around five lakh beneficiaries in Assam for PMAY and another eight lakh beneficiaries will be brought under the flagship scheme. Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management Jogen Mohan, MP Topon Kumar Gogoi, MLAs Sushanta Borgohain, Dharmeshwar Konwar, Chairman DNPL Rupam Goswami, Chairman Urban Water Supply Kushal Dowari, Principal Secretary Panchayat and Rural Development Dr. J.B. Ekka and a host of others were present on the occasion.

'No entry for BJP in 2024, it won't come

is adulterated. They have destroyed the country's economy through disastrous decisions like demonetisation. It was a big scam," she said while addressing a TMC workers' meeting in the Purulia district. Banerjee further said that since the Central dues to Bengal are the greatest barrier to accelerating the pace of development projects in the state, there is a need for block-level agitation, where common people will put pressure on the local BJP leaders to ensure the clearance of the Central dues. The citizens of the country are "fed up with the anti-people government at the Centre," she said. "Let me make it very clear that there will be no entry for the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. It has to go. There are no chances of the BJP returning to power," she said.

Plea in SC challenging Assam govt's

(Provincialisation of Services of Employees and Reorganisation of Madrassa Educational Institutions) Act, 2018. The appeal stated that the Assam Madrassa Education (Provincialisation) Act, 1995 (repealed by the Act of 2020) is only limited to the State undertaking to pay the salaries and provide consequential benefits to the teaching and non-teaching staff employed in madrassas as also the administration, management and control of these madrassas. "The land and building belonging to the madrassas are taken care of by the Petitioners and the expenditures on electricity and furniture are borne by the Petitioner madrassas themselves. The repealing Act of 2020 takes away property coupled with statutory recognition of Madrassa education and the impugned order dated February 12, 2021, issued by the Governor disbands the 'Assam State Madrasa Board' created in 1954. It amounts to an arbitrary exercise of both legislative and executive powers and amounts to a denial of the Petitioner Madrassas' ability to continue as madrassas providing religious instruction coupled with religious education," it added. Such an encroachment into the proprietary rights of the Petitioner Madrassas without payment of adequate compensation is a direct infraction of Article 30(1A) of the Constitution of India, appeal added. The operation of the High Court judgment would result in the discontinuation of the Petitioner Madrassas as Madrassas would prevent them from admitting students for the old courses for this academic year, stated the plea in the apex court.

Resident of Assam adopts Garo

himself Garo and take up the status of being a tribal. "The recent affidavit undertaken Goni changing his name, tribe, identity and religion, which has surfaced on social media is condemned to the highest form. This is a malafide attempt by this Osman Goni individual to change his identity to a Garo and his religion to Christianity in order to enjoy the privileges of a tribal in Meghalaya," said Rinaldo through a release this evening. "The Apex court of the country rules that caste of a person is as per the kin of birth and cannot be changed. How can this individual change his name to Usman Goni Marak from Usman Goni? We have our traditional laws and Customs which have been followed through ages and such change of identity sans any approval from the Marak of any clan or the Achik tribe is not acceptable," he added. Rinaldo urged upon the Government of Meghalaya, the District Administration of all the districts of Garo Hills, the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council and all the Bar Associations of Garo Hills to cancel the identity of such individuals, scrutinise and put a strict check on such individuals resorting to such unscrupulous means and ways to take advantage of laws of the country. He also urged the CEM of GHADC to expedite the process of framing the Garo Customary Law as promised as well as the creation of a separate electoral roll as early as possible.

Hardik Patel all set to join BJP

Congress leadership and had taken strong exceptions at the derogatory and hateful remarks by the party leaders against "Hindus and Lord Ram". Patel slammed a former Gujarat Congress president who allegedly said dogs had urinated on bricks being used for building the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. "I had said earlier too that the Congress party works to hurt the sentiments of the people, always trying to damage the faith of the Hindu religion. Today, a former Union minister and Gujarat Congress leader made a statement that dogs urinate on the bricks of Ram temple," Patel had tweeted. He then questioned Congress, and its leaders, asking "what enmity do you have against Lord Shri Ram? Why hate Hindus so much? After centuries, a temple of Lord Shri Ram is also being built in Ayodhya, yet the leaders of Congress keep making statements against Lord Ram." On May 19, Patel resigned from the party and stated that Gujarat Congress leaders were least bothered to address real issues of the state but were more focussed on ensuring that the leaders who come from Delhi to Gujarat get "chicken sandwich" on time. He had also alleged that Gujarat Congress leaders tried to disrupt his political effort "sitting in the AC chambers". Meanwhile, Gujarat Congress chief Jagdish Thakor has claimed that Patel decided to quit the party as he was afraid that he might have to go to jail in sedition cases registered against him. The Gujarat Assembly elections are slated to be held this year.

Sidhu Moosewala's murder

singer and his entourage is staying. DCP Bhuvan Bhushan Yadav told India Today, "We have increased the security of Mika Singh, although he did not make a request for extra protection. It is a step we have taken as a precaution after the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moose Wala." Speaking with India Today TV, Mika revealed, "Four years ago he (Moosewala) used to talk about threats from gangsters. Some gangsters might have tried to extort money from him this time. Just last week he came to Mumbai. He told me that he could roam freely in Mumbai, without any security. I asked him to move to Mumbai in the future." "He was a huge star. In just three years, he had made such a huge name for himself. Not just in Punjab, he had a fan following across the world. He used to write about true things in his songs. Is being successful a crime? His songs had an attitude in them. But Moose Wala himself wasn't like that. People liked such songs of his and so he made them. The police and the government should take strict action," he said. Popular Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala was cremated at his native village in Mansa district on Tuesday afternoon amid an ocean of family members, friends and fans paying their last respects and bidding him a tearful goodbye. He was shot dead on Sunday, May 29, 2022, and was brought to his home in Moosa village amid tight security on Tuesday morning from Mansa civil hospital, where the post-mortem was conducted. Moosewala's family, including his parents, were inconsolable as they sat beside the body at their home. His mother was seen trying to console her husband as people from Punjab, Rajasthan and Chandigarh among other places queued up in large numbers to get a last glimpse of the singer.

Assam's 70-MW biggest solar

is a need to harness the potential of renewable energy. The Chief Minister said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi while stressing on the importance of renewable energy urged the states to focus on tapping available potential in this sector. He observed that the Amguri Solar Park will have a positive impact towards this. Saying that there is a demand for 2200 MW of power in the state, the Chief Minister informed that efforts are on to meet the demand through exploring the hydroelectric and solar power potential. He also said that the state is heading towards generating 1000 MW power in the state. The Chief Minister further said that the state government from the beginning made efforts to give a new momentum to the power sector as a result of which the state is making profit in this sector. He also said that the state government continued its efforts to ensure ease of living for the people and initiatives like Orunodoi helps in that regard. He also informed that steps are being taken to increase the monthly amount given to beneficiaries under this scheme upto Rs. 1250 out of which the beneficiaries would be able to pay Rs. 250 as electricity bill. Moreover, 7 lakh more eligible persons will be covered under Orunodoi and in Amguri alone 7 thousand such beneficiaries would be included. He also said that the state government procured 3 lakh MT rice at MSP directly from farmers. The Chief Minister also asked the power department officials to strengthen the transmission line and install an adequate number of transformers to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the people of Amguri. He announced that the hospital at Amguri would be upgraded to 100 beds. He also announced Rs. 2 crore for Amguri Kendriya Natya Mandir and Rs. 7 crore for Inspection Bunglow at Amguri. While Chief Secretary Jishnu Baruah delivered the welcome speech, Power Minister Bimal Bora also spoke on the occasion. Revenue Minister Jogen Mohan, MP Topon Kumar Gogoi and Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, MLAs Pradip Hazarika, Dharmeswar Konwar, Sushanta Borgohain, senior officials of the power department were present in the programme.

State's biggest solar power project

Limited as Solar Power Developer (SPD), with the Assam Power Generation Corporation Limited (APGCL) acting as solar power park developer (SPPD). According to officials, APGCL leased out the project site and the Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL) will procure power from M/s Jackson Power Private Limited under a power purchase agreement (PPA). Due to a land dispute, only 50 MW capacity of the project could be commissioned at present, officials informed, adding that the remaining 20 MW will be commissioned after another two months or so. Currently, around 40 MW of power is being generated during the trial runs, they further informed. In February 2019, the then chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal had laid the foundation stone for the project. The target date of commissioning of the project was December 2021. It may be mentioned that the Amguri project dates back to the 1990s when the then Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta had laid the foundation of a 360-MW gas-based thermo-electricity project on a 340-acre plot of land at Japisajia village in Amguri. The capacity of the project was subsequently reduced to 100 MW because the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas expressed its inability to supply sufficient gas to fuel the project. The project remained stagnant after that until it was decided to convert the project into a 70-MW solar power project.

Woman teacher shot dead inside school in Kashmir

New Delhi, May 31: A Hindu teacher has been shot dead by unknown terrorists in a Government High School in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam, police said on Tuesday (May 31, 2022). A police official said that the migrant Hindu woman was fired upon by terrorists inside school premises in the Gopalpora village. "Terrorists fired upon one woman teacher at High School Gopalpora area of Kulgam. In this terror incident, she received critical gunshot injuries. Later she succumbed to her injuries," IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar said. "Lady teacher who died was a Hindu (SC) and resident of Samba (Jammu division). Terrorists involved in this gruesome terror crime will be soon identified and neutralised," Kumar added. After the attack, the whole area has been cordoned off and a joint operation of security forces has been launched to nab the attackers. Meanwhile, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti questioned the normalcy claims of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Center and said, "Despite GOIs fake claims about Kashmir being normal it's obvious that targeted civilian killings are on the rise & a deep cause of concern. Condemn this act of cowardice which sadly plays into the vicious anti Muslim narrative spun by BJP." It's noteworthy that this year as many as 15 civilians including non-locals, and Kashmiri Pandits have been killed so far.

India's GDP grows 4.1% in January-March quarter; 8.7% in FY22

New Delhi, May 31: India's economy grew by 4.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2021-22, pushing up the annual growth rate to 8.7 per cent, official data showed on Tuesday. However, growth in the January-March period was slower than the 5.4 per cent expansion in the previous October-December quarter of 2021-22. The gross domestic product (GDP) had expanded by 2.5 per cent in the corresponding January-March period of 2020-21, according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). As per the data, the Indian economy expanded by 8.7 per cent in 2021-22 against a 6.6 per cent contraction in 2020-21. The NSO, in its second advance estimate, had projected GDP growth during 2021-22 at 8.9 per cent. China had registered an economic growth of 4.8 per cent in the first three months of 2022.

Atmanirbhar Bharat : Union minister Sonowal underlines efforts of central Govt.

Delhi, May 31: The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal inter-



acted with beneficiaries of various government welfare schemes while he virtually joined the Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Garib Kalyan Sammelan from Visakhapatnam today. The Minister interacted with the beneficiaries and learnt their stories of motivation that have become embodiments of a transformation in the New India. Speaking on the occasion, Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Under the visionary leadership of our beloved Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji, India is turning into a global superpower. At the foundation of this transformation, the historic social justice provided by the government to the most needy citizens of our country. This has helped us to inch closer towards an Atmanirbhar Bharat, slowly but steadily, and build a just society." The Garib Kalyan Sammelan was designed for a dialogue between elected representatives directly with the public to get a first hand account about the various welfare schemes run by the government. Highlighting the role of Andhra people, the Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said, "The people of Andhra Pradesh are very hard working & your state is full of potential. This has been recognised by Modiji. We must heed to the clarion call given by our leader to develop an Atmanirbhar Bharat. Under his leadership, this vision will become a reality and we must work together to develop Andhra Pradesh as one of the best states in the country."

LCC observed world no tobacco day

Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, May 31: World No Tobacco Day was observed today in Lakhimpur Commerce College (LCC), North Lakhimpur with calls to avoid tobacco consumption and production for the protection of the environment. The day was observed at the district level in the college under the aegis of District Legal Service Authority (DLSA), Lakhimpur in association with Anti-Narcotics and Drugs Cell, Lakhimpur Commerce College, Mahila Shakti Kendra of District Level Centre for Women under Social Welfare Department, ECM and AE Project (IGSSS-UNICEF). The observation of the day began with a walkathon by students of Lakhimpur Commerce College, DLSA-Lakhimpur, Mahila Shakti Kendra and other participating agencies from the college through the main roads of North Lakhimpur town. This was followed by a street play against tobacco consumption by students of Lakhimpur Commerce College in front of the District Judicial Complex in North Lakhimpur. Later, a meeting was held at the seminar hall of Lakhimpur Commerce College which was chaired by Principal Dr. Lohit Hazarika. Secretary of District Legal Service Authority, Lakhimpur Anup Khanal explained the objective of the meeting. Dr. Shamiul Akhtar Borborah of Lakhimpur Medical College and Hospital attended the meeting as resource person. In his address Dr. Borborah said that smoking or any other form of tobacco consumption is the gateway of drugs or substance abuse and urged everyone to be aware of it. Speaking on this year's theme of the No Tobacco Day, Dr. Borborah also mentioned the environmental impact that the world sustains in growing a single tobacco plant or producing a single cigarette. He asked everyone to quit using all forms of tobacco so that our planet earth is saved from environmental catastrophe. Several short films on dangers of tobacco consumption were screened in the meeting. The meeting, anchored by Prangana Bora, District Level Centre for Women under Social Welfare Department, ended with vote of thanks by Kuki Baruah of Mahila Shakti.

World no Tobacco day observed



Assam Rising, Aalo, May 31: World no Tobacco Day was observed in the Office complex of Deputy Commissioner Aalo. All the Officers and Officials of the DC Office And SP Office took pledge. Penga Tato Deputy Commissioner West Siang District declared the DC Office Complex and S.P Office Complex as no Tobacco Zone and he also directed all the HoDs to issue no Tobacco zone in their office premises. If anybody found to have violated the prohibitory order, the defaulter will be fined as per the law and action will be initiated from the district administration. To monitor the prohibitory order, ADC Aalo is entrusted to check the Office complexes on a regular basis and report to the DC Aalo. Dr. Dubom Bagra, DMO Aalo briefed the ill effects of the tobacco consumption and announced that no shopkeepers will sell tobacco products near the school campus.

Assam Rifles conducted health & Hygiene awareness drive

Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, May 31: Lokra Battalion under the aegis of Headquarter 21 Sector Assam Rifles and Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) conducted Awareness Lectures on Health and Hygiene at Lokra Garrison and at Helem under Biswanath district on Monday, stated a press release. The lectures were conducted by the medical rep of the Unit hospital Lokra Battalion, with an aim to educate the local populace about various lifestyle diseases, their causes and remedial measures. The attendees including the children were also enlightened on preventive measures against the Covid and how maintaining a good hygiene helps in prevention of such diseases so as to



keep up a healthy lifestyle. Lectures were attended by a number of villagers including children at Lokra and Helem as well. The local people expressed their heartfelt gratitude and conveyed regards for the continuous efforts taken by the Assam Rifles to improve the society.

Qatar World Cup criticised for 'problematic' carbon footprint promises

Qatar, May 31 : The Qatar World Cup is failing to live up to promises on reducing its carbon footprint, a new report has warned, creating another problem for the tournament. Organisers have claimed that the 32-team showpiece will be the first "carbon neutral" World Cup, meaning any emissions would be limited and offset. However Carbon Market Watch (CMW), a not-for-profit organisation which works closely with the European Union, has examined the organisers' plans and says projected emissions have likely been underreported, with the footprint created from building seven new stadiums of particular concern. "It would be great to see the climate impact of Fifa World Cups being drastically reduced but the carbon neutrality claim that is being made is simply not



credible," said Gilles Dufresne of CMW, author of the analysis. "Despite a lack of transparency, the evidence suggests that the emissions from this World Cup will be considerably higher than expected by the organisers, and the carbon credits being purchased to offset these emissions are unlikely to have a sufficiently positive

impact on the climate." Central to CMW's complaint is its calculation that carbon emissions created by the new stadiums could be as much as eight times higher than the figures contained in Qatar's analysis. The CMW report claims the hosts have made a calculation which spreads a stadium's carbon footprint over its entire lifetime,

something the report describes as "problematic". "These stadiums have been constructed specifically for the World Cup," CMW said. "Future extensive use of so many stadiums in such a small geographical space is uncertain, especially when considered against the fact that Doha had only one major stadium before it was awarded the World Cup." Further criticisms related to plans to absorb emissions with a large-scale "tree and turf nursery". The CMW report claims this idea is "not credible" because any

absorption is "unlikely to be permanent in these artificial and vulnerable green spaces". It also questions the carbon credit system Qatar plans to use to offset remaining emissions at the end of the event. The new format, known as the Global Carbon Council (GCC), was originally authorised by Qatari authorities and has different criteria to other established credit systems. It is being used in relation to only two other projects worldwide and has sold 130,000 credits. A minimum of 1.8 million are expected to be sold to the World Cup.

F1 schism with FIA deepens after controversial decisions in Monaco

Monte Carlo, May 31 : After another weekend when the FIA's performance was publicly criticised at the Monaco Grand Prix there are indications of an increasing schism between F1 and the FIA and in particular its new president, Mohammed Ben Sulayem. Sources fear that the governing body is damaging the sport just as it is enjoying a surge in popularity. The FIA was criticised after the Monaco GP for the race director, Eduardo Freitas, delaying the start because of rain. Lewis Hamilton was among several drivers who said they could have at least begun the race before the rain became too heavy and that the FIA was too conservative in its concern that the drivers had not done any wet running until that point. "I don't know the reason for them not sending us out," he said. "We are Formula One drivers; [the weather] is not a good enough reason." That was the latest in a series of FIA decisions the Guardian understands is increasingly infuriating F1 and its teams.



Ben Sulayem took over in December from Jean Todt and under his stewardship a fractious relationship has developed within the sport. Ben Sulayem presided over the failure to ban Russian drivers from competing in FIA events, allowing them to continue to race under a neutral flag, when F1 had acted swiftly and decisively to sever all ties with the Russian GP. The FIA was made to look farcical shortly afterwards when individual national racing bodies such as Britain's

Motorsport UK issued their own ban on Russian teams, competitors or officials participating in events in the UK. Equally the FIA report into the controversy of the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix was felt by many to be deeply unsatisfactory and failed to genuinely address what had happened at the race that cost Hamilton an eighth title. More recently Ben Sulayem opposed the unanimous agreement by F1 and all the teams to increase the number of sprint races next year to six.

'It's a fresh start': Reid and Hewett hungry for 10 in a row at French Open

London, May 31 : "We're excited to get back to Paris," says Alfie Hewett, and there's a good reason why: he and his partner Gordon Reid are looking for their 10th consecutive grand slam title at Roland Garros this week. "I'm feeling confident, he's feeling confident and, obviously, we're on a bit of a roll," he says with a grin. Speak to the pre-eminent pairing in men's wheelchair tennis, however, and it's clear that the reasons for enthusiasm go deeper than the prospect of more competitive success. Barely nine months ago, the normally photogenic duo



were sitting pale-faced and drawn in the shadows of Tokyo's Ariake Tennis Park having lost out on their dream of a Paralympic gold

medal. Worse than that, it looked to be the last time they would ever play with each other, with Hewett set to be disqualified from the

sport due to a reclassification of his disability. That verdict, which appeared arbitrary and had certainly been drawn out, took its toll on Hewett. "It was a massive cloud that had been looming over my head for a few years and I probably didn't appreciate how difficult it really was," he says. "I just focused on one event at a time, tried to forget about it and continue on, hoping that in the long run my decision would get reversed. It was completely out of my power. So that brought a lot of emotion and a lot of people saw that at the Paralympics." Last winter, however, Hewett's declassification was overturned on appeal and in January the pair got back to business, winning the 14th major of their partnership at the Australian Open. Reid says admiration for his partner had only grown as he watched him work through his ordeal. "It's been very impressive the way he's dealt with it," Reid says. "His whole career and livelihood had essentially been taken away from him. We've also put a lot of hours in together to try and become the best wheelchair tennis team in the world. We didn't want that to be taken away from us either."

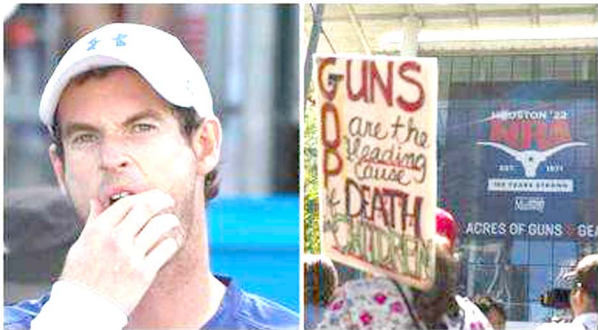
Shubhankar Sharma finishes 14th at Dutch Open

New Delhi, May 31 : India's Shubhankar Sharma completed a good week, laced with 18 birdies, with a Tied-14th finish at the Dutch Open on the DP World Tour. Sharma had as many as 18 birdies over four days. But the Indian also gave away 13 bogeys. The finish would nevertheless give Sharma a big boost, considering he missed four cuts in five previous starts. After three birdies in his opening 71, Sharma had six birdies in a second round 71 and six

more in his third round 69. The final round saw two birdies on front nine but he gave away three bogeys in his first six holes on back nine before closing with a birdie on 18th for the third time in four days. With a packed calendar ahead, Sharma will hope his birdie-making skills come good even as he works on cutting down the bogeys to improve on his 17th place on the Race to Dubai rankings. The other two Indians, Gaganjeet Bhullar (73-74) and SSP Chawrasia (74-77) had

missed the cut. Meanwhile, the Dundee-based Frenchman Victor Perez, 29, was exceptional in clutch putting and held off Kiwi Ryan Fox in a play-off to win his second DP World Tour title. Perez started the final day in a share of the lead but following Fox's great show, he was three shots back as he stood on the 17th tee. Fox double bogeyed the 18th and Perez birdied the penultimate hole and then missed a six footer for birdie.

Andy Murray 'angry' about Texas school shooting



London, May 31 : Britain's two-time Wimbledon champion Andy Murray has said the mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas, made him "angry" and that a survivor's account of the incident was similar to his own experience in the 1996 Dunblane massacre in Scotland. An 18-year-old gunman armed with a semi-automatic rifle stormed an elementary school in Texas last week, killing 19 children and two teachers. The attack, 10 days after a shooting in Buffalo, New York that left 10 people dead, has intensified the longstanding national debate over US gun laws. "It's unbelievably

upsetting and it makes you angry. I think there's been over 200 mass shootings in America this year and nothing changes," Murray said. "I can't understand that ... My feeling is that surely at some stage you do something different. You can't keep approaching the problem by buying more guns and having more guns in the country. I don't see how that solves it." But I could be wrong. Let's maybe try something different and see if you get a different outcome." Murray grew up in Dunblane and was a student at the town's primary school when a gunman killed 16 pupils and a teacher before killing

himself. It is the deadliest mass shooting in Britain's modern history. "I heard something on the radio the other day and it was a child from that school," Murray told the BBC. "I experienced a similar thing when I was at Dunblane, a teacher coming out and waving all of the children under tables and telling them to go and hide." And it was a kid telling exactly the same story about how she survived it. "They were saying that they go through these drills, as young children ... How? How is that normal that children should be having to go through drills, in case someone comes into a school with a gun?"

Gabe Kapler: MLB's liberal jock in America's most conservative league

London, May 31 : They were teammates on the curse-busting 2004 Boston Red Sox: Curt Schilling, the brilliant and brave pitcher, and Gabe Kapler, a journeyman outfielder who boasted the physique of Charles Atlas yet was somehow never a home run threat. Schilling became a far-right pundit-provocateur in retirement, a man as committed to owning the libs as he once was to beating the New York Yankees. The Donald Trump supporter has considered running for Congress and his Twitter feed was a predictable festival of Fox News-grade fatuity following the Uvalde massacre (because it is clear America will slide into autocracy if teenagers can't buy AR-15s). Kapler, meanwhile, was hired as the San Francisco Giants' manager in late 2019 after a stint in charge of the Philadelphia Phillies. Rather than resort to memes, insults and straw-man arguments after 19 children and two teachers were killed at a Texan elementary school, he posted a 700-word essay on his blog explaining his decision to stop standing on the field for the pregame national anthem. "I'm often struck before our games by the lack of delivery of the promise of what our national anthem represents," he wrote. "Every time I place my hand over my heart and remove my hat, I'm participating in a self-congratulatory glorification of the ONLY country where these mass shootings take place." The 46-year-old added: "I am not OK with the state of this country ... when you're dissatisfied with your country, you let it be known through protest. The home of the brave should encourage this." His move, coming after the Yankees and Tampa Bay Rays used their social media channels last Thursday to post facts about gun violence rather than game updates, catapulted America's most staid major sports league, and one of its most unconventional personalities, into the middle of a deeply contentious political issue.

Paris final fiasco triggers Hillsborough survivor trauma



Liverpool, May 31 : Kevin Cowley is a 50-year-old driving examiner, a former Metropolitan police officer and a survivor of the Hillsborough disaster. He was in pen three on 15 April 1989, where many of the 97 Liverpool fans were unlawfully killed at the FA Cup semi-final. On Saturday he attended the Champions League final between Jürgen Klopp's team and Real Madrid at Stade de France. His experience of Uefa's showpiece event reopened a 33-year-old trauma. "I am in pieces again," said Cowley. His voice, breaking with emotion, testifies to that. "It took me years to get over Hillsborough and I feel like I've just relived Hillsborough again. Saturday was horrendous. I want to vocalise this because I spent so many years bottling up Hillsborough and that did so much to me that I have to do something this time. I want to talk." Cowley purchased a £125 ticket for the final through Liverpool. At 6.15pm on Saturday, two-and-three-quarter hours before the scheduled kick-off, he made his way to the stadium with a friend. "There was already a massive buildup of Liverpool fans trying to get to the ground," he says. "We thought they must have put something in place to check tickets and bags, as they did in Madrid [for the 2019 Champions League final]."

Jonny Bairstow 'excited and intrigued' by England's McCullum appointment



London, May 31 : Jonny Bairstow has said he is "excited and intrigued" by the arrival of Brendon McCullum as England's Test coach and by the prospect of a new era for his team. Bairstow arrived in England last Monday following Punjab Kings' elimination from the Indian Premier League, throwing him into a whirlwind turnaround as he prepares for England's first Test against New Zealand, which starts at Lord's on Thursday. "I'm definitely intrigued because of the blend of how he played his cricket and his coaching style and how that all fits

together, the successes he had on the field and also off the field, and how that fits with Test cricket and our English game," Bairstow said of McCullum. "It's about taking wickets, about going out and winning key periods of the game, winning games of cricket. That's what we want to be doing. It takes time to play in that kind of fashion but I'm sure there'll be things that rub off within the next weeks, months and years." There is also the prospect of what Bairstow called "an exciting partnership" developing between McCullum and

the team's new captain, Ben Stokes, though he does not expect to see a great transformation in his teammate. "I think over a period of time now the experiences that he's had, within his cricket career, within his life, all stand him in good stead. And those experiences, for good or bad, will also enable him to maintain his composure when it is tested." The 32-year-old said he is "delighted with how I have come out of the winter", having topped England's batting averages in the Ashes - where he played only the third and fourth matches - and produced his highest Test score in nearly six years during the tour of West Indies, before competing in the IPL. Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum at Lord's as they prepare England for the first Test.

Inter to hold talks over possible return for Romelu Lukaku from Chelsea

Paris, May 31 : Internazionale are due to hold talks with Romelu Lukaku's lawyer on Tuesday to explore a possible return to the club for the Chelsea striker. Lukaku has endured a difficult first season back at Chelsea and would like to go back to Inter but a deal would be complicated given that the Premier League club paid £97.5m to take him from there last August. Inter have not yet held talks with Chelsea regarding a formula that could lead to a transfer, with a loan the only realistic possibility from the Italian club's perspective. Lukaku's representatives intend to speak to Chelsea soon to understand how they view his future. Lukaku scored 64 goals in 95 games for Inter across two seasons, playing a major part in their 2020-21 Serie A



title success, but has been unable to replicate that form at Chelsea. He started only 16 Premier League games and ended the campaign with 15 goals from 44 appearances. Thomas Tuchel wants new forwards and is monitoring Raheem Sterling, who has a year remaining on his deal at Manchester City. There is interest too in Christopher Nkunku, although it will be hard to convince RB Leipzig to sell. Lille's Jonathan David, Benfica's Darwin Núñez and Barcelona's Ousmane Dembélé, who is out of contract, are other targets. Tuchel would love to sign Robert Lewandowski but the Bayern Munich striker wants to join Barcelona. Inter's chief executive, Giuseppe Marotta, was asked on Monday about potential moves for Lukaku and Paulo Dybala, who is leaving Juventus at the end of his contract. "Dybala and Lukaku? From our side there is no anxiety, we don't have to do anything in a hasty way," he said. "The hope is that Dybala can play with us."

How the downsized National Spelling Bee can regain its pre-pandemic sting

London, May 31 : After a disheartening cancellation in 2020 and a largely virtual event last year, the Scripps National Spelling Bee is back in person. To be sure, 2020 and 2021 weren't lost years: online spelling bees, including my own, blossomed, and 2021 saw the crowning of the first African American champion. But this year's return to a semblance of normalcy - with LeVar Burton emceeing the event! - will undoubtedly delight logophiles and Trekkies alike. The Bee has become an American cultural institution. Watching elementary and middle-school students wrestle with words under high pressure and strict time limits - a mere 90 seconds to ask questions and an additional 30 seconds to spell - is captivating. The Bee rewards discipline, feats of memory and linguistic mastery: what you see onstage is the culmination of hundreds of hours of work, with spellers' parents, and tutors like me, playing supporting roles. The approximately 30 words that a champion speller receives onstage are the surface of a deep reservoir of knowledge. That a competition which unapologetically champions learning has thrived for more than 90 years should be cause for celebration. But numerous changes threaten the Bee's future.



Traditionally, regional bees have been sponsored by local newspapers and community organizations, but the demise of print publications has left large swathes of the US without regional competitions. The National Spelling Bee has held "at-large" bees to close the gap, but these bees are too few to compensate. Among remaining regional spelling bees, to economize and assuage lingering Covid fears, organizers have shifted to virtual bees, which are susceptible to cheating. Some regions have even replaced live competition with computerized tests, which are relatively easy to game. These changes have weakened the national field. The pool has

shrunk drastically. In 2019, 535 spellers competed. This year, there will be 234 spellers - a slight rebound from last year's pool of 209. The main reason is that Scripps has eliminated the RSVBee invitation program, an arrangement which allowed spellers from competitive states like New Jersey, California, and Texas who demonstrated previous orthographic accomplishment and paid a fee, to attend nationals despite not having won restrictive regional bees. In previous years, many strong spellers, including champions, were RSVBee participants. The upshot of suspending RSVBee is that the field is substantially weaker. As a tutor, I can attest that

some of my best tutees - many of whom would otherwise have been contenders for the finals - won't be attending nationals because of RSVBee's hiatus. Scripps' decision to end RSVBee probably stems from the desire to simplify Bee logistics as Covid drags on and an attempt to neutralize economic inequality and "pay-to-play" accusations. But regional inequality is equally unfair: a child in Wyoming will qualify for nationals far more easily than a New Yorker. Financially, Scripps would regain a major income source by reinstating RSVBee and could use that income to offer financial aid or fund regional bees in bee-less areas. It might allow the Bee to return to ESPN, which would likely bolster viewership. Other rules have been changed in ways that affect the Bee's nature. Sudden-death onstage vocabulary rounds, where spellers must select a word's definition within 30 seconds, have turned the bee into a "spelling-and-vocabulary

bee." Though I'm all in favor of "advanc[ing] ... word knowledge and literacy" (the rationale Scripps offers), such a goal can be achieved as Scripps has previously done: with a half-vocabulary preliminaries test. Otherwise, one risks having situations (as in fact occurred last year) where kids are eliminated on a word like "leeward", which is rarefied enough that it doesn't feel fair to expect a seventh-grader to know it or work it out using word roots. Another rule change is the introduction of a 90-second spell-off at the end of the competition. If judges invoke a spell-off, then the remaining finalists must spell as many words as possible from a list. The speller who spells the most words correctly wins. This feels like a gimmick lifted from a game show. Fundamentally, the spelling bee's unique drama derives from the high stakes of each word: it's all-or-nothing, single-elimination. By not penalizing a missed word onstage, the spell-off destroys this aspect of the competition altogether.



Gujarat Titans celebrate maiden IPL title with roadshow

New Delhi, May 31 : The Gujarat Titans team held a roadshow at Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad on Monday celebrating their victory in IPL cricket final. Captain Hardik Pandya was instrumental with the ball on Sunday night to hand the new franchise their maiden IPL trophy. "This title is going to be a special one because we talked about creating a legacy. The coming generations will talk about it," Hardik had said after the match. "Everyone will remember this was the team who started this journey and to win the championship first year is very special." The Gujarat Ti-

tans' triumphant skipper said he knew he was going to bat at number four for the first-timers after they got done with the mega auction ahead of IPL-15. "When the auction finished, I knew I would have to bat at No. 4," Hardik said at the presentation ceremony. Hardik has won four IPL titles with Mumbai Indians. Gujarat Titans team held roadshow at Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad on Monday celebrating their victory in IPL cricket final. (Express photo by N i r m a l Harindran) Gujarat's highly-rated bowling attack, led by skipper

Hardik (3/17) himself, limited a formidable Rajasthan Royals batting unit to 130 for nine after losing the toss. Opting to bat first, Rajasthan never got going and posted a below-par 130-9 with Jos Buttler, this IPL's leading scorer, topscoring for them with a rather subdued 39. Hardik Pandya (3-17) led by example with the ball. Pandya shone with the bat too, scoring 34 and forging a 63-run stand with Shubman Gill to help Gujarat overcome a slow start to their chase. Opener Gill remained unbeaten on 45, sealing Gujarat's victory with a six and with 11 balls to spare.

ISSF World Cup: Elavenil, Ramita and Shreya win gold in women's 10m air rifle team competition



New Delhi, May 31 : India opened their account at the ongoing ISSF World Cup with the trio of Elavenil Valarivan, Ramita and Shreya Agrawal claiming the gold medal in the 10m air rifle team women competition in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The Indian trio outplayed Denmark represented by Anna Nielsen, Emma Koch and Rikke Maeng Ibsen, 17-5 in the gold medal contest. Poland won bronze in the event. Former world number one Elavenil, Ramita and Shreya had reached the gold medal clash after two rounds of qualification on Monday. The Indian trio had first topped the qualification stage one with a combined effort of 944.4 across 90 shots. They

then came second in stage two behind Denmark, to make the title round. In men's air rifle team competition, Indian trio of Rudranksh Patil, Paarth Makhija and Dhanush Srikanth fell short in their bronze medal match against Croatia, going down 10-16. The 12-member Indian rifle squad now finds itself at the fifth spot in the medals tally with Serbia leading the field with two golds and a total of four medals.

Paris, May 31 : Iga Swiatek's 20-set winning streak ended. Doesn't matter, because her run of consecutive match victories is now up to 32. The No. 1-ranked Swiatek shook off an uncharacteristically problematic stretch and came back to beat 19-year-old Zheng Qinwen of China 6-7 (5), 6-0, 6-2 Monday in the fourth round at Roland Garros. Swiatek, the 2020 French Open champion, took leads of 3-0 and 5-2 in the first set but couldn't close it out, wasting five set points in all. In the tiebreaker, Swiatek claimed five consecutive points to lead 5-2 - and the 74th-ranked Zheng responded by reeling off the



next five points. That was the first set ceded by Swiatek since April 23. Zheng's movement was not as good at the start of the second set and she took a medical timeout to have her upper right leg taped while down 3-0. Swiatek grabbed eight straight games to own the second set and take a 2-0 lead in the third and would not let the lead slip away. When it ended, she screamed "Come on!" and shook her right fist. Swiatek has not lost a match since February, earning five consecutive titles. No woman has produced more wins in

a row since Serena Williams had a 34-match streak end in 2013. Swiatek's quarterfinal opponent will be 11th-seeded Jessica Pegula of the United States. Faced with her first major test of the French Open she is so heavily favoured to win, Iga Swiatek embraced the pressure, recovering from a set down to defeat Qinwen Zheng 6-7 (5), 6-0, 6-2 and reach the quarter-finals. The victory means Swiatek has won 32 matches in a row, tied with Justine Henin for the third-longest streak of the 21st century. She has now reached the quarter-finals in each of the last

three years. "I speeded up a little bit my forehand. Maybe that was the solution. But I felt like my mind is a little bit more clear. I was kind of singing songs, and I realised in the first set when I was really focusing on that technical stuff it didn't really work because I got more and more tense when I couldn't do that and I couldn't really prepare to the shot the best way. I was singing in my mind, basically," said Swiatek. She later said she was singing Dua Lipa. Zheng, 19, became just the second player to take a set off Swiatek since 15 March,

going blow for blow with the No. 1 across a brutal, physical 87-minute opening set. Afterwards, she suggested that she had been suffering from menstrual cramps: "I got really pained stomach and I try my best, but it's just, in the second and third set, I couldn't, I didn't have power to scream one, 'Come on' even. It was really tough." She continued: "It's just girls' things, you know," she said. "The first day is always so tough and then I have to do sport and I always have so much pain in the first day. And I couldn't go against my nature. I wish I can be a man on court, but I cannot in that moment when I say, I really wish I can be man that I don't have to suffer from this. It's tough." Swiatek will next face Jessica Pegula, the 11th seed, and the second highest-ranked player left in the tournament after herself. Pegula recovered from a set down to defeat Irina Camelia Begu 4-6, 6-2, 6-3. Meanwhile, Daria Kasatkina will face Veronika Kudermetova in the other quarter-final.

Indian team to assemble in Delhi on June 5, South Africa squad arrives on June 2

New Delhi, May 31 : The Indian cricket team will assemble here on June 5 ahead of the five-match T20 series against South Africa. The first match of the series begins here on June 9 and South Africa will arrive here on June

2. There will be no crowd restrictions and there will be no bio-bubble for the series though players will be tested regularly for COVID-19. The other venues are Cuttack (June 12), Visakhapatnam (June 14), Rajkot (June 17) and

Bengaluru (June 19). "The Indian team will assemble here on June 5 while the South Africans land in Delhi on June 2," DDCA joint secretary Rajan Manchanda told. The Indian cricketers are in the middle of a much needed break

post a two-month long IPL. K.L. Rahul will lead the Indian team in the absence of regular skipper Rohit Sharma who has been rested for the series alongside other all format players, including Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah.

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