



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Kidnapping of driver

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 02 :

Police on Thursday arrested an eight-member gang in Assam's Chirang district for their alleged involvement in the kidnapping of a driver. Acting on specific input, a team of police carried out a search operation in the Bengtola area in Chirang district and nabbed the members of the gang. "We received information about a man being forcefully taken into a car. Police teams across the region were notified and the victim was traced to the Bengtola area in the district," Superintendent of Police (SP), Pranjit Duwarah said.

ASI arrested

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 02 :

The Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of Nagaon Police Reserve has been arrested for allegedly trying to bribe Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) of Nagaon at his office on Thursday. According to police reports, ASI Abdul Mutalib tried to bribe DSP Tridip Kumbang at the office of the Superintendent of Police by offering him Rs 10,000 for allotting him a post in an outpost of his choice. ASI Mutalib was arrested by Tridip Kumbang for the illegal gratification. A case has been registered against him under the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA).

UPPL Expels leader

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 02 :

The United Peoples Party Liberal (UPPL) expelled UPPL leader Manaranjan Brahma for anti-party activities. Brahma contested as MLA candidate from Kokrajhar West LAC in the last Assembly elections from UPPL. Manaranjan Brahma has been expelled from all the party portfolios and primary membership of UPPL for his anti-party, anti-BTR and anti-poor activities with immediate effect. The expulsion order has been issued after thorough consideration by the UPPL leadership as per Article XVI, section 6 of the constitution of UPPL. Brahma can no longer hold any party position and represent the party at any forum, stated a press note issued by UPPL General Secretary Raju Kr. Brahma.

Racism Against NE Students Reduced Due To PM Modi's Outreach: CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 02 :

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday said that the discrimination against students from the northeast has reduced due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's outreach in the region in the last few years. While addressing a press conference, CM Sarma said that such discrimination against the students has "gone down to a huge extent". "If you look at the last 2-3 years, because of PM Modi's huge outreach to the northeast now racial discrimination against students of the northeast has



suddenly gone down to a huge extent," he said. The chief minister later took to Twitter and lauded PM Modi's "visionary leadership", and said that he has "repositioned India as a

strong global power". "A new wave of growth & development has swept across NE in the past 8 years under Adarniya @narendramodi ji's guidance. On behalf of the

people of Assam, I express my heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble PM for unlocking NE's potential, making it new engine of India's growth," he tweeted. Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma while advocating for an equal share of the property for the wife, also battled for the marriage of a Muslim man with one woman instead of three. The chief minister also called for a legal divorce in the community instead of giving Talaq. CM Sarma during a press con-

ference on Wednesday said, "Assam government is very clear that no Muslim man should marry three women. Don't give Talaq, give divorce legally. An equal share of the property should be given to daughters like sons. Give 50 per cent share of the property to the wife. Views of the government and the common Muslims are same." Giving credit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the reduction in "discrimination against students

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Ahead of ED questioning in the National Herald case, Sonia Gandhi tests Covid-19 positive



New Delhi, June 02 :

Sonia Gandhi has reportedly tested positive for Covid-19. Congress'

Randeep Surjewala told news agencies, "Congress president Sonia Gandhi tests positive for Covid-19. She has developed mild fever and some symptoms and has isolated herself and has been given requisite medical attention. As of today, her date of appearance before ED on June 8th stands as it is." Sonia was asked to appear before the agency on June 8 in an offi-

cial notice by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) while Rahul, who is reportedly not in town, was asked to join the investigations on June 2 but the former Congress president sought a time after June 5, as he is not in the country, party sources said on Wednesday (June 1). "When the Congress was not scared of the British

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HC rejects ED's objection, allows Abhishek Banerjee to travel abroad

Kolkata, June 02 :

Calcutta High Court on Thursday rejected ED's objection to restrain Abhishek Banerjee from leaving the country and allowed him to travel to Dubai for medical treatment. Abhishek Banerjee will be able to go abroad for eye treatment. Abhishek will be accompanied by his wife Rujira when he goes to Dubai. The High Court responded to Abhishek's petition but on one condition. ED has to be informed where Abhishek is being treated at a hospital in



Dubai and where he is staying. Calcutta High Court has also said that the air tickets and phone numbers of Dubai will have to be shared with the ED. Abhishek Banerjee and his wife are not named in the FIR. When

called, he went to the ED's office, information has been given. As a result, there is no question of non-cooperation in the investigation, Abhishek's lawyer claimed. The ED had objected that Abhishek could go abroad and meet Vinay Mishra. Their question was, what is the problem that Abhishek is not being treated in India? The ED had accused Abhishek of concealing medical information. That is why the ED had objected to Abhishek's foreign travel even for medical reasons. The ED expressed apprehension that Abhishek may flee to Dubai. However, the Calcutta High Court dismissed the claim. The High

Court then asked a counter-question. According to sources, the High court had asked the ED, "When you know Vinay Mishra is in Dubai, what action did you take?". He questions ED's objection to Abhishek's foreign travel. Earlier, Abhishek Banerjee had written to the ED asking not to summon him in the coal smuggling case from June 3 to 10. Because he is going abroad for medical treatment. According to sources, the ED then banned him from leaving the country in response. Abhishek then moved the court seeking a stay on the

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Flood Situation Improves, Over 1 Lakh Still in Distress

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 02 :

The flood situation in Assam improved on Wednesday even though two more persons died and nearly 1.02 lakh people remain affected by the deluge across four districts, an official bulletin said. According to the daily report of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), one person each died in Katigorh and Sonai of Cachar district due to the flood. The death toll due to the flood and landslides this year has now gone up to 38 across Assam. The ASDMA said 1,01,926 people are still in distress due to the floods in Cachar, Dima Hasao, Morigaon and Nagaon districts. Nagaon is the worst hit with over 47,200 people suffering, followed by Morigaon with more than 40,700 people and Cachar with nearly 14,000 people. Till Tuesday, almost 1.77 lakh people were affected by the deluge across the four districts in



the state. At present, 171 villages are under water and 6,892.42 hectares of crop areas have been damaged across Assam, the ASDMA

said. The authorities are running 12 relief camps and distribution centres in four districts, where 2,560 people, including 578 chil-

dren, are currently staying, it said. The administrations have distributed 243.87 quintals of rice, dal and salt, 50 quintals of cattle feed

and other relief items. Massive erosion has been witnessed in Barpeta, Biswanath, Dhubri, Hojai, Sonitpur, Tinsukia and Udalguri districts. Embankments, roads, bridges and other infrastructure have been damaged by floodwaters in Cachar, Karimganj and Nagaon, the ASDMA said. A total of 96,721 domestic animals and poultry have been affected by the deluge across nine districts, it added. With each passing year, the flooding situation in Assam appears to deteriorate due to incessant

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Sidhu Moosewala killing: 424 VIPs security to be restored in Punjab, court slams AAP government

New Delhi, June 02 :

After the controversial day-light murder of Congress leader and famous Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, the Punjab

government has decided to restore the security of over 400 VIPs, media reports said. Sidhu Moosewala was killed in Punjab's Mansa in broad daylight, just a day after his security was re-

moved by the Bhagwant-Mann led AAP government. According to reports, in a sealed cover, the Punjab government submitted

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Police Nabs Fraudster for Duping Students for Admission to Medical Courses

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 02 :

The Assam Police on Wednesday said it has arrested a person from West Bengal's Siliguri for allegedly duping students by promising to get them enrolled in MBBS and BDS courses. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Assam Police in a statement said that the accused, hailing from Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh, was nabbed from his hideout in Siliguri on the intervening night of Tuesday

and Wednesday. "He was produced before a local court for transit remand and is being brought back to Assam for further lawful action in connection with the case," the statement said. The case was registered in 2014 based on complaints of several victims who had paid huge amounts of money to the accused person for admission of their wards in the MBBS and BDS courses. The accused published a fake advertisement in a

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Union MoS Murugan visits fish farms in Meghalaya

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 02 :

Union Minister of State for Ministries of Information & Broadcasting and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairy-

ing, Dr. L Murugan on his first day of visit in Meghalaya took stock of fish farming sites in the northeastern State and interacted with the fish farmers and beneficiaries of various government schemes

under the Department of Fisheries. The Minister visited a fish farm at Umeit village in Ri-Bhoi district and interacted with the farmers and discussed the various

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Monsoon Enters North-East, Heavy Rains Predicted In Assam, Meghalaya



New Delhi, June 02 :

After a brief lull, the Bay of Bengal arm of the southwest monsoon has stirred into action and entered north-eastern parts of the country and is set to bring heavy rains over Assam

and Meghalaya over the next two days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Thursday. "Southwest monsoon has further advanced into some parts of northwest Bay of Bengal, some more parts of northeast & eastcentral

Bay of Bengal and most parts of Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland," the India Meteorological Department said. On Wednesday, the monsoon had covered Bengaluru, Chikmagalur, Karwar. Under the influence of monsoonal westerly

winds from the Arabian Sea over the south peninsular India, the weather office has forecast fairly widespread rainfall over coastal and south Interior Karnataka, Kerala, Mahe

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A Long March-2C carrier rocket carrying a group of nine commercial satellites blasts off from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China

Russia tightens grip on Ukrainian city, slams US for supplying rockets

Kyiv, June 02 : Russian forces were attempting to extend and consolidate their hold on Ukraine's industrial city of Sievierodonetsk on Thursday (June 2), edging closer to claiming a big prize in their offensive in the eastern Donbas region. But in a boost for Ukraine, locked in a grinding struggle against Russia's invading army, the United States announced a \$700 million weapons package for Kyiv that will include advanced rocket systems with a range of up to 80 km (50 miles). Russia accused the United States of adding "fuel to the fire". Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the supply of the rocket launchers raised the risk of a "third country"

being dragged into the conflict. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Ukraine had promised it would not use the systems to hit targets inside Russia. President Joe Biden hopes extending Ukraine's artillery reach will help push Russia to negotiate an end to the war, which on Friday marks its 100th day. After days of heavy fighting around Sievierodonetsk, much of which has been laid to waste by Russian bombardment, Russian troops were inching forward through city streets. Ukraine says about 70% of the city is under Russian control, with Russian troops in the city centre. "The enemy is conducting assault operations in the settlement of Sievierodonetsk," Ukraine's armed forces general staff said

on Thursday, adding that Russian forces were also attacking in other parts of the east and northeast. At least four civilians were killed and 10 wounded in the east and northeast, other officials said. Russia denies targeting civilians. Capturing all of Luhansk would fulfil one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's main aims and solidify a shift in battlefield momentum after his forces were pushed back from the capital Kyiv and from northern Ukraine. Thousands of people have been killed in Ukraine and millions more displaced since the invasion began. Amid

worries about the global ramifications of the war, Ukraine's grain traders' union said this year's wheat harvest was likely to drop to 19.2 million tonnes from a record 33 million in 2021. Russia and Ukraine account for nearly a third of global wheat supplies, while Russia is also a key fertilizer exporter and Ukraine a major supplier of corn and sunflower oil. Biden is due to meet NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Thursday in Washington. Stoltenberg told reporters he would soon convene a meeting in Brussels with Swedish, Finnish and Turkish officials to discuss Turkey's opposition to Sweden and Finland joining NATO.

Russia and the west compete to secure safe passage for Ukraine's grain

Moscow, June 02 : In a game of diplomatic cat and mouse, Russia and the west are coming up with similar if sometimes competing ideas for how Ukraine's badly needed grain can be given safe passage through the Black Sea and on to the world markets. They are also competing to win the battle for world opinion if the plans collapse. Both

sides are busy diplomatically across Africa and the Middle East trying to portray their adversary as the culprit for spiralling food and fertiliser prices. Russia and Ukraine export more than a quarter of the world's wheat, while Russia is the world's top fertiliser exporter. The World Bank's Fertiliser Price Index rose nearly 10% in the first quarter of 2022, to an all-time



high in nominal terms. Ukraine's backlog of 20m tonnes of grain needs to be exported quickly to avoid a further explosion of food prices, and also to preserve the next Ukrainian harvest that currently cannot be sent to already full storage facilities. That is not possible due to the Russian naval blockade of the Black Sea port of Odesa, and Ukrainian floating mines planted to block the port from Russian attack. Russia, in return for lifting the blockade, wants any

sanctions on its shipping and fertiliser products lifted. At issue is whether there is a deal to be done. In what is beginning to look like the main plan, the Russian foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, has agreed to meet the Turkish president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, but not until 8 June, over proposals for Turkey to de-mine Odesa and then escort grain ships through to the Bosphorous along a naval corridor. Erdoğan spoke with Vladimir Putin about the proposal on Monday, and according to the Turkish read-out, Putin was willing to cooperate, on conditions. Turkey, through

the 1936 Montreux convention, is arbiter of sea traffic in and out of the Black Sea, and justifies its refusal as a Nato member to impose sanctions on Russia by pointing to this unique role. The Turkish foreign minister, Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, said on Tuesday that food security was the most important question: "We are focusing on this. We are planning to establish a centre in Istanbul to observe the corridor." Within Europe, the Italian prime minister, Mario Draghi, has taken the practical initiative, discussing the issue first with Joe Biden a fortnight ago then last week holding talks with the Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, then Putin and then Zelenskyy again. The Ukrainians have said they are willing to see Odesa demined, but conditions would have to be set on how the Russian navy would not use the clearance of mines as an opportunity for its warships to move closer to the port.

'End of an era': Sheryl Sandberg leaves behind powerful - if complicated-legacy

London, June 02 : Sheryl Sandberg announced on Wednesday she will step down from her role as chief operating officer of Facebook, after 14 years as one of the most powerful figures at a company that transformed Silicon Valley. During her time at Facebook, now Meta, she saw the company through a meteoric rise and an ongoing storm of controversies. Sandberg herself transformed into a controversial figurehead for corporate feminism following the release of her

book Lean In, which became a seminal manifesto for women in the workplace. Facebook, with Sandberg as one of its most public faces, has weathered scrutiny over the Cambridge Analytica breach, the January 2021 attack on the US Capitol, and most recently documents leaked by the whistleblower Frances Haugen that revealed some of the platform's most toxic impacts. While the scandals have created a mixed legacy for the executive, her mark on the business of Facebook - and the entirety of the social media industry - is undeniable, said Debra Williamson, an analyst at Insider Intelligence who has been following the company since its founding. "There have been plenty of controversies surrounding



Meta, but from a purely business standpoint, what she built at Facebook is pretty powerful, and will go down in the history books," she said. Sandberg joined Facebook four years after its founding to be "the adult in the room" of a young

company and strategize the monetization of its growing user base. She helped revolutionize its advertising business model, turning the company into the juggernaut it is today at \$117bn in revenue in 2021. In 2008, when she began, its

yearly revenue was just \$200m, according to Insider Intelligence. The scandals that took place during her tenure led activists to call for her resignation in recent years, and put into question her legacy as a women's rights leader. Under Sandberg's watch, Meta platforms became "a right-wing playground where misogyny, racism, disinformation" proliferated, said Shaunna Thomas, co-founder of women's rights group UltraViolet. "Sheryl Sandberg may fancy herself a feminist, but her decisions at Meta made social media platforms less safe for women, people of color, and the American electoral system," Thomas said. "Sandberg had the power to take action for 14 years, yet consistently chose not to."

Samoa's PM says China's expectation of Pacific-wide deal 'something we could not agree to'

London, June 02 : Samoa's prime minister has suggested it was unreasonable for China to expect a Pacific trade and security deal to be rushed through this week, as she warmly welcomed the new Australian government's climate policy. The Australian minister for foreign affairs, Penny Wong, announced during a joint press conference in Samoa on Thursday that Australia

would provide it with a new Guardian-class patrol vessel to replace the one that was grounded last year. The prime minister of Samoa, Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, played down the bilateral cooperation agreements her country signed when China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, visited the country. Fiame said the signing ceremony was for bilateral programs and projects, most of which "had started a number of years ago, and it was a formalising process". "It just seemed a bit abnormal because the minister of foreign

affairs was here and there was this particular proposal from the Chinese, that they were seeking regional agreement on," Fiame told reporters on Thursday. "Our position was that you cannot have regional agreement when the region hasn't met to discuss it, and to be called in to have that discussion and to have an expectation that there would be a comprehensive decision or outcome was something that we could not agree to." In a setback for China, Pacific countries declined to sign up to a sweeping regional

economic and security deal proposed by Beijing, after a crucial meeting of Pacific foreign ministers and their Chinese counterpart on Monday. Ten Pacific countries were to be part of the deal. Samoa's position was that region-wide agreements must first be taken to the Pacific Islands Forum. Fiame said she believed Pacific countries had concluded that "we need to meet as a region to consider any proposal that is put to us by our development partners that requires a regional agreement".



Students of Jemo No. 2 Elementary School visit the Furi-Lebu Railway Station in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia.

Shanghai reportedly bans media use of the term 'lockdown' as lockdown ends

Taipei, June 02 : Authorities in Shanghai have reportedly ordered the media to refrain from using the term "lockdown" while reporting on the end of the city's two-month lockdown. This week the Chinese city of 25 million people reopened, allowing most to leave their homes, go to work, and use public transport after more than 60 days inside. On Thursday, according to leaked directives from the city, Chinese media were told to disseminate information about the changes to restrictions, but ordered not to use the phrase "ending the lockdown". "Unlike Wuhan, Shanghai never declared a lockdown, so there is no 'ending the lockdown'," said censorship directives issued to media on Tuesday, and leaked to the China Digital Times. "All parts of Shanghai underwent static management-style suppression and suspensions, but the city's core functions kept operating throughout this period. Emphasise that related measures were temporary, conditional, and

limited." China Digital Times cautioned that such directives are sometimes delivered to publishers orally, and so the wording may not be exact. The Guardian has not independently verified the document. For more than two months Shanghai residents had been largely confined to their apartments or residential communities, or taken to centralised quarantine centres, often for simply living in the same building as a case. The early weeks of the lockdown were beset by food shortages and problems in accessing medical care.

Affidavit

My Actual and correct name is Hafizur Rahman which includes all relevant documents. But my name is wrongly recorded in my Certificate of Assam Higher Secondary Education Council H.S Final Year exam Bearing Roll.0496 No.10180 as Md Hafizur Rahman instead of the correct name Hafizur Rahman. Both same and one identical person. I shall be known as Hafizur Rahman for all Purposes.

Guest House

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

NIT-01/2022-23

Separate Sealed tenders for each group affixing non refundable Court Fee Stamp worth of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight & Paise Twenty Five) only eventually to be drawn up in A.P.W.D. F-2 form are invited from the registered Class-I (C) and Class- II Category Contractors/Firms/Enterprises of appropriate Class under Dibrugarh Circle, for finalization of Rates for Expenditure (Revenue)/SOPD or any other programme under different PHE Divisions within the jurisdiction of Dibrugarh PHE) Circle, for the year 2022-23, as per the budget provision to be intimated by the Chief Engineer (PHE) Water, Assam and as per AA accorded by the Government as mentioned in the detailed NIT No. 1 of 2022-23 up to 2.00PM of 21.06.2022.

The tenders received will be opened on the same date and hour in presence of the tenders or their authorized representatives who would like to be present. If for any unforeseen reason tenders could not be received and opened on the day, then the same will be received and opened in the next working day at the same time for which no separate communication will be made.

The tenderers shall have to deposit an amount of Rs. 5000 (Rupees Five Thousand only) as Security Deposit along with the tender in the form of NSC/KVP/Bank Draft Duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer (PHE) of respective Division (Dibrugarh/Sivasagar/Charaideo/Tinsukia), without which the tender shall be rejected.

Detailed NIT stating the group list, rates quoting formats and other particulars may be obtained from this office on any working days till 2.00 PM of 20.06.2022 on payment of Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two Hundred) only in the form of IPO duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer (PHE) of respective Division which is non-refundable. The Tenders should deposit the requisite Earnest Money specified for the works to be allotted, if any in the form of NSC / KVP / Bank Draft in favour of EE (PHE) of respective division, during the time of signing the tender agreement for the allotted works in due course of time. Canvassing directly or indirectly will disqualify the tenderer.

Tender papers will be issued only to those Contractors / firms who produce authenticated proof of registration in appropriate class in PHED and past experience of the same activities in the Department.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Submission of tender against this NIT does not qualify a tenderer for allotment of work during the year 2022-23 or the tenderer shall not have the right to claim any work against this NIT.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (PHE)
Dibrugarh Circle, Dibrugarh
Janasanyog /C/3649/22

No: SAA/E.Cell/GIA-AMC-EA/264/2020/Pt-II/37

PRESS NOTICE INVITING e-EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Sealed Expression of Interest in 2 (two) Bid System - Technical Bid & Financial Bid, affixing Court Fee Stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and twenty five paise) only, are hereby invited from registered APWD (Electrical) Contractor/ Firm under category Class-I (A/B/C) having expertise and past experience in similar works of Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of Electrical Assets of Sports Authority of Assam in 5 (five) Groups as follows:

Sl.No.	Name of Work
01	Group-A: Annual Maintenance Contract (Comprehensive) of Entire Electrical Installation/ Fixtures & Fittings of Sarusajai Sports Complex, Guwahati-34 (Excluding Passenger Lift & A.C. Machines of Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium & Air Cooled Plant of KNCB Indoor Stadium & D.G. Sets).
02	Group-B: Annual Maintenance Contract (Comprehensive) of Entire Electrical Installation/ Fixtures & Fittings of MMT Hockey Stadium, Bhetapara, Guwahati-34 (Excluding D.G. Set).
03	Group-C: Annual Maintenance Contract (Comprehensive) of Entire Electrical Installation/ Fixtures & Fittings of D.T.R.P. Indoor Stadium, Ulubari, Guwahati-7 (Excluding Passenger Lift & D.G. Set).
04	Group-D: Annual Maintenance Contract (Comprehensive) of Entire Electrical Installation/ Fixtures & Fittings of Bhogeswari Phukanani Indoor Stadium, Dispur, Guwahati-6 (Excluding D.G. Set).
05	Group-E: Annual Maintenance Contract (Comprehensive) of Entire Electrical Installation/ Fixtures & Fittings of Guwahati Shooting Range, Kahlipara, Guwahati.

Details may be seen in web portal assamtender.gov.in.

The Bidder must be registered with the E-tendering (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam.

(website: <http://assamtenders.gov.in>)

The Bid price may vary at time of detail tendering, for which no claim will be admissible.

All terms and conditions will be as per the Bidding Documents.

The Press Notice will be a part of the Bidding Documents.

Sd/-
Secretary
Sports Authority of Assam
Janasanyog/C/3654/22

Opening session of Bhulanath Boruah death centenary held



Assam Rising, Nagaon, June 2: The opening session of the year long celebration of the death centenary of Saud Bulanath Boruah was held on Monday last here at Saud Bholanath Boruah Adarsha Vidyalaya at Puranigudam Boruahchuk. The president of death centenary celebration committee,

Puranigudam Pulin Hazarika unfurled the flag following which the members of the celebration committee offered floral tribute at the statue of Saud Bulanath Boruah, set up at the school campus. The tribute paying programme was initiated by Dulal

Boruah, an existing member of Khorongi Boruah dynasty as stated during 'Ahom rules'. Besides, a tree plantation drive was also conducted as part of the celebration. Meanwhile a cultural procession was taken out from the birthplace of Saud Bhulanath Boruah to the school campus in which

several hundreds women participated in chanting 'naam'. Subsequently, a commemoration programme was organized in which Chittaranjan Bora, the secretary of the reception committee delivered the welcome address. The commemoration programme chaired by Pulin Hazarika, was inaugurated by Ajoy Dutta, president of Saud Bhulanath Boruah memorial trust. Noted Assamese litterateur of Puranigudam area, Phanindra Nath Gayan, Jugal Chandra Dev Goswami, Mayur Kr Bora and other graced the occasion as chief resource persons and spoke on life of Saud

Bhulanath Boruah and his unmatched contribution to the fields of education as well as the state commerce and trade. While addressing the occasion, the noted socio-political analysis of the state Mayur Bora regretted saying that the Assamese nation could hardly express the gratitude to anybody else. Ismail Hussain, the general secretary of Saud Bhulanath Boruah memorial trust also spoke on the occasion and elaborated about the plan and estimation of the trust, a release added.

ASI caught for offering bribe to senior official at Nagaon

Assam Rising, Nagaon, June 2: Nagaon police arrested one police Assistant Sub Inspector today for offering a bribe of Rs 10,000 to a senior police official at the office of SP, Nagaon here for posting in a PS, sources said. ASI Abdul Motaleb attached to Nagaon police reserve went to SP office this morning and visited Tridib Kumbang, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP-HQ) for a better placement in a PS in the district. During his visit, he offered a bribe of Rs 10,000 in cash to DSP Kumbang for the job. Meanwhile the senior official reported it to SP, Nagaon Leena Doley and SP Doley, directed the police on duty in the office to arrest him on spot, sources added further adding that a case was registered in Nagaon PS and further investigation is on. Briefing the local media persons about it here, SP Doley said in this regard, DSP Tridib Kumbang has already lodged an FIR in Nagaon PS and strict action against the accused police official will be initiated. Such malpractices in the district police headquarters will not be tolerated at any point and it will be crushed down at the earliest, she said.



Mental health & career counselling division launched at MES



Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 2 : In light of the growing mental health-related difficulties, Modern English School, Guwahati, launched a mental health counselling division to help students deal with various emotional and psychological concerns. The team associated with the division will also guide the students in determining how to handle stress, and make healthy choices. The school administration felt

the need for mental health counselling due to rising cases of stress and anxiety among students, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. On the occasion, the school also launched a career counselling division with Mumbai-based coaching and test preparation institute, Inspirus Education. Rev Fr Joseph Thelekkatt will head the mental health division of the school. The former principal of

Don Bosco School, Guwahati, and Director of Navaprerna- Psycho-Spiritual Counselling Services will serve as a Chief Advisor of the Modern English School Counselling Division. He will be supported by Ms. Dorothy Deka, Clinical Psychologist, Dhriti Kalita Counsellor and Debahuti Bhattacharyya, Health & Wellness faculty. The mental health issue programs launched by the school aims to help stu-

dents deal with everyday stress and strike a balance between academic and personal life. The counselling will be provided to the students of class 5 onwards. Under the mental health counselling initiative various individual and therapy sessions will be conducted. Counsellors will visit each class as a part of class-observation activity. Special sessions with Father Thelekkatt will be held to empower students to meet the challenges arising from the stress and strain of daily life. The session topics are shared by MES students for better understanding of their problems. Under the career counselling initiative, the students and the parents can access Inspirus Education from June 2022 to March 2023. The counselling program, divided into three stages, aims to guide students in finding the right career path. Experts appointed under the division will conduct sessions at the school premises every Friday in which they will interact with the students from classes 8 to 12 in groups and individually. They will help them identify the best career prospects, explore the universities, and understand the admission process.

Moridhal College signed MoU with St. Joseph's College



Assam Rising, Dhemaji June 2: A MoU was signed today between Moridhal College, a leading higher educational institution in Dhemaji district and St. Joseph's College in Darjeeling. It may be recalled that in the presence of students and teachers of Moridhal College in a solemn ceremony, Principal Dr

Dipen Saikia on behalf of Moridhal College and IQAC prospects Dr Lekhan Gogoi and St. Joseph The MoU signed by Principal Dr Donatash Kujur and IQAC President Dr Padma Nepal on behalf of the College focuses on exchange of educational and Co-curricular activities in par-

ticular. Meanwhile, the college family welcomed the representatives of Darjeeling College by performing repeated cultural programmes like Dashavatar Dance, Dihanam, Bhupendra Sangeet, Jeng Bihu, Rabha Sangeet, Tiwa Dance, Gumrag Dance of Missing People and Bihu Dance etc.

USTM organized 'Grow Green' plantation drive



Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 2: The Department of Computer Science & Electronics, University of Science and Technology

Meghalaya has organized a plantation drive "Grow Green" in Upper Jorbill village of Ri Bhoi district. Students from

both BCA and MCA enthusiastically joined in this plantation drive and made it successful by planting more about 100

saplings in the nearby village to make the area greener and save the environment. The plantation programme has been organized on the occasion of World Environment Day 2022.

Devarshi Narad Jayanti award conferred to Gautam Sharma

Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 2: Devarshi Narad Jayanti Award function was organized by Vishwa Samvad Kendra at Sudarshanalaya here on June 2. This year's Devarshi Narad Jayanti Award was presented to Gautam Sharma, an eminent journalist of Assam. The award includes a sum of Rs 50,000 along with Sorai, appreciation letter, Gamucha etc. Receiving the award, journalist Gautam Sharma, Deputy Editor Amar Asom, felt grateful and recalled how RSS is quietly working for the development of Assamese language and literature through Sankardev Shishu Niketan. "In order to enrich the nation with ethnic harmony, it is necessary to stop the street movement and start the movement of the mind, this is the right time to unite to preserve the Assamese language and culture", he added. The event was attended by Prafulla

Ketkar is the Editor, Organiser (Weekly) as the chief guest Expressing concern over the current fashion of Indian journalism that seeks to divide society through propaganda, Ketkar said, "Fake is not news, news cannot be fake". Congratulating the awardee, Ketkar said, "Journalism should be done with a motive of morality and not with the aim of making money. If a reporter feels connected and related to the society only then he can provide honest reports." The event was also attended by Pranjal Barua of News Live, Arunima Kalita of Asomiya Khabar and Hemen Burman of Asomiya Pratidin along with others. It is to be noted that Gautam Sharma publicly declared to donate his award money of



Rs. 50000 to the Sewa Bharti for its developmental purpose. The event was started with an introductory speech by

Kishore Shivam, Secretary, Vishwa Samvad Kendra, Asom. The event was anchored by Nava Bujrabarua.

Man sentenced to 20 years imprisonment under POCSO

Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, June 2: The Additional Session Judge-Special Court of Lakhimpur passed a judgement on the basis of POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act) today for 20 years rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of rupees 5,000 to one, Naimon Dhaan from Haribor, Laluk of Lakhimpur district for sexually assaulting a minor girl. In the judgement, passed by the Additional Session Judge-Special Judge of the Special Court Rashmita Das, Advocate Madhab Gogoi advocated for the Government.

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THE ASSAM RISING

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Child malnutrition is a chronic problem

Child malnutrition is a chronic problem and a longstanding challenge for the public administration of India. The first National Family Health Survey (NFHS) in 1992-1993 found that India was one of the worst performing countries on child health indicators. The survey reported that more than half the children under four were underweight and stunted. One in every six children was excessively thin (wasted). All these conditions could be attributed to the prevalence of chronic malnutrition in children. Despite decades of investment to tackle this malaise, India's child malnutrition rates are still one of the most alarming in the world. The Global Hunger Index (2020) - which is calculated on the basis of total undernourishment of the population, child stunting, wasting and child mortality - places India at the 94th spot among 107 countries. The bane of child and maternal malnutrition is responsible for 15 per cent of India's total disease burden. The fourth round of NFHS, conducted in 2015-2016, found that the prevalence of underweight, stunted and wasted children under five was at 35.7, 38.4 and 21.0 per cent. However, according to the data from the fifth round of NFHS (2019-2021) from the 22 states surveyed so far, only nine showed a decline in the number of stunted children, 10 in wasted children and six in underweight children. The percentage of stunted, wasted and underweight children increased or remained unchanged in the remaining states. The crisis of child malnutrition in India has often been attributed to historical antecedents such as poverty, inequality and food shortage. However, countries with similar historical and societal makeup and comparable per capita income have fared much better. Countries such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan have been ranked higher than India on the Global Hunger Index at 64th, 73th, 75th, 78th and 88th spots respectively. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) serves as the most critical instrument in addressing India's child malnutrition challenge. It facilitates a supplementary nutrition programme, growth monitoring and promotion, nutrition and health education, immunisation, health check-ups and health referrals, as well as pre-school education.

Be a Citizen Journalist

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

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Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

What does it mean to be Russian? For many of us, it's no longer a simple question

"Ukrainians don't have to pay!" I am trying to buy three shawarmas in a market in Tbilisi, Georgia, but the street vendor emphatically refuses to take my money. I try to explain, even though I was warned not to say this: "I am sorry, I am not Ukrainian, I am Russian." The vendor looks at the Ukrainian flag pin on my lapel; he doesn't believe me. Before 24 February, I never thought about what it means to be Russian. Now it's all I think about. I was born in Moscow and, until recently, lived there all my life. But "I am Russian" would literally be the last thing I would answer to the question, "Who are you?" I am a father, I am a creative executive at a film company, a writer, a journalist, a podcaster, a friend ... a Russian? Well, yes, but it's just the name on a passport that I have, nothing else. I grew up in the 1990s and 2000s, when people of my generation - or at least the people I knew - thought of themselves as citizens of the world. After my first year at university I hitchhiked across Europe. The only time I thought about my nationality was when I was had to apply for visas. I know, however, that this was ultimately down to privilege. Unlike my friends from Dagestan,

Buryatia, Yakutia or North Ossetia, I could afford not to think about my Russian identity. With a Slavic face and a Slavic name, I was not subject to the everyday chauvinism that saturates Russian society. I loved my country, but I never waved a Russian flag at a demonstration or publicly expressed my patriotism - it was just not something that people like me did. We thought about patriotism in terms of politics - if you care for your country you try to make it better. So I tried. For over a decade I went to all the opposition rallies, I protested against injustice. Like-minded people and I tried our best to make our country a better place. But I never fell for the patriotic mantras about how great Russia is or how great it used to be and should be again. Why should I be proud that the Soviet Union was the first country to launch a man into space? Yuri Gagarin or Sergei Korolev should be proud of that, it was their achievement, not

mine. Why should I be proud that the Soviet Union won the great patriotic war? My grandfathers fought in it. The war broke them, but they won: they should be proud of that. I know they were. These achievements were certainly never part of my identity in the

.....
I was born in Moscow and, until recently, lived there all my life. But "I am Russian" would literally be the last thing I would answer to the question, "Who are you?" I am a father, I am a creative executive at a film company, a writer, a journalist, a podcaster, a friend ... a Russian? Well, yes, but it's just the name on a passport that I have, nothing else. I grew up in the 1990s and 2000s, when people of my generation - or at least the people I knew - thought of themselves as citizens of the world

Ivan Philippov

same way that they are for the "Putin majority", my compatriots who build their sense of self on past victories to which they are associated only by an accident of birth. But now these questions do feel important to me. "I am Russian," I repeat to the street vendor. "But you are with them?" he asks, nodding in the

pre-modern India and its wider world is to think of it as a collection of networked regions, each with its own unique internal dynamics. These dynamics lead to the emergence of political and social pressures that guide the region's engagement with the wider area. This phenomenon can be seen quite clearly by the 3rd century BCE and the career of Ashoka Maurya. In a recent archaeological study of the Maurya state, Dr Namita Sugandhi concluded that many Ashokan edicts, especially those found far to the south, were produced by local elites attempting to build their own state structures. By adopting various elements of Mauryan political culture - including, of course, Buddhism - elites across the subcontinent could gain access to new and lucrative networks of trade and diplomacy. The process can be observed in the Deccan, on the Andhra coast, and of course, in Sri Lanka. It seems to have connected elites across the subcontinent at an unprecedented scale. In his magisterial Sri Lanka and the Cholas, WMK Wijetunga shows that in the centuries after, there was a near-constant movement of peoples from the adjoining Tamil-speaking regions. Many of these were adventurers from the mainland seeking to set up polities in Lanka, very often by patronising Buddhist establishments. The converse was also true, with Lankan kings visiting the Indian subcontinent to recruit

troops for their own political struggles. Both the mainland and the island were multicultural and multireligious: Wijetunga suggests that it was not the case that Tamil speakers in Sri Lanka were always Hindus; as many of them had lived on the island for generations and were Buddhists. We know that at the same time, Buddhism wielded considerable

Anirudh Kanisetti

influence in the Tamil region. Similarly, there is evidence that Sinhala-speaking royals had Hindu priests attached to their palaces, and Sri Lankan historian K. Indrapala has shown that saints such as Campantar (Sambandhar) sang of temples to Shiva on the island, which must have had local Sinhala worshippers and patrons. Alongside the Tamil bhakti movement, in the 6th-7th centuries CE, a markedly new politico-religious formation spread across the subcontinent: Puranic Hinduism, involving the patronage of Brahmins and temples as sources of state power. Many elites on the mainland gradually turned their attention to Shaivism, sending Buddhism into

decline everywhere except in two significant regions: the eastern Gangetic valley, and Sri Lanka. In both these regions, Buddhism survived because of its deep-rooted political power and its ability to provide services and legitimacy to rulers. However, medieval rulers preferred to play it safe as far as religion was concerned; while the Palas of Bengal patronised a new, tantric form of Buddhism, the rulers of Lanka, unable to interfere with

the affairs of the Buddhist Sangha, granted land to Shaivite Brahmins - exactly as their neighbours on the mainland were doing. While these religious trends were in motion, polities in Sri Lanka, like those of the mainland, had been growing in scale and complexity, undertaking transregional diplomacy and intermarriage. By the 8th century CE, we begin to see military and political movements of increasing scale across the subcontinent. Deccan empires raided north, central and south India driven by dynastic entanglements and political ambition. At the same time, we see Tamil kings from the mainland invading Lanka, and the converse; in one particularly notable incident, the Lankan king Sena II undertook an expedition that crossed the Palk Strait and sacked the city of Madurai in the 9th century CE. Interactions between the island and the mainland became increasingly violent in subsequent centuries. In the 11th century, the Chola kings Rajaraja I and Rajendra I managed to decisively conquer much of the island, sacking Buddhist monasteries and

building two Shiva temples in the city of Polonnaruwa. Interestingly, scholar R Mahalakshmi shows in Beyond the Politics of Conquest: Brahmanical Iconography in Polonnaruwa that many more Shiva temples were subsequently built by local traders, with features suggesting cultural interaction between conquerors and conquered. However, when the Cholas were driven out of the island by the late 11th century, the Sinhala-speaking elite - and its Buddhist monastic supporters - began to take a more xenophobic tone towards the mainland, and especially towards Tamils. Exchanges would, however, continue, with Pandya dynasts and even adventurers from as far away as Kalinga ruling parts of the island in the 13th century. Close marital ties between mainland and island dynasties endured until the Portuguese conquest in the 16th century, and trade and artistic exchange continued even after. Indeed, Portuguese Goa and Sri Lanka both produced Christian ivory statues for export to Europe. What all this shows us is that Sri Lanka's history is integral to that of the subcontinent; in some ways, it is a laboratory where we can observe trends from the wider area more clearly - from medieval state formation to modern religious and ethnic nationalism. Rather than seeing what happens in Sri Lanka as an aberration, then, it's perhaps worth looking at connections between the island and the mainland, and what it warns us about our politics and economics.

Children shouldn't be going hungry

Remember going for free school dinners at my primary school in the Borders of Scotland. We'd all troop outside, walk down a small slope and go into the shiny, skiddy-floored basement where the dinners were served. Huge saucepans and scuffed stainless-steel trays revealed to us delights such as mince and tatties, treacle tart and custard. We'd sit at Formica-topped tables, and we had milk too, in little cartons, with small, thin blue straws. At the time I didn't think much about lunches being free, but I did think of school as a place that provided, a place where we were fed and looked after. I probably took it for granted - something too many poor pupils cannot do today. This week, 12 school leaders from teaching unions and trusts have written to chancellor Rishi Sunak, and education secretary Nadhim Zahawi, calling for the free school meals scheme to be expanded to all families on

universal credit. It's a good idea, but it highlights how far England is lagging behind its neighbours: in Scotland, free school meals are now universal for all children at primary school; Wales is doing the same for their children from this September. There are more than 4 million children living in poverty in the UK, and the stalwart Child Poverty

Finn Mackay

Action Group (CPAG) and its recent research on the cost of the school day estimate that about 1 million children in poverty miss out on free school meals because of restrictive, arbitrary and complicated welfare systems. While in the short-term CPAG supports automatic free school meal provision for all who are receiving universal credit, equivalent benefits or with no recourse to public funds, it points out that in the long-term, free school meals should be extended and provided for all children, without means testing, without stigma. My parents were unemployed for parts of

my childhood and often in receipt of welfare payments. I refuse to use the term "benefits", because being poor and having to go and report yourself as still being poor every two weeks, in order to get a basic minimum on which to attempt to survive, is not a benefit of any kind. It's a bare minimum that any civilised society should provide and ideally should exceed. The majority of people work in order to pay the facts of life: bills, rent, travel and food. Hard times, bad luck, bereavement, illness, caring and parenting demands happen to almost everyone at some point, and can result in loss of a job, or a struggle to find a job that is flexible and pays enough to make it worthwhile around such constraints and commitments. The point of a welfare system is to cover such times, to make them livable, not just survivable.

Letter to the Editor

Safety of e-vehicles

Sir,

E-vehicles have become a trend and part and parcel of our life now and more and more people have started buying and using them as petrol prices are unbearable. The running costs of EVs are lesser compared to petrol vehicles. They also help reduce carbon footprint as they do not emit harmful CO2 emissions and also as EVs have fewer mechanical parts, they don't require maintenance and servicing as frequently as needed for petrol vehicles. Good EVs are also fast and make less noise. Besides these factors many state governments have already started promoting certain tax benefits while buying and using these vehicles. But of late certain human injuries and tragedies occurring due to EVs have caused serious concern about these traveling machines which needs immediate attention from the vehicles manufacturers and the authorities concerned as ignorance of these mishaps later can cause more severe fatalities. Troubling news has recently surfaced in the media showing Electric scooters of a famous brand catching fire. This is not the first time when electric scooters have caught fire in India. It is high time that the government at the center and the states, along with their promotion and encouragement to manufacture and use e-vehicles, also be prudent and vigilant that such vehicles are manufactured by efficient companies only and that too priority should be given to the safety of the riders. An authority to monitor e-vehicles manufacturing, consumption and safety is the need of the hour as more and more Indians are switching from petrol to e-vehicles.

Pradyu
Kerala, India

Medical Tourism should not be continued

Dear Editor,

I suggest the Union Ministry of Health stop Medical Tourism, (as patients of other countries come to our country for their treatment by our specialists.) There is a risk of spreading diseases from the patients of those countries to our citizens. Better we stop this lucrative Business. Ebola, Monkey pox etc are the diseases of other countries. We should not do anything where there is a good scope for spread of diseases even if those are minor diseases. This suggestion may be complied with in the interest of Public health of our Nation, which is very important. People from some countries, when they come to our country (for studies, for jobs, for medical treatment of their relatives) find doing drug abuse or crime. We take drug use as a serious offense. But in some other countries it may be a casual habit. It is very difficult for us to watch the activities of such foreigners. Encouraging foreigners to do our university courses should not be encouraged, as some of them found not appearing for the exams and extending their stay and indulging in anti-social activities. The Ministry of Home affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health etc should be careful while permitting foreigners to stay in our country.

Kantamsetti Lakshman Rao
Visakhapatnam

Bollywood singer KK passed away

Mumbai, June 02 : Bollywood singer KK passed away on Tuesday after he felt unwell during a concert in Kolkata. His sudden demise has left his fans, friends and colleagues in the music industry aghast. KK became the voice of many hearts as he sang some of the most soulful renditions, especially for the generation that grew up in the 90s. He gave music fans one chartbuster after another and his voice became a favourite choice of filmmakers for romantic numbers. Sanjay Leela Bhansali was in tears when he heard the song "Tadap Tadap" for his movie Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam in KK's voice for the first time. The composer of the song Ismail Darbar had told to the media how Bhansali heard that song nine times in one go. Remember the song "Pyaar Ke Pal"? It was one song that



became a favourite of college and school students as it moved them to tears at their farewell. And, the credit goes to KK for making it heartwarming with his soulful voice. KK's mortal remains were taken to SSKM hospital for post-mortem. KK was rushed to the hospital after falling ill in his Kolkata hotel room, shortly after performing the live gig at the Nazrul Mancha auditorium.

The singer was 53 and survived by wife and two children. "KK was brought to the hospital around 10 pm. It's unfortunate that we could not treat him," a senior official of the hospital told news agency PTL. KK released his first album, Pal in 1999. The singer-composer has umpteen hits to his credit such as Tadap Tadap (Hum Dil De Chuke

Sanam), Kya Mujhe Pyaar Hai (Woh Lamhe), O Meri Jaan (Life In A... Metro), Dus Bahane (Dus), Beete Lamhein (The Train), Ankhon Mein Teri (Om Shanti Om), Tu Hi Meri Shab Hai (Gangster), and Tune Maari Entriyaan (Gunday). He was born in Delhi and was also known for his electric live shows. The singer's sudden death has sent shockwaves across the entertainment industry. Many celebs took to social media at the late hour to express shock and sadness at the singer's demise. Actor Akshay Kumar, for whom KK sang a number of songs over the years, tweeted, "Extremely sad and shocked to know of the sad demise of KK. What a loss! Om Shanti." Actors Vicky Kaushal and Ranveer Singh both shared KK's picture on Instagram Stories. While Ranveer added a broken heart emoji, Vicky wrote,

"Your magical voice will live on forever. Thank you for your evergreen songs." Singer Sonu Nigam also shared an emotional message for KK on Instagram. Filmmaker Srijit Mukerji wrote on Facebook, "In a state of total shock. Just met him last month for the first time and it seemed that we had known each other for years. The chatter wouldn't just stop. And I was so moved to see the love he had for Gulzar saab. He said he stepped into the film world with Chhor aaye hum and sang it to him as a tribute. Farewell, my newest friend. Will miss you. I wish we could have had more sessions on music and food and cinema." Prime Minister Narendra Modi also mourned the death of KK. In a tweet, PM Modi said he is saddened by the untimely demise of the noted singer.

Assamese film 'Local Utpat'

Guwahati, June 02 : Assamese actor-director Kenny Basumatari is elated at the reception of his latest film Local Utpat (local mischief). A comedy of errors shot in Guwahati, the film tells the story of seven youngsters and also stars Kenny. "There is a lot of potential in our youth. We started shooting for Local Utpat (LU) in 2019 and completed the shooting within three months in February 2020. Then came the lockdown and we were stuck with post production work." Kenny says he wanted to release the film once the theatres reopened and people stepped out to the movies. Made on a budget of 25 lakhs, the movie was partly crowd-funded. "The entire movie was made with a very basic set-up. No fancy camera, no fancy clothes...I wanted viewers to connect with faces and lives," he says. Kenny had earlier directed Local Kung Fu (2013), a martial arts comedy that soon became a rage as a meme that year. Local Utpat like Local Kung Fu has been shot in an unglamorous setting to render a real feel. In LU, Kenny has shown women



in a very different light: independent, fierce, strong, loving and fashionable. The female lead actor is a fitness trainer who does handstands easily, after a drink. Was it difficult to get the team in place? "Not really, I kind of knew who I would cast. I had very specific requirements, so looking for the cast wasn't a hassle at all. I chose Poonam Gurung as the female actor because of her versatile

skills," adds Kenny. After Local Kung Fu and its sequel, and now Local Utpat, is a 'local' title proving to be lucky for him? Kenny says the plan was to call the movie just Utpat (mischief), "then a friend from the industry said I must include the word local for brand recall." Kenny and his team are now touring districts of Assam to get a firsthand feel of the crowd's response to the movie.

Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 Movie Review

Mumbai, June 02 : Ruhan Randhawa (Kartik Aaryan) is a baby-faced crook and yet, the formidable Thakur clan falls for his rookie black-magic tricks, especially the well-sheltered scion Reet Thakur (Kiara Advani). In spite of being the sequel to a smash hit-although independent-Anees Bazmee's 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' (BB2) doesn't succumb to external pressures. Instead, it holds on its own... one voodoo doll at a time. Remind us again, what is it that they say about women and disgruntlement? Oh, yes, "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned." Down there at the 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' camp, for writer Aakash Kaushik and director Anees Bazmee, that aphorism takes a life of its own. Yes, we all have our thoughts and feelings about this sequel but separate yourself from the memories of Akshay Kumar's debut instalment for a bit and allow the latest rendition to introduce itself. This story begins with a shot of a sand dune somewhere-clue: Rajasthan-and traces back to when Reet was a baby girl clinging to her pyaari bhabhi Anjuliika. Cut to scene two, the wealthy family leaves their vast mansion for one of their own has rolled over to the other, darker side of metaphysical existence: Manjulika, the wench. After devouring eight of their family members, the Thakurs are assured Manjulika has been bottled up and holed in a deplorable room, at their abandoned manor. But, how did a charming little punk like Ruhan find himself amidst this family mess? In comes lovely, naïve Reet. 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' is nothing like its tale of origin, and that is its secret magic spell. Bazmee, in no way new to the genre of comedy; some



may even go on to call him a master, knows all too well that, in India, two things constitute the content-consumption palate of our viewers-sex and satire. Here, Bazmee harps on the latter. Elaborating further on what was mentioned initially (about uniqueness in tone and treatment), 'BB2' invests heavily in physical and situational comedies; add witty dialogues, quick humour and expressionism to the grind, the output that you get is, well, 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2'. Put pre-conceived notions to rest, for this film has nothing you HAVE seen before: if you know you know. Although it would be criminal to compare Aaryan to Kumar-the former must have felt the pressure down to his last bone given Kumar's level of success with it, back in 2007-but there's a constant humming sound that plays like a broken record while you are watching the film: it's the breadcrumbs of a star. Especially his signature head-nod-and-squishy-eyes move, which was replicated (perhaps as a 'nod' to Kumar's nod; an ode to a senior) by Aaryan. Its not the same, but he tries. With that out of the way, let's decode Kartik Aaryan the unstar in the movie. For Ruhan, the actor imbibes an everyman candour that glides effortlessly well with his chill-easy vibe. Kartik Aaryan brings Kartik Aaryan on set, to this film, and he delivers a personable performance. His chemistry with Kiara Advani-who's nothing short of a Rajasthani princess; attire-wise-falls flat. There's the quintessential flirting and frolicking, kissing and dancing, but the sum total of it all is an uncomfortable, unflattering PowerPoint presentation. Like two people, who have met only once before, pretending to be friends. Others, however, bring their A game to the table: say Tabu. Versatility should really be Tabu's middle name. If it is already, then she has got that one just about right. 'BB2' sees her in her element-those big and curly locks, garjas, overdrawn kohl and an elegance that cannot be acquired through training. At this point, it is frustratingly impossible to get into the magnitude of her greatness without being a loud-mouth about it. So, we shall refrain. Hold on, hang in there, and let this mean something to you: a certain human emotion, one that is rampant and screams rage, typifies Tabu's spirit. Also, in a bid to retain some of the high-selling points of its stand-alone predecessor, Bazmee brings a few old players back into the game, among them, Rajpal Yadav, as chhote pandit, is class apart.

South Indian productions rake in 44% of Bollywood

Mumbai, June 02 : Hindi movies appear to be inching closer to pre-Covid collection figures, going by the latest data. It is almost six months since Hindi movie audiences returned to single-screen theatres and multiplexes after months of Covid-induced restrictions, which began in March 2020. Though the number of releases was almost one-third pre-pandemic level, the box office collection was almost 88.87 per cent. It must be remembered that in the initial months of the post-pandemic market, movies were screened with 50 per cent occupancy due to Covid restrictions in some states. Data from entertainment news website 'Bollywood Hungama' showed there were 31 Hindi movie releases from November 2021 to April 2022. A comparative analysis of pre-Covid period - November 2019 to March 2020 (lockdown was in force in April) and November 2018 to April 2019 - showed 94 and 101 releases, respectively. Rohit



Shetty's Sooryavanshi was the first major release in the post-pandemic market and it recorded net collections exceeding 190 crore. Until then, a majority of the bigger Hindi stars' movies were released on OTT platforms. Movies originally made in South Indian languages and dubbed in Hindi ruled the post-pandemic market for Hindi films, accounting for around 44.18 per cent of the box office collections. Yash-starrer KGF-2, produced by Bengaluru-based Hombale Films and directed by Prashant Neel, raked in more than 412 crore in the Hindi market alone, topping the post-pandemic market. It accounted for 23.04 per cent of Hindi mov-

ies collections during the period. Rajamouli's RRR, starring Junior NTR and Ram Charan, was the second highest grosser in the Hindi market, at 270 crore. Another movie from the south, Pushpa: The Rise, starring Allu Arjun, grossed over 100 crore. However, not all Hindi-dubbed movies from the south clicked at the box office. Prabhas-starrer Radhe Shyam and Vijay-starrer Beast failed to make an impact in the Hindi box office. Bollywood-a colloquial reference to the Hindi movie industry based in Mumbai - struggled to produce hits during the period, barring a few like Sooryavanshi, Gangubai Kathiawadi and 83.

Singer Sidhu Moose Wala murdered

Punjab, June 02 : Singer Mika Singh expressed grief over the death of singer-politician Sidhu Moose Wala. Sidhu was shot dead in Punjab on Sunday. Mika called the incident 'shameful' and also said that Sidhu had told him about receiving death threats three years ago. Not just Sidhu, Mika said that many singers in Punjab feel threatened by gangsters. During an interaction with News18, Mika revealed that singers who are extorted by gangsters often end up paying them off. Calling Sidhu's death 'shameful', he said, "Singers in Punjab often get such threats from gangsters. I remember Parmish Verma, Gippy Grewal... even Sidhu told me three years ago that he has been receiving such threats. Many singers give money and save themselves. Budding singers get such threats. They know they do so many shows and earn well." Expressing his disappointment over the law and order situation in the state, Mika added, "He was no goon. He was not the kind of person who would drink and disturb people. He was just a singer who made a name for himself with his songs.

So, if this can happen to such a nice boy and celebrity, that too without any fear of punishment, ye toh poora jaanwar wala tareeka hai." In another interview with India Today, the singer questioned, "Is it a crime to be successful?" He also recalled his last conversation with the late singer and shared, "Last week he came to Mumbai, and I offered him my car to travel around in. He told me, 'paaji, yahan toh security guard ke bina ghoomne mein koi dikkat hi nahi lagti. Koi ghorr ke nahi dekhta. Tension nahi hai.' (Brother, I feel safe here. People aren't staring. There is no tension) So, I told him to stay in Mumbai only in the coming time." Mika, on Monday, had posted a photo of himself with Sidhu and had said he can no longer proudly call himself a Punjabi. He wrote in his caption, "I always say I'm proud to be Punjabi but today I feel shame to be saying the same. A young talented boy just 28 years old, so popular and with such a bright future ahead of him @sidhu_moosewala killed in Punjab by Punjabi's. May God bless his soul and he rest in eternal peace. My prayers are with his family. Request to #Punjabsarkar please take strong action



against these criminals. Heartbreaking." Several other celebrities from the entertainment industry, in India and abroad, shared tributes

for Sidhu. Ajay Devgn, Kapil Sharma, Lilly Singh, Shehnaaz Gill, Ranvijay Singha, Roach Killa, among others, offered condolences.

Mahesh Babu clarifies his controversial comment

Chennai, June 02 : Mahesh Babu said last week that he doesn't want to do Hindi films as the Bollywood 'couldn't afford' him. In a new statement, Mahesh added that he doesn't want to work for 'another industry' and only wants to do Telugu films. He is currently gearing up for the release of his upcoming film Sarkaru Vaari Paata. Mahesh is one of the A-listers of Telugu film industry. Some of his hit

films are Businessman, Sriramudhu, Bharat Ane Nenu, Maharshi, and Sarileru Neekevvaru. As per an Indian Express report, during a new interaction with the Telugu media, Mahesh said, "I have always wanted to do Telugu films. And I have always wished for Telugu movies to do well across the country. I strongly feel, why should we go to another industry by leaving ours behind? I am very happy that our films are reaching there

(in North India). Our movies are doing well at the pan-India level and my dream is coming true." He added, "I don't need to do Hindi films. I can just do a Telugu film and it'll get seen all over the world - that's what's happening right now. You'd want to be in a position to do (only) a Telugu film." Mahesh's statement comes a few days after he that he is not interested in doing Hindi films. He said, "I may



sound arrogant, but I did get a lot of offers in Hindi. But I think they can't afford me. I don't want to waste my time.

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Union MoS Murugan visits fish

farming activities carried out by them. He encouraged locals to pursue fish farming and generate employment opportunities for the local community. Dr. Murugan also held a discussion with fish farming trainees at the Meghalaya State Fisheries Research and Training Institute at Mawpun Kshaid, Ri-Bhoi district. He also visited a site in Umiam lake where fish seeds are released to Umiam river. Speaking about the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), Dr. Murugan said that the central government's focus lies on infrastructural development in the fisheries sector of the country. "Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had brought in the Prime Minister's Fisheries Infrastructure Fund to aid entrepreneurs," he stated while highlighting the various facilities available for benefitting individual entrepreneurs in fish farming such as ice storage, cold storage, processing units, etc. He urged the fish farmers to capitalise on the opportunities provided by the government. He also informed about the upcoming mobile veterinary units that will be sponsored centrally and funds will be provided to States under the animal husbandry department. "We are encouraging startups, entrepreneurs," and extended his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for bringing in major schemes for development across the country. The Minister is on a two-day visit to Meghalaya starting today. During his stay, the Minister will visit various project sites to review the fishery infrastructure, and implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) as well as schemes of Animal Husbandry in the State. The Minister will also be interacting with the beneficiaries in Shillong. Dr. Murugan has also scheduled a visit to the All India Radio, Cherrapunjee. He will be interacting with the officials of the departments under the Ministry of I & B and Animal Husbandry & Fisheries.

Flood Situation Improves

pre-monsoon rainfall and river-bank erosion. This year too, the official death toll has risen to a shocking 30 people, which includes several children. According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), 956 villages are currently waterlogged, with over 47,000 hectares of cropland affected due to pre-monsoon flooding. While such devastating levels of flood-related impacts appear startling, this is nothing new for the northeastern state. Devastating floods drown Assam every year, seasonally crippling development in the state and affecting lakhs of people. The average loss due to floods comes to the unfortunate tune of around ₹200Cr a year on average, according to a report by the Govt. of Assam. Further, Assam houses World Heritage Sites and important wildlife sanctuaries?such as the Kaziranga and the Manas National Park ??which are severely affected by these floods. According to reports, some of these wildlife sanctuaries?that feature India's largest population of rhinoceroses?were 90% flooded during the height of the 2020 floods. A substantial part of the problem lies in the state's geography as well as its physical features. Assam features the fearsome Brahmaputra river, which is fed by around 50 tributaries in the state. According to a 2006 paper from environmentalist and Gauhati University professor Dulal Chandra Goswami, this river ranks only second to the Amazon in terms of discharge and sediment yields?factors that severely affect flooding in the lower-lying areas. As if to add oil to the already burning flame, we now know that the Brahmaputra is actually expanding. This causes damage on the scale of hundreds of crores as the river erodes away lakhs of hectares of land, accompanied by its accomplice sister-river, Meghna. Further, since much of the land comprises riverine fertile agricultural lands, this hits the state's rural economy hard. For perspective, the area covered by the Brahmaputra has almost doubled since the first surveys in the 1910s, gobbling up a devastating 8% of the state's total area. The Brahmaputra flows over 70% of Kaziranga National Park, making the area extremely susceptible to flooding. Currently, it is the widest river in India, having increased by up to 15 kilometres at some places due to the continual erosion of its river banks. The Water Resources Department of Assam takes up flood-protection work to protect the state from its annual calamity and reduce drainage congestion in the cities. This includes the construction of embankments and floodwalls, flood forecasting and warning systems, anti-erosion and town protection works, etc. However, these are still short-term measures, and some of these measures even turn counterproductive in the long run. To date, no long-term measures have been put in place to mitigate the flood and erosion problems of the state. Further, the short-term measures have only protected about 16.50 Lakh Hectares of flood-affected areas, which is only about half of the afflicted region in the state. "Most embankments built in the 1980s are not strong enough. Since they were temporary measures, the government did not spend on high-specification embankments. These are weak and are regularly breached," a government official grieved. Discussions of longer-term measures to help mitigate the problem?such as the building of dams?have been promptly halted in the past because of the environmental damage they would bring. Furthermore, when a dam is built, many small towns are inundated. According to Dr Goswami, one of the best long-term solutions to this problem would be to have an "integrated basin management" system, where all the basin countries need to come to an understanding when taking sound political and geological measures in the catchment areas. When this is combined with 'Flood-Plain Zoning'?an approach already adopted in the US that seeks to divide flood-prone areas into zones to limit certain activities like construction and farming in them?these serve to become viable options for flood management over longer time frames. We can anticipate the state continuing to struggle until these ad hoc remedies are replaced with longer-term solutions, as climate change intensifies catastrophic weather events year after year.

Police Nabs Fraudster for Duping

newspaper with contact details like email and phone numbers for admission to medical and dental colleges. The victims contacted him and paid a huge sum for admission of their wards," the CID said. The statement claimed that the accused was on the run to avoid arrest since 2014. The case was closely monitored by the Gauhati High Court, which had ordered setting up of an SIT in 2021 to investigate the matter. The SIT found out that the accused was in Tihar jail for two-and-half months in 2017 in connection with a similar case registered by the Delhi Police in 2015. "The movement of the accused person was continuously traced. Two teams of CID, Assam were formed and sent to Siliguri and Ghaziabad to apprehend the person," it added.

Ahead of ED questioning in the

and their atrocities, how can the ED notices break the courage of Sonia Gandhiji, Rahul Gandhiji and the Congress party. We will fight...we will win...we will not bow down...we will not be afraid," Congress tweeted from its official handle. "Both the leaders will appear before the ED...we will face them. We are not a bit scared, overawed, or intimidated by such tactics," senior party spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi told a press conference on Wednesday along with chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala, as they attacked the Narendra Modi government. Singhvi further said that it is a politically motivated case and doesn't warrant any merits to be investigated. Surjewala and Singhvi confirmed that the Gandhis will join the probe whenever ED wants it. According to Singhvi, the National Herald is published by Associated Journals Ltd, which had accumulated debts, following which Congress pumped in around Rs 90 crore over decades. "AJL did what every company in India or abroad does. It converted its debt into equity. Rs 90 crore equity was assigned to a new company Young India," he said. The Young India, in which Sonia, Rahul and some other Congress leaders held shares, was registered as a not-for-profit company and through the transaction, the AJL became a debt-free company, Singhvi said. "There was not even a transfer of a small property, there was no transfer of money. Where is money laundering then? Where is the money? No money was transferred...Yet a case of money laundering was registered. Young India cannot use the money in any form which it gets because it can neither pay dividends nor accumulate profit that it can give," Singhvi said.

PPE kits: Riniki Bhuyan Sarma

of 5,000 PPE kits was placed with JCB Industries, owned by Bhuyan. Despite no history of procuring medical supplies, the company was given the order by National Health Mission-Assam without following tendering process, the report claimed said. CM Sarma was the state health minister at that time. "A website called The Wire has come out with an unfounded accusation with regard to my supply of PPE kits to the NHM," Bhuyan said in an official statement posted on Twitter. She said that in the first week of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, "not a single PPE kit was available in Assam". Taking cognisance of it, she reached out to a business acquaintance and delivered around 1,500 PPE kits to NHM-Assam "with a lot of effort". "I wrote to NHM to treat the same as part of my corporate social responsibility. I did not take a single penny out of this supply. I have always been transparent in my belief of giving back to the society, irrespective of my husband's political standing," her statement read.

HC rejects ED's objection

ED ban. Incidentally, the Trinamool leader recently made headlines after he described a couple of judges as biased and operating at the behest of some forces. "I feel bad to say that a couple of members of the judiciary are acting at the behest of others and as agents. They are ordering for CBI verdicts in petty cases. They are putting a stay in murder cases. This is unthinkable," Banerjee said at a public rally in Haldia on May 28. On May 30, West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar informed that he has instructed the state chief secretary H.K. Dwivedi to initiate action Banerjee over his anti-judiciary comments. This ED case stems from a November 2020 FIR registered by the CBI that alleged a multi-crore-rupee coal pilferage scam related to Eastern Coalfields Limited mines in West Bengal's Kuntustoria and Kajora areas in and around Asansol. In September last year, Banerjee, the national general secretary of the Trinamool Congress (TMC), was grilled for the first time and his statement was recorded under sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Sidhu Moosewala killing: 424 VIPs

a report to the Punjab and Haryana High Court saying that the security of all the 424 protectees will be restored from June 7. The high court was hearing a petition by former minister OP Soni, who is among the 424 VVIPs whose security was curtailed. The decision was taken by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann who was slammed by the opposition for curtailing security for VVIPs since Sidhu Moosewala was shot dead. Famous Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala died after unidentified persons opened fire at him in Punjab's Mansa district on Sunday. Moosewala, 28, was in his jeep at village Jawahar Ke when he was attacked. Moosewala was taken to the hospital where he was declared dead. Sidhu Moosewala had unsuccessfully fought on the Congress ticket from the Mansa assembly seat in the 2022 Punjab assembly election.

Racism Against NE Students

of the northeast", the chief minister said the progress took place due to the PM's outreach to the region in the last few years. The remarks of the Chief Minister came while addressing a press conference on Wednesday where he said that such discrimination against the students has "gone down to a huge extent". "If you look at the last 2-3 years, because of PM Modi's huge outreach to the northeast now racial discrimination against students of the northeast has suddenly gone down to a huge extent," Sarma said. Later in the day, the Assam CM took to Twitter to laud PM Modi's "visionary leadership", and said that he has "repositioned India as a strong global power". "A new wave of growth & development has swept across NE in the past 8 years under Adamiya @narendramodi ji's guidance. On behalf of the people of Assam, I express my heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble PM for unlocking NE's potential, making it new engine of India's growth," he tweeted.

Monsoon Enters North-East

and Lakshadweep and over the next five days. It has also forecast isolated to scattered rains over Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, North Interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal during next five days. Maximum temperatures have been rising gradually over northwest India and the weather office has issued heatwave warnings over Rajasthan, south Punjab and south Haryana over the next two days. The weather office had upgraded its forecast for a normal monsoon this year on Monday. It said that monsoon rains would be fairly well-distributed across the country, except in north-eastern parts of the country and extreme south-western peninsula. The IMD had announced the onset of monsoon over Kerala on May 29, three days ahead of the normal onset date of June 1.



Guwahati- Jadav Payeng planting a sapling

'Nehru-Jinnah acted wisely by dividing the country', Congress MLA's remark irks controversy

New Delhi, June 02 : Many people's emotions are associated with partition. Many people could not accept the two pieces of the country from the heart. According to them, the partition of the country is a completely wrong decision. But a senior Congress leader said, "Partition was a wise decision. At the same time, Sajjan Singh Verma, a former cabinet minister of Madhya Pradesh, praised Mohammad Ali Jinnah as a freedom fighter. According to the former Madhya Pradesh Minister, former Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Mohammad Ali Jinnah took the right decision at the right time on partition. Dividing the country was a very wise decision. After this, he praised Jinnah and said, "Jinnah fought for freedom, it should be remembered by all. He did not break the country. He made the right decision at the right time." Sajjan Singh Verma also took a dig at the BJP over the religious-caste divide. "Will the definition of a freedom fighter change just because he (Jinnah) was a Muslim? This culture is being imported by the BJP. On January 26, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while making his speech, had said that Nehru and Jinnah were responsible for the partition in 1947. The people of the country should thank these two leaders. Because they made the right decision at the right time." He added, "If Jinnah had not partitioned the country, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and PM Narendra Modi would not have enjoyed their power now." Naturally, there has been a lot of controversy surrounding his comments.



Guwahati- Assamese Drama Hati Aru Fandi

PM Kishan Sanman: DAO urges beneficiaries to submit e KYC

Assam Rising, Nagaon, June 2: District Agriculture Department urged the farmers who were getting benefits under PM Kishan Sanman and had not yet updated e - KYC documents or linked the aadhar numbers with their bank accounts, to contact with their nearest Customer Service Centres and do the needful accordingly to update the same. In a notification issued today by District Agriculture Officer (DAO) Tarun Hazarika said that the department concerned initiated all emergency schedules to update all those necessary updates within a week for the farmers of the district so that they could avail rest of the benefits or installments under PM Kishan Sanman scheme without any further disruptions. In the notification, the district agriculture officer also stated that the farmers community could contact their respective agriculture development officers concerned or officials of district agriculture department in this regard. It is also said that those who will not submit their e - KYC documents or link their aadhar numbers with bank accounts within next 7 days, their respective installments under PM Kishan Sanman scheme will be automatically dropped off.

Amber Heard reportedly plans to appeal against Johnny Depp defamation verdict

Washington, June 02 : The actor Amber Heard is reported to be planning an appeal after losing a defamation trial against her former husband Johnny Depp, over allegations of domestic abuse. Alafair Hall, Heard's spokesperson, said the Aquaman actor planned to appeal the decision, according to the New York Times. Heard had demanded \$100m in a countersuit against Depp in which she alleged she was defamed by his press agent who described her allegations as "an abuse hoax" aimed at capitalising on the #MeToo movement. She succeeded on only one count and was awarded \$2m. Depp's lawyers convinced the jury that he did not assault Heard and that her allegations of domestic abuse in a Washington Post article defamed Depp and did so "with malice" or knowing that the claim was false. Heard added: "It is a setback. It sets back the clock to a time when a woman who spoke up and spoke out could be publicly shamed and humiliated. It sets back the idea that violence against women is to be taken seriously." The jurors' unanimous decision ended a seven-week trial that featured dozens of witnesses and experts weighing in on whether Depp was abusive to Heard during their 15-month marriage. Lisa Bloom, a high-profile US lawyer who represented women whose sexual harassment claims led to the dismissal of the Fox News anchor Bill O'Reilly, predicted the Heard-Depp case would be decided on appeal. Speaking to BBC Two's Newsnight, she said: "I want to emphasise that this is not the end because most defamation cases are really decided on appeal." She added: "I have handled a number of defamation cases, including representing Janice Dickinson against Bill Cosby. [when] we had to argue two appeals in that case, both of which were successful." I think this is an inconsistent verdict. How can it be that Amber Heard was defamed when Johnny Depp's lawyer said that her allegations were a hoax, and yet Johnny Depp was also defamed when she said she was representative of domestic violence?" She also got hit with the defamation verdict for the headline in the article, which she did not write ... I think this is going to go up on appeal. I think within a year or two, we're going to have a more definitive answer and outcome in this case."

Digital mapping reveals network of settlements thrived in pre-Columbian Amazon

La Paz, June 02 : Archaeologists have discovered the ruins of a vast network of settlements hidden beneath the undergrowth of the Bolivian Amazon, in what has been described as the clearest example yet of the complex societies that thrived in a region once held to be pristine wilderness. The system of monumental centres, towns and villages spans hundreds, if not thousands, of square kilometres of the Llanos de Mojos region, a tropical savannah in the Amazonian basin. Mysterious mounds were first noted in the region by archaeologists more than 100 years ago. Since then, excavations have unearthed evidence of the Casarabe culture, which developed in the area from AD500 to 1400. Remote sensing had revealed the possible presence of hundreds of settlements. But the difficulties of working in the tropics - and a thick cover of vegetation - obscured the true extent and pattern of the sites. In 2019, the archaeologist Heiko Prümers and his team began flying over the region by helicopter, mapping the land beneath them with a laser. They were then able to digitally strip away the vegetation, revealing the topography of the ground underneath. In a paper published in Nature, they have now documented a range of settlement sites in detail for the first time - and discovered numerous previously unknown ones. Within the largest sites, they found monumental platforms and pyramids, some 20m high. Smaller settlements surrounded the larger ones, linked by causeways running for kilometres. Canals and reservoirs show how the Casarabe shaped the land for agriculture and aquaculture. Other complex societies have been found in the Venezuelan and Brazilian Amazon. "But this, in my opinion, is the clearest example of low-density urbanism in the Amazonia," said Michael Heckenberger, an archaeologist who works in the Brazilian Amazon and did not participate in the project. "It is like an index fossil of what full-blown Amazonian urbanism might have looked like," he added.



Dhakuakhana- People crossing the Charikoriya River with boat

McIlroy dismisses Saudi Arabia-backed opener as not a 'proper tournament'

London, June 02 : Rory McIlroy has taken a swipe at the first event of the Saudi Arabia-backed breakaway golf series by suggesting it is not a "proper tournament". The field for LIV Golf's visit to the Centurion Club in Hertfordshire next week has now been partly confirmed, with inclusion of the former world No 1 Dustin Johnson the biggest surprise. Dustin Johnson, at 13th in the world, is the highest ranked golfer to play at the opening event of the LIV Golf Invitational Series. Phil Mickelson's name is not yet on the entry list for the \$25m event but there is believed to be hope among tournament organisers that the six-time major winner will play. Mickelson has not played competitively since comments relating to Saudi Arabia were published in February. Greg Norman, who is fronting the LIV



scheme, has been in regular contact with Mickelson. Lee Westwood, Ian Poulter, Sergio Garcia and Martin Kaymer are confirmed entrants for the 54-hole contest. So, too, is Graeme McDowell - raising questions over his viability as a future European Ryder Cup captain. Yet many of the 42 players listed are relative unknowns, a point not missed on McIlroy. "I certainly don't think the field is anything to jump up and down about," McIlroy

said in the buildup to the PGA Tour's Memorial Tournament. "Look at the field this week. Look at the field next week in Canada. They are proper golf tournaments." Johnson and McDowell have sparked fury with their sponsors, the Royal Bank of Canada. The same company backs the Canadian

Open, in which Johnson was due to participate - and for which he was part of the promotion - before accepting a hugely lucrative offer to feature in England. "Together with our partners at RBC, we are disappointed to learn at this late stage that Dustin Johnson has made the decision to play in the LIV Golf event," the Canadian Open said in a statement. RBC said it was "extremely disappointed" with Johnson's choice before later making a somewhat stronger statement. "As a result of the decisions made by professional golfers Dustin Johnson and Graeme McDowell to play the LIV

Golf Invitational Series opener, RBC is terminating its sponsorship agreement with both players," RBC said. "We wish them well in their future endeavours." Before his sponsor's decision, McDowell had admitted "the perceived consequences are definitely concerning". He added: "It was an exceedingly difficult decision. It is a difficult decision as a player when there's so many unknowns. We do not know what the reaction is going to be. It just boils down to the fact that I am a business and I have operated all over the world for 20 years. This is a compelling opportunity."



French police officers investigated over use of teargas against Liverpool fans

Paris, June 02 : Two French police officers are being investigated over disproportionate use of teargas against Liverpool supporters at the Champion League final in Paris last Saturday, the French interior minister has said, announcing that fans will be able to file legal complaints over their treatment. G rard Darmanin told a senate committee he had "nothing to hide" after senators insisted they wanted the "truth" and "concrete facts" about the police response outside the Stade de France. The match was delayed by more than 30 minutes after French police officers forcefully held back people trying to enter the ground and fans, including children, were teargassed. Darmanin said there had been "a certain number of inappropriate and disproportionate gestures" by police or gendarmes, which had been documented. He said that two officers had used teargas in a way that "was against the rules of its use" and had been referred to the police watchdog, where he

had asked for them to be sanctioned. But Darmanin defended the police's general use of teargas, which he said should be put into context. He said it was the only method the police had to "disperse" crowds amid fears of crushes outside the stadium. "Teargas allowed people to be saved from being crushed," he said, but he conceded it also "caused damage, particularly to children". He said police dispersion techniques would be reviewed - and that teargas had been the only technique available to riot police crowd-control units that night. He said other crowd-control measures, such as grenades or a form of handheld rubber bullet launchers would not have been "proportionate". Several videos on Saturday night had shown teargas being sprayed into a spectator's face. Liverpool and Real Madrid fans will be able to file legal complaints in France or to the French police watchdog, Darmanin said. He said French investigators would be sent to Madrid and England to gather testimony and a website in English and Spanish would also be set up by the local French prosecutors' offices dealing with the event. The government also said 2,700 Liverpool supporters with genuine tickets who could not access the match would

receive financial compensation. Darmanin said 14 British people were arrested over crowd trouble, including one for violence. Darmanin said the "negative image" of the match was a "wound for France's national pride". He said it was clear "things could have been better organised". He insisted to the senate hearing that between 30,000 and 40,000 extra Liverpool fans had turned up to the match either without tickets or with counterfeit tickets. He said there were two types of ticket fraud - fakes that cost  50, bought in the street, which allowed fans to get past initial barriers; or sophisticated counterfeit paper tickets sold for  800 to  1200 ( 682 to  852). Fran ois-No l Buffet, head of the Senate's law committee, said the chaos before the match had "unanimously been described as scandalous and even as a national shame, according to some politicians". The row has taken on huge political weight in France before parliamentary elections in less than two weeks, as opposition politicians on the right and left attacked the newly re-elected president Emmanuel Macron and the French government over what they called police failings and poor organisation.

British rider Mark Purslow dies aged 29 after Isle of Man TT qualifying accident



London, June 02 : The British motorcycle rider Mark Purslow has died in an accident during qualifying for the Isle of Man TT races. "We would like to

extend our deepest condolences to Mark's family, loved ones, and friends," race organisers said in a statement on Wednesday evening. "The TT Races will continue - but always with Mark in mind." Purslow, from Llanon in Ceredigion, Wales, was on his third lap of the fourth qualifying session when the accident occurred at Ballagarey. He had earlier lapped the Mountain Course at an average speed of 120.86mph. We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Mark Purslow following an incident in this evening's qualifying session. The 29-year-old was racing in his second TT, having previously contested the Supersport and Lightweight races in 2017. Purslow won the 2015 Manx GP lightweight race on his debut, and had also competed at the Classic TT. Local rider Dave Moffitt was airlifted to hospital in Liverpool on Tuesday after another crash, and is reportedly in a serious but stable condition. Moffitt was taking part in supertwin class qualifying when he came off his bike at Laurel Bank. The Isle of Man TT races are being held again this year after a two-year absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the longest break for the event since World War Two. The races around the island off the northwest coast of England have been run since 1907 and rank among the most dangerous in motorsport, with more than 250 fatalities in various events to date.

Ukraine deny Scotland on emotional night to set up playoff final with Wales

London, June 02 : The only threat to Ukraine's bid to keep their World Cup campaign alive came from a level of physical and mental fatigue that was wholly understandable. When Artem Dovbyk strode forward to score in the fifth minute of stoppage time, it was clear even tiredness could not halt the Ukrainian dream. There will be inevitable focus on the paucity of Scotland's showing here but Ukraine were exceptional. After Andriy Yarmolenko and Roman Yaremchuk handed the visitors a deserved two-goal lead, unlikely home hope arose from a goalkeeping blunder. In plain football terms, let alone taking into account the circumstances Ukraine's players encountered before this match, late Scotland salvation would have been totally unfair. Cheers reverberated from Glasgow to Kyiv - including in many towns and cities in between - after it did not arrive. The scale of emotion as Ukraine celebrated their win was appropriate. The stars wore yellow. "Focus on football" had been the recurring pre-match message from within the Scotland camp. That essentially happened straight from kick-off, with every crunching tackle by those in navy met with ricks of approval from the majority of the crowd. Earlier, when draped in the flags of their country, Ukraine players had clapped those supporters for their widespread applause of their national anthem. The approach of everyone associated with the Scotland team to Ukraine has been on point from the moment it was clear this semi-final, initially scheduled for March, would at the very least be delayed. Ukraine had no desire to be patronised here; they duly were not. Steve Clarke's insistence that the scale of this football challenge had to be respected partly resonated in the knowledge that Ukraine have fine players. Within 17 minutes, the visitors had twice been denied by a superb Craig Gordon.



Argentina on top of the world as Lionel Messi inspires Wembley win over Italy

Wembley, June 02 : They came to see their king and he did not disappoint. Three weeks before his 35th birthday but still as influential as ever, Lionel Messi inspired Argentina to victory over Italy in a "Finalissima" at Wembley that certainly lived up to all the hype. Billed as a showdown between the champions of Europe and South American and being played for the first time since 1993, there only ever looked like being one winner on Giorgio Chiellini's final international appearance as Lionel Scaloni's side stretched their unbeaten run to 32 matches. A former defender, Scaloni spent half a season on loan at West Ham in 2006 under the management of Alan Pardew and, with Messi pulling the strings from



a deeper position, he has clearly assembled a side that should be considered genuine contenders for the World Cup later this year. It has been nearly 30 years since Argentina beat Denmark on penalties to lift what was then known as the Artemio Franchi Cup after a former Uefa president. France won the first edition in 1985, with the match having been revived as "part of the expansion of the cooperation between Uefa and Conmebol" signed in February 2020 between the

two governing bodies as a direct challenge to Fifa's growing hegemony. Yet while South American teams are also expected to feature in a revamped Nations League after 2024, this was an opportunity for Italy to at least partially make up for their disappointing failure to qualify for the World Cup after losing to North Macedonia in a playoff. There were no such issues for Argentina, who sailed through qualification for Qatar unbeaten after ending a 28-year wait to be crowned South American champions. Messi was given a thunderous reception when he emerged for the pre-match warm-up and pretty much every time he went near the ball after that.

Lord's ready for right royal occasion as Ben Stokes begins England reign

London, June 02 : There promises to be a great deal of pomp and pageantry at Lord's this week, if the preparations are anything to go by. With the Queen's Jubilee apparently upon us, the union flags have been draped around the ground and the sound checks a day before the toss - deafening renditions of the national anthem over the public address system - point to an incoming avalanche of red, white and blue. But for those well-heeled enough to afford a ticket or subscribe to Sky Sports all this will be secondary when players take the field at 11am. England versus New Zealand, the reigning world champions, over five days at the Home of Cricket? Few adornments should be required to make this a special fixture, even if MCC were busy decorating the place while trying to ride out the grumbles about pricing. And, of course, this is the first step in a new journey for this England team after 12 months of pain, with Ben Stokes starting out his captaincy and Brendon



McCullum having crossed the divide as head coach. The pair barely knew each other before Rob Key, the new managing director, threw them together but they appear cut from similar cloth. Certainly the messages they are preaching mark a return to the simple, earthy cricketing truism of taking it a Test at a time that seemed to get lost during the previous regime. That it is the Black

Caps first up for the Stokes-McCullum axis adds a further layer of poetic narrative, for those looking on at least. Stokes may have spent the first 12 years of his life on the South Island, his late father, Ged, played rugby league for the Kiwis, while his mother, Deborah, and brother, James, have made the 12,000-mile trip from Christchurch to watch in person, but any extra

sentiment will be kept in check. "I'm very proud of where I came from, and my heritage and family and all that kind of stuff," said Stokes, looking relaxed at the first of what may be a good few pre-match press conferences to come. "But, you know, I've had the England shirt on over 200 times. So, at the end of the day, it's England versus New Zealand and I'm English. In terms of any extra emotions, it would be the same if I was doing it against Australia." It was Australia, of course, who set in motion the changes which have led to Stokes at the tiller, the 4-0 Ashes hammering over the winter - followed by a dismal 1-0 defeat in the Caribbean - bringing an end to Joe Root's five-years in charge. Stokes, who demonstrated an early divergence from his predecessor by bluntly calling out the ticket prices, said he is not a fan of the term "red-ball reset", however, preferring to label this week a "blank canvas" for his players, be they old or new.

Swiderski caps comeback for Poland against Wales in Nations League opener

Wroclaw, June 02 : For Wales, this Nations League opener was always going to be tantamount to a character-building exercise to warm up for their biggest game in 64 years and an impressive showing in Wroclaw despite defeat by Poland provided a welcome takeaway days before their World Cup playoff final. Rob Page unapologetically admitted that he named an experimental team with one eye on the Sunday showdown in Cardiff, a game that has crept up in the rear-view mirror. Wales led through Jonny Williams's second goal for his country, a fine strike from 20 yards, but the Poland substitutes Jakub

Kaminski and Karol Swiderski reversed the scoring to secure the hosts' victory. Page said it would have been mad to jeopardise any of Wales's key men and so Gareth Bale, Aaron Ramsey, Joe Allen



and Ben Davies were present in the dressing room before and after the game but rested altogether with the bigger picture in mind. "I made sure they were in the changing room," the Wales manager said. "They're a massive influence on that group and I wanted them in there."

England boost for Australia tour with Nowell and Cowan-Dickie available

London, June 02 : Eddie Jones has been handed a triple injury boost before England's summer tour of Australia with the Exeter trio of Jack Nowell, Luke Cowan-Dickie and Jonny Hill all expected to be available for selection. Nowell has been out of action since breaking his arm in England's Six Nations defeat by France in

March and Cowan-Dickie sustained a knee injury earlier in the competition against Wales. Hill missed the tournament and has not featured for Exeter since January because of a lower leg injury, but when fit all three are integral parts of Jones's squad. Nowell could even appear in Exeter's last game of the season against

Harlequins on Saturday and, though that fixture comes too soon for Cowan-Dickie and Hill, Rob Baxter, the Chiefs director of rugby, delivered a positive update on their chances of facing Australia in July. With Exeter out of playoffs contention, the three players could even be called into camp by England as early as next Monday in a



boost for Jones. Cowan-Dickie had established himself as the first-choice hooker before sustaining his injury and the same can be said of Hill as Maro Itoje's partner in the second row. Nowell has battled injuries in recent years but reestablished his place in the matchday squad during the Six Nations.

Ukraine players offer their suffering nation a moment of joy and clarity

Hampden Park, June 02 :Trauma can produce a devastating clarity. It paints the world in new and shocking colours, ruthlessly strips away what matters from what doesn't, dulls the pain with pure adrenaline and primal instinct. Car crash victims talk of calmly strolling away from a burning wreckage. Survivors of dreadful accidents often chat lucidly away to the paramedics while lying in their own blood. When pushed to extremes, humans have a limitless capacity to endure, to carry on, to do the thing that is needed. A lot of the speculation ahead of this game centred on how Ukraine's footballers would cope with their first international fixture since the invasion of their country. Whether, for all the goodwill and generosity they have encountered, their lack of match practice would ultimately be the telling factor, that the emotional burden would take its toll in the pivotal moments. To which the only possible response was: have you been watching the news lately? Have you heard Oleksandr Zinchenko and Andriy



Yarmolenko speaking at any point in the last few months? These are bruised men, grieving men, probably tired men. But nothing in their actions or words over the last few months suggests anything other than the sharpest clarity: a team and a nation and a people simply enduring. And so it proved on a milky summer's night in Glasgow. As Artem Dovbyk coolly slotted home the game-clinching third goal, it was almost as if the effort and emotion of the last three months - the nights spent hiding in basements, the long training sessions in Slovenian exile, the anguished phone calls home -

had hit Ukraine's players in the space of a moment. Several sank to their knees. None had the strength to join Dovbyk, celebrating alone in the south-west corner of Hampden. For 94 minutes they had managed to shut out the world beyond and throw themselves into their sport. Now, they could throw the windows back open. They had arrived with nothing to fear and nothing to lose.

As Andriy Shevchenko put it, they had already won. Simply by being here. Simply by being alive as a nation. Simply by making the world speak their name and raise their flag. Instead, it was the Scots who struggled with the size of the occasion, with the tumult of their emotions, with the screaming legs of tiredness. If there was a certain pride in being the temporary centre of the

footballing universe, there was also a confusion there too: whether to go for the jugular or sit tight, whether to harness the swirling noise or to block it out, whether to treat it like any other game or know that it was anything but. The result was yawning gaps all over the field: between the front two and the midfield three, between the midfield three and a fatally passive back five, allowing Ukraine to create numerical superiorities everywhere. Billy Gilmour started by pushing up high on Zinchenko, then sitting back, then doing very little of either. With the ball Scotland were too slow, too cautious, subsisting on a diet of harmless crosses, floated in like hopeful little balloons. It could have been over within an hour but for Craig Gordon in the Scotland goal. Instead, amid an overture of boos, Steve Clarke switched to a back four and Callum

McGregor scored from a freakish goalkeeping error. But not for nothing did Ukraine finish the group stage unbeaten, drawing with France home and away. Their system - based on a resilient low block - is limited and uncomplicated. But it works, and most importantly everyone knows their job. As for Scotland, Andy Robertson has just played his 56th game of an exhausting season. Gilmour and Grant Hanley have just been relegated with Norwich. Scott McTominay has spent the last few weeks reading about which world-beating central midfielder Manchester United are about to replace him with. Bound up in their worldly troubles, Scotland looked like what they were: a distracted and disjointed team thrown together with a bare minimum of thought and preparation. What do they know of football who only long punts to Lyndon Dykes know?

Sourav Ganguly's tweet on 'something new' has rumour mills buzzing



KOLKATA, June 02 : Sourav Ganguly was known to create a buzz on the field either with his bat or his leadership skills during his playing days. He continues to do so well after leaving the field. Around 30 years after starting his international cricketing journey in 1992, he can cause wild speculations with a seemingly innocuous tweet. "Planning to start something that I feel will probably help a lot of people," his tweet on Wednesday evening was enough to fan rumours of his resignation at the BCCI president. That Ganguly, in the tweet, thanked everyone who has been part of his cricketing journey, spiced up the rumours. "2022 marks the 30th year since the start of my journey with cricket in 1992. Since then, cricket has given me a lot. Most importantly, it has given me the support of all of you. I want to thank every single person, who has been part of the journey, supported me, and helped me reach where I am today," he wrote in a brief statement. Speculations of Ganguly joining politics were doing the rounds since the last West Bengal Assembly election in 2021. It was learnt Ganguly, who recently bought a new house at the heart of the city, will be launching an educational app and Wednesday's tweet was a teaser to that. Ganguly was earlier keen to start a school in the city which could not see the light of the day after residents objected, fearing traffic congestion in the area since another school is located nearby.

Former Dallas Cowboys running back Marion Barber III dies aged 38

Dallas, June 02 : Barber played a final season with Chicago in 2011 after spending his first six years with the Cowboys. He had issues with mental health after his career. Police in the Dallas suburb of Frisco said on Wednesday they made a welfare check at an apartment "believed to be leased" by Barber and were investigating an unattended death there. The

Cowboys, who have their headquarters in Frisco, said they were "heartbroken by the tragic death of Marion Barber III." "Marion was an old-school, hard-nosed football player who ran with the will to win every down," the team said. "He had a passion for the game and love for his coaches and teammates." The younger Barber, a fourth-round draft pick by Dallas in 2005, had 24

touchdowns in 2006-07 despite starting just one game those two seasons. Barber's career high was 14 TDs in 2006, when he rushed for just 654 yards. Barber had a career-high 975 yards rushing and 10 TDs in 2007, when he made his only Pro Bowl. His role and production declined from there, and he had careers lows in carries, yards and touchdowns in his final year in Dallas in

2010. Three years after his career ended, Barber was detained and taken to a hospital for a mental health evaluation. Police in Mansfield, another Dallas suburb, said it wasn't clear what led to the calls that prompted their response. The NFL has been hit by a number of deaths in recent months. Arizona Cardinals cornerback Jeff Gladney was killed in a car crash on Monday.

India to play 3 ODIs and 5 T20Is vs West Indies between July 22-August 7; two games in Florida

New Delhi, June 02 : The three ODIs will be played on July 22, 24 and 27 respectively at Port of Spain's (Trinidad & Tobago) iconic Queen's Park Oval and will be followed by five T20Is, two of which will be played at Florida's Fort Lauderdale. (Cricket West Indies) The Cricket West Indies (CWI) and the BCCI on Wednesday announced India's tour of the West Indies where the 'Men in Blue' will play three ODIs

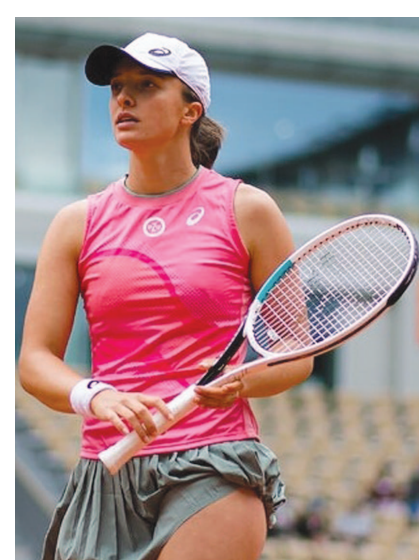


and five T20Is between July 22 and August 7. India will finish its white-ball leg of UK tour on July 17 and those selected would directly leave for the West Indies from England. The ODI series and three T20Is will be hosted across Trinidad and Tobago and St Kitts & Nevis, with the final two T20Is scheduled to be held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in the USA. The three ODIs will be played on July 22, 24 and 27 respectively at Port of Spain's (Trinidad & Tobago) iconic Queen's Park Oval and will be followed by five T20Is, two of which will be played at Florida's Fort Lauderdale. The first T20I will be held at Brian Lara Stadium (Port of Spain) on July 29 and followed by two games at St Kitt's Warner Park on August 1 and 2 respectively. The final two games, in order to cater to the Indian diaspora in the United States, will be held at the Broward County Stadium in Florida on August 6 and 7. The entire series will be live-streamed exclusively on FanCode. West Indies captain Nicholas Pooran said on the upcoming series, "We have a young team that is eager to restore the brand of cricket the West Indies team is known for playing."

'Sky's the limit' for Iga Swiatek after reaching French Open semi-final

Paris, June 02 :Over the past few months, Iga Swiatek has convincingly demonstrated her superiority over the rest of the field as she piled up points, victories and tournaments while aspiring to dominate all opponents in her path. Doing so at a grand-slam tournament, however, while managing the heightened pressure and attention, is a different challenge altogether. So far, Swiatek has thrived in this new role. After experiencing the "cold shower" of a rare lost first set in the fourth round, Swiatek returned with a clean, efficient performance against the second highest player left in the draw, bulldozing 11th

seed Jessica Pegula 6-3, 6-2 to reach the semi-final in Paris on her 21st birthday. Swiatek has now extended her remarkable winning streak to 33 matches, the third greatest women's run of the 21st century. This marks her third career grand slam semi-final after her victory here in 2020 and her semi-final run in the Australian Open in January. Because of her inexperience in 2020 and her hard-court record respectively, both of those semi-finals were surprise runs. Now she is at a different stage in her career: "This time I feel like I'm in the right place and that place that I worked for really hard," she



said. Afterwards, Swiatek reflected on what she learnt as a 20-year-old in a year that her life changed: "I kind of

felt like the sky's the limit for me, so I feel more free right now, I feel like I've proven myself. A lot has changed in my mind and for sure I also realise that I can actually be No 1 and really cope with it properly. So that's pretty cool." Swiatek next faces Daria Kasatkina, the 20th seed, who had Veronika Kudermetova on a string with her deep toolbox of shots as she won 6-4, 7-6 (5) to reach her maiden grand

slam semi-final without losing a set. Meanwhile Amélie Mauresmo, the Roland Garros tournament director, has courted controversy after saying that the French Open's decision to almost entirely block women's matches from featuring in the night sessions is due to the greater "appeal" of men's matches. Nine of the 10 night matches at Roland Garros this year have been men's matches. "In this era that we are in right now, I don't feel - and as a woman, former woman's player, I don't feel bad or unfair saying that right now you have more attraction, more attractiveness - can you say that? Appeal? That's the

general, for the men's matches," she said. After her match, Swiatek expressed her disappointment at Mauresmo's comments: "It is a little bit disappointing and surprising because she was also in the WTA. But from my point of view, for every player it's more convenient to play at a normal hour, but for sure I want to entertain and I also want to show my best tennis on every match." The night sessions at the French Open have been widely criticised throughout the tournament, with players opposing them while expressing their dislike of the cold, slow late night conditions they are held in.

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