



The Assam Rising

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Rhino poacher

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 05 :

A rhino poacher was arrested by Assam police from Roing in Arunachal Pradesh. The accused was arrested by police based on specific information. He was termed as absconding days ago. Taking to Twitter, Sadiya police wrote, "In a classic example of inter-district co-operation a team led by Dy SP (HQ), Bivash Das, APS and OC, Sadiya PS arrested an absconding rhino poacher from Roing, Arunachal Pradesh from the lead provided by him, Darrang Police recovered one suspected rhino horn." Another suspected poacher, who was connected to the one arrested in Arunachal, was apprehended by Darrang police.

Firing incident

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 05 :

Two persons have been arrested in connection to the firing incident that took place at Serfinguri in Kokrajhar district of Assam on Saturday evening. The two persons have been arrested for interrogation by the police. The arrested duo has been identified as Uttam Roy and Mridul Roy. According to reports, two unidentified bike-borne miscreants fired upon a small businessman identified as Sunil Mandal at Narabari area at around 8:30 pm on Saturday. Mandal was in his shop when the incident occurred. The victim suffered major injuries in his chest and was admitted at the Lower Assam Hospital in Bongaigaon for treatment. Meanwhile, Sunil Mandal's son Manoj Mandal said that some unknown person had called them on May 27 and demanded Rs 2 lakhs from his father.

Engineer killed

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 05 :

An engineer working for the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) was killed in a freak accident at one of its drilling locations in Assam's Jorhat district on Sunday. The incident took place during a drilling operation at Kalapani area under Titabor constituency. The deceased engineer, identified as Saurabh Jyoti Pathak, was a resident of the Jorhat's Pokamura area. Sources said that the engineer sustained head injury and was rushed to Jorhat Medical College Hospital (JMCH), however, doctors at the hospital declared him dead on arrival.

Russia will strike harder if longer-range missiles supplied to Ukraine: Putin warns West

London, June 05 :

President Vladimir Putin warned the West that Russia would strike new targets if the United States started



supplying Ukraine with longer-range missiles, Reuters reported on Sunday. If such missiles are supplied, "we will strike at those

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India's forest cover grew by over 20k sq km in last 8 years, says PM Modi

New Delhi, June 05 :

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday (June 5, 2022) attended a programme on 'Save Soil Movement' and stated that India's forest cover grew by over 20,000 sq km in the last eight years. Sharing the



dation founder Sadhguru, PM Modi said that today, India has achieved 10% ethanol blending in petrol, five months ahead of its target. Prime Minister Modi highlighted that India's efforts to protect the environment are multi-dimensional even though its role in climate change is "negligible". "Earlier, our farmers were not aware of soil health. To overcome this

problem, a huge campaign was launched to give soil health cards to the farmers in the country. In this year's Budget, we've announced natural farming along the Ganga river corridor will be promoted," PM Modi said. Stating that developed nations are responsible for the largest carbon emissions, Prime Minister Modi said the various campaigns launched by the Centre as part of India's multi-faceted efforts are contributing to the conservation of the environment. "Many government schemes carry the message of environment conservation. Be it Swachh Bharat Mission, Namai Gange, or One Sun, One Grid. India's efforts are multi-faceted. Developed

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PPE kit CM Himanta Biswa Sarma dismissed allegations

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 05 :

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma dismissed Delhi deputy CM Manish Sisodia's allegations of corruption and linking his wife to a controversy over PPE kit supply in the state and said the AAP member

will soon face "criminal defamation". In a series of tweets following Sisodia's statement, Sarma said his wife had donated the PPE kits. Asking Sisodia to stop sermonising, Sarma said he will face a criminal case in Guwahati. "Manish bhai, most surprising that you



CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma suspended over controversial remarks on Prophet Mohammad

New Delhi, June 05 :

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday (June 5) suspended its spokesperson Nupur Sharma and Naveen Jindal from the party's primary membership with immediate effect after alleged controversial remarks on Prophet Mohammad during a television news debate that led to violence in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur, ANI reported. The suspension comes just hours after the party said that it strongly denounces insult of any religious personality. The BJP also said that it does not promote such people or



philosophy. A communication to Sharma from the party's disciplinary committee secretary Om Pathak said

she has expressed views contrary to the party's position on various matters, which is in clear violation of its constitution. "Pending further inquiry, you are suspended from the party and from your responsibilities, assignments if any, with immediate effect," it said. A communication from Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta to Jindal said his views on social media vitiate communal harmony and are in violation of the party's fundamental beliefs. He has acted against the party's policies and ideology, Gupta said. "Your primary membership is immediately terminated and you are

expelled from the party," Gupta said. Several FIRs have been filed against BJP national spokesperson Nupur Sharma in Maharashtra, and violence erupted in Kanpur on June 3 after her remarks on Prophet

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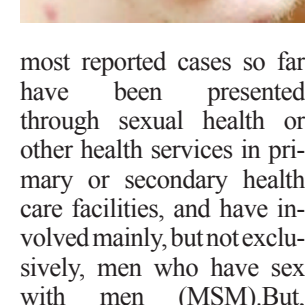
Amid former Pak PM Imran Khan's assassination rumours Police on high alert in Islamabad

Islamabad, June 05 :

Amid rumours of a plot being hatched to assassinate former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, the Islamabad police department said on Saturday night that the security agencies have been put on high alert in adjoining areas of Bani Gala in the city. Section 144 has already been imposed in Islamabad and gatherings have been banned, the Islamabad police spokesperson said on Saturday. "In view of the expected arrival of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf



(PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in Bani Gala, which is a residential area located in Islamabad, security in the area has been beefed up and a high alert has been sounded. However, until



most reported cases so far have been presented through sexual health or other health services in primary or secondary health care facilities, and have involved mainly, but not exclusively, men who have sex with men (MSM). But,

monkeypox is not a sexually transmitted disease. The virus can spread through any kind of sustained skin-to-skin contact with an infected person who has a lesion. It can also spread through body fluids, contaminated bed sheets and clothing, or respiratory droplets if a person has a lesion in their mouth. "Since May 13, 2022, and as of June 2, 2022, 780 laboratory confirmed cases of monkeypox have been reported to or identified by WHO from 27 Member States across four WHO

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list of people in Bani Gala has not been provided yet to Police. Section 144 is imposed in Islamabad and any congregation is not allowed

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BHEJA FRY



The result came, bike scoty ready for us by the government.

World Environment Day: Assam village plants one lakh saplings in a single day

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 05 :

On the occasion of World Environment Day, the villagers of Dhansiri in Assam's Golaghat on Sunday planted one lakh saplings on over 40 hectares of land at Tengani Dui Noi Mukh area under the



Sarupathar assembly constituency in the district. Apart from the villagers, several organizations, personnel from para-military forces, and police participated in the mega plantation drive. Locals said that local MLA Biswajit Phukan has played a vital role in the success of the plantation

programme. Biswajit Phukan, MLA of Sarupathar assembly constituency said, "This area has received less rain compared to other places of the state and last year the Assam cabinet had declared this area as a drought area." He further

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Yogi Adityanath turns 50, PM Modi, other leaders extend birthday wishes to Uttar Pradesh CM

New Delhi, June 5 : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday (June 5, 2022) turned 50, and wishes poured in on social media for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader. Adityanath, who was born on June 5, 1972, in a village in Uttarakhand, had commenced his political journey in 1998 and had become the youngest MP from Gorakhpur for five consecutive terms between 1998 and 2017. He reportedly left his home to join the movement for the construction of Ram Temple



and became a disciple of Mahant Avaidyanath of Gorakhnath Temple in Gorakhpur. Adityanath is also the head priest of the Gorakhnath Math, a Hindu temple in Gorakhpur. President Ram Nath Kovind, who is on

a four-day visit to Uttar Pradesh, extended birthday greetings to Adityanath during his stay in Gorakhpur. He also shared a picture with UPCM on Twitter. Extending greetings to Adityanath, Prime Minister Narendra

Modi said that Uttar Pradesh has "scaled new heights of progress" under his leadership. "Birthday greetings to UP's dynamic Chief Minister @myogiadityanathji. Under his able leadership, the state has scaled new heights of progress. He has ensured pro-people governance for the people of the state. Praying for his long and healthy life in service to the people," PM Modi tweeted. Union Home Minister Amit Shah also heaped praises on Adityanath for giving a "development-oriented government" to Uttar Pradesh. Taking to Twitter, Shah said, "Happy Birthday to

Chief Minister @myogiadityanathji. Under the guidance of Modi Ji, the way you have given development-oriented government to Uttar Pradesh by freeing it from goonda raj and mafia raj, the state is making new records of progress. I pray to God that you stay healthy and live longer." Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh greeted the UP Chief Minister and said that he is working tirelessly for the state with a dedicated spirit. "Happy Birthday to the Chief Minister @myogiadityanathji, who is engaged with full strength and



A mannequin decorated with flowers is displayed on a street in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Woman killed as storms cause chaos across France

Paris, June 5 : One woman has been killed and 14 people injured in France as thunder and hailstorms hit the country, ravaging vineyards and delaying flights. Residents of south-west France posted photos online of hail the size of tennis balls, and drivers in the Paris region shared images of flooded roads and daytime skies blackened by thunder clouds. Lightning hit the Eiffel Tower, without causing damage, and set roofs on fire east of Paris, according to local authorities. Thousands of households remained without electricity on Sunday after the storms struck on Saturday, according to the utility company Enedis. Flights out of Orly airport in Paris were temporarily suspended on Saturday, and there were flight delays at Charles de Gaulle. A

woman swept away by flooding was found dead under a car in the Normandy city of Rouen, said the interior minister, Gérald Darmanin, in a tweet. The circumstances of the death were unclear. In the Loire Valley, thousands of young people who were taking part in a scout gathering had to take refuge in the Château de Chambord as hail, thunder and lightning pounded the area. The château director told public broadcaster France-Info that some children were treated for signs of hypothermia but no serious injuries were reported. Rain also lashed Normandy beaches as veterans and others gathered for the 78th anniversary of D-day, the allied invasion against the Nazis during the second world war.

UK accused of attempting to deport children to Rwanda

London, June 5 : The Home Office has been accused of attempting to deport unaccompanied 16-year-olds to Rwanda in the first wave of asylum seekers to be sent to east Africa later this month. Charities have identified what they describe as a "worrying pattern" of children being classed as adults by Home Office age assessments, raising fears they could be among those deported 4,500 miles to Rwanda. One individual who said they were under 18 was placed in detention awaiting potential deportation to Rwanda and only released at the end of May, following intervention from lawyers. Another two out of the 70



asylum seekers identified by one charity as having received warnings of imminent removal and currently held in immigration detention centres say they are 16, but their age is contested by the Home Office. "We've got two age disputes but the Home Office has still issued notices of

removal," said Clare Moseley, founder of Care4Calais, which is supporting the 70 and said legal challenges have been launched to help safeguard the "contested" children. The anti-trafficking charity Love146 UK said several councils had flagged concerns about Home Office age assessments, stating that some children under 18 who had recently arrived by small boat across the Channel were receiving a "standard" age of 23, meaning they became potentially eligible for deportation to Rwanda. Daniel Sohege, campaigns manager for Love146 UK, said: "We are seeing children as young as 14

being incorrectly age-assessed as 23. The number of children we have seen who have just had 1999 put down as their date of birth when they are clearly under 18 is highly concerning, and putting young people at risk." Lauren Starkey, a social worker for the charity, added: "It is not within the realm of possibility that anyone, especially someone trained in child protection, could look at the children we have seen and believe they are in their 20s." However, the Home Office says that "nobody will be removed if it is unsafe or inappropriate for them", and denies that unaccompanied children would be relocated to Africa.

Russia launches air strikes into Kyiv for first time in five weeks

Kyiv, June 5 : Russia launched air strikes into Kyiv for the first time in five weeks on Sunday, claiming it had destroyed western-supplied tanks - while the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, warned more targets would be struck if weapons deliveries continued. Several explosions were heard around the eastern Kyiv suburbs of Darnytskyi and Dniprovs'kyi early on Sunday morning, wounding one person. The strikes represented a change of tack on the part of the invading forces. Russia's ministry of defence said the strikes had destroyed T-72 tanks that had been provided to Ukraine by European countries that were being stored in the buildings of a car repair business, although the claim could not immediately be verified. Kyiv's mayor, Vitali Klitschko, said "one victim was hospitalised" in the incident. Sergei Leshchenko, a member of the Ukrainian railway company's supervisory board, added that its facilities had been struck. They were the first bombing raids on any part of the capital since the end of April and appear to represent

an attempt to strike supply lines from Kyiv to the east, where both sides are embroiled in an intense battle for control of Donbas. Perhaps signalling the new approach, Putin told Rossiya state television that Russia would hit fresh targets in Ukraine if the US delivered the longer-range



rockets that it had promised to Kyiv last week. If such missiles were supplied, "we will strike at those targets which we have not yet been hitting", said Putin, who is believed to be closely involved in military decision-making. The Russian leader did not specify what would be struck, although logistics points would be amongst the

most logical targets. Russia has been irritated by the US decision to supply Ukraine with Himars truck mounted multiple-launch rocket systems, with missiles that have a range of about 20 to 40 miles, greater than anything in Kyiv's armoury. "All this fuss around additional deliveries of weapons, in my opinion, has

only one goal: To drag out the armed conflict as much as possible," Putin said in his TV interview.

Covid-19 fourth wave scare India records 3,962 new cases, 26 deaths

New Delhi, June 5 : With 3,962 new Covid-19 infections being reported in the last 24 hours, India's total tally of cases rose

to 4,31,64,544, according to Union health ministry data updated on Saturday (June 4, 2022). The active caseload

stands at 22,416. India recorded 26 new deaths in the last 24 hours. The country also reported 2,697 recoveries in a day. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease has increased to 4,26,25,454, while the case fatality rate has been recorded at 1.22 per cent. An increase of 1,239 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours. The ministry also informed that the active cases comprise 0.05 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate has been recorded at 98.74 per cent. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 0.89 per cent and the weekly positivity rate was 0.77 per cent, according to the ministry.

Guest House

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A see-off ceremony for three Chinese astronauts of the Shenzhou-14 crewed space mission is held at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China

Boris Johnson prays his number hasn't come up as Tory grassroots anger grows

London, June 5 : Much as the British people and their elected representatives may have wanted a break from politics during the platinum jubilee celebrations, the issue of the country's political leadership has cropped up at many a street and garden party. "I would say that at all the events I have been to - and it is a lot - the vast majority have tried politely to avoid it where they can," said one Tory MP with a southern constituency. "But about half a dozen people have searched me out to talk about Boris and every one told me he has to go. These were Tory people. They said they trusted me to do my duty in the coming days." The same MP, who has not said publicly that Johnson should be ousted, although he has been critical of him, reported having received about 400 emails on the leadership question over the last few days, only four of which were at all supportive of the prime minister. "It is pretty overwhelming from people who normally vote Tory," he said, giving an indication of his direction of thinking. The sense that support has been ebbing steadily away from Johnson has been borne out by accounts of jubilee parties related by other Conservative

MPs. "People have not been big on politics because it is all about the Queen, isn't it?," remarked a former cabinet minister who is known to want to get the PM out of Downing Street as soon as possible. "But those who did mention it on the circuit said 'well done for saying what you said' ... and they were all of the view that he must go." It had also been widely noted among

constituents, he added, that Johnson had been booed by a crowd full of royal enthusiasts outside St Paul's Cathedral on Friday as he arrived with his wife Carrie. "His whole pitch has been that he is popular and that he is a winner. The reaction showed that he is not very popular any more. That kind of thing is going to happen again."

Heatwave returns to capital; IMD issues yellow alert

New Delhi, June 5 : The national capital witnessed scorching summer heat on Saturday (June 4, 2022) with the temperature in parts of the city going beyond 47 degree Celsius, as per the data provided by the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The Met Office informed that the maximum temperature was 47.1 degrees at Mungeshpur and Pitampura recorded 46.5 degree Celsius. On the other hand, the weather station at Najafgarh recorded a maximum temperature of 46.2 degree Celsius. Nearby regions like Ganganagar in Rajasthan recorded the highest temperature was 47.5 degrees Celsius, while Hissar

in Haryana reported 46.8 degrees Celsius. IMD, in its bulletin on Saturday, informed that the heatwave conditions are likely in isolated pockets over northwest and central India during next two-three days. The weather office said that the maximum temperature was expected to rise by two degrees Celsius over most parts of northwest and central India. Meanwhile, the Met Office has issued a yellow alert, warning of heatwave at isolated places in Delhi on Sunday, reported PTI. For Sunday, the weatherman has forecast a partly cloudy sky with heat wave conditions at isolated places and strong surface winds with a speed of 20-30 kmph during the day. Delhi's maximum

temperature is likely to touch 43 degrees Celsius, the IMD said. IMD said that isolated places in Rajasthan, Jammu, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi will witness heatwave on June 4 and 5. The weather office also said that areas in Vidarbha, Jharkhand, interior Odisha and Chhattisgarh will witness heatwave conditions from June 4 to 6. South Uttar Pradesh and north Madhya Pradesh will witness heatwave conditions from June 7 to 8. Met Office said there is likely to be an increase in rainfall activity likely over South Peninsular India from June 7. - It predicted an intense spell of rainfall over Northeast India and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim during the next five days.



A Lao student performs during a Chinese poetry recitation party on the occasion of Dragon Boat Festival, at the National University of Laos



Environment on a diet of fun awareness meeting held

Assam Rising Dhemaji, June 5: An interesting awareness meeting on environment was held at Dhemaji District Education and Training Institute. He launched the programme by planting precious tree saplings on the premises of the meeting organized with a day-long programme in the auditorium of the institute. This was followed by an environmental awareness meeting programme by institute principal Dulani Heranje lamp lighting. The students of the second semester of the institute inaugurated the stage by performing a chorus. Speaking at a meeting explaining the motives of the founders Mayashree Chetia Phukan and Dr Madhumita Chetia, Dhemaji forest officer Rohini Kanta Das made a public statement on the

issue of planting of tree saplings as well as rearing. He also expressed deep concern that nine sanctuaries in Dhemaji district are in crisis. APDCL official Biplob Jyoti Saikia, who was present at the meeting as a prominent leader, called upon everyone to make good use of electricity and interacted with the students on the power of renewal and innovation. The meeting was attended by guest like Ronganoi High School Headmaster Binod Boruah, Assistant Teacher Ratul Hazarika, Robin Hazarika etc. In the middle of the meeting, Pinky Konch and Manash Jyoti Boruah performed a holiday play titled 'Seuji Dharani Dhunia' performed by the students along with songs. The play about the environment directed by Himanta Kalita starring

Jayant Kumar Chutia, Jyoti Kumar Gayan and Haren Borah managed to appeal to the public. At the end of the meeting, the Director said that the generation swells in this field to be aware, commenting that every world has the responsibility of protecting the unique world left behind by our ancestors. Calls upon everyone to make economic sustenance in water, fuel products, electricity power consumption. The meeting was attended by teachers, staff, students of the institute as well as hundreds of students from nearby Ronganoi High School and Jamuguri Panchali High School. Bikash Boruah, general secretary of the student group of the institute, thanked everyone who helped in making the programme a success.

Capacity building in research programme held at Nowgong College (Autonomous)

Assam Rising Nagaon, June 5: Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) in association with Department of Zoology and Chemistry of Nowgong College (Autonomous) under special pursuance of the Department of Zoology of Gauhati University organized a capacity building in research programme at Nowgong College (A) on Saturday last. The programme was initiated by Dr. Priyanka

Sharma. Dr. Sarat Borkataki, principal welcomed the guest and participants. Prof. Arun S Kharat, Department of Microbiology, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi graced the occasion as resource person. Dr. Kharal shared his experience in JNU, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar University, IISc Bangalore, Rockefeller University which are his alma mater. He elaborated pros and

cons of a quality research proposal and funding options and also explained how to write a quality research proposals and funding sources in his speech. Besides, he interacted with the faculty members and research scholars and assured them possible collaborations. The programme was concluded with the vote of thans by Dr. L. J. Borthakur, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry.

World Environment Day Celebrated at Barbhitha High School

Assam Rising Chhaygaon, June 5 : The World Environment Day is observed every year on 5th June. World Environment

Day is celebrated across the world to raise an awareness and describe the importance of Mother Nature. At the historic Barbhitha

Anchalik High School under Chhaygaon Constituency also , this day is observed today with pomp and gaiety. After the morning assembly plantation of trees done at the school premises where senior citizens of the locality ,renowned members of School Managing Committee ,students and techers were present . A fruitful discussion has been made among the participants about environmental degradation and its urgent need for protection as well as preservation . After taking the moral pledge for environmental protection and preservation all the participants sang the national anthem . It is to be mentioned here that World Environment Day first celebrated in the year 1974 globally .



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Governor of Assam, Forest Minister take part in World Environment Day program at Amingaon

Assam Rising

June 5: The crying need of the hour is to work relentlessly for the protection of nature.' This was said by Governor of Assam, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi at a programme organised by the Environment and Forest Department on the occasion of World Environment Day at Guwahati Biotech Park at Amingaon in Kamrup on Sunday. Addressing the gathering as chief guest, Governor Prof. Mukhi said

that the environment is plagued with many problems, including pollution and the way out is to do away with fossil fuel and to go in for clean and renewable energy, including solar energy to reduce pollution. Prof. Mukhi said that the present state government has been according top priority towards the protection of the environment through a slew of initiatives. Speaking as guest of honour, Minister for Environment

and Forest, Parimal Suklabaidya said there has been a rise in wildlife population and the green cover in the state following a host of initiatives to protect the environment. He mentioned about the steps taken by the government to declare Raimona and Dehing Patkai as National Parks. Chairman, Assam Pollution Control Board, Dr. Arup Kumar Misra said the World Environment Day has to be observed not only on June 5

but also throughout the year. Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, Kailash Kartik N said Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan jointly launched the 'Shyamolima Kamrup' (Verdant Kamrup) scheme under which 30 lakh saplings will be planted within three years. PCCF cum HoFF, MK Yadava dwelt at length on the importance and significance of the World Environ-

ment Day. He felicitated noted nature conservationist, Dr. Purnima Devi Barman on the occasion. Prizes were given away to the winners of the painting competition organised by the Environment and Forest department and Pollution Control Board on the occasion of World Environment Day. Earlier, Governor Prof. Mukhi and Forest Minister, Suklabaidya planted saplings in the Guwahati Biotech Park premises.

A Division Football League Kicks Off in Golaghat

Assam Rising

Golaghat, Jun 5: The A Division Football League tournament organized by Golaghat District Sports Association started from today at Golaghat Stadium. Today the Football League tournament was inaugurated by Golaghat District Sports Association's Vice President Dinesh Gogoi. General Secretary of Golaghat District Sports Association Sanjib Handique delivered the inaugural speech and stated all the details of the A Division Football League. Total eighteen teams have participated in this League.

Vice President of Assam Cricket Association Pariksheet Dutta, Senior Sports journalist Rupak Dutta were introduced with the players. In the inaugural match Golden Club defeated Kamarbandha Sports Association Team by 2-1 goals. Johan Kullu from the winning team scored two goals while Pankaj Bhuyan from the defeated team scored one goal. The inaugural ceremony was anchored by Assistant Secretary of Assam Football Association Ajoy Bharali.



World Environment Day observed in LVSC

Assam Rising

North Lakhimpur, June 5: Under the aegis of Lakhimpur Veterinary Science College (LVSC) under Assam Agricultural University Students' Union and NSS Unit and in collaboration with Info Global Society, Lakhimpur, the World Environment Day was observed in the college today.

By planting a sapling, the Associate Science Dean of the college Dr. Umaram Tamuli inaugurated the programme of the Day, which was followed by the cleanliness drive and tree plantation programmes in the college premises. IGSSS Lakhimpur branch Project Manager Dharani Payeng attended in the

Day's programmes as the Chief Guest. He inspired the students by delivering lectures on tree plantation and sustainable development of natural resources. Dr. Umaram Tamuli also spoke on the occasion. College Students' Union general secretary Kukul Saikia offered vote of thanks.

World environment day observed

Assam Rising

Biswanath Chariali, June 5: Along with rest of the world, the world environment day was observed at different parts of the greater Naduar area today. Educational institutions, social organization's

special day with pomp and gaiety. A public meeting was held with Jagananda Kurmi in the chair. Guests including Muhikanta Mahanta, Dhanada Gogoi, Pradip Gogoi, Ratul Bhuyan, Anjan Saikia briefed about the im-

saplings of varied breed, stated Arun Bordoloi, secretary of the village defence party. Similarly, Assam Adarsha Vidyapeeth, Borpam here observed this day with two-day schedule. The school authority



observed the environment day a mid of various activities. The village defence party, Borpam observed the

portance of the day. The guests, members of the village defence party and general public planted more one

organised a series of competitions including extempore speech, drawing competition, quiz competition on Sat-

9 days Awareness Against Tobacco by Pathik held

Assam Rising

June 5 : A well known non governmental organisation named Pathik organised a nine days awareness programs against tobacco in association with Dr. Bhubaneswar Baruah Cancer Institute, Anupam Jeevan, SMC'89, Consumer Right's Organization, Jana Swaraj, Gauhati Artist Guild, Topcem. Starting with Cyclathon on 22nd May continued with 2 days Workshops for the healthcare workers and counsellors, Essay competitions, Poster competition, Debate competition, motivational speech, State level Art competition followed by the main mass awareness Walkathon on 29th May. 18 km long Cyclathon was Flagged off by the Director of BBICI Dr. Amal Ch. Kataki at 7.00 am morning at BBICI ground where 100 cyclists from Guwahati cycle community and common people followed the slogan "Choose life not Tobacco". Tobacco kills which was ended at GMC ground of Dispur. The 2 days workshops on Tobacco ill ef-

fects and its control were resourced by Dr. Ashok kr. Das, Dr Manigreeva Krishnatreya, Dr. Tasnin Rehman, Dr. Srabana Misra Bhagabati and Victor Rajkumar at BBICI academic hall. On 27th May the Motivational speech "Daily work stress cannot be the only solution of addiction" given by Rj Pallavi and Trideep Bhagawati followed by the Debate competition on the subject "Vendor licensing will or will not help on tobacco control" where 60 debaters took part, among them Bhriku kumar Misra were selected the best debator. For the online essay and poster competition total 139 posters and essays were collected where all are selected for the appreciations. On 29th May the main Anti Tobacco Walkathon was flagged off at 7.00 am morning at Nehru Stadium by the director of BBICI Dr. A C Kataki, the commissioner of labour department Anamika Tiwari, the chair person of women cell of all indian dental association Dr. Rubi Kataki, the Asstt. commis-

sioner transport Gautam Das. The 7km walkathon was accompanied by 180 Assam police cradets with their commanders, film and music celebrities, sports personalities, teachers and college students, general public. The participants made the chain to the end point Bhugswari Phukanani indoor stadium Dispur on its moto "No Tobacco". 1100 certificates were distributed among the walkathon participants. The state level art competition was held at Sharddhanjali kaman at 11.00 on 29th May inaugurated, by Artists Aminul Haque and Gyanendra Kakoti. Among the 260 participants from 4 groups of the Art competition organised for anti - tobacco awareness, GROUP...A: 1st...Gorima Pegu, Abhigyan Jatiya Bidyalay, Class...3, 2nd...Agasti Nandana Kunwari, Sudarshan Public school, Class...2, 3rd...Zara Hussain, Good Shepherd pre primery, Class...prepratory, 4th...Prachurjya Kalita, Axom Jatiya Bidyalaya, Class...2,

GROUP.... B : 1st...Bastab Das, Asom Jatiya Bidyalaya, Class...5 2d...Rishita Das, Delhi Public School, Class...6, 3rd...Pranami Medhi, Axom Jatiya Bidyalaya, Class...6 GROUP...C: 1st...Sagarika Sarania, Guwahati Public School, Class...8, 2nd...Bhumika Das, New Guwahati Adarsha High school, Class...9, 3rd...Subhangi Das, Maharshi Vidya Mandir, Class...9, GROUP...D: 1st...Liza Rahman, Cotton college, Class...11th, 2nd...Barasha Das, Commerce college, Class...B.com, 3rd...Neeta Sahu, Class...MSC, were among the champions where they received a memento, certificate and cash prizes. The 9 days awareness drive against tobacco was ended with the closing ceremony on 31st May on the "World no tobacco day" at BBICI auditorium. At 2.00 pm with the welcome speech by the director of BBICI Dr. AC Kataki the closing ceremony started. He addressed the guests and audience and appealed to join hands to

over come the threat of Tobacco. He described the various nature of effects of tobacco and its victims. He addressed Pathik and other associated organisations to take a major step on the continuity of awareness all over Assam. The hosts Victor Rajkumar of Pathik and Dr. Srabana Misra Bhagabati of BBICI compiled the closing ceremony with prize distribution and music. The prize distribution was done by the guests Kishore kr. Das general secretary Gauhati Artist Guild, Dr. Tasnin Rehman HOD head and Neck oncology BBICI and Suranjana Senapati Director elementary education, Assam. Followed by felicitation to the representatives of the associated organisations of the 9 days awareness drive against tobacco with a memento and the gamucha by the Director of BBICI Dr. AC Kataki. On the beginning of the Closing ceremony of the 9 days awareness drive against tobacco, the souvenir "Pathik" edited by Rajlakmi Rajashtee was inaugurated by the guests.

THE ASSAM RISING

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Sophisticated diplomats

UN is seeking Russia's agreement for convoys to escort grain from Odesa and other Ukrainian ports. It's Putin who is preventing 22 million tonnes of grain reaching the Middle East and Africa, where millions face famine. Don't ask permission. Send a multinational force to smash his illegal blockade. The US and UK have made a big fuss in the past about preserving freedom of navigation in international waters, including the Black Sea. Puzzlingly, they in effect ceded these waters on 24 February to Russia, whose navy bombards and besieges Ukraine's cities and ports at will. Wise heads point to Turkey's guardianship of an obscure 1936 convention restricting wartime passage through the Bosphorus. A fig for that! Recep Tayyip Erdogan should help his western partners. It's high time Turkey's ageing bully minded his responsibilities, which include welcoming Nato applicants Finland and Sweden. Nato's reluctance to seize the initiative, rather than passively reacting to Russian actions, is unfathomable, too. Proposals for a no-fly zone and safe havens in western Ukraine are repeatedly rejected as too risky. So dare to try something else! Nato has the muscle and means. It could do much more to stop the systematic killing of civilians and push Russia back, as previously argued here. Left to fight alone, Zelenskiy pleads for heavy weapons but his pleas still often go unmet or responses are delayed. "We need to get serious about supplying [Ukraine's] army so that it can do what the world is asking it to do: fight a world superpower alone on the battlefield," says US Gen Philip Breedlove, formerly Nato commander in Europe. He's right. It's no good relying on sanctions, as the EU proved again last week. Its decision to let Hungary's mini-Putin, Viktor Orbán, water down an oil embargo was weird. Yet Germany's Olaf Scholz and fellow euro-wobblers are content. Duty done on oil, they will now more stubbornly resist what their bankers and businessmen most fear: sanctions on gas. Hardest of all to understand, perhaps, is why some western governments persist in attempting business as usual with Putin, who they know, for certain, is overseeing atrocities and war crimes. Scholz and France's Emmanuel Macron hold regular phone chats with him. It's said they are realists seeking peace. No. They are dupes, normalising mass murder.

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

Letter to the Editor

Government should safeguard Hindu population in Kashmir

Dear Editor,

Hindus, where they are a minority, in Neighbouring countries like Pakistan or Bangladesh are being troubled in different ways, as we find quite often. We are unable to help them. When a similar situation arises in our own Kashmir, if we cannot safeguard them, we feel awfully bad and sad. I earnestly suggest our Union Government and J & K Government to ensure safety and security of citizens especially Hindus as Top Priority. It is disheartening to see innocent Bank Manager, innocent Teacher and others losing their lives in recent killings by the Terrorists. Hindus there want to vacate the valley fearing their own safety and security. It is high time for the Government to assure them and safeguard them.



Kantamsetti LakshmanRao

Visakhapatnam

Young women to grandmothers, why everyone is watching 'Anupama', forget the hiccups

Anupama the serial on StarPlus has become a feminist movement in itself. From young women commuting in the Metro to mothers and grandmothers at home, everyone is watching it. Google it and you'll come across hundreds of news articles on the show – following Anupama's every move, criticising plot twists and chronicling fan reactions. So, what's got everyone hooked? The show has replaced traditional saas-bahu soaps by being more liberal and giving the lead character space to experiment. But how many women do you need to put down to show the possibility of a modern, progressive woman? Anupama (played by Rupali Ganguly) follows the story of a woman in her 40s who breaks away from a toxic marriage, starts her own enterprise based on her passion for dance, and then goes against society to marry a childhood admirer. Anupama has had 594 episodes so far and managed to garner a TRP as high as 4.5. Contrary to other serials where the good empowered woman is just another "wife" or "mother" who constantly saves the family from tragedy—whether it be a broken tube light or a serial killer—Anupama shows a woman trying to reclaim her authority and autonomy from a life she had devoted to her husband and children. It is an unconventional plot, compared to the rest of Hindi TV, which clearly touches a chord with Indian women who watch it. But Anupama is never allowed to be a true rebel. And sadly, that seems to work for the audience. Anupama has aspirations, desires, and knows she deserves

respect. And yet, such shows condition women into believing that to be a modern working woman, you need to know household work as well. Anupama is adored more than her counterpart, Kayya who is a working woman and can't take care of the house. If Kayya is the 'evil' character for having a job and being fashionable, the audience applauds Anupama for doing the exact same, but only because she is a home builder, someone who sweeps and cleans her house and packs tiffin for her children before leaving for work. In these shows, women—no matter how liberal—still exist in binaries. And that seems to work for the target audience of the show – women. A Pew Research Center survey released in March 2022 showed that 9



Yashika Singla

out of 10 Indian women think wives should obey their husbands. A particularly striking series was Kuch Rang Pyaar Ke Aise Bhi, which streamed on SonyTV a few years ago. Several Indians found themselves invested in this coming-of-age story of a romance between a modern nutritionist and a successful liberal businessman. While the mother-in-law, Ishwari, tries to create problems between her son Dev and daughter-in-law Sonakshi, she also tries to bring them together after a divorce. Why? Because Sonakshi has now learned how to cook food and has a daughter. The appreciation here is misplaced and follows the same conventional ideal of women being nurturing and providing,

rather than ambitious or humanly flawed. Having an affinity for material pleasures or expressing sexual desires are seen as terrible traits in a woman. Remember Komolika or Maya from Beyhadh? Most Indian shows give the male lead a visa to act any way they want. Compared to the strict binary women live in, men are allowed to be grey characters with their own set of flaws. They can hit their wives, abuse them, pick on their insecurities, and yet be shown as loving and doting at the end of the day. Anupama stands out here, each man in the plot has their own personality and cognition. Vanraj (Sudhanshu Pandey) is not your token Indian TV husband with his lovey-dovey charm. He is a narcissist, who thinks he is better than everyone around him, and yet with all his attitude, there is always a contemplation attached to the character that makes him do the right thing in the end. Even Anupama's sons are poles apart as they can be. Samarth (Paras Kalnawat) will always side with his mother no matter what, whereas his brother Paritosh (Ashish Mehrotra) is more like his father Vanraj. However even Paritosh actively makes an attempt to do the correct thing. Even with all its faults, Anupama makes a large chunk of Indian women believe in themselves. It reinforces the idea that if you are genuine, then even after all the hurdles, there will be some sort of victory. There must be a reason women of all ages are watching 600 episodes of it.

The great Coronapause is over, but history tells us that complacency can be a killer



be a source of considerable inconvenience and, for those unlucky to end up in hospital, ongoing misery. Despite hopes that herd immunity would have kicked in by now, the US is



Mark Honigsbaum

in the midst of its fourth-biggest Covid surge, while Portugal, where 90% of the population is vaccinated, has registered an astonishing 2,447 new cases per million people in the last seven days, driven by the Omicron sub-variant BA.5. In a world that had absorbed the lessons of previous waves, these figures would make us pause once more. Instead, we think of making up for lost beach time by cramming into airports crippled by post-Covid worker

shortages before rushing back to half-empty offices just in case Jacob Rees-Mogg or Elon Musk should pay an impromptu visit. Never mind that studies show that hybrid working is

more productive and results in happier, more contented employees.

Now the Coronapause is over, the powers that be are determined to call time on work from home and restore the status quo. But for the two million Britons struggling with the debilitating effects of long Covid, the pandemic is not over. Nor can those who have lost loved ones or close family members to the virus readily forget the government's failure to lock down sooner. For relatives of the 180,000 British dead, there can be no moving on

until the long-promised public inquiry into the pandemic has delivered its verdict. That is why in the rush to forget it is critical to take stock and remember so that our experiences are available to future generations. Arguably, the reason we were so poorly prepared for Covid-19 and the lockdowns that attended it is that we had failed to pay sufficient heed to how societies had resorted to similar measures at other times and places. Quarantines are a tried and tested response to outbreaks, one that has changed little since 1377, when Dubrovnik banned travellers from plague-infested areas entering the city. Yet when we saw the pictures from Wuhan and later Bergamo, we could not imagine the same thing might happen here. We must not make the same mistake again. To ensure our memories and experiences are available to future generations, the Science Museum has begun collecting objects and artefacts from the pandemic – in its medical gallery you can currently see the lectern from the Downing Street press conference carrying the message "Stay At Home – Protect the NHS – Save Lives" and the artist Grayson Perry's ceramic jar depicting the traumatic lockdown experiences of his alter ego, Alan Measles. One reason the museum has been so keen to gather these objects is that it has done a poor job of documenting previous pandemics – for instance, its collections contain virtually no objects from the 1918 Spanish flu, a pandemic that, like Covid, swept round the globe in successive waves, upending social life and killing some 50 million people. But as we look to the future, perhaps a better analogue is with the 1889-92 "Russian influenza" pandemic, which some scientists think may have been wrongly attributed to flu and which may also have been due to a coronavirus.

Hillary Clinton is right: the age of the showman leader has damaged politics

that's a real problem." An element of theatre and performance has always been essential in democratic politics. People need their passions stirred, values touched and a belief – even transient – that they are part of a great transformative project. Of course there has to be an organising idea, a unifying cause and an enemy to slay, but all has to be framed in ways that



Will Hutton

inspire. What has degraded political theatre into performative posturing, argues Clinton, is social media built on our obsession with screens – the catalyst in the witch's brew of rightwing ideology, Christian fundamentalism, sheer greed and predatory capitalism driving the US's political polarisation. Politics has become a subset of an alternative reality defined by an avalanche of the hype, trolling, misinformation, retweets, trending, anonymised racism and misogyny in which we now live, exacerbated by big tech and its algorithms, for whom the resulting data traffic is gold. Politics has to swim in these currents that breed obsessive single issue after single issue and the advantage falls first to the shameless performer and then the political right. There is an inherent bias against what she calls the politics of hope: politicians who in different ways want to speak for a "we society", a future in which we look out for each other more. What grabs our social media attention instead is the negative – "the car wreck, the sensationalist story, the conspiracy theory" – which makes putting a case for hopeful reform harder and shameless lying politically easier. I put it to her that progressive politics and politicians have to take a measure of responsibility. Unable to cohere around a single strong narrative or sell it well, whether in Britain or the US, they create openings for the right. She pushed back hard. Confronted by the relentless lying involved in, say, Brexit, the remainers were "kind of, you know, bollocks."

They didn't know what to do or say and didn't do a very good job of it. When you're on the opposite side of shameless lying, you really are thrown off balance. I mean, how do you respond to that?" Progressive politicians certainly had to do better, but she wasn't going to indict them. It's a tough hill to climb, she argues, a new way in which raw capitalist power, particularly in the abuse of tech, and its accompanying ideology are being configured and new waters created in which showman politics flourishes. Government must rein it in for the public good. Yet there is, as the Tory party and Johnson are discovering, a reckoning with reality. In his recently published small masterpiece, Chums, Simon Kuper describes how Brexit was

trading blocs, security on our shared continent – came a long way behind extravagant gesture politics. Now the omissions are there for all to see and we live through the impoverishing and diminishing consequences. Slowly, too slowly, it is becoming possible to call out Brexit for what it is. Political leadership in the 2020s needs to be recast, but old truths will out. Alternative reality may have allowed performative politics to trump content for a period, but for all the collective appetite to be entertained, citizens also want to be governed well. That means a firm grasp of what does and doesn't work and how matters can be improved. That in turn requires a viable political philosophy backed by evidence and turned into a programme that can be consistently applied across government, taking on power, privilege and vested interest where it is plainly



a fantasy crusade by a small group of Oxonian former public-school boys to keep Britain free for their caste against the imagined enemy of an EU superstate. It served no interest group in the country except themselves and their Tory ilk, enlarging their prerogative to rule but framed as an epic struggle for freedom. Details – peace in Northern Ireland, 21st-century trade being dependent on common standards set by giant

necessary. It's palpably not what we have, but it's obviously what we need and the wheels are already spinning to deliver it. Keir Starmer's lack of dash in Johnsonian or Trumpian terms may suddenly be an asset; instead of aping them – in any case both undesirable and impossible – he needs to cultivate a form of counter-performativeness. Talking straight and honestly is the show that the public is increasingly ready for, supported by a clear philosophy of government and ambition for the country. It is doable.

MUDRA LOAN: building bridges to equitable prosperity

Right from the early days, the Modi Government has wanted to essentially change the exclusion culture that was surreptitiously built in the six decades after independence: excluding those at the fringe and at the bottom of the pyramid! It made the new policy makers restless in their quest for equitable entrepreneurial development through nook and corner of our vast country. In this regard, two schemes viz. PM Jan Dhan Yojana and MUDRA loans have

sons, on a conservative basis, these units are providing employment in excess of 10 crores of individuals. The Government, aware of the varied needs of those a little short on financial understanding but rich with business acumen and dreams to make it big, created three categories of MUDRA ■ **Soumya Kanti Ghosh** loans to take care of different categories of entrepreneurs exclusively, SHISHU, TARUN & KISHOR. The guiding philosophy was that over time,

neighbourship through a clean model and on such a colossal scale that was never tried before. There were opportunities for growth and income generation but the people who were on the margins were not sure whether their spirit of entrepreneurship would receive the enthusiastic support from the banking system. The creation of a guarantee trust (CGFMU) by the Government ensured Banks and other Financial intermediaries became confident in loan acceptance and disbursements. Loans up to Rs 10 lakhs now enjoy a guarantee from the Federal Government-sponsored Trust. Lenders have the additional comfort to lend without asking for any other collateral security. Soon this became an all-encompassing phenomenon whereby ordinary citizens of this country found the portals of big financial entities open for them seamlessly! The Government also used technology to deliver and monitor the process. Banking Correspondents were roped in to promote wider acceptance of the scheme and to make people familiar with the scheme particulars and nitty-gritties. There are many fascinating success stories of empowerment of people, through the MUDRA

scheme. Many of such success stories belong to women borrowers who have established themselves at the forefront of livelihood support to their families and even provide employment to other families. They have freed themselves from the perennial bondages of informal money lenders and have scaled up with finance from Banks. Women beneficiaries make two-third of MUDRA loanees, many of them coming from socially disadvantaged groups changing the socio-cultural fabric of the country. These success stories remind that micro business through hardships and follies, through turmoil and challenges can only grow bigger! No challenge could break their indomitable spirit and resilience. The country also witnessed the resolute spirit of entrepreneurial India during Covid phase. Some learned people said that there would be great stress in the system, the sticky loans will grow manifold. But, to their dismay, the system was strong enough to come through unscathed. The government kept the pledge to support this fearless new breed of business class intact. Government also introduced a 2% interest subvention scheme to lessen the burden of borrowers to a great extent that continues till today. A new digital India has been unfolding that is revolutionizing our financial systems. Today, India has a streamlined system that helps a person to use a Bank's app to apply for a loan from the comfort of his/her home. New opportunities are being created witnessing NBFCs and Micro Finance institutions joining hands with Banks/RRBs to dole out MUDRA loans in. Corporates are finding new supply chains. There is a multiplier effect in play, one rupee of credit given is making much more in the circular economy. There are social securities embedded, for the borrowers and their families that was never thought of before! Going forward, various government welfare schemes and promotional schemes in agriculture and MSME could be better integrated with MUDRA schemes, as also better usage of fin-tech and start-up ecosystem to bring forth an immersive, 360 degrees development perspective that transcends boundaries. MUDRA is a success story that just goes on to show how right political intent can meet socio-economic-cultural forces for a multiplier effect on change that is sustainable and equitable. We, somehow believe that this is just the beginning of AMRIT KAAL for an entrepreneurial India that believes in itself! (The author is Group Chief Economic Advisor, SBI)

changed the landscape of financial inclusion, both deposit and lending, in this country with promise of a new independence to the entrepreneurial spirit of the country. In the last seven years, Banks (including RRBs)/NBFCs/MFIs have together disbursed 35.32 crore MUDRA loans for an amount totalling around Rs 18.4 lakh crore, translating into an average of Rs 52,000 loan for the smallest of borrowers. Around two-third of these loans are sanctioned to Women entrepreneurs. Assuming that each unit employs a minimum 2 per-

a SHISHU loanee will not remain in SHISHU category forever, it will grow into a TARUN, a TARUN will become a KISHOR with time and so forth, ensuring equity and prosperity! But, Government had to overcome many challenges post-2014. There was no enabling system in place. No architecture or infrastructure to anchor the humongous volumes proposed. The Government disciplined the prevailing culture by building an atmosphere of trust that was mutual. The government was promoting entrepre-

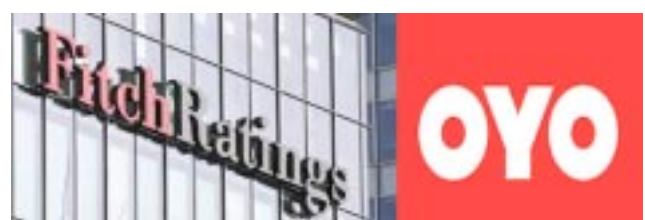


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Fitch downgrades OYO's ratings

Delhi, June 5 : Fitch Ratings has downgraded Oravel Stays Ltd's (OYO) Long-Term Foreign- and Local-Currency Issuer Ratings (IDRs) from "B" to 'B-

Cash Flow (FCF) deficit in the next two years, with limited refinancing risk on its long-dated debt. Fitch downgraded the rating on the \$660 million senior se-



, citing uncertainty about the hospitality company achieving material EBITDA profit in FY23. "The company faces execution challenges given the lacklustre recovery in travel demand in the price-sensitive markets where OYO operates. OYO will likely achieve meaningful EBITDA profit only in the year ending March 2024 (FY24), relative to our previous expectations of FY23," said the rating agency in a statement. The outlook on instruments is stable. It reflects comfortable liquidity as available cash is sufficient to fund the expected Free

cured term loan facility due 2026, issued by OYO's subsidiary, Oravel Stays Singapore Pte Limited, to 'B-' from 'B'. The term loan facility is unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed by OYO and certain subsidiaries within the group. Fitch said it expects OYO's FY23 revenue to increase by around 30 per cent, lower than the agency's forecast. This is due to slower recovery in travel demand in its core markets and subdued growth in the number of partnered hotels and homes. OYO's revenue growth in FY22 may have underperformed than its

peers in the hotel industry, which grew by 50-100 per cent (YoY). OYO has a higher exposure to the mid-to-budget hotel segment, which has been slower to recover. OYO's management expects FY23 revenue to grow by around 80 per cent on stronger travel demand recovery and the addition of hotels and homes to the portfolio, the rating agency added. The liquidity is satisfactory. OYO's unrestricted cash at FYE22 was sufficient to fund Fitch-estimated FCF deficits of \$74 million in FY23 and annual debt repayments of \$ six million, although greater cash burn will weaken liquidity. Its business model is intact and its profile benefits from a diversified market presence in India, south-east Asia and Europe, and moderate entry barriers. These are offset by its exposure to price-sensitive travel markets. OYO targets business and price-sensitive travellers. This market recovered much more slowly than the premium market in FY22, it said.

LIC shares decline over 3% on lower earnings

Delhi, June 5 : Shares of LIC on Tuesday dipped over 3 per cent after the company posted a 17 per cent decline in consolidated net profit for the fourth quarter ended



March 2022. The stock declined 3.23 per cent to Rs 810 on the BSE. At the NSE, it tanked 3.31 per cent to Rs 810. Insurance behemoth LIC on Monday posted a 17 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 2,409 crore for the fourth quarter ended

March 2022. The insurer had earned a profit of Rs 2,917 crore in the same quarter a year ago. This is the first-ever quarterly result of LIC after being listed on bourses earlier this month. The total income of the insurer during the March quarter increased to Rs 2,12,230.41 crore, from Rs 1,90,098 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal, LIC said in a regulatory filing. LIC's income from first-year premium rose to Rs 14,663.19 crore against Rs 11,053.34 crore in the same quarter previous fiscal.

Capacity expansion : UltraTech to invest 13k crore

Mumbai, June 5 : UltraTech Cement, the flagship company of Aditya Birla Group, will invest Rs 12,886 crore towards capacity expansion of 22.6 million tonne per annum (mtpa) over the next three years. This will not only reinforce its position as the third-largest cement company in the world, outside China, but also further bolster its leadership position in India. The capex was approved by the board of UltraTech Cement on Thursday. The development comes barely a month after the Adani Group entered into an agreement with Birla Group chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla said, "The company has more than doubled its capacity over the last five years and is committed to meeting

M&A. UltraTech's existing capacity is around 120mtpa. The company had announced a Rs 5,700-crore investment in December 2020 to take this to about 136mtpa. Now, with the new announcement to add 22.6 mtpa, UltraTech Cement's total capacity will go to around 159mtpa by FY25. The expansion by Birla will widen the gap between UltraTech Cement and Holcim, whose current combined cement capacity is around 70mtpa. Aditya Birla Group chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla said, "The company has more than doubled its capacity over the last five years and is committed to meeting



India's future needs for housing, roads and other infrastructure. Given the size of the investment today, I am confident that this new capacity creation will

have a multiplier effect leading to jobs and growth across multiple regions in India. "The capacity expansion is being carried out through a mix of brownfield and greenfield projects, the company said in a statement. This would be achieved by setting up integrated and grinding units as well as bulk terminals.

Many countries send back Indian tea due to high in pesticides

Mumbai, June 5 : Both international and domestic buyers have rejected a series of tea consignments due to the presence of pesticides and chemicals beyond permissible limits, Indian Tea Exporters' Association (ITEA) chairman Anshuman Kanoria said on Friday. Filling up the vacuum created by crisis-hit Sri Lanka in the global market, Tea Board is eyeing to ramp up exports. However, the rejection of consignments is causing a decline in outward shipments. All teas sold in the country must conform to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) norms. However, most of the buyers are purchasing tea that has unusually high chemical content, Kanoria told PTI. In 2021, India exported 195.90 million kg of tea. The major buyers were



the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) nations and Iran. The board is aiming to achieve 300 million kg of tea this year. Kanoria said that many countries are following strict entry regulations for tea. Most of the countries follow variations of the EU standards, which are more stringent than the FSSAI rules. "Instead of complying with the law, many are urging the government to make the FSSAI norms more liberal," he said, adding that this would send a wrong signal as the bever-

age is considered to be a health drink. A senior official of the Tea Board told PTI that complaints have been received from tea packers and exporters on the issue. "It is reiterated that producers should strictly abide by the extant FSSAI norms. The issue of modification of the norms has been raised by the producers' organisations with FSSAI. It is obvious that exports should adhere to the existing norms of the importing countries," he said. India exported tea worth Rs 5,246.89 crore in 2021.

Lending rates of HDFC, ICICI Bank, PNB increase



Mumbai, June 5 : Interest rates on loans are on the rise again. The country's largest housing finance company HDFC hiked its benchmark rates by 5 basis points (100bps = 1 percentage point), while ICICI Bank revised its marginal cost of lending rate (MCLR) by 30bps. The increase in interest rates are effective from June 1. HDFC's rate revision comes close on the heels of

a 30bps increase in its retail prime lending rate, which followed a 40bps hike in the RBI's policy rate in May. Following the increase in the benchmark, the revised rate for new borrowers will be between 7.05% and 7.50%, depending on credit score and loan amount. The existing range is 7-7.45%. For banks, home loans are linked to the repo rate and the 40bps hike will be transferred

to borrowers. However, in the case of older loans, the rates are linked to the MCLR, which are reviewed every month. ICICI Bank has increased its MCLR by 30bps across the board following an increase in the cost of funds consequent to the withdrawal of liquidity by the central bank. After the increase, ICICI Bank's one-year MCLR stands at 7.55%. Punjab National Bank has also hiked its MCLR rates by 15bps, which will increase the outgo for borrowers with older loans. Most banks review their cost of funds during the first week of the month. Given the increase in cost of funds, more such announcements are likely soon. According to bankers, the current increase in rate will not impact demand as rates are still below the pre-pandemic level. However, the RBI is expected to once again increase rates when it reviews its policy rate next week. RBI governor Shaktikanta Das had earlier said that expectations of a rate increase were a "no brainer".

LinkedIn Local Guwahati to host its 6th edition in the city

Guwahati, June 5 : The biggest professional networking event of the city LinkedIn Local will be hosted in Guwahati. After hosting a series of 5 successful editions, LinkedIn Local Guwahati, the professional networking event, is back to host the 6th Edition at Guwahati on the 18th of June 2022 at NEDFi House. The last edition was taken up on a virtual platform due to the then rise in the curve, the 6th edition is hopeful and looking forward to helping build and foster healthier offline professional connections between individuals. City host Syed Mohsin Raja on the occasion said, "We are glad to bring back LinkedIn Local in Guwahati after 2 years, last year we had to convert the event online and before that we hosted the event at

Tezpur. This year it is going to be the biggest ever event in comparison to last events." LinkedIn Local is a global one-to-one professional meetup concept without any sales pitch that started in Australia. LinkedIn Local events are organic meetups, licensed by LinkedIn and hosted by members all over the world. They

sic motive of all the LinkedIn Local events worldwide remains the same - connecting people offline and deepening their relationships through professional networking. The 6th Edition expects a great footfall of more than 70 professionals ranging from entrepreneurs, start-up enthusiasts, and



provide an opportunity to network, build community, discuss industry trends, and share best practices for using LinkedIn. LinkedIn Local Guwahati is the same event for Guwahati city which started back in 2018. The ba-

corporate. Unlike previous editions, this time instead of a central theme there'll be multiple speakers speaking on their niche which will vary from Startups to Blockchain & Crypto basics to Entrepreneurship.

Tezu on aviation map as first Dornier plane lands

Tezu, June 5 : Marking the start of commercial operations, a Dornier 228 aircraft operated by Alliance Air landed at Tezu airport in Lohit district of Arunachal Pradesh on Thursday, officials said. The 17-seater aircraft, manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), took around 20 minutes to reach Tezu from Dibrugarh in Assam, they said. The cost of the ticket is Rs 1,600. "We extend our deep

gratitude to the government for bringing Tezu on the aviation map of the country, which will benefit the people immensely during medical emergencies, besides promoting tourism," said Ojimo Tayeng, who along with his wife, were the only passengers on the maiden flight. "Tezu and adjoining districts have tremendous tourism potentials, which will receive a major boost with air con-

nectivity," Negi said. The flight service would be available three days a week -- Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. On April 12 this year, Alliance Air's first flight landed at Pasighat in East Siang district where Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia and Union Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju were received by Chief Minister Pema Khandu.

Contd. From Page 1

India's forest cover grew by over

nations are responsible for the largest carbon emissions," he said. The 'Save Soil Movement' is a global movement to increase awareness about deteriorating soil health and bring about a conscious response to improve it. The movement was started by Sadhguru in March 2022, who had embarked on a 100-day motorcycle journey passing through 27 countries. Later in the day, he will also launch a global initiative 'Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) Movement' on Sunday (June 5, 2022). During the video conferencing event which is scheduled to begin at 6 pm, Prime Minister Modi will also deliver a keynote address during the programme. "The launch will initiate 'LiFE Global Call for Papers' inviting ideas and suggestions from academics, universities & research institutions etc to influence and persuade individuals, communities and organisations across the world to adopt an environment conscious lifestyle," the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement. "The programme will also witness the participation of Bill Gates, Co-Chairman Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Lord Nicholas Stern, Climate Economist; Prof. Cass Sunstein, Author of Nudge Theory; Aniruddha Dasgupta, CEO and President World Resources Institute; Inger Andersen, UNEP Global Head; Achim Steiner, UNDP Global Head and David Malpass, World Bank President, among others," the PMO added. It is pertinent to note that the idea of LiFE was introduced by the Prime Minister during the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in 2021. The idea promotes an environment-conscious lifestyle that focuses on 'mindful and deliberate utilisation' instead of 'mindless and destructive consumption'.

43 dead, over 450 injured

been injured in this incident, of which at least 350 are at CMCH. The death toll could be more at other hospitals. "Police, Fire Service and local sources said the fire broke out inside BM Container Depot's loading point around 9pm. SI Nurul added that prima facie, it is believed the container depot caught fire due to chemicals. Around 11:45pm, there was a massive explosion and the fire spread from one container to another due to the presence of chemicals in one of the containers. Sources said the blast was so powerful that it shook the neighbourhood and shattered windows in nearby houses. Chittagong Fire Service and Civil Defense Assistant Director Md Faruk Hossain Sikdar said, "Around 19 firefighting units are working to douse the blaze and six ambulances are also available on the spot. "In a statement, Mujibur Rahman, director of the BM Container Depot, said it was not clear what caused the fire. "But I think the fire started from the container". "Arrangements are being made to ensure that the injured get the best treatment. We will bear the entire cost of the treatment. Those who were injured in the accident will be given the maximum compensation," Rahman was quoted as saying by The Daily Star. "In addition, we will take responsibility for all the families of all the victims," he added. BM Container Depot is set up as an inland container depot which has been operating since May 2011. The private container depot was built on 21 acres of land in the Sitakunda area of Chattagram adjacent to the Bay of Bengal coastline.

Monkeypox menace Total cases

regions that are not endemic for monkeypox virus," the WHO said in a statement. So far, the West African clade of the virus has been identified from samples of cases. And most confirmed cases reported travel to countries in Europe and North America, rather than West or Central Africa where the monkeypox virus is endemic. "The confirmation of monkeypox in persons who have not travelled to an endemic area is atypical, and even one case of monkeypox in a non-endemic country is considered an outbreak," the WHO said. The WHO noted that the "sudden and unexpected appearance of monkeypox simultaneously in several non-endemic countries suggests that there might have been undetected transmission for some unknown duration of time". Scientists also agree to the theory that the monkeypox virus may have been quietly circulating for years before its sudden emergence worldwide. "There may have been undetected transmission for a while," said Dr. Rosamund Lewis, the WHO technical lead for monkeypox during a recent briefing. "What we don't know is how long that may have been. We don't know if it's weeks, months or possibly a couple of years."

Amid former Pak PM Imran

as per orders of District Magistrate," it said. "Islamabad Police will provide complete security to Imran Khan as per the law and reciprocal cooperation is expected from Security teams of Imran Khan as well," the police added. Hassaan Niazi, nephew of Imran Khan said that if anything happens to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief, the act will be treated as an attack on Pakistan. "Anything happens to our leader Imran Khan, will be treated as attack on Pakistan. Response will be aggressive - the Handlers will also regret," Hassaan Niazi, nephew of Imran Khan said. Fawad Chaudhry earlier said that PTI Chairman Imran Khan is coming to Islamabad on Sunday. In April, Chaudhary had said that the securities agencies of the country have reported a 'plot' for the assassination of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan. "After these reports, the prime minister's security has been beefed up as per the government's decision," he was quoted as saying by the Pakistan newspaper Dawn. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Faisal Vawda also made similar claims that there was a conspiracy developed to assassinate the Pakistani PM over his refusal to "sell the country". While responding to the conspiracy to assassinate the premier was mentioned in the letter, Vawda said that there was a threat to the Pakistan PM's life but remained evasive. He further said that Khan was advised to use bulletproof glasses during his rally at Islamabad's Parade ground. "But as always and as usual, he said my [death] will come when Allah wills. Don't worry about it," Vawda was quoted as saying by Dawn. This news comes a day after the Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif said that a foreign nation sent a message that he needs "to be removed" or Pakistan will face consequences.

World Environment Day: Assam

said, "Last year, we had decided to plant at least 15 lakh saplings in this area during my five years tenure. When the environment of this area was damaged after two major forests Dakhin Nambor Tengani and Rengma forests were destroyed and some villagers used the forest lands for cultivation, we decided to revive the forests." "We contacted the local villagers and sought their help for the conservation of forests by responding to our appeal. The local villagers have come forward to take part in the initiative. Today we have planted 1 lakh saplings here. But our main target is to plant 15 lakh saplings," he added. To mark the importance of 'Mother Nature', World Environment Day is celebrated each year on June 5 to spread awareness regarding the protection and nurturing of the environment to make Earth a better place to live. Speaking of the history behind this day, World Environment Day was established in 1972 by the UN General Assembly at the time of the Stockholm Conference and the day was first celebrated in the year 1974. This year's theme is 'Only One Earth'. Every year this day is celebrated with a specific theme with a great message behind it. This year's theme highly draws its importance towards 'sustainable living in harmony with nature'. There is a need for consistent efforts by the entire mankind to save the planet. Even, a small amount of effort by every individual could lead to mark a huge difference to save mother nature.

Next Maharashtra CM will

Council in the past. The NCP holds the important portfolios of Finance, led by Deputy CMAjit Pawar, and Home in the state government. "Earlier, NCP chief Sharad Pawar had appointed me as the opposition leader (in the Maharashtra Legislative Council). No matter how stable and powerful, I had shaken the then government," he added.

PPE kit CM Himanta Biswa

once claimed to be an 'anti corruption' activist. At that point of Covid wave, we in Assam did not have any single PPE kit. After hectic efforts, my wife managed to bring in a few kits. Although the NHM issued order, the company raised no bill and the kits were gifted to the government. Not a single penny was transacted, where is the corruption? Due to acute shortage then, every government, including yours, waived tender process for PPE kit and went for direct purchase. Don't cherry-pick from half the documents," Sarma tweeted. He attached a letter of appreciation from the then National Health Mission director Lakshmanan for providing the PPE kits as corporate social responsibility during Covid by JCB Industries of which Sarma's wife Rinki is a partner. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma awarded a contract for Covid Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits to a company linked to his wife and grossly overpaid for the gear. Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia alleged on Saturday. The "big expose" by the Aam Aadmi Party leader followed a teaser by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and was pitched as a response to the arrest of Delhi's Health Minister Satyendar Jain in an alleged money laundering case. "Himanta Biswa Sarma awarded the contract to his wife's company. He paid ₹990 for the PPE kits while others were purchased at ₹600 a piece from another company on the same day. This is a huge crime," Mr Sisodia claimed, saying he had the documents to prove so. "Will the BJP have courage to take action against its own leader or will it keep hounding us with made-up cases?" he said. The charges were based on an investigative report published on the news website The Wire two days ago that has been strongly refuted by Mr Sarma and his wife Riniki Bhuyan Sharma as "unfounded". Mr Sarma said he would sue Mr Sisodia for defamation. The report cited a series of Right to Information replies to claim that the Assam government placed four COVID-19 related emergency medical supply orders to three firms owned by Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife and his family's business associate in 2020. Mr Sarma was Health Minister of the state then. Earlier in the day, Mr Kejriwal had stepped up his attack on the central government over the arrest of Satyendar Jain and announced that Mr Sisodia would be "exposing" a corruption scandal involving a senior BJP leader. Sharing a news report titled "Not an accused, Jain being quizzed: ED", the Delhi Chief Minister asserted that the arrested minister can't be called corrupt, since the Centre itself has contended that he is not an accused in the case. The probe agency alleged that the minister in the Arvind Kejriwal government was involved in hawala transactions with a Kolkata-based firm in 2015-16. The arrest sparked a fresh war between Arvind Kejriwal and the central government, which the Aam Aadmi Party and other opposition leaders like Mamata Banerjee and Telangana's K Chandrababhan Rao have often alleged used central agencies to harass them. In January, ahead of the Punjab Assembly polls, Mr Kejriwal had claimed that he had learnt from sources that Mr Jain could be arrested by the probe agency. Earlier this week, the Delhi Chief Minister said his deputy Manish Sisodia was being framed and was likely to be the next Delhi minister to be arrested after Satyendar Jain. "I request Prime Minister Narendra Modi, throw all of us in jail together," he said in a video message.

Russia will strike harder if longer-range

targets which we have not yet been hitting," Putin was quoted as saying in an interview on Rossiya-1 state television channel. Putin did not name the targets Russia planned to pursue if Western countries began supplying Ukraine with longer-range missiles. Ukraine has been seeking Multiple Rocket Launch Systems (MLRS) such as the M270 and M142 HIMARS to strike troops and weapons stockpiles at the Russian forces' rear. U.S. President Joe Biden announced plans this week to give Ukraine precision HIMARS rocket systems after receiving assurances from Kyiv that it would not use them to hit targets inside Russia. Although Russian officials have warned that the U.S. decision to supply Ukraine with advanced rocket systems could exacerbate the conflict, Putin said it would not bring on any fundamental changes on the battlefield. "We understand that this supply (of advanced rocket systems) from the United States and some other countries is meant to make up for the losses of this military equipment," Putin said. "This is nothing new," he said. "It doesn't change anything in essence," the Russian President added.

BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma

Muhammad during a TV debate. The police arrested a total of 29 people involved in the violence on Friday. Meanwhile, in a press statement, BJP national general secretary, Arun Singh said, "During the thousands of years of the history of India every religion has blossomed and flourished. The Bharatiya Janata Party respects all religions. The BJP strongly denounces insults of any religious personality of any religion. The Bharatiya Janata Party is also strongly against any ideology which insults or demeans any sect or religion. The BJP does not promote such people or philosophy." Singh noted that India's Constitution gives the right to every citizen to practise any religion of his/her choice and to honour and respect every religion. "As India celebrates the 75th year of its Independence, we are committed to making India a great country where all are equal and everyone lives with dignity, where all are committed to India's unity and integrity, where all enjoy the fruits of growth and development," Singh said.

US President Joe Biden rushed to safe house in Delaware after unauthorized plane violates air space

Rehoboth Beach, June 5 : A small private airplane mistakenly entered restricted airspace near President Joe Biden's Delaware vacation home Saturday (June 4, 2022), prompting the brief evacuation of the president and first lady, the White House and the Secret Service said. The White House said there was no threat to Biden or his family and that precautionary measures were taken. After the situation was assessed, Biden and his wife, Jill, returned to their Rehoboth Beach home. The Secret Service said in a statement that the plane was immediately escorted from the restricted airspace after "mistakenly entering a secured area." The agency said it would interview the pilot who, according to a preliminary investigation, was not on the proper radio channel and was not following published flight guidance. As is standard practice for presidential trips outside Washington, the Federal Aviation Administration published flight restrictions earlier this week before Biden's beach town visit. The restrictions include a 10-mile radius no-fly zone contained within a 30-mile restricted zone. A CBS News reporter said on Twitter that he saw Biden motorcading to a Rehoboth Beach fire station. The group of reporters that travels with the president was not part of the motorcade. Federal regulations require pilots to check for flight restrictions along their route before taking off. Still, accidental airspace breaches, particularly around temporary restricted zones, are common. U.S. Military jets and Coast Guard helicopters are often used to intercept any planes that violate the flight restrictions around the president. Intercepted planes are diverted to a nearby airfield where aircrews are interviewed by law enforcement and face potential criminal or civil penalties.



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Anger as protesters who blocked UK immigration raid face day in court

London, June 5 : Before Thursday, 13 May 2021, few people beyond Glasgow's southside had ever heard of Kenmure Street. But when its diverse community came together in their hundreds that day to block a raid by UK immigration officials, their action was celebrated internationally and the location made a byword for community spirit and inspirational activism. Much coverage focused on the jubilant, communal atmosphere - families celebrating the first day of Eid joined seasoned activists, a pop-up tuck shop was established in a bus stop, and local Pollokshields businesses donated food and water to protesters. The successful action saw the two detained Indian men - Sumit Sehdev, a chef, and Lakhvir Singh, a mechanic, suspected of overstaying their visas - released to rapturous cheers after an eight-hour standoff. But now, a year on, some protesters remain locked in a bitter battle with police as they fight the charges they received that day. Police Scotland confirmed in May last year that they had arrested and charged a 23-year-old woman and two men, aged 31 and 32, for public order offences and sent a report to the procurator fiscal. The three were told earlier this year that the state intends to proceed with prosecutions, with trial dates set for early August. Now, dubbed "the Kenmure Street Three", they have launched a petition to have their charges dropped, alongside an appeal for footage that could help their defence, and a call for the public to lobby MPs about the case. The three protesters characterise their arrests as violent. "The police want you to believe that they were somehow there to facilitate the protest; they were not," they wrote in a statement launching the petition. "They were there to enable the kidnapping of two men by the racist Home Office. We were just resisting this, just as many of you and thousands of others were, but we were brutalised and locked up, and are now facing a repressive and distressing court process." Their account of the day chimes with those of other protesters who describe overbearing and aggressive policing. Beth Douglas, 28, joined the protest after seeing callouts on social media, and was met with "the heaviest police presence I have ever seen in Glasgow". "It wasn't a presence to allow for a safe protest but instead an army to intimidate protesters," she said. Glasgow-based human rights lawyer Aamer Anwar, who successfully negotiated with police on the ground for the release of the two detained Indian men, who had lived in Scotland for more than 10 years, described the police presence at the time as "inflammatory and provocative". His firm has since taken on the cases of the Kenmure Street Three.

Britain must end its silence on Egyptian hunger striker Alaa Abd El Fattah, family demand

London, June 5 : Inside Alaa Abd El Fattah's cell in the Wadi al-Natrun prison complex - once nicknamed "the valley of hell" for its location in the middle of the desert - fluorescent lights stay on 24 hours a day, along with CCTV to monitor his every move. Now 65 days into a hunger strike, the blogger and activist has become a symbol of resistance against Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi's regime. But despite becoming a British citizen last year, he is no closer to being released. His family fear that foreign secretary Liz Truss is failing to do enough to free him. "You would think that the moment he became a British citizen, something would change, not just because of the leverage of another citizenship but also the good relations between Egypt and the UK," said activist Mona Seif, Abd El Fattah's sister, who also acquired British citizenship last year. "I feel the foreign secretary wants to remain detached from Alaa's case and our family, despite how critical the situation is," she said. "It's loud how silent she is about Alaa, and I think it's intentional." The family believe time is running out, and that his body can only endure so much as Egyptian officials stall. British consular officials in Cairo have been stonewalled when trying to visit him to assess his health. The family say the soft diplomatic approach favoured by British officials so far is allowing Egyptian authorities to slow efforts to free him, further endangering his life. Abd El Fattah was a figurehead of Egypt's 2011 uprising, which overthrew former autocrat Hosni Mubarak through a groundswell of popular protest. He has spent much of the past decade behind bars, first for organising demonstrations against a law banning protest and then on alleged violations of national security. Last December, he was sentenced to a further five years in prison for "spreading false news undermining national security". The charges centred on a retweet from years earlier, mentioning torture inside another maximum security facility where he was later held. Boris Johnson spoke with Sisi in late March, and raised Abd El Fattah's case. Britain is a strategic ally for Egypt, its largest business partner, and supplier of at least £24m in arms in recent years. The UK is also working to hand over the presidency of the Cop27 climate talks to Egypt, set to host them in November. Egypt has said it will allow climate protests alongside the talks, a break from existing laws which all but ban public dissent, and which Abd El Fattah was jailed for breaching in 2014. Despite Johnson's visit, little has changed. "It's hard not to feel there's a certain amount of disrespect happening here, and we're not sure why the British are tolerating it, especially from a strategic ally," said Abd El Fattah's aunt, the acclaimed author Adhaf Soueif, "There couldn't be a better case for Liz Truss to stand up and state clearly that there are certain British values that won't be compromised, and that this one case embodies them."

Chinese fighter jet's actions near Australian aircraft 'very dangerous', deputy PM says

Melbourn, June 5 : Australia has complained to China over its interception of a maritime surveillance flight in international airspace in the South China Sea region, which the deputy prime minister labelled "very dangerous". The defence department has revealed the interception of a "routine maritime surveillance activity" in a statement on Sunday, claiming it resulted in a "dangerous manoeuvre" that risked the safety of the Australian aircraft and its crew. The incident on 26 May, just five days after the federal election, comes at a crucial juncture in Australia's relationship with China, as Labor's election provides a circuit-breaker to escalating rhetoric, although no substantial reset in policy has occurred. Defence advised that "a RAAF P-8 maritime surveillance aircraft was intercepted by a Chinese J-16 fighter aircraft during a routine maritime surveillance activity in international airspace in the South China Sea region". "The intercept resulted in a dangerous manoeuvre which posed a safety threat to the P-8 aircraft and its crew," it said. "The Australian government has raised its concerns about the incident with the Chinese government." The defence minister, Richard Marles, told reporters in Geelong the Chinese aircraft "flew very close to the side of the [Australia] P-8 maritime surveillance aircraft" then "released flares". "The J-16 then accelerated and cut across the nose of the P-8, settling in front of the P-8 at very close distance." "At that moment, it then released a bundle of chaff, which contains small pieces of aluminium, some of which were ingested into the engine of the P-8 aircraft. Quite obviously, this is very dangerous." Defence noted that it has "for decades undertaken maritime surveillance activities in the region and does so in accordance with international law, exercising the right to freedom of navigation and overflight in international waters and airspace".

Desert Crown wins the Derby in imperious style for Michael Stoute

London, June 5 : On the afternoon when Epsom Downs remembered its greatest jockey, Richard Kingscote produced a flawless, no-nonsense ride of which Lester Piggott himself would surely have been proud, steering Desert Crown, the 5-2 favourite, to an impressive success in the Derby which was never in doubt from the moment he hit the front, with nearly two furlongs still to run.Up in the grandstand, there was no need for Sir Michael Stoute to roar his horse home. Instead, Desert Crown's 76-year-old trainer simply lifted his top hat to acknowledge his sixth success in the Classic, and mark the arrival of a new champion in the yard which sent Shergar to Epsom 41 summers ago. There have, of course,



been many more great horses and Classic winners through Stoute's hands since then, but a 12-year lull at Epsom since his Derby victory with Workforce had led some to wonder whether his star might be on the wane. They need wonder no more. Desert Crown has not been an entirely straightforward horse to train, and suffered "a few niggles", according to his trainer, as he grew into his

frame over the winter. A foot problem also caused some concern earlier in the year and he was "only just ready" for the last month's Dante Stakes at York, but Stoute, as so often in his 50-year training career, clearly had it all under control. As did Kingscote, from start to finish. He was fast away from the stalls and soon settled in fifth or sixth, within striking distance of the lead. That left him perfectly positioned

both for the run down towards Tattenham Corner and a finishing kick which put the race to bed a furlong down the home straight. Shergar, Stoute's first Derby winner in 1981, romped home with a 10-length winning margin which remains a record to this day. Desert Crown had a more modest two-and-a-half lengths to spare at the line, as Hoo Ya Mal, a 150-1 outsider came through to take second ahead of Westover and Masekela, but it was an emphatic success all the same and he will be a short price to extend his unbeaten record wherever Stoute decides to send him next. "We were very hopeful after [his win in the Dante Stakes at] York that he might win the Derby," Stoute said, "but the performance delighted me, because he had it won a long way out." He's

got such a good mind to go with his ability. At an early stage [of his career] he was having little niggles and that's why he didn't run until the back end of last year. It was nothing serious, but he was maturing and developing. "I was very happy with his position when he got to the top of the hill, he travelled, he's a good athlete and he floated down the hill." While Stoute is the elder statesman who has seen and done it all before, Kingscote was taking only his second ride in the Derby after beating just one rival home in 2018. If his pulse was racing, however, there was no visible sign, understandably perhaps for a jockey who likes to spend his down-time riding high-powered motorbikes at 140mph.

Dustin Johnson's act of greed stands out in Saudi Arabia's vulgar rebranding game

London, June 5 : There is a key problem with the distribution of a \$4m (£3.2m) first prize in a tournament that features a shotgun start. There will be no way of knowing if the winning putt at the Centurion Club on Saturday is to be holed on the 1st, 7th, 13th or any other green. Perhaps the conventional stroke-play format as used on mainstream tours is boring to some but at least people know where to be for the denouement. If this were the only potentially messy element of the LIV Golf

sparked the kind of backlash that was inevitable given bottomless financing from Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund. The Royal Bank of Canada ended its sponsorship of both players. Golf, once such a safe domain for the corporate classes, now carries an element of risk as never before. A number of players have been sheltered by focus on Phil Mickelson - whose dalliances with the Saudis are the stuff of dubious legend - and to a subsequent extent Johnson, but when they tee up in the

either marking time until the senior tour, would not turn heads in any high street in the UK or, in Johnson's case, whose PGA Tour earnings from the game total around \$72m, have torched their reputation by such a grotesque display of greed. Golfers are willing pawns in Saudi's rebranding game, which is a great pity for the sport's reputation. There will be intrigue around what LIV can deliver. That it is staging a tournament at all confounds many sceptics. There are no world ranking points available, unhelpful ticket prices and no mainstream television outlet to offer coverage. The competition lasts 54 holes and has a pro-am event. In short, this is not exactly marching towards the territory of sporting revolution. For every Johnson, McDowell, Lee Westwood or Sergio Garcia there is a Blake Windred, Hudson Swafford or Jediah Morgan. The Australian Matt Jones, who has more than \$17m in career earnings, explained his involvement thus: "A lot to do with my family, being able to provide for them. Purely a business decision for me. I'm very happy with the decision I made."



Series, which makes its debut in Hertfordshire on Thursday, Greg Norman would have no cause to worry. Instead, confirmation that Graeme McDowell and Dustin Johnson would feature in the \$25m event

coming days, their role in a sportswashing exercise will be abundantly clear. This cannot legitimately be labelled in any other terms: there is no commercial sense whatsoever in dishing out wild sums to those who are

Liam Marshall inspires Wigan to six-try comeback win over Castleford

London, June 5 : Liam Marshall surpassed 100 career tries as Wigan fought back from 12-0 down to beat Castleford 32-12. A week after his late touchdown edged out Huddersfield in the Challenge Cup final, Marshall marked his 100th Super League appearance with a try in each half. The winger also provided an assist for Bevan French as Matt Peet's side recovered from a 12-4 half-time deficit to claim a first league win since 29 April. Huddersfield Giants v Wigan Warriors -

Betfred Challenge Cup - Final - Tottenham Hotspur Stadium
 Huddersfield Giants' Chris McQueen (centre) reacts to defeat following the Betfred Challenge Cup final at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. Picture date: Saturday May 28, 2022. PA Photo. See PA story RUGBY. Final. Photo credit should read: Mike Egerton/PA Wire. A third successive defeat looked possible as Tigers dominated early on, scoring converted tries through Greg Eden and

Kenny Edwards. Wigan notched their first points with Lee Radford's side down to 12 and then blitzed their hosts with three tries in 10 minutes at the start of the second period. The Warriors started poorly as French's handling error after six minutes gifted Tigers a repeat set and the lead. Jake Trueman, who scored a first-half debut hat-trick against the Wigan in 2017, provided a cut-out pass and Eden went over unopposed. Gareth O'Brien converted but missed an 18th-minute penalty to give

and Oliver Partington to give O'Brien an easy conversion. Castleford were reduced to 12 men, with Mahe Fonua sin-binned for kicking out in a tackle with Liam Farrell. The visitors made the most of their advantage after 33 minutes as French put Marshall away for his landmark try. Wigan reduced the deficit to two points with an inventive second try after 44 minutes. French finished off, but his fifth of the season owed everything to Marshall's kick and Jake Bibby's initial offload. The visitors hit the front for the first time five minutes later as Abbas Miski accepted Farrell's offload to cross in the corner. Wigan were now in irresistible form and went 20-12 in front courtesy of French's assist and Marshall's second try before underlining their superiority with further tries in the final quarter from Bibby and Farrell.



Andy Murray's wait for title on home soil goes on after Kudla defeat

London, June 5 : Andy Murray's hopes of winning a first tournament on British soil since 2016 ended in defeat in the Surbiton Trophy semi-final. Murray had not won at home since triumphing at the ATP Finals six years ago and the wait will go on after he lost 5-7, 7-6 (5), 6-3 to American Denis Kudla. The Scot, who skipped the French Open so he could get in shape for the short grass season, made a good start against the big-serving American and took the first set. He had led 4-1 but was pegged back only to break at the crucial moment to take it 7-5. The warning signs were there for Murray when he had to save five break points in the second game of the deciding set, but he could not hold off Kudla for long and the American broke at 3-2 and went on to see the match out



without any sign of a Murray response in blustery conditions which made it difficult for both players. Still, it was a good week of practice on the grass for Murray, who will head to Germany to play in the Stuttgart Open before

returning to London to play at Queen's in advance of another SW19 campaign. "It's tough to read too much into how I played," said the former world No 1. "I competed pretty well for the first couple of sets, third set not as well as I would have liked." It was brutal conditions for both of us today, there was not loads of amazing tennis. We were using different skills out there and trying to find ways to put the ball in difficult positions for the opponent. Denis did a better job of that. "I played some good matches this week. Today I'm not concerned about how I played. You can't expect to play your best tennis when it's like that. Overall it was good to get four matches, I would've liked to have won the tournament, but that wasn't to be. I just want to keep improving week on week and match on match."

Southgate 'surprised' at jeers for England players taking knee in Hungary

London, June 5 : Gareth Southgate was "very surprised" to hear England's players booed by a crowd largely composed of children when they took the knee before kick-off against Hungary and suggested the youngsters' actions were a result of "inherited thinking" from their elders. The 1-0 Nations League defeat in Budapest was played in front of more than 35,000 fans, with one adult allowed

England performance in which Hungary were deserving winners through Dominik Szoboszlai's second-half penalty. Nor did he want to universally condemn England's hosts, who were handed a separate stadium ban by Fifa after racism in the stands when the sides met in a World Cup qualifier in September, or the decision to let supporters in. England had been heavily booed when taking the knee

friendly. I thought there were pantomime boos when our team came out to warm up, but that was different with the taking of the knee - but that felt like inherited thinking to me. What I would say is I hear that still in our stadiums as well. "England were lethargic for long periods of the game and Southgate felt the early summer heat, rather than fatigue at the end of the domestic season, was a



to join every 10 children under 14, despite nominally being a closed-doors fixture after Hungary were handed a Uefa ban last year. There was no mistaking the jeers from around the stadium when England made their now-traditional gesture and Southgate made no secret of his disappointment. Southgate did not want to deflect from a below-par

on that occasion. "From a development perspective I want and need the team to be playing in front of supporters," he said. "But that isn't the point in this instance, so I'm torn on what we actually got from that and what the reality should have been." In fact the atmosphere when we arrived at the stadium, there were kids lining the streets, it was really

cause. "The other factor is we haven't played together for three months and have had two games in six months," he said. "Across these four games we're trying to balance having a look at things, finding out about players and trying to win. Maybe I didn't quite get the balance of that right today but we've learned a lot from it.

Dafydd Iwan to take centre stage with stirring folk song before Wales playoff

London, June 5 : Rested and recharged, Gareth Bale and Aaron Ramsey will be among those returning to the Wales starting lineup against Ukraine on Sunday, but another, and more typical in the literal sense, headline act will take centre stage in the minutes before kick-off in the festival atmosphere at the Cardiff City Stadium. As he did before Wales's World Cup playoff semi-final victory against Austria, Dafydd Iwan will perform Yma o Hyd ("Still Here"), a stirring Welsh folk song born 40 years ago on a scrap of paper in his attic in Waunfawr, a village four miles from the foot of Snowdon. It has snowballed into an unofficial national anthem and a slogan for the supporters

who will again not hesitate to sing along. "I knew that there would be some audience participation but I wasn't quite ready for what happened," Iwan says. Together with Bale's preposterous free-kick, Iwan's prematch rendition in March made a lasting impression that evening on the thousands there and beyond. So much so that when the 78-year-old recently went for lunch at the Sand Martin pub, on the site of the stadium, the landlord made sure his meal was on the house. "Everybody who sings songs likes to be acknowledged but this is something else because it is tied up with the national team, with the Welsh consciousness and it has caught the mood of the times ... I'm stuck with it now," he says,

laughing. "A number of people have told me: 'I was watching that video last night and I had goose pimples, I was crying.' I can't fully understand it." Last summer, the words Yma o

big fans of the song. Chris Gunter, who last year became the first Welshman to win 100 caps, was behind Yma o Hyd being played before training and on the team coach, while Connor



Hyd loomed large on the big screens at Wales's Euro 2020 training base, the Tofiq Bahramov Stadium in Baku, and Robert Page, the Wales manager, previously said he plans to invite Iwan to meet his squad, some of whom are

Roberts, who will start against Ukraine, told how he has the song on his headphones before every Wales game. "It just puts a little bit of fire in the belly and makes me want to run a little bit more," Roberts said last year.

Iga Swiatek reigns at French Open again after swatting Coco Gauff aside

Paris, June 5 : Iga Swiatek arrived at the French Open as heavily favoured to win a women's grand slam title as any player since the last peak of Serena Williams, and she knew it. Over the past two weeks, she navigated all of the pressure and emotions and in a spectacle reminiscent of the great champions before her, it only made her stronger. Swiatek finished the job with a final supreme demonstration of her dominance, overwhelming and outplaying Coco Gauff 6-1, 6-3 to win her second grand slam title at the French Open, where she also won her first in 2020. This victory is the crown on top of her astounding run, which stands at 35 wins in a row and counting. She has won six consecutive titles. During her post-match speech, Swiatek, who wears a Ukraine ribbon in her visor, encouraged Ukraine to stay strong. "Since my first speech in Doha [in February] I was hoping when I am



doing the next one the situation will be better. But I still have hopes and try to support so thank you guys," she said. Swiatek received a long ovation. Along with her winning streak, which equals Venus Williams' 21st-century record, Swiatek is now 21-2 at the French Open, the third-best record in the women's tournament, having won the event twice

in her first four years as a senior. Such is her superiority over the rest of the field, Swiatek will nearly have double the ranking points as the new world No 2, Anett Kontaveit. Swiatek said that what made her most proud was surpassing one of Serena Williams' achievements - 34 straight wins - with her streak. "It may seem pretty weird, but having that

35th win and doing something more than Serena did, it's special." The intimidating aura Swiatek has generated over the past four months was reflected in the audience's desperate cheers for Gauff. After an unforced error in the opening point, a spectator shouted out "Coco, it's not finished" in French to general laughter. When she double-faulted on the second point, the crowd gave a long, pitying ovation as if Gauff was already two points from defeat. It took Gauff 22 minutes to clinch her first game and when she relaxed, the issue of the unstoppable force across the net remained. Swiatek broke down Gauff's second serve and she cruelly hunted Gauff's forehand with her own heavy, wicked forehand, eliciting short balls that she swept up. The second set began with a surprise, Swiatek haemorrhaging points and easily losing her serve, but her relentless pressure forced

Gauff far out of her comfort zone and Swiatek took six of the final seven games to win. As she reckoned with her latest, greatest achievement, Swiatek sank to her knees and then went to the stands, embracing her team and then Robert Lewandowski, who had come to Paris to see another Polish sporting great. While Swiatek celebrated, Gauff retreated to her seat with tears in her eyes and there were more an hour later as she hailed Swiatek's performance. "Iga was just too good," she said. "It's one of those matches that, yes, I, in some moments, could have played better. But she really didn't give me anything. Every time I thought I hit a good ball, it wasn't." Despite her tears, she again spoke with maturity and perspective about her fortnight, affirming that she will learn from the experience and continue to improve. "Tomorrow, or even tonight, we're going to play cards again and we are going to laugh and we are going to

be fine," she said. The predictability of Swiatek's achievement does not detract from how incredible her rise has been. She is the best player in the world by a large distance and the swiftness with which she has risen to the top, overcoming each new obstacle, has been remarkable. "In 2020, the main thing that I felt was confusion, because I have never really believed 100% that I can actually win a grand slam," she said. "This time it was pure work." She started the season ranked ninth, just one quality player among many and she has spent the months since distancing herself from the pack. She maintained her level and focus even as the previous No 1, Ashleigh Barty, retired unexpectedly, inadvertently thrusting the ranking on her. When this streak weighed heavily on her in Paris, she managed the pressure and emotions as well as she possibly could and has found her best every time she needed it.

Australian George Kambosos Jr loses world lightweight titles to Devin Haney

Melbourne, June 5 : Australian boxer George Kambosos Jr has relinquished his three world title belts with a unanimous defeat to American Devin Haney in their lightweight blockbuster in Melbourne. Haney inflicted on Kambosos the first loss of his 21-fight career at Marvel Stadium

but that's his game. "I'm going to change a few things and get him back later this year. I take the risk, not many wanted to fight him but I gave him a shot and I'm sure we will do it again." The two combatants barely threw a punch in a watchful opening round that Kambosos may have stolen with a



on Sunday to add the WBA, WBO and IBF titles to the WBC strap he already held. The 23-year-old joins an exclusive club of seven fighters, including legends Bernard Hopkins, Terence Crawford and Tim Tszyu's looming opponent Jermell Charlo, to unify a division in the 18-year four-belt era. The new undisputed lightweight champion extended his unbeaten record to 28 wins with a pure display of boxing in the biggest fight ever on Australian shores. "It's amazing for the sport and the country," Kambosos said after graciously handing over his belts to the victor. "I wanted to take the hardest test and I will give him full respect after his victory. Let him have his time." While Kambosos landed the heavier blows throughout the 12-round contest, Haney peppered the home hope with left jabs to win over the judges. "I thought the fight was very close," Kambosos said. "He boxed his game, he moved. He didn't want to come to fight too much

late combination to the American's body. Kambosos landed the first big punch of the fight, a heavy right to Haney's head, in the second as the Australian had his challenger retreating. A more aggressive Haney took the third round with a series of left jabs and looked to have also shaded the fourth before Kambosos delivered a big left hook late. Kambosos landed another strong, much-needed left in the sixth round as Haney's peppering jab began to show on the Australian's face. Haney controlled rounds seven and eight, leaving Kambosos to find something to sway the judges. He did so, the Greek-Australian spartan warrior landing three big rights to take the ninth round as the home crowd of almost 50,000 fans willed their local hero to dig deep. "He had a smart game plan; he grabbed and held a lot but he did what he had to do to win and that's what it's about," Kambosos said. "Today they gave him the decision but I'm sure that will change when we get it on again."

Old warrior Broad lights up Lord's to prove he still has appetite for the fight

London, June 5 : Stuart Broad did not want to be batting on Friday morning. But the previous evening England had collapsed, again, five wickets for eight runs this time, and dumped him right back into the thick of it. So here he was. England were 116 for seven, still 16 runs behind, and Trent Boult was bowling. Broad walloped his first ball for four, then turned the next away for a single. Ben Foakes played out the rest of the over so Broad was facing Tim Southee now. He hit another four, down the ground, then he took a swing at the next delivery and missed it altogether. Up on the balcony, Ben Stokes winced. Broad

doesn't matter what bowlers you play if you get bowled out for 140. It might be a bit brutal, but that's the truth in Test cricket." This time they had made all of 141. Broad bowled well early on the first morning, especially in his first spell - four overs, one for eight - but he seemed to flag in the second innings. It felt as if it wasn't New Zealand's batting that sapped him so much as the wearisome familiarity of England's own. He must have been stiff from the short turnaround between the innings, cheesed off at ending up in this sort of mess all over again. Broad turns 36 in a couple of weeks. He knows he



threw his bat at the one after that, too, and it knocked his stumps clean out of the ground. Broad turned, tucked his bat under his arm, and walked briskly back to the pavilion. If he looked up, he would have seen Stokes burying his head in his hands. It was a desultory innings, a motley array of half-cocked shots from a batsman who once made 169 on this ground but is now long past bothering with playing properly. What was it Broad said when they were debating how the bowlers were getting on in the Ashes last winter? "It

has a job waiting for him on Sky's commentary team. Of course there are questions about how long he wants to go on. He was asking them himself after England dropped him for the tour of the West Indies in the spring. On commentary on Friday afternoon, Kevin Pietersen wondered aloud if Broad was still as keen as he had been on the first morning. His pace had dropped to about 78mph and Pietersen suggested that the New Zealanders ought to try walking down the wicket to mess with his length.

Leicester clinch top spot and deny Wasps Champions Cup place

Leicester, June 5 : Some regular seasons end with a bang, offering an explosion of colour and sound that underlines a campaign well fought and serves as a platform for greater prizes in the playoffs. Others sparkle with the intensity of a toddler's birthday candle, proving as enticing as spit-covered cake. The 24th and final league match for Leicester and Wasps fell in the latter category. It was error strewn and bereft of show-stopping moments. "Clunky," was the word Leicester's head coach, Steve Borthwick, used. Even a boring rugby match - and this one might well be described in such terms - is filled with big hits and enthusiastic runs, and so those don't deserve mention here. What is worth noting is that Leicester's full-strength team failed to get out of second gear while Wasps missed a chance to sneak into next year's Champions Cup. Both sets of coaches will be annoyed by something when they wake up on Sunday. It looked so promising at first. Two minutes in,



Leicester had the feed to a lineup inside Wasps' 22. It went to the back and was quickly fizzed to George Ford in midfield. A short pass found Guy Porter on the angle who brushed off two inept tackles and rounded a flat-footed Paolo Odogwu to score under the posts. Ford's conversion was good and another mauling at the hands of the Tigers was on the cards. What followed was below par for a team with title aspirations. They conceded a penalty while in possession of a driving maul and another with the put-in to a scrum. Later, a throw from Charlie

Clare sailed clear over his jumpers. When Ollie Chessum gave away a penalty in the maul, Borthwick berated him from the gantry, prowling and snarling like a caged Bengal, grinding his teeth and daring anyone to make eye contact with him. Wasps battled but looked like a side that belongs in Europe's second tier. Passes and offloads were either fumbled or found nothing but air. They attacked the gainline and had a few breaks though those came to nothing. The half-time whistle arrived as a mercy with one try the difference. Wasps restarted

as the brighter and spent the opening 10 minutes in Leicester's red-zone but were repelled with relative comfort. Jimmy Gopperth opened his team's account with a penalty, begrudgingly taking the points. The first burst of sunshine on the hour mark heralded a charge from Ellis Genge from first-phase ball. He carried up the middle and put Leicester on the front foot and within sight of a try they would eventually secure through a diving Freddie Steward - one of the few shining lights - who was unleashed by Matias Moroni on the right off the back of sustained pressure.

Coco Gauff appeals for end to gun violence, French Open final is no stress

Paris, June 5 : Coco Gauff, the US reacts as she defeats Italy's Martina Trevisan during their semifinal match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium. American teenager Coco Gauff appealed for an end to gun violence in the United States on Thursday after she beat Italian Martina Trevisan to reach the French Open final. In a message written on an on-court camera at the end of the match, the 18-year-old wrote "Peace End Gun Violence" followed by a heart. "I think I am in a mind now like it does not matter," Gauff said when asked about pressure ahead of Saturday's final - her first

in a Grand Slam - against top seed Iga Swiatek. "I am going to be happy regardless. My parents are going to love me regardless. So I am going into it as another match," she said. "Yeah it's a Grand Slam final but there are so many things going on in the world right now, especially in the United States, a lot of stuff is happening right now. I am not going to stress over a tennis match." The United States has experienced a number of firearms violence and mass shootings in recent days. These include four people fatally shot at a Tulsa medical building in Oklahoma on Wednesday as well as the May 24 attack at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas that killed 19 children and two teachers and an attack at a grocery store in



Buffalo, New York in which 10 people died. Most Americans support stronger gun laws, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted last

week. Gauff blitzes Trevisan to reach French Open final. American teenager Coco Gauff crushed Italy's Martina Trevisan 6-3 6-1 on Thursday

to become the youngest French Open finalist in 21 years and set up a showcase clash with world number one Iga Swiatek.

Afghanistan beat host Zimbabwe by 60 runs in 1st ODI

Harare, June 5 : Rahmat Shah hit 94 and

Mohammad Nabi took four wickets as Afghanistan beat host Zimbabwe by 60 runs in the first of three One-Day Internationals in Harare. Afghanistan haven't lost an ODI series against the Zimbabweans in five contests since the first meeting in 2014, and underlined its status as series favourite with a dominant performance at Harare Sports Club on Saturday. The Afghans totalled 276-5 before bowling out the host for 216. Shah and skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi were cautious at the start of their partnership then lashed out after reaching their half-centuries. They shared 181 for the third wicket. Shah dominated pace and spin and was comfortable at the crease while cracking seven fours and three sixes from 120 balls in a man-of-the-match effort. Both fell to Zimbabwe fast bowler Blessing Muzarabani, who took 4-52 on his return to international cricket after a stint as a practice bowler for Lucknow Super Giants in the Indian Premier League.