



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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Kalvin Phillips wants Germany game to start winning run before...

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NEWS IN BRIEF

HSLC result today
Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 06 :

The Board of Secondary Education Assam (SEBA) will declare the High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC), or Class 10 (Matric), exam results on June 7 at 10 am. Along with the HSLC Matric result, SEBA will also declare the Assam High Madrasa (AHM) exam results. As many as 4,19,887 students have appeared for Assam board HSLC exam. The board will make the digital mark sheets available to the students on 10 am of June 7. To access the digital Matric mark sheets, students will be required to login at the SEBA Matric website -- results.sebaonline.org, with their roll codes and roll numbers.

Rhino horn
Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 06 :

Police arrested two persons for their alleged involvement in rhino horn smuggling at Titabor under Jorhat district. Police also recovered a rhino horn from their possession. The two arrested rhino smugglers have been identified as Azizul Rahman and Rajan Bauri. Acting on specific information, a team of police led by Maitrayee Deka, Titabor Subdivision Police Officer (SDPO) nabbed the duo in Titabor to sell the rhino horn. According to reports, both the accused were supposed to sell the rhino horn weighing 700 grams for around Rs 1.5 crore.

Fake doctor
Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 06 :

The police arrested a fake doctor at Boko in Assam's Kamrup district on Sunday night. The accused has been identified as Ibrahim Ali, who reportedly went into hiding after a pregnant woman died following his treatment. On Sunday, Pratidin Time had telecasted the story, after which the police sprung into action. The police conducted a brief search operation and managed to nab the fake doctor from Boralimari area of Boko.

KAAC elections
Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 06 :

Campaigning for the upcoming Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) elections in Assam comes to an end today. Polling for 26 seats of the KAAC will be held across 906 polling stations on June 8. A total of 7,32,298 voters are eligible to cast their votes. All political parties have intensified their poll campaigns across each constituency of the hill district. Many Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders were also seen campaigning for the candidates who are contesting in the elections.

Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia condemn remarks over Prophet by BJP spokesperson



New Delhi, June 06 :

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government has been facing backlash from Gulf and other countries over the remarks made against Prophet Muhammad by its spokesperson Nupur Sharma and Delhi media head Naveen

Kumar Jindal. The foreign ministries of Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia issued official statements condemning the remarks and demanding an apology. The BJP on its part has suspended Sharma and expelled Jindal while stating that it "respects all religions" and is "strongly

against any ideology which insults or demeans any sect or religion". On Monday, Pakistan summoned the Indian chargé d'affaires over the remarks made by the BJP leaders. In a statement, the Foreign Office called the comments "totally unacceptable", saying that they have "deeply hurt the

sentiments" of Muslims across the world. The FO also told the Indian diplomat that it "deplores the belated and perfunctory disciplinary actions taken by the BJP government against the said officials, which cannot assuage the pain caused to the Muslims." Earlier, Pakistan's Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, had condemned the "hurtful comments". "Have said it repeatedly India under Modi is trampling religious freedoms & persecuting Muslims... World should take note & severely reprimand India," he tweeted. On Monday, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of For-

eign Affairs welcomed the decision taken by the ruling party in suspending Sharma. The statement by the Ministry read: "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses its condemnation and denunciation of the statements made by the spokeswoman of India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, insulting Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him, and reaffirms its permanent rejection of prejudice against the symbols of the Islamic religion and refuses to prejudice all religious figures and symbols." The Ministry of

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'Nupur Sharma, Naveen Jindal not original creators of Islamophobia': Chidambaram

New Delhi, June 06 :

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Monday joined the battery of Opposition leaders to criticise the Centre over the recent controversial remarks on Prophet Mohammed by BJP leaders Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal, who have been suspended and expelled respectively by the party. On Sunday, the BJP suspended its national spokesperson Sharma and expelled its Delhi media head Naveen Kumar Jindal as the row over their remarks against the Prophet escalated with protests from some Muslim countries. "Mrs Nupur Sharma and Mr Naveen Kumar were not the original creators of the Islamophobia. Remember,



they were trying to more loyal than the king. Domestic criticism did not impel the BJP to act against the two spokespersons. It was only the international backlash that pushed the BJP to take action." Chidambaram tweeted. Left parties also charged that the BJP was "forced to act" and suspend Sharma. With sharp reactions coming from countries like Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Kuwait, Qatar and Iran, the

India slams OIC, says Nupur Sharma's remarks on Prophet Mohammad 'do not reflect' views of New Delhi

New Delhi, June 06 :

India on Monday (June 6, 2022) slammed the General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for its criticism of the country over suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma's remarks on Prophet Mohammad. In a statement, Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Arindam Bagchi said that India categorically rejects the OIC Secretariat's "unwarranted and narrow-minded comments" and asserted that New Delhi accords the highest respect to all religions. "The



offensive tweets and comments denigrating a religious personality were made by certain individuals. They do not, in any manner, reflect the views of the Government of India. Strong action has already been taken against these individuals

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PPE Kit Controversy Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Asks Proof



Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 06 :

The Aam Adami Party's Assam unit on Monday filed a police complaint at the Latasil police station against alleged anomalies in procuring PPE kits in Assam. AAP members also staged a protest in Guwahati and raised slogans against the Himanta Biswa Sarma led BJP government of Assam, demanding his immediate resignation. He has no right to continue as the CM & should immediately RESIGN!" the party said in a tweet from its official account. AAP accused Assam Chief Min-

ister Himanta Biswa Sarma of awarding contracts to companies linked to his wife and son for supplying PPE kits at above-market rates during the pandemic. When Himanta Biswa Sarma was health minister of Assam in 2020, his wife's company, JCB Industries, and his family associate's company, Meditime Healthcare, got orders to procure PPE kits at the cost of ₹ 990 a piece. This was despite the fact that the

government had an option to buy kits at a cost of ₹ 600 from other dealers," AAP alleged. The party further alleged, "Business partners of Mr Sarma's son also received an order from the government to provide PPE kits at a cost of ₹ 990 per kit. A company owned by a business partner of Mr Sarma's wife, Agile Associates, received an order to deliver 10,000 PPE kits at a

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Prophet Muhammad remark row Rahul Gandhi claims BJP 'damaged India's standing globally'

New Delhi, June 06 :

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi attacked the BJP amid the Prophet Muhammad remark row. BJP leader Nupur Sharma was suspended from the party over her controversial religious remarks on Prophet

Muhammad on a TV news debate. She was a prime spokesperson of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. Her religious remark made during a television news debate triggered critical reactions from the South East, especially Islamic countries like Qatar, UAE and Iran putting India's international relations in jeopardy. The BJP, however, distanced itself from Sharma's remarks.



Rahul Gandhi commented on the same with his pointed tweet. He wrote, "Divided internally, India becomes weak externally. BJP's shameful big-

otry has not only isolated us, but also damaged India's standing globally." Withdrawing her statement against the Islamic Prophet, Nupur Sharma took to Twitter that she did not intend to hurt the sentiments of any community. The former-BJP politician also clarified that her statements came at the backdrop of constant insults of Hindu gods during television debates.

Dima Hasao: restoration works in progress after devastated flood



Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 06 :

As the roads of Dima Hasao have been devastated after the devastating floods and landslides, the concerned departments are

now engaged in restoration works to repair the damaged roads in the district. The district administration, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the

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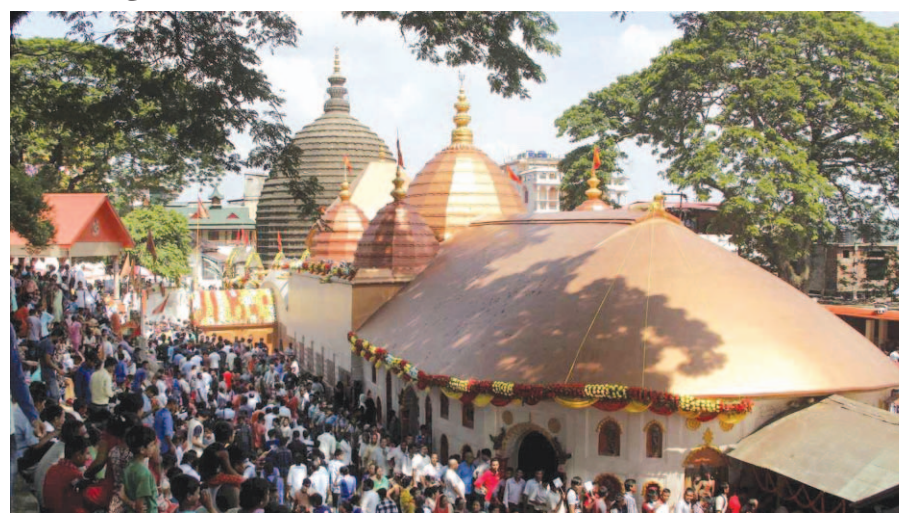
Ambubachi Mela will be Started from June 22 After 2 Years

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 06 :

The sacred Ambubachi Mela will be held from June 22-26, 2022 at Kamakhya Devalaya after a gap of two years. The main door of Kamakhya temple will be closed at 8.15 pm on June 22 for the pilgrims and will reopen on June 26. The temple authorities have issued certain guidelines to follow during the Ambubachi Mela. The temple authorities said that this time

there won't be any provisions of food and lodging for the pilgrims who will come from other states. It further stated that the temporary stalls will remain closed in the Nilachal Hills during the four days of the Mela. Assam Minister Bimal Bora also reviewed preparations for the same with senior officials of tourism department on Monday in Guwahati. The minister also directed the officials to

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Varanasi bomb blast case Prime accused Waliullah Khan sentenced to death

New Delhi, June 06 :

Waliullah Khan who was found guilty in the 2006 Varanasi serial blasts case was sentenced to death penalty and life imprisonment on Monday (June 6) as per ANI. The accused was convicted in the Varanasi bomb blast case in which over 18 people were killed and over 100 injured. On March 7, 2006, Varanasi was shook by twin blasts first at the Sankat Mochan temple and then at the Varanasi Cantonment railway station within a span of 15 minutes. According to reports, the first blast occurred at the Sankat Mochan temple near the Banaras Hindu University around 6.15pm. Waliullah was arrested soon after the blasts in UP's Prayagraj. However, the trial for his



case took place in Ghaziabad as lawyers in Varanasi refused to represent him in court. Waliullah was labeled as the prime accused in the case and was

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BHEJA FRY



I got the house as a government scheme. But now whether to sit at home or pay for worker's

Prophet Muhammad remarks embroil India in row with Gulf states



Delhi, June 06 : The Indian government has become embroiled in a diplomatic row with Gulf states after two ruling party spokespeople were accused of making Islamophobic and

derogatory comments insulting the prophet Muhammad. The ruling Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) suspended its national spokesperson, Nupur Sharma, and expelled its Delhi media head,

Naveen Kumar Jindal, after their comments went viral in the Middle East, where they were met with a chorus of diplomatic anger. The governments of Qatar, Kuwait, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Afghanistan and Pakistan described the comments as "insulting". In a television debate 10 days ago on India's rightwing news channel Times Now 1, Sharma made derogatory comments about Muslim worship and the prophet Muhammad and mocked her Muslim debate opponent. Following an outcry over the comments, Jindal posted a tweet about the prophet - that he has since deleted - which also caused anger. The Indian ambassador to Qatar, Deepak Mittal, was summoned and given an official reprimand "expressing the disappointment of the State of Qatar and its total rejection and condemnation to the controversial remarks made by an official in the ruling party in India against Prophet Muhammad". Qatar

demanding an apology from the Indian government, accusing it of provoking "a cycle of violence and hate". Lolwah al-Khater, Qatar's assistant foreign minister, said India was reaching "dangerous levels" of Islamophobic discourse. Kuwait's foreign ministry also summoned its Indian ambassador, Sibi George, to express its "categorical rejection and condemnation of the insulting statements" made by the BJP spokespeople. Oman's grand mufti, Ahmad bin Hamad al-

Khalili, waded in with strong words, condemning "the insolent and obscene rudeness of the official spokesman for the ruling extremist party in India against the messenger of Islam". Pakistan's new prime minister, Shehbaz Sharif, who had recently sent conciliatory messages to his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, said the comments were an example of how "India under Modi is trampling religious freedoms and persecuting Muslims".



Farmers are busy working in the fields ahead of the day of Mangzhong in Angezhai Village, Liubeizhai Township of Zunhua

'We need something real': the Russian climate activist taking on Putin's war

Moscow, June 06 : Arshak Makichyan made a name for himself as Russia's 'lone climate activist', protesting for change in a country where oil and gas exports have propped up the country's economy for decades. Every Friday, for nearly two years, Makichyan protested alone in Moscow's Pushkin Square, hoping to draw Russian attention to the danger posed by climate change. Born in Armenia, but given Russian citizenship when he was 10, Makichyan

graduated from a prestigious music conservatory and turned to activism after reading about climate change and Greta Thunberg's weekly strikes. "I was representing Russia as a violinist on competitions, and I was organising Friday for Futures, so I had a feeling that I am a future of Russia," he said. In a court hearing this week, Russia will seek to revoke Makichyan's citizenship, in a move that he and his lawyers call unprecedented, and a threat to millions of foreign-

born Russians willing to speak out against the war. "Even though I was born in Armenia, I am part of Russian culture, I love Russia, I was fighting for Russia for years, I was risking my freedom for years," said the activist in an interview over the phone on his 28th birthday last week. "And now I don't know what to do." In his first interview about the case, Makichyan, who left Russia with his wife,

Polina, in late March, and is currently living in Germany, told the Guardian he felt that the Russian claim was revenge for his anti-war and climate activism. Most recently, he has lobbied European politicians for a fossil fuel ban that could deprive Vladimir Putin's regime of its key source of revenues. Russia has regularly expelled foreign activists from the country. But stripping a Russian citizen of his nationality

would be a rare move as the country sinks deeper into isolation and totalitarianism since launching its war in Ukraine. If Russia succeeds, Makichyan told the Guardian he would be left stateless. "I was inspired by [Alexei] Navalny because he returned to Russia although it was very dangerous," said Makichyan. "I was planning to go back to Russia with my wife to continue to fight against this war. But now most likely we cannot go back to Russia any more."

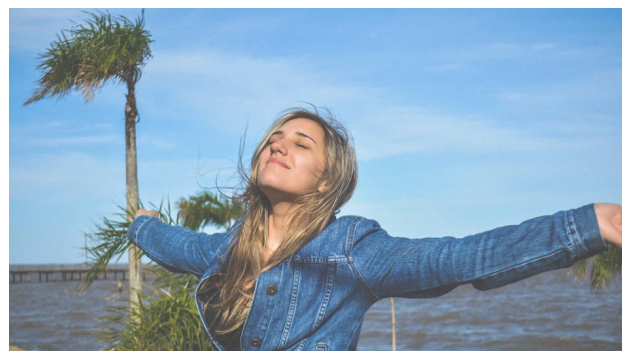
Thousands of UK workers begin world's biggest trial of four-day week

London, June 06 : More than 3,300 workers at 70 UK companies, ranging from a local chippy to large financial firms, start working a four-day week from Monday with no loss of pay in the world's biggest trial of the new working pattern. The pilot is running for six months and is being organised by 4 Day Week Global in partnership with the thinktank Autonomy, the 4 Day Week Campaign, and researchers at Cambridge University, Oxford University and Boston College. The trial is based on the 100:80:100 model - 100% of pay for 80% of the time, in exchange for a commitment to maintain 100% productivity. Platten's Fish and Chips in Wells-next-the-Sea on the north Norfolk coast is participating, along with the Sheffield software firm Rivelin Robotics, the London-based inheritance tax specialists Stellar Asset Management, and Charity Bank in Tonbridge, Kent. Joe O'Connor, chief executive of the not-for-profit group 4 Day Week Global, said the

UK was at the crest of the four-day week wave. "As we emerge from the pandemic, more and more companies are recognising that the new frontier for competition is quality of life, and that reduced-hour, output-focused working is the vehicle to give them a competitive edge." Some of the other companies involved provide education, workplace consultancy, housing, skincare, building and construction recruitment services, food and beverages, and digital marketing. Researchers will work with each participating organisation to measure the impact on productivity in the business and the wellbeing of its workers, as well as the impact on the environment and gender equality. Government-backed four-day week trials are also due to begin later this year in Spain and Scotland. Juliet Schor, a professor of sociology at Boston College and lead researcher on the pilot, described it as a "historic trial".

Environmentalists join forces to fight 'carbon bomb' fossil fuel projects

London, June 06 : A coalition of environmental lawyers, investigative journalists and campaigners has launched a group to challenge the "carbon bomb" fossil fuel projects revealed in a Guardian investigation. After a meeting in May, more than 70 NGOs and activist groups from around the world have formed a "carbon bomb defusal" network to share expertise and resources in the fight to halt the projects and prevent the catastrophic climate breakdown they would cause. The Guardian investigation identified 195 carbon bombs, gigantic oil and gas projects that would each result in at least a billion tonnes of CO2 emissions



over their lifetimes, in total equivalent to about 18 years of current global CO2 emissions. About 60% of these have started pumping. The US is the leading source of emissions from these mega projects, with its 22 carbon bombs spanning the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico to the foothills of the Front Range in Colorado to the Permian

Basin. Together they have the potential to emit 140bn tonnes of CO2, almost four times more than the entire world emits each year. Saudi Arabia is the second biggest potential emitter after the US, with 107bn tonnes, followed by Russia, Qatar, Iraq, Canada, China and Brazil. The new campaigning network aims to coordinate legal challenges and activist

British geologist jailed for 15 years in Iraq for smuggling artefacts

Baghdad, June 06 : A British citizen has been sentenced by an Iraqi court to 15 years in prison on charges of smuggling artefacts out of the country, in a case that has attracted international attention. The verdict handed down to Jim Fitton, a retired geologist, shocked the court in Baghdad, including his defence lawyer. He and his

family have argued that Fitton, 66, had no criminal intent. "I thought the worst-case scenario would be one year, with suspension," said Fitton's lawyer, Thair Soud. A German national tried with Fitton was found not to have criminal intent in the case and will be released. But Judge Jabir Abd Jabir found that by picking up the items, revealed to be artefacts older than 200 years according to a technical government investigation, and intending to transport them out of the country, Fitton had criminal intent to smuggle them. The judge did not consider

Soud's arguments that laid out Fitton's ignorance of Iraqi laws and the value of the items. Fitton and the German national, Volker Waldman, were arrested in Baghdad airport on 20 March after airport security discovered the items in their luggage. They had been part of a tourism expedition across the country's ancient sites. Fitton's family grew worried when he did not arrive on a scheduled flight back to Kuala Lumpur, where he lives with his wife. They later learned that Fitton, a well-travelled geologist for oil and gas companies, had been taken to an airport

holding cell where he was still being detained, Fitton's daughter Leila said last month. The case garnered attention when, frustrated by perceived inaction on the part of the British Foreign Office to intervene and assist in Fitton's case, his family started a petition that has more than 100,000 signatures. The British diplomatic mission in Baghdad has not commented on its involvement in the case. Fitton's family said that in total, 12 fragments of pottery and other shards were found in Fitton's possession by Iraqi authorities, all of them collected as souvenirs during a group tourism

expedition to Eridu, an ancient Mesopotamian site in what is now Dhi Qar province. Waldman's defense team said the German tourist had been carrying the pieces for Fitton but that he did not pick them up from the site. Both men were charged with smuggling based on the country's antiquities laws and could have potentially faced the death penalty. However, officials said that was only a remote possibility. Soud said he intended to appeal against sentence immediately. It is not clear if Fitton can serve out his sentence in his home country, which would require a bilateral agreement between Iraq and the UK.



People walk on a flooded street after heavy rains in Muribeca town, Recife, Brazil,

NOTICE TNVTING AUCTION (NTA) NO. 01 OF 2022 - 23

Online quotations from registered Class-I contractor/firm of Government Departments, Assam as well as reputed and resourceful Contractor Firms/ Business Enterprises are invited against NIA No. 1 of 2022-23 for the following work.

Name of Work /Auction sale of unserviceable materials and stores of Mankachar South Salmara Division (Irrigation), Hatingimari, Assam on "As is where is & Whatever there is" basis in a single lot.

Minimum Bid Value : Rs. 15,85,000.00 (Rupees Fifteen Lakh and Eighty Five Thousand) only.

Details may be seen at website <http://eauction.gov.in> and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 10-00 Hours of 07.06.2022 & upto 17-00 Hours of 16.06.2022.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer Irrigation
Department, Assam Chandmari,
Guwahati - 3

Janasanyog/C/3909/22

ADVERTISEMENT

In pursuance of the Govt. of Assam Home & Political (H) Department vide Letter No.PLB.60/2020/3IO, dated 24th, Dec, 2021 & District Development Commissioner, Goalpara Letter No - GDG-27/2022/50 dated 04/06/2022. The following posts "walk-in-interview" will be taken place on 14/06/2022 at 10 AM to 3 PM in this Office. The posts are purely temporary and fixed pay contractual basis. The details of the vacant posts are given below. The interested candidate of Goalpara district are asked to appear in walk-in-interview with original testimonial regarding educational Qualifications, date of birth, working experience certificate etc, in following date & venue at the office of the Foreigner Tribunal 2nd, Goalpara, at Kacharighat, Goalpara.

Sl. NO.	Name of Post	Number of Post	Minimum Qualification	Pay	Venue
1.	Data Entry Operator	2 (Two)	(1) Minimum 6 months Diploma in Computer course from any Govt. recognized Institution. (2) Must H.S.(10+2) Passed from a Govt. recognized Board.	Rs. 10,000/- p.m. (Fixed)	Walk-in-interview On 14/06/2022 from 10.00 AM In the Office of the Foreigner Tribunal 2nd, Goalpara, at Kacharighat, Goalpara. Assam.

Terms and Conditions:

- The candidate should bring his/her Bio-Data in Standard Form of Application published in the Assam Gazette Part-IX along with original certificate/ documents relating to qualification, age, caste certificate, identity proof with two recent passport size photographs and a set of self attested copies of the same.
- The candidate will be selected on the basis of Walk-in-Interview.
- The recruitment will be purely on contractual basis with no provision of regularization.
- Age limit not lower than 18 (Eighteen) years and more than 40 (Forty) years as on 01.01.2022.
- Relaxation of age for SC/ST/OBC/MOBC candidates are existing Rules will be application.
- The candidate will have to appear in computer proficiency/ typing test.
- Preference will be given to local candidate & experience candidate.
- No TA/DA will be provided for appearing in the interview.
- The selection committee reserves the right to cancel or modify the advertisement and selection process without assigning any reason.
- Candidates name must be Registration in Employment Exchange, Goalpara.

Member
Foreigner Tribunal 2nd,
Goalpara

Janasanyog/D/4928/22



Teachers & students of Lakhimpur Commerce College participating in plantation drive on June 5

World Environment Day celebrated at MSSV

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 6: Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya today (Guwahati unit) celebrated World Environment Day on June 5. In the morning, a cleanliness drive was held in the premises and surrounding areas of the university. After the programme, a discussion was held on the responsibilities and duties of a university for environmental awareness under the Chairmanship of Prof.

Mridul Hazarika, Vice-Chancellor of the University. After the discussion many different tree saplings were planted in the premises of the university. The activities concluded with a bicycle rally which started from the university premises to Bhangagar via Guwahati Medical College and back, to spread awareness on environment related issues and to mark the day, which was flagged off by the Vice-Chancellor of the university. The activities to mark the day



were organized by the Guwahati Unit of MSSV and the National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit in collaboration with the Department of Social Work and the Depart-

ment of Juridical Studies. The program was attended by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Mridul Hazarika, Assistant Registrar (Academic) and NSS Coordinator Bichitra Bikash,

Mrinal Kumar Gogoi; HoD Social Work, Dr. Bimal Baishya; HoD Juridical studies, along with faculty members, employees and students of the university.

Ajmal foundation organised massive plantation drive

Assam Rising
Hojai, June 6: Under the aegis of Ajmal Foundation and in collaboration with Hojai District Territorial Road Division (PWRD), Nazir Ajmal Memorial College of Education, Hojai and Maryam Ajmal Women's College of Science and Technology, Hojai organised Massive Plantation Drive at Bhuyanpatty in Hojai on Monday. More than 100 saplings were planted in the fond memory of legends like Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi, Missile Man of India and ex-president of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam and in the name of prominent educationists of the Nation, State and Hojai. Professor Amalendu Chakrabarty, Vice-

Chancellor, Rabindranath Tagore University graced the occasion as Chief Guest; Manasjyoti Nath, ADC; Chandanjyoti Borgohain, Circle Officer; Chaturthi Rani Biswas, Chairperson, Hojai Municipal Board; Samsul Haque Choudhury, President, Markazul Ma'arif; Anup Kumar Barthakur, General Secretary, Hojai District Unit of Assam Sahitya Sabha; Kamal Dutta, noted social activist; Dr. Khasrul Islam, Director, Ajmal Foundation along with other eminent dignitaries were present on the dais. Speaking on the occasion, VC Prof Amalendu Chakrabarty lauded the efforts of Ajmal Foundation. He said such plantation drive at a large



scale are vital for us and next generation. Chakrabarty further said, "Without loving nature we can't protect it, so from onwards we should start loving mother nature." CO Chandan Jyoti Borgohain apprised the students about the history of World Environment Day. He further led emphasis on Sustainable Development. All the other guests spoke on the

occasion. They all highlighted the significance of the environment, our responsibilities in order to safeguard mother nature. They said it's high time, now each individual has to be environmentally conscious, then only the environment can be protected. On the other hand, talking to this correspondent on the sidelines of the event, Dr. Khasrul Islam said, "In

order to create awareness among the students on the significance of environment as well as to apprise them all about the individual responsibility of each one of us to protect the mother nature, Ajmal Group of Colleges' have observed World Environment Day from June 4 to 6 with various programmes like quiz, slogan, essay competitions, massive plantation drive."

Annual conference held

Assam Rising
Biswanath Chariali, June 6: The 5th bi-annual conference of the Progressive Brahmin Samaj was held at Sani Mandir near Phalpathi on Sunday with a day-long programme. The session

began with hoisting of the flag by Kirti Goswami in the chair followed by planting of saplings. The open session began with Kirti Goswami in the chair which was followed by reading of proceedings by the secretary.

A new committee was formed with Kirti Goswami as president, Anjan Barua, Bablu Barua as vice presidents, Mrinal Goswami and Pankaj Bhattacharya as secretaries besides other executive members.

DC conducted meeting with 44HQ BRTF at Aalo

Assam Rising
Aalo, June 6: A meeting was convened in the office Chamber of Commandant 44HQ BRTF Aalo on June 5 which was attended by Mito Dirchi, Deputy Commissioner, Takam Titus, DLRSO, Shi Yomi, Commandant 44 HQ BRTF Aalo, Second in Command and Officer Commanding, Thumbin. In the meeting issues pertaining to Tato-Mechukha Road were discussed elaborately and the ways and means to improve the road conditions for commuters in the backdrop of massive formation cutting by the contractors during this monsoon. Another prominent point of discussion held was on acquisition of land for construction of double lane road from Pene village to Tato HQ in the Kaying-Tato road. Speaking on the subject, Deputy Commissioner Sri Mito



Dirchi reiterated that the public Notice for claims and objection in this regard has been issued and placed under the public domain at Tato and made known to all those residing outside of the district through newspaper and electronic media. He further said that the structures which have been constructed on both sides

of the Pene-Tato road for the sole purpose of claiming compensation have not been assessed and not included in this cost estimation forwarded to the State Govt and the BRTF Authorities. The aggrieved persons could, however, go to the court of law for redress of their grievances, if any, he added.

NGO celebrated world environment day in Margherita

Assam Rising, Margherita, June 6: The initiative of the newly formed NGO People's Development Society in Margherita celebrates World Environment Day at Mahavir Das Hindi LP School on Sunday last. In this context the NGO is to organise a painting competition among students of various schools in the region on June 12 next. The celebration committee urged everyone to have a presence in the programmes.

Nagaon's woman entrepreneur participates 'Friendship Art Exhibition'

Assam Rising, Nagaon, June 6: Gargee Gitom Bora, a resident of Morikolung in the town and a noted finisher of colours, participated in 'Friendship Art Exhibition' held at Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal from May 22 to 25. The exhibition was organized by Nepal Art Council where over 26 artists in the genre from across the globe participated. Over 9 artists from India including 3 from Assam, participated too in the exhibition, a release added. It is pertinent to be mentioned here that besides the work of art and paintings, Gargee Gitom



Bora is a leading woman entrepreneur in the district and is involved in the work of pickles making, poultry farming and fisheries etc.

Ranangan award 2022' conferred to olympian Lovleena

Assam Rising, Nagaon, June 6: Olympian boxer Lovleena Borgohain has been nominated for 'Ranangan award 2022' and the prestigious award will be presented to the exalted boxer of the state in a function soon by 'Ranangan Publication' a premier publication of a Nagaon based weekly newsletter and an Assamese monthly. Earlier the prestigious award was presented to noted Assamese litterateur and journalist Lt Homen Borgohain and noted Assamese novelist Rita Chaudhary for the year of 2020 and 2021 respectively. The award contains of Cheleng chador, Gamusha, an appraisal letter, memento and Rs 10,000 in cash, a release issued by the publication added.

132nd Birth Anniversary of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi observed at LGBIA



Assam Rising, Barjhar, June 6: The 132nd birth anniversary of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi is celebrated today at Guwahati Airport. The event organized at the airport was graced by the youngest son of Lokpriya Baleen Bordoloi, Lonie Bordoloi & his other members of the family. Amongst others present were Ravi Kant, Regional Executive Director, N.E. Region, Airports Authority of India, Utpal Baruah, Chief Airport Officer, L.M. Thakur, Deputy Commandant, CISF and many senior officials of airport and airline community. An audio visual prepared by the airport on Lokpriya was presented on the occasion where different facets of the illustrious life of Lokpriya was narrated. Baleen Bordoloi recollected his fond memories with his father, the magnanimous personality and his experience as his son. He also thanked the airport for organizing this event for the first time at the airport ever since it was named after. Ravi Kant in his brief address spoke of the invaluable contribution of Lokpriya to the people living in this region. Utpal Baruah elaborated several contributions of Bordoloi as a public leader and stated how he succeeded to carve out this region from the plan to be a part of Pakistan. The event was hosted by Ruma Devi and vote of thanks was delivered by Banajit Ojah.

'Green Assam Award' confers to USTM

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 6: In recognition to its tireless work in conservation of environment and creating awareness for the same, the Anti-Global Warming Society Morigaon has conferred the "Green Assam Award" to the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) at Morigaon College here today. The award containing a citation, memento and a cheque of Rs 10,000 was handed over to Sri Mahbulul Hoque, Chancellor, USTM by Dr. Noni Gopal Mahanta, Advisor, Education, Government of Assam. Another award, titled "Green Morigaon Award-2022" was also presented in the same function to Prakriti Premi Mancha Assam, re-



ceived by Hitesh Sarma in the presence of Dr. Balendra Kr Das, Pro Vice Chancellor, USTM, Dr. Lila Kanta Borthakur, Principal Morigaon College and President, Anti-Global Warming Society, Dr. Mridul Kr Sarmah, Secretary, Anti-Global Warming Society, apart from other dignitaries, teachers and students. Expressing his gratitude after receiving the Green Assam Award, Mahbulul Hoque, Chancellor, USTM said, "Our agenda must be to work for global warming. We at USTM are doing our level best to work for various policies under green initiatives. I congratulate the entire team of Morigaon College for their initiative. Such awards need to be given even to individuals who in their own capacity are planting trees and are contributing to the environment."

Emphasizing upon creating consciousness among people regarding environment issues, he said, "We are going to create a 'We' garden at USTM with the cash award received today and will name it 'Morigaon College Garden'. We have a Mission Green Campus at USTM." He also announced Rs. 50,000 from USTM Community Fund to the Morigaon College for developing a green campus. Addressing the award function, Dr. Noni Gopal Mahanta, Advisor, Education, Government of Assam said, "I congratulate Mahbulul Hoque today. USTM is not simply a university that has recently achieved 'A' grade by NAAC. It has also been engaged with various socio-cultural activities of the north-eastern region." Quoting Mahatma Gandhi's fa-

mous saying that the world has enough for everybody's need but not for everyone's greed, Dr. Mahanta said that the present situation of environment is alarming with air pollution, water pollution, dust pollution, e-waste, bio-material waste and on the top of all global warming. He said that various conflicts will rise in the world due to Global Warming that will cause migration and other problems. "We cannot stop development, but the conflicts in the process of development need to be addressed. World Environment day is not just a single day, it's a process, a way of life". Dr. NG Mahanta also suggested that the Pollution Control Board of Assam should come up with an Annual Report based on study of annual environmental impacts.

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THE ASSAM RISING

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The monkeypox outbreak

The world is in the midst of a monkeypox outbreak. The World Health Organization has recorded more than 500 cases in 30 countries this year – including the United Kingdom, the United States and a number of European nations. And how do Western media outlets illustrate the story. The World Health Organization describes monkeypox as a zoonosis: a disease transmitted from animals to humans. The virus primarily occurs in Central and West Africa, often in proximity to tropical rainforests. However, it can crop up anywhere in the world. In 2003, the first outbreak of monkeypox outside Africa was reported in six U.S. states – Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin. That outbreak was caused by human contact with infected prairie dogs kept as pets. Prairie dogs are herbivorous burrowing mammals native to the grasslands of North America; the pets were reportedly infected after an Illinois animal distributor had reportedly housed them near imported small mammals from Ghana. That outbreak resulted in more than 70 reported cases, all transmitted by contact with an infected prairie dog or with a person who had been infected by a prairie dog. Genetic evidence shows that the international outbreak likely originated in Nigeria, but the virus has likely been spreading by person-to-person contact in Europe and the U.K. for months. WHO and partners are working to better understand the extent and cause of an outbreak of monkeypox. The virus is endemic in some animal populations in a number of countries, leading to occasional outbreaks among local people and travelers. The recent outbreaks reported across 27 countries so far are atypical, as they are occurring in non-endemic countries. There are about 80 confirmed cases so far, and 50 pending investigations. More cases are likely to be reported as surveillance expands. WHO is working with the affected countries and others to expand disease surveillance to find and support people who may be affected, and to provide guidance on how to manage the disease. We continue to convene meetings of experts and technical advisory groups (such as the meeting today of the Strategic & Technical Advisory Group on Infectious Hazards with Pandemic and Epidemic Potential [STAG-IH]) to share information on the disease and response strategies. WHO continues to receive updates on the status of ongoing outbreaks in endemic countries.

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

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Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

Ukraine is desperate for peace, but we won't sign up to a bogus Russian deal

We Ukrainians want peace more than anyone in the world. For about 100 days, we have been fighting Russian forces on the ground, in the sky, on the sea, and in cyber and information spaces. Defence experts originally gave us little hope of success. They changed their position when we showed our ability to resist. Now we need to demonstrate the strength to hold our course and resist the temptations of a false resolution. In this existential battle for our future, ostensibly friendly or consoling pundits and politicians

persistently suggest we should surrender to achieve peace more quickly. Of course, we do not want a war to take longer than necessary, but we will not get trapped into a bogus deal which will only make things worse. Among those who advised a quick fix was the former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger, who suggested we should cede territory in exchange for ending the war. His intervention was appalling and, for a well-known strategic thinker, he was amazingly non-strategic. Conceding territory will not end the war. It will reinforce it. Russia

has not abandoned its primary objective of getting rid of Ukraine, wiping us off the map. Any concessions would reward and legitimise its strategy. Far from stopping Russia's pursuit of its broader military goals, it would feel emboldened. Responding to force with territorial concessions would also have tragic global consequences. It would open the door to similar cases around the world. We do not want to live in a world where brute force decides which country we live in and

 **Andriy Zagorodnyuk**

which regime we belong to. We do not want to live in a world where only large countries can be truly sovereign. Receiving that suggestion from a renowned expert was very surprising. However, the idea was immediately picked up by the Russians, who cynically blamed Ukraine for a desire to continue an unnecessary war. Some media commentators also started to debate the need for a compromise to secure peace. This is manipulative and wrong. Imagine the harrowing scenario of your home being invaded by a street gang which then occupied part of your house.

It seems like just another searing summer in the Kashmir Valley. Gun-wielding terrorists targeting civilians, infiltration from across the border, youths joining the terror ranks, increased fear among local people, especially minorities, and security forces on their toes. In the last five months, 18 people have been killed in terror attacks, most of them carried out by 'hybrid' militants. These 'part-timers' get trained online and pose a major challenge to the security forces because they have no prior criminal record. The Narendra Modi government's claim that 'normalcy' has returned in 'Naya Kashmir' by pointing to the high footfall of tourists is at odds with the ground reality, which the government keeps ignoring. After abrogating Article 370 in August 2019, the Modi government tried to maintain control by deploying large military, suspending internet and imposing strict curfew. The year still saw 46 civilian killings in terror attacks. The next two years - 2020 and 2021 - saw lockdowns and curfews that forced people to remain indoors. It led to a marginal drop in civilian deaths - 37 in 2020 and 35 civilian killings in 2021. But now, the trends of 2017, when 71 civilians were killed followed by 80 the following year, appear to have returned. As of May this

year, 18 civilians have been killed with the security establishment fearing the number will rise. Recruitment by militant groups in the Valley is seeing similar trend. In 2021, over 60 had joined terror outfits as of May. This year, the number stood at 52. In May alone, 12 youngsters took to the gun. Their victims? A mixed bag of soft targets. While most are local civilians, including Kashmiri Pandits and Sikhs, others are non-locals who work in the Valley as labourers, shopkeepers, government employees as well as Muslims who are seen as siding with Indian government's policies. The killings raise a number of questions. What has really changed in the valley in the past three years since the Modi government made Jammu and Kashmir a Union Territory? Is the influx of tourists the only parameter to assess normalcy? What about the terror ranks increasing their base by recruiting youths online? The growing infiltration numbers? The disgruntled and fearful local people? Is the BJP's politics in the rest of the country having an impact in the Valley? The stone-pelting incidents in the valley have come down drastically, civilian deaths as collateral are almost zero, and the protests that often led to law and order situations too have reduced significantly. This may be an indicator of a 'controlled' law and order situation, which the J&K police say is extremely important to ensure there is no loss of life. But is it normalcy? There is no straight answer. People on the ground have told ThePrint that the situation in the

valley is "controlled" and not "normal", saying that they "fear being slapped with the draconian Public Safety Act if they express any sort of dissent". Over 500 people in J&K are in jail under the Act, 150 of whom were arrested between March and April. Such is the situation that the jails do not have space to keep people booked under the Act and many warrants are lying unexecuted. More than 800 people were detained in October 2021

 **Ananya Bhardwaj**

over suspicion of being involved in a spate of civilian killings reported that month. The police say that ensuring security of the people is of utmost concern, even if it means heavy crackdown and more arrests. According to the police, a number of over ground workers (OGWs) and their associates have been booked under PSA and UAPA, which they claim has acted as a big "hindrance" for the terrorists. Moreover, many local residents are now coming forward to give tip-offs about movement of terrorists, or someone known to them, joining militancy, police said. Pumping forces on the ground, however, is certainly alienating the locals, who then get encouraged to join the terror ranks. Little visible

development on the ground and growing unemployment also play in the minds of youngsters who then take up arms. Some of these OGWs, although not ideologically motivated, fall for the money being pumped in by terror organisations from across the border. Kashmir requires a robust political strategy as a solution to counter terrorism. More so with the entry of 'hybrid' or 'part-time terrorists', who are difficult to track down. Whether it was the killing of the owner of Krishna Dhaba, the TV artist or a wine shop worker, police found involvement of these 'hybrids' who are often recruited and trained online on how to use a pistol. These 'hybrids' operate on a case-to-case basis and even their parents and neighbours do not know of their association with any terror group. These are disgruntled local residents, who are either students or work in the Valley, which indicates a clear disconnect between the administration and the people. A big factor contributing to the growing disconnect is the absence of a Chief Minister since 2018, when the state government was dissolved after the BJP ended its alliance with Mehbooba Mufti-led PDP. Locals say there are no political representatives whom they can approach with their grievances. While there are 13,761 panchayat representatives in the ten districts of Kashmir, they aren't

of much help as people say they either have to approach the district commissioner or other bureaucrats. "These bureaucrats are government servants and do not understand our issues. For them, nothing is at stake. At least politicians have to hear the people out from their constituency because it is the people who voted them to power," a local resident told ThePrint, not wanting to be named. With the delimitation report now out, residents are waiting for an election to be announced - but not until J&K's statehood is restored. This has been another point of contention between the local politicians and the Centre. A source in the security establishment said the use of bulldozers to demolish people's homes and shops in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh has become another sore point. It has made it difficult for the police to convince people that the Modi government is working for them with an inclusive approach. "They question us about what happened in Jahangirpuri (Delhi), what is happening in UP or MP. They tell us that this government is only alienating them further by tagging them as terrorists. What is happening in the rest of the country has definitely had an adverse impact on the situation in the Valley, pushing the people even further away. It is defeating their own narrative, their purpose," the officer said.

Shah's right, India lacks formal defence policy. Past govts were busy avoiding liability

As Home Minister Amit Shah right when he said recently that India's defence policy was a 'shadow' of its foreign policy before Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power? But it is not just Shah, even former Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat, had quipped about the importance of a "national security strategy" and the need to formalise it. It is true that successive governments have been reluctant to formalise and declare a formal national security strategy and a specific defence policy. Even though undeclared covert operations across the LAC and in Myanmar have been done under previous governments. Overtly, in

pursuit of national interest, India also sent a Peace Keeping Force to Sri Lanka in 1987 and launched an operation to thwart a coup attempt in the Maldives in 1988. But this reluctance to frame a doctrine and a defence policy can be explained as an attempt to avoid accountability. Major global powers like the United States, China, France, United Kingdom and now even Pakistan have a

formal national  **Lt Gen H S Panag (retd)**

security strategy or policy. It's time that India gets one but one that is in the public domain. Shah had also said that "Earlier, terrorists would be sent to attack us, and there were similar attempts to do so with the Uri and Pulwama attacks. But with the surgical strikes and airstrikes, we showed what the defence policy meant." It is heartening that the Home Minister has been informing the public about India's "new defence policy". But something seems to be amiss, the military does not seem to be aware of the same. CDS Rawat, while speaking at seminar in College of Defence Management, had said: "Some important steps that we need to take, include-defining the national security strategy, higher defence strategic guidance, structural reforms in higher defence and operational organisations." National Defence Policy flows out of National Security Strategy and forms the basis of all defence planning, capability development and allocation of funds. As per General Rawat's statement, India does not have a national security strategy. What the Home Minister has highlighted are the political directions for 'use of force' in the form of declared counter-terrorist operational actions across the Line of Actual Control or International Boundaries, like using Special Forces in Myanmar on 9 June 2015, and at multiple points across the LAC on the night of 28 and 29 September 2016, and airstrikes at Balakot on the night of 25 and 26 February 2019. The jury is still out on whether these operations forced compellence on the terrorists/Pakistan or remain standalone retributive operations without continuity. A national Security Strategy (NSS) or national security policy is an overarching key framework for a country to employ various instruments of national

power - diplomatic, informational, military and economic - to advance or protect its national interests from external and internal threats. NSS should be a clear vision of the path a nation should take in pursuit of its national objectives. It is a mother document that provides guidance to all

organs of the State, particularly its military instrument. It is a formal document prepared by the government and, in democracies, also scrutinised by parliament. National defence policy (NDP) flows out of the NSS and encompasses planning and management to achieve the national defence objectives specified in it. In practice, it is a series of guidelines, principles and frameworks that link the theory - NSS - to action, that is, planning, management and implementation. Above all, the defence policy deals with optimum utilisation of the defence budget to build up the armed forces' capabilities. India does not have a formal NSS or a NDP. Functionally, there are a fair number of policy documents or letters issued by foreign, defence, home and finance ministries concerning national security. In the absence of NSS, the process lacks synergy and accountability. The impact is most pronounced in military matters, where there is a lack of clarity on the threats and type of wars the nation may have to fight and the capabilities that we need to develop. Political directions, if at all given, are informal and cryptic. It is largely left to the armed forces to fill in the blanks through a bottom-up approach. However, the compulsion to maintain and manage large armed forces due to external and internal threats led to the evolution of a functional system. There are

numerous policy documents covering every facet of defence planning. Defence planning is guided by the Raksha Mantri's Operational Directive, ironically based on a draft prepared by the armed forces. Based on this directive, the armed forces prepare 15-year long term integrated perspective plans with a specific focus on 5-Year integrated defence plans. These are linked to defence acquisition plans prepared by the Ministry of Defence. India has a large but 'out of sync with times' defence industrial base. The Modi government has formalised policies on 'Aatmanirbharta' or indigenisation of defence production and modernisation of the defence industrial base. The policy also incorporates the private sector. The Defence Planning Committee, which reports to the Defence Minister and is headed by the National Security Advisor (NSA), was created in 2018 and is mandated to prepare drafts for a strategic defence review, national security strategy, and prioritised capability development plans for the armed forces. In a nutshell, it is responsible for formalising the NSS and NDP. However, nothing is in the public domain to show any tangible progress. The lack of a cohesive NSS results in the

absence of clear political direction regarding politico-military objectives, which are the basis of all defence planning. Also, there is inadequate coordination of defence plans and economic and industrial development, which impacts the creation of a viable state-of-the-art defence industrial base. Even in the absence of an NSS, a comprehensive NDP could have bridged the gap. Instead, the existing functional defence planning system is struggling and muddling along to manage and incrementally modernise the existing elephantine armed forces. What our armed forces need is transformation - a revolution in military affairs - to prepare for the high technology driven wars of the 21st Century. And this cannot happen without a visionary NSS and NDP. There seems to be absolute political clarity on the need to transform national security and the armed forces. Our Prime Minister has articulated his views in the highest defence forum, the Combined Commanders Conference, on numerous occasions. Thus, it is ironic that our 'transformation' is still rudderless without a formal NSS and NDP. If the strongest government since Independence, which is ideologically committed to national security, does not formalise the NSS and NDP, then who will?

Letter to the Editor

Lovlina Borgohain elected as Chairperson of IBAAC

Respected Sir,

It is a matter of pride for us that Golaghat born Olympic Bronze medalist Lovlina Borgohain has been elected as Chairperson and a Voting Member on the Board of Directors for the International Boxing Association's Athlete's Committee. No doubt, it is a great honour for this sports prodigy of Assam and it will surely help Lovlina to promote Indian women boxing to other boxers of the world. We congratulate Lovlina for this achievement and wish her the very best in delivering her duties as Chairperson.

 **Rupak G. Duarah,**
Rajahnagar, Guwahati.



NEHUSU stages protest over lack of facilities

Shillong, June 06 : Agitated and restless students of North Eastern Hill University Students Union (NEHUSU) on Thursday skipped classes to come out and protest. The NEHUSU has been writing to the university administration to cater to their demands like clean water in hostels, proper hostel mess food, wifi connection, upgradation of books and facilities in the libraries, etc. The students have also been demanding availability of medicines in the NEHU Health Center. Agitating students gathered in front of the Central Library at NEHU campus on Thursday and started their protest rally towards the administrative building. The students also demanded the Vice Chancellor to resign if their demands weren't fulfilled. As the slogans of 'VC Come Out, Come Out' grew louder, the guards at the admin gate prepared to deal with any intrusion. While officials tried to persuade the student members, the students were adamant and demanded the VC to come out and meet them in person. VC Prof. Prabha Shankar Shukla eventually appeared before the agitating

students and tried to explain to the students that he had just taken charge a few months back (July, 27, 2021). However, the students said he has had enough time to make changes at the university. The NEHUSU rebutted every claim made by him. Concerning the demand for filling up vacancies, including that of a pro-vice chancellor, Prof. Shukla said the teachers' post has already been advertised and the process is going on. The students sought a timeline for the same but the VC said it will take time for the process to be completed. "I just joined a few months ago, and to solve all the issues immediately is not possible. I am already doing the work in the interest of the university and students," the Vice Chancellor said. Prof. Shukla denied charges made by the students that he was never in his office. He said that he has been extending his working hours in the office and has given ample of time to the students' issues. To the demand of providing hostels for all students, Prof. Shukla said renovation work is going on in the old

building of NEHU along with bamboo huts. At this one student shouted back, "We are not seeing any work." Backing their complaints with video evidence, the students showed the VC pictures and video clips of the poor condition of the hostels and also yellow-coloured water flowing from hostel taps. After an arduous discussion, the vice chancellor agreed to give in writing assurances about improving the facilities. Speaking with media, NEHUSU advisor Brandon Paswet said it is due to the incompetence of the Vice Chancellor that they have been compelled to come out and protest. "We placed our demands before the VC on May 5, but till date there has been no solution to the students' issues," said Paswet. NEHUSU president Meysan Dkhar said most of the books in the library are outdated. "Most of the times the VC is not in the office. If he is the office, he is never available, so that is why we are demanding for a pro-vice-chancellor," said Dkhar. He also added that if their demands are not met, a stronger protest will be carried out which will stop the functioning of NEHU.

Itanagar, June 06 : Voices against the alleged atrocities and abductions carried out by the NSCN (K-YA) insurgents continue to grow stronger each passing day in Arunachal Pradesh's Longding district as over 130 public leaders declared their support to the security forces to tackle and end the menace of insurgents operating in the region on Saturday. The unanimous decision from the gaonburas, chieftains and PRI leaders came following a security meeting organised by the Longding battalion of Assam Rifles at the circuit house of the district headquarters, officials said. The meeting, among others, discussed matters related to the spree of kidnappings/detentions of locals and village authorities by the Khaplang-Yung Aung faction of the NSCN and the ways and means to stop the "kidnapping mela", a term now used by the locals to rationalise the situation. Addressing the meeting which was also attended by the officers from the district administration and



police, the Assam Rifles commandant said that his battalion would make an all-out effort to deny space to insurgent groups in the district. Appreciating the citizens of Longding and the Wancho community in particular for publicly voicing their resentment against the insurgents, the AR commandant, at the same time also called for the proactive involvement and cooperation of the village authorities and urged all to take a united stand against insurgency. Encourage the cadres of your respective villages to shun the path of violence and surrender before the security forces and police, he told the village heads. The village authorities on their part pledged that they would no longer concede to the illegal demands of ransom by the

insurgents on account of surrenders and defections. They also unanimously decided not to allow any fresh recruitment from their respective villages to any underground organizations in the future. The entire 48 families of the active insurgents assured that they would make sincere efforts to convince their wards to surrender and join the mainstream. The Arunachal Pradesh government has earmarked a budget of Rs 5 crore under its 'surrender policy' through which all returnees will be taken care of

Man dies after being beaten at Bishnupur rehab



Imphal, June 06 : A drug addict admitted to a private de-addiction centre for treatment in Manipur's Bishnupur district died on Thursday after he was allegedly beaten by the employees of the centre. As per reports, the deceased, identified as Lukram Sanjay alias Ningthou, 32, of Nambol Phojing, was undergoing treatment at Revive Drug De-addiction cum Rehabilitation Centre at Utlu Chanura Heibi Makhong. He is survived by his wife and a daughter. On Friday, a joint fact-finding team of the Drug Users' Federation for Human Rights and Justice and Committee on Suitable Guideline for Non-Funded Private Rehabilitation Centers visited the centre over the alleged custodial death of the rehab inmate. According to the fact-finding team, at least eight persons, including the chief functionary, staff and after-care patients were involved in the heinous crime. As per reports, three persons have reportedly surrendered themselves at Nambol police station. Owing to the heinous nature of the crime being perpetrated in the name of drug treatment, the joint team resolved to indefinitely shut down the rehabilitation centre. The team also lodged a complaint with the Nambol police station for prompt and immediate legal action against the culprits involved in the crime. The team also urged the state government to seriously look into the matter and take up appropriate legal actions against those involved in the crime. The team further appealed to the government to include a stringent rule in the upcoming standard operating guidelines to be formulated by the social welfare department to put an end to cases of torture and deaths in drug treatment centres. Meanwhile, the team also appealed to all the rehabilitation centres, both funded and non-funded, to refrain from such illegal activities. The team also urged that guardians should not allow their wards to set up, establish or open rehabilitation centres without having proper knowledge, skills and credentials.

Angami Naga youth body planted 10,000 trees

Kohima, June 06 : In view of World Environment Day which falls on June 5, the Angami Youth Organization (AYO), in collaboration with Kohima Forest Division (KFD), will plant over 10,000 tree saplings across 104 Angami villages on Saturday under the theme "Plant for life". Addressing a press conference at AYO office in Kohima on Friday, AYO joint Secretary and team leader Zakie Khate said the plantation is part of the youth body's continuous advocacy for conservation of biodiversity and environmental protection. He said the tribal youth body has been working and connect-

ing with the constituent villages under the four ranges - Northern, Southern, Western, Chakhroma - and creating awareness about the need to maintain the fragile ecological balance. As per the initiative, 100 trees each are to be planted by all Angami Naga villages. He urged the communities to take it as a responsibility to maintain and ensure the growth of the trees. The community will plant tree saplings that are suitable to the local vegetation like rhododendron, cherries,



etc. AYO president Kelhrie Phekha said the reality of the changing environment is collectively felt by all and it has become more important than ever to contribute towards real stability and strive to ensure the required responsibility to match the environmental issues and challenges in the blocks, villages, and regions through community initiative. "We are demanded by nature to create a narrative that would not be merely adaptable for our comfort alone."

Gangtok odd-even rule

Netizens ask why only private vehicles?



Gangtok, June 06 : Private vehicle owners have not responded kindly to the idea of the odd-even rule introduced by the state transport department from June 6 on feeder roads to NH 10 in the city. The aim is to control the heavy traffic flow in Gangtok, with the rule in place from 9:30 am to 5 pm, considered peak hours. The rules from the State Transport Department apply only to four-wheelers. Two-wheelers, taxi vehicles, luxury taxis, heavy vehicles, public transport such as buses, and government registered vehicles are exempted from the odd-even rule. On June 3, Sikkim Police, led by ADGP Law and Order Akshay Sachdeva and

Gangtok Superintendent of Police Tenzing Loden Lepcha, held a press conference to address the confusion surrounding the new traffic rules. They termed it as a short term solution till further orders. "Despite the relentless effort made by Traffic Police, thousands of vehicles are seen plying on the road, causing heavy traffic jams, especially in the peak hours of the day. The restriction imposed will not be applicable on Saturdays, Sundays and Government holidays," they said. The state government doesn't want to disrupt the commute of the general public coming to Gangtok for official or personal work. "We are hopeful that this effort will help in controlling the traffic to a great extent as it will minimise about 15-20% of traffic issues in the capital," said Sachdeva. He also mentioned that Sikkim Police is geared up to enforce the given notification. Speaking on the specific timing scheduled for the private vehicle's movement, BK Tamang, DIG Range cum Spokesperson Sikkim Police stated, "The decision is completely in favour of the public. Employees easily carry out their work before and after the restricted timings since they are free to commute before 9.30 am and after 5 pm. Police alone cannot

Manipur: Yet another blast in Imphal

Imphal, June 06 : One more powerful blast, suspected to be an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) occurred in Manipur's Imphal on early Sunday. However, no injuries or casualties are reported from the incident, said

the sources. As per the source, the CCTV footage shows a man coming and planting the bomb at around 2 am at the gate of the Little Flower School (LFS) which is located along the National Highway 150 in the Imphal West district.

The bomb exploded at the entrance gate of the school at around 3:10 am, it said. The southern gate of the school has been reportedly damaged by the force of the blast.

Nagaland Assembly staff extend protest, to wear black badges

Kohima, June 06 : The Nagaland Assembly Secretariat Staff Association (NASSA) has announced its decision to extend the pen-down strike as a mark of protest against the appointment of Dr PJ Antony, Commissioner and Secretary of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA), to the post of Principal Secretary, as well as "arbitrary" Amendment of NLA Service Rules. NASSA informed that the decision was taken along with the Joint Action Committee (JAC) during its meeting on Saturday. The association has also decided to intensify its pen-down strike by wearing black badges during the two days of protest on June 6 and 7. Notably, the association's main grievance was the incumbent Principal Secretary, Dr PJ Anthony's "arbitrary amendment" of the service rules to accommodate himself to the position. The association has been agitating at the Nagaland Legislative Assembly Secretariat since June 3, against the state government's appointment of the retired officer as administrative head of the department (AHOd). NASSA informed that the decision was taken along with the Joint Action Committee (JAC) during its meeting on Saturday. The association has also decided to intensify its pen-down strike by wearing black badges during the two days of protest on June 6 and 7. Notably, the association's main grievance was the incumbent Principal Secretary, Dr. PJ Anthony's "arbitrary amendment" of the service rules in order to accommodate himself to the position. The association has been agitating at the Nagaland Legislative Assembly Secretariat since June 3, against the state government's appointment of the retired officer as administrative head of department (AHOd).

Mizoram Minister meets Union Finance Secy over health care crisis

Aizawl, June 06 : The Mizoram government has approached the Centre over the crisis it has faced in connection with the state health care scheme, an official statement said on Friday. The statement said that state health minister Dr R. Lalthangliana, who is now camping in the national capital met Union Finance Secretary Dr TV Somanathan on Thursdays and was apprised of the difficulties faced by the state in connection with the health care scheme. The two also discussed matters that are pending with the finance minister to enable Mizoram to borrow a loan from Asian Development Bank, it said. Lalthangliana also met the additional secretary in the department of Economic Rajat Kumar Mishra on the issue of the state's health care scheme and the financial constraints faced by the state government. Mishra assured him of all possible help from his end. Medical bills of patients amounting to crores of rupees are now pending release under the Mizoram State Health Care Scheme due to a financial crunch.



Contd. From Page 1

India slams OIC, says Nupur

by relevant bodies," the statement said. Bagchi said that it is regrettable that OIC Secretariat has yet again chosen to make "motivated, misleading and mischievous" comments. "This only exposes its divisive agenda being pursued at the behest of vested interests," he said and urged the OIC Secretariat to stop pursuing its communal approach and show due respect to all faiths and religions. The OIC had hit out at India after Nupur Sharma's comments against the Prophet and had urged the United Nations to take necessary measures to ensure that the rights of Muslims are protected. Earlier on Sunday, the BJP suspended its national spokesperson Nupur Sharma and expelled the party's Delhi unit media head Naveen Jindal for their controversial remarks. The party also issued a statement aimed at assuaging the concerns of minorities and distancing itself from these members, asserting that it respects all religions and strongly denounces the insult of any religious personality.

Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia

Foreign Affairs of Qatar on Sunday summoned India's Ambassador to hand an official note, expressing the country's "total rejection of the statements of an official in the ruling party in India against the Prophet Mohammed." The country has demanded a public apology to all Muslims in the world. The spokesperson of the Minsiter also pointed out that "allowing such Islamophobic remarks to continue without punishment constitutes a grave danger to the protection of human rights and may lead to further prejudice and marginalization, which will create a cycle of violence and hate." The Foreign Ministry of Kuwait, too, handed a note to the Indian Ambassador, denouncing the remarks made by the BJP spokeswoman. The Ministry welcomed the suspension while demanding a public apology. In a statement similar to Qatar's, the Ministry that such "hostile statements" if allowed to continue without any deterrence, "will increase extremism and hatred." The Taliban-ruled government in Afghanistan also condemned the "use of derogatory words against the Prophet of Islam", news agency PTI said. In a tweet, spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said, "We urge the Indian government not to allow such fanatics to insult the holy religion of Islam and provoke the feelings of Muslims." Bahrain also welcomed the BJP's decision to suspend Sharma, "stressing the need to denounce any reprehensible insults against the Prophet Muhammad PBUH, as a provocation to Muslims' feelings and incitement to religious hatred," a statement by its Foreign Ministry read.

'Nupur Sharma, Naveen Jindal not

that "These are the views of fringe elements," CPI general secretary D Raja asked is the government declaring the RSS a fringe organisation. "The so-called 'fringe elements' were the official spokespersons of the ruling party in India. What they said is not different from the RSS narrative of demonising minorities, which is going on since 1925," Raja said in a tweet. Delhi deputy chief Minister Manish Sisodia alleged the BJP has led the country to such a situation that even "small countries are now challenging the great nation of India". He claimed that every Indian is pained by it and "the sorrow is endless". elangana Minister KT Rama Rao lashed out at the Centre after criticism from Gulf countries. KTR said, "If the BJP truly respects all religions equally, should you also not suspend Telangana BJP chief who made an open public statement wanting to dig up all the mosques & impose a ban on Urdu? Why this selective treatment @JPNadda? Any clarification?" In another tweet, he questioned why India as a country should apologise for the "hate speeches of BJP bigots".

Varanasi bomb blast case

charged with several charges such as attempt to murder, and voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons and was booked under the provisions of the Explosives Act. The case also involved other accused. Three of the accused in the serial bomb blast case remain unfound. The fourth accused died during a police crackdown.

PPE Kit Controversy

cost of ? 2,205 per kit," Himanta Biswa Sarma has refuted the allegations and asked Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia to prove the allegation.

Ambubachi Mela will be Started

take necessary measures to make the event a grand success. Although the festival is all set to take place after two long years, the biggest worry for the priests at the temple is a possible catastrophic situation if the gatherings go unrestricted and therefore, the temple authority asked the administration to restrict accommodations in mega camps, free food distribution and government sponsored travel for devotees in trains to minimize the number of visitors. "Ambubachi should not become a Covid hotspot and cause infection again in a state where there are almost no Covid cases now. If the administration decides to build mega accommodation camps like previous years, it may have a catastrophic impact because hundreds of devotees from different states stay here," said a Doloi of the temple. In 2019, about 25 lakh people attended the Ambubachi mela, which was the highest in the history of the festival. Even as large crowds thronged temples in the city in recent weeks during various festivals, the devotees were mostly from Assam. Pilgrims from several north Indian states, where the Covid situation is still a concern, thronged the city during Ambubachi.

Dima Hasao: restoration works in

state Public Works Department (PWD) are engaged to restore the damaged roads. The flood in the hill district has caused massive destruction in which the road connectivity has been badly affected. The new Haflong railway station has completely been damaged in the devastated flood. With the improving weather, restoration works have been started in full swing, excavators have been put on standby in certain areas to clear the road blockage caused by landslides. On Monday, officials of NHAI, state PWD and district administration have visited the affected areas to inspect the ongoing works of restoration. Deputy Commissioner Nazreen Ahmed also visited the sites where the restoration works are being carried out. Unprecedented rainfall last month caused a large scale of destruction in the hill district by flood and landslide, where more than 500 families were rendered of their houses and three including a child had lost life due to the landslide. Nazreen Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner of Dima Hasao district while quoted by ANI said that the district administration officials have visited the affected areas and inspected the damaged roads. "There are two major breaches on the National Highway 54. The NHAI told us that, they will restore the damaged roads within a short time. We hope that it will restore soon," Nazreen Ahmed said. The officials of the district administration have been frequently visiting the damaged sites and closely monitoring the restoration works. Earlier, the Inter-Ministerial Central team had visited the district last month and took stock of the situation. The government of Assam has also released an immediate package of R. 50 crores for the restoration work. Under this package, Rs. 30 crore will be provided for immediate reconstruction of critical roads. On the other hand, the state government will provide Rs. 2 lakh each to 590 families to reconstruct their damaged houses. A total amount of Rs. 11.80 crore will be allocated for this purpose. Out of the total restoration package, Rs. 23 crore will be provided from SDRF and Rs. 27 crore from SOPD.

NAP observed birthday of Ramen Barua

Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 6: 83rd birthday of music composer, singer, music director Ramen Barua observed by the members of NAP in a befitting way at its club premises here this evening. To mark the occasion, the club members greeted Ramen Barua with gamocha, a flower bouquet and celebrated his birthday by cutting a birthday cake. Club members also rendered a few songs composed by Barua. There were intimate discussions on Ramen Barua's illustrious journey towards musical eminence and legend are a topic of warm engagement and enthusiasm among the club members. NAP members prayed almighty for a healthy and long life of Ramen Barua with a hope to get some more contributions in the field of music from him by the people of Assam in coming years.



Guwahati- AAP Protest

Assam police registers 16 cases against PFI

Guwahati, June 6: Assam Police have also registered two more cases against PFI's student wing Campus Front of India (CFI). Cops also referred to PFI's alleged links with a Bangladesh-based terror group. Assam police have registered 16 cases against Popular Front of India (PFI) and launched a crackdown against other such groups which are active in the state, a top police official has said while referring to PFI's alleged links with a Bangladesh-based terror group. The police have also registered two more cases against PFI's student wing Campus Front of India (CFI). Additional Director General of Police (Special Branch) Hiren Nath said charge sheets were filed in 12 cases while the probe is underway for the remaining cases. He said that police registered a case in Barpeta district on April 15, and 16 activists of Ansarul Bangla Team including Maqibul Hussain were arrested. Hussain during the interrogation confessed that he was the President of PFI Barpeta district unit. "We have found evidence that PFI has close links with Bangladesh-based terror group Ansarul Bangla Team. Hussain was actively working for PFI in lower Assam and he has links with Ansarul Bangla Team. He was trained by Mehdi Hasan," Nath said. Bangladesh-based Ansarul Bangla Team is a terror outfit backed by Al-Qaeda. The police official said that several PFI workers are working in Assam's 10 districts. "We are keeping a close eye on PFI activities," he said. He added that the outfit has a habit of raking sensitive issues, unrelated to Assam, to provoke religious sentiments in the state. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who earlier urged the Central government to ban the PFI and seal their bank account, recently accused the organisation for the Batadrava police station arsoning in Nagaon district of Assam on May 21.

Worker Killed as Under-construction NHPC Tunnel Collapses in Assam

Guwahati, June 6: One person was killed and another seriously injured when the roof of an under-construction tunnel of NHPC's Lower Subansiri Hydro-electric Power Project collapsed and fell on workers in Assam's Dhemajri district on Monday, officials said. The roof of Intact Tunnel No. 2 at the project in Gerukamukh suddenly fell killing one worker, identified as Jitu Hatibara, and injuring another who was hospitalised. NHPC Workers' Union Secretary Johnny Pegu said that the incident was "very unfortunate" and the authorities should pay adequate compensation to the victim's family. The Centre had earlier announced that the first 500 MW power project would be commissioned by August 2022. The power generation was scheduled to be done with the help of two turbines through two intact tunnels and work was progressing accordingly, company sources said. The project, being developed by the public sector NHPC, is located on the Subansiri River, bordering Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The construction of the project started in 2005 and it was scheduled to be completed in 2010. However, the project was delayed due to opposition from various quarters to its likely adverse impact on the environment. The roof of Intact Tunnel No. 2 at the project in Gerukamukh suddenly fell killing one worker, identified as Jitu Hatibara, and injuring another who was hospitalised. (File photo/PTI) The roof of Intact Tunnel No. 2 at the project in Gerukamukh suddenly fell killing one worker, identified as Jitu Hatibara, and injuring another who was hospitalised.

Norovirus infection detected in Kerala

New Delhi, June 6: Kerala informed that the norovirus infection, which is similar to the diarrhea-inducing rotavirus, was detected in two kids residing in the state. The State Health Department evaluated the situation and said precautionary measures have been taken as the virus spreads through contaminated water and food. State Health Minister Veena George said that the health condition of the infected children is stable but urged the people to maintain hygiene as the disease is highly contagious, the PTI news agency reported. The infection was reportedly detected after samples of students who complained of food poisoning were tested at a government lab. What is norovirus? Norovirus is a "very contagious" virus that causes vomiting and diarrhea, according to US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Sonitpur Lokra Bn celebrated World Environment Day

Assam Rising, Biswanath, June 6: Sonitpur Lokra Bn under the aegis of HQ 21 Sector Assam Rifles and Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) organized a tree plantation drive and Yoga on June 5 on the occasion of World Environment Day and to promote the Government of India initiative of Tree plantation and Yoga. A total of 100 saplings of Ashoka tree, Guava and Elephant Apples were planted during the event. Yoga was also conducted at various locations of Lokra Garrison, Itakhola, Balipukhri and Dhekiajuli in the districts of Sonitpur and Biswanath Charali of Assam. The event was aimed to raise awareness among local people to protect the environment and contributing towards restoring the ecosystem. A total of 120 Assam Rifles personnel and Civilians participated.

Nagaon's woman entrepreneur participates 'Friendship Art Exhibition'

Assam Rising, Nagaon, June 6:

Gargee Gitom Bora, a resident of Morikolong in the town and a noted finisher of colours, participated in 'Friendship Art Exhibition' held at Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal from May



22 to 25. The exhibition was organized by Nepal Art Council where over 26 artists in the genre from across the globe participated. Over 9 artists from India including 3 from Assam, participated too in the exhibition, a release added. It is pertinent to be mentioned here that besides the work of art and paintings, Gargee Gitom Bora is a leading woman entrepreneur in the district and is involved in the work of pickles making, poultry farming and fisheries etc.

Mental health awareness programme held at MSSV

Correspondent, NAGAON, June 6: Department of Sociology and Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya (MSSV) organized a special mental health awareness program in collaboration with Bhogeshwari Phukani Civil Hospital here at university campus today. Dr. Satya Kumar Dutta, Gitamani Barua and Monimala Dutta graced the occasion as the resource persons and elaborated detail with illustrations on how the students can be free from stress and remain mentally strong. The event was inaugurated by the vice-chancellor of the university, professor Mridul Hazarika while Dr. Karabi Konch, HoD, Department of Sociology, initiated the programme. The event was attended by all of the Faculties and students.

Obituary Bidyut Moni Kalita

Assam Rising, Nagaon, June 6: Former photojournalist and scribe Bidyut Moni Kalita who rendered services to Asomiya Pratidin, one of the leading Assamese daily from Nagaon as well as from Dhing during 90 decades in the last century, breathed his last at his Dhing residence last night due to prolonged illness. He is only 47. Bachelor Kalita leaves behind his ailing father and his brother. Being suffering from a critical disease, he was undergoing treatment at his own home for quite some time. His demise has casted a pall of gloom in the greater Dhing town. Following the premature death of the scribe, the members from Dhing Press Club as well as other local socio-cultural organizations rushed to his home at night itself and also paid floral tribute to him, sources added.



NAP observed birthday of Ramen Barua

Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 6: 83rd birthday of music composer, singer, music director Ramen Barua observed by the members of NAP in a befitting way at its club premises here this evening. To mark the occasion, the club members greeted Ramen Barua with gamocha, a flower bouquet and celebrated his birthday by cutting a birthday cake. Club members also rendered a few songs composed by Barua. There were intimate discussions on Ramen Barua's illustrious journey towards musical eminence and legend are a topic of warm engagement and enthusiasm among the club members. NAP members prayed almighty for a healthy and long life of Ramen Barua with a hope to get some more contributions in the field of music from him by the people of Assam in coming years.

Lightning killed 7 cattle

Assam Rising, Palasbari, June 6: Seven cattle were killed in lightning strike in 2 no Jiyakur under Palasbari Revenue Circle on Saturday. Every year thousands of animals worldwide succumb to lightning injuries. Animals are particularly vulnerable as they are usually placed outside during severe storm events. Animals that have a large separation between their front and back legs (such as cattle) are vulnerable to receive lightning strike injuries due to the dangerous potential differences that build up between those feet during lightning strike events.



Joe Root ensures panic and caution give way to sense of the unknown

London, June 06 : After three days of absurdism back and forth, the first Test ended with England calmly and efficiently knocking off the runs. When the Jubilee Line tube is within a few stops of St John's Wood on a Lord's weekend, there tends to be some indistinguishable moment the personnel completely changes. Should you drift into your phone for a fraction too long you might then look back up and the general public throng will have been replaced by men in tailored suits, one arm holding on to the rails, staring each other square in the eyes, networking intent lurking underneath the gleam. This year New Zealand fans are there too, in 20 year old Black Cap shirts as a sign they come in peace, along with the rest of the cricketing miscellany. On this Sunday morning train, as the hushed chat conforms gradually to the decisive fourth day hum, there enters



an unusual tension. As if to illustrate it explicitly, a trapped bee manically bounces off the lights, darting from rail to rail for any form of escape. It viciously veers one direction and the other, as the suits and the black caps and the ladies in socks and sandals dodge and weave and half-flick it away. They then keep distance and warily track its course. It is this sense of borderline panic and caution that Lord's tends to create exponentially the closer you get to the ground on days such as

this. A space of constriction at the loosest of times, the threat of a Test that is England's to lose is the other end of the journey. We all know how this tends to go. As the crowd get in, egg-

shell walking to not create any unnecessary disturbance, Lord's is situated against an ominously flat grey sky so dimensionless that the outlines of the stands appear to be green-screened in. You could cut the ground out and plunk it anywhere in recent history. Headingley 1998, for example, where England chased down a series win in a cold morning's session of cricket. The first two sessions of this blank canvas (the regime are no longer filing this as a "red-ball reset" and are more concerned with "planning

as if you will live forever"), conspired to suggest that this time reality and intent might somehow effortlessly align. England - presented with a New Zealand team enduring a small sense of "what next?" since their world Test crown - started as they ended, reacquainting themselves with themselves, but ferrying a simple optimism. Jimmy Anderson began his return with a ball that moved a fraction and beat the outside of Tom Latham's bat, looking back and sharing a smile with his new captain and receiving warm whoops of praise from his former one.

Premiership hits jackpot with two mouthwatering semi-finals

London, June 06 : For a competition that can sometimes struggle for narrative the Premiership has hit the jackpot with the two semi-final fixtures next Saturday. Northampton's often sublime, occasionally ridiculous victory against Newcastle ensured a trip to Welford Road to meet Leicester while Saracens and Harlequins, both beaten on Saturday, will as expected lock horns in north London. It does not take a marketing expert to bill next Saturday as Derby Day. Two contrasting but equally fascinating fixtures are in store and, if Saracens and Harlequins do not



share the history that Leicester and Northampton do, there is just as much antipathy, given the salary cap misdemeanours of Mark McCall's side in recent years. The defending champions do not try to hide their dislike for Saracens and, though it has been suggested that they struggle at the StoneX Stadium where the atmosphere does not lend itself to the helter skelter that Harlequins crave, there is a confidence coursing through Tabai Matson's side that, when they click into gear, no one can live with them. Saracens, by contrast, would relish giving the rest of the league a two-fingered salute by winning the Premiership in their first season back in the top flight. They will be seen as favourites in the eyes of many but they are still missing one or two cogs from the machine that made them high-on unbeatable in knockout matches not so long ago. Any side would miss someone of Will Skelton's size and they have not found the control

at scrum-half that Richard Wigglesworth or Ben Spencer used to provide. Perhaps their biggest issue, however, is that they no longer have the leadership and the experience of Brad Barritt in midfield and there is a sense that Harlequins will have to exploit that if they are to return to Twickenham. Marcus Smith will also have to get the better of Owen Farrell in a subplot that is likely to be much talked about in the coming days. Later in the day Leicester - who finished the regular season having been top of the pile in every round - will be expected to overpower Northampton just as they have in their two other meetings this season. Those results were the two worst performances of Saints' season - according to their director of rugby, Chris Boyd - but Northampton have momentum on their side with six bonus-point wins in their past seven league matches and a cutting edge unrivalled in the Premiership in broken field.

World Cup qualification is 'final piece of jigsaw,' says jubilant Gareth Bale



London, June 06 : Gareth Bale said reaching the World Cup with Wales represents the "final piece of the jigsaw" after they edged out Ukraine to qualify for the competition finals for the first time since 1958. The Wales manager, Robert Page, who reserved special praise for the "world-class" performance of his goalkeeper, Wayne Hennessey, said he is looking forward to a mouthwatering Group B match-up against England in Qatar and dedicated victory to the late Gary Speed. Page said the jubilant scenes in the dressing room after the game were incredible and praised the spirit of his squad. "Gary Speed started this, 12 or 13 years ago," Page said. "I want to dedicate that to Gary as well. He started the culture. There was a difference, there was a change in the environment. I've inherited

that. Chris Coleman took it on to another level. We're just confident going into games now. We don't hope to qualify for the Euros or a World Cup now, we believe we can do it, so there has been a massive change in the mentality." Of Hennessey, Page said: "I thought he was magnificent, world class, absolutely. I pulled Wardy [Danny Ward] in and showed him that respect to tell him I was starting Wayne. It was purely down to the fact that he played in the semi-final, didn't let us down and it would have been harsh to drop him. There was no way I was going to leave him out. He delivered like we know he can do. I thought he went to another level. I thought his performance was outstanding." Page joked that the younger players in his squad have been "spoiled rotten" compared with experienced members such as Bale and Aaron Ramsey after qualifying for successive major tournaments. "I said a few words, how proud I was for them," Page said. "I said that the young players have been spoiled rotten by qualifying for a Euros and a World Cup consecutively. The senior guys have had to wait a long time for that. It shows the path we are on."

Warriors level NBA finals as Poole's halfcourt buzzer-beater polishes win over Celtics

Boston, June 06 : Stephen Curry scored 29 points, Jordan Poole connected from just inside midcourt to cap a huge third-quarter run and the Golden State Warriors beat the Boston Celtics 107-88 on Sunday night in Game 2 to even the NBA finals. Poole finished with 17 points for the Warriors, who outscored Boston 35-14 in the third quarter to turn a two-point halftime lead into a 23-point edge. And when the Warriors then scored the first six points of the fourth, the Celtics waved the surrender flag and emptied their bench. Golden State also got 12 from Kevon Looney on 6-for-6 shooting, and 11 apiece from Andrew Wiggins and Klay Thompson. Jayson Tatum scored 21 of his 28 points in the first half for Boston. Jaylen Brown added 17 for the Celtics, but fought



through a 5-for-17 shooting night, and Derrick White scored 12. Just like in Game 1, a huge run decided everything. The Celtics went on a 48-18 run in the second half to decide the opener; the Warriors didn't wait that long in Game 2, going on a 43-14 burst from late in the first half until early in the fourth quarter to turn a tie game into a runaway. Curry had 14 of

his points in the third, making three of his five three-pointers in the quarter. Boston were 4 for 15 in the quarter, were outscored 21-6 on threes and let the Warriors turn five turnovers into 11 points. Poole provided the exclamation point as the third quarter closed, taking a pass in the final seconds, dribbling over the midcourt stripe, creating space for

himself and letting fly. Curry greeted him with a smile and a hug, the fans at Chase Center leaped to their feet - if they weren't on them already - and the outcome was pretty much decided there. And for the first time, the crowd in the Warriors' new building finally saw the Celtics lose. Boston entered the night 4-0 in the Warriors' three-year-old home, the only team to have won their first four games in the arena. The Celtics were bidding to join only two other teams - the 1993 Chicago Bulls and 1995 Houston Rockets - on the list of clubs that swept two road games to open the finals. Those Bulls and Rockets went on to win the championship, and 31 of the previous 36 teams to open with 2-0 leads ended up celebrating a title.

Jacob Miller boosts Wakefield's survival hopes as extra-time drop goal sinks Hull



Belle Vue, June 06 : Jacob Miller's eight years as a Wakefield Trinity player have

probably already secured him a place as one of the club's modern greats, even if he is about to cross the divide in 2023 and join their fiercest rivals, Castleford Tigers. But if his 85th-minute drop goal here is the moment which keeps this club in Super League next season, his status as a club legend will surely only be enhanced. With 10 minutes remaining, Wakefield faced an eighth consecutive defeat and, with

Toulouse improving at the bottom of the table, Trinity would have been only two points clear of the French side with far less momentum. But recent history has shown that, no matter how bad things seem to get at Wakefield, they always find a way to save their skin. Two tries in those final 10 minutes from Corey Hall and Lee Gaskell, coupled with two nerveless conversions from Mason Lino, improbably sent the game to extra time. Hull, who would have gone within two points of Catalans in second with victory here, then spurned two glorious opportunities to win the game, Luke Gale skewing both of his drop-goal attempts wide. That left the door ajar for Wakefield and Miller did not disappoint. "We'd like to keep him but, even if he does go, he could have gone before

today with the adoration of the fans," their coach, Willie Poching, said of Miller. "People will remember that drop goal for a long time." Whether Wakefield are in Super League or the Championship next year, there is a break-up of this squad coming. Few players cross the path from Wakefield to Castleford without some level of resentment from supporters but, with contributions like this, Miller may just about be exempt from criticism. With a four-point gap over Toulouse now established, their meeting at Magic Weekend next month could decisively swing the pendulum in Wakefield's favour. A victory against Warrington next Sunday could now also, somewhat inexplicably given their spending power, drag the Wolves, too, into the fight.

Hewett and Reid claim French Open crown for 10th grand slam title in a row

London, June 06 : British pair Alfie Hewett and Gordon Reid have won the French Open men's wheelchair doubles title to claim their 10th consecutive grand slam

crown. The top seeds defended their title with a 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-5) victory over the unseeded duo of Japan's Shingo Kunieda and Argentina's Gustavo

Fernández. "What a battle that was out there today," Norwich player Hewett said afterwards. "It was probably some of the best wheelchair tennis we could have put on today."

Moto GP rider waves goodbye to second place after celebrating a lap early

London, June 06 : The Spanish MotoGP rider Aleix Espargaró missed out on a podium finish at the Catalonia Grand Prix after thinking the race was over

a lap before it ended. Fabio Quartararo won the race, Jorge Martin took second place and Johann Zarco was third. But the scene-stealing incident came

when Espargaró crossed the line on the penultimate lap in second place before lifting off the throttle and waving to fans at the Barcelona-Catalunya

Circuit. He realised his mistake a few turns later and immediately went back to racing, finishing fifth. After crossing the line on the last lap the 32-year-old looked

desolate, with his head down and his hands on his helmet. He went straight into the back of his team's garage where he was consoled by crew members.

Under-7 and Under-11 Chess Tournament : Dhanyata Goswami and Atharva Mahanta Clinched the Title



Guwahati, June 06 : Dhanyata Goswami clinched the title in under-7 category by scoring perfect 6 points from 6 rounds in Under-7 and Under-11 Chess Tournament organized by Guwahati Chess Academy from 3rd June to 5th June, 2022. Parthiv Sankarsana got second position by scoring 4.5 points from same number of rounds. Praharsh Choudhury got third position. He scored 3.5 points. Shanaya Bhowmick and Aradhya Bakshi scored 3 points each but Shanaya is declared fourth and Aradhya fifth according to their tie-break score. Atharva Mahanta scored 5.5 points from 6 rounds and got first position in under-11 category. Neehar Das got 5 points from same number of rounds and got second position. Swapnil Kar scored 4.5 points and got third position. Hriyan Kaushik Thakuria and Vivaan Ariz Thakuria scored 4 points each but Hriyan is declared fourth and Vivaan fifth according to their tie-break score. Altogether 22 players participated in the tournament. The under-7 category was conducted in round robin league system while under 11 was conducted in swiss league system. The tournament was organized by Guwahati Chess Academy from 3rd June to 5th June, 2022 at Academy premises at R G Baruah Road, Guwahati. Senior National Arbiter Pranab Kumar Nath conducted the tournament as Chief Arbiter. Top four players of each category awarded prize in the prize distribution ceremony.

Kalvin Phillips wants Germany game to start winning run before World Cup

Munich, June 06 : Calvin Phillips needs little encouragement to look back on the heady, giddily celebratory summer evening that transpired last time England faced Germany. They were riding a wave at Euro 2020 and so was he: it was only the midfielder's 10th cap and, after a tentative start, he produced the kind of insistent, driving performance that had become integral to the national team so quickly. "It was an unbelievable day," he says of the 2-0 win at Wembley. "I've still got memories of it, and the reaction after as well. It was one of the best games I've been involved in; hopefully we can have the same game in the next few days and get another good result." That is not beyond England, even if appearances in Budapest on

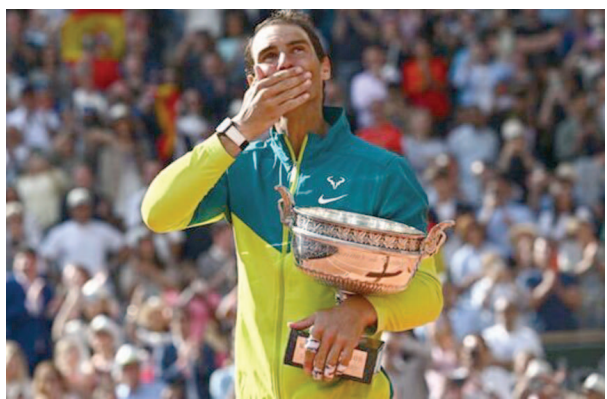


Saturday suggested otherwise. Phillips, 26, had little time to set into Hungary as a late substitute but is expected to play from the beginning against Hansi Flick's side. While he roared into the European Championship, this time it feels like more of a standing start. Last year Phillips arrived off the back of an outstanding personal and collective season with a Leeds side that won hearts under Marcelo Bielsa; the backdrop to this summer's

Nations League challenges has been a relegation battle that was navigated by a hair's breadth and a campaign in which he missed 16 games with hamstring trouble. "Obviously last season we were playing really well as a team and [this time] we had some difficult periods with results," he says. "I think I read a stat the other day that said Leeds had the most players missing with injury through the season."

Rafael Nadal defies time and Casper Ruud to win his 14th French Open title

Paris, June 06 : In recent years as he has edged ever closer towards the twilight of his career, Rafael Nadal has continually discussed his advancing age with total disdain. While many see its silver linings in its maturity, he sees none. It has gradually taken away one of the greatest assets, his athleticism. It has made his body, which has had far too many injuries, even more prone to them. Regardless, for 20 years he has approached his career with the same positive attitude, the same calmness, the same acceptance and fight, and in the process has continued to perform wonders so long into it. After a fortnight in which he has been able to summon his best tennis only when he desperately needed it, Nadal picked apart Casper Ruud even in the absence of his top level for much of the match, winning the final 11 games to clinch a remarkable, record-extending 14th French Open title: 6-3, 6-3, 6-0. Nadal has also extended his men's all-time grand slam title record to 22, creating a notable gap between himself and his two greatest rivals, Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer, who both have 20 major titles. Two days after his 36th birthday, and 17



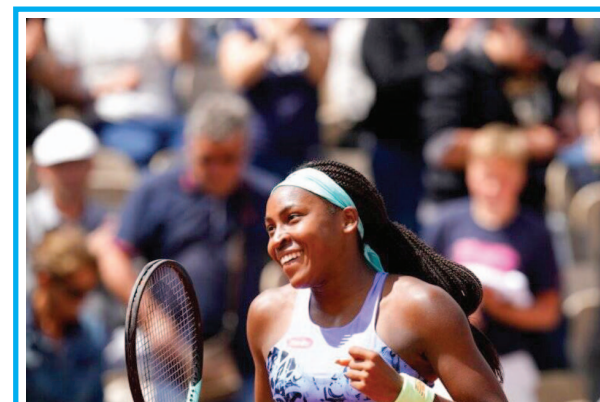
years after first winning here as a precocious 19-year-old, Nadal has now won for long enough to also stand as the oldest French Open men's champion in history, surpassing the 50-year record set by his countryman, Andrés Gimeno, who was 34 years old. He is now halfway to the grand slam for the first time in his career after also winning the Australian Open in January. The buildup to the tournament had been dominated by speculation about Nadal's future after his chronic foot injury relapsed at the Italian Open. He was utterly miserable that night in Rome and has spent the past two weeks speaking doubtfully about the long term prospects for his foot without a permanent medical solution. After stating throughout the week that he would give an explanation of his current physical

circumstances only after the tournament, Nadal spoke expansively about it in his press conference. He said that, physically, his worst moment was after his second round match against Corentin Moutet when he could barely walk afterwards. From that point, he played the rest of the tournament with the nerves in his foot under anaesthetic. "I have been playing with injections on the nerves to sleep the foot, and that's why I was able to play during these two weeks because I have no feelings on my foot, because my doctor was able to put anaesthetic injections on the nerves. That takes out the feeling on my foot," he said. Nadal described the process of playing with a numb foot as "extreme conditions", explaining that he took a couple of injections before each match and the pro-

cess carries elevated chances of turning an ankle or becoming another injury. Nadal says he will undergo a radiofrequency ablation on the affected nerves, which "burn a little bit the nerve" in an attempt to find a long term solution. The procedure marks a significant fork in the road for him because if it does not work he will be forced to think seriously about his future and consider significant surgery. He says he will be at Wimbledon later this month if his body complies. "That's what we are gonna try. If that works, I'm gonna keep going," he said. "If that does not work, then it's gonna be another story. And then I'm gonna answer to myself, I'm gonna ask myself about if I am ready to do a major thing without being sure

that the things are going the proper way, for example. A major surgery that don't guarantee me to be able to be competitive again and it's gonna take a long time to be back." The outcome of his efforts have only reinforced what has been clear for well over a decade: Nadal at Roland Garros is the closest thing in tennis to untouchable. In a sport filled with such a deep field of other disciplined and professional rivals, the level of dominance he has unlocked, the gap between himself and the rest even after so long, remains astonishing. In the final, the difference in quality between the two players was too great for Ruud, who was unable to consistently hurt Nadal with any part of his game. Under

minimal pressure, Nadal established his predictable pattern. Throughout the match, he laid waste to the Ruud backhand with his heavy topspin forehand. Ruud became locked deeper and deeper in his backhand corner, and most of the time he was unable to escape. As Nadal slammed his final backhand down-the-line winner, he clutched his head in his hands and was overcome by emotion. During his victory speech, Nadal said: "I don't know what is going on in the future. I will keep fighting to keep going." In all of uncertainty, it is worth savouring a sight that has limited time remaining regardless of how his next essential weeks pan out: Nadal navigating a route to success again.



Coco Gauff's ranking to career-high 13th; Rafa Nadal up to 4th

Paris, June 06 : American teenager Coco Gauff rose to a career-best No. 13 in the WTA rankings on Monday after her runner-up finish to No. 1 Iga Swiatek at the French Open. Gauff, an 18-year-old from Florida, jumped 10 spots by getting to her first Grand Slam final before losing to Swiatek 6-1, 6-3 on Saturday. Gauff had never been past the quarterfinals at a major tournament. She made it to the finals of singles and doubles at Roland Garros. Her doubles partner, Jessica Pegula, moved into the singles top 10 for the first time, going from No. 11 to No. 8, thanks to her run to the quarterfinals. Like Gauff, the 28-year-old from New York lost to Swiatek, who has now won her past 35 matches in a row. Last year's French Open champion in singles and doubles, Barbora Krejickova, lost in the first round of singles this time - only the third woman in the professional era to exit in the first round at Roland Garros a year after earning the trophy - and dropped from No. 2 in the rankings to No. 14. She pulled out of the doubles event two days later, saying she tested positive for COVID-19. The French Open's effect on the rankings for both the WTA and ATP will hold sway longer than usual, because the two professional tours have announced they will not award points this year for Wimbledon, which starts on June 27. By proceeding, you are agreeing to our Terms and Conditions. To find out what personal data we collect and how we use it, please visit our Privacy Policy. That was in response to the All England Club's decision to bar players from Russia and Belarus from the grass-court Grand Slam tournament because of the invasion of Ukraine. Rafael Nadal's 14th French Open title, and 22nd Grand Slam trophy overall, lifted him one place to No. 4 behind top-ranked Novak Djokovic. Nadal beat Djokovic in the quarterfinals along the way to the final, where he overwhelmed Casper Ruud 6-3, 6-3, 6-0 on Sunday and became, two days after his 36th birthday, the oldest man to win the singles championship at Roland Garros - all despite needing pain-killing injections for a chronic problem in his left foot. Nadal has won both of this year's major titles so far, including the Australian Open in January, but his ranking is hurt by his lack of activity over the past 12 months. He played only two matches between the end of the 2021 French Open and the end of last season because of that foot, then missed more time this year because of that issue and a rib injury.

Minjee Lee wins her second major title with dominant victory at US Women's Open



Melbourn, June 06 : Minjee Lee has joined Australia's all-time golf greats as a multiple major champion with a runaway victory at the US Women's Open in North Carolina. Lee converted a three-stroke third-round lead into a four-shot triumph at Pine Needles Country Club to pocket a cheque for \$US1.8m (\$A2.5m). The 26-year-old finished at 13 under par for the tournament after closing with a 71 on Sunday. Lee is the third Australian to win the US Women's Open, the biggest event in female golf, after Karrie Webb (2000 and 2001) and Jan Stephenson. The Perth star's dominant victory follows her breakthrough

maiden major at the Evian Championship last July and is set to catapult Lee from fourth to No 2 in the world. The win also elevated Lee into an esteemed company as only the sixth Australian golfer to have captured multiple majors. Webb, with seven major championships, Stephenson (three) and men's greats Peter Thomson (five), Greg Norman (two) and David Graham (two) are the only other Australians to have won more than one. After starting the final round three clear, Lee all but slammed the door shut on the chasing pack with consecutive birdies on the first two holes to charge five clear. The world No 4 then made bogeys on the fifth and seventh holes but still reached the turn where she had started at 13 under par, while her American playing partner Mina Harigae had dropped one shot to slip four

behind. Lee turned the back nine into a procession as her challengers fell away, with Harigae (72) finishing runner-up.

London, June 06 : A 23rd civil lawsuit was filed against Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson alleging sexual misconduct last week. By the time you read this, that number could be 24. Earlier this month, a pair of the accusers appeared on HBO's Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel to detail their experiences with Watson. Those stories led to the 23rd woman filing suit. They are not the only accusations. Sports Illustrated has investigated further accounts of sexual misconduct by Watson towards massage therapists



who have chosen not to make their names public for fear of reprisal. Watson has denied all the accusations. He has made it black and white: He's telling the truth; the 23 accusers are lying. "I have never assaulted or disrespected or harassed any woman in my life," Watson said at his introductory press conference following his trade to Cleveland. Which raises

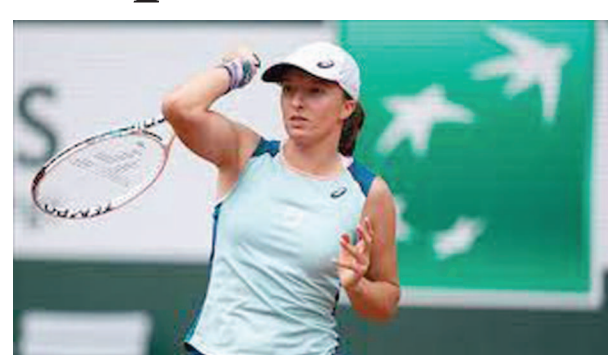
the question: Do the Browns believe Deshaun Watson? It's something that the team that handed him the richest contract in NFL history has yet to answer. The Browns completed an internal investigation prior to trading five draft picks - including three first-rounders - for Watson, who they then gifted with a newly minted, record-breaking \$250m contract. At Watson's press conference, Browns' general manager Andrew Berry said he was "comfortable" with the amount of work the team put into investigating the claims against Watson.

Iga Swiatek beats the odds to become the next 'tennis superstar'

Paris, June 06 : A few hours after Iga Swiatek consolidated her dominance with a second French Open title while blazing to a 35th consecutive win in the run that never ends the exhausted champion from Poland, speaking from the corner of a tiny room, kicked her leg up over the handle of her chair as she recounted the years that led up to her current success. "My journey from the beginning was basically what my dad thought was the best," Swiatek said. "He made really good choices, really

bad choices sometimes, but it wasn't like I had 10 people around me telling us how to deal with anything and telling us what to do. We had to choose our own path and for sure we got really lucky that he made some good decisions and I had good coaches at the beginning because, honestly, I didn't have any system that could help us." Even as Swiatek displayed her early promise as a junior, it took a long time for her to believe that she could achieve the career that she is currently building. She may have been a perfectionist who always

felt that she could do better, but the dearth of examples from her part of the world made such success far more difficult to imagine. "It was pretty hard for me to believe that I'm gonna be world No 1," she said. "Because thinking logically, when you take my country, how many people have succeeded, it was only Agnieszka [Radwanska] basically. The probability of me becoming a tennis superstar was pretty small. I like maths and my brain usually thinks about probabilities, so I felt that maybe it's not sure and it would be hard to make it



happen. "That insecurity drove the choices she made, most notably her decision to remain in school until she finished high school: "I always had a plan B," she said. "Even when I was 18, I still went to high

school and I was really focused on that. I felt like I was working two jobs at a time. Even in 2020, I still felt like I needed a plan B in case tennis is not gonna work out." This season started with one complete, ex-

tremely consistent world No 1, Australia's Ashleigh Barty, playing the best tennis of her career and tearing up the tour. Since Barty's retirement Swiatek has not lost a match. That they so narrowly missed each other in top form, and they were unable to build a rivalry, has to be the biggest missed opportunity in the WTA's recent history. Swiatek says that Barty has supportively texted her numerous times since her retirement and, when asked if she wishes she could have tested her current game against Barty's, she was never more animated.





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