



# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Businessman attacked

Assam Rising

Guwahati, June 11 :

Six armed miscreants looted Rs 20,000 from a businessman at Salakati in Kokrajhar district of Assam. The businessman has been identified as Bikash Jain. Miscreants looted the money by displaying weapons at the businessman. According to reports, the gang of miscreants had come to the shop of Bikash Jain to purchase items at around 8 pm on Friday. According to Jain, the miscreants who identified themselves as cadres of the Kamatapur Liberation Organization (KLO) demanded money from him. When Jain denied giving them money, they hit his head with a pistol. The miscreants vandalized the shop and looted Rs 20,000. They also hit Jain's co-worker Krishna Barman.

### Eviction drive

Assam Rising

Guwahati, June 11 :

The Tinsukia Revenue Circle Office has conducted an eviction drive at Tinsukia-Makum Road on Saturday morning. The administration in a notification ordered to evict 14 numbers of illegal dhabas, and restaurants by the roadside. As per the instruction, the eviction was carried out from today morning. The Apu's restaurant and 13 others have been evicted. The notification issued by the Tinsukia Revenue Circle Office said that the dhabas and restaurants have encroached upon roadside reserved land as per the report received from the concerned Lor Mandals (LMs) of Tinsukia revenue circle.

### Building collapsed

Mumbai, June 11 :

One person died and several others were injured after a part of a building collapsed in Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai on Saturday afternoon. According to reports, the ceiling slab of a sixth-floor flat at Nerul housing society in Navi Mumbai collapsed. The incident occurred at Jimmy Park society in Sector 17, Nerul. Many other residents are feared to be trapped in the debris. Rescue operation is ongoing, and the fire brigade team has rushed the injured persons to DY Patil hospital in Nerul. The ceiling slab of the sixth floor flat collapsed while some drilling work of the flooring was in progress, according to a report by Times of India. It said that the impact was such that the ceiling slabs of the lower floors collapsed one after the other to the ground floor.

## Model code of conduct

### Gauhati HC Dismisses Complaint Against CM Himanta Biswa Sarma



Assam Rising

Guwahati, June 11 :

The Gauhati High Court on Saturday has dismissed a complaint lodged by the Election Commission against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. A complaint against

Himanta Biswa Sarma was lodged for allegedly violating the model code of conduct during the Lok Sabha elections in 2019. The Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) court had summoned the Assam chief minister in connection to the case. The CJM court had also fined Sharma

for failing to appear before the court. The Advocate General had approached the Gauhati High Court against the decision. Earlier, the Election Commission filed the case against Sarma based on an allegation by Assam Pradesh Congress

Committee (APCC) alleging that he had given an interview to a satellite news channel of the state even after the MCC was imposed then. Earlier Kamrup Metropolitan Chief Judicial

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### Nupur Sharma 'beheading' video: Kashmiri YouTuber Faisal Wani arrested

Srinagar, June 11 :

A Kashmiri YouTuber, whose video depicting the beheading of suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma had gone viral on social media platforms, was arrested here on Saturday for breaching public tranquillity and causing fear in the public, police said. Faisal Wani has deleted the video and apologised for it as well. Before his arrest, Wani posted another video in which he said he did not have any intention of hurting the sentiments of people or any religion. "YouTuber Faisal Wani has been arrested. He



had uploaded an incriminating video on YouTube which is against public tranquillity and has caused fear and alarm to the public in general. The FIR has been registered under sections 505 and 506 of the Indian Penal Code at the Safa Kadal police station," police said. Wani's arrest came after he deleted the viral video and issued an apology in a new video posted on his YouTube channel "Deep pain

Fitness". "I had uploaded a video last night about Nupur Sharma. It was a VFX video which went viral all over India and an innocent person like me got implicated. I never have any intention to hurt any other religion, because Islam teaches us to respect other religions," Wani said in the new video. He said he deleted the controversial video after it went viral. "I respect all religions. Yes, I had made that video, but I had no intention to violate anything. I deleted the video last night itself, but I apologise for it. I am sorry," the YouTuber said in the video with folded hands. "If anyone is hurt because of this, I am extremely sorry. I had no intention to hurt anyone," he added. Describing himself as a simple person, Wani expressed hope that the second video would also go viral "so that my

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## Rajya Sabha poll results 2022

### BJP wins 3 out of 6 seats in Maharashtra

New Delhi, June 11 :

As the BJP bagged three out of the six seats in the Maharashtra Rajya Sabha election 2022, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday (June 11) credited the victory to former chief minister and saffron party leader Devendra Fadnis, adding that he is not surprised by the results. "The result doesn't surprise me. Congress, Shiv Sena, and NCP have been voted as per the quota, except (NCP's) Praful Patel who has received an extra vote - that vote is not from MVA, it's from the other side. We had fewer votes



for the sixth seat but Shiv Sena fielded its candidate and tried to make him win. BJP had the support of many

independent MLAs and we had only a few," Pawar told. He said BJP won as it got the backing from the Independents. "The miracle happened because BJP's Devendra Fadnis managed to get the Independents on their side...which made all the difference. But this will not affect the stability of government (Maha

Vikas Aghadi)," Pawar added. The NCP supremo further said he will discuss the upcoming Presidential elections with Congress chief Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi on Sunday. In the Rajya Sabha polls 2022 in Maharashtra, Union Minister Piyush Goyal, former

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### Socio-cultural organization 'Anajori' Announced 'Anajori' Award 2022

Assam Rising

Guwahati, June 11 :

Socio-cultural organization 'Anajori' has announced the Anajori Award 2022. This award is conferred on all persons who

work for the development of literature, culture and social sectors in Assam. The names of the achievers of the awards were announced by president Jayanta Hazarika

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Bongaigaon- Cultural rally of Annual College Week



Morigaon- Health worker's vaccinated in remote area

## Cabinet meeting decisions

### Assam aims at 1,000 MW of solar power with Rs 5,000 crore investment: CM



Assam Rising

Guwahati, June 11 :

The government also sanctioned Rs 8,727 crore for power sector reforms, a Rs 383-crore bridge connecting Lakhimpur and Dhakuakhana, and another Rs 247-crore bridge between Tamulpur and Barama. A joint venture company will be floated by the state government along with a Centre-owned enterprise to generate green power, the CM told reporters after the 50th cabinet meeting of his government. "A 75 MW solar plant at Amguri

said his government is aiming at generation of 1,000 MW of solar power with an investment of Rs 5,000 crore to make the northeastern state self-sufficient in the energy sector. A joint venture company will be floated by the state government along with a Centre-owned enterprise to generate green power, the CM told reporters after the 50th cabinet meeting of his government. "A 75 MW solar plant at Amguri

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## Nupur Sharma comments

### Taslima Nasreen blasts rioters - 'Prophet Muhammad would have been shocked...'

New Delhi, June 11 :

Bangladeshi Author Taslima Nasreen today slammed the protesters who have been blatantly damaging public property demanding the arrest of BJP leader Nupur Sharma. Nasreen, blasting the rioters, said that Prophet Muhammad "would have been shocked" in the current scenario. The comments came a day after she said that there shall always be space for questioning, and 'no prophet is above criticism'. The Bangladeshi author,

who has always been at the target of Islamic hardliners, said: "Even if prophet Muhammad was alive today, he would have been shocked to see the madness of the Muslim fanatics around the world." Two days ago, Taslima Nasreen had said: "No one is above criticism, no human, no saint, no messiah, no prophet, no god. Critical scrutiny is necessary to make the world a better place." Muslim community members on Friday and Saturday carried out



countrywide protests demanding the arrest of BJP leader Nupur Sharma over her controversial remarks

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## Locally produced litchi of Tezpur exported to UK

Assam Rising

Guwahati, June 11 :

Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday expressed his delight at the launch of the export of the locally produced Litchi from Tezpur in Assam's Sonitpur district to United Kingdom. CM Sarma was in Tezpur, where he also inaugurated the state-of-the-art Tezpur Convention Centre at Batamari. "The export of the locally produced Lit-

chi fruit will further help the local farmers to make more profits. This will also add a boost to the production of Litchi in local farms in the district," he said. Taking to Twitter, CM Sarma wrote, "A new landmark was added to the historic & cultural town of Tezpur. Glad to inaugurate a state-of-the-art Tezpur Convention Centre at Batamari. I am sure the Centre will significantly boost cultural

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# Why should people pay for BJP's sin, asks Mamata Banerjee

**Kolkata, June 11 :** As violent protests erupted in parts of Bengal amid Nupur Sharma's controversial comments against Prophet Mohammad, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee slammed BJP, blaming the ruling party at Centre for inciting tension. The Chief Minister's official Twitter account posted today in Bengali which roughly translates to, "As I have said before, for the past two days, incidents of violence have brought life to a standstill in Howrah. There are some political parties behind this and they want to cause riots - but these things will not be tolerated and strict action will be taken against all of them. Why should people suffer because of BJP's sin?"



Meanwhile, prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPc remained imposed and internet services suspended in Howrah, which on Friday (June 10) witnessed violent protests against controversial remarks of suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma and expelled leader Naveen Jindal. Assembly of five or more people in procession or carrying any

dangerous weapon or any act that is likely to cause disturbance to public tranquillity and breach of the peace is prohibited in Uluberia, Panchla and Jagatballavpur areas and along with the railway stations and the national highway in these areas from June 10-15, they said. Internet services also remained suspended across the district and it will continue till June 13. Protests erupted in several parts of Howrah district on Friday over controversial remarks by suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma and expelled leader Naveen Jindal on Prophet Mohammad. Agitators resorted to stone-pelting,

setting police vehicles on fire and damaging public property during violent protests and clashes with the police in Howrah district. Not just Bengal, violent protests have been seen across India. In Jharkhand's Ranchi, two people succumbed to the injuries that they sustained during the protests. The Ranchi administration had imposed a curfew in the city appealing to the people to stay at home. The protest had turned violent after the incidents of stone-pelting and torching of several vehicles and vandalism were reported. Earlier Mamata Banerjee had said that Nupur Sharma should be arrested. "I condemn the recent heinous and atrocious hate speech remarks by a few disastrous BJP leaders, resulting in not only spread of violence but also the division of the fabric of the country, leading to disturbance of peace and amity," the Bengal CM had said. Mamata added, "I strongly seek that the accused leaders of BJP be arrested immediately so that the unity of the country is not disturbed and people at large do not face mental agony."

## Rudy Giuliani charged with ethical misconduct over Trump's big lie

**London, June 11 :** Rudy Giuliani has been hit with ethics charges over baseless claims he made about the 2020 presidential election being stolen while serving as an attorney for Donald Trump. The charges were filed on Friday by the District of Columbia office that polices attorneys for ethical misconduct. The DC office of disciplinary counsel alleges that Giuliani, who is a member of the DC bar, made baseless claims in federal court filings about the results of the 2020 presidential election in Pennsylvania. The charges were filed with the District of Columbia court of appeals board on professional responsibility. The charges come a day after the US House select committee investigating the January 6 Capitol attack had its first primetime hearing in which it outlined evidence that Trump and his allies sought to overturn the 2020 election and incite throngs of his supporters to block Congress from certifying Joe Biden's victory. Giuliani, a former US attorney in Manhattan and New York City mayor, has been among Trump's most fervent supporters and repeatedly claimed without evidence that the election had been stolen. The complaint says Giuliani sought an emergency order to prohibit the certification of the presidential election, an order to invalidate ballots cast by certain voters in seven counties, and other orders that would have permitted the state's assembly to choose its electors and declare Trump the winner in Pennsylvania. The charges say his conduct violated two professional conduct rules in Pennsylvania that bar attorneys from bringing frivolous proceedings without a basis in law or fact and prohibit conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice. Charges can lead to the suspension of a license to practice law or disbarment. The charges mark the second time that a bar office has taken action against Giuliani.

## Bolivian ex-president Jeanine Añez jailed as leader of 'coup'

**La Paz, June 11 :** A Bolivian court has found former president Jeanine Añez guilty of orchestrating a coup that brought her to power during a 2019 political crisis. Añez, 54, was convicted on Friday of making "decisions contrary to the constitution" and of "dereliction of duty". The prosecution said Añez, then a rightwing senator, violated norms that guarantee the constitutional and democratic order after Bolivia's 2019 presidential elections. Bolivia has been split over whether a coup occurred when then-president Evo Morales

resigned in 2019, with Añez ascending to the presidency amid a leadership vacuum. Morales' departure followed mass protests over a disputed election in which he claimed to win a controversial fourth consecutive term in office. Añez maintains she is innocent. The contentious case has further exposed the fault lines in a deeply divided country while also fuelling concerns about its judicial process. "We are concerned about how this case has been pursued and we call on superior courts to examine how the proceedings were conducted," said Cesar Munoz, a senior researcher for the Americas at Human Rights Watch. Añez was not allowed to attend the trial in person, instead following the hearing and participating from prison. She has been detained since her arrest in

March 2021 on initial charges of terrorism, sedition and conspiracy. Members and supporters of Morales' Movement to Socialism (MAS) party, which returned to power in 2020, say Añez played a key role in what it says was a coup against Morales, Bolivia's first indigenous president, who oversaw a dramatic reduction in poverty as president from 2005 to 2019. As president, Añez drew criticisms of political score-settling when her administration prosecuted former MAS officials. Añez's supporters say her trial was illegitimate and political. In the trial, Añez said she was the product of circumstance and that her ascension to the top office helped calm a tense nation and lay the groundwork for elections in October 2020. "I didn't lift a

finger to become president, but I did what I had to do," Añez said in her final statement to the judge. "I assumed the presidency out of obligation, according to what is established in the constitution."



**London, June 11 :** Prince Charles has privately criticised the government's policy of deporting migrants to Rwanda, calling the practice "appalling". The



A giant panda plays during a birthday party at the Chongqing Zoo in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality

## Prince Charles criticises 'appalling' Rwanda migrant scheme

against deporting asylum seekers was rejected by the high court. The first flight to send migrants to the central African country could leave on Tuesday. An appeal against the ruling has been launched. The government's deportation policy was introduced in April as a way to discourage people trying to cross the channel in small boats from northern France. More than 10,000 people have arrived so far this year. Under the deal, any arriving outside legal processes will be flown 4,000 miles away. The policy has been criticised on human rights grounds, and on Friday the UN's refugee agency backed calls to stop Tuesday's flight because it breached Britain's legal obligations. The source said: "[Charles] said he was more than disappointed at the policy." He said he thinks the government's whole approach is appalling. It was clear he was not impressed with the government's direction of travel."

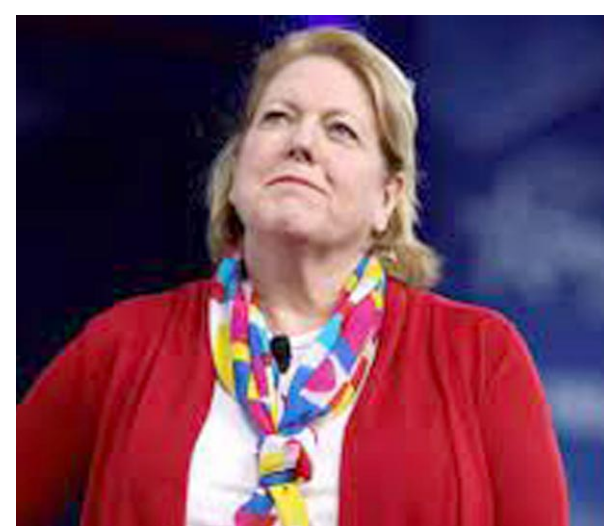
## China will 'start a war' if Taiwan declares independence, says defence minister

**Beijing, June 11 :** Beijing will "not hesitate to start a war no matter the cost" if Taiwan declares independence, China's defence minister, Wei Fenghe, was reported as telling his US counterpart, Lloyd Austin, as they met on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue security summit in Singapore. Austin called on China to "refrain from further destabilising actions" on Taiwan, a US statement issued after their first round of talks said. Taiwan's foreign ministry denounced China's "absurd" claims of sovereignty and thanked the US for the show of support. "Taiwan has never been under the jurisdiction of the Chinese government, and the people of Taiwan will not succumb to threats of force from the Chinese government," said ministry spokeswoman Joanne Ou. The US defence department said Austin "reaffirmed the importance of peace and stability across the [Taiwan] Strait, opposition to unilateral changes to the status quo, and called on [China] to refrain from further destabilising actions toward Taiwan". Tensions over Taiwan have escalated in particular due to increasing Chinese aircraft incursions into the island's air defence identification zone (ADIZ). President Joe Biden said during a visit to Japan in May that Washington would defend Taiwan militarily if it was attacked by China. The White House has since insisted its policy of "strategic ambiguity" over whether or not it would intervene has not changed. In a speech on Saturday, Austin blasted China's "provocative, destabilising" military activity near Taiwan and said the US would do its part to manage tensions with China and prevent conflict despite Beijing becoming increasingly aggressive in the Asia-Pacific region. He told the Shangri-La forum the US would continue to stand by its allies, including Taiwan.

## Aukus pact: Australia pays \$830m penalty for ditching non-nuclear French submarines

**London, June 11 :** The Australian government has agreed to pay €50m (\$830m) in a settlement with Naval Group over the former Morrison government's controversial decision to scrap the French attack class submarine project. The prime minister, Anthony Albanese, announced on Saturday the confidential settlement would draw a line under the cancelled \$90bn project. Labor gave bipartisan support to the Aukus partnership that replaced the project - under which the US and the UK have offered to help Australia to acquire at least eight nuclear-propelled submarines and cooperate on other advanced technologies. "This is a fair and an equitable settlement which has been reached. It follows, as well, discussions that I've had with President [Emmanuel] Macron and I thank him for those discussions and the cordial way in which we are re-establishing a better relationship between

Australia and France," he said. The French defence minister welcomed the settlement deal on Saturday afternoon. "It permits us to turn a page in our bilateral relations with Australia and look to the future," Sebastien Lecornu said. Speaking on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue security summit in Singapore, Lecornu said France valued its "friendship" with Australia. "Just because a government in the past did not keep its word, it does not mean we have to forget our strategic relationship,"



he said. "Australia has a new team in power, we are happy to be able to work with them." The agreement

was forged by the new Labor government just three weeks after the federal election. Albanese confirmed it was not reached before the election by the former government and kept confidential. The total cost of the failed submarine project for Australian taxpayers is \$3.4bn, which is down from the \$5.5bn touted as the government's total approved budget for the project. As Guardian Australia has previously reported, officials had considered this to be a maximum "envelope".



Examinees leave an exam site at Beijing Zhongguancun High School in Beijing

## Prosecutors ask for life sentences for 12 men at Paris attacks trial

**Paris, June 11 :** French prosecutors have called for life sentences for 12 of the 20 men suspected of key roles in the November 2015 Paris terrorist attacks on a stadium, bars and restaurants and a rock gig at the Bataclan concert hall. As the biggest criminal trial ever held in France entered its final weeks, prosecutors summed up the evidence and regretted that there were still key,

unanswered questions about the coordinated attacks that killed 130 people and injured more than 490. Twelve of the men on trial for taking part in the preparation, planning and logistics of the attacks could face sentences of up to life in prison, the maximum punishment under French law, if convicted. The key accused, Salah Abdeslam, is believed to be the last survivor from the cell of 10 men who

struck the city. Most of them killed themselves or were killed by police. He could face life in prison without parole, a sentence rarely handed down in France and which virtually rules out any later reduction of his sentence. The attacks, claimed by Islamic State, began at about 9pm on Friday 13 November 2015 when a suicide bomber blew himself up after failing to get into the Stade de France.

### Guest House

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





## Plantation drive held at Makeli

**Assam Rising**  
**Chhagaoon, June 11:** At the occasion of Annual Foundation day at Sri Sri Burhagohain temple in Makeli under Chhaygaon Constituency a plantation programme was done Thurs-

day last. Trees are planted in the premises of Namghar as the first programme of the day. The trees were planted by dignitaries like - Ganeshwar Malakar, Kiran Kalita and Siddheswar Kalita. This programme was as-

sisted by Suresh Kalita and Ajit Das. During the day-long programme various rituals are also performed. At 2 pm a felicitation ceremony is held where some dignitaries were felicitated for their contribution towards society

## BSF apprehended 1 Narcotic smuggler

**Assam Rising**  
**Guwahati, June 11:** Drive against crime at Indo-BD border, in a joint operations by troops under command of BSF Guwahati Frontier with team of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) apprehended 01 Indian miscreant along with 1582 Kgs Cannabis on June 11 from bordering village Magphala, Purba Bhog Dabri, under police station Sitalkuchi of Cooch Behar (West Bengal). Similarly, on reliable intelligence input, Bordermen of 75 Bn BSF along with NCB Zonal unit Kolkata launched a special joint search operation in village

Magphala, Purba Bhog Dabri, under police station Sitalkuchi of Cooch Behar (West Bengal) today. During the search 1 Indian miscreant was apprehended alongwith 1582 Kgs Ganja meant for smuggling to Bangladesh. Apprehended Indian narcotics smuggler and seized cannabis are handed over to NCB for further legal action. Keeping in view the vulnerability of the border, heightened activities of the smugglers and anti-national elements on the border, BSF troops are always alert towards the issues of trans-border crimes and make all out ef-

forts to prevent commission of such crimes.

## Assam Rifles organised drawing competition

**Assam Rising**  
**Biswanath Chariali, June 11:** Lokra Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ 21 SECT/IGAR(E) organised a



drawing competition today on the theme "Open to Imagination" at Lokra garrison, stated a press release. The aim of the competition was to diversify the thinking ability and imagination of the children. The Children got the opportunity to express their ideas and emotions through drawing as they weren't restricted to any theme. A total of 31

children participated in the competition.

## International webinar held at LCC

**Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, June 11:** An international webinar was held at Lakhimpur Commerce College (LCC), North Lakhimpur on Friday evening. The webinar was organized by the Hindi departments of Nagaon Girls' College and Lakhimpur Commerce College, and was inaugurated by the Principal of Lakhimpur Commerce College Dr. Lohit Hazarika. The webinar was attended by hundreds of teachers and students. The keynote speaker was Dr. Neelakshi Phukan of North Carolina State University, USA. She described in detail the teaching of Hindi studies in various universities in the United States. The event was moderated by Baby Biswakarma, Professor, Hindi Department, Nagaon Girls' College. The program was conducted by Ranjit Barua, Co-ordinator, Internal Quality Assurance Cell, Nagaon Girls' College. Dr. Manjuman Shaikia of Lakhimpur Commerce College briefed on the situation of Hindi in Assam and spoke about the promotion of Hindi abroad in the webinar.

## Miscreants attack woman over land dispute in Laharighat

**Assam Rising, Laharighat, June 11:** A heart-rending news is coming out from Laharighat in Morigaon in which miscreants of the village attacked the house of a woman due to a land dispute

in Borbori village in Laharighat of the district. The miscreants set the woman's house on fire and beat her up. A day-old video of the attack and arson case has now surfaced. Sources said, two fami-

lies living in Borbori village were having a dispute over the land. One of the parties assaulted the woman, Nadira Begum, and set her house on fire. In this case, the woman, Nadira Begum, said that she

was sleeping with her family at her house, when 10 to 12 persons, including Muslim Uddin, Jalal Uddin, Kashem Ali of the village, attacked the house. This caused her to get injured. The criminals set fire to the house. The attackers also beat up her. The miscreants assaulted her daughter too. Now the matter is being investigated by the police.

# Quiz competition held at GIMT

**Assam Rising**  
**Palasbari, 11 June :** Girijananda Chowdhury institute of management and technology (GIMT) of Azara, organised an All Assam Prize Money Quiz Competition on June 11. Renowned Quiz master Dipankar Kaushik conducted the competition. Total 21 teams from schools and colleges across the state participated in this Quiz. The competitors were from class ix to xii from schools and colleges like

Darrang College, Ramanujan Junior College, Ramanujan Academy, SSA Dispur and Panbazar, Miles Bronson residential School, Sarala Birla, Kendriya Vidyalaya, St. Vivekananda English Academy and more. The first prize was bagged by the team of Aditya Pallabh Nath of Concept Junior College and Abhigyan Sandilya of Kendriya Vidyalaya of Nagaon. The second position was secured by



Dipom Saha of Darrang Col-

lege and Dhritiman Sawarni of Inspire Academy, Tezpur. The third prize was won by Maharnab Kashyap from Gurukul Grammar Senior Secondary School and Piyush Praharaj from International School of Guwahati, the winners were awarded

with prize money, trophy and certificates as informed by the organisers. Ratul Das, President SSA Society and Professor Thuleswar Nath, the Principal of GIMT and Professor Dilip Sarma distributed the prizes to the winners.

## Woman killed in road mishap at Nagaon

**Assam Rising, Nagaon, June 11 :** One Anupama Saikia, a 40 years old woman was killed in a tragic road mishap this morning here at Sensuwa near the Godown of Food Corporation of India in the town. Sources claimed that the woman was an employee of Dhanbi Nissan, a car showroom situated at Sensuwa. The incident took place when a FCI

speeding truck, bearing registration number AS 01 AC 7936 hit on back of the woman while she was on her way to the office cum car showroom situated just behind the spot, sources said, adding that she was brought to Nagaon BP Civil Hospital in a very critical condition soon after the accident by some locals where the on-duty doc-

tor of the hospital declared him brought dead. Meanwhile an irate mob went out and staged a protest against FCI officials. Due to the stir, the traffic congregation on NH37 road wreaked havoc for over hours, sources said adding further that local police immediately picked up two persons in this regard and they were being quizzed till the time of filing this report.

## Firuj selected for Inter Assam Junior Boy Powerlifting



Journal Minz and General Secretary Samuel Tapno visited Firuj Karmakar's residence and extended finan-

cial assistance to Feruj and greeted him for the competition. Everyone is now hoping that they will

be able to bring glory to Margherita by performing better games in the competition.

**Assam Rising**  
**Margherita, Jun 11:** Firuj Karmakar selected for the "Inter Assam Junior Boy" powerlifting competition. Firuj Karmakar is a resident of Margherita Tea Garden Line no 6 in Tinsukia district. Firoze Karmakar's family as well as the entire Margherita are related to be selected for the "Inter Assam Junior Boy" powerlifting competition held from June 09 to June 12. Firuj Karmakar is training under the supervision of coach Amit Debnath. Firuj Karmakar will participate in a lifting competition weighing 66 kg. Sado AASAA Margherita Regional Committee President

## RS MP Rwngrwa Narzary visited NH 31 in Gossaigaon

**Assam Rising**  
**Gossaigaon, June-11:** Rajya Sabha MP Rwngrwa Narzary in a sudden visit to Gossaigaon took stock of the incomplete construction of 33 km long National Highway Road in Gossaigaon recently. It may be noted that the expansion of 33 km long National Highway Road starting from Assam-Bengal border to Kachungaon was started in 2005 by a private company called PCL of South India but the company ran away in 2016 af-

ter leaving it incomplete. The company however managed to complete only 20 percent of its work, sources said. Later on in 2017 the construction of the said road was handed over to Symplax company by the NHAI but this company also failed to complete the construction of the road within the stipulated time even after taking five long years. The commuters have expressed dissatisfaction over the company for its delayed

progress and said that due to the incompleteness of the work many fatal incidents have taken place for which lots of people met their tragic end. Keeping in view of the problems faced by the commuters RS MP Ranogwra Narzary met the Symplax officials in Kachungaon and discussed the issues related to the delayed progress. After a prolonged discussion with MP Narzary the Symplax officials assured that the construction of the road will be completed within December of this year.

## Electronic & digital medias scribes' new body formed

**Assam Rising, Nagaon, June 11:** Nagaon Electronic and Digital Media Association (NEDMA), a new scribes' body for the Nagaon town based scribes working in various electronic as well as in digital media houses, has been formed here in a meeting held at Nagaon Press Club today. The new committee of the body is instituted with 41 executive members headed by senior scribe Tapan Kumar Bora and Nilutpal Bora as president and general secretary respectively while senior scribes Sailen Saikia, Jiten Borkatoki, Hareswar Borah and Palash Pratim Hazarika were nominated as advisors to the new organization, a release added.

## LCC organized free Aadhaar camp

**Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, June 11:** A three day long free Aadhar facility camp, organized by Lakhimpur Commerce College (LCC), North Lakhimpur concluded on Friday with enrollment of more than hundred individuals. The service camp was organized by the Departments of Accountancy and Political Science of the college in association with Aadhaar Sewa

Kendra, North Lakhimpur and it was inaugurated by the Principal of LCC Dr. Lohit Hazarika on June 8. The camp was organized by the college to extend services to needy public to get their Aadhaar Cards issued by UIDAI. The camp was assisted by Prof. Aban Chandra Barman of the Political Science department and Dr. Rinti Dutta of the Accountancy department.

## JAFPO holds Press Conference against online medicine sales practice

**Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 11:** The Joint Action Forum of Pharmaceutical Organisations (JAFPO) comprising of Chemists & Druggists Association of Assam, Centre of Medical & Sales Representative Union, (North East Region) Association of Advanced Pharmacy Practitioners & Assam Pharmaceutical Association addressed a press conference at Guwahati Press Club on June 11 here. JAFPO urged all concerned to take note of the development of sale of medicines through online mode as well as enhancement of medicine prices in the present scenario. JAFPO pointed out how online medicines providers/vendors are violating the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rule, 1945. On-line medicines sales practice in Netmeds, PharmEasy, Apollo, Marg, Reliance, Amazon, Flipkart, KEIMED LIMITED, Ankamed, Esquare, EasySol, Uddan are going on offering drugs at low cost or at discounted prices to lure the customers as well aiming to finish the existing distribution channel which employs large numbers of employees. The discount offered through advertisement in print & electronic media is as high as 30%, whereas the Industry by & large gives trade margin 8% at stockist, 18% at retail level. Question automatically will come how online pharmacies can offer 30% against 26-28% trade margin. It is to be recalled that the Indian Medical Association (IMA) published white paper in 2022 stating that "online pharmacies will promote drug abuse, drug misuse, self-medication. Any medication taken without supervision of doctors may be dangerous and even potentially life threatening". Further it is directly contravening section 18(c) of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act 1940 & Rules 1945, which prohibits manufacture and sale of certain drugs. The restrictive drugs classified as Schedule H & Schedule X drugs NOT PERMITTED at all to be sold online, this is allowed only through valid prescription by Registered Medical Practitioners. While a separate register is to be maintained for Schedule H1 drug sale. Organizations like IMA (Indian Medical Association) PCI (Pharmacy Council of India) CAIT (Confederation of Indian Trade) AIOCD (All India Organisation of Chemists & Druggists), FMRAI (Federation of Medical & Sales Representative Association of India) at national level already raising their protest voices and demanded appropriate action to stop the multifarious effect in health care & Pharmaceutical Industry. Interestingly, the Delhi HIGH Court in its ruling of DECEMBER, 2018 clearly asked the Government to stop the online sale of Medicines. JAFPO also appealed to the central Govt. to reduce the prices of medicines, which is now going beyond the reach of the people. The government should reduce the prices at MRP level, rather roll back the recent hike to the extent of 10% on 800 medicines belonging to National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM). APA, CDAA, CRU(NER), AAPP fervently appeal to the people not to fall in the trap of big online vendors for the interest of healthcare and people's health in general and to start awareness activities. Approx. 20 lakhs retail pharmacy/ chemist is working in the country and they are capable enough to serve the needs of the people. They had performed their duties even in pandemic situations – a release stated.

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FORM A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT (Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016 FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF KOSONS FOREST PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED)	
RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1. Name of corporate debtor	KOSONS FOREST PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED
2. Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	21/05/1996
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated/registered	ROC-Kolkata
4. Corporate Identity No. / Limited Liability Identification No. of corporate debtor	U36104WB1996PTC079761
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	107B, Stephen House, 4E, B D B BAG, P S Hare Street, Kolkata, West Bengal-700001
6. Insolvency commencement date in respect of corporate debtor	09/06/2022
7. Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	05/12/2022
8. Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as interim resolution professional	Neeraj Kejriwal (BBU/PA-001/JP-P00382/2017-18/10710)
9. Address and e-mail of the interim resolution professional, as registered with the Board	P-178, CIT Scheme, VI M, Phoolbagan, 3rd Floor, Kolkata-700054, neerajw@kejiwal.com
10. Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the interim resolution professional	P-178, CIT Scheme, VI M, Phoolbagan, 3rd Floor, Kolkata-700054, kosons.cirp@gmail.com
11. Last date for submission of claims	23/06/2022
12. Classes of creditors, if any, under clause (b) of sub-section (6A) of section 21, ascertained by the interim resolution professional	Not applicable
13. Names of Insolvency Professionals identified to act as Authorized Representative of creditors in a class (Three names for each class)	Not Applicable
14. (a) Relevant Forms and (b) Details of authorized representatives are available at:	(a) https://bbi.gov.in/home/downloads (b) Not Applicable

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal has ordered the commencement of a corporate insolvency resolution process of the KOSONS FOREST PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED on 09/06/2022. The creditors of KOSONS FOREST PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 23/06/2022 to the interim resolution professional at the address mentioned against entry No. 10. The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means. A financial creditor belonging to a class, as listed against the entry No. 12, shall indicate its choice of authorised representative from among the three insolvency professionals listed against entry No. 13 to act as authorised representative of the class (specify class) in Form CA. Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Date : 12/06/2022  
Place : Kolkata

Name and Signature of Interim Resolution Professional: SD/-  
NEERAJ KEJRIWAL



## THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VII, ISSUE NO. 115 SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2022

## The war trial

What's more, the "trial" in Donetsk sends out a deeply worrying message about the future: not just concerning the course of the war, or relations between Russia and the west, but the very international legal frameworks that the world has tried to uphold since 1945. The allegations are inherently weak, in that all three men were serving with Ukraine's army when they were captured in Mariupol. Even if they are taken at face value, though, the procedure to weigh up guilt was blatantly unfair. It's not certain that the defendants had independent legal representation, let alone the quality of advice that is appropriate in a capital trial. Despite that, they were invited to plead guilty at their first appearance and sentenced behind closed doors within 24 hours. That's not due process, it's the kind of judicial procedure that gives rubber stamps a bad name. The men have already announced plans to appeal, and if that fails, they'll be petitioning the head of the Donetsk People's Republic for a pardon. But it's not in eastern Ukraine that decisions about the case will be made. Though the Kremlin recognises the region as a sovereign state - unlike every other government in the world - its independence is fictional. And now that Russia's proxies in Donetsk have condemned British prisoners to bargain with, Moscow is clearly looking forward to ramping up the pressure on London. The Kremlin's spokesperson said, even before the men were sentenced, that Britain might need to discuss the case with Donetsk - observing that this would amount to recognition of its independence. Responding to complaints by foreign secretary Liz Truss that the trial was a "sham", Russia's foreign ministry has observed that the British reaction to such cases is "often hysterical". That's cynical enough. Though Russia was required to comply with the Geneva conventions when it took custody of captured prisoners in Mariupol, it clearly allowed the three defendants to be transferred to Donetsk - thus facilitating the improper death sentences that have just been handed down. But those sentences are a sign of worse to come - because it's looking as though Russia plans to stage a grander judicial spectacle it can call its own.

## Be a Citizen Journalist

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

**Editor,**  
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## Letter to The Editor

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

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

## Imran Khan and his destructive populist politics dangerous for Pakistan's security

THERE was an element of inevitability about Imran Khan's outburst against the security establishment. He feels dejected at being left midstream without the prop he had become so used to. He now blames his former patrons for all that had gone wrong with his rule. During a recent interview, he indicated he had responsibility but without full power. In the same breath, he lamented that the establishment did not do anything to thwart the 'foreign conspiracy' against his government as the latter decided to stay neutral in the fray. The former prime minister also warned that the country could "break up into three parts" if the establishment did not take the right decisions. He went further, presenting an even grimmer scenario of its nuclear facilities being removed in the event of an economic collapse. Such reckless statements by a former prime minister raise serious concerns about his motives. He would prefer military intervention to the political process taking its own course. His destructive populist politics is extremely dangerous not only for democracy but also for national security. His tenor has become increasingly blunt after his party's failed attempt on May 25 to storm the capital and

to force the new government to call early elections. In his no-holds-barred speeches, the former prime minister has had his guns trained on the security establishment. He is now even implying that the establishment has been part of what he describes as a foreign conspiracy of regime change. All those remarks by the former prime minister seem full of contradictions. Imran Khan is critical of the military leadership not because he wants the establishment to be out of politics but because he is upset at being abandoned. The campaign by PTI supporters against the establishment manifests the same sentiment. They are unhappy with the breaking of the hybrid arrangement that provided the critical pivot around which the Imran Khan government had endured. Once establishment loyalists, they are now shouting betrayal. It's certainly a new phenomenon in Pakistani politics and a dangerous one too. More serious is their designation of favourite generals. Such a campaign is unprecedented. Indeed, it's not the first time that the establishment has been under attack. Practically all civilian governments over the past three decades have blamed the security agencies for their ouster

and criticised their machinations. The imprint of the establishment on every political change has been visible. In fact, the military has continued to cast its shadow over the country's political landscape even when it has not been directly in power. It's also true that the involvement of the security establishment has been one of the major reasons for the political instability that has weakened the democratic political process in the country. The rise of Imran Khan's political fortunes owed itself to the

**Zahid Hussain**

political engineering carried out by the establishment. The cricketer-turned-politician was projected as the last best hope that could deliver the promised change. It was the first experiment in what is described as real hybrid rule in the country. A coalition of disparate political groups was built up to provide support to Imran Khan to form the government. For the first three years, the hybrid arrangement worked well with the imprint of the security establishment all over. In fact, the establishment repeatedly bailed out the government from crises within the ruling coalition and outside. Imran Khan had then been all praise for the military

leadership. Described as a 'democratic general', Gen Bajwa was given a three-year extension in office. Imran Khan then had no complaints that he had no power. In fact, he would boast of being on the same page with the establishment. All was going well until cracks in the hybrid arrangement started emerging last year. The trigger may have been the differences over the appointment of the ISI chief but there were also other issues that together led to the breakdown of the relationship. Beside governance issues, it was the erratic handling of foreign policy that caused further estrangement. Khan's refusal to work within the parliamentary system and sit with the opposition on critical national issues had increased his government's dependence on the security establishment. But it was also the ousted PM's arrogance and hubris that caused the fall of his government. Imran Khan's 'foreign conspiracy' mantra was largely meant to salvage the situation and also put the establishment under pressure. It's evident that Khan wants the military to intervene rather than try and find a solution to the political crisis under a democratic set-up, however

weak. In fact, there is a danger that his reckless stance could push the establishment more deeply into politics. The recent development has reinforced the establishment as an arbiter of power. Imran Khan's decision to quit the National Assembly indicates that he is not interested in taking a democratic course. One may agree with the contention that it would have been better had the PTI government been allowed to complete its term. Yet the change didn't come through any extra-constitutional intervention as we have seen in the past. The vote of no-confidence is part of the democratic process. There is also no truth to the allegation of a foreign conspiracy. Khan may have galvanised his supporters through his populist slogans but his recklessness could also push him into a blind alley. There are no two views about eliminating the role of the security establishment in politics. But this could not be possible with political leaders looking towards other institutions of the state rather than resolving political issues in parliament.

part of the reason why there is a mad dash by British Divers Marine Life Rescue to get beached whales back into the water before their injuries become too great and they inevitably beach again. That's how I found myself face to face with a dead sei whale at the foot of Scotland's most famous human-made landmark: the Forth Bridge. The whale had beached just a day earlier and we had tried to get to it then, but just as we arrived the team refloated it. We had hoped that it might survive



In the aftermath of 9/11, scientists noticed a curious impact on the stress hormones of North Atlantic right whales. Ships are ubiquitous in our oceans but, for a brief window, immediately after the planes flew into the twin towers, there was a dramatic drop in traffic along the North Atlantic eastern seaboard, reducing underwater noise. While the world above ground was reeling, our underwater neighbours were thriving. So often we think of the golden age of whaling as being over. Japanese and Icelandic whaling ships are now pariahs in the international community. But too often, out of sight is out of mind, and it remains easy to ignore the impact of our actions above ground on marine life. However, whales are increasingly forcing us to take note, as more of them than ever are beaching on our shores. Whales have always beached across UK coastlines, but there is nothing natural about this latest surge in whale deaths, which is why we decided to shadow marine stranding investigators (Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme in Scotland and the Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme in England and Wales) exploring the rise in whale strandings on our island for Channel 4 - think CSI but for cetaceans. When whales beach, especially large ones, it's very likely that they will beach again. Their bodies are designed to work in water, but on land their sheer size crushes their insides and they start to boil alive. That's

**Ella Al-Shamahi**

its first beaching, but this time, the endangered animal - the world's third largest species of whale - was washed up dead. One of the reasons I went into television was a visceral understanding of the power of an image. And this image spoke for itself. A majestic mammoth of a creature taking its final resting place in the shadows of industrialisation. As a palaeoanthropologist, I'm used to seeing dead things, but the dead that I deal with are long dead - bones, not flesh. When you see flesh,

it adds a sense of immediacy. I was supposed to be presenting to camera that day; instead I struggled to muster the energy. I felt utterly defeated by the sight. For many of us, the call to "save the whale" is a cause we are sympathetic to. But too often, the practical steps we need to take to get there - whether it's reducing climate change, ship strikes, noise or sonar - stump us. Those last few might appear complicated at first glance and would affect our way of life too much (not true), and tackling the first one has us dilly-dallying on the world stage. But what about chemical pollution, an issue very much in our self-interest? It is imperative that we understand that whales are the canary in the coalmine for our relationship with chemical pollutants. Too many "forever chemicals", or PFAS, still persist in nature, nicknamed as such because they barely degrade. PCBs are one such chemical, and despite them being banned 40 years ago, killer whales are still dying in our waters from PCB poisoning. So deadly is the long-term impact that researchers suspect it is responsible for the crash in the birthrate we have seen in our only resident UK killer whale pod - the "West Coast Community" - which

hasn't had a calf born in 25 years. Legacy chemicals are the gift that keeps on giving, and by the time we understand what they do to the environment, wildlife and our health they are already in the system - so we can't afford to dawdle. That's why our heel-dragging on plastic pollution is so frustrating - it's everywhere and found in everything from salt to human lungs. Terrifying preliminary research is now linking plastics to cancer, Alzheimer's disease and infertility in men. It's in our interest to demand of our leaders better oversight and research. To this end, 30 NGOs have written to the government asking for a ban on the non-essential use of PFAS. The problem is that when only some of these chemicals are banned, manufacturers just switch to others that are only slightly chemically different. The EU appears to be going in the right direction, and it's vital that as one of the most prominent island nations we not only follow suit, but lead this fight. So if you care about saving the whales (and your health), write to your MP and ask them to support this cause. It's time to stop asking, "What killed the whale?" and start looking in the mirror for answers.

## Punjabi music more about love and lehengas, less about guns. Check out YouTube data

Sidhu Moose Wala's murder has turned everybody into an expert on Punjab's pop music culture. There is a popular perception that Punjabi songs are all about gun glorification and violence. Data tells you otherwise. So, what are these songs all about? You'd be surprised if I tell you that they are about love. There are 29 Punjabi songs on YouTube, with more than 50 crore views. Out of these 29, four have clocked more than a billion views. Only one of these songs used a gun to glorify murder. In Punjabi music, love conquers all. According to music data repository kworb.net, as of 7 June, about 101 Indian music videos have been viewed by more than half a billion people worldwide.

However, since Bollywood makes the most popular beats in the country, about 61 music videos on YouTube were made in Hindi - leaving the rest of the space for regional languages. Among the remaining 40 music videos - 29 were sung in Punjabi, meaning that the state's music is hugely popular in the non-Hindi section. With five songs carrying slightly more than 50 crore views, Haryanvi pop songs, too, rank high on the popularity index. This was followed by four Bhojpuri music videos and one each in Tamil and Telugu. Like famous American activist Martin Luther King Jr once said, "Hatred paralyses life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonises it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it," in Punjabi music also, love emerges as a

dominant theme. Mannat Noor's Laung Lachi is easily the most popular, with over 1.4 billion views on YouTube. Loved by people across Punjab and the Hindi heartland, this song tells the tale of a young woman who

**Nikhil Rampal**

uses laung (clove) and lachi (cardamom) as metaphors for love. Guru Randhawa's High Rated Gabru and Lahore follow suit, with over 1.13 billion and 1.02 billion views, respectively. Punjabis seem to harbour a deep love for designer clothing. Most songs often run apparel as their leitmotif - to the point where I had to put apparel-based tracks in a different

category. Under this genre, Jass Manak's Lehenga has a whopping 1.48 billion views. The song is about a woman requesting her lover to buy her an expensive lehenga. Kala Chashma, Prada, Chittiyani Kalaiyan also fall under this list, with more than 650 million views each. Alcohol also seems to be a recurring and much-loved theme. For example, Kamal Kahlon and Param Singh's Daaru Badnaam Kardi has more than 950 million views, whereas Sharry Mann's 3-Peg - which is played almost in every 'daaru-party' - comes next with 692 million views. The only song that spoke about violence was 8 Parche, sung by Bani Sandhu and Gur Sidhu. In this song, the woman sings about how 8 'parche' (police cases) against her lover created hurdles in their marriage. Despite these problems, her partner uses violent measures against men who eve tease his lady-love. Interestingly, by the end of the video, it's the woman who shoots the man holding a gun against her lover. The video has 729 million views and is the only song from this sub-genre that made it big. As you can see, Punjabi artistes singing about love have more chances of being recognised worldwide. However, some singers try to show Punjab as a gangland in their videos - like Mankirat Aulakh, Diljit Dosanjh, and even Sidhu Moose Wala, for that matter. I feel that gun songs have a low shelf life because we have a significant share of Punjabis listening to quality music. In the glorious era of

cassettes, releasing music was an arduous task. But unlike today, the best was served to us. From Gurdas Mann to Harbhajan Mann and from Amrinder Gill to Babbu Mann, all we listened to was music in its purest form. Rarely would one find songs glorifying guns. So, a vast majority of boomers, baby boomers, millennials and Gen-Y kids have grown up with a better taste in music - a section of people for whom such gun-glorifiers do not hold much artistic value. We also have a generation which has heard the soul-stirring words of legendary poet Shiv Kumar Batalvi and grooved to the lyrics of Sahir Ludhianvi. This generation has also heard the melodious voice of Surinder Kaur and Pakistan's Noor Jehan. Punjabi music was full of quality in the past, but gangsta rap is catching up as a genre today. To understand how 'gangsta' rappers are pacing up in Punjab, I spoke to a young singer, Hustinder, who has been in the music industry since 2014 and belongs to a generation that wants to keep guns and violence out of their songs. Hustinder said that making gun-glorifying raps is easy, but making quality music is challenging. "All you need to do is buy some \$25-30 beats and add lyrics that fit. These NRI singers are trying to bring the 'gangsta' rap genre of the West to India without assessing what kind of audience exists here," he said. When one thinks of Punjabi music, it's mostly some groovy beats, traditional musical instruments and 'sur' and 'taal' that come to mind. But none of these gun glorifiers actually care about making good music.

Letter to the Editor  
Audio visual media

Dear Editor,

Audio visual Media is a very Powerful one, if we do not use it with utmost care, there is disaster everywhere, as we have been watching. Movies and TV serials are made and exhibited without scrutiny. Violence and Vulgarity are very much prevalent. That is why we see youth indulging in anti-social activities. It is high time to introspect and find out the remedial measures to be implemented for curbing violence against women.

**KL Rao,**  
Vizag



# When Sonam Kapoor made Arjun Kapoor third wheel on her dates

Mumbai Actor and fashion icon Sonam Kapoor celebrates her 36th birthday today. Born into a family of film stars, Sonam has carved a space for herself through her journey of many ups and downs, and has experimented with different genres and roles from commercial entertainers to gripping award-winning films like *Neerja*. Despite staying away from films for the past couple of years, the actor has still managed to remain in the limelight with her public appearances, gorgeous photoshoots and voiced her strong opinion on pertinent issues like LGBTQ representation and *MeToo*. Sonam's life is nothing less than a Bollywood film-from her relationship with her parents Anil Kapoor and Sunita Kapoor and cousin Arjun Kapoor, to her husband Anand Ahuja. Here's looking back at some anecdotes in her life. During a guest appearance on *Koffee With Karan*, her cousin, actor Arjun Kapoor had a couple of hilarious things to say about Sonam. "This sweet fragile ethereal beauty used to bite me as a kid," he said, and went on to tease her about the accent that she would pick up from her holidays to the US. "She used to come back with an American accent and would talk like that also. I was also the third wheel on her dates, when a boy would ask her out. She used to make me this protective asset that she could carry along, so she could tell her parents, 'Listen, I'm going with Arjun', whereas she was going with Arjun as an added plus one with her date. I used to sit alone on those dates eating McDonald's burgers that she used to pay for, to also



bribe me." Last year in an interview with RJ Siddharth Kanan, Arjun revealed that he had even once gotten into a fight for Sonam. "Sonam and I were in the same school. I was chubby then. I used to love playing basketball and so did Sonam. One day, it was a typical, cliched scene where seniors came and grabbed the ball from Sonam and announced it was their time to play. Sonam came crying to me. She said, 'He behaved badly with me, this boy.' I asked, 'Who's this boy?' I am not a violent person at all. Neither in my childhood nor now. But I do get angry. I got angry and I went. That boy came and I abused him. He looked at me, kept staring at my verbal diarrhoea of abuses, he just looked at me." Arjun added that he was suspended after this fight, "He took his hand and punched me. I went back home with a black eye. Sonam was saying sorry to me and I remember, he was a part of some national level boxing. He was a boxer. Maine galat ladke se panga le liya tha

Sonam ke chakkar mein (I messed with the wrong guy for Sonam). I got the punch and had to go to the doctor. I got suspended because I abused. I was the instigator of the problem. After that I told Sonam, 'you take care of yourself in school because I have been defamed very badly. I can't do this,' he added. During their joint appearance together on *KWK*, in 2014 Karan quizzed Anil Kapoor about his youthful looks. Sonam then revealed that it was her mother, Sunita who keeps him in check. In fact, she added, "She keeps all of us in check." When Karan asked Anil if he was scared of his wife, he joked, "No, no she is scared of me." At the time Sonam interjected and said that Anil was 'petrified' of Sunita. "It's a lot of fear, all of us are scared in the family," she laughed. When Karan asked Anil if he was involved in any rumours, both of them denied it, and Sonam even said that Sunita hadn't allowed any film magazines in the house. When speaking about her relationships in this epi-

sode, Sonam strongly maintained that she preferred to keep her private life away from the media glare. A proud Anil Kapoor said that it was 'Sunita's training', and that he had been 'groomed' by his wife too. Sonam also called Anil Kapoor the 'coolest' dad ever, and that he never remembered her boyfriends names. "He calls them different things," she laughed. Anil added, "Because I know she's not serious, I'll know when she is." On the other hand, Sonam admitted that Sunita Kapoor was 'slightly more conservative' than her father, with Anil adding that it is a 'good cop bad cop' situation at home. Sonam's friends were trying to set her up with businessman Anand Ahuja's best friend at first. Apparently, she met Anand when she was busy with the promotions of *Prem Ratan Dhan Payo* (2015). One day, her friends 'conned' her into visiting a bar and saw that her friends had called three boys. She flatly said that she didn't believe in marriage "and all this nonsense", and that she didn't want to date anybody. In an interview to *Filmfare*, she said, "I saw Anand and his friend. His friend was tall like me, liked reading like me

and was a huge fan of Hindi movies. He was an educated and a nice guy. But he reminded me too much of my brother Harsh (Kapoor). I was like, 'Dude, he's Harsh. I'm not going to date this guy.'" On the show *Feet Up With The Stars*, Sonam said that before he went down on one knee for her, he had actually written her a long letter months before he proposed. "In June, on my birthday, he wrote me this long letter about how he thinks he needs to spend the rest of his life with me but it was not really a proposal. I was like, he is saying all of this but he is not getting down on one knee so I ignored it." Months later on a 'very bad day' as Sonam described, he proposed. Sonam was annoyed as she had lost her favourite pair of sunglasses and they had a 'stupid fight'. She said, "He picked me up from my pilates class, which was a huge disaster as well, and I was really pissed off. I remember we were walking to the hotel. He had his bike...he likes to cycle...and I was walking with him. He just got down on his knee in the middle of the New York street and said, 'Will you marry me?' I was like, 'I was such a b\*\*\*h all day'." Responding to his proposal, Sonam said yes and also went down on her knees.

## Film Samrat Prithviraj sees a big drop Collects Rs. 5 cr

**Mumbai, June 11 :** Samrat Prithviraj starring by Akshay Kumar, Manushi Chhillar, Sonu Sood and Sanjay Dutt, directed by Dr. Chandra Prakash Dwivedi released in theatres on 3rd of June, 2022. The film locked horns with a Pan-India Tamil film *Vikram* starring Kamal Haasan, Vijay Sethupathi and Fahadh Faasil and a Pan-India Telugu film *Major* starring Adivi Sesh and Saiee Manjrekar. The Akshay Kumar starrer didn't fare optimally over the weekend given the high costs involved and the wide release it got. The Kamal Haasan led *Vikram* emerged as the first choice among moviegoers for the weekend while Samrat Prithviraj settled as the second most preferred choice. Major, which is a relatively small film, took the third place but the collections are reasonably good. Samrat Prithviraj had a low first weekend of Rs. 39 cr nett. The first Monday numbers are meandering between Rs. 4.85 cr - 5.15 cr. The numbers are not optimal or anywhere close to it as a film of this scale and with the association of a big production house



like Yash Raj Films and an A-list actor like Akshay Kumar was expected to do a lot more, preferably at least 50 percent more. The Monday number suggests that the film is heading towards a first week sub Rs. 60 cr nett after which it is likely to face stiff competition from the Hollywood biggie *Jurassic World: Dominion*. The second Friday numbers will indicate where the film is headed as far as lifetime is considered. At the moment, it looks more like Rs. 75 cr India nett unless something miraculous happens. The numbers from overseas are very poor too and in its lifetime, it may struggle to touch even 2 million dollars. *Vikram* was rocking over the weekend with a global cume of Rs. 163 cr gross worldwide in its first 3 days. The Monday numbers coming in are

excellent and the film is likely to target lifetime records in the state of Tamil Nadu. The Hindi collections of *Vikram* are very low but the first Monday has landed above first Friday which shows that the film has got appreciation from its target audience. Major did well in the Telugu states and the overseas numbers were impressive too. The film managed to gross Rs 36 cr worldwide after 3 days. The Hindi numbers are not encouraging but are better than *Vikram*. Kartik Aaryan, Tabu and Kiara Advani's Super-Hit *Bhool Bhulaiyya 2* has crossed Rs. 150 cr nett and is still very steady at the box office. The Anees Bazmee directorial is the second highest grossing Hindi film this year.

## Jeff Goldblum takes one more bite out of Jurassic World

**New York, June 11 :** There is only one person who, in the middle of a massive dystopic dinosaur movie, can utter a line like "That's bananas" with just the right timing and inflection. For almost three decades, off and on, Jeff Goldblum has played Dr. Ian Malcolm with particular Goldblumian panache. As the stylish chaos theorist of the *Jurassic Park* and *Jurassic World* films, Goldblum is voice of reason and comedy relief in one, an auger of nature's unpredictability who can't help marveling at seeing his theories in action, even if that poses immediate danger to himself. It's one of the 69-year-old actor's best-known characters. Yet in even big movies like *Jurassic Park* and *Independence Day*, Goldblum has such a singular manner and much-imitated tempo that he's never been particularly defined by those roles. It's more that Goldblum, in putting his own idiosyncratic spin on them, marks the characters, rather than the other way around. Life



finds a way in *Jurassic Park*, and so does Goldblum. In Colin Trevorrow's *Jurassic World: Dominion*, which opens in theaters Thursday, Goldblum - along with original cast members Laura Dern and Sam Neill - returns to close out the franchise's second trilogy of films in a sprawling adventure set in a near future where dinosaurs have spread across the world, as has ecological imbalance and a plague of giant locusts. For Goldblum, the son of a doctor and host of the Disney+ series *The World According to Jeff Goldblum*, the subjects and themes of the movie dovetail with some of his own curiosities and interests in how we might, he says, "upgrade our stewardship of the planet." What does Goldblum, the movies' resident chaotician, think of our increasingly tumultuous

times? "I don't know anything about what I'm talking about. But let's utter the word 'entropy' and 'systems' and how things break down," Goldblum says, speaking from London. "Before the butterfly comes out of the chrysalis, the caterpillar has some convulsions, chaotic convulsions. But it's not death, necessarily. It's the onset of transformation." Satisfied that he's perhaps arrived at a kernel of truth, Goldblum concludes, "Hey, what about that?" Chaos and harmony feature prominently in most conversations with Goldblum, an ever-riffing, cosmically attuned raconteur. He tends to speak as if narrating his brain's inner-workings in real time, arriving now and then at ideas worth pausing to savor and existential epiphanies that delight him. One question, for example, about whether his sons' names - River Joe and Charlie Ocean - suggest some ecological bent sends Goldblum on a jag about ocean environmental health, fundraising for Oceana, the song "Moon River" (which Goldblum, an accomplished pianist, says his band might soon record), Carly Simon's "Let the River Run," the movie *Working Girl*, Mark Harris' Mike Nichols biography and a white-water rafting trip on the Kern River. "Water is life, isn't it?" says Goldblum. "If they

ever wanted to drop the Goldblum and just go with River Joe, that sounds evocative to me, that sounds like a good character. Or Charlie Ocean. I like both of those. Nothing wrong with Goldblum, but if they want to change it, fine with me." Either through experience (Goldblum's early films included two with the improvisational Robert Altman, "a dippy doodle of an artist," he says) or practice (Goldblum credits acting teacher Sandy Meisner with instilling in him "a continuity of digging"), Goldblum has arrived at his unique cadence and perpetual state of curiosity. "At the beginning of the day, I remind myself: free association, stream of consciousness, perceptual readiness and then openness," says Goldblum. "This whole business of acting and music seems to be, if nothing else, an invitation toward opening up. Opening yourself up in both directions. Not only to what's around you in reception but then in your giving back, reacting and offering something." After co-starring in *Jurassic Park* and its 1997 sequel, *The Lost World*, Goldblum returned to Ian Malcolm in 2018's *Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom* during which his character testifies to the US Congress. Malcolm recommends letting the exploding volcano determine the fate of the dinosaurs on Isla Nublar. Goldblum relished it. Production on *Jurassic World: Dominion* was halted in 2020 due to the pandemic. When shooting restarted, the studio rented out a hotel in England near Pinewood Studios for cast and crew. Goldblum would sometimes play the piano there with his castmates and Trevorrow - "musicales and hootenanny's of one kind or another," Goldblum says. Dern posted one video of her, Neill and Goldblum singing the Beatles' "Blackbird."

## A R Rahman named ambassador of Indo-UK culture platform



**Mumbai, June 11 :** Music great A R Rahman has been named the ambassador of British Council's 'India-UK Together Season of Culture', which aims to boost collaboration among emerging artists. The 'Season of Culture' that marks the 75th anniversary of India's independence was officially launched on Tuesday here by Britain's Deputy High Commissioner to India Jan Thomson and Director (India) of British Council Barbara Wickham. Rahman said as an artiste, it is a pleasure to be part of an innovative cultural programme which supports creative excellence and artistic appreciation; and brings diverse audiences together. "Today, creative expression

and exchange can nurture young talent and create a global stage for fair and equitable access to arts," he added. Wickham said Rahman has been a significant adviser to the 'Season of Culture' and his work and professional journey truly embody what the 'Season of Culture' stands for - working together, and artistic output that captures the imagination of the world. Over 1,400 artistes will showcase their collaborations to millions of audiences across India, Britain, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, through a wide array of arts such as theatre, dance, visual arts, literature, music, architecture, design, fashion, tech-art, and new media art. The

'Season of Culture' aims to build on the British Council's work in India and strengthen India-UK collaboration in the areas of arts, English and education. Wickham said people in both the countries will have the chance to experience innovative and exciting creative work from some of the most promising UK and Indian artists pushing the envelope of creativity and the infusion of creative tech.

## Vignesh dedicates wedding day to 'love of my life Nayanthara'



**Mumbai, June 11 :** Actor Nayanthara and filmmaker Vignesh Shivan are

set to get married today, June 9. Hours before the wedding, Vignesh dedi-

cated the wedding day to his bride Nayanthara. He wrote on Instagram for the actor, "Today is June 9 and it's Nayan's thanking God, the universe, the Good will from all the lovely human beings who have crossed My life!! Every good soul, every good moment, every good coincidence, every good blessing, everyday at shooting and every prayer that has made life this beautiful??! I owe it all to the good manifestations & prayers! Now, It's all dedicated to the love of my life! #Nayanthara! My #Thangamey! Excited to see u walking up the aisle in a few hours!!" The couple will tie the knot at an intimate event at Mahabalipuram with family and close friends. Initially, they wanted to get

married at Tirupathi temple, but due to logistics issues that didn't happen. The filmmaker also revealed that their wedding will be a private affair with only family members and close friends in attendance. Reports about their impending marriage started doing the rounds after Nayanthara and Vignesh met Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin earlier this month. It was said that the two invited Stalin to their wedding. Vignesh Shivan directed Nayanthara in the 2015 box office hit *Naanum Rowdy Dhaan*. It is said during the making of the movie, Vignesh and Nayanthara fell in love. They have been together since.



## Contd. From Page 1

### Cabinet meeting decisions

was recently inaugurated, and a few other units with a total capacity of 100 MW in different parts of the state will be commissioned next month," he said. But the state government wants to go for large scale solar power generation, Sarma said. "For that, the state government and the Neyveli Lignite Corporation will form a joint venture company for generation of 1,000 MW power with investment of Rs 5,000 crore," Sarma said. The Neyveli Lignite Corporation (now NLC India Ltd) is a 'Navratna' company under the coal ministry. Once the proposed solar plant will start generating energy, Assam will become self-sufficient in its power requirement, the chief minister said. Sarma also said 1,037 proposals for settlement of land, which were pending before the Revenue department, were cleared during the meeting. "Some of these proposals were pending since 1992 and nearly 30 per cent of burden on the revenue department is settled. In the next cabinet meeting, we will take up the pending proposals submitted by NGOs," he said. Sarma mentioned that the cabinet has given its nod for use of uncultivated land of tea estates for other activities, such as growing trees, tea tourism and setting up of solar plants. The cabinet gave go-ahead to a proposal for setting up of an Assam Municipal Corporation Service cadre, from which the chief executive member, accounts officer and engineer for civic bodies of the state will be appointed, Sarma said. He said the state government will bear the salary burden of these three posts, which will be transferable throughout the state. A new regime for assessment of property tax, as mandated by the Centre, was also passed in the cabinet, he said. The government also sanctioned Rs 8,727 crore for power sector reforms, a Rs 383-crore bridge connecting Lakhimpur and Dhakuakhana, and another Rs 247-crore bridge between Tamulpur and Barama. The agriculture project being implemented at Gorukhuti will be brought under a permanent body, with a civil servant from the state cadre to act as its CEM and the chairman to be appointed by the chief minister. The cabinet sanctioned several beautification projects for Tezpur, the capital town of Sonitpur district, including a flyover with estimated cost of Rs 474 crore in the heart of the town, Sarma said. The chief minister also said 600 decisions have been taken in the cabinet meetings since his government assumed power in May last year. A cabinet committee headed by Chandra Mohan Patowary has been formed to study the implementation of the decisions, the CM said. Sarma said the government will carry on its initiative of holding cabinet meetings periodically outside of Guwahati. The next two such meetings will be held in Silchar and Kokrajhar.

### Model code of conduct : Gauhati

Magistrate A K Baruah in an order dated February 11 asked both the accused to appear before the court on February 25. The case was filed by the additional chief electoral officer in May 2019 against Sarma, who was a minister holding several portfolios in former chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal's cabinet, and the News Live TV Channel for allegedly violating model code of conduct. The Election Department had filed the case after receiving complaints from the then president and general secretary of Assam Pradesh Congress Committee on April 10, 2019. The judge in his order said that on perusal of the documents there is prima facie material under section 126(1)(b) of the Representation of People's Act against Sarma and his wife to take cognizance of the offence mentioned above. The section says that broadcasters shall not broadcast any "election matter" i.e. any matter intended or calculated to influence or affect the result of an election during the 48 hours ending with the hours fixed for the conclusion of polling. The order noted that as per the complaint, Sarma and the News Live Channel, which owned by Pride East Entertainment Pvt Ltd represented by the then chairman-cum-managing director, violated the model code of conduct of Lok Sabha election. The channel, of which Riniki Bhuyan Sarma is now the chairman and managing director, had telecast a live interview of the present chief minister at 7.55 PM on April 10, 2019, which was within 48 hours of the first phase of polls scheduled on April 11. The allegation or the case of the complainant therefore comes under the purview of section 126(1)(b) of the Representation of People's Act i.e. as per the complaint petition and the documents submitted by the complainant Sarma and his wife prima facie committed the offence, the order said. The CJM before issuing the summons considered that Sarma now holds the post of the state chief minister and at the time of the alleged offence was holding the post of a minister. "Hence, a question arises whether sanction is required in this case before taking cognizance of the offence against the accused Himanta Biswa Sarma holding the post of chief minister," he noted. The CJM said that after going through the entire materials on record that the alleged offence of the case was not committed by Sarma while discharging his duty as a minister or public servant though he was a minister then. "Thereby, this act of the accused though he was/is the minister/chief minister of (the) state of Assam, does not come under his official duty. Hence, sanction is not required before issuing summons to Himanta Biswa Sarma as an accused in this case and there is no bar to proceed against the accused," he added. But today the Gauhati High Court on Saturday has dismissed a complaint lodged by the Election Commission against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

### Nupur Sharma 'beheading' video

apology reaches everyone". "I am an innocent person and do not want to be implicated," he said. Wani's now-deleted video posted on his channel showed the bare-bodied YouTuber wielding a sword and beheading a photo of Sharma. Sharma was suspended by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) while another leader, Naveen Jindal, was expelled over their controversial remarks on Prophet Mohammad. The comments led to an intense backlash in several Islamic countries and calls for a boycott of Indian products. There have been protests in several Indian cities as well, while multiple FIRs have been registered against Sharma.

### Socio-cultural organization 'Anajori'

and general secretary Alakesh Ranjan Bhattacharjya during a press conference held in Guwahati on Saturday. Bishweshwar Hazarika has been awarded the 'Lifetime Achievement Award'. Bhabani Prasad Adhikari receives the 'Trolukya Nath Goswami Memorial Enajari Award'. The 'Hemchandra Goswami Memorial Enajari Award' was presented to Riju Hazarika for his outstanding contribution to Assamese short story literature. The 'Harinath Sharma Memorial Anajari Award' has been conferred on Edris Ali for his outstanding contribution to song literature. The 'Ratan Lahak Memorial Enajari Award' will be presented to prominent singer Rajen Gohain for his outstanding contribution to the field of music. Indra Bania Memorial Enajari Award was presented to Assamese actress Purnima Saikia. Meanwhile, the 'Charu Gohain Memorial Enajari Award' has been conferred on Anirban Das, classical music practitioner. Brajen Kuli, a silent practitioner of Miching literature and culture was presented the Pranit Baruah Enajari award. Special Anajari Award has been given to Kandarpa Mahanta, Dinesh Methi, Niranjan Bayan and Narendra Ba. According to general secretary Alakesh Ranjan Bhattacharjya, the awards will be presented at a ceremony to be held at the Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra in Guwahati on July 24.

### Nupur Sharma comments

on Prophet Muhammad. Protests for Nupur Sharma's arrest were carried out at Delhi's Jama Masjid, Hyderabad's Mecca Masjid, Ludhiana's Jama Masjid, Kolkata's Park Circus, Prayagraj's Atal Area. As per latest reports, two people died during protests in Jharkhand's Ranchi, while many were injured in West Bengal's Howrah. In West Bengal, a large number of people gathered at Kolkata's Park Circus and demanded the arrest of suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma and expelled leader Naveen Jindal. In UP's Prayagraj, stones were hurled during clashes in Atala area after the Friday prayers.

### Rajya Sabha poll results 2022

state minister Anil Bonde and Dhananjay Mahadik from the BJP secured victory while one candidate each from Shiv Sena, Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)- Sanjay Raut, Imran Pratapgarhi and Praful Patel- bagged an easy victory. As many as 285 votes were polled on Friday and candidates required 41 votes to win a Rajya Sabha seat. Addressing the media, Devendra Fadnavis said he was "very happy" that BJP's three candidates were elected to the Rajya Sabha. The sixth seat in Maharashtra witnessed a hot contest between BJP's Dhananjay Mahadik and Shiv Sena's Sanjay Pawar, where the former secured victory. Moreover, the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) had extended support to Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) ahead of the polls and said its two Maharashtra MLAs will vote for Congress candidate Imran Pratapgarhi.

### Locally produced litchi of Tezpur

growth by serving as a venue for cultural meets, seminars, etc." The Assam CM also shared pictures of the newly inaugurated convention centre on social media. He tweeted, "Delighted to launch the export of Tezpur Litchi, which has been given geographical indication (GI) tag for its excellent quality & pleasant flavor, to London by Agnigarh Farmer Producer Company through Kiega Exims at Tezpur Convention Center in Sonitpur dist." It may be noted that the Assam CM handed over ex-gratia cheques of Rs 2 lakhs to the next of kin of the victims of who drowned recently in a pond at Bokajan village. The Assam CM tweeted, "Handed over ex-gratia cheques of ₹2 lakh each to next of kin of Anil Dahanga (6), Tamana Dahanga (10) & Suman Dahanga (11), all of whom drowned recently in a pond at Bokajan village, Sonitpur district. My deepest condolences to the bereaved and prayers for the departed souls."

### Assam Government Reconstitutes

legislative and welfare measures for the overall well-being and safety of the working children. "Furthermore, the advisory board will hold meetings at regular intervals to review the welfare measures," it said. The advisory board will include a total of 11 government representatives. The board will be headed by labour welfare minister Sanjoy Kishan as chairman and chief secretary Jishnu Barua as vice-chairman. Krishna Kamal Tanti, MLA, Rangapara constituency and Terash Gowalla, MLA, Dulaijan constituency will be the two state legislative assembly representatives. Meanwhile, one representative each from voluntary organisations Assam Sewa Samity and The Lions Club; and one representative each from the Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, Assam Manufacturers Association, Indian National Trade Union Congress, Assam Chah Mazdoor Sangha (ACMS), All India Trade Union Congress, Assam State Committee and Bharatiya Chah Mazdoor Sangha (BCMS) will also be part of the board.

## LCC students practice teaching ends

**Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, June 11:** A five-day long practice teaching programme by the students of the Sixth Semester (Honors) of the Education Department of Lakhimpur Commerce College (LCC), North Lakhimpur concluded today. The programme was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Lima Baruah. Dr. Aroopa Dutta and Ghanakanta Sonowal at Satyasai School, North Lakhimpur. The students also visited the Anganwadi Centers under the Lakhimpur Integrated Child Development Project (ICDS) along with the weekly meal list, the number of teachers, students and assistants. The programme was also conducted on the provision of items such as foods, books, toys, clothes and other items provided by the government. It is worth mentioning that this training was conducted under the Departmental Students Best Practices programme.

### Obituary Nijara Phukan

**Assam Rising, Golaghat, June 11:** A senior teacher of Pulibor Adarsha Vidyapeeth HS School in Golaghat and a pious lady Nijara Phukan passed away in the wee hours at a hospital in Guwahati. Nijara Phukan was the wife of former student leader from Golaghat and senior journalist Rohit Gogoi. Nijara Phukan who was a heart patient went to Guwahati for her regular check up but suddenly she became unwell and later died. She was a very kind hearted, soft spoken and a mentally strong lady. The news of her demise created a wave of mourn in Golaghat. She left behind her husband, a daughter and a son. Pulibor Adarsha Vidyapeeth family, media fraternity of Golaghat, AASU, Golaghat Amateur Theatre Society and several other individuals and organisations have mourned the demise of Nijara Phukan and offer deep condolences to the family.

### UK healthcare staff call in sick to avoid using car as cost of fuel soars, union says

**Partington, June 11:** Low-paid health and care workers are calling in sick because they cannot afford to fill their cars with petrol to travel to work, the head of the UK's largest trade union has warned. Boris Johnson said on



Thursday that the UK economy was "steering into the wind" but cautioned against a "wage-price spiral", as the cost of a tank of fuel hit a record £100. Christina McAnea, general secretary of the public services union Unison, said some of her members were likely to strike in the coming months, faced by real-terms pay cuts as the cost of living crisis bites. "Petrol price rises

are] having a big impact on people with jobs that mean they have to travel. So community health workers, health visitors, care workers, social workers ... are saying they just cannot afford to do their jobs any more," she said. "We're actually hearing of people who would rather phone in sick because they don't have the money to fill up their cars and do their jobs. And more and more people are leaving public services, even in local government. There's huge vacancies across local government." She said of the prospect of strike action: "We don't want to bring low-paid workers out on strike. But if there's no alternative, what else can people do?" If we've got a government where they are getting 2-3% pay increases and we've got inflation running at 10% or even more by the end of the year and they already pay a disproportionate amount of their income on fuel, housing, energy and food costs, if you are low paid worker ... that has a huge impact on people." McAnea, who was a housing officer in Glasgow before becoming a full-time union official, said Unison is already balloting local government staff in Scotland over industrial action, which could lead to schools being closed. "We don't want to inconvenience people and we know that has a huge impact on people. But there comes a point where there's no alternative," she said. "The same thing could happen in England and Wales. I'm not saying there will be strikes tomorrow, but there's a lot of anger out there, and people become more desperate." Her warning came as train strikes by member of the RMT union are expected to cause travel chaos later this month. Two other unions representing drivers and support staff, Aslef and the TSSA, are also considering industrial action later in the summer, raising the threat of a complete national shutdown.

## Bio waste management meeting held at Aalo



**Assam Rising, Aalo, June 1q:** The Bio waste management meeting was held at the conference hall of deputy Commissioner Aalo under the Chairmanship of Sri Penga Tato Deputy Commissioner Aalo cum chairman BMW. Dr. Dubom Bagra DMO Aalo highlighted the Bio medical waste management.. Segregation of waste materials could not be done properly. According to the urban department, the dumping zone is yet to be located. Dr. Jombom kato medical Superintendent urges the urban department to provide vehicles for lifting of the medical waste. The bio medical waste will be picked up by urban vehicles in alternate days for the Veterinary and Medical department. Deputy commissioner directs the private laboratories to properly manage their medical waste. He also declared that Aalo town ship is declared as a plastic free zone. So to start plastic free zone DC office Aalo is declared as plastic free zone. No plastic will be used in the Deputy Commissioners office Aalo.

## LGBIA embarks business excellence journey

**Assam Risingk, Palasbari, June 11:** The new operator of LGBI Airport, GIAL has initiated today a series of quality initiatives aiming at Adani Business Excellence certification. On the occasion, senior VP Pankaj Singh from Ahmedabad has visited Guwahati and addressed the key personnel at the airport on Friday. Quality initiatives like 5S, Kaizen, ISO, Six-sigma certifications are also included in the journey. Besides quality initiatives, Singh appealed to the airport staff to take up initiatives and prompt actions in respect of environmental, social and governance concerns. Replacement of fuel operated vehicles by electric vehicles, substantial generation of clean energy are also to be taken up actively at airports. Speaking on the occasion, Upal Baruah, Chief Airport Officer has expressed his happiness for taking up such timely initiatives that will contribute towards environment protection and productivity of the airport immensely. It is worth mentioning that, recently more than 10000 flower pots and plants are being placed at the airport premises.

## Botched Nagaland Ambush: 30 Soldiers Named In State Police Chargesheet

**Guwahati, June 11:** Thirty Army special forces soldiers have been named in a Nagaland Police chargesheet over a botched ambush last year that killed 14 civilians. The state police chief said their Special Investigation Team, or SIT, has given the chargesheet to court. It names one Army officer and 29 jawans. The SIT alleged the soldiers did not follow standard operation procedures, or SOPs, and rules of engagement. The SIT's investigation indicated the 21 Para Special Forces soldiers did not follow SOPs during the ambush that killed 14 civilians returning home in a pickup truck at night. A soldier died in a subsequent attack by villagers, who surrounded the jawans in anger, after the incident on December 4, 2021. The Nagaland government has asked the centre for permission to act against the soldiers named in the chargesheet. The state police have also sent a letter to the Defence Ministry, asking for sanction to take action. A large part of Nagaland is under the Armed Forces (Special) Powers Act, or AFSPA, which protects security forces from legal action without the centre's sanction. A separate army team, which is part of the army's court of inquiry, is also investigating the incident. The court of inquiry team headed by a Major General had already visited Oting village and inspected the site to understand the circumstances in which the incident happened. The counter-insurgency ambush that went horribly wrong had started after a unit of the 21 Para Special Forces thought they saw a hunting rifle in a truck that was coming along the Tiru-Oting road of Nagaland's Mon district on December 4. The forces, which laid an ambush for insurgents, immediately opened fire, killing six of the coal miners who were in the truck. Two others, who were injured, were taken to the hospital by the army. The matter went out of hand as villagers arrived and attacked the troops with machetes and killed one of them on the spot, slashing his throat. A renewed call for withdrawing AFSPA had started in Nagaland, with protesters taking out marches.

## Presidential election 2022: Mamata Banerjee calls meeting of Opposition leaders

**New Delhi, June 11:** Ahead of the upcoming Presidential election 2022, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday (June 11) reached out to the Opposition leaders urging them to attend a meeting on June 15 in New Delhi to chalk out a joint strategy for the polls. In a letter to 22 Opposition leaders, Banerjee asked them to participate in a huddle at Constitution Club in Delhi. "Our hon'ble chairperson @MamataOfficial calls upon all progressive opposition forces to meet and deliberate on the future course of action keeping the Presidential elections in sight, at the Constitution Club, New Delhi on June 15 2022 at 3 PM," TMC said. The West Bengal CM has written the letter to her Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal, Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan, Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik, Telangana counterpart K Chandrashekar Rao, Tamil Nadu's MK Stalin, Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray, Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann and Congress chief Sonia Gandhi among others. The development comes after senior Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge held consultations with TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee as well as leaders of the DMK, CPI, CPI-M and the AAP to declare a joint opposition candidate. As per PTI sources, Kharge dialled Banerjee who told him the opposition should put up a consensus candidate for the top job. Earlier, Sonia Gandhi had talked to the West Bengal CM, MK Stalin, Uddhav Thackeray, NCP supremo Sharad Pawar and CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury, requesting them to call a common meeting to discuss the joint presidential candidate, the sources said. The Election Commission announced on Thursday that polling for the next President of India will be held on July 18. As many as 4,809 electors comprising MPs and MLAs will vote to elect the next President. Incumbent President Ram Nath Kovind's term ends on July 24. The BJP's candidate is expected to secure a comfortable win considering the saffron party's strength in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, as well as in several state assemblies.



# Ben Stokes makes things happen before his well of miracles runs dry



**London, June 11** : In Gedling, an unnamed resident was awarded £100 in compensation by the council over missed garden waste collections. There was dismay in Bulwell at the announcement that the local branch of Boots would be closing in August. Meanwhile, a furious mother from Huthwaite accused Thorpe Park of "ruining" a family holiday by banning her from its Stealth ride on account of the fact that she only has one arm. "Having to get off the ride was very degrading," said Lisa Johnstone, "and made my son nervous."Clearly, a busy news day in Nottingham. Perhaps it was hardly surprising, given everything else going on in the city, that Friday's edition of the Nottingham Post could scarcely find room to mention the international sporting event happening in its midst. So it was that the second Test between England and New Zealand

was demoted to a pitiful blob on an inside sports page.If ever you wanted an idea of cricket's place in the culture, then here it was. Trent Bridge was full on a glorious June day, but once you stepped beyond the ground perimeter you would scarcely have had a clue anything was happening at all. Most of the time, this is how Test cricket happens: hiding in plain sight, walled off in all directions, a secret party nobody knows about.And so, half an hour before lunch, with New Zealand 64 without loss, Ben Stokes decides to give himself a bowl. Stokes, we are frequently told, is one of those players with the happy knack of making things happen. The ball seems to find him. You can't keep him out of the action. These are some of the oldest and most mocked cliches in the book, tired aphorisms with no basis in measurable reality, beloved by bad commentators and abhorred by serious, proper

cricket people. They are, in short, nonsense. And yet somehow, they are also true.The pitch is flat. Not just flat, but slow. There is a translucent greenish tinge to the surface, the sort you find on ham that has been left in the fridge for a month. Perhaps this is what tempted Stokes to put New Zealand into bat when winning the toss. Perhaps it was one of those calls made on pure vibes and two breakfast cans of Red Bull. Either way, any suggestion of lavish lateral movement is quickly exposed as a chimera. There is precious little off the seam. Apart from a little spell in the afternoon - a spell abruptly ended when Daryl Mitchell hits a six into a spectator's pint, there is precious little swing either.

# Curry pours in 43 as Warriors edge Celtics to level NBA finals at two-all

**London, June 11** : Stephen Curry scored 43 points to lead the Golden State Warriors to a 107-97 victory over the Boston Celtics in Game 4 of the NBA finals on Friday night, sending the series back to San Francisco knotted at two games apiece.Two nights after shaking off a foot injury in a Game 3 loss, Curry stomped and shot his way to the third-best playoff performance of his career,adding 10 rebounds and making a pair of baskets during a 10-0 fourth-quarter run that turned a four-point Boston edge into a 100-94 Golden State lead."The heart on that man is incredible," Warriors guard Klay Thompson said. "The things he does, we kind of take for granted at times, to go out there and put us

on his back. We've got to help him out on Monday."Andrew Wiggins had 17 points and 16 boards for the Warriors, who have won at least one road game for 27 consecutive playoff series. They will host Game 5 on Monday night, with Game 6 in Boston on Thursday; Golden State would hold the home-court advantage in a seventh game, if necessary."We had to do it the difficult way," said Celtics coach Ime Udoka, whose team split the first four games in each of its previous two series. "We have to do it again. It could have been an easier road, obviously, if you get the win tonight. But we're 2-2 now. We know we can do it. We've done it before."Jayson Tatum had 23 points and 11 rebounds for Boston, but he managed



just one basket while playing the entire fourth quarter. Jaylen Brown scored 21 points and Robert Williams III had 12 rebounds.Marcus Smart, who scored 18 points, hit a three-pointer to give the Celtics a 94-90 lead with just over five minutes remaining. But they missed six straight shots and did not score again until the 1:18 mark, after Curry made a floater

and a three-pointer to give the Warriors a 100-94 lead."He wasn't letting us lose. That's all it boils down to," Warriors big man Draymond Green said. "I could tell in his demeanor, last couple of days, even after Game 3 that he was going to come out with that kind of fire."Golden State outscored Boston 17-3 to close the game.Fans arriving at the TD Garden for what could have been the final time this season found a T-shirt draped over their seats with the 17 NBA championship banners lined up on the front. There was a blank rectangle where the 18th would go.Now the Celtics would need to win at least one

more time in San Francisco to fill in the blank.The amped-up crowd spent much of the game booing Green, chanting an obscenity at him that is usually reserved for Bucky Dent, and jeering his many misses. The four-time All-Star shot 1 of 7 but finished with nine rebounds and eight assists to go with two points.He also had an offensive rebound and a dish to Curry after returning to the game in the final minute to eliminate any chance of a Boston comeback."He's the ultimate competitor. ... Made huge plays down the stretch," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "This is a tough series for him to score because of Boston's size and athleticism, but he's still impacting the game at a huge level."Curry's ankle was an issue coming into the night after Boston's Al Horford landed on it late in Game 3. But didn't seem to bother him on Friday night: He played 41 minutes - only Wiggins spent more time on the court for the Warriors - and made 14 of 26 shots, including 7 of 14 from three-point range.

# Report highlights 'multiple failures' in handling of Champions League final



**Paris, June 11** : A French government report into the problems at the Champions League final has highlighted "multiple failures" in the management of the crowd in Paris.The 30-page report, handed to the prime minister's office on Friday, focused on systemic failures and "the presence of malevolent individuals" in the vicinity of the stadium. Large numbers of Liverpool fans have reported being attacked and having possessions stolen outside the Stade de France. Theodore Theodoridis and

Giorgio Marchetti in the dignitaries' seats at Nottingham Forest celebrate winning the playoff final.The report read: "The dysfunction was the result of, despite careful preparation, multiple failures in the guiding and the management of the crowd, in the insufficient communications between the RATP [transport operator] and the PC [public order body], in the lack of suitable routes to the ground, in the lack of coordination and failed

dialogue between all parties when it came to recognising the warning signs in terms of the presence of malevolent individuals who assembled in large numbers near the stadium to commit delinquent acts."The report set out five recommended steps to avoid similar incidents. Paris is due to host the Rugby World Cup final next year and the Olympics in 2024.The recommendations include: setting up a dedicated government body to oversee major sporting

events, a flexible system of crowd control and optimising the management of routes to major events, a more secure ticket system and a modernised traffic system around the Stade de France.Kick-off for the Champions League final was twice pushed back because of problems getting fans into the stadium. The report reveals that 2,700 Liverpool fans with valid tickets did not make it into the stadium. They will have the cost of their tickets reimbursed.The Paris police chief, Didier Lallement, who has blamed ticketless Liverpool fans for chaotic and worrying scenes that saw supporters corralled and teargassed outside the stadium, conceded on Thursday that his operation had been a failure.

# Gareth Southgate vows to not 'outstay welcome' and defends England style

**Southgate, June 11** : Gareth Southgate says he will "not outstay my welcome" as England manager, and has suggested he would leave if he felt the players were not responding to his methods.There have been calls for Southgate to adopt a more attacking approach, with clamour growing for Jack Grealish's inclusion as a starter after his influential substitute performance in the draw with Germany. Trent Alexander-Arnold's status has also come under scrutiny, with Gary Lineker among those to criticise the fact he was not used in Munich. Southgate batted away accusations that he is too conservative but accepts his role has a shelf life."I've got to find a balance because I don't want to sit and be defensive, but some people have managed teams and others haven't," he said. "Until you've managed teams, you have a different view of the game. What's needed to win football matches are the sorts of things [Mason] Mount did on [Joshua] Kimmich that allows other things to happen. For the man that comes and stands on the terrace and pays his money, I totally understand he wants to see a Grealish with a Sterling with a Saka. But you've got to have a balance of the team, this is top-level football."I've got to manage in the way I see fit. I won't outstay my welcome but I think I can do a good job for the team, and I think we've done a good job for the team. I think we'll continue to improve the team, which we have done over a consistent period of time, and we're also developing young players that will leave England in a good place for a long period to come."Southgate made a similar statement in the wake of last summer's Euro 2020 final defeat by Italy, who England face in the Nations League at Molineux on Saturday, but signed a new contract in November that runs until December 2024. He was not questioned about his future this time but appeared to dangle the issue when asked about his approach."That's how I've always felt about it," he said. "The major part of that is how the players are. Do I still feel the players give everything and respond to what we do? Yes, I do."It was put to Southgate that he is regarded in some quarters, fairly or not, as overly pragmatic. "I understand, I hear about conservatism, but we were the highest scorers in Europe last year," he said, referring to a 39-goal haul in the World Cup qualifiers that came with the caveat of San Marino's presence in Group I. "So I don't quite know what more you can do. I'm not saying I don't buy into it because I understand, in this role, everybody's going to have a view.



# Huddersfield sink Leeds with first-half blitz to tighten grip on playoff spot

**London, June 11** : We are past the point in the Super League season where Huddersfield Giants' position in the table can be considered a fluke. This squad, filled with exciting, young British talent and led by an exciting British head coach are seemingly not content with falling agonisingly short in the Challenge Cup final three weeks ago, underlined by their fifth straight league win here.That narrow defeat to Wigan in the cup final could have derailed Huddersfield's season. But it is now back-to-back wins since Tottenham and the Giants are now third after a convincing victory against a Leeds side who look anything but title contenders as things stand. "What I love about this group is how quickly they've bounced back from the final," their assistant coach, Luke Robinson, said."We spoke of using the cup as a catalyst to bigger and better things. They say you've got to lose one to win one and hopefully that's the

case." Huddersfield led 22-0 after half an hour here and despite Leeds briefly threatening a fightback either side of half-time, there were only a couple of nervous moments for Ian Watson, who watched from an empty stand here after feeling unwell and opting to minimise the risk of spread among his squad. Robinson declined to say whether or not Watson had tested positive for Covid-19.Will Pryce - one of 12 English players in their 17 here - kicked them ahead with a penalty before the outstanding Ricky Leutele scored their first try. Jermaine McGillvary was next to cross as the first half threatened to become somewhat of a procession before Leutele turned provider for Jake Wardle. Chris McQueen then added their fourth try with a fantastic interception and even so early in proceedings, it was hard to see a way back for Leeds."We needed to build some pressure in the first half

and we didn't do that," Leeds coach, Rohan Smith, said. "It was a few moments that let us down more than the whole thing." Smith is only a month into the job at Headingley but aspects of this display will remind him he has a real task on hauling Leeds back to the upper echelons of Super League. They remain well adrift of the playoffs as the final third of the season comes into view.

**London, June 11** : Andy Murray has claimed one of his biggest wins since undergoing hip surgery in 2019 by beating Stefanos Tsitsipas to reach the Boss Open semi-finals.Murray, currently the world No 68, defeated the Greek top seed 7-6 (4) 6-3 in one hour and 40 minutes and will play Nick Kyrgios in the last four in Stuttgart.It is the first time Murray has beaten a player ranked in the world's top five since 2016. The 35-year-old Scot saved a set point at 6-6 in the opener before sealing it in a tie-break and broke Tsitsipas to move 4-2 up in the second on his way to clinching an impressive win on his third match point. Tsitsipas, the world No 5, saved a break point in the seventh game as the opening set went with serve and failed to convert one of his own at 6-6 as Murray forced a tie-break. The Scot, who defeated



seventh seed Alexander Bublik to reach the last eight of his first ATP Tour event of the season on grass, then clinched a mini-break to move 5-3 up and served out to seal it 7-4 in just under an hour. Tsitsipas saved two match points on his serve at 5-2 down in the second set, but Murray then served out for the match. Murray's only previous meeting with Tsitsipas was in the first round of the US Open last year, when he led by two sets to one only to lose in

five.Murray said in his on-court interview: "It was an amazing atmosphere. Almost full crowd. Beautiful weather today, really nice conditions to play tennis. I thought I did well. He served unbelievably in the first set."I felt like I had very few chances, but when he was creating chances on my serve, I stayed strong. I played a really solid tie-break and in the second set, once I was in the rallies, I felt like I was dictating a lot of the points. It was a good performance."

# Lewis Hamilton continues to set pace off F1 track in tackling big issues

**London, June 11** : Lewis Hamilton won his first grand prix 15 years ago this weekend in Canada. He has been centre stage ever since. He still is, just not perhaps in quite the way he would prefer.After seven years of unprecedented Mercedes domination helped him to 103 GP wins, Hamilton's 2022 car is not at the level of Red Bull or Ferrari. Once again, it looks like a supporting role for the seven-time world champion on the track in Baku this weekend. Off it, he is still



making headlines, from doubling down on his commitment to inclusion and diversity, to film-making and becoming a citizen of Brazil.The FIA president, Mohammed ben

Sulayem, caused controversy this week when he was quoted pointing out that in the days of Niki Lauda and Alain Prost they just got on and drove, whereas modern drivers use F1 as a platform, referencing the likes of Hamilton, four-time world champion Sebastian Vettel and Britain's Lando Norris speaking out about human rights, LGBTQ+ support and mental

health.In Azerbaijan on Friday, Hamilton underlined he had no intention of stepping back and urged more drivers to become involved. "Formula 1 continues to be an important platform to use our voices," he said."For every single one of us here to do more, to speak out more, to spark more conversations. Creating a more inclusive environment is so important, and focusing on creating better diversity within your organisation and within the sport.



## India versus South Africa

# Rassie Van der Dussen's unassuming yet effective batting has taken him a long way

**New Delhi, June 11** : The 33-year-old had crawled to just 29 off 30 balls on Thursday, before plundering 45 off the next 15 to hand South Africa a famous win. At one juncture of South Africa's chase, Rishabh Pant was heard yelling playfully at Avesh Khan: "Isko strike par rakh, Miller ko mat dena (keep him on strike, not Miller)." The Indian 'keeper-captain was referring to Rassie van der Dussen, who at that precise moment was in the middle of an ordeal, frozen like a man who had stepped onto Alaska in beachwear. His timing was awry, the placement off-kilter, and as the required run rate got steeper, Pant's playful instruction to Khan rang true. At the other end, though, there was Miller, in crushing touch. Van der Dussen had just crawled to 29 off 30; a rate that even in the 50-over game is considered unsatisfactory. But Pant's quip/banter/genuine tactic didn't age well; in the next 15 balls, he plundered 45 runs. As if, in the twitch of a second, he transformed from an Everyman to a Superman, though sweating incessantly in the Kotla heat,



each stroke leaving its strain on his face and limbs. No stroke of his stood out, no frame of his celebration would endure, and as the memory of the game wears on, he would be relegated into the role of an accomplice of Miller on a scorching Delhi summer night. But that perception of anonymity sums up van der Dussen's career. He's the fastest to 1,000 runs in ODIs, boasts an average of 71 in the 50-overs version, has rattled out his 1,008 T20I runs at an average of 42 and a strike rate of 132. By proceeding, you are agreeing to our Terms and Conditions. To find out what personal data we col-

lect and how we use it, please visit our Privacy Policy. Yet, the name van der Dussen strikes no fear in the mind of bowlers or captains, or awe in the eyes of spectators or commentators. To the extent that when he often introduces himself back home, he's promptly asked if he indeed was the former Springbok rugby coach and player Rassie Erasmus. But he relishes the absence of fanfare. In his teenage years, he was supposed to be the least talented of the four brothers of the Dussen household in Pretoria. His brother Adrian was the boy with the blue chip but

ended up as a journalist before switching to digital marketing. The two other brothers could not progress beyond club level. "I wasn't one of the players that were earmarked to necessarily go on and play high-level cricket," van der Dussen once told The Cricketer. "But through a little bit of perseverance and a bit of hard work, I eventually got some opportunities." But in backyard games, he was the most obdurate of all four to dislodge. The deal among the brothers was that those who got out early were assigned household chores. "I don't think Rassie once made coffee for us because he would just bat forever," brother Nico told The Stumped. Their usual ground was the grassy strip of a dysfunctional tennis court. The vacations were spent on farms,

where they played cricket all day with bamboo sticks. Only van der Dussen was serious about professional cricket. So after matriculation, which he finished a year earlier, he told his father that he wanted to do a post-matriculation, so that he could get some proper cricket coaching. He joined Affies, the alma mater of Faf du Plessis and AB de Villiers, among others, even though he had to take classes. There, Affies coach Deon Cotes told him that his game was not polished enough to play at a professional level. "But he took the advice in the right direction and worked really hard to reach a higher level," the coach had once told this paper. Then on, he began to train like a maniac. "I tried to live my life in a way that I thought could improve me in terms of my training, in terms of my diet, and all the aspects that went into it. I started reading up on previous players and how they dealt with being professional sportspeople and tried to learn lessons that way. I sort of tried to work it out for myself as I went on," he told The Stumped in an interview. To improve his concentration, he strung an obstacle path around his house and tried to trace that path balancing three balls, looking not to drop the ball as long as he could.



## Great Britain to play in Billie Jean King Cup finals after Glasgow named as host

**London, June 11** : Great Britain has been named as host of the Billie Jean King Cup finals this year, allowing the British women's team to compete in the final stages of the competition, formerly known as the Fed Cup, for the first time since 1993. The event will take place on indoor courts at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow between 8 and 13 November. In April, Great Britain were narrowly defeated by the Czech Republic in Prague but as the event's hosts they are entitled to a wildcard, joining Australia, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Italy, Kazakhstan, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland and the US. The format for the 12-nation competition will be four round-robin groups of

three, with the winner of each group advancing to the semi-finals. The defending champions, Russia, have been removed from the competition in light of the invasion of Ukraine. The traditional home and away format of the competition ended after 2019. The revamped BJK Cup finals were initially supposed to be held for three years in Budapest from 2020, but the first year was cancelled due to Covid, then Hungary dropped out as hosts last year. The removal of Hungary has meant that for the past two years the hosts have been chosen at late notice. According to the Lawn Tennis Association's major events director, Chris Pollard, the LTA is hoping to host the event for three years, with the intention of staging it in different cities.

While prize money in the competition has been significantly reduced since Budapest claimed to boast a total purse of \$18m in 2020, it is a multimillion-dollar commitment for the LTA. "We have said that we were ambitious to bring more major events to Great Britain and raise the profile of tennis across the whole year, and I'm delighted that Glasgow will be hosting the Billie Jean King Cup finals as well as the Davis Cup finals group stage this year," said Scott Lloyd, chief executive of the LTA. Glasgow will also host group stages of the Davis Cup in September, shortly after the US Open, and the Laver Cup will be held at the O2 Arena in London one week later.

## Mitchell hits six straight into fan's beer glass, Murray stuns Tsitsipas, Swiatek to miss Berlin Open



**Paris, June 11** : New Zealand batsman Daryl Mitchell struck a big six off the bowling of Jack Leach on the opening day of the second Test against England at Trent Bridge and the ball went straight into a fan's pint of beer. Earlier, England put down three catches, while Daryl Mitchell (82 not out) and Tom Blundell (67 not out) shared an unbroken 149-run stand to see New Zealand on top at 318-4 after day one of the second Test. Zak Crawley dropped Henry Nicholls

on 17 and the former sipper Joe Root put down two, Mitchell on 17 and Blundell on 47. Andy Murray has secured his first victory over a top-five opponent in six years with a 7-6(4) 6-3 win over Stefanos Tsitsipas to reach the semi-finals of the Stuttgart Open on Friday. It was the first time Murray has beaten a player ranked in the world's top five since 2016. The two-times Wimbledon champion stepped up his preparation for the grasscourt major starting from June 27. Murray will play Nick Kyrgios in the last

four. "It was an amazing atmosphere. Almost full crowd. Beautiful weather today, really nice conditions to play tennis. I thought I did well. He served unbelievably in the first set," Murray said in his on-court interview. "I felt like I had very few chances, but when he was creating chances on my serve, I stayed strong. I played a really solid tie-break and in the second set, once I was in the rallies, I felt like I was dictating a lot of the points. It was a good performance," he added.

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was quoted pointing out that in the days of Niki Lauda and Alain Prost they just got on and drove, whereas modern drivers use F1 as a platform, referencing the likes of Hamilton, four-time world champion Sebastian Vettel and Britain's Lando Norris

speaking out about human rights, LGBTQ+ support and mental health. In Azerbaijan on Friday, Hamilton underlined he had no intention of stepping back and urged more drivers to become involved. "Formula 1 continues to be an important plat-

form to use our voices," he said. "For every single one of us here to do more, to speak out more, to spark more conversations. Creating a more inclusive environment is so important, and focusing on creating better diversity within your organisation and within the sport. But it's moving at a slow pace. I encourage all drivers to be more outspoken and speak about what they care about." Vettel, who recently aired his views on the environment and more on BBC's Question Time, added: "The topics Lewis is continuing to raise, the issues Lando has been talking about, and the stuff I've been mentioning, are topics that are very important. They are bigger than us, bigger than a sport can ever

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