



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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Hologram Zelenskiy promises Ukraine will ...

02

Eoin Morgan insists England coach will challenge players...

07



NEWS IN BRIEF

Special flight service

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 17:

The Assam government has organized special flight service between Guwahati and Silchar as the flood and landslide due to continuous rainfall in Assam has disrupted the road connectivity between Barak and Brahmaputra valley. The flight service has been arranged by Assam Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC) and the special flight will operate by FlyBig Airlines from Saturday (June 18). According to a notification issued by ATDC, the flight from Guwahati to Silchar will depart at 6pm and from Silchar to Guwahati at 7.10 pm on June 18 and 19. On June 20 onwards, the flight will depart from Guwahati at 7.45 AM and from Silchar at 8.55 AM.

Elephant dead

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 17:

A pregnant elephant was found dead in Assam's Hojai district. The carcass was recovered near Daria Basti village at Salbagan area under Nandapur forest reserve. According to sources, the lifeless body of the elephant was first spotted by locals, after which, they informed forest officials. The cause of its death is yet to be ascertained, sources added. Meanwhile, forest officials suspect that the elephant died due to pregnancy-related issues. Recently, a carcass of an elephant calf was recovered in Assam's Nagaon district. The calf was found on a swamp at Salbari area along the Nagaon-Karbi Anglong border.

Section 144

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 17:

The Sonitpur district administration has imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC in the entire district to prevent any untoward incident amid violent protests over controversial comments on Prophet Muhammad. This is the fifth district of the state where the orders were clamped after Cachar, Karimganj, Hailakandi and Kamrup. Sonitpur District Magistrate Deba Kumar Mishra has promulgated the prohibitory orders with immediate effect.



Dhakuakhana- Some Horse search food at Brahmaputra Chapari

'Agnipath' Protests

Assam bound Lohit Express Torched , 1 killed in Secunderabad

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 17:

One person was killed, while eight others were critically injured after the police opened fire to control an angry mob that went berserk at the Secunderabad railway station on Friday in protest against the Union defence ministry's new 'Agnipath' scheme. The injured were shifted to Gandhi Hospital in Secunderabad. Hundreds of candidates aspiring for army recruitment tests vandalised the main railway station in the Telangana city. "The general railway police (GRP) forces were forced to open fire at the angry mob after lathi-charge and tear gas shells failed to bring the protests under control," a



senior police official said. GRP forces allegedly opened around 15 rounds of fire to control the mob. Two police constables too were injured in the stone pelting.

Railways DG Sandeep Shandilya and other senior officials reached the spot and are monitoring the situation. The protesters also indulged in stone pelting and set afire a couple of bogies of a train, besides damaging other properties of the railways. The mob even vandalised state road transport corporation buses out-

side the railway station, forcing south-central railway authorities to immediately stop all trains entering the station. According to the police, hundreds of agitators stormed the railway station and damaged stalls and offices with sticks and stones on platform numbers 1 and 2. They pelted stones at stationed trains, forcing passengers to run for safety. Some passengers were also injured in the incident. Later, the protesters set fire to a couple of bogies of the Kolkata-bound East Coast Express that was leaving the station. They also partially set fire to some bogies of the Ajanta Express and the multi-modal transport system (MMTS) trains. The agitators even dumped railway cargo on the tracks and set them afire. The tracks were completely damaged in the process. Five fire tenders took more than two hours to douse the fire at the station

"Condemn Offensive Comments Made By 2 BJP Officials": US On Prophet Row



Washington, June 17:

The US on Thursday condemned remarks by India's ruling party officials about the Prophet Mohammed that have sparked an uproar in Muslim countries. "We condemn the offensive comments

made by two BJP officials and we were glad to see that the party publicly condemns those comments," State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters. "We regularly engage with the Indian government at senior levels on human rights concerns in-

cluding freedom of religion or belief and we encourage India to promote respect for human rights," he said. Nupur Sharma, a spokeswoman for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's BJP, on May 26 made televised remarks about Prophet Muhammad that have triggered demonstrations across the Islamic world. The remarks set off diplomatic protests in wealthy Arab states that usually enjoy close relations with India. In Bangladesh, protesters have demanded a formal condemnation from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, a close ally of India. In damage-control mode, the BJP suspended Ms Sharma as well as Naveen Kumar Jindal, another figure in the party who was accused of

inflammatory tweets about the Prophet Mohammed. The US since the late 1990s has sought to deepen ties with India, believing the world's two largest democracies have common interests especially in the face of a rising

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16 Dead In Assam, Meghalaya Floods, 1,700 Villages Under Water



Guwahati- Increase water level of Lachit statue

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 17:

The flood situation in Assam and Meghalaya has deteriorated with rising water levels in major rivers and 16 people losing their lives, amid incessant rain triggering landslides in many places across the two states. At least 11 lakh people in 25 districts have been affected by the floods with the newly formed Bajali district being the

worst hit. The water levels in the Brahmaputra and Gauranga rivers were flowing above the danger level in many areas, officials said. The flood waters have submerged 19782.80 hectares of cropland in the flood-hit districts. According to state government data, 1,510 villages under 72 revenue circles are currently underwater. The administrations of flood-affected districts have issued alerts, urging people not to go out

of their homes unless it is urgent or there is a medical emergency. Most parts of capital Guwahati has come to a standstill due to waterlogging for the third consecutive day. Several landslides have also been reported in Guwahati city with three persons getting injured in Ajantanager in the Noonmati area. In Baksa district, a portion of a bridge collapsed in Subankhata area on Wednesday due to incessant rainfall and rise in water level of Dihing river. At least six trains have been cancelled, and four partially cancelled following waterlogging on the tracks between Nalbari and Ghograpar of the Rangiya division in Lower Assam, according to an official. Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor and director Rohit Shetty have contributed ? 5 lakhs to the CM Relief Fund for the flood-affected people in the state, Chief

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Floods: NFR Cancels, Diverts Several Trains

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 17:

The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has cancelled several trains due to the flood situation in Assam. Five trains have been cancelled while four trains have been partially cancelled and routes have been changed for seven trains. Partially Cancellation of trains- Train No. 15753 Alipurduar - Guwahati Sifhung Express

of 16th June, 2022 has been short terminated at Nalbari and will remain partially cancelled in between Nalbari and Guwahati. Train No. 15754 Guwahati - Alipurduar Sifhung Express of 16th June, 2022 has been short originated at Nalbari and will remain partially cancelled in between Guwahati and Nalbari. Train No. 15770 Lumding - Alipurduar Intercity Express commencing journey on 16th June, 2022 will be short terminated at

Guwahati and will remain partially cancelled in between Guwahati and Alipurduar. Train No. 15769 Alipurduar - Lumding - Intercity Express commencing journey on 17th June, 2022 will be short originated at Guwahati and will remain partially cancelled in be-

tween Alipurduar and Guwahati. Cancellation of trains: Train No. 05809 New Bongaigaon - Guwahati passenger train, of 16th June, 2022 will be cancelled between New Bongaigaon and Guwahati. Train No. 05810

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Indians' funds in Swiss banks jump 50% to over Rs 30,500 crore

New Delhi/Zurich, June 17:

Funds parked by Indian individuals and firms in Swiss banks, including through India-based branches and other financial institutions, jumped to a 14-year-high of 3.83 billion Swiss francs (over Rs 30,500 crore) in 2021 on a sharp surge in holdings via securities and similar instruments while customer deposits rose as

well, annual data from Switzerland's central bank showed on Thursday. The rise in aggregate funds of Indian clients with Swiss banks, from 2.55 billion Swiss francs (Rs 20,700 crore) at the end of 2020, marks the second consecutive year of increase. Besides, the money held in Indian customers' savings or deposit accounts rose to a seven-year high of about Rs 4,800 crore, reversing a two-year declining

trend. The total amount of CHF 3,831.91 million, described by the SNB as 'total liabilities' of Swiss banks or 'amounts due to' their Indian clients at the end of 2021, included CHF 602.03 million in customer deposits (up from CHF 504 million at 2020-end), CHF 1,225 million held via other banks (up from CHF 383 million), and CHF 3 million

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Guizhou snub-nosed monkeys are seen with a cub in a wildlife rescue center of Fanjingshan National Nature Reserve in southwest China's Guizhou Province

NIT NO. JC (I)/Tech/E-Tender/2021-22/

SHORT NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Superintending Engineer, Jorhat Circle (Irrigation), Jorhat, Assam on behalf of Governor of Assam invites online bids for 2 (Two) Nos of package for the works of **'Solar powered MDTW scheme at Jorhat LAC (3 points at Duboranipathar, Lakhimikhat, Sonarigaon pathar) under RIDF-XXVII NABARD for the year 2021-22'** amounting to **Rs. 89.11764 Lakh** (Approx) under Jorhat-Dergaon-Teok Division (Irrigation), Jorhat.

Details maybe seen at website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> from 07-06-2022 to 18-06-2022 and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours. Amendment/Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hour. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System- (ETS) of Irrigation Department Assam website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>.

Special Terms & Conditions

1. The Bid value quoted beyond 5% below the estimated rate, the bid will be rejected.
2. The undersigned or accepting authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without signing any reason thereof.
3. The undersigned or accepting authority is not bound to accept the lowest Tender rate.
4. All bidders are requested to visit the work site before participating in the tender.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
Jorhat Circle (Irrigation)
Jorhat

Janasanyog/C/4870/22

ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE FOR REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ)

No. DD/APART/72/2020-21/696(A)

1. Government of Assam (GoA), through the Government of India has received a credit from the World Bank (W.B.) towards the cost of the "Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART)" and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to eligible payments under the contract for which this request for quotation is issued.
2. The Directorate of Dairy Development, Assam invites bids for the supply of laboratory equipments, glassware, chemicals & consumables etc. for District Milk Testing Laboratory detailed in the RFQ document.
3. Bidding documents (and additional copies) may be collected from the Operational Project Implementation Unit (OPIU), APART, Dairy Development, Assam, Khanapara, Guwahati-22 from 18/06/2022 to 04/07/2022.
4. Bids must be delivered to OPIU, APART, Dairy Development Department, Assam, Khanapara, Guwahati-22 on or before 14.00 hours 05/07/2022 and will be opened on the same day at 14.30 hours, in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt of the bids as specified, the bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
5. Other details can be seen in the bidding document. The bidding document can be obtained from the APART Cell, the Directorate of Dairy Development, Assam, Khanapara, Guwahati-22.

LIST OF ITEMS

Sl. No.	Name of Items	Specifications	Delivery Period	Place of Delivery & Installation
1	Supply of Laboratory equipments, glassware, chemicals & consumables etc.	Details specification at RFQ	6 (Six) weeks from the date of receipt of supply order	District Milk Testing Laboratories at Nagaon, Bokakhat (Golaghat), Manja (Karbi Anglong) & Silchar

Director In-Charge
Dairy Development Department, Assam
Khanapara, Guwahati-22.

Janasanyog/C/4882/22

No. CE/H&UA/Tech/17/PT-II/21-22/ 63

PRESS NOTICE

The Chief Engineer, H&UA (Technical Cell), Assam on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites proposal from reputed Class-II & above Contractor/Farm registered under P.W.D, Assam and having extensive experience in the relevant field of work for the following work.

Sl No	Name of work	Approx value of work (in Lakhs)	Cost of RFP and BID Document	EMD / BID security	Last Day of Submission of Bid
1	Renovation and upgradation of Khelmati Sanskritik Bikash aru Gobeshana Kendra, Khelmati at North Lakhimpur under CIDF for the year 2021-22	₹ 98.18 Lakhs	₹ 2,000.00	Rs. 1.96 Lakhs for Unreserved Category & Rs. 0.98 Lakhs for ST/SC/ OBC/MOBC/UGE	04-07-2022

1. Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e., www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 14:00 hrs of 18-06-2022 to 04-07-2022
2. The BID validity period of the RFP shall be 180 days from the date of submission.
3. The Bidders must be registered with the E-tendering system (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam.
4. The Chief Engineer, H&UA (Technical Cell), Assam reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals without showing any reason thereof.

Chief Engineer (Technical Cell)
Department of Housing and Urban Affairs
Assam, Guwahati-03

Janasanyog/C/4945/22

Hologram Zelenskiy promises Ukraine will defeat 'the empire'

Moscow, June 17 : Volodymyr Zelenskiy referenced Star Wars and the second world war as the Ukrainian president appeared as a hologram at a conference in Paris to seek aid from big tech firms. He told a crowd of hundreds at the VivaTech trade show that he was offering technology firms a unique chance to rebuild

Ukraine as a fully digital democracy. He asked for help on the terms of lend-lease - the way in which the United States helped the Allies during the second world war, offering aid without payment but on the understanding that hardware would be returned. "It's unusual for presidents or heads of government to use a hologram to address people

but this is not the only aspect of Star Wars that we are putting into practice," he said. "We will defeat the empire too," he said, likening Russian forces to the enemy in Star Wars. He said the government would lay out the specifics of a plan that would create a digital government at a conference in Switzerland in the coming weeks. "No other country in the world will offer you such a chance to use the most advanced technologies at a state level," he said. "It's an experiment and a digital revolution, and the modernisation of the current system all at the same time." Ukraine has heavily leveraged technology during the war with Russia, utilising crypto



communities to raise funds and successfully appealing to Elon Musk to supply the infrastructure for satellite-based internet services. Russia invaded

Ukraine on 24 February and has waged war on cities across the east and the Black Sea coast, in what Ukrainians say is an attempt to destroy their country.

Shooting at an Alabama church leaves two dead and one in hospital

Birmingham, June 17 : A shooting at a church in a suburb of one of Alabama's major cities left two people dead and two others wounded on Thursday, police said, adding a suspect was quickly taken into custody. The shooting erupted inside St Stephen's Episcopal church in the Birmingham suburb of Vestavia Hills. Vestavia Hills police Capt Shane Ware said multiple law enforcement officers rushed to the site after a call reporting an active

shooter at 6.22 pm. "From what we've gathered from the circumstances of this evening, a lone suspect entered a small church group meeting and began shooting," he said at a briefing late on Thursday. "Three people were shot. Two people are deceased. One person is being treated for an unknown injury at a local hospital." He added that a suspect was in custody and that there was "no threat to the community at this time". The Rev Kelley

Hudlow, an episcopal priest in the diocese of Alabama, told broadcast outlet WBRC that the church and the community were stunned by the shooting. "It is shocking. St Stephen's is a community built on love and prayers and grace and they are going to come together," she said. "People of all faiths are coming together to pray to hope for healing." Ware declined to release the identities of the victims or the suspect and did not give further details about what happened or the extent of the injuries to the wounded.

PEC demands action against Bangladesh scribkillers

Geneva, June 17: Press Emblem Campaign (PEC), the global media safety

and rights body, expresses concern over the police inaction to nab the killers of Dhaka-based television journalist Abdul Bari, who was found dead on the bank of Hatirghheel lake in Gulshan area of the capital city on 8 June. Journalist Bari (28), who was associated with private channel DBC as a news producer, faced severe stab by miscreants on his stomach and neck. Hailing from Sirajganj Sadar, Bariearlier worked for Mohona Television. "PEC is alarmed at the sharp increase in the number of journalists affected by violence this year, where Ukraine And Mexico emerge as the most dangerous countries in the globe so far. Since the beginning of 2022, at least 65 media workers have paid with lives for doing their job, which is a worrying development," said Blaise Lempen, president of PEC



(www.presseemblem.ch), adding that Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina should direct the concerned authorities to punish the perpetrators and adequately compensate the bereaved family. Bari is the second journalist to be killed in Bangladesh this year after the murder of Mohiuddin Sarker Nayeem in Cumilla locality by suspected drug dealers, said Nava Thakuria, PEC's south Asia representative. Bangladesh's eastern neighbour Myanmar witnessed the killing of one scribe (Pu Tui Dim) and its western giant neighbor India lost four journalists (namely Rohit Kumar Biswal, Sudhir Saini, Juned Khan Pathan and Subhash Kumar Mahato) to assailants since 1 January 2022, he added.

'Bengal doesn't beg to anyone', Mamata Banerjee's message



Kolkata, June 17 : After returning to Kolkata, Mamata Banerjee attended a function at dakshineswar temple. She inaugurated the Light and Sound show there. From the event, the Chief Minister said, "A skywalk worth Rs 300 crore is being built in Kalighat like Dakshineswar. A lot of work has been done on religion across Bengal. The KMDA in Dakshineswar will give another Rs 10 crore for the completion of the work of the guest house. Bengal doesn't beg to anyone." Mamata also launched a museum and the project on Thursday after visiting the Dakshineswar temple and

offering prayers. She also published a book containing the history and pictures of Dakshineswar. On the state of unrest that had arisen across the state over the Prophet Comment Controversy, Mamata said, "Religion should not be politicised. Ordinary people don't mess with religion. Some political leaders do this type of things. Some greedy leaders spread unrest. I don't read namaz, I go to iftar. If I go to a Durga Puja, a Jain temple, no one asks questions. Rs 1 crore has been provided for the Jain temple." Dakshineswar temple situated on the banks of the Ganga built by Rani Rashmoni. Apart from Sri Ramakrishna, Maa Sarada and Swami Vivekananda, the names of many scholars are associated with the Kali temple in Dakshineswar. The exhibition of light and sound on the history of that temple is about to begin. The Chief Minister had planned a long time ago to present the history of Dakshineswar in front of the common people through light and sound

show. The light and sound was launched by the Chief Minister on Thursday at the initiative of KMDA. A museum will be inaugurated at the temple square under the initiative of KMDA. In this collection, there will be Sri Ramakrishnadev's dhoti, Bhavtarini mother's sword, Queen Rashmoni's white stone throne.

Japanese children allowed to talk again over lunch as Covid cases fall

Tokyo, June 17 : After two years of eating in near-monastic silence, children in Japan have been given permission to chat to their classmates over lunch, as Covid cases in the country continue to fall. Throughout the pandemic, primary and middle school classrooms have reverberated to the sound of cutlery meeting crockery and, in some cases, piped music, but the young diners have been silenced as part of efforts to prevent the spread of the virus. In many schools, children have been told not to eat while facing each other and to refrain from talking to their classmates. Instead, they must observe mukushoku - or silent eating. But with Covid-19 cases falling across the country, some schools have abandoned the code of silence, amid concern that it is affecting the social and educational development of children as young as six. The board of education in Fukuoka in western Japan said it was lifting the ban on lunchtime conversation at primary and middle schools - where children eat together in their classrooms - provided that pupils spoke quietly. Their desks will continue to face the front of the classroom, however, and they will have to wear a mask when they join in a communal chorus of "Itadakimasu" - a widely used expression of thanks uttered before eating. The move was welcomed by teachers in the city. "Silent eating has gone on for a long time now," Kenji Tanaka, a primary school principal, told the Mainichi Shimbun. "I hope happy school lunchtimes will return soon."



A villager harvests Sichuan pepper in Zhennan Town of Wuchuan Gelao and Miao Autonomous County



Maj Gen Vikas Saini, GOC 51 Sub addressing a Press Conference at Narangi Military Camp, Guwahati, on June 17.

Alleged Huge Corruption of Margherita FRU Hospital

Assam Rising, Margherita, June 17: On Thursday morning Margherita 124 No Constituency MLA Bhaskar Sharma delegations team led by Disen Tipomia, Margherita Municipal Board 1 No Ward Commissioner Satya Ranjan Borkakoty, Ranjit Borpujari, Jitu Das, Margherita MLA Bhaskar Sharma fan's Club President Jyotish Rai and others visits Margherita F. R. U Hospital regarding public Complaint against Dr. K. C Das Deputy Superintendent of Margherita F. R. U

Hospital. The delegation questioned Dr. K. C Das after a public complaint was filed against him by Margherita MLA, asserting that patients who come to Margherita F. R. U Hospital from far-flung areas of Margherita Sub division suffer immensely because the hospital is in a pathetic state with poor facilities such as no safe drinking water, filthy bathrooms, no bedsheets and blankets for patients, rain water falls in patients rooms due to roof leaks that have been present for many years. One patient stated that "we have to pay between Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 20,000 at the time of delivery, as well as between Rs. 400 and Rs 500 for Sonography, where no procedure is done without payment at Margherita F. R. U Hospital". A few days ago, a news was published in Assamese Vernacular Newspaper alleging that Margherita Civil Hospital Gynecolo-



gist Dr. Rajesh Gupta and women Anaesthesia Dr. Phukan charge exorbitant fees from patients, but in reality, after joining for 9 months, Dr. Rajesh Gupta has become popular among the patients who come for delivery as he has been successfully performing his duty without taking a single penny and all delivery patients are very happy with him. According to Amin Khan, Margherita F.R.U

Hospital a Lobby formed by certain doctors at Margherita F. R. U Hospital is attempting to remove Dr. Rajesh Gupta from the hospital, for which more than 5000 people showed up on Thursday to show their support. We rushed to Margherita F. R. U Hospital after receiving a public complaint as we found many irregularities and anomalies at Margherita civil Hospital, which Dr. K C Das, Deputy Superintendent of Margherita F. R. U

Hospital is fully responsible for which there are many complaints against Margherita F. R. U Hospital, according to Ranjit Borpujari. People who filed the complaint against Dr. K C Das demands MLA Bhaskar Sharma to take immediate action against him for allowing MARGHERITA F. R. U Hospital to become corrupted, and for causing famous Gynecologist Dr. Rajesh Gupta and lady Anesthesia Dr. Phukan to become mentally depressed.

Youth goes missing after falling into water in Gosaigaon

Assam Rising Gosaigaon, June-17: Sensation prevails in Phulkumari village under Tulshibil police out post in Gosaigaon following a youth who has been missing after he felt in the Tipkai river from a bridge while on their way to Bhogghora. According to the information available here, one Suniram Hasda (27) inhabitant of

Village Aksijhora of Manglajhora under Tipkai police out post accompanied by his friend was on their way to Bhogghora stopped in a dilapidated bridge to see the rising water level of the river but suddenly slipped and fell in the river. On receiving the the information about the incident a team of police personnel along with the SDRF reached the

spot and had carried out a rescue operation till midnight but failed to rescue the youth. The next day early in the morning the SDRF team again conducted rescue operation but has not found any clue of the youth. The vil-

lagers alleged that the bridge was in a state of collapse for a long time and even after complaining about the dilapidated condition of the bridge the concerned department did not paid any heed and as a consequences such incident has taken place.

Villagers demand inquiry over poor quality road work



Assam Rising, Laharighat, June 17: The newly constructed cement concrete (CC) road at Dhingarati in Laharighat block here has developed cracks, as well as collapse at different places. Alleging use of substandard material in construction, lo-

cals have demanded a probe into the poor quality work. The 3.190-KM long stretch from Laharighat to D. Bagalipara was constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) at an estimated cost of 490.93 Lakhs months back. Locals alleged that it has rained for

the first time ever since the road had been constructed, it has developed cracks as well as collapse which clearly indicates that substandard material was used. The condition of the road is deplorable. Villagers of Dhingarati alleged that

lack of supervision on the part of the Junior Engineer has led to the situation. The contractor engaged for the work has used low quality materials, despite huge flow of funds, they said and demanded a probe into the matter.

Agnipath is a game changing scheme : Maj Gen Vikas Saini

Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 17: Agnipath is a game changing scheme which will provide employment opportunities to the youth of the country, said Maj Gen Vikas Saini, GOC 51 Sub Area while addressing a Press Conference on the new defense recruitment policy today at Narangi Military Camp on June 17. Addressing the media persons he said that the scheme will give the armed forces a tech savvy and youthful profile which is the need of the hour. The Agnipath scheme aims to bring paradigm changes in the human resource management of the Indian Army and prepare the army as a future ready fighting force capable of meeting multiple challenges across the whole spectrum of conflicts. He hopes that more and more youth from North East will take advantage of the scheme and will



join armed forces. He also urged the media personnel to spread awareness about the Agnipath Scheme so that the information must reach to the grassroots level. Talking about the benefits of the scheme he said that the Agniveer will be given an attractive customized monthly package. On completion of the engagement period of four years, Agniveer will be paid one time 'Seva Nidhi' package of approximately Rs 11.71 lakhs which shall comprise their contribution including accrued interest thereon and matching contribution from the Government equal to the accumulated amount of their contribution including interest and the 'Seva Nidhi' will be exempt from Income Tax. Under the AGNIPATH scheme, the Engineers will be enrolled in the Forces under respective Service Acts for a period of four years. Upon the completion of four years of service, based on organizational requirement and policies promulgated by the Armed Forces from time-to-time, Engineers will be offered an opportunity to apply for permanent enrolment in the Armed Forces. These applications will be considered in a centralized manner based on objective criteria including performance during their four-year engagement period and up to 25% of each specific batch of Agniveers will be enrolled in regular cadres of the Armed Forces

Wild elephant attack in Pengeri Khatangani

Assam Rising, Margherita, June 17: Elephant human conflict continues in different parts of the state. Elephant human conflict has increased day by day due to the destruction of elephant habitat forests. The forest cover is shrinking as some smuggled wood mafia has been cutting down forest trees from one side. As a result, wild elephant herds have been forced out of the forest to the public in search of food. A wild elephant out of the forest in search of food from Digboi forest at around 2pm tonight caused nuisance in Inthem khatangani. Wild elephants attacked three poor families namely Pawan Tasa, Bipan Tasa and Soneshwari Mech and caused extensive damage. Wild elephants demolish the dream house and demolish utensils including food items stored in the house. Local villagers alleged that wild elephants coming out of the forest every year in search of food have been causing nuisance in the area but the forest department does not care. The local people as well as the local organization have demanded the forest department to compensate the affected families at the earliest.



Flood: 14 families stranded in Bornodi river

Assam Rising Tamulpur, June 17: Fourteen families of No 2 Dongargaon village are stranded in the chest of the river Bornodi along Indo-Bhutan border near Nagrijuli in Tamulpur district since last night. Almost 70 individuals, including children from 14 households, have been stuck in the chest of the river. Due



to continuous rainfall the rising water washed away a part of a dam and the houses were flooded due to

the collapse of the dam. And as a result fourteen families are stranded. Receiving the information Tamulpur MLA Jolen Daimary along with BTC Executive Member Dr. Dharmanarayan Das rushed to the spot and took stock of the situation. Officials from Tamulpur district administration also rushed to the spot. This evening SDRF and NDRF troops arrived at No 2 Dongargaon and conducted a rescue operation. But till filing this report no one is rescued by the SDRF and NDRF troops. The cause of the dam collapse, according to BTC executive member Dharmanarayan Das, is illegal mining of rock sand on the river.

Newsletter of Economics department released at Biswanath College

Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, 17 June: The economics department of Biswanath College organised a farewell meet to bid adieu to sixth semester students. A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Dr Karabi Gogoi, Head of the department where the second issue of *ECONOMIA*, the annual newsletter was unveiled by Dr Chinta Mani Sharma, Principal of the college. Releasing the newsletter, Dr Sharma lauded the positive initiative of the department with an inspiring and motivating speech. Faculty members Mr Asomi Kalita, Mr Chandramoni Sharma and Ms Pragati Kanu also encouraged the students by their encouraging speeches. The department has been motivating students through various activities like skill development programme, field visits, interaction with prominent alumni settled in various sector.



Rescue operation of NDRF at Niz Barala under Sarthebari Rev. Circle on June 17.

Guest House
A/C Non A/C Rooms
with Car Parking At POGI
Brahmaputra, Chandmari,
Guwahati-21 Ph. WA :
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THE ASSAM RISING

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Air pollution can shorten lives

Air pollution can shorten lives by almost 10 years in the Indian capital, Delhi, the world's most polluted city, says a report by a US research group. The study adds that the average Indian life expectancy is shortened by five years at current air quality levels. India's 1.3 billion people live in areas where the "annual average particulate pollution level" exceeds the WHO safe limit of $5\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, it says. Bad air kills millions in India every year. The smog-filled air, which usually covers Indian cities during the winter months, contains dangerously high levels of fine particulate matter called PM2.5 - tiny particles that can clog lungs and cause a host of diseases. The Air Quality Life Index by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC) notes that some 510 million people who live in northern India - nearly 40% of India's population - are "on track" to lose 7.6 years of their lives on average, given the current pollution levels. Air pollution is responsible for many health problems in the urban areas. Of late, the air pollution status in Delhi has undergone many changes in terms of the levels of pollutants and the control measures taken to reduce them. This paper provides an evidence-based insight into the status of air pollution in Delhi and its effects on health and control measures instituted. The urban air database released by the World Health Organization in September 2011 reported that Delhi has exceeded the maximum PM10 limit by almost 10-times at $198\text{ }\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Vehicular emissions and industrial activities were found to be associated with indoor as well as outdoor air pollution in Delhi. Studies on air pollution and mortality from Delhi found that all-natural-cause mortality and morbidity increased with increased air pollution. Delhi has taken several steps to reduce the level of air pollution in the city during the last 10 years. However, more still needs to be done to further reduce the levels of air pollution.

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Letter to The Editor

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Editor,
The Assam Rising
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There is a war on nature. Dom Phillips was killed trying to warn you about it



Dom Phillips and Bruno Pereira have been killed in an undeclared global war against nature and the people who defend it. Their work mattered because our planet, the threats to it and the activities of those who threaten it matter. That work must be continued. The frontlines of this war are the Earth's remaining biodiverse regions - the forests, wetlands and oceans that are essential for the stability of our climate and planetary life-support system. The integrity of these systems is under attack from organised crime and criminal governments who want to exploit timber, water and minerals for short-term, often illegal profits. In many regions, the only thing standing in their way is Indigenous communities and other traditional forest dwellers, supported by civil society organisations, conservation groups and academics. My friend Dom knew how important this story was. It is

why he took a year off to research a book, How to Save the Amazon, and it is why he took the risk of travelling to the bandit territory of the Javari valley with Bruno, who was one of Brazil's most effective, courageous and threatened forest defenders. It was to have been a book for everyone: accessible and useful, looking at solutions as well as problems. That was typical of Dom, whose journalism was always aimed at making the world a fairer, more accountable and enlightened place. To my mind, this made him a 21st century war correspondent as well as a witness to a crime that probably led to his death. Dom was no activist. He was a journalist's journalist, who wanted to find out what was happening and share it with everyone who might be affected. In this case, all of us. If anything positive can come from the mind-numbingly horrendous

Jonathan Watts

news, it should be for more journalists to cover this frontline, especially those regions controlled by leaders aligned with criminal interests. Dom knew the threat posed by the president of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro, who has encouraged illegal logging and mining, dismissed Indigenous land rights, attacked conservation groups, and slashed the budgets and personnel of forest and Indigenous protection agencies. Shortly after Bolsonaro won the first round of the 2018 Brazilian presidential election, Dom shared his fears

about the fate of the Amazon in a WhatsApp message: "This is a very dark and worrying period and it's only going to get worse," he wrote to me. "My sense is that it is also going to become more dangerous for journalists." But his real fear was for defenders living on the edge of the areas of the Amazon where criminals were trying to encroach on Indigenous territories and conservation zones. Dom was sure a second-round victory would give thugs a green light to step up their assault. "If he wins, what will living here be like? It's like carte blanche to attack anyone his mob disagrees with," he warned. Bolsonaro's election led Dom to focus more of his work on the rainforest and its defenders. Separating the personal and the professional is impossible.

Dom the individual was as important as Dom the journalist. He was much loved by his family and friends. I met him in 2012, soon after I first arrived in Brazil and we immediately hit it off. He helped me adjust to my new home and infected me with his passion for Brazilian music, art, politics and nature. Already in the country for five years, Dom, it seemed, was knowledgeable about just about everything. And what he did not know, he was curious about. His interest in the world was like a mental searchlight forever scanning the horizon. Whether in a press conference or a bar, if he thought someone had anything interesting to say, he would fix them with his piercing blue eyes and begin a gentle but relentless interrogation. We connected through Bowie and Björk, and a love of nature and outdoor sports. Scrolling back through WhatsApp archives, many of the stories and pictures Dom shared are of spectacular views or wildlife he encountered: rays, whales, turtles and sharks seen during standup paddle outings around the coastline of Copacabana; capucins, marmosets and toucans encountered on hillside walks around Rio de Janeiro. With a group of like-minded friends, we made weekend hikes through the mountains between Teresópolis and Petrópolis, climbed the Pedra da Gávea to enjoy its stunning view of Rio and trekked up the slopes of Itatiaia for its stunning panoramas.



Houses and properties of some of the participants of the rioting mobs or the agent provocateurs of violence have been bulldozed by respective local authorities in Uttar Pradesh. It is being argued that such a punitive disproportionate reaction could have been avoided and the local law enforcing authorities should have 'allowed the law to take its own course'. Nothing can be more clichéd than this argument. In the wake of the former BJP spokesperson's controversial remarks on the Prophet, the domestic situation has turned tense with instances of arson, violence, stone-pelting, vandalism, destruction of public property and mobs clashing with police forces. As many as 90 large scale street protests in almost 17 states and covering about fifty districts that

erupted immediately after the Friday prayers do not appear to be sporadic or unexpected. None of them seem to be a spontaneous outburst of resentment at their religious feelings being hurt. The violence is no less serious than a terror attack or declaring a war on the State. The Naxal-Maoist attacks take place on the law enforcing authorities, individuals or at select locations. Acts of rioting are akin to such anti-national activities with an intent to terrorise the local population, intimidate the citizens, and challenge the State, police and the constitutional authorities. All the violence in the preceding week seems to have taken place after the traditional Friday prayers. One cannot overlook the fact that these incidents had a political overtone. The trigger for the protests - the controversial statement in a

television debate - is almost a month old now. The BJP, various governments and the courts of law have taken cognisance and initiated punitive and corrective actions. Then what justifies this violence? One possibility is that there are certain political and anti-social or call them anti-national elements, who do not want the issue to be forgotten. They have an agenda in keeping the issue simmering and political axe to grind. They might be calculating to build a narrative that suits their political ends, no matter how violent, undemocratic, and criminal those means may be. Such leaders and outfits will have

Seshadri Chari

to be dealt in a manner which will hit them where it hurts the most. The law enforcing authorities in general and the courts in India do not segregate criminals on the basis of their religion. There can be no two opinions that public discourse - religion or otherwise - needs to be kept within the confines of decency and civic norms. But it is also true that anarchy, arson, calls for beheading, posting derogatory and threatening messages and riotous misconduct cannot be tolerated by a mature democratic society like India's. Terrorising the people

in the name of religion is no different from terror perpetrated by organised criminal groups. In April this year, there were similar incidents of violence during Ramnavami processions in several parts of India. Even in these incidents, rioting mobs indulged in vandalism and damaged public property. The police brought the situation under control, arrested and filed cases against some of the arsonists. The due process of law is underway and nothing much has been heard of the cases so far. Meanwhile, it is possible that some of the elements booked by the police then, could have been part of the recent riots too. Going by the political and religious influence

exerted in such cases, the judgment might be inordinately delayed, allowing the criminals to roam around free. Such incidents affect the morale of the law enforcing authorities. Anyone who has not been part of a team of handful of policemen holding just a stick and facing an irate mob armed with lethal weapons, burning tyres, hurling petrol bombs and stones will not understand the feeling of panic, contempt and retaliation. Police high handedness and excesses are not unknown or unreported. In many instances in the recent violence, the police have maintained restraint and used tear gas shells and lathi charge to disperse the rioters. There

have been deaths on both sides, which could have been avoided. It is one thing to pontificate that police are there to maintain law and order and not sit on judgment over culpability. But the fact that the police are also part of the social milieu and influenced by the circumstances and contemporary events cannot be overlooked. Cases have been filed against hardened criminals in UP under the National Security Act and the Gangsters Act and their properties bulldozed. The task force against the land mafia has taken over huge chunk of land and made it available to industry and for low-cost housing. Therefore, if outfits and certain individuals are fanning hatred and organising mobs to indulge in riots, they should be treated no differently from criminals, and their properties and immovable assets dealt with in the same manner as that of criminals. Another conjecture is that these recent incidents could be part of a larger game plan to project Muslims in India as victims of Islamophobia. While riots are not projected outside India, bulldozers in action are. This does send a wrong signal and sully the national image. The government will have to tackle this misinformation cautiously and not play into the hands of forces that are determined to paint India as another Islamophobic land when the truth is very different.

The WTO, with its 'market knows best' ideology, has failed. It's time to bury it

When delegates arrive in Geneva today for the long delayed World Trade Organization (WTO) summit, they will find an institution in the middle of an existential crisis. For 18 long months, the WTO has been debating a moderate proposal from South Africa and India which would have allowed countries to temporarily override the property rights of pharmaceutical corporations so they could produce patented Covid-19 vaccines. Opposition

by Britain, Switzerland and other European countries has kept it from progressing. Even a global pandemic, it seems, isn't sufficient cause to prompt a temporary rethink of the WTO's pro-business approach. Just as bad, the WTO cannot agree a common approach to the food crisis fast spreading across the globe, or the invasion of one of its members by another, or, most serious of all, the climate catastrophe facing humanity. All it can do is fall back on the mantra of more free trade. Unable to break with a "market knows best"

ideology which is actively exacerbating the world's problems, the WTO is now a failed institution. It's time to bury it. The WTO's crisis is part and parcel of the greater crisis of free-market globalisation as a whole. It was formed in the mid-1990s, the high point of free-market capitalism, when the answer t

every problem

Nick Dearden

was more markets, more private sector, less government red tape. There was, we were told, simply no alternative. Summing up the feeling a few years later, Tony Blair told the Labour party conference, "I hear people say we have to stop and debate globalisation. You might as well debate whether autumn should follow summer." But it hadn't always been that way. Before the WTO, there had been a much looser set of international trade rules created at the end of the second world war. This system was also based on the idea that trade was a good thing and high tariffs were usually a bad idea. But to the extent that free-trade policies didn't achieve those goals, countries had a fair bit of freedom to ignore them. There was no enforcement mechanism, and plenty of room for developing countries, in particular, to design policies they thought worked best for their own development. The WTO changed all that. Radical free trade became an end in itself. WTO treaties laid the basis for a set of hard global economic rules, embedded in international law. At their core, they removed power from the state to interfere with the supposed rights of big business and big finance, undermining the ability of governments to protect their farmers and infant industries, and to regulate big finance and big business. Unlike its predecessor, the WTO incorporated a dispute system with real teeth which made the whole system enforceable. We can see the



results all around us. Far from creating a global version of a farmers' market, it has encouraged the growth of agricultural monopolies practising intensive farming, which dominate our food system at huge cost to the environment. It has encouraged manufacturers to "offshore" production to wherever labour is cheapest and regulations are lowest, creating political resentment and fuelling rightwing populism in the west. It has created staggeringly complex and vulnerable supply chains, best symbolised by an oversized container ship becoming stuck in the Suez canal and bringing global trade to a halt. And it has allowed a handful of multinational corporations to dictate the world's ability to produce the vaccines needed to end a global pandemic, because they owned the - often publicly funded - research behind those medicines. None of this should surprise us. The great theorist of capitalism, Karl Polanyi, warned us 75 years ago that trying to turn the whole world into a gigantic marketplace would end in the "demolition of society". The fascism of the 1930s was the nightmare reaction that Polanyi lived through, but we see our own version of that social breakdown today. This system cannot cope well with crisis. But crises are now a defining feature of our era. Which is why many governments, including Joe Biden's administration in the US, are moving gradually away from the WTO's free-trade system. It's a process initiated, perhaps unwittingly, by Donald Trump. Seeing which way the wind was blowing, Biden has continued in this direction - with less bullying and bluster - eschewing free

trade deals and standing up to the corporate monopolies that globalisation has created. This is to be welcomed. But we'll need to go further and faster if we don't want to replace a global free-market system with one of nationalist competition in which the strongest player wins. We need a fundamentally different global trade system, which helps rather than hinders government action in protecting their people and the planet. The WTO cannot play that role. It is not reformable, as the Covid waiver debacle proves. Developing states have always been especially constrained by this system. If we want change, these countries will have to work together to begin creating change on the ground: building up their own industries, supporting their small farmers, regulating and taxing big business and big finance, and using the proceeds to build up public services to remove people's basic needs from the market. There are hopeful signs - from South Africa's creation of "open source" medical research to Indian farmers successfully refusing to be further liberalised. The globalisation project cut short the developing world's experiment with economic decolonisation. It's time to return to it. Any attempt by the US and Europe to punish these countries will have to be met with resistance, there and here. From this point, we can begin rebuilding an international architecture for actual fair and free trade. None of the problems we face will be solved by the WTO's "market knows best" proposals, which will only accelerate social and environmental breakdown. It would be no loss to the vast majority of the world if this WTO summit was the last. It's long past time for something else.



QUIZ

- Q.1- How many primary colors are there?
Ans-
Q.2- What do you call a house made of ice?
Ans-
Q.3- Which festival is called the festival of light?
Ans-
Q.4- Who is the power minister of Assam?
Ans-
Q.5- How many medical colleges are there in Assam?
Ans-

Those who will give all the 5 correct answers, his/her name and photo will be published next week. You can send your answers to: assamrising@gmail.com

Last week quiz Answers IPL stands for Indian Premier League, hockey, 6 Players, Thailand, Zoo (also called zoological garden or zoological park)



Rimpi Buragohain, Hahachara H.S. School, Sivsagar

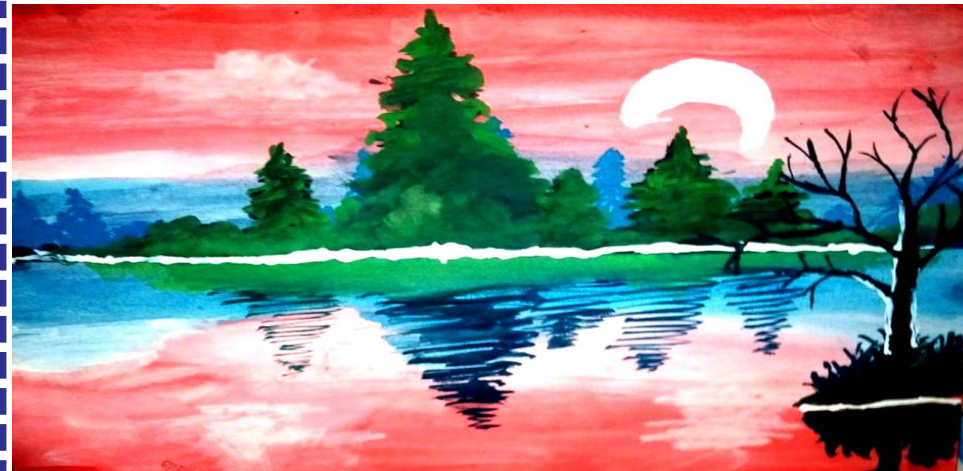
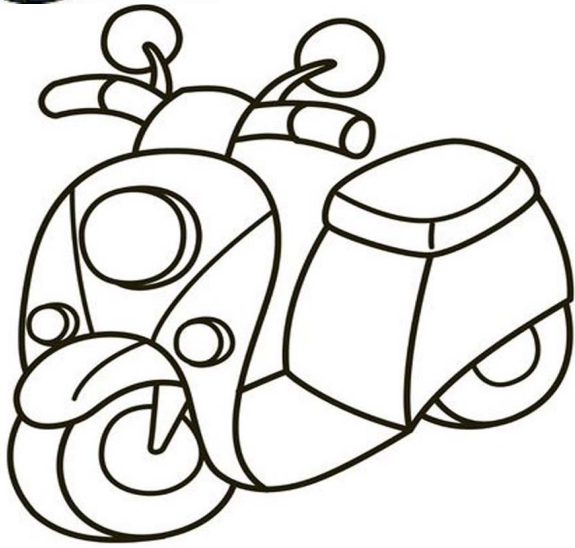
Short-Story

The Pot of Wit

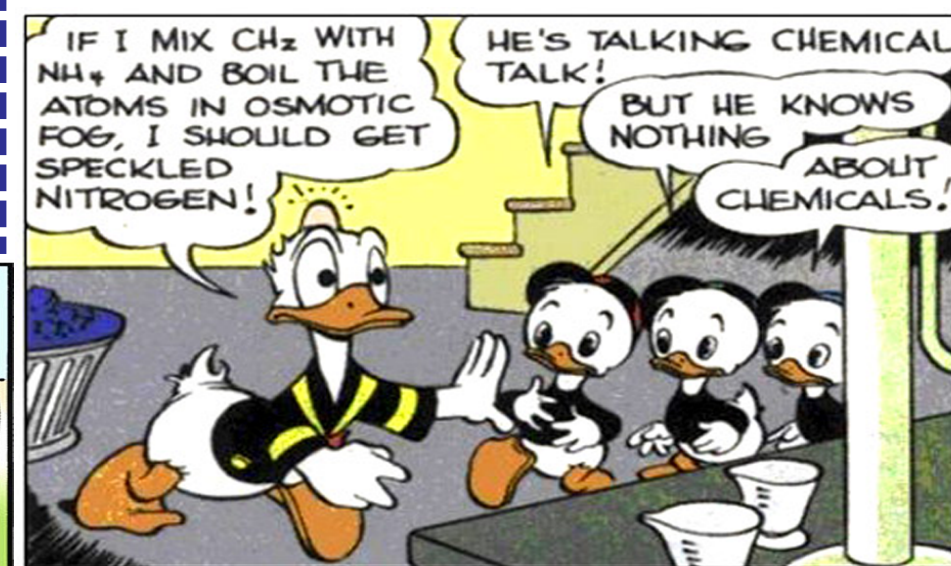
Once upon a time, king Akbar got so mad at Birbal that he told Birbal to leave the kingdom and go away. Heartbroken, Birbal left the kingdom and took refuge at a farmer's house in a nearby village. Birbal spent his days working at the farm. As time passed, King Akbar started missing his favourite courtier. One day, Akbar decided to send across his royal guards to find Birbal. The guards looked for Birbal in all directions, but all their efforts went to waste. Akbar thought of a trick to find Birbal – he made an announcement that whoever got him a pot full of wit would be given a pot filled with diamonds. The news reached all the nearby villages, and to Birbal as well. The villagers held a meeting to decide how to solve the king's mystery. Birbal offered to help, stating that he needs a month's time. Birbal took a pot and put a small watermelon in it without cutting it from its vines. After a month, the watermelon grew up to the size of the pot. This pot was sent to the King, and he was told that the wit should only be removed without breaking the pot. Akbar knew that this could be no one else but Birbal, and he went to bring Birbal back to his court.

Moral : Haste makes waste, think hard because there is a solution to every problem.

Home work : Fill the picture with colour



Bahnideep Dutta, Class V, St. Marys High School, Lakhimpur

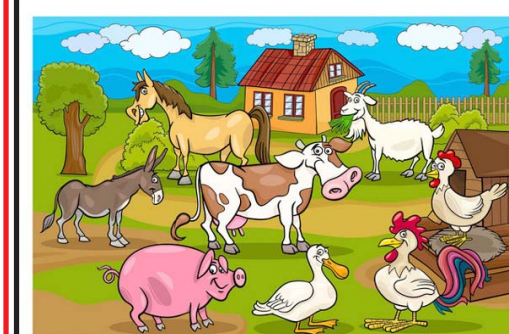
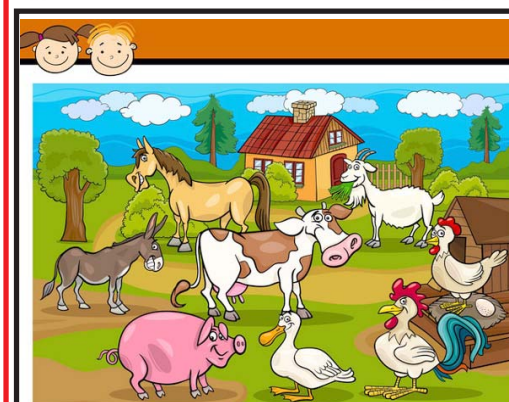


The Fred Quimby Years

Fred Quimby, producer for not only Tom and Jerry but the entire MGM cartoon divisions. Since 1937 he had ridden herd on a zany cast of cartoonists of whom he understood little, having, unfortunately for a cartoon producer, no sense of humor to call upon. Common belief on the main lot was that Quimby had won his producer's title due to long years of service as a top salesman in New York, from whence he came. Indeed, he knew nothing of animation and, as Irv Spence recalls, cartoons "were a strange thing to him." Cast in the role of high school principal opposite the animators' boyish enthusiasms, he acted as liaisons between them and the front office, usually it seemed, turning down requests for bigger budgets, raises and special dispensations of funds. But under his stewardship, Tom and Jerry sailed along like a flagship on a balmy sea. Not burdened with the need to deal directly with the cantankerous corporate minds in the administration arena, Hanna and Barbera were free to exercise the creativity that made Tom and Jerry the "Gold Dust Twins" of MGM. After 18 years at the helm of the Cartoon Department, Quimby retired, and here was where the storm clouds began to glimmer. Quimby's retirement in no way hampered the creative flow of the Tom and Jerry cartoons, but his leaving signaled the beginning of the end of an era, the Golden Age of Hollywood, in the worlds of both action and animation. And the world was already beginning to change. Television, that great engulfing box with knobs and the convex screen, was already gulping up huge chunks of the theatrical audience, allowing them to be entertained on dark evenings without ever leaving home.



Box office receipts fell, and then plummeted. Movie studios began to worry, and then to panic. New techniques were put into operation, among them CinemaScope, which widened the theater screen to provide a presumably more encompassing view of the world. Cartoons, too, were forced to submit to the CinemaScope rage. Tom and Jerry's first such outing was Pet Peeve, in 1954.



o?
FIND 10 DIFFERENCES



Dear Bhaity, Bhonti,

I came across a powerful quote by Herbert Hoover- the 31st President of the United States. He wrote — "Children are our most valuable resource." You all have equal power, talent, Knowledge and ability, but it depends upon how, where and why you utilize your skill and talent. Knowledge without action is meaningless. Be positive, think positive and do your duty honestly. Always mind it- failure is not the opposite of success. It is part of success. With love, as always, You can contact me on : assamrising@gmail.com

Your Abhi mama.

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations! **Antariksha Priyam** for answering all five correct answers of last week's quiz. **Antariksha** is a student of Class IV of LFS, Guwahati. We wish you success in future.



Will My Dreams Come True?

Will my dreams come true this New Year?
Will that rosy dawn arrive?
Will I find the foot of the rainbow,
And the things for which I strive?
Will I follow a road that's greener?
Will the misty hills grow clear
Beyond the far horizon?
Will my dreams come true this year?

I wish I could read a crystal
In which my fate I would see!
I wish I could find an omen
That would show my future to me!
I wish I could learn what fortune
So darkly plans to do.
I wish some genie would tell me –
Will all my dreams come true?

RAIN

The rain is raining all around,
It falls on field and tree;
It rains on the umbrellas here
And on the ships at sea.



Contd. From Page 1

'Agnipath' Protests : Assam

and its premises. According to zonal railways, 164 trains were cancelled in the East Central Railways (ECR), 34 in North Eastern Railways (NER), 13 in Northern Railways (NR) and around three in Northeast Frontier Railways. Coaches of seven trains have so far been set ablaze by protestors, officials said, adding coaches of three running trains in the ECR and one empty rake in Kulharia, in the same zone, were damaged by protestors. One coach of a train was also damaged in the washing line at Uttar Pradesh's Ballia. So far, 64 trains were short terminated in ECR, they said. Protests against 'Agnipath' scheme continue for the second consecutive day in Bihar. Agitated protestors torched the Jammu Tawi-Guwahati Lohit Express and ransacking Mohiddinagar railway station in Samastipur on Friday. Road traffic in Samastipur town has been disrupted and the Patna-New Delhi main railway route in Buxar and Patna-Howrah-Gaya-Bhagalpur section have been blocked. On Thursday, the movement of trains was affected as agitating protestors chose to voice their concerns by sitting on the railway tracks in Bihar. Roads were also blocked at many places. Students created a huge ruckus at Sahebpurkamal railway station in the district as well as arson and stone-pelting. A similar protest against the scheme was witnessed in Uttar Pradesh's Ballia. A huge crowd gathered at Ballia Railway Station in protest against the scheme. 'Agnipath' is a recruitment scheme recently introduced by the Central government to bring a change in the recruitment process of the Armed Forces. With the new military recruitment scheme facing a backlash by opposition, the Centre has decided to bring a change in the upper age limit for recruiting Agniveers. Granting a one-time waiver, the Centre on June 16, 2022, announced that the Agniveer upper age limit for recruitments via 'Agnipath' Scheme has been extended to 23 years from 21 years. After issuance of initial notification on enrolment under Agnipath scheme, various agencies of Army will subsequently come out with details of induction process. Army aimed to start training of recruits under Agnipath scheme by December in Bihar, protesters targeted the houses of Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Renu Devi and Bihar BJP president and West Champaran MP Dr Sanjay Jaiiwal. Railway services were disrupted across the country as protestors blocked tracks and set train coaches ablaze in several states such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Telangana. Anticipating violence in the state, the Haryana government has suspended internet services in Faridabad district's Ballabgarh, whereas prohibitory orders under Section 144, restricting gathering of more than four persons, have been imposed in Gurgaon, the police said. Congress leaders Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi Friday hit out at the Centre over the Agnipath scheme. Rahul Gandhi tweeted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not understand what the country wants, listing out initiatives by the central government that were "rejected" by the people. "He can't hear anything except the voice of his 'friends'," Rahul said. Meanwhile, Priyanka asked PM Modi to withdraw the scheme immediately. She added that the government had changed its rules for the Agnipath recruitment plan in less than 24 hours, indicating that it is being imposed on the youth in a hurry.

Indians' funds in Swiss banks

through fiduciaries or trusts (up from CHF 2 million). The highest component of CHF 2,002 million (up from CHF 1,665 million) was 'other amounts due to customers' in form of bonds, securities and various other financial instruments. The total amount stood at a record high of nearly 6.5 billion Swiss francs in 2006, after which it has been mostly on a downward path, except for a few years including in 2011, 2013, 2017, 2020 and now in 2021, as per the Swiss National Bank (SNB) data. While all four components had declined during 2019, the year 2020 saw a significant plunge in customer deposits, while there has been a surge across all categories in 2021. These are official figures reported by banks to the SNB and do not indicate the quantum of the much-debated alleged black money held by Indians in Switzerland. These figures also do not include the money that Indians, NRIs or others might have in Swiss banks in the names of third-country entities. According to the SNB, its data for 'total liabilities' of Swiss banks towards Indian clients takes into account all types of funds of Indian customers at Swiss banks, including deposits from individuals, banks and enterprises. This includes data for branches of Swiss banks in India, as also non-deposit liabilities. On the other hand, the 'locational banking statistics' of the Bank for International Settlement (BIS), which have been described in the past by Indian and Swiss authorities as a more reliable measure for deposits by Indian individuals in Swiss banks, showed a decline of 8.3 per cent during 2021 in such funds to USD 115.5 million (Rs 927 crore at current exchange rates), after rising by nearly 39 per cent during 2020 to USD 125.9 million (Rs 932 crore). This figure takes into account deposits as well as loans of Indian non-bank clients of Swiss-domiciled banks and had shown an increase of 7 per cent in 2019, after declining by 11 per cent in 2018 and by 44 per cent in 2017. It peaked at over USD 2.3 billion (over Rs 9,000 crore) at the end of 2007. Swiss authorities have always maintained that assets held by Indian residents in Switzerland cannot be considered as 'black money' and they actively support India in its fight against tax fraud and evasion. An automatic exchange of information in tax matters between Switzerland and India has been in force since 2018. Under this framework, detailed financial information on all Indian residents having accounts with Swiss financial institutions since 2018 was provided for the first time to Indian tax authorities in September 2019 and this is to be done every year. In addition to this, Switzerland has been actively sharing details about accounts of Indians suspected to have indulged in financial wrongdoings after the submission of prima facie evidence. Such exchange of information has taken place in hundreds of cases so far. Overall, customer deposits across the Swiss banking spectrum, comprising of 239 banks, rose in 2021 to nearly CHF 2.25 trillion. The overall funds of foreign clients, including of institutions, rose to nearly CHF 1.5 trillion (Rs 118 lakh crore). In terms of assets (or funds due from customers), Indian clients accounted for CHF 4.68 billion at the end of 2021, up nearly 10 per cent. This included dues from Indian customers worth about CHF 323 million after a rise of 25 per cent during the year. While the UK topped the charts for foreign clients' money in Swiss banks at CHF 379 billion, it was followed by the US (CHF 168 billion) at the second spot -- the only two countries with 100-billion-plus client funds. Others in the top 10 were West Indies, Germany, France, Singapore, Hong Kong, Luxembourg, Bahamas, the Netherlands, Cayman Islands and Cyprus. India was placed at 44th place, ahead of countries like Poland, South Korea, Sweden, Bahrain, Oman, New Zealand, Norway, Mauritius, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Hungary and Finland. Among BRICS nations, India stood below Russia (15th place) and China (24th), but above South Africa and Brazil. Others placed above India included the UAE, Australia, Japan, Italy, Spain, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Israel, Taiwan, Lebanon, Turkey, Austria, Ireland, Greece, Bermuda, Marshall Islands, Liberia, Belgium, Malta, Canada, Portugal, Qatar, Egypt, Thailand, Kuwait and Jordan. Pakistan saw an increase in funds of its citizens and enterprises to CHF 712 million, while that for Bangladesh rose to CHF 872 million. Just like in India, the issue of alleged black money in Swiss banks has been a political hot potato in the two neighbouring countries as well. After the annual data release last year, the Indian government had sought details from Swiss authorities on the relevant facts along with their view on possible reasons for changes in the funds parked by individuals and entities in 2020. In its statement, the finance ministry had said the figures "do not indicate the quantum of much-debated alleged black money held by Indians in Switzerland. Further, these statistics do not include the money that Indians, NRIs or others might have in Swiss banks in the names of third-country entities." It had also listed out the reasons that could have led to the increase in deposits, including rising business transactions by Indian companies, rise in deposits owing to the business of Swiss bank branches located in India and increase in inter-bank transactions between Swiss and Indian banks.

'Condemn Offensive Comments Made

China. The US, however, has several times carefully voiced concern about human rights in India as PM Modi faces accusations of pursuing policies that target the Muslim minority.

16 Dead In Assam, Meghalaya

Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma tweeted, thanking them for their act of generosity. Apart from Assam, extremely heavy rains have affected normal life in Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh also. At least 13 people have died in Meghalaya and three in Assam due to landslides, lightning and flash floods. In Meghalaya, the state government has formed four committees to look into four regions of the state. Each committee headed by a cabinet minister. The National highway 6 is closed for heavy traffic after parts of the highway caved in and was washed away. The highway is the lifeline of Tripura, southern Assam, Mizoram and parts of Meghalaya. Both Assam and Meghalaya received 272mm excess rainfall than normal till Wednesday. The weather department has extended the red alert in the two states till this weekend.

CM Dr. Sarma interacts

villages in each of 126 Assembly constituencies in Assam over the next three years will be developed as model villages with holistic and inclusive social, economic and academic development as fundamental objectives. For development of model villages Rs. 5 crore in each village will be provided. For better and efficient implementation of the scheme, 54 numbers of inspecting officers have been given responsibilities with assigned villages who will prepare development plans and oversee its execution. Talking to the inspecting officers, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said that the scheme should be executed in such a manner that Assam becomes a model state in the implementation of the scheme. He also said that the government has already released Rs. 50 lakh for each revenue village for the preliminary work and once this amount is spent assiduously, the next instalment will be released. He also asked them to ensure implementation of the scheme collectively with equal partnership of the villagers to make the local people an important partner of the scheme. The scheme being implemented by the Transformation and Development Department, its Additional Chief Secretary Paban Borthakur and Principal Secretary Archana Varma were also present at the meeting.

Floods: NFR Cancels, Diverts

Guwahati - New Bongaigaon passenger train, commencing journey on 17th June, 2022 has been cancelled between Guwahati and New Bongaigaon. Train No. 05802 Guwahati - New Bongaigaon passenger train, commencing journey on 16th & 17th June, 2022 will be cancelled between Guwahati and New Bongaigaon Train No. 05801 New Bongaigaon - Guwahati passenger train, commencing journey on 17th June, 2022 has been cancelled between New Bongaigaon and Guwahati. Train No. 15753 Alipurduar - Guwahati Sifhung Express commencing journey on 17th June, 2022 has been cancelled between Alipurduar and Guwahati. Train No. 15754 Guwahati - Alipurduar Sifhung Express commencing journey on 17th June, 2022 has been cancelled between Guwahati and Alipurduar. Diversion of trains: Train No. 12424 New Delhi - Dibrugarh Rajdhani Express commencing journey on 15th June, 2022 will be diverted via New Bongaigaon - Goalpara Town - Kamakhya instead of New Bongaigaon - Rangiya - Kamakhya. Train No. 20504 New Delhi - Dibrugarh Rajdhani Express commencing journey on 15th June, 2022 will be diverted via New Bongaigaon - Goalpara Town - Kamakhya instead of New Bongaigaon - Rangiya - Kamakhya. Train No. 15658 Kamakhya - Delhi Brahmaputra Mail commencing journey on 16th June, 2022 will run via Kamakhya - Goalpara Town - New Bongaigaon instead of Kamakhya - Rangiya - New Bongaigaon. Train No. 12520 Kamakhya - Lokmanya Tilak AC Express commencing journey on 16th June, 2022 will run via Kamakhya - Goalpara Town - New Bongaigaon instead of Kamakhya - Rangiya - New Bongaigaon. Train No. 15910 Lalgahar - Dibrugarh Avadh Assam Express commencing journey on 14th June, 2022 will run via New Bongaigaon - Goalpara Town - Kamakhya instead of New Bongaigaon - Rangiya - Kamakhya. Train No. 15633 Bikaner - Guwahati Express commencing journey on 15th June, 2022 will run via New Bongaigaon - Goalpara Town - Kamakhya instead of New Bongaigaon - Rangiya - Kamakhya. Train No. 13173 Sealdah - Agartala Kanchenjunga Express commencing journey on 16th June, 2022 will run via New Bongaigaon - Goalpara Town - Kamakhya instead of New Bongaigaon - Rangiya - Kamakhya.

Tree Falls On Auto-Rickshaw; Driver Dead, 2 Others Injured

London, June 17 : Amid incessant rains and flash floods, a person was killed and two others were injured after a tree fell upon an autorickshaw in Assam's Karimganj. According to reports, the incident took place near a fire service station on Wednesday. The deceased, identified as Azahar Uddin, was the driver of the autorickshaw. Meanwhile, the injured persons who were travelling in the auto were rushed to a hospital for medical attention. "A tree fell upon an auto-rickshaw near Karimganj fire services station and three persons including the driver were injured. We immediately admitted them to the hospital, but the driver of the autorickshaw died at the hospital," Karimganj DSP Gitantha Dev Sarma said. After the massive flood and landslides in several districts of the state in May, Assam is once again hit by the incessant rainfall.



Barama- Flood broke out Barama between Dhamdharma road

NRL wins BEE CHT Award for Best Energy Efficiency practices



Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 17 : NRL has been recognized with Certificate of Achievement and awarded for 'Best Energy Efficiency Practices by Refinery' for the PAT (Perform Achieve Trade) Cycle II (2016-19) at the Energy Efficiency Award function held in Noida on 15-06-22. Instituted collectively by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under Ministry of Power (MOP), Govt of India and Centre for High Technology (CHT) under Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Govt. of India, the award recognizes Indian Refineries for their achievements in the field of Energy Efficiency. The award was presented by Mr Sunil Kumar Joint Secretary Refineries MoPNG, Mr Abhay Bhakre - Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency in presence of ED CHT Mr Alok Sarma and Director - BEE Mr Milind Deore to NRL team comprising of Mr. Nikunja Borthakur, Sr.CGM(CA) and Ms. Geetali Kalita, CM(TS)-Energy.

WTO signs landmark deal after nearly a decade

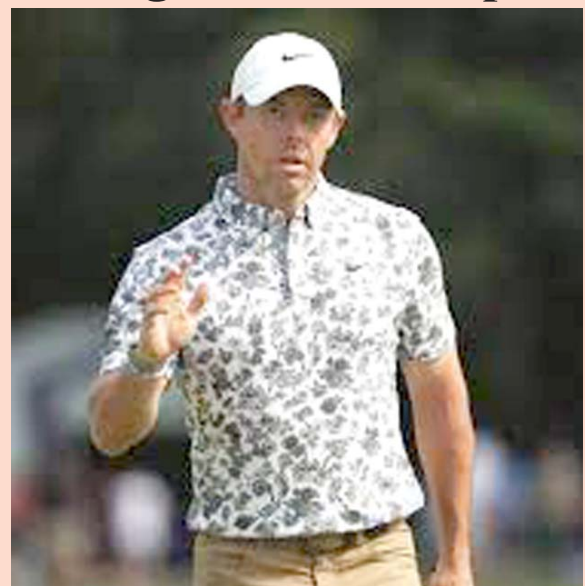
GENEVA, June 17 : The 164 member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) finally sealed a package of trade agreements in the wee hours on Friday in Geneva, with India leading the course. The deals approved at the 12th ministerial conference of the WTO were ground out over days of round-the-clock talks, and is the first major agreement in nine years. The series of trade deals include pledges on food security, balanced outcome on fisheries subsidies, and response to pandemic - all issues important to developing countries. A key decision related to patent waiver on Covid-19 vaccines is also expected soon, with the US yet to officially seal it. The deal survived last minute hiccups on Thursday night that threatened to derail an outcome on fisheries and TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) waiver. The deal that India's trade minister Piyush Goyal's negotiation skills saw several trade-offs between developed and developing countries during the two nights of marathon talks, spilling past the Thursday afternoon deadline. "All agreements fully agreed and were unanimously signed. Decision on temporary patent (TRIPS) waiver is expected any time soon. We are just waiting for the US approval on it," said an official source in Geneva. According to sources, Prime minister Narendra Modi actively oversaw negotiations through the ministerial in Geneva. India defended its right to extend subsidies to its fishermen, with contentious clauses removed from the text at the last minute. In turn, India agreed to an 18-month extension of the moratorium on customs duty on electronic imports that, it argues, favours rich nations.

Covid-19 fourth wave scare:

Positivity rate stands at 6.69 percent with 1,323 fresh cases

New Delhi, June 17 : Delhi saw over 1,000 Covid cases for the third consecutive day on Thursday (June 16). According to the health department, 1,323 new Covid infections were recorded with a positivity rate of 6.69 per cent. With the surge of Covid-19 cases, the national capital has witnessed a minor decrease in new infections. According to authorities, Delhi has registered 1,323 fresh Covid-19 cases over the last 24 hours, with the positivity rate of the infection standing at 6.69 percent on Thursday. Two death caused by the virus have been reported in Delhi on June 16. On June 15, Wednesday, Delhi witnessed 1,375 fresh Covid-19 infections, with the positivity rate standing at 7.01 percent. Though the number of cases has dropped in Delhi today, this is the third consecutive day with the number of cases higher than 1,000. The number of Covid-19 cases being reported in Delhi has witnessed a minor decrease on Thursday, according to the official data. On June 15, the number of cases registered and the infection positivity rate saw a mild drop in Delhi.

Rory McIlroy lets his golf do the talking with strong start at US Open



Brookline, June 17 : There is precious little that could switch the discussion around golf from matters of Saudi Arabia, a rebel tour and the resulting grisly civil war. A Rory McIlroy success at this US Open is, however, among the topics that would trigger even a brief change of theme. So far, so good. On day one at the Country Club there were flashes of McIlroy brilliance and flashes of McIlroy frustration. A three-under-par 67 was sufficient to tie the clubhouse lead before the afternoon wave took to the course. From that group, the Canadian Adam Hadwin emerged to sit at the leaderboard's summit at minus four. McIlroy smashed a bunker in anger at the 5th before saving par. He tossed his club away on the 9th (his 18th) after missing the green from the middle of the fairway. There was to be no salvation there: the closing bogey was McIlroy's sole aberration of the round. "Some of these reactions that you saw out there today, whether it be hitting the sand on five or the club throw on nine, you just have to be so precise and so exact at this tournament maybe compared to some others that any little thing that doesn't quite go right, you're putting yourself behind the 8-ball," McIlroy said. "The margins are just so fine in this tournament and I think you can see that out there with some of the reactions." On the 5th, McIlroy's tee shot had stuck in horrible rough alongside a bunker. He had to stand in the sand trap, with his shot advancing just yards and into another one. And yet the outcome was a par four. McIlroy had kept his card clean in equally impressive style after finding dense grass at the par-three 2nd. Birdies arrived at the 16th, 18th, 7th and 8th. "You feel like you're right in the tournament from the start of the week, which is nice," said the four-time major winner. "I'm going into tomorrow with the mindset of 'Let's keep it going' rather than where is the cut line or whatever. If you don't get off to a great start those thoughts start to creep in - 'OK, what do I need to just be here for the weekend?' It's certainly a different mindset when you get off to a good start. I've just got to keep it going." The Northern Irishman had been irked at the pace of play by the group ahead, consisting of Scott Stallings, Davis Riley and Victor Perez. "The guys in front of us were playing so slow," McIlroy said. "They were like a hole or hole and a half behind the group in front of them. So yeah, that was a little frustrating." Locker room interactions between the parties may have been worth seeing. Every McIlroy press conference is now laced with questions about his role as a staunch defender of the PGA Tour in the face of LIV Golf and its breakaway threat. There are already signs McIlroy is a little uncomfortable with being put on a pedestal. "It's been eight years since I won a major and I just want to get my hands on one again," he said in response to whether being the moral compass of his professional domain has intensified his desire to win.

Cycling's governing body sets stricter rules for transgender athletes

London, June 17 : Transgender cyclists face tougher eligibility rules after the sport's governing body doubled the period of time before a rider transitioning from male to female can compete. Riders were previously required to have testosterone levels below five nanomoles per litre (nmol/L) for a 12-month period prior to competition. Under new regulations, which will be introduced by the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) from 1 July, the permitted level will be 2.5 nmol/L for a 24-month period. The previous policy had been under review after being brought to attention by British rider Emily Bridges, one of cycling's most high-profile transgender competitors. A UCI statement read: "The latest scientific publications clearly demonstrate that the return of markers of endurance capacity to 'female level' occurs within six to eight months under low blood testosterone, while the awaited adaptations in muscle mass and muscle strength/power take much longer [two years minimum



according to a recent study). "Given the important role played by muscle strength and power in cycling performance, the UCI has decided to increase the transition period on low testosterone from 12 to 24 months." Bridges, who began hormone therapy last year, was blocked by the UCI from competing at the national omnium championships in April amid threats of a boycott from other riders. The 21-

year-old had met requirements in time to race in Derby, but the UCI did not grant her a switch in licence. Had she competed, Bridges would have faced Dame Laura Kenny, sparking debate as to whether a rider who had previously set a junior men's record and won the men's points race at the British Universities' championships a month before could have beaten the five-time Olympic champion. The UCI said Bridges' participation could only be allowed once her eligibility to race in international competitions was confirmed. During the subsequent debate, British Cycling suspended its transgender policy, pending a review. Bridges has insisted it is wrong to believe she would have any advantage over her rivals. She will now be unable to compete in women's races until 2023. "I understand how you'd come to this conclusion because a lot of people still view trans women as men with male anatomies and physiologies," she said in an interview with DIVA magazine. "But hormone replacement therapy has such a massive effect. The aerobic performance difference is gone after about four months." There are studies going on for trans women in sport. I'm doing one and the performance drop-off that I've seen is massive. I don't have any advantage over my competitors and I've got data to back that up."

London, June 17 : A volley from Rachel Daly and two own goals ensured England eventually eased past Belgium in the first of their three pre-Euros friendlies. Their manager, Sarina Wiegman, has demanded ruthlessness from the Lionesses since taking charge last summer but at Molineux she was forced to rely on her substitutes to inject some cutting edge after a frustrating first half. Chloe Kelly's deflected strike and Daly's impressive goal were the difference in the second half, before Leah Williamson's shot ricocheted down off the crossbar and in off the back of the goalkeeper, Nicky Evrard. "I think when you win 3-0 it's

enough," said Wiegman. "I think when you go into a Euros you need a little bit more ruthlessness." Where does the ruthlessness come from? "You want to make it better so you train, talk about it, watch video clips," she said. "The final third is the most difficult part. It's a mental thing, it's an execution thing." There were few surprises in Wiegman's starting XI. The Arsenal centre-back Lotte Wubben-Moy lined up alongside Millie Bright in defence, with Alex Greenwood still being eased back in after having Covid and Jess Carter working her way to full fitness after a heavy season. Georgia Stanway, who recently joined

Bayern Munich from Manchester City, was given the nod ahead of Fran Kirby and Ella Toone at No 10. With that position providing the only real question mark before England's opening game of the Euros at Old Trafford on 6 July, it was interesting to see Williamson striding forward to swap places with Stanway or play alongside her, with the manager exploring her options beyond the expected trio of Stanway, Kirby and Toone. "Yeah, that's nice," said Wiegman of the potential interactions between the three. "It's about teamwork, when someone takes action another player takes another action, when the



movement hasn't been done much it needs a bit of work." Wiegman had warned that Belgium would be tough opponents,

despite the 12 places separating them in the Fifa rankings. "Belgium has developed a lot and is also going to the Euros," she said. "They can play a little opportune, but they also want to play a possession game." Belgium open Group D of the Euros against Iceland at the Manchester City Academy Stadium, with Italy and France completing their group. In the previous meeting between England

and Belgium, in August 2019, Phil Neville's team threw away a two-goal lead and were reliant on a 75th-minute Nikita Parris penalty to salvage a 3-3 draw in the team's first game after the third place play-off defeat to Sweden at the World Cup. Nevertheless, for a team hopeful of winning a major tournament, Belgium, a side they have not lost to in 10 games since 1980, should be small fry.

FIA to act after F1 drivers complain about 'porpoising' affecting health

Paris, June 17 : The FIA is to enforce rule changes that prevent the violent bouncing of cars known as porpoising. Formula One's governing body was prompted into action after a number of drivers spoke out at last weekend's Azerbaijan Grand Prix, warning they may end up suffering from long-term health problems if it was not addressed. With many drivers experiencing neck and back pain after Baku, and several noting they found difficulty focusing on braking zones because of the propensity of the bouncing, the FIA has opted to step in under safety grounds, meaning their reforms do not require the agreement of the teams. "The FIA has decided to intervene following consultation with its doctors in the interests of safety of the drivers," they said. "In a sport where the competitors are routinely driving at speeds in excess of 300kmh, it is considered that all of a driver's concentration needs to be focused on that task and that excessive fatigue or pain experienced by a driver could have significant consequences should it result in a loss of concentration." In addition, the FIA has concerns in relation to the immediate physical impact on the health of the drivers, a number of whom have reported back pain following recent events. "Porpoising occurs on straights as cars gain and lose downforce from the ground-effect aerodynamics beneath the floor of the vehicle. It is an unexpected side-effect of regulations introduced before the new season, with some teams suffering from it more than others."

Ellis Genge aims to leave Leicester on top after 'biggest game' of his career

London, June 17 : Whatever happens on Saturday, Ellis Genge will leave Leicester with his promise intact. It was during the club's steep decline, in which the once dynastic force finished 11th in the Premiership in 2018 and 2019, that the combative England prop vowed to remain in the east Midlands until a corner had been turned. "I made a pact a long time ago that I'd never leave Tigers if they were in a dark hole," Genge says as he prepares for the Premiership final against Saracens. "I had all sorts of offers to go elsewhere when we were bottom of the pile. I said I wanted to stick it out to see brighter days. So I can hopefully leave with my head held high." In December Genge announced he would be returning to Bristol, his hometown club where he started his professional career in the British and Irish Cup in 2013, scoring a try as an 18-year-old in a 62-7 win against Scottish side Gala. He joined Leicester in 2016, as much a result of off-field issues as for rugby reasons, having been arrested in Belfast the year before after a match against Ulster. "I am probably better off away from [Bristol]," he told the Express in 2017. A working-class kid from a council estate, Genge was always going to stand out in a sport that is still out of step with the rest of the UK, and he did so at an organisation

still assured of its grand standing in the game. In 2013 Leicester secured their fourth Premiership title in seven years, having reached every final between 2005 and 2013. But as Saracens became the new powerhouse on the scene, the Tigers struggled to keep pace. "In the past, especially when I was here last time, it was very much: 'Right, we've got a good pack, let's try and kick the shit out of them and see what happens next,'" says the fly-half Freddie Burns, who rejoined Leicester this season having spent three years with the club



between 2014 and 2017. This one-dimensional approach yielded expected results. In 2016 and 2017 Leicester finished fourth in the league. In 2018 they failed to reach the playoffs for the first time

in 13 seasons. The 2018-19 campaign kicked off with a 40-6 defeat at Exeter and included a run of eight consecutive defeats. "It's horrible, it's not nice to be a part of," Genge says of that torrid run. "It was probably easier to lose than it was to win. I thought we were going to get relegated. I definitely had [that] feeling." Were it not for the salary-cap scandal at Saracens, Leicester would have been demoted a year later. They won just six of their 22 matches and ended the 2019-20 season with 29 points, their worst ever tally.

Golden State Warriors beat Celtics to win fourth NBA title in eight seasons

Boston, June 17 : The Golden State Warriors headed into TD Garden on Thursday night and beat the Boston Celtics 103-90, to win the 2022 NBA finals. Their Game 6 victory was a dominant performance in hostile territory highlighted by an early 21-0 run which effectively secured the Warriors their fourth championship in the last eight years. The contest had looked very different early on. The Celtics began the game by going on a 14-2 tear, and they briefly looked like they would force a decisive Game 7 in San

Francisco. But the Warriors countered with a run of their own, eventually ending the first quarter with a five-point lead. Things would escalate from there. The Warriors held Boston scoreless for the first two minutes of the second quarter as Golden State rained three-pointers down on their hapless opponents. By the time the blitz was over, the Warriors had put together a 21-0 streak, the biggest such run in the finals in 50 years. The Celtics, meanwhile, were forced to hope they had one more dramatic comeback in them. By halftime, the Celtics

were down 15 points, a not insurmountable task given their track record of comebacks in these playoffs. The Warriors, however, refused to budge. A Stephen Curry three halfway through the third quarter gave them a 22-point lead that effectively ended the game and secured Curry the first finals MVP award of a career that will end with his enshrinement in the Hall of Fame. To Boston's credit, they refused to lie down, even cutting down the Golden State lead to eight midway through the third quarter.

Tejaswin, Jeswin still hopeful of CWG spot despite AFI snub



New Delhi, June 17: The selection of the athletics squad for the Commonwealth Games was on expected lines but for two misses - long jumper Jeswin Aldrin and high jumper Tejaswin Shankar, both of whom had achieved the mark set by the Athletics Federation of India. Tejaswin is the only high jumper to have achieved the CWG qualification mark when he recorded a 2.27m jump and won the NCAA championship in the USA less than a week ago. The leap also puts him on top of the India leader board this season, with the second-best jump being 2.25m. Despite the snub, both Tejaswin and Jeswin are hoping the federation gives them an opportunity to appear for a trial in California, where India is likely to hold a camp ahead of the World Championships. Tejaswin has, in fact, already written a letter to the federation to consider his request. "I am extremely hopeful that the federation gives me one opportunity. I have al-

ready achieved the mark but I am ready to jump in front of them. The reason I was able to achieve the qualification mark in the first place was that I took part against a top field here. Even though I was participating here in the US my heart was just thinking about the CWG qualification," Tejaswin told. Tejaswin, India's best long jumper by a distance, is naturally heartbroken at the selection news. "NCAA championship is a very serious competition. Several people qualified for their respective countries just because they took part in the NCAA championship. There is regular testing and they follow the best practices," he added. "I am just two hours away from California. I am requesting for trial despite being the only one to achieve the mark. I am not even asking them to select me, I am just asking for a fair chance. I really want to represent my country at the CWG," said Tejaswin. The federation reasons that only three athletes - Neeraj Chopra, Avinash Sable and Seema Punia - were given an exemption to skip the interstate meet, which was inci-

dentally clashing with the NCAA championship. "It was clearly mentioned on the website this was the last event where one could try to register the qualification standard for the CWG and Worlds. Tejaswin did not want to be selected. Mr Shankar did not ask to be exempted from the Inter-State Championships. He did not take permission from us before he competed in the USA," AFI president Adille Sumariwalla told reporters after the team was announced on Thursday. Jeswin, who recorded a wind-assisted 8.37m and 8.26m (previous national mark) in Kozhikode just a couple of months, also missed the bus. At the inter-state meet, he recorded a series of fouls and a best attempt of 7.51m (the CWG qualification mark is 8m). Jeswin will also approach the federation for a selection trial. AFI has currently named a 37-member squad for the CWG in Birmingham from July 28 to August 8. Defending champion Neeraj Chopra undoubtedly is the biggest name in the team and will be accompanied by throwers DP Manu and Rohit Yadav. This is still a provisional list since a few athletes' selection will be decided if they perform well in California or Kazakhstan.

A voice to the silenced Harrowing gymnast testimonies in Whyte review



London, June 17: Across 306 pages of her landmark report, Anne Whyte paints a shocking and often sickening picture of the culture at British Gymnastics at the grassroots and elite level from 2008 to 2020. This was a time when it was an essential part of Team GB's medal factory, receiving more than £38m in UK Sport funding. But behind the scenes there were numerous abuses taking place. During the period covered by Whyte's review, the governing body received about 3,800 complaints. Yet between 2008 and 2016 it kept no detailed records of them. But now, at last, some of those stories are being heard. Whyte says coaches would regularly check on gymnasts' weight, sometimes on a daily basis, and seriously reduce their caloric intake. One gymnast told Whyte: "I would hide food in my toiletries bag, wrap cereal bars up in my socks and knickers and underneath the lining of my suitcase as I was petrified that the coaches would come in and search of our luggage for food. I was 18-19 at the time." Whyte notes: "I heard extreme accounts of gymnasts hiding food, for example in ceiling tiles or under the bed in their rooms. I received accounts of coaches checking hotel rooms 'army style' and

travel bags for food." Not only was food rationed but some healthy sounding fruits were also banned. "I was told about various ways in which food was rationed or controlled, including bedroom bins being searched for food wrappers, being refused second portions, including of vegetables, and briefly providing gymnasts with children's plates to eat from, with sections and ridges to reduce intake of food," writes Whyte. "Gymnasts also reported being told not to eat grapes because they are the 'highest fat fruit' and that their meal should be 'the size of the palm of their hand', including the vegetables." One told Whyte: "I would take laxatives to ensure I could poo prior to weigh-ins or I would limit my consumption of water to ensure I was not counting much water weight. Our time of the months were never accounted for either. Being on my period meant I could add one or two kilograms to the weight on the scale. Immediately I would be shunned for this." Whyte said: "One sport scientist told me that they sometimes saw gymnasts taken off a piece of apparatus, mid-session, and weighed. This usually occurred when the coach felt the gymnast was underperforming. If the gymnasts had gained even

the slightest weight, they reported that some coaches would effectively say: 'That's why you can't complete your skill.' Whyte says many gymnasts reported inappropriate verbal communication about their weight or the weight of others. "For example, it was suggested that poor performance in a routine was because the gymnast was 'fat' or they were told not to wear certain leotards because they could make them look 'fat'," Whyte says. "I heard about derogatory language

being used, such as 'fat arse', 'you look like a whale', 'you look like you have a beer belly', 'your thighs are disgusting', 'you are spilling out of your leotard'. Another female gymnast said reference would be made to their developing breasts and 'being hit in the face with them'. "One former elite gymnast described being made to stand on the beam for two hours because she was frightened to attempt a skill. Some gymnasts were strapped to bars for extended periods of time while others were made to climb the rope because they needed the toilet or exceeded a break time." "I received multiple submissions from elite gymnasts who were made to feel lazy, a failure and 'mentally weak' when it was acknowledged that they had sustained an injury," says Whyte. "These experiences were spread across

the age spectrum." Whyte describes how one gymnast was deliberately dropped from equipment and dragged across the gym floor by their arms, while others were put under pressure to train with injuries, including broken bones. "A male gymnast said that he would be slapped for unpainted toes or bent knees," Whyte adds. "Another also said they would be physically slapped if they had not stood to attention." "One international gymnast explained that their personal coach sat on a gymnast's lower back, forcing their legs to the floor and then lifting up their knee causing severe pain. I was told that at no stage was the gymnast asked about the process or how it was affecting them. Another gymnast said they didn't know how their legs didn't snap when being stretched."

Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow ignore fixed ideas to show Test cricket its future

London, June 17: Late Monday morning at Trent Bridge and Joe Root, 164 not out, is batting against Tim Southee. In the Daily Telegraph the previous week Geoffrey Boycott explained to his readers that Root is a better batsman than his teammates because, unlike them, he "doesn't play" Twenty20 cricket. "You



never see Root play the scoop, ramp or any fancy shots," Boycott wrote. "His technique is honed and has been from a young age to play proper cricket." Now Southee is bowling just outside Root's off stump, looking to take the ball away. It is only the second ball Root had faced that day. He could, probably should, leave it. Instead he spreads his feet so he was facing square down the wicket, switches the bat around in his hands and flicks the ball over the heads of the slips. For six. "One thing I think," Root had said in an interview before the start of play that day, "is that as current players of the game we have the ability to rewrite the coaching manual. I don't think we should be scared of it." Steffen Nero of Australia bats during the In-

ternational Cricket Inclusion Series match against New Zealand. Later that day Nottinghamshire's chief executive, Lisa Purchase, is having a meeting with her senior management team to discuss their plans for the fifth day of the game. The Friday start meant the club had two days of early-week play when they would struggle to sell out the ground but still have to cover the costs of staging the game. The usual thing to do is cut the prices down under £20 and play the last day in a half-empty ground. Instead Nottinghamshire decided to make it free entry, which meant the club would have to reimburse all the people who had already paid for their tickets but also that the ground would be full and the bars and restaurants busy.

Emma Raducanu set to miss Eastbourne as she battles to be fit for Wimbledon

London, June 17: Emma Raducanu is expected to miss the Eastbourne International as her race to be fit and free of injury for Wimbledon continues. Raducanu had not initially entered Eastbourne, but after her first scan on the side injury she suffered at the Nottingham Open, she was hopeful of recovering in time to request a wildcard into the final warm-up tournament before Wimbledon. The deadline for requesting a wildcard is Friday and she will make a decision on the morning itself. However, it is understood that Raducanu is



unlikely make the request. In the opening match of her grass-court season against Viktorija Golubic in Nottingham on 7 June, Raducanu suffered an injury that forced her to retire early

in the first set. After the match, she said that she had not entered the match with a problem and it had occurred in the very first game. Raducanu said she would endeavour to remain

positive as she believes she is training well and doing everything she can to give herself a chance. In a season that has already been defined by the frequent injuries she has picked up along the way, a grass-court campaign beset by another new injury is an unwelcome obstacle. These weeks were supposed to mark a great homecoming for the 19-year-old in her first matches on home soil since she won the US Open last year. At Queen's, Ryan Peniston continued his impressive breakout run at as he reached his first career ATP quarter-final in his four-level debut, recovering from a break down in the final set to

outlast Francisco Cerundolo 6-0, 4-6, 6-4 and advance at the ATP 500 event. "I don't think I will wake up from this any time soon," said Peniston, who noted that he will unwind by eating the same Italian food he has opted for all week and by watching Love Island. "I took a lot of confidence from the last match and came out all guns blazing. The second set didn't go to plan because he is a great player. I just managed to fight in the third set and got there." Peniston, who is 26 but played his first full season in 2019 after spending his early years competing in college, marked his ATP debut by defeating top seed and French

Open finalist Casper Ruud in the opening round. He carried all of that momentum into his second match, breezing through the opening set without dropping a game. After the match had turned and Cerundolo's greater experience came to the surface, Peniston recovered from a 2-4 third-set deficit, winning the final four games of the match and clinching victory with a bold winning forehand return. Having entered the tournament ranked No 180, Peniston will rise to a new career-high ranking of at least around 145 next week.




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