



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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NEWS IN BRIEF

GU exams Assam Rising Guwahati, June 23 :

The Gauhati University (GU) has postponed the sixth semester examination for degree courses. The examination which was earlier scheduled to be held from June 25 will now be conducted from June 29. The university authorities have decided to postpone the examination due to the flood situation in Assam. Meanwhile, the Post Graduate examination under Gauhati University and its affiliated colleges as well as GUIST examination and I.Com examination has also been postponed due to incessant rainfall in Assam triggering floods in several parts of the state. The examinations scheduled to be held on June 21 and 22 has been postponed and the new dates will be announced soon by the university.

Bangladeshi nationals Assam Rising Guwahati, June 23 :

The Border Security Force (BSF) apprehended a total of 21 suspected Bangladeshi nationals at Badarpur in Assam's Karimganj district on Wednesday. The arrestees also include Rohingya nationals, sources said. There are nine male and nine female in the group along with three children, sources informed, adding that they had arrived in Badarpur from Guwahati two days before. Meanwhile, the BSF handed over the apprehended Bangladeshi nationals to Badarpur police for legal proceedings. An investigation to unearth linkages is underway.

Students fall ill Assam Rising Guwahati, June 23 :

Nine children fell ill due to suspected food poisoning at a school in Assam's Golaghat district. The incident has been reported from No 2 Bengenakhowa Primary school. According to sources, the children fell ill after having lunch at school. Following the incident, all of them were admitted to Swahid Kusal Konwar Civil Hospital for medical attention. In April this year, a total of seven persons were killed in a span of just 3 days after consuming poisonous mushrooms in Assam's Dibrugarh district.

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Visits Silchar, Reviews Flood Situation



Assam Rising Guwahati, June 23 :

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday visited Silchar in Cachar district and reviewed the flood situation of the area. On reaching the Silchar airport, Sarma made an aerial survey of the Silchar town in a special aircraft to access the damage caused by the increasing water levels of the Barak River. Sarma then chaired a

review meeting with the officials of the district at the Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office. The chief minister also interacted with the flood affected people and inspected the rescue operations being carried out. Meanwhile, packets containing food items, water bottles and other essentials were airdropped by helicopters in Silchar. Taking to twitter, CM Sarma said, "Packets containing food items, water bottles &

essentials airdropped today at flood-hit Silchar by helicopters. We plan to continue such air-droppings for our stranded people in the days ahead, apart from the regular relief. Our Govt is firmly with the people of

Barak Valley." With rains abating, there was a slight improvement in the overall flood situation in Assam Wednesday. However, Silchar in south Assam's Barak Valley remained submerged, even 48 hours after an embankment breach. Families continue to be stranded in their water-logged homes, and the town is facing a massive shortage of food and drinking water. Electricity has also been cut off in several parts of the town. GD Tripathi, chief executive member of the Assam State Disaster

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PM Modi should visit flood-hit Assam instead of toppling Maharashtra government: Gaurav Gogoi

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 23 :

Assam Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi hit out at the Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday. He said that PM Modi should visit flood-hit Assam instead of toppling the Maharashtra government. "If there's a crisis, it's that of floods. BJP has gone blind for power", said Gogoi. Assam flood news updates: Assam Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi hit out at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday (June 23) saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should visit flood-hit Assam instead of toppling the Maharashtra government. "If there's a crisis, it's that of floods. BJP has gone blind for power. There're floods in Assam, PM should visit the state, announce special package but he's busy top-



pling Maharashtra govt, or in Gujarat elections.. Only power is everything for BJP," said Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi. Over 41 lakh people in 34 districts of Assam continue to reel under the impact of ongoing flood and landslide situations. Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal, on Wednesday, visited the relief camp set up at Phulaguri Higher Secondary School in Nagaon district of Assam to meet flood-affected people of the region. The

Prez polls: PM Modi meets Droupadi Murmu, says her nomination lauded by all

New Delhi, June 23 :

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Droupadi Murmu, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance's Presidential candidate on Thursday ahead of her filing the nomination papers for the upcoming election to the country's top constitutional post. Modi said her Presidential nomination has been appreciated across India by all sections of society. Met Smt. Droupadi Murmu Ji. Her



Presidential nomination across India by all sections has been appreciated CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Focus on Floods But Welcome Guests: Assam BJP's New Mantra as Oppn Slams Role in Maha Turmoil

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 23 :

As Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray pulls out all stops to save his government from senior Sena leader Eknath Shinde's rebellion, the BJP has been keeping a close watch on the happenings in the state but has refrained from overt gestures. The presence of the saffron party at Assam's Gopinath Bordoloi Airport to receive Shiv Sena rebels and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's visit to Radisson Blu - and quick exit - before the rebels ar-



rived all hint at the BJP's strategising. News18 had earlier reported that BJP sources say the ruling party

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Maharashtra Crisis: Support of 49 MLAs with Eknath Shinde! Uddhav Thackeray holds a meeting with 13 only



Mumbai, June 23 :

There is a lot of drama surrounding Maharashtra! Sometimes the game is being turned around by 'rebel' Shinde and sometimes there is confusion surrounding Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut's statement. And in this situation, Uddhav Thackeray has left the government building at night and returned to

Matashree. Though he left the Chief Minister's residence, he has not left the post yet. There is some kind of speculation around it. Amid the controversy, four more MLAs reached Guwahati on Thursday morning. In this situation, the crisis is increasing in the coalition government of Maharashtra. Chief Minister's seat becomes a 'Hot Seat' at this moment. And in this situation, the rebel MLA showed strength by bringing a new video to the fore. Not only that, Shinde said a total of 49 MLAs were supported. Out of which 42 Shiv Sena MLAs are said to be there.

And the video was recently released with all the MLAs. At the moment all the MLAs are staying in luxury hotels in Guwahati. Tight security has been put in place outside. The Shiv Sena supremo called an emergency meeting in this situation. Uddhav Thackeray called the meeting at his residence Matoshree. Significantly, there were only 12 MLAs in the meeting. That means the number of 13 MLAs of the Shiv Sena, including son Aaditya Thackeray, is now with Uddhav Thackeray. There are reports that several

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Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Visits Flood Relief Camps In Nagaon

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 23 :

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways



and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal on Wednesday visited the relief camp set up at Phulaguri Higher Secondary School in Nagaon district of Assam to meet flood-affected people of the region. Sonowal visited the

district to assess the support provided and interact with the affected people. He extended his heartfelt condolences to the families and next of kin of all those who

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India Sees Surge In Covid Infections; 38 Deaths Reported In Last 24 Hours



New Delhi, June 23 :

With a surge in the cases of coronavirus infection in India, the country reported as many as 13,313 new cases of Covid-19 on Thursday in the last 24 hours, as compared to the 12,249 cases on Wednesday, informed the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. According to the Ministry, 10,972 people

have recovered from the infection which took the total number of recoveries to 4,27,36,027 at the rate of 98.6 per cent. With the recorded cases, India's active caseload now stands at 83,990 at the rate of 0.19 per cent. As per the Health Ministry, the country's daily positivity rate stands at 2.03 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate remained at 2.81 per cent. Thirty-eight people have died in the last 24 hours due to the infection, taking the

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Assam Floods: Over 54 Lakh Affected, death toll rises to 101

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 23 :

The flood situation in Assam remained grim on Thursday with over 54.5 lakh people still affected and 12 fresh deaths reported, officials said. The toll due to the flood since mid-May is now 101, they said. Brahmaputra and Barak rivers along with its tributaries are in spate in most of the affected districts and vast tracts of land remained inundated in 32 of the total 36 districts in the state. The flood waters, however, receded in a few places. Altogether 3,658 persons were evacuated with the help of 276 boats across the state by NDRF, SDRF and other agencies during the day, according to the bulletin. Over 14,500



marooned people have been rescued by the NDRF in 12 flood-affected districts of Assam, an official said. The 1st Battalion Disaster Response Force of NDRF swung into rescue operations in the affected districts and deployed more than 70 boats and 400 men in the heavily flooded districts, its assistant commandant Santosh Kumar Singh told. An additional

eight teams from other battalions with 207 personnel were airlifted to Silchar since Tuesday, he said. The rescue operations are being conducted by NDRF in Kamrup, Kamrup Rural, Bongaigaon, Barpeta, Bajali, Hojai, Nalbari, Darang, Tamulpur, Nagaon, Udalguri, and Cachar, Singh said. The force is also engaged in assisting the district administrations in dis-

tributing relief materials to the affected people, he said. According to the Central Water Commission (CWC) bulletin, Kopili river is flowing above the danger level at Kamrup in Nagaon district, Disang river in Sivasagar, Brahmaputra at Nimatighat, Tezpur, Goalpara and Dhubri, Barak river at Karimganj, Cachar and Hailakandi district and Kushiara at Karimganj. The Barak Valley districts - Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj were severely hit by the rising water of Barak and Kushiara rivers. Silchar town is submerged for the last four days due to a breach in an embankment. A total 2,32,002 people have been by the flood in 565 villages

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Blood test that can detect breast cancer available in India now, know the cost



New Delhi, June 23 :

A blood test proven to detect breast cancer in the early stages has been made available in India. The test is available in more than 15 countries worldwide and can detect stage 0 and stage 1 of breast cancer in women with 99 per cent accuracy. As per reports, the

blood test can help in detecting breast cancer at an early stage for those who are above 40 years of age. The test, being branded as EasyCheck Breast, will cost Rs 6,000. It was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration in November last year and is indicated as an annual test for healthy women above the

age of 40 years who may not have any symptoms. The study has shown stage 0 and stage 1 breast cancer cases were detected with an accuracy of 99 per cent. "It's not the replacement of mammograms but women who test positive for breast cancer using the new technology can go for conventional screening examina-

tions and can straight away go for a biopsy and plan their treatment for cancer," said a doctor, who further suggested that if a woman tests negative, then also she should go for other screening tests to rule out breast cancer completely. Meanwhile, the

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Finns are ready to fight any Russian attack, says armed forces chief

Helsinki, June 23 :

Finland has prepared for decades for a Russian attack and would put up stiff resistance should one occur, its armed forces chief has said. The Nordic country has built up a substantial arsenal. But aside from the military hardware, Gen Timo Kivinen said, a crucial factor is that Finns would be motivated to fight. "The most important line of defence is between one's ears, as the war in Ukraine proves at the moment,"



Kivinen said in an interview. Finland fought two wars in the 1940s against its eastern neighbour, with which it shares a 1,300-km (810-mile) border. Once a non-aligned

country, it is now applying to join the Nato military alliance over concerns that Russia could invade like it did Ukraine on 24 February. Since the second world war, Helsinki has kept up a high level of military preparedness. "We have systematically developed our military defence precisely for this type of warfare that is being waged there [in Ukraine], with a massive use of firepower, armoured forces and also air forces," Kivinen said. "Ukraine has been a tough bite to chew [for Russia], and so would be Finland." A hundred thousand Finns were killed during the two wars Finland fought against the Soviet Union, and it lost a tenth of its territory. The

nation of 5.5 million has a wartime troop strength of 280,000, with 870,000 trained as reservists. It did not abolish military conscription for males as many other western nations did after the end of the cold war. It has also built one of Europe's strongest artillery arsenals and stocked up on cruise missiles with a range of up to 370km (230 miles). It spends 2% of its GDP on defence, a level higher than many Nato countries. It is ordering four new warships, as well as 64 F-35 fighter jets from the US defence giant Lockheed Martin. It plans to order up to 2,000 drones and deploy its own high-altitude anti-aircraft equipment, and is building barriers on its border with Russia.



People walk past a huge poster for the summer sales season in front of Galerie Lafayette department store in Paris, France

why Eknath Shinde, a 4-time MLA, became anti-Uddhav!

Mumbai, June 23 :

Maharashtra Political Crisis: After Bal Thackeray's death, many of the old leaders of the party became a bit isolated. Eknath was also falling in that group. He was chairman of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority. Uddhav's son Aaditya Thackeray was interfering in his work. He was angry about it. Eknath Shinde, a Minister in the Uddhav Thackeray government, is sitting in Assam rebelling against the party. He claims to have 46 MLAs in his hands. As a result, the fate of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray is now hanging. In such a situation, Uddhav Thackeray said in a Facebook Live that he is ready to resign. He also claimed that at least one MLA comes out and says, 'I don't like you.' After the Chief Minister's statement, Eknath Shinde made it clear that Uddhav will have to come out of the



evil alliance. But the question arises as to why a four-time MLA like Eknath Shinde became such an anti-Uddhav? 5 reasons behind Eknath Shinde's Anti-Uddhav move are:

Getting alone

After Bal Thackeray's death, many of the old leaders of the party became a bit isolated. Eknath was also falling in that group. He was chairman of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority. Uddhav's son Aaditya Thackeray was interfering in his work. He was angry about it.

Security System

Shinde also had some grudges about the security arrangements. Eknath used to get Z category security.

But he wanted Z-plus security like Uddhav Thackeray or Sharad Pawar. He also appealed to it. But it wasn't approved.

Alliance with NCP

On Wednesday too, Eknath from Assam said he was not joining the BJP. But Uddhav will have to come out of that evil alliance. According to political circles in Maharashtra, Shinde was not at all happy with the alliance with the NCP. This is because Shinde's statement was that the alliance with the NCP has damaged the future of the Shiv Sena.

'No Entry' to Matoshree

For the last two years, there has been some restriction on Eknath's entry to Uddhav Thackeray's residence Matoshree. As a result, a few days ago, it was understood that the distance between Uddhav-Eknath was increasing.

Battle for Hindutva

Eknath had recently come out against the party over the hindutva policy. In a tweet, he wrote that he wants to stick to Bal Thackeray's principles. He will not deviate from that goal for any political gain. Uddhav is withdrawing from Hindutva politics, Shinde alleged. To refute this allegation, Uddhav was forced to say in his speech today that the Shiv Sena is not moving away from the hindutva policy.

Guest House

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

French MP sued for allegedly adopting aristocratic family's name

Paris, June 23 : A newly elected MP for Marine Le Pen's resurgent far-right National Rally party has been sued by the descendants of one of France's oldest aristocratic families who accuse him of adding their name to his own. Emmanuel Taché de la Pagerie, 47, was one of dozens of National Rally MPs voted into the National Assembly on Sunday, with his official ID verified and approved by the local authorities in the southern city of Marseille. Born Emmanuel Taché in the working-class Paris suburb of Montreuil, he told Le Monde newspaper this week that he added "de la Pagerie" to his passport 30 years ago, when he worked in fashion and broadcasting before entering politics. "It's perfectly normal in the art

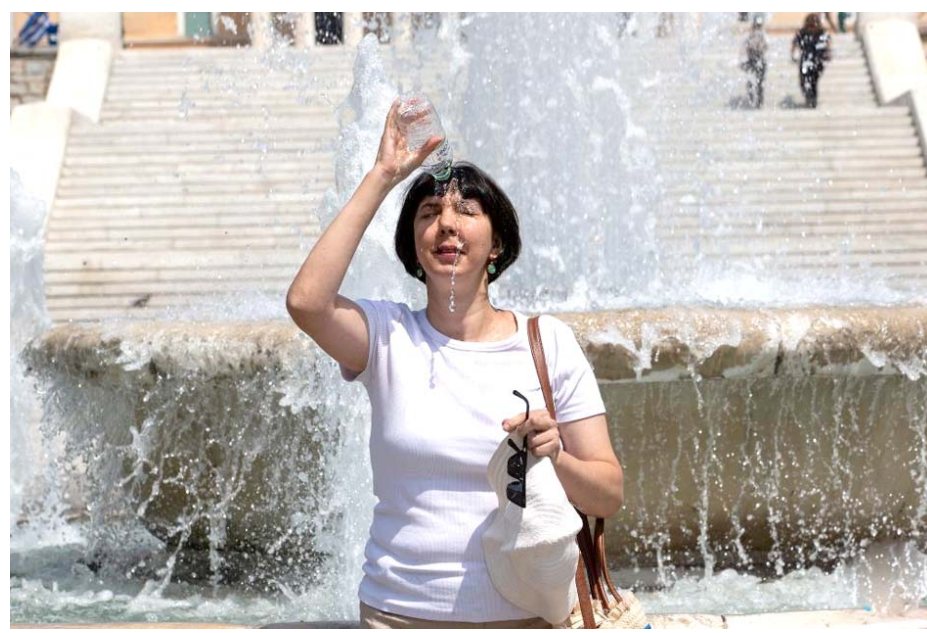


and communication sectors to use a pen name or preferred name. The only restriction is that you can't pass it on to your children," Taché de la Pagerie's lawyer Alexandre Varaut said in a statement. He said his client's use of the name "has been public knowledge for several decades". The male line of the Tascher de la Pagerie family died out in 1993, but three descendants sued the deputy this week, alleging their historic name had been appropriated. The most famous member of the

family was the Empress Joséphine de Beauharnais, who married Napoléon Bonaparte in 1796. Her full name was Marie Joséphe Rose Tascher de La Pagerie. While not illegal under French law, the use of aristocratic surnames can be a prickly subject. Critics of former president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing sniped about his grandfather's acquisition of the noble-sounding "de" ("of") particle, though few ever did for fellow commoner Charles de Gaulle. It was an unwelcome dispute for Taché de la Pagerie's party days after it scored a major parliamentary breakthrough. "We have filed a complaint to protect the family name," Frederic Pichon, a lawyer for the three women, told AFP, adding that a date for hearings would be set on 8 July.

Rupert Murdoch and Jerry Hall set to divorce - report

New York, June 23 : The New York Times cited two anonymous sources for its report on the coming split. It said a spokesman for Murdoch did not comment while representatives for Hall could not be reached. The Australian-born Murdoch was married three times previously. Hall married Mick Jagger in 1990 but the union was annulled nine years later. The Times said people close to Murdoch were "surprised" to hear of the end of a marriage, which had allowed Lachlan Murdoch, Rupert's oldest son, to take a more prominent role running properties including, in the US, Fox News and the Wall Street Journal. But Rupert Murdoch remains immensely powerful as a shaper of rightwing opinion and a cultural touchstone in his own right. Logan Roy, the ruthless media baron played by Brian Cox in the HBO hit Succession, is largely based on Murdoch. According to a recent book by two New York Times journalists, Murdoch's ownership of Fox News, the chief outlet for Donald Trump's big lie about electoral fraud, for climate crisis denial and other rightwing rallying cries, means the US president, Joe Biden, views him as "the most dangerous man in the world". The split with Hall, the paper said, may yet "reverberate throughout [Murdoch's] business empire, which maintains powerful sway in America and abroad through its right-leaning news brands including the ... the Sun in Britain and Sky News in Australia". Murdoch and Hall married in 2016, staging a civil ceremony before a celebration at St Bride's church on Fleet Street, the historical center of the British newspaper industry which Murdoch transformed in the 1970s and 80s.

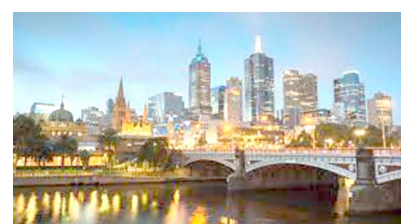


A woman pours water on her head during a heatwave in Athens, Greece

Vienna reclaims title of the world's most livable city

Washington, June 23 : The Austrian capital, Vienna, has made a comeback as the world's most livable city, according to an annual report from the Economist. Vienna snatched the top spot from New Zealand city Auckland, which tumbled down to 34th place due to coronavirus pandemic restrictions, according to the report by the Economist intelligence unit published on Thursday. Vienna, which slipped to 12th place in our rankings in early 2021 as its museums and restaurants were closed, has since rebounded to first place, the position it held in 2018 and 2019, the report said. "Stability and good infrastructure are the city's main charms for its inhabitants, supported by good healthcare and plenty of opportunities for culture and entertainment." The Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, was not included this year after

Russia invaded the country in late February, while Russian cities Moscow and St Petersburg fell in the rankings over "censorship" and the impact of western sanctions. The Austrian capital was followed by the Danish capital, Copenhagen, and Switzerland's Zurich. Fellow Swiss city Geneva came sixth, Germany's Frankfurt seventh, and the Netherlands' Amsterdam ninth. Canada also did well. Calgary came in joint third position, followed by Vancouver in fifth place and Toronto in



eighth. Japan's Osaka and Australia's Melbourne shared 10th place. France's capital, Paris, came 19th, 23 places up from last year. The Belgian capital, Brussels, was 24th, just behind Canada's Montreal. Auckland's fall in the rankings reflected the changing landscape of the coronavirus pandemic over the past year, with vaccination allowing many societies to reopen.

NIT No. B/GC/18/2022/5870

SHORTE-AUCTION NOTICE

Under the Provision of Rule 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 and 37 of the Assam Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2013 Bids are invited on line in two bid systems (Technical and Financial) by the undersigned as Schedule "A" of the Auction document from the Registered Companies / Firms / Societies / Individuals etc. for award of Lease / Contract / Permit for the following Mineral Concession Areas (Mahals).

Sl.No.	Name of Work
1	DBR/50/Doomdooma River/Doomdooma Ghat/Sand MCA of 2022 - 29

Details of E-Auction will be available on the Portal www.assaniforestonline.in from 24-06-2022.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Dibrugarh Division
Janasanyog/C/5299/22

MISSING INFORMATION



Shri Pallab Borah @ Luhit Borha- 16 yrs

The above is a photograph of a boy namely - Shri Pallab Borah @ Luhit Borha- 16 yrs, S/O. Shri Tanuram Borah of Vill- Modhupur, Sengamari, PS - Sootea, District- Biswanath (Assam) who has been missing since- 16/06/2022 at about 2.00 PM on the way to Madhupur as reported by the complainant at Itakhola O.P.

On receipt of the information, a missing entry vide Itakhola O.P GDE No- 286 Dated. 17/06/2022 was made investigated into for tracing out the missing boy.

The Descriptive Roll of the Missing boy is as follows :	
1. Height	- 5 Feet
2. Complexion	- Swarthy
3. Hair	- Black
4. Age	- 16 Years
5. Wearing	- Chocolate Colour Sporting & Blue Colour Jeans Pant.
6. Body Built	- Medium
7. Weight	- 45 kg
8. Language Known	- Assamese
9. Identification mark	- No
10. Any contact No of the victim	- 88226-26505
11. Any Suspect	- No
Contact No.	Biswanath PCR- 8135837614/6026900206

All efforts may kindly be taken to trace out the above woman with intimation to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Superintendent of Police,
Biswanath, Assam
Janasanyog/D/6146/22

MISSING INFORMATION



Musstt. Amina Khatoon- 23 yrs

The above is photograph of a woman namely - Musstt. Amina Khatoon- 23 yrs, W/O. Md. Ajibur Ali of Vill- Baghmari, Brahmputra Chapori, PS - Gingia, District- Biswanath (Assam) who has been missing since- 12/06/2022 from Baghmari Kumurakata Gaon as reported by the complainant at Gingia PS.

On receipt of the information, a missing entry vide Gingia PS GDE No- 310/2022 Dated. 20/06/2022 was made investigated into for tracing out the missing woman.

The Descriptive Roll of the Missing woman in as follows :	
1. Height	- 5 Feet
2. Complexion	- Swarthy
3. Hair	- Black & Long
4. Age	- 23 Years
5. Wearing	- Salwar
6. Body Built	- Medium
7. Weight	- 45 kg
8. Language Known	- Assamese
9. Identification mark	- No
10. Any contact No of the victim	- No
11. Any Suspect	- No
Contact No.	Biswanath PCR- 8135837614/6026900206

All efforts may kindly be taken to trace out the above woman with intimation to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Superintendent of Police,
Biswanath, Assam
Janasanyog/D/6170/22

No.: JDB/15th-FC/3/Pt-I/2022-23/2799 Date- 22/06/2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed Tenders are invited in plain papers affixing postage stamp amounting Rs.8.25 (Rupees eight & twenty five paise) only from reputed firm/ contractor with experience for the following works under 15th FC (Untied Grant) fund for the year 2022-23 under Jalah Dev. Block of BTC area.

Name of the work:-	Estimate Amount
Const. of School Room of Jhagaon Panbari L.P. School	Rs. 20.00L.

Terms & Conditions:-

- 1% for SC, ST & OBC, 2% for General of the Estimate Amount for the each scheme is to be deposited as earnest money by Bank Draft/FD in the name of B.D.O. Jalah Dev. Block along with tender which is refundable after completion of the work.
- The rate for the work should be as per the Plan & Estimate already specified in proposal.
- The work should be completed within 6 (Six) Months from the date of the issue of the work order.
- The quotations along with required documents should be submitted by the date 29/06/2022 Till 2.30 p.m. in the office of the undersigned.
- The Tender will be opened after the closing time on the same date in presence of the bidder.
- The lowest rate Tenderer will be eligible for selection for the work.
- The tenderer will have submit up to date Contractor Registration Certificate, Labour Licence, GST Clearance Certificate, Pan Card, Voter Card, Caste Certificate, BOQ etc.
- In case the office remains closed on tender issuing/receiving/opening date the same will be issued/received/opened on next working day.

Sd/-
Block Development Officer
Jalah Development Block, Jalahghat
IPR(BTC)-131/2022

Flood scene still grim in Nagaon

Assam Rising, Nagaon, June 23: The flood scene in Nagaon is still grim and over 5.3 lakhs people under Kampur, Nagaon, Raha, Samaguri Rupahi and Dhing revenue circles are reeling still under flood water till the time of filing this report for which over 18000 inmates are taking shelter in over 64 relief camps yet, sources said. Sources claimed that the flood water wreaked havoc currently in Nagaon revenue circle and overflowing water from Kapili, Haria, Nishari and Kolong river, devastated a larger areas even in Nagaon town as well as on its surrounding outskirts including Borghat bypass, Morikolung, Pathori, Nono, Putoni, Shiyalmari, Chokitoop, Uttar Haiborgaon, Madhupur, Khutikotia, Milanpur, Baidatup, Nehrubali field etc. It is pertinent to mention here that the flood water has inundated even the office campus of Nagaon district agriculture office and also submerged the office of Borghat bypass police patrolling outpost. Besides, during the fresh wave of flood inundated over 85 villages under Nagaon revenue circle till filing this report, sources added.

VBF distributes clothes among flood affected families



Assam Rising, Gossaigaon, June 23: Under the aegis of Vande Bharti Foundation, an NGO for the flood hit affected families distributed relief materials in Ghoshkata village under Dotma Revenue

Circle in Kokrajhar District on June 22. The clothes distribution was inaugurated by Asmita Rekha Bora, Circle Officer, Dotma Revenue Circle. Around hundreds of flood hit affected families stranded here and

NERAMAC's Agri-Horti Outlet at LGBIA

Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 23: In line with Hon'ble Prime Minister's call of "Vocal for Local" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC) has converted its display outlet outside the arrival counter of the Guwahati Airport to a Retail Sales Outlet. The purpose of the outlet is to make the "agri-horti produce of North East India" easily available to the fliers. The formal opening ceremony was done by Manoj Kumar Das, MD, NERAMAC and Chief Airport Officer, Utpal Badal Baruah. The other dignitaries present during

the inaugural ceremony included Nikhil Kansal, Head Commercial of Adani LGBI Guwahati Airport. The established Retail Sales outlet of NERAMAC has a bouquet of 75+ products including Fresh Fruit, Exotic Vegetables, Juices, Pickles, Cereals, Squash, Blended Cereals, and GI products, Pulses, Spices, Appetizers, Gift Hampers, Bamboo Products and Tea. These products are all sourced from the 8 states of North East from local entrepreneurs.



NERAMAC offers a platform to showcase and market with exotic agri-horti products from the north-east. Further this outlet will attract the tourists and travelers from outside and provide them with a platform to source products of NE India.

District Task Force meeting on VBDs held



Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, June 23: A District Task Force meet-

ing on AES, JE and other Vector Borne Diseases (VBDs) was held on June 22

at the conference hall of the office of Lakhimpur DC, North Lakhimpur under the chairmanship of Lakhimpur ADC (Health) Gitali Duwarah. In the meeting, Lakhimpur District VBDs adviser Dinesh Nath explained about the state of various VBDs in Lakhimpur district. He informed that no person has been infected by Japanese Encephalitis in the district at present time. He also informed that one per-

son in Bihpuria and another person in Dhalpur has been infected by AES in present days. District VBDs nodal officer Chandra Pegu also spoke on the occasion. Lakhimpur district Joint director (Health) Dr. Monuj Das and all the members of Lakhimpur district Task Force were present in the meeting.

NIRD&PR - NERC organized Soft Skills Training

Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 23: The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, North Eastern Regional Centre (Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India), Guwahati (NIRD&PR - NERC), Assam State is organizing 3 day soft skills training for officials of Department of Sericulture, Government of Assam sponsored by Department of Sericulture under World Bank Project Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART). The Director, Sericulture Smt. Kajori Rajkhowa ACS has negoti-

ated with NIRDPR NERC for organizing the customized Skill Training to the department officials for empowering the Farmer Interest Groups to promote Silk productivity in Assam State. The main aim of the training is to create a pool of employees who possess the soft skills expected by the workplace particularly the department of sericulture. This Training module has been developed by NIRDPR NERC to identify the essential soft skills to the employees of Sericulture Department for effectively discharging their duties without much stress

and to practically train them using various activities. This would pave the way for professional success and subsequently better citizens of the Rural Society. Total 100 officials will be trained by NIRDPR NERC in three batches. The first batch was organized during June 13-15 wherein 30 officials from three districts of Assam have undergone the training successfully. This the second in a series of programmes was inaugurated by Prof. Bhavesh Goswami, Vice-Chancellor, Cotton University, Guwahati in presence of Dr. R. Murugesan, Director, NIRDPR - North Eastern Regional Centre, Guwahati, and Sri. Ataur Rehman, Joint Director, Department of Sericulture and Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar and Dr. V. Suresh Babu Course Directors on 22nd June, 2022 at 10.00 A.M. Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor and Program Coordinator, NIRDPR - NERC, Guwahati, while welcoming esteemed dignitaries the participants to the event. He laid focus on the significance of the soft skills and mentioned that research indicates that through soft skills training 16 percent of employees performance was improved in many organizations and nearly 12 percent of increase in Organizational productivity was noticed. Dr. R. Murugesan, Director, NIRDPR - NERC, Guwahati while de-

livering opening remarks quoted that Sericulture is a labour intensive production system. Prof. Bhavesh Goswami, Vice Chancellor, Cotton University, Guwahati while delivering the inaugural address emphasized the need for soft skills training to improve the performance of the employees. Further he mentioned that user friendly technologies are available in plenty and the official need to learn the technologies and need to know the unknown things for effective functioning. Since the Eri and Muga silk is part of Assamese culture and Traditions the department should focus on enhancing the productivity of these varieties of silk and establish the brand image at the International level. He has also appreciated the Training design and module developed by NIRDPR on Soft Skills with emphasis on bringing change in Attitude significance of Time Management and other dimensions like Creativity and Leadership, Communication skills, Emotional Intelligence and Team building. The programme concluded with the Vote of thanks proposed by Dr. V. Suresh Babu.

BSF helped a lady during medical emergency

Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 23: Bordermen of Border Security Force under Guwahati Frontier, apart from manning Indo-Bangladesh International Border, also assist border population in emergency situations by providing medical assistance. On Thursday morning an Asha worker of Village Takkamari of Dhubri (Assam) district informed BSF Company Commander of BOP Pattamari of 19 Battalion that an old aged lady namely Mulika Bibi W/o Ayanal Hoque of Takkamari village is suffering from breathing problem and is in serious condition and requires immediate medical assistance. The BSF Company Commander immediately responded and evacuated the lady to the nearest Govt. hospital Dhubri by the help of BSF nursing staff and



Speed boat ambulance. Due to timely action taken by the Border Security Force, the precious life of the lady could be saved. The local village president and the villagers have thanked and appre-

ciated the humanitarian work by BSF. Nevertheless the Border Security Force is dedicated for the Security of Borders of India as well as providing help to the border population as its guided principle and ethos.

Relief materials distributed to school children



Assam Rising, Udalguri, June 23: Puspahar Bastola the

Principal of Udalguri H S School accompanied by assistant teachers Sukra

Rabha and Debashis Basumatari visited the students at their village Kathalguri and took stock of the situation on June 23. They have distributed biscuit packets, pens and copies to encourage their morals to continue their studies in such a pathetic condition. According to reports 32 school childrens were affected by the village as they have rendered homeless for the time being.

NDRF saved a drowning person in north guwahati

Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 23: Now the rain has stopped in Assam but the flood situation is getting worse day by day. In this



worst situation 1st BN NDRF having its HQ at Patgaon, Guwahati is on full swing with its 14 professionally sound team to shift all these stranded peoples to safe place and provide food and water to the inaccessible areas being provided by the district administration. Today at around 1430 hrs, while ferrying relief distribution to the heavily waterlogged area in North Guwahati, the NDRF team saw a drowning in the

middle of the water and heard a frightening sound, the team swiftly approached him and rescued alive the battling male person namely Firoz Ali's son Ilyas Ali, resident of village Bala Pare, West Islampur from the submerged area of North Guwahati. First Bn NDRF for North Eastern Districts is always there to serve every needy person in any calamity or calamity like situation and always ready to face all challenges.

Wild elephant knocks at DC official bungalow at Nagaon

Assam Rising, Nagaon, June 23: A male wild elephant coming from Dhing Chapori, entered into the residence campus of Deputy Commissioner, Nagaon early this morning and also took a walk across its lawn as well as its orchard. The elephant also destroyed a boundary wall in the DC official bungalow, sources said. Meanwhile the police on duty in the campus immediately managed somehow to take the elephant out of the campus following which the wild jumbo was being chased by forest personnel throughout the small town during which the elephant also demolished the entry gate of Nagaon Bengali Boys' HS School. Subsequently, the elephant was pushed back towards a waterbody near Jasingfa resort at Morikolung - Mahuril agricultural field by the forest person-



nel, sources said adding that the elephant entered into Chakorigaon and then it took shelter in a jungle at Teliapohukata area after crossing the Kolong river. The elephant was still there at Teliapohukata area till the time of filing this report and the forest personnel from Nagaon Forest Division were being deployed to keep a watch on the movement of the wild jumbo. While speaking to the local media persons

here, DFO Bhaskar Deka said that the elephant was found near Dhing a couple of days back and thereafter it was traced again at Nagaon Jajori area yesterday. He said that the forest personnel would try to escort the elephant during the night to the Laokhuwa reserve forest or other. He however urged the people of the concerned areas not to create any panic or harm the elephant.

Awareness program on IPL held at USTM

Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 23: The Patent Consortium cell of the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) in association with KAPILA (Kalam Program for IP Literacy and Awareness) organised an Awareness program on Intellectual Property Literacy at NKC Auditorium today. The program was attended by Prof GD Sharma, Vice Chancellor of USTM, students and faculty members. Rakesh Chandra Joshi, Examiner of Patents and Designs, Group A Gazetted officer in DPIIT, Government of India



delivered a talk on Intellectual Property Literacy. He spoke on types of patents, how to file a patent, how to get a patent published, the intricacies etc related to the subject. "Under IPR, Patents, Designs, Trade Marks, Geo-

graphical Indications, Copyrights are categorised. Each has a validity period. One should have any new idea patented before it is published in public domain to protect the right of the creator", said Mr Joshi.

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Website: www.gmda.assam.gov.in Tel: 0361-2529650/9824
E-mail: ceogmdaghy@gmail.com Fax: 0361-2529991

No. GMDA/DEV/91/2021/27 Dated: 23-06-2022

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders in prescribed format eventually to be drawn up in P.W.D. F-2 Form (Modified) affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of ₹8.25 (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only from reputed, experienced & financially sound APWD Roads Registered Contractor of Class I (A, B & C), Class-II & Class-III categories are invited by the undersigned at the office of the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority for the work of "Road restoration work for existing gravel road at DMA No. 5 under South Guwahati West Water Supply Project" and will be received up to **2:30 P.M. on 11-07-2022** and will be opened at **3:00 P.M.** on the same day. In case of unscheduled holiday on the date of opening of the tender, the tender will be opened on the next working day at the same time and place. The Detailed Tender Document may be obtained on all working days from **24-06-2022 to 08-07-2022** on payment of non-refundable tender fee of ₹500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred) only against the work at GMDA's cash counter up to 2:30 P.M.

Sd/- **Chief Executive Officer**
Guwahati Metropolitan Dev. Authority
Bhangagarh, Guwahati - 5

THE ASSAM RISING

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The dream of a quick Ukrainian victory

The dream of a quick Ukrainian victory, the repetition of the initial dream of a quick Russian victory, is over. In what looks more and more as a protracted stalemate, Russia is slowly progressing, and its ultimate goal is clearly stated. There is no longer any need to read between the lines when Putin compares himself with Peter the Great: "On the face of it, he was at war with Sweden taking something away from it ... He was not taking away anything, he was returning ... He was returning and reinforcing, that is what he was doing ... Clearly, it fell to our lot to return and reinforce as well." More than focus on particular issues (is Russia really just "returning", and to what?) we should read carefully Putin's general justification of his claim: "In order to claim some kind of leadership – I am not even talking about global leadership, I mean leadership in any area – any country, any people, any ethnic group should ensure their sovereignty. Because there is no in-between, no intermediate state: either a country is sovereign, or it is a colony, no matter what the colonies are called." The implication of these lines, as one commentator put it, is clear: there are two categories of state: "The sovereign and the conquered. In Putin's imperial view, Ukraine should fall into the latter category." And, as it is no less clear from Russian official statements in the last months, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Finland, the Baltic states ... and ultimately Europe itself "fall into the latter category". We now know what the call to allow Putin to "save his face" means. It means accepting not a minor territorial compromise in Donbas but Putin's imperial ambition. The reason this ambition should be unconditionally rejected is that in today's global world in which we are all haunted by the same catastrophes we are all in-between, in an intermediate state, neither a sovereign country nor a conquered one: to insist on full sovereignty in the face of global warming is sheer madness since our very survival hinges on tight global cooperation. But Russia doesn't simply ignore global warming – why was it so mad at the Scandinavian countries when they expressed their intention to join Nato? With global warming, what is at stake is the control of the Arctic passage. (That's why Trump wanted to buy Greenland from Denmark.) Due to the explosive development of China, Japan and South Korea, the main transport route will run north of Russia and Scandinavia.

Be a Citizen Journalist

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
G.N.B. Road, Chandmari Colony,
Guwahati, PIN 781003
E-mail Id : assamrising@gmail.com

Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

Why the revival of the World Trade Organisation depends on US and China

That the World Trade Organization was able to come to any kind of deal at its 12th ministerial meeting last week was something of a miracle. The organization has been dead for years as a location for trade governance - and even longer as a place for successful negotiations. In fact, reports of the WTO's continued existence are greatly exaggerated. Until the two most influential trading powers in the world - the United States and China - commit to reform, the organization will continue to decline into irrelevance. It is true that the deals struck last week mark two major steps forward for the WTO. While an agreement to limit subsidies for commercial fishing may have ended up much more modest in scope than originally envisaged, it injects the question of environmental sustainability into global trade policy for the first time. Most developing countries have long preferred to address environmental issues separately through the United Nations, correctly viewing them as a possible source of non-tariff barriers against emerging-

economy exporters. The second sign of progress was China's tacit acceptance that it cannot always and perpetually claim the special benefits granted to developing economies at the WTO. The vaccine IP waiver countries agreed upon effectively excluded large exporters - in this case, China - from benefiting. Though

 **Mihir Sharma**

China accepted the restriction voluntarily, it sets an important precedent. The big question at the WTO for most developing countries is this: How can they preserve their own special rights while ensuring that China, which has already benefited more than its fair share from the WTO, does not? Under current rules, this can only happen with Chinese acquiescence, and this is the first time we have seen signs that China accepts its dominance of global goods trade means it must surrender some special protections. For the WTO to reclaim relevance - and the faith of the developing world - it will in the future need to codify China's new status. But that will not be enough. The other stumbling

block to truly reviving the WTO is the United States, which under President Joe Biden has retained the previous administration's obstructive approach to global trade. The Biden administration's backing of a vaccine IP waiver was hardly a concession. Throughout the pandemic, the bigger obstacle to getting shots in the world's arms was hoarding by the US and others, alongside supply chain disruptions through misuse of legislation such as the Defense Production Act. More critically, the US still hasn't repaired the damage it's done by vetoing nominees to the WTO's appellate body. Until it does, the WTO will not be able to fulfill its central duty to resolve international trade disputes. Western trade officials and analysts like to focus their ire at countries such as India, portrayed as obstructionist for wanting to maintain its oversized foodgrain stocks. Yet it's absurd to act like that's a giant worry in 2022, when the real issue is India's unwillingness to export wheat at a time of rising prices, not the possibility that it might dump subsidized stocks on world markets.

It is the Shindes you have to look out for. The rebellion in Maharashtra, which threatens to bring down the Maha Vikas Aghadi government, has been fronted by Eknath Shinde, a Shiv Sena leader who felt neglected and side-lined by the leadership. But he is not the only Shinde to feel slighted. Though most people do not realise this, before the British arrived and anglicised the name, the Scindias of Gwalior were also Shindes. (When the late Madhavrao Scindia wrote his name in Marathi, he called himself Shinde). So, in 2020, before this Shinde staged a rebellion and plotted to bring down the Maharashtra government, Jyotiraditya Scindia alias Shinde, had done pretty much the same thing in Madhya Pradesh, by going over to the BJP, taking his MLAs with him and causing the Kamal Nath-led Congress government to fall. It is possible to overstate the parallels. The Madhya Pradesh revolt did not involve sequestering MLAs in hotels, flying them to other states and there was no question of money being involved in the rebellion. Jyotiraditya Scindia is a man of unimpeachable integrity. But there are some similarities. Both Shindes believed that promises made to them by the leaderships of their parties had not been kept. Both were under pressure from their MLAs to abandon a government that they felt had not given them their due. And both were prepared to make huge ideological leaps, though you could argue that to go from the Shiv Sena to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is not as massive a jump as the shift from the Congress to the BJP. Jyotiraditya Shinde (Scindia) has flourished after his move. He is a high-performing cabinet minister and



his MLAs have been accommodated in the state government. His example has encouraged other politicians (not just those called Shinde!) to switch over to the BJP and to what they regard as a better future. It brings home what is fast becoming a central truth of Indian politics. It is not necessary for the BJP to form a government by winning an election. Even if it is defeated (as it was in Madhya Pradesh), it will use pressure and inducements to break the ruling party and try and form a government of its own. Sometimes, the assault on the election verdict fails, as it did in Rajasthan. But all too often, it succeeds. It is hard to make specific charges without proof so I am going to treat the widely held view among politicians that the revolts are mainly about money as unproven in the Maharashtra case. But even if you do not believe that many of these rebellions have nothing to do with ideology or governance and only involve the buying and selling of MLAs, it is hard to deny that they cost hundreds of crores. Who pays for the charter planes that transport MLAs across the country? How much does it cost to take over five-star hotels and resorts to keep legislators under guard? For some reason, these questions are rarely asked. And even if they are, they are never answered. Apart from strengthening the legend of the

 **VIR SANGHVI**

for. When you elect a representative, you don't really choose a man or a woman who will represent your interests and implement the ideological positions he or she claimed to believe in. An electoral victory now is the political equivalent of a start-up loan. Some MLAs take the mandate we give them and monetise it, becoming political entrepreneurs out to make fortunes for themselves. We, the voters, are merely the suckers who made their prosperity possible. The cynicism this breeds within the electorate must not be underestimated. At any given time, a political party that wins an election rarely wins with more than 45 per cent of the vote. (Often victories are won with much lower percentages of vote share). Which means that even when Indian democracy is functioning properly, governments in power rarely have the support of the majority, no matter how much we hype

their 'landslide' victories. In most parliamentary democracies, this is not a major problem because, once elected, governments try and be more inclusive, governing also on the behalf of those who did not vote for them. The problems arise when governments act as though power gives them a right to do whatever they want. The wishes and aspirations of a section of the electorate are ignored. And election results are treated, not as the verdict of the people, but as a starting point for the politics of commerce and greed. It doesn't matter what promises MLAs made to voters to get elected. Once they are in the assemblies, they are commodities to be bought and traded. Who cares what the electorate voted for? In 1971, Indira Gandhi won a huge majority at the Lok Sabha election. In 1972, she repeated her triumph at state elections across India. But, by 1974, the Congress was in trouble. Indira Gandhi began to believe that because she had won so many elections, she could do what she wanted. People realised that there was little they could do to register their protests through the elected governments at the Centre and the states. So they took to the streets. By 1975, Indira Gandhi was in so much trouble that she imposed the Emergency. By 1977, she was voted out. History does not always repeat itself. But what is certainly true is that when people with a grievance find that the political system does not respond to their concerns, they take to the streets. Most times it works. The National Register of Citizens/Citizenship Amendment Act scheme was put on hold after protests. The farm laws were buried after farmers protested. More

recently, the protests over Nupur Sharma's remarks eventually led the BJP to reconsider its position: no more houses are being bulldozed and the Prime Minister has publicly re-asserted his belief in communal harmony by talking about growing up with a Muslim boy who became part of the family. Even the Agnipath protests, while they have not succeeded in derailing the scheme, have caused the government to announce substantial modifications and concessions. Nearly all of this could have been avoided if we had parliamentary/legislative democracy that took people into confidence before decisions were announced. One, where elected representatives were sensitive to public opinion and advised the government how far it could go. Instead, we are heading to a situation where the elections are often irrelevant — because MLAs can be easily led into changing sides once they are elected, where governments can be toppled with ease and where the votes of the electorate are only the first step: money is the second. So yes, Eknath Shinde may succeed in toppling the Maharashtra government. I have no particular affection for the MVA and will shed no tears at its possible demise. But it's not about Maharashtra. It is about the relationship between voters and their representatives. And though we hype the popularity of governments, let's accept that, the relationship between politicians and the people who elect them is already dangerously fragile. A few more of these entrepreneurial operations and public contempt for politicians will rise to the level where the relationship could well break down.

How Indo-Pacific agreement stands to lose due to Biden's approach, US' mindset

Responding to widespread criticism of the Biden administration's paltry offer of funding for Southeast Asian partners at a recent summit, a wise friend offered a colorful metaphor: "If we're dating and I sense that you're being transactional, then I want you to take me to the best restaurant in town and get the priciest bottle of wine. If you want a long-term relationship, buy me a cheap bottle of Chianti and we can sit on the roof and watch the

sunset." My friend is right: no amount of money will win hearts and minds in the vital Indo-Pacific region unless it comes with a credible demonstration of long-term commitment to the region. This is the thinking that should guide the Biden administration as it takes forward its new "Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity" (IPEF). President Biden rolled out the initiative at a hybrid event in

 **MATTHEW GOODMAN**

Tokyo with leaders of 12 other Indo-Pacific countries. In a joint statement, the leaders committed to a "free, open, fair, inclusive, interconnected, resilient, secure, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region" and agreed to "launch collective discussions toward future negotiations" on four pillars of work: trade; supply chains; clean energy; decarbonization, and infrastructure; and tax and anti-corruption. The high turnout of countries at the IPEF launch was encouraging. Close US allies and partners in the region, such as Japan, Australia, and Singapore, had been expected to join, but there was widespread skepticism about the willingness of India and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to participate; in the end, India and 7 of the 10 ASEAN countries joined. (The Pacific nation of Fiji later signed up, bringing the tally of initial IPEF participants to 14.) The White House appears to have persuaded those on the fence by scaling back its earlier insistence that participating countries commit upfront to specific negotiating objectives for the initiative and each of its four pillars. The menu of topics in IPEF is promising; as noted before, it covers many key US interests and is largely aligned with the stated policy priorities of regional partners. Moreover, there are indications that the Biden administration is ready to make some tangible financial commitments to win partner buy-in and advance US-preferred

standards, including greater investments in project-preparation facilities to encourage more private infrastructure investment, and in building up partner capacity in the digital economy. These are the kind of unheralded but important offerings from the United States that countries in the region want and could

help strengthen long-term relationships there. But questions continue to swirl around IPEF, particularly concerning its durability. Will most of the countries that signed on at the launch—including India, Indonesia, and other ASEAN countries critical to the initiative's success—stay constructively engaged once the negotiations start and the United States presses for binding commitments to high standards? Will the White House be able to hold the multiple strands of IPEF together as a coherent strategy? Will a possible new US administration in 2025 tear up the initiative and offer its own preferred approach? Frankly, this points to one of the major drawbacks of the Biden administration's current approach: its reluctance to seek formal congressional approval of the initiative and of IPEF's ultimate outcomes. As discussed before, this is a problem for two reasons: First, only Congress can grant what trading partners really want economically from the United States—namely, tariff reductions and other legislated changes ensuring greater access to the large US market. And second, if the final IPEF outcomes are simply "executive agreements" not approved by Congress, they



will lack the force of U.S. law, raising doubts in partner countries' minds about the durability of U.S. commitments beyond the current administration. Note that the focus on partner perspectives in the points above is grounded in U.S. interests. Without sufficient incentives, other countries are unlikely to agree to high U.S.-preferred standards in areas like the digital economy and anti-corruption. (The reason Vietnam agreed to disciplines on labor, the environment, and state-owned enterprises in the Trans-Pacific

Partnership (TPP) negotiations is that Hanoi won greater access to the U.S. market for its exports of apparel, footwear, and basa fish.) Moreover, as with the United States, whatever commitments other countries do make in IPEF will be more binding if approved by their own legislatures. The administration's reluctance to engage Congress is based on the view that trade politics is "too hard." To be sure, manufacturing labor unions still have a powerful hold on the Democratic party, and former President Trump's anti-trade posture has gained traction on the Republican side of the aisle.

Letter to the Editor

Government should not ignore the Apprehensions of the Career Aspirants

Dear Editor,

Agnipath scheme : The Apprehensions of Career Aspirants, as envisaged are -

1) recruitment for 12 th passed as permanent employees in all the armed forces will be there as usual ? The youth wanted to take up permanent posting in the Armed forces as they take pride in serving for the country , as all of us are aware.

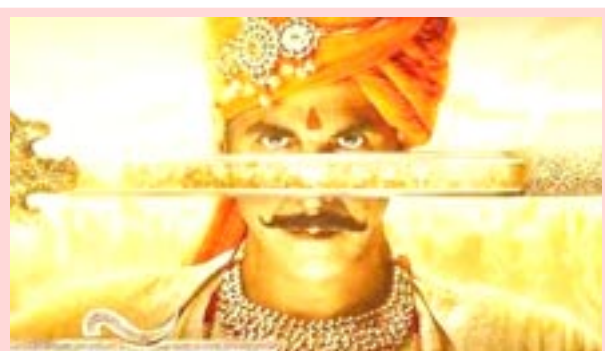
2) What is the compensation for their families , in case of death of Agniveers on duty (in war or no war). This should be well defined.

3) Job titles of Agniveers should be well defined.

4) Rules of Leave , Gratuity and other service rules should be well defined and made clear to the aspirants and public.

5) Recruiting Agniveers in a hurried way is not at all fair. I suggest the government , especially the ministers, play a parental role for young career aspirants. Government should publish all the above facts in leading newspapers, at the earliest. Then only there will be perfect understanding.

 **KLRao**



SamratPrithviraj sees a big drop Collects Rs. 5 cr

Mumbai, June 23 : SamratPrithviraj starring by Akshay Kumar, ManushiChhillar, SonuSood and Sanjay Dutt, directed by Dr. ChandraprakashDwivedi released in theatres on 3rd of June, 2022. The film locked horns with a Pan-India Tamil film Vikram starring Kamal Haasan, Vijay Sethupathi and FahadhFasil and a Pan-India Telugu film Major starring AdiviSesh and SaieeManjrekar. The Akshay Kumar starrer didn't fare optimally over the weekend given the high costs involved and the wide release it got. The Kamal Haasan led Vikram emerged as the first choice among moviegoers for the weekend while SamratPrithviraj settled as the second most preferred choice. Major, which is a relatively small film, took the third place but the collections are reasonably good.SamratPrithviraj had a low first weekend of Rs. 39 crnett. The first Monday numbers are meandering between Rs. 4.85 cr - 5.15 cr. The numbers are not optimal or anywhere close to it as a film of this scale and with the association of a big production house like Yash Raj Films and an A-list actor like Akshay Kumar was expected to do a lot more, preferably at least 50 percent more. The Monday number suggests that the film is heading towards a first week sub Rs. 60 crnett after which it is likely to face stiff competition from the Hollywood biggie Jurassic World: Dominion. The second Friday numbers will indicate where the film is headed as far as lifetime is considered. At the moment, it looks more like Rs. 75 cr India nett unless something miraculous happens. The numbers from overseas are very poor too and in its lifetime, it may struggle to touch even 2 million dollars. Vikram was rocking over the weekend with a global cume of Rs. 163 cr gross worldwide in its first 3 days. The Monday numbers coming in are excellent and the film is likely to target lifetime records in the state of Tamil Nadu. The Hindi collections of Vikram are very low but the first Monday has landed above first Friday which shows that the film has got appreciation from its target audience.Major did well in the Telugu states and the overseas numbers were impressive too. The film managed to gross Rs 36 cr worldwide after 3 days. The Hindi numbers are not encouraging but are better than Vikram. KartikAaryan, Tabu and KiaraAdvani's Super-Hit BhoolBhulaiyya 2 has crossed Rs. 150 crnett and is still very steady at the box office. The AneesBazmee directorial is the second highest grossing Hindi film this year.

When SonamKapoor made ArjunKapoor?

Mumbai, June 23 : Mumbai Actor and fashion icon SonamKapoor celebrates her 36th birthday today. Born into a family of film stars, Sonam has carved a space for herself through her journey of many ups and downs, and has experimented with different genres and roles from commercial entertainers to gripping award-winning films like Neerja. Despite staying away from films for the past couple of years, the actor has still managed to remain in the limelight with her public appearances, gorgeous photoshoots and voiced her strong opinion on pertinent issues like LGBTQ representation and MeToo. Sonam's life is nothing less than a Bollywood film-from her relationship with her parents Anil Kapoor and SunitaKapoor and cousin ArjunKapoor, to her husband AnandAhuja. Here's looking back at some anecdotes in her life. During a guest appearance on KoffeeWith Karan, her cousin, actor ArjunKapoor had a couple of hilarious things to say about Sonam. "This sweet fragile ethereal beauty used to bite me as a kid," he said, and went on to tease her about the accent that she would pick up from her holidays to the US. "She used to come back with an American accent and would



talk like that also. I was also the third wheel on her dates, when a boy would ask her out. She used to make me this protective asset that she could carry along, so she could tell her parents, 'Listen, I'm going with Arjun', whereas she was going with Arjun as an added plus one with her date. I used to sit alone on those dates eating McDonald's burgers that she used to pay for, to also bribe me." Last year in an interview with RJ SiddharthKanan, Arjun revealed that he had even once gotten into a fight for Sonam. "Sonam and I were in the same school. I was chubby then. I used to love playing basketball and so did Sonam. One day, it was a typical, cliched scene where seniors came and grabbed the ball from Sonam and announced it was their time to play. Sonam came crying to me. She said, 'He behaved badly with me, this boy.' I asked, 'Who's this boy?' I am not a violent person at all. Neither in my childhood nor now. But I do get angry. I got angry and I went. That boy came and I abused him. He looked at me, kept staring at my verbal diarrhoea of abuses, he just

looked at me." Arjun added that he was suspended after this fight, "He took his hand and punched me. I went back home with a black eye. Sonam was saying sorry to me and I remember, he was a part of some national level boxing. He was a boxer. Maine galatladke se panga le liyaSonamkechakkarmein (I messed with the wrong guy for Sonam). I got the punch and had to go to the doctor. I got suspended because I abused. I was the instigator of the problem. After that I told Sonam, 'you take care of yourself in school because I have been defamed very badly. I can't do this', he added. During their joint appearance together on KWK, in 2014 Karan quizzed Anil Kapoor about his youthful looks. Sonam then revealed that it was her mother, Sunita who keeps him in check. In fact, she added, "She keeps all of us in check." When Karan asked Anil if he was scared of his wife, he joked, "No, no she is scared of me." At the time Sonam interjected and said that Anil was 'petrified' of Sunita. "It's a lot of fear, all of us are scared in the family," she

laughed. When Karan asked Anil if he was involved in any rumours, both of them denied it, and Sonam even said that Sunita hadn't allowed any film magazines in the house. When speaking about her relationships in this episode, Sonam strongly maintained that she preferred to keep her private life away from the media glare. A proud Anil Kapoor said that it was 'Sunita's training', and that he had been 'groomed' by his wife too. Sonam also called Anil Kapoor the 'coolest' dad ever, and that he never remembered her boyfriends names. "He calls them different things," she laughed. Anil added, "Because I know she's not serious, I'll know when she is." On the other hand, Sonam admitted that SunitaKapoor was 'slightly more conservative' than her father, with Anil adding that it is a 'good cop bad cop' situation at home. Sonam's friends were trying to set her up with businessman AnandAhuja's best friend at first. Apparently, she met Anand when she was busy with the promotions of Prem Ratan DhanPayo (2015). One day, her friends 'conned' her into visiting a bar and saw that her friends had called three boys. She flatly said that she didn't believe in marriage "and all this nonsense", and that she didn't want to date anybody. In an interview to Filmfare, she said, "I saw Anand and his friend.

Jeff Goldblum takes one more bite out of Jurassic World



evocative to me, that sounds like a good character. Or Charlie Ocean. I like both of those. Nothing wrong with Goldblum, but if they want to change it, fine with me." Either through experience (Goldblum's early films included two with the improvisational Robert Altman, "a dippy doodle of an artist," he says) or practice (Goldblum credits acting teacher Sandy Meisner with instilling in him "a continuity of digging"), Goldblum has arrived at his unique cadence and perpetual state of curiosity. "At the beginning of the day, I remind myself: free association,

ception but then in your giving back, reacting and offering something." After co-starring in Jurassic Park and its 1997 sequel, The Lost World, Goldblum returned to Ian Malcolm in 2018's Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom during which his character testifies to the US Congress. Malcolm recommends letting the exploding volcano determine the fate of the dinosaurs on Isla Nublar. Goldblum relished it. Production on Jurassic World: Dominion was halted in 2020 due to the pandemic. When shooting restarted, the studio rented out a hotel in England near Pinewood Studios for cast and crew. Goldblum would sometimes play the piano there with his castmates and Trevorror - "musicales and hootenanny's of one kind or another," Goldblum says. Dern posted one video of her, Neill and Goldblum singing the Beatles' "Blackbird."

A R Rahman named ambassador of Indo-UK culture platform

Mumbai, June 23 : Music great A R Rahman has been named the ambassador of British Council's 'India-UK Together Season of Culture', which aims to boost collaboration among emerging artists. The 'Season of Culture' that marks the 75th anniversary of India's independence was officially launched on Tuesday here by Britain's Deputy High Commissioner to India Jan Thomson and Director (India) of British Council Barbara Wickham. Rahman said as an artiste, it is a pleasure to be part of an innovative cultural programme which supports creative excellence and artistic appreciation; and brings diverse audiences together. "Today, creative expression and exchange can nurture young talent and create a global stage for fair and equitable access to arts," he added. Wickham said Rahman has been a significant adviser to the 'Season of Culture' and his work and professional journey truly embody what the 'Season of Culture' stands for - working together, and artistic output that captures the imagination of the world. Over 1,400 artistes will showcase their collaborations to millions of audiences across India, Britain, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, through a wide array of arts such as



theatre, dance, visual arts, literature, music, architecture, design, fashion, tech-art, and new media art. The 'Season of Culture' aims to build on the British Council's work in India and strengthen India-UK collaboration in the areas of arts, English and

education. Wickham said people in both the countries will have the chance to experience innovative and exciting creative work from some of the most promising UK and Indian artists pushing the envelope of creativity and the infusion of creative tech.

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



Mumbai , June 23 : Actor Nayanthara and filmmaker VigneshShivan are set to get married today, June 9. Hours before the wedding, Vignesh dedicated the wedding day to his bride Nayanthara. He wrote on Instagram for the actor, "Today is June 9 and it's Nayan's thanking God, the universe, the Good will from all the lovely human beings who have crossed My life !! Every good soul , every good moment , every good coincidence, every good blessing, every day at shooting and every prayer that has made life this beautiful ! I owe it all to the good manifestations & prayers ! Now , It's all dedicated to the love of my life ! #Nayanthara ! My #Thangamey ! Excited to see u walking up the aisle in a few hours !" The couple will tie the knot at an intimate event at Mahabalipuram with family

AsimRiaz features in mediocre music video

Mumbai, June 23 : We have some good news for AsimRiaz fans. The former Bigg Boss contestant features in the music video of a new romantic track called "DiTodiye", which has been crooned by AnkitTiwari. The music video actually has a disturbing ending (TRIGGER WARNING), with Asim's character contemplating suicide. However, in the next moment, when his partner, who had been cheating on him, turns up at his doorstep, Asim shoots her dead. The lyrics by GaganWadali are mediocre at best, and the music video shot by PallapothhulaChakravarty is as average as they come. Basically, the music video has nothing new or interesting to offer, perhaps barring Ankit's pitch-perfect vocals. Singer AnkitTiwari added, "DiTodiye is exceptionally close to my heart and I tried to bring a sense of distinctiveness with all my heart and soul into this one. When artists and labels are on the same page, great work is bound to happen. I can't wait to see if the audience will pour love into the song as much as we did while making it."

Sidhu murder: Shooter Saurabh arrested from Pune

Mumbai, June 23 : Sidhu Moose Wala murder: The absconding accused, Saurabh alias Siddesh Kamble, who is also known as Mahakal, in the Sidhu Moose Wala murder case, was arrested by the crime branch of Pune Rural. So far, nine arrests have been made in the Sidhu Moose Wala murder case. On Tuesday, the Punjab Police said it has arrested eight people so far in connection with the murder of Punjabi singer SidhuMoosewala. They have been held on the charges of providing logistic support, conducting recce and harbouring the shooters of the singer, said police. Police also said they have identified four shooters who were involved in the crime. Those arrested have



been identified as Sandeep Singh, alias Kekda, of Sirsa, Haryana; Manpreet Singh, alias Manna, of Talwandi Sabo, Bathinda; and Manpreet Bhau of Dhaipai, Faridkot.

Contd. From Page 1

Blood test that can detect breast

results of a study published in the Lancet Oncology journal showed the breast cancer patients who were given Capiasertib, developed by AstraZeneca, survived almost twice as long than those given the standard treatment alone. "There has never been a trial targeting this genetic pathway in breast cancer that has an overall survival advantage like this - it's really quite extraordinary," Prof Rob Jones, of Velindre Cancer Centre and Cardiff University, was quoted as saying.

PM Modi should visit flood-hit

Darrang, 4.40 lakh in Nagaon, 3.38 lakh in Bajali, 2.91 lakh in Dhubri, 2.82 lakh in Kamrup, 2.80 lakh in Goalpara, 2.07 lakh in Cachar, 1.84 lakh in Nalbari, 1.51 lakh in South Salmara, 1.46 lakh in Bongaigaon, 1.34 lakh in Karimganj district. The ASDMA also reported that seven people have gone missing amidst the natural calamity whereas 2,31,819 people took shelter in the 810 relief camps in the state. A total of 1,13,485.37 hectares of land have been affected because of the calamity, whereas the ASDMA in its report further stated that at least 11,292 people have been evacuated from the affected areas. Nearly 2.32 lakh people are currently lodged in relief camps. Meanwhile, there is a political crisis in Maharashtra. Three more Shiv Sena MLAs have joined the rebel group of MLAs led by Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde in Guwahati on Thursday morning further deepening the political instability in the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra. They reached the Radisson Blu Hotel in Guwahati, where other MLAs are campaigning. Last night, four more MLAs joined Shinde in Guwahati. With this, the number of MLAs joining the rebel group goes to seven in the last 24 hours.

Assam Floods: Over 54 Lakh

in Cachar district, 2,81,271 in 469 villages of Karimganj and over 51,000 in 98 villages in Hailakandi. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is scheduled to visit Silchar on Thursday to review the flood situation in the Valley. A total population 54,57,601 were affected in 32 districts of the state. The worst affected districts are Barpeta where 11,29,390 are affected, followed by Kamrup with 7,89,496, Dhubri with 5,97,153 and Nagaon with 5,03,450 people in the flood, according to a bulletin of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) on Thursday. Urban flooding was reported from Cachar, Darrang, Goalpara, Karimganj and Morigaon. The devastating floods caused by incessant rainfall has affected 112 revenue circles and 4941 villages forcing 2,71,125 people to take shelter in 845 relief camps, it said. Relief materials were distributed from 1026 delivery points among the flood hit who have not taken shelter in the relief camps. Landslides were reported from Bethany village in Dima Hasao district and 19 houses were damaged at various locations at Barthal in Karimganj, according to the ASDMA bulletin. The flood has damaged 218 roads and 20 bridges, besides breaching two embankments in Kamrup district. A crop area of 99,026 hectares and 33,17,086 animals have been affected. Large scale erosion was also reported from Baksa, Biswanath, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Dhubri, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Morigaon, Nalbari and Udalguri, the ASDMA said. As many as 12 more people, including four children, were killed due to the ongoing floods in Assam in the last 24 hours. With this the death toll in the state due to floods and landslides rose to 100. Among the 12 deaths, four deaths were reported from Hojai district, two from Kamrup district and three persons each were killed in Barpeta and Nalbari district. Meanwhile, according to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), over 54.7 lakh people have been affected in 4,941 villages across 32 districts and 112 revenue circles of the state. The districts that are still affected by the flood waters are Bajali, Baksa, Barpeta, Biswanath, Bongaigaon, Cachar, Chirang, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Dima-Hasao, Goalpara, Golaghat, Hailakandi, Hojai, Kamrup, Kamrup Metropolitan, Karbi Anglong West, Karimganj, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Morigaon, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sivasagar, Sonitpur, South Salmara, Tamulpur, Tinsukia and Udalguri. A total of 845 relief camps and 1025 relief distribution centres have been set up by the district administrations in the affected districts where over 2.71 lakh people are taking shelter. Over 99,026 hectares of crop area have been damaged in the current wave of floods this year. The water level in Kopili, Disang and Brahmaputra rivers is flowing above the danger level at several places. On the other hand, the Army, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and the Fire and Emergency Services of have been engaged in the relief and rescue operations.

India Sees Surge In Covid Infections

total number of deaths to 5,24,941. Cumulatively, 85.94 crore covid tests have been conducted in the country so far, of which 6,56,410 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours only. According to the Health Ministry, 196.62 crore vaccine doses against the Coronavirus infection have been administered so far under the Nationwide Vaccination Drive of the Union Government. As part of the nationwide vaccination drive, the Government of India has been supporting the States and UTs by providing them with COVID Vaccines free of cost. In the new phase of the universalization of the COVID-19 vaccination drive, the Union Government will procure and supply (free of cost) 75 per cent of the vaccines being produced by the vaccine manufacturers in the country to States and UTs. Amid the recent surge reported in COVID-19 cases across the country, the Health Ministry of India on June 9 urged States and Union Territories to not lower their guards and strictly maintain the COVID appropriate behaviour. Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Thursday wrote a letter to States/UTs and directed them to ramp up RT-PCR testing, surveillance, clinical management, vaccination, COVID-19 protocols and take timely pre-emptive actions. Bhushan also advised the government to follow a 'five-fold Strategy'. According to the sources, amid rising cases of COVID-19 in India, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya will chair a review meeting with the core team of experts today in the physical format in the afternoon. Earlier, on June 13, Mandaviya chaired a meeting through video conferencing with Health Ministers and senior officials of States and Union Territories (UTs) to review the progress of the vaccination exercise HarGhar Dastak 2.0 campaign. Highlighting increased case positivity in some districts and States and reduced COVID-19 testing, Mandaviya had stated that increased and timely testing will enable early identification of COVID cases and help to curb the spread of the infection among the community. He had urged States and UTs to continue and strengthen the surveillance and focus on genome sequencing for identifying new mutants/variants in the country. He stated that the five-fold strategy of Test, Track, Treat, Vaccination and Adherence to Covid Appropriate Behavior (CAB) needs to be continued and monitored by States/UTs.

Focus on Floods But Welcome Guests

at the Centre considers Assam safe since the BJP is dominant there and the Sena or Uddhav Thackeray can exert absolutely no influence in the state. Also, insiders say the chief minister is capable of executing the operation smoothly. However, the BJP's "hospitality" has not gone down well with the Congress and the TMC, especially in the wake of the Assam floods. Lashing out at the BJP, Assam Congress president Bhupen Bora said at a time when 88 people had died in the state due to floods and many were homeless, the chief minister was extending hospitality to MLAs who want to oust the government in Maharashtra. Only 40 MLAs from a different state. @BJP4Assam indulges in petty politics alongside the most INSENSITIVE CM @himantabiswa! On its part, the BJP has been managing the optics, with Sarma doing a recce of flood-affected areas of Nagaon for an entire day. Speaking on the issue, Sarma said: "Why should there be reason for any controversy regarding their visit? We welcome all tourists to visit Assam now as we need funds to deal with floods." Minister Piyush Hazarika said: "The opposition can say what they want. From morning to evening, our chief minister and other ministers were there with flood-affected people. Those who have come from Maharashtra, we welcome them, but our focus is obviously floods."

Prez polls: PM Modi meets Droupadi

of society. Her understanding of grassroots problems and vision for India's development is outstanding. "Her understanding of grassroots problems and vision for India's development is outstanding," the PM wrote in a tweet. Modi had also tweeted right after Murmu's candidature was announced by the BJP national president JP Nadda and said the former Jharkhand governor will make a "great President", having dedicated her life to serving society and the downtrodden. Yashwant Sinha is Opposition's candidate for presidential polls: Key things to know about ex-Union minister Murmu reached the national capital earlier in the day from Bhubaneswar. She is set to file her nomination papers on Friday in the presence of top party leaders. A PTI report, citing sources, said her nomination papers are being prepared at parliamentary affairs minister Pralhad Joshi's residence.

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal

lost their lives in the devastating flood situations in the area. "To assess the damage and destruction caused by the devastating flood, a Central team would be visiting soon," the Union Minister informed. After the visit, the team will prepare a report and submit it to the government, so that all possible support and assistance could be provided to the people. After the visit to the flood relief camp, Sonowal informed that the flood situation in Assam is grim and the government is working for providing relief and support to all the people affected by this flood. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have enquired about the on-ground situation. "They have expressed concern at the fury of this unfortunate natural calamity and assured all possible help from the centre," he added. While interacting with the officials deployed at rescue, the minister thanked all the staff for extending every possible support to the flood-affected people and urged them to continue in the direction of the welfare of the people. He further added that the rescue team of Assam, under Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is working hard to tackle the situation and said that he has been talking to the Chief Minister in this regard, on a regular basis. Sonowal also reviewed the flood situation on either side of the National Highway between Guwahati and Raha. He was also briefed about rescue and relief support provided in this region. Over 41 lakh people in 34 districts of Assam continue to reel under the impact of ongoing flood and landslide situations. The flood situation in Assam's Karimganj district has deteriorated after the flood waters of the Kushiyara, Longai, and Singla rivers have inundated more areas of the district affecting more than 1.34 lakh people of the district. The flood waters have submerged several main roads of the district. 82 people have died in floods and landslides in the state this year so far in Assam. More than 12.30 lakh people have been affected alone in lower Assam's Barpeta district followed by 4.69 lakh in Darrang, 4.40 lakh in Nagaon, 3.38 lakh in Bajali, 2.91 lakh in Dhubri, 2.82 lakh in Kamrup, 2.80 lakh in Goalpara, 2.07 lakh in Cachar, 1.84 lakh in Nalbari, 1.51 lakh in South Salmara, 1.46 lakh in Bongaigaon, 1.34 lakh in Karimganj district. The ASDMA also reported that seven people have gone missing amidst the natural calamity whereas 2,31,819 people took shelter in the 810 relief camps in the state. A total of 1,13,485.37 hectares of land have been affected because of the calamity, whereas the ASDMA in its report further stated that at least 11,292 people have been evacuated from the affected areas. The administration of the flood-hit districts has set up 810 relief camps and 615 relief distribution centres and nearly 2.32 lakh people are currently lodged in the relief camps.

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Visits

Management Authority (ASDMA), told indianexpress.com that the situation was improving. "The rest of the state is slowly coming back to the usual flood management mode. However, Cachar continues to remain critical," he said. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is expected to arrive in Silchar Thursday to assess the situation. An ASDMA bulletin stated that 5.45 lakh people are currently affected in 32 districts of the state, and 2.7 lakh are in relief camps. Twelve people died Wednesday, taking the total death toll from floods this year to 100. Apart from that, two other deaths were reported from Silchar town. "A body of a 55-year-old man was found floating in the water in the heart of the town. The other body - that of a 22 year old - was swept away by the current. His body was later recovered by the NDRF," said Cachar SP Raman Dhillon. Disaster management officials said the situation has not improved in Silchar despite the Centre providing extra NDRF units from Bhubaneswar. "It is simply not enough - the quantum of the crisis is just too large," said an ASDMA official, adding: "Several people are still stranded, and we're trying to provide relief around the clock but it is very difficult since the water levels have not reduced." Sarma visited flood-affected areas of Nagaon and Morigaon districts Wednesday. Speaking to media persons present at the railway station, the chief minister stated that once the flood-water recedes, the government would take steps to find a permanent solution to the factors which led to the recent flood in the area.

Maharashtra Crisis: Support

other MLAs may join hands with Shinde. According to political circles, the Shiv Sena can collapse like a house of cards at any moment. Uddhav Thackeray will soon return to the Chief Minister's official residence. This is what Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut claimed. He claimed that 21 MLAs from Guwahati continue to have ties with the Sena. They are with us, the Shiv Sena said today. He also said that if the strength is tested, everyone will vote for the Shiv Sena. On the other hand, the message to the rebel MLAs is, come back to Mumbai. Sanjay Raut proposes to hold talks with the Chief Minister. In this situation, the rebel Eknath Shinde has also been offered the post of Deputy Chief minister. But he dismissed it. The rebel MLAs have written to the Shiv Sena supremo. On the other hand, it is known that Shinde held a meeting today. Shinde is likely to write to the Governor this evening demanding the formation of the government.

RPF rescued 4 minors from stations

Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 23: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of N. F. Railways successfully rescued 04 minors during routine checking on June 20-21 at different railway stations over N. F. Railway. Rescued minors were handed over to guardian/Childline for their safe custody and further course of action. A RPF team of Meri Saheli/New Jalpaiguri, while checking at New Jalpaiguri station, rescued one minor boy on June 20 last. In another incident the same team of RPF/Meri Saheli/New Jalpaiguri while checking at New Jalpaiguri station rescued one minor girl on June 21 last. Later, the rescued minors were handed over to Railway Childline/New Jalpaiguri for safe custody and further course of action. In another incident a team of RPF/Dimapur rescued one minor girl from Dimapur station while performing their duty on the same day. Later, the rescued minor was handed over to Railway Childline/Dimapur for her safe custody and further course of action. Similarly, in another incident a RPF team of Katihar (East) while conducting a routine check at Katihar station, rescued one minor girl. Later, the rescued minor girl was handed over to her family member after proper verification. A new initiative under "Meri Saheli" has been initiated over N. F. Railway and functioning round the clock to make women/child passengers about the safety/security and use of helpline no. 139 in case of any exigency.



Justice Chhaya sworn in as the Chief Justice of Gauhati HC

Assam Rising, Guwahati,

June 23: Justice Rashmin Manharbhai Chhaya was sworn in as the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court. Assam Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi administered him the oath of office at a solemn function in presence of the Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma held at Durbar Hall in Raj Bhavan today. The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Speaker Assam Legislative Assembly Biswajit Daimary, Acting Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Advocate General Assam Devajit Saikia, Judges of Gauhati High Court, members from legal fraternity, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam Jishnu Barua, DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta and other senior officials of the state govt.



ADTU to host Job Fair on June 25

Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 23 : Leading educational institute Assam down town University (ADTU), Guwahati is all set to conduct the eighth edition of Annual Job Fair 2022 on June 25 at the university campus for the students across India. Touted as one of the largest job fairs of Northeast, the day-long event is expected to be attended by 4000 job seekers, who can get recruited by more than 40 reputed national and multinational companies including Down town hospital, Alembic Pharmaceuticals, Ampath, JustDial, Talent Aquitance, Marico, Dabur, Sodexo etc. Last year the job fair provided a platform for recruiters and young talents had 3,500 job seekers taking their shots at over 50 reputable organizations present. The Job Fair is aimed at candidates having 0-5 years of experience. It will cater to the students from various verticals such as Management, Social Sciences, Pharmacy, Engineering, Nursing, Paramedical and Sciences. According to CMIE data, India's unemployment rate rises To 7.83% in April. The highest unemployment rate was recorded in the northern state of Haryana at 34.5 per cent, followed by 28.8 per cent in Rajasthan and 21.1 per cent in Bihar. Meanwhile, the joblessness was lowest in Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Assam, where the unemployment rate stood at a minuscule 0.2 per cent, 0.6 percent and 1.2 percent respectively. The job Fair at AdtU is also a win-win situation for the companies, which can get quick access to a large number of talents and complete their recruitment processes in one place. They don't have to ponder about the arrangements as all these are taken care of by the university. The job fair can be attended for free by registering at <https://forms.gle/oeSBHyimb1jdeFwt5>

Lakhimpur DC ordered to submit daily return on stock & price

Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, June 23: In view of maintaining normalcy in Lakhimpur district during ensuing rainy season and to meet up emergent situation like flood and other natural calamities, the dealers of essential commodities like rice, atta, masoor dal, salt, potato, onion, mustard oil, baby foods, chapor (oil cake) and rice mills for rice bran under Lakhimpur district are, in an order issued by Lakhimpur DC Sumit Sattawan today, directed to submit the daily return on stock and price to the Deputy Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, North Lakhimpur, Lakhimpur. On the other hand, the Lakhimpur DC in the same order directed the Deputy Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, North Lakhimpur, Lakhimpur to intimate him (the DC) about the stock and price position of the said articles on regular basis to assess the situation. The order came into force with immediate effect, stated further in the order.

Minister Suklabaidya reaches out to flood-hit populace of Barak Valley

Assam Rising, Silchar, June 23: Minister for Transport, Fisheries and Excise, Parimal Suklabaidya visited different flood affected areas in Silchar town and adjoining areas on Thursday last. Minister Suklabaidya has been camping in Cachar district and touring different parts of the Barak Valley hit by unprecedented deluge rendering tens of thousands of people homeless. He has been constantly monitoring the flood situation with the district administrations of Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi and ensuring that relief and rescue operations are being carried out on a war footing. Suklabaidya is the Guardian Minister for Karimganj, Hailakandi and Hojai districts of Assam. Besides reviewing the flood situation with the district administrations of Barak Valley, the Minister has been visiting the flood affected areas either on foot wading through ankle-deep or chest deep water or on boat and other modes of transport like motorbike to reach out to the people in distress. He visited many relief camps set up by the Cachar and Karimganj administrations to oversee the distribution of relief materials to the camp inmates. He inquired about their wellbeing and also the kind of relief work carried out in the affected areas. Witnessing the damages caused by the devastating floods, Suklabaidya heard out the grievances of the victims. He assured that the government would provide all possible help to get rid of their woes. On Thursday, Suklabaidya took part in the review meeting chaired by the Chief Minister with the Cachar district administration in Silchar. Altogether 2,32,002 people have been hit by the deluge in Cachar district, 2,81,271 in Karimganj and 51,399 in Hailakandi district.

Indian Army Gajaraj Corps help flood affected people

Assam Rising, Rangapara, June 23: Every year, Charduar village was severely affected due to monsoon floods in the area. The locals of Dhekerigaon and Charduar village frequently suffered heavy loss of Crops and livestock during monsoon season. This year as part of operation sadbhavana, the Charduar unit of Ball of Fire division of Gajaraj Corps helped the locals in tackling and preventing the monsoon flood by straightening the course of Mansiri River and successfully creating a diversionary river path near vicinity of Dhekerigaon and Charduar village which resulted in significant reduction of flooding probability in the area during this year monsoon. This self help initiative was possible entirely with assistance of available local resources with the unit and by working in conjunction with the locals for community cause.

Study tour conducted in Margherita Sub-division

Assam Rising, Margherita, June 23: A study tour was conducted by the Committee on Public Undertaking, Assam Legislative Assembly (ALA) on 22nd June 2022 in the Margherita Sub-division. The committee was led by chairman Ramendra Narayan Kalita, MLA Guwahati West constituency and other members Suren Phukan, MLA Digboi LAC, Tirash Gowalia, MLA, Duliagan LAC, Indrajit Mozumdar, Joint Secretary ALA and Ranjit Sarma, Undersecretary ALA visited the Tikak Colliery site as a part of the tour and inspected the site. Following the visit, the committee held a meeting at IOCL, guest house Digboi with Narsing Pawar, Deputy Commissioner, Tinsukia, Nayanjyoti Bhagawati, DDC Tinsukia, TC Ranjith Ram, DFO Digboi, R.S Bharti, DFO Doomdooma Dipu Das, ADC Revenue/Mining & Minerals, Tinsukia, Shri. Pranta Pratim Patra, Assistant Commissioner, Margherita and representatives of Coal India Ltd. and IOCL, Digboi. The prime objective of the meeting was the rolling of developmental programmes and general functioning of the public sectors which could enhance the welfare of all the stakeholders of the region. The meeting was also attended by the other senior officials and staff of the civil administration and the PSUs.

Eritrea women's team footballers still in hiding after escaping in Uganda



Geneva, June 23 :Five members of Eritrea's Under-20 women's team who escaped after playing in a tournament in Uganda last year remain in hiding, the Guardian understands. According to sources close to the players, the five - Luwam Solomon, Yordanos Abraham, Shamat Futsum, Rahel Michael and Trhas Habate, who are aged between 16 and 19 - are "safe and well" after fleeing hours before their game against the hosts in the Cecafa Women's Under-20 Championship on 2 November. It is estimated that more than 60 players

have used their status as internationals to escape the oppressive regime of the Eritrean president, Isaias Afwerki, since 2009, although this is the first case involving female players.It is understood that the Uganda football association (Fufa) was initially involved in the investigation into the female footballers' disappearance but its spokesperson Ahmed Hussein confirmed that "that matter was handed over to Uganda police and it's out of our jurisdiction", without specifying what Fufa's role in the

investigation was.Cecafa's executive director, Auka Gecheo, said: "As the tournament organisers, we did inform the authorities of the disappearance of the players and offered all relevant cooperation that was required by the investigation authorities." Asked whether Cecafa, being aware of past defections of Eritrean footballers during regional tournaments, had put in place specific measures to avoid new disappearances, he said that "the authorities had been informed of the tournament and the participating teams. There

was also security provided at all the hotels where the teams were staying".A spokesperson for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said they could not comment on individual cases.This month a United Nations special rapporteur on human rights in Eritrea issued a report critical of the deteriorating situation in the country, noting forced military conscription to fight, arbitrary arrests, disappearances and torture among the violations recorded. It said children as young as 14 had been recruited to fight in the conflict with Ethiopia and that the human rights situation in Eritrea continued to push thousands to flee to other countries for asylum."I remain gravely concerned

by the situation of hundreds of Eritreans who have been disappeared and arbitrarily detained in secret prisons in violation of human rights standards," wrote Mohamed Abdelsalam Babiker in a report submitted to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.At the end of March Eritrea were due to face Botswana in preliminary stages of qualifying for the Africa Cup of Nations. But they withdrew three weeks before the first leg was due to take place without specifying a reason. It meant Eritrea's men have not played a senior game since a friendly against Sudan in January 2020, and their last competitive match was nearly three years ago - against Namibia in a World Cup qualifier in September 2019.

Baltimore Ravens' Jaylon Ferguson dies at 26: 'He was a wonderful young man'

Baltimore, June 23 :Baltimore Ravens linebacker Jaylon Ferguson has died at the age of 26, the team confirmed on Wednesday."We are profoundly saddened by the tragic passing of Jaylon Ferguson," the team said in a statement. "He was a kind, respectful young man with a big smile and infectious personality. We express our heartfelt condolences to Jaylon's family and friends as we mourn a life lost much too soon.""On 21 June 2022, at approximately 11.25pm, Northern District patrol officers responded to a home in the 400 block of Ilchester Avenue for a report of a questionable death," the department said in a statement."Once there, officers located 26-year-old Jaylon Ferguson, unresponsive, being treated by medics. Ferguson never regained consciousness and was pronounced dead on the scene by medics. No signs of trauma was found or foul



play suspected at this time."Ferguson was a college star at Louisiana Tech and holds the FBS record for career sacks with 45, and his achievements earned him the nickname "Sack Daddy". He was drafted by the Ravens in the third round of the 2019 draft and had 4.5 sacks and two fumble recoveries during his time in Baltimore."He was a wonderful young man full of love and life," Ferguson's agent, Safarrah Lawson, said in a statement. "He will be remembered not just as a football player, but as a great father, son, brother and friend. The family asks for your continued prayers."Ferguson was a popular figure with his

Roy and Buttler power England to ODI clean sweep over Netherlands



Amstelveen, June 23 :England tucked another win under the belt to complete a whitewash of the Netherlands as Jason Roy, with a century, and Jos Buttler hurly-burled them along to an eight-wicket win with 119 balls to spare.So quick was England's hitting, so solid was the base right from the off, that it came as a surprise when Phil Salt was bowled by one that dipped in and clipped the top of leg stump, one short of a very fast half-century. When Dawid Malan followed two balls later, for a duck, bowled round his legs attempting a kind of leg-side heave, Paul van Meekeren sprinted across the outfield as if he had just nodded in a hat-trick.But that was as far as the jeopardy went. As Buttler emerged at four, in the ever-adaptable England one day international batting order, away cycled the Netherlands' chances on a sturdy cargo bike. A quick eye up of proceedings, then off Buttler went, a sweep, a drive, then, greedier, six into the stands and four in successive balls off Aryan Dutt.Roy passed another fifty in 47 balls and survived a caught and bowled by Fred Klassen before shimmying a four straight down the ground. But it was hot out there and Buttler had enough of being cooked. A Van Meekeren over was butchered: for a four, then three huge sixes, one square nearly clearing the stands, one very long and one a griddle-panning of a hooping no ball that bounced twice and landed off the strip. But the stand-in captain was sensitive enough not to whip Roy's century from under his nose, Roy reaching three figures off 86 balls before Buttler finished things off with a six.Despite Roy's wonderful century, and the award for player of the match, it is Buttler who has

stolen the series -with 248 runs in 134 balls. As Moeen Ali netted behind the ground and the crowd called for autographs, Buttler admitted he was in the form of his life."I'd have to say, yes. The IPL was incredibly special personally to have a tournament like that, I surprised myself and I really enjoyed that and I learned a lot about my batting. When you get to a place like that, being hungry to continue that, I look at someone like Joe Root who has been a great example to us in English cricket, who has scored runs after runs and wants to continue that.And what he learned at the IPL was: "I think batting without ego. I had some good conversations with Sanga [Kumar Sangakkara] about that, understanding the process of getting in. Sometimes it might take five balls, sometimes it might take 20 balls, allowing that to happen, taking the pressure off."Whatever he did, it is working -as the Netherlands bowlers found out. In the three games, Buttler has tonked 19 sixes - and the rest of the England team, 11.

Max Burgin adds intrigue to strong England Commonwealth Games squad

London, June 23 : Dina Asher-Smith and Katarina Johnson-Thompson are the headline acts in a 93-strong England athletics team for the Commonwealth Games that is packed with promise and star power, and includes the brilliant youngster Max Burgin on his major championship debut in the 800m.Of particular delight to

by a 15-year-old, clocking 1:47.50, and has made smart progress since.Burgin's plans to make a major splash at the Tokyo Olympics were ruined by injury, but last week in Finland he again advertised his enormous potential by running 1:43:52 - the fastest time at the distance in the world this year - and admits he is desperate to make up for

motivating factor, having these greats of the past to aim at, to hope to emulate. The past few weeks there has been a lot of mentioning the three ahead of me on the all-time rankings - Coe, Cram and Elliott - and it is motivating to know there are levels to get to."Burgin also hopes to follow in the footsteps of Hodgkinson, who made such a powerful mark in her debut season, by winning a medal in his first major championship. "What Keely has achieved has shown how far people in our age are not really limited by the fact we are too young. We can compete at the top. She has proved that."



organisers is that Asher-Smith, the world 200m champion, has agreed to race in both the women's 100m and 4x100m at the Games next month, which sets up a potential showdown with the Olympic champion, Elaine Thompson-Herah, and the world champion, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce. With the Tokyo 100m bronze medallist, Shericka Jackson, also expected to travel to Birmingham, insiders are hoping the "race of the championships" is on the cards.There are plenty of other medal winners in the England team, including the world heptathlon champion Johnson-Thompson, the Olympic 800m silver medallist Keely Hodgkinson and Holly Bradshaw, who won a pole vault bronze in Tokyo.But the most intriguing name is undoubtedly Burgin, a 20-year-old from Halifax whose youthful brilliance has earned him comparisons with a young Sebastian Coe and Steve Cram. In 2018 Burgin ran the fastest 800m

lost time."I see this summer as a chance to stamp my name on the sport, to make my mark," Burgin said."I've been held back a bit for the last few years and I feel like I haven't really been able to show how good an athlete I can be. This is my opportunity and I need to seize it with both hands. I'm hungry, definitely."That performance made Burgin the fourth fastest British 800m runner of all time - behind only Coe, Cram and Peter Elliott. But he believes he will soon go even quicker. "Definitely," he replied. "It was only my second race of the season and I think I would be disappointed if I didn't go faster at some point this season. But it's certainly a good base that I've built myself. I just need to fill it out."While other young athletes would be nervous about being compared with some of the great names of British middle distance running Burgin, who studies history at the University of Leeds, says it only spurs him on. "It is a

Rugby's card-happy approach to concussion is just not working



London, June 23 :Another year, another set of concussion statistics as high as the last. Higher. This year's, revealed on Tuesday in English rugby's perennially comprehensive Professional Rugby Injury Surveillance Project report, is actually the highest recorded since PRISP began in 2002.Surely at some point the penny will drop that the red-card wild-west rugby embarked upon officially on 3 January 2017, five and a half years ago, but unofficially before even that, is not working - and it never will work. To send players off and ban them for the ugliest (though far from the only) examples of contact with the head is meant to act as a deterrent, but deterrents in the wider world work only when the infringements targeted are the result of deliberate decision-making by the perpetrators in their own good time.No rugby players these days hit opponents in the head deliberately (because they are liable to be sent off for it apart from anything else), and the time for deliberation over their acts is measured in fractions of a second. Anyone who repeats the mantra that they just need to aim lower is invariably

never expect these red cards

- or the debates around them - to end. And never expect them to work, if the aim is to save rugby from the dementia apocalypse towards which it is hurtling.The reasons it will not be manifold. There is not the space to go into all of them here, but from the point of view of simply lowering concussion incidence the Guardian has already crunched World Rugby's own numbers to calculate the maximum reduction in head injuries we could expect if, hypothetically, we never saw another upright tackler again, which would be impossible and undesirable.

Tony Siragusa, Super Bowl champion and TV personality, dies at 55

London, June 23 : Tony Siragusa, the NFL defensive tackle turned TV personality, has died at the age of 55.The news was confirmed by Jim Irsay, owner of the Indianapolis Colts, where Siragusa spent seven of his 12 seasons in the league. Irsay said he was "heartbroken as is all of Colts Nation."Siragusa, nicknamed "The Goose",

weighed 330lbs during his playing career, and became a popular figure in Indianapolis due to his larger than life personality. He joined the Colts as an undrafted free agent in 1990 before joining the Baltimore Ravens in 1997, with whom he won the Super Bowl in the 2000 season.Siragusa was a regular fixture on television after his retirement from

football. He was a Fox Sports sideline reporter until 2015, and appeared in The Sopranos as Frankie Cortese, Tony Soprano's bodyguard and driver. He also hosted Man Caves, a renovation show on the DIY Network.He was married to



Kathy and was the father of three children. Siragusa had 404 tackles, 22 sacks and five forced fumbles during his career.

'My husband told me for 20 years he would kill me': Boxing legend Christy Martin



London, June 23 :The newly minted Hall of Famer opens up about her trials outside the ring: substance abuse, domestic violence and an attempted murder by her husband, who left her to die on their bedroom floor.Christy Martin's original story, the well-trodden narrative of the coal miner's daughter from West Virginia who left home and stepped into the boxing ring for her professional debut in 1989, ends on the floor of her bedroom in Apopka, Florida, on 23 November 2010. She was 42 years old. At the time, she was the welterweight champion who put women's boxing on the map, the first female to sign with the sport's iconic promoter, Don King, the first and, to this day, only, female boxer to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated.Those bits of history were the stuff used to frame her rise, to shape her career within the narrative arc of an underdog. Stories that sung the barriers she'd broken and records she'd set. But they omitted chunks of reality, Christy was gay, and trapped in a violent marriage to her manager, Jim Martin, who was 25 years

her senior. She constantly needed to get high. And on that early November evening in 2010, Jim, her then-husband, who was also her abuser and cocaine supplier, her blackmailer and confidant, stabbed her three times and shot her in the chest. There would be no more separation between who she was in public and how she survived at home.Days after her induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame, and 12 years after the attack that nearly killed her, Christy spoke to the Guardian about the lives she's lived, and her just-released memoir Fighting for Survival: My Journey through Boxing Fame, Abuse, Murder, and Resurrection.By now, there are so many points in your boxing career where you were the first woman to do what you did. Are there particular milestones that feel more meaningful than others? It's tough to say, "Oh, wow, this one thing was the best, most awesome thing." But it all started with being the first woman to sign with Don King. I was on the first card that was ever promoted at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas. I fought in Madison Square Garden, in the big room. I was the

Grand Marshal for the Boxing Hall of Fame induction in 1996, and then this year, to be inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame, with the first group of women, and technically, hopefully, viewed as the first woman inducted overall, that was really special. It's a list of firsts where I don't think I can take one as more important than the other.You mention in your book that there weren't any women to look to in boxing as role models, because there simply weren't any women, period. The women you did fight, the opponents you had coming up, what kind of stories did they have? We were all in the same boat. People would say, "Well, did you see videos of this opponent or that opponent?" Are you kidding me? Women were barely able to get fights, much less have someone care enough about it to videotape it. And then even if they did, to get that videotape was next to impossible. We were all just struggling to get a break. And for whatever reason, I was just lucky and in the right place at the right time. Jesse Robinson, who was training fighters for Don King, saw me training in a gym in Daytona Beach, Florida. And after a while he told me, "I'm gonna take you to Don." I'm thinking, "Sure you are." But then I get a call one day and Jesse says, "Don wants to see you." I jumped in the car, drove down to Deerfield Beach and signed the contract.

Kane Williamson Hopes For 'Healing' In Yorkshire Racism Row

Yorkshire, June 23 : New Zealand captain Kane Williamson hopes there will be "healing" at his former team Yorkshire on the eve of a third Test against England that was almost moved from the county's Headingley headquarters because of a racism row. Pakistan-born former off-spinner Azeem Rafiq first raised allegations of racism and bullying in September 2020, related to his two spells at Yorkshire. Rafiq gave evidence to a parliamentary committee last year, sparking mounting pressure on Yorkshire over their previous failure



to take any disciplinary action.Last month, former Yorkshire coach Andrew Gale won a claim for unfair dismissal, leaving the club facing the prospect of paying compensation. Williamson, who played for Yorkshire as an overseas signing from 2014 to 2018,

changes were made. Reforms promoted by new chairman Kamlesh Patel staved off what could have been a financial disaster for .But the issue is far from concluded, with ECB disciplinary charges laid against the club and "a number of individuals", whom officials have yet to name.Last month, former Yorkshire coach Andrew Gale won a claim for unfair dismissal, leaving the club facing the prospect of paying compensation. Williamson, who played for Yorkshire as an overseas signing from 2014 to 2018,

was non-committal when asked if he had witnessed specific incidents of racist abuse during his time at the club.But the batsman said he hoped some good would emerge from Rafiq's testimony."It's been incredibly sad to see what's unfolded," said Williamson. "I can only hope that something positive comes out of it and the awareness that it's created to move forward in a positive manner."There is no space for racism or discrimination in sport or society. I was here for a few brief stints and enjoyed my time at Yorkshire.

Katie Boulter edged out by Kvitova at Eastbourne but Dart charge continues

New York, June 23 :Ever since Katie Boulter reached the top 100 three years ago and then fell out of it after a lengthy back injury, her greatest challenge has just been trying to get back there. On this long road, her momentum has continually been halted by numerous injuries and at times the level she believes she should be playing at has seemed far away.In recent weeks, however, Boulter has found her way once more. After defeating the world No 7 Karolina Pliskova for the biggest win of her career on Tuesday, Boulter followed that with another great match against top opposition. In a tense, competitive encounter, the two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova edged past Boulter 5-7, 6-0, 7-5 to reach the quarter-finals at Eastbourne.This grass season has reinforced that Boulter has the weapons to reside in the top 100, competing against the very best players each week. Boulter reached the quarter-final in Birmingham by clinching what was then her biggest career win over 35-ranked grass enthusiast Alison Riske in the first round. With her efforts, she has now risen back into the top 120, rounding in on the top 100 where she hopes to remain.As Boulter departed, the tremendous tournament for British players continued as British No 2 Harriet Dart consolidated her own breakthrough grass season. She opened the day by defeating No.23 Jil Teichmann 7-6 (7), 4-6, 6-3 in the second round, a match that had been halted on Tuesday night at one-set-all due to poor light.After clinching the

second biggest win of her career, Dart returned later in the afternoon to reach her first career WTA 500 quarter-final by edging out Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine 6-4, 2-6, 6-4. She will face Kvitova on Thursday."I think it's great to see all the British girls and guys pulling through and I think the potential has always been there," Boulter said earlier in the week. "I never doubt these people - they work so hard day in day out, they just got a little bit unlucky with some of the results."I think this year is the year, you know, after Emma [Raducanu] doing incredibly well last year. A lot of the other girls can believe in themselves and reach for the stars. As she showed, it's possible. Anyone can do it."Dart was joined in the quarter-finals by Jack Draper, who continued his own steady rise towards the top ranks of men's tennis by attaining the second top-20 win of his young career, defeating world No 15 Diego Schwartzman 7-5, 7-6 (3). Draper, Great Britain's best young hope



on the men's side, achieved his first top-15 win just last week at the same venue."I want to be a top player in the world so I know I'm going to have to deal with all these emotions and pressures," he said. "But I feel like the only pressure I can put on myself is in my own head. So as long as I keep doing the right things and improving then that's all I can do."Earlier, Cameron Norrie clinched his first win of the grass court season with a commanding 6-4, 6-2 win against Brandon Nakashima. In his only other pre-Wimbledon grass match, Norrie lost 6-

7 (2), 6-1, 6-4 against Grigor Dimitrov in the first round of Queen's Club. Despite his defeat, Norrie said he was happy with his level in what was a high-quality match and he took his satisfaction with his level to Eastbourne.Norrie will be seeded ninth at Wimbledon as he chases his first career grand slam fourth-round appearance, a distinction that evaded him in Paris as he lost in four sets against Karen Khachanov in the third round. Norrie recently admitted he really felt that Paris would be the time he finally had his long-

awaited grand slam breakthrough and it took him a while to get over the defeat but he has rebounded now."Being seeded helps," Norrie said. "Yes, I am going to take it one match at a time and for me I have still not reached the second week, so it would be nice to do that, and I guess the seeding helps. That's the result of winning matches and stringing them together and I will obviously take that. Being ninth is pretty cool and pretty crazy."It all happened pretty quickly, getting up there, which has been a lot of fun, but yes, still means nothing, you know. You've still got to win the matches and today's match is perfect for me to get a match under the belt, and then also to get a few more matches, hopefully this week, leading into a huge Wimby for me."Dan Evans, the British No 2, was less fortunate on Wednesday. Evans was defeated 7-6 (2), 6-4 by Maxime Cressy, who is an increasingly rare sight in tennis: a serve and volley player.

Serena Williams and Ons Jabeur sail into Eastbourne semis with new nickname



Washington, June 23 : The joyful return of Serena Williams in Eastbourne lasted for another day as she and Ons Jabeur reached the doubles semi-final by outclassing Shuko Aoyama and Chan Hao ching 6-2, 6-4.Having shaken off rust and nerves respectively, Williams and Jabeur got to work and played extremely well. The pair served exceptionally, with Williams even slamming down three consecutive aces from a 15-40 deficit."I think we played together much better today," said Williams. "Although I thought we played really good together yesterday, too. Ons really held me up today, she was really playing so good. I was looking at her like, 'Wow, this is great.'"Williams is cur-

rently ranked 1024 in singles due to her 51-week layoff and Jabeur will rise to a new career high singles ranking of No 2 next week, surpassing Amanda Coetzer as the highest-ranked African singles player ever.Despite being in different parts of their careers, the two trailblazers have slotted seamlessly together, both on and off the court, with Williams announcing their team name as "Onsrena". They will face Aleksandra Krunich and Magda Linette next. "I'm getting used to this, really," said Jabeur, smiling.Meanwhile, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic competed on grass for the first time this season at the Giorgio Armani Tennis Classic exhibition at the Hurlingham Club. Both were comfortable victors, with Nadal defeating Stan

Wawrinka 6-3, 6-2 before Djokovic dominated Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-2, 6-1.For Nadal, his performance marked another step forward in his development after having radiofrequency ablation treatment on his chronically injured foot soon after the French Open.Nadal was excellent from the beginning, moving extremely well, relentlessly attacking his forehand down-the-line

and smothering Wawrinka. He did not appear to have any problems with his foot."It looks like normal Rafa," said Wawrinka. "He has been saying he is feeling better and if he is playing he is ready to play his best and to win. I think Rafa, any time he enters a grand slam, is going to be one of the favourites if not the favourite."

Rishabh Pant, Cheteshwar Pujara, Jasprit Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna To Play For Leicestershire

New Delhi, June 23 : Ahead of the fifth scheduled Test match against England on July 1, team India will lock horns with Leicestershire in a four-day warm-up match beginning on Thursday. The rescheduled match is a part of last year's five-match Test series that had to be delayed after the fourth Test due to a Covid-19 outbreak in the Indian camp. The warm-up fixture will be an opportunity for the Men in Blue to get into cement themselves in the new condition after a long time for the all-important fifth Test. The series is in favour of the visitors, who are leading 2-1 after defeating the hosts in the fourth Test at the Oval last year by 157 runs.Meanwhile, star players of the Indian team Cheteshwar Pujara, Rishabh Pant, Jasprit Bumrah and Prasidh Krishna have been added to the rival Leicestershire County Cricket Club (LCCC) squad. They will play under county captain Sam Evans."India superstars Cheteshwar Pujara, Rishabh Pant, Jasprit Bumrah and Prasidh Krishna will all team up with the Leicestershire squad, captained by opening batsman Sam Evans," the England club said in a statement. "LCCC, BCCI and the ECB have all agreed to allow the four players from the visiting camp to be part of the Running Foxes side, in order to allow all members of the travelling party to participate in the fixture (subject to fitness).





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