



# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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**Foetus fronts legal challenge over emissions...**

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**Ons Jabeur: 'I chose to inspire people. I chose to be the ...'**

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Classes will continue Assam Rising Guwahati, June 24:

Formal classes will continue during summer vacations in schools in several districts of Assam, according to an order. The decision was taken by the school inspectors of the districts. The imparting of education will take place in schools that performed poorly in the last high school leaving certificate (HSLC) examinations, results for which were declared on June 7. Classes will be held for standards nine and upwards till 12 in schools that did not do well. The districts of Assam where classes will be held during summer vacation are Golaghat, Chirang and Tinsukia.

### Summer vacation Assam Rising Guwahati, June 24:

Assam education minister Dr. Ranaj Pegu on Friday informed that the department was mulling over reducing the number of days of summer vacation. Pegu said today that from the coming year, summer vacations in the state will likely be reduced to 25 days. In addition, the education minister also informed that the Gunotsav initiative of the government has been suspended in nine districts of Assam. The decision was taken in view of the situation of floods in the state, informed Pegu.

### Pilgrim Tested Positive Assam Rising Guwahati, June 24:

A pilgrim in Kamakhya Temple who visited Ambubachi Mela has tested positive for COVID-19. The pilgrim who came from West Bengal has been admitted to Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH). The person has been tested at Kamakhya Temple premises in which he came out positive. Notably, thousands of pilgrims thronged to the temple for Ambubachi Mela which started on June 22. Moreover, the administration and the temple authorities have also imposed restrictions during Ambubachi in order to avoid surge in cases of COVID-19.

## "Uddhav Thackeray Can Also Come For Vacation To Assam": CM Sarma



Assam Rising  
Guwahati, June 24:

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday invited his Maharashtra counterpart Uddhav Thackeray to come to Assam for a "vacation". His remarks come amid rebel Shiv Sena MLAs and some Independent legislators from Maharashtra camping at a hotel in Guwahati. "If the rebel MLAs stay in Assam for more days, then it is a good thing for me. I invite everyone. He (Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray)

should also come to Assam for vacation. I invite all the MLAs of the country to come to Assam," CM Sarma told reporters. He also brushed off allegations of hosting Maharashtra rebel MLAs in Guwahati saying that he could not stop anyone from visiting his state. "How can I stop people from coming to a hotel? Can I tell you not to come to a hotel in Assam because there is a federal structure in the country? I am happy when anyone comes to Assam, they can stay as long as they want," he added. Moreover, CM Sarma had also denied connection with the Maharashtra political crisis. "There are many good hotels in Assam, anyone can come there and stay...there is no issue with it. I don't know if Maharashtra MLAs are

staying in Assam. MLAs of other states can also come and stay in Assam," he said. The opposition leaders have also launched an attack on the CM for ignoring the flood situation in the state and indulging in politics. The crisis in Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra erupted after a majority of party legislators joined a rebellion led by Eknath Shinde who is staying at a hotel in Guwahati. According to reports, Eknath Shinde camp has claimed the support of 38 Shiv Sena MLAs and nine

independents. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday brushed off allegations of aiding a coup against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray by hosting rebel Shiv Sena MLAs at a five-star hotel in Guwahati, saying he could not stop anyone from visiting his state. "I invite MLAs from all over the country to visit Assam. How can I stop people from coming to a hotel? Can I tell you not come to a hotel in Assam because there is federal structure in the country?"

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## President of India inaugurates AYUSH Wellness Centre in presence of AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal



New Delhi, June 24:

President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday inaugurated the upgraded AYUSH Wellness Centre at the President's Estate at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The President's wife, First Lady Savita Kovind, Union Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Minister of State for AYUSH Munjapara

Mahendrabhai Kalubhai were also present on the occasion. The book "Establishment, Methodology and Important Achievements" of AYUSH Wellness Centre was released at the function. So far, 60 research papers have been published by the centre. It may be recalled that with the joint efforts of the Ministry of AYUSH and the President's Secretariat, the AYUSH



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP National President JP Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Ministers, Chief Ministers of Assam Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma and CMs of various states were present at the moment NDA candidate Drupadi Murmu filed her nomination papers for the president's post.

Wellness Centre (AWC) was started at Rashtrapati Bhavan on July 25, 2015. AWC has treatment facilities in the disciplines of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy. This center caters to the medical needs of the President, the officials of the President's Secretariat, and the residents of the Presidential Estate. Now the advanced infrastructure with facilities for the AYUSH system will follow the standard protocol of treatment. After the inauguration of the Centre, Minister of State for AYUSH Munjapara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai released the book "Establishment, Functioning and Important Achievements" of AYUSH Wellness Centre in the presence of AYUSH Secretary Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha at

Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre. Secretary to the President KD Tripathi was also present. The President, in his message in the book, wrote that "I am delighted to know that a large number of patients have benefited from this centre. Initiatives like patient education workshops,

school health programme and outreach OPD etc. taken by this centre are highly appreciated. The telemedicine facilities and online yoga classes that started during the COVID-19 pandemic helped the beneficiaries in this difficult

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## Assam Floods: The devastating floods have claimed 107 lives



Assam Rising  
Guwahati, June 24:

Seven more deaths due to floods and landslides were reported in Assam in the past 24 hours, even as the floodwaters have started recede in most areas. The devastating floods have claimed 107 lives since April, affecting more than 45 lakh people across 30 districts of the state. The worst-affected is Silchar town in Barak Valley where the situation remains extremely grim for

four days now. Nearly three lakh people are affected as the overflowing Barak River inundated the major town in southern Assam, while more than 71,000 people have been shifted to relief camps. With no food and electricity, and an acute scarcity of drinking water, the town is now depending on the food and essentials being airdropped by the central and state disaster forces, besides the

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## "Devoid of merits": Supreme Court On Appeal Involving PM On Gujarat Riots



New Delhi, June 24:

An appeal against the exoneration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a 2002 Gujarat riots case by the wife of a Congress MP killed in the violence is "devoid of merits" and filed "to

keep the pot boiling", the Supreme Court said on Friday. Upholding the clearance issued to the then Chief Minister of the state by a Special Investigation Team or SIT, the top court dismissed the petition filed by Zakia Jafri, wife of Ehsan Jafri, who was among the 68 people killed in what came to be known as the Gulbarg Society massacre. The plea was filed "to keep the pot boiling, obviously, for ulterior

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## 'Did everything for Eknath Shinde; his own son is an MP but now...': Uddhav Thackeray lashes out

Mumbai, June 24:

Amid major political drama and crisis in Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray hit out at rebel MLA Eknath Shinde and said that even though he did a lot for the latter, Shinde is now levelling allegations against him. "I did everything for Eknath Shinde. I gave him the department which I held. His own son is an MP and comments are being made regarding my son. A lot of allegations are levelling against me," he said. "If they have courage, they should go among people without taking Balasaheb and Shiv Sena's names," he added. Thackeray accused rebel Shiv Sena MLAs, who are camping in Guwahati, of



wanting to "break the party". "I have said earlier also that I don't have anything to do with power. But the people who used to say that they would rather die than leave Shiv Sena have fled today," the Shiv Sena chief said during his virtual address at a meeting. As Eknath Shinde appears to be tightening his grip on Shiv Sena with the number of rebels rising to 38,

Thackeray called a meeting of the party's district chiefs today. He added, "The rebel MLAs want to break the party. I had never thought in dreams that I would become the chief minister. I have left Varsha Bungalow, but not the will to fight." Thackeray, who underwent a cervical spine surgery last year, said, "I had pain in my neck and

head, I was not able to work properly. I could not open my eyes but I did not care about it. Shivaji Maharaj was defeated but people were always with him." Earlier today, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut expressed confidence that Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government would win the floor test in the state Assembly. He also said that the rebel MLAs have taken a very wrong step and said that the MVA government will complete the rest of the remaining years of the five-year tenure in office. "We will win on the Floor of the House, we won't give up. They (MLAs) have taken a very wrong step. We also gave them a chance to return to Mumbai. Now, we challenge them to come to

Mumbai," he said. The Shiv Sena leader also challenged the leaders to fight face to face. "We won't relent...we will win on the floor of the house (State Assembly). If this battle is fought on roads, we will win that too. We gave the opportunity to those who left, but now it's too late. I challenge them to come on the floor of the

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## More MLAs Likely to Join Shinde Camp in Guwahati

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, June 24:

The strength of Shiv Sena MLAs in the Eknath Shinde camp is expected to cross 50 as more MLAs are likely to reach Guwahati on Friday, said sources. However, the rebel leader Eknath Shinde has hit back at the Shiv Sena after the party on Thursday wrote to the Maharashtra Assembly deputy speaker seeking the disqualification of 12 rebel MLAs. Taking to Twitter, Shinde wrote, "You cannot scare us by giving the names of 12 MLAs for disqualification because we are followers of the Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray. We know the law, so we do not pay heed to threats." "We know your ways and the law too! According to Schedule 10 of the Consti-



tution, the whip is used for assembly work, not for meetings," he further said in a tweet. The Shiv Sena faction led by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has filed a petition before the Deputy Speaker of the state assembly seeking the cancellation of membership of 12 rebel MLAs including Eknath Shinde for "not attending" legislative party meeting held on Wednesday. Speaking to ANI, Shiv Sena MP Arvind Sawant said that a notice had been issued before the meeting which said that if

an MLA does not attend the meeting, legal action will be taken. "We've filed a petition before the Deputy Speaker (of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly) and demanded that the membership of 12 (MLAs) should be cancelled as they didn't attend yesterday's meeting," Sawant said. "Before the meeting notice was issued in which it was said that if you didn't attend the meeting then legal action will be taken as per the constitution. Some didn't come

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## Presidential Polls 2022

## Will Droupadi Murmu be BJP's trump card to secure tribal vote bank?



New Delhi, June 24:

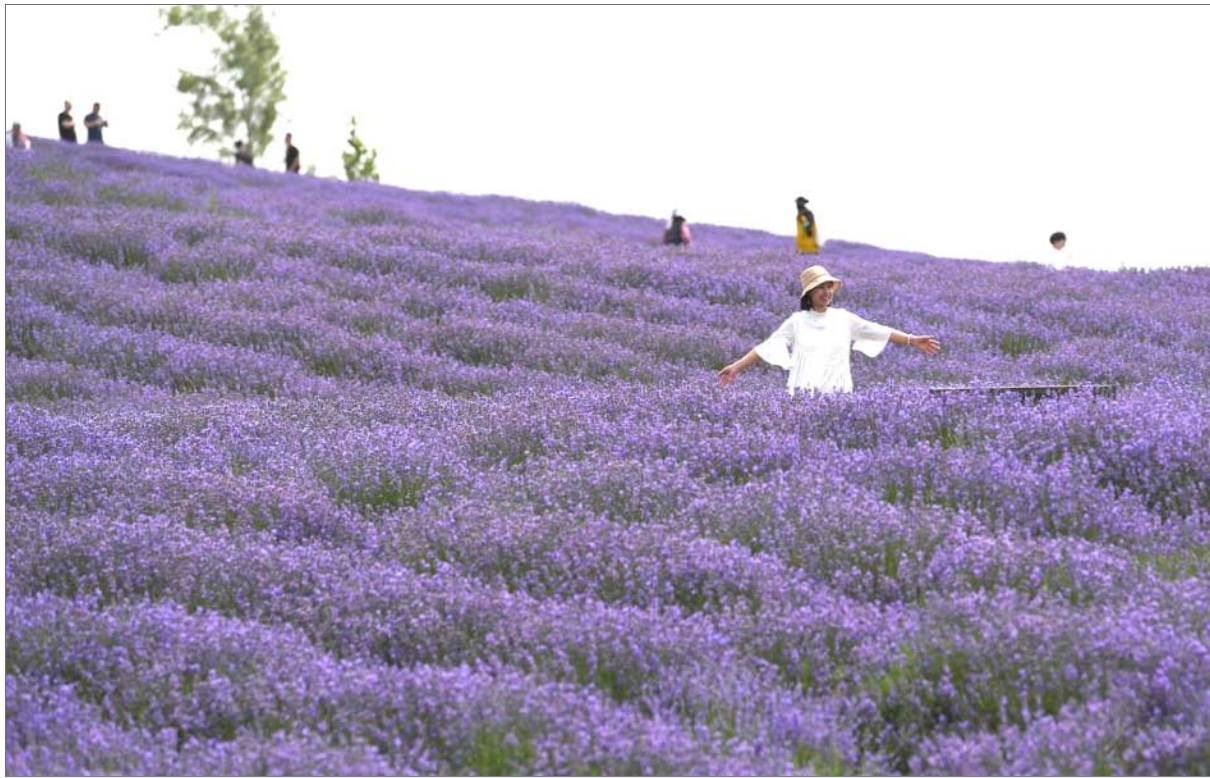
Much has been discussed about Droupadi Murmu's candidature, who in all likelihood is set to become India's first President from the tribal community, powered by the NDA and some unaffiliated parties. BJP president JP Nadda had

said the party felt India's next President should be from the East, be a woman and belong to the Vanvasi community - parameters that made Murmu the perfect fit. It is well known that the BJP lacks a pan-India face to represent tribals, who constitute nearly 9 per cent of the country's popu-

lation, with bigger concentration in several politically significant states. The tribal vote is mostly bagged by the Congress and regional parties such as Jharkhand Mukti Morcha in Jharkhand and Bharatiya Tribal Party in

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Tourists pose for photos in lavender fields in Sigong Village, Huocheng County of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region

## German gas prices could triple as Russia reduces supply, expert says

**Berlin, June 24 :** German consumers could face a tripling of gas prices in the coming months after Russia's throttling of deliveries to Europe, a senior energy official has said. Moscow reduced the flow of gas through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline by 40% last week, citing technical reasons that Berlin dismisses as a pretext, prompting a four to six-fold rise in market prices, said the head of Germany's federal network agency, Klaus Müller. Such "enormous leaps in price" were unlikely to be passed down to consumers one-for-one, Müller said, but German citizens had to brace themselves for dramatically rising costs. "A doubling or tripling is possible, depending on

the building shell," he told the public broadcaster ARD. The rising costs currently showing up on people's energy bills were still the result of higher prices on the gas market last autumn, he said. Müller's comments came after the German economic ministry announced the second of three energy emergency plan phases on Thursday, warning of a high risk of long-term supply shortages as a result of Russia systematically choking off gas deliveries. The so-called "alarm phase" enables utility firms to pass on high gas prices to customers and thereby help to lower demand. Robert Habeck, the minister for economic affairs, said there was some concern that there would be a complete stop to Russian gas deliveries after 13 July, when the Nord Stream 1 has to be closed down for ten days for an annual inspection. sked by the RTL Nachtjournal programme if he was worried that Putin might not switch the gas tap on

again after the scheduled interruption, Habeck said: "I would be lying if I said that isn't something I worry about." Müller said Europe's economic powerhouse could go for just over two months without Russian gas supplies. "If the storage facilities in Germany were mathematically 100% full ... we could do without Russian gas completely ... for just about two-and-a-half months and then the storage tanks will be empty," he told the Maybrit Illner programme on Thursday evening. To prepare for the supply crunch Germany needed to save gas and rapidly diversify its suppliers, he said. "Most of the scenarios are not pretty and mean either too little gas by the end of the winter, or even - and that's a very tricky situation - in the autumn or winter."

under the pressure of debts - Varun Gandhi has repeatedly slammed the Modi government. This time, the controversial MP has also spoken about 'Agnipath' in the same way. Raising his demand for pension for Agniveers, Varun said he will also give up the pension if the pension for Agniveers are not introduced. On Friday, he tweeted, "If Agniveers engaged in short-term service and are not eligible for pension, then why should people's representatives be given this 'benefit'? I am also ready to give up my pension if I don't give up pension rights to the protectors of the state. Can't the MLAs/MPs give up their pensions and ensure that the Agniveers are given pension." It is to be noted that there has been a fiery situation across the country over the Agnipath project of contractual recruitment in the army. The Centre has already changed the rules of Agnipath many times. Union ministers, the three army chiefs, all took to the field to explain the benefits of the Agnipath. The youth are increasingly worried about the future of jobs. The question arises, why pension should not be given to the Agniveers. This time, it was in this context that the Modi government was made uncomfortable by his own

party's controversial MP. Modi had recently announced that 10 lakh jobs will be created in the next one and a half years. Varun then attacked him and asked why the Centre was announcing only 10 lakh jobs in the country where vacancies are more than 1 crore. After raising such a question a few days ago, Varun again attacks the Centre.



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## Last Ukrainian forces in Sievierodonetsk ordered to withdraw

**Lysychansk, June 24 :** The last Ukrainian forces fighting in the heavily contested eastern city of Sievierodonetsk have been ordered to withdraw in order to avoid being encircled, as fears grow that the neighbouring city of Lysychansk could also fall to Russia within days. The anticipated loss of Sievierodonetsk is the latest battlefield reverse for Kyiv after its defeat in the port city of Mariupol. According to some estimates about

12,000 civilians remain in Sievierodonetsk, out of a prewar population of 160,000. All three bridges offering escape routes west over the Siverskyi Donets River to the twin city of Lysychansk have been destroyed in fighting, and the mayor, Oleksandr Striuk, says the humanitarian situation is critical. The Luhansk governor, Serhiy Haidai, said on Friday: "The situation right now is as such that staying at these destroyed positions just for the sake of being there doesn't make

sense." He said Ukrainian forces had "received the order to retreat to new positions and continue fighting there", but did not give further details. Russians were also advancing toward Lysychansk from Zolote and Tshkivka, and Russian reconnaissance units had been conducting forays on the city edges but were driven out by its defenders, he added. Haidai said Sievierodonetsk had been "nearly turned to rubble" by continual bombardment.

## Foetus fronts legal challenge over emissions in South Korea

**Seoul, June 24 :** A 20-week-old foetus is fronting a legal challenge in South Korea that argues the state is breaching the rights of future generations by not doing enough to cut national emissions. Parents and lawyers representing the foetus, as well as 61 babies and children under 11, claim national carbon targets do not go far enough to stop runaway climate change and that this is unconstitutional. Lee Dong-Hyun, who is pregnant with the foetus nicknamed Woodpecker and is also the mother of a six-year-old claimant, said: "I am proud every time a 20-week-old foetus moves in my belly, but I feel



sorry and regretful that this child who has not emitted even a gram of carbon dioxide has to live with the current climate crisis and disaster." The case was inspired by a landmark 2019 lawsuit in the Netherlands, where

campaigners succeeded in ordering the government to reduce emissions. It sparked a wave of climate litigation around the world, from Ireland to India. Korean citizens have been active in bringing climate lawsuits against the state, with three cases challenging the constitutionality of the country's climate commitments awaiting a hearing. One claim, brought by a youth group, was updated in 2021 after the South Korean government passed a new net zero law that they argued was still not strong enough. In this latest case, the claimants say the

country's 2030 target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% is unconstitutional and cannot guarantee basic rights for future generations. These include the rights to life, equality, property, and to live in a healthy and pleasant environment. Climate impacts in Korea are growing rapidly. Government statistics show the damage from natural disasters has risen since 1985, resulting in 162 casualties and costing 7.3tn won (£4.6bn) between 2007 and 2016. According to reports, the country will in future face more frequent and heavy floods and forest disasters, loss of habitats and endangered species, and lower yields and quality of staple foods such as rice.

## Charles tells Commonwealth leaders dropping Queen is 'for each to decide'

**London, June 24 :** The Prince of Wales has told Commonwealth leaders that keeping the Queen as head of state or becoming a republic is "a matter for each member country to decide". Charles made the comments during the opening ceremony of a summit of Commonwealth prime ministers and presidents in Rwanda. He said he believed such fundamental changes could be made "calmly and without rancour". His observations are likely to be interpreted as an acknowledgment of forces already in motion as a number of Caribbean nations have suggested they may drop the British monarchy and elect their own heads of state. Barbados took the historic move of replacing the Queen as head of state in November last year and elected its first president during a ceremony witnessed by the prince. He is representing the Queen at the Commonwealth heads of government meeting (Chogm), where his visit has been overshadowed by a row

over reported comments he made criticising the government's scheme to send asylum seekers to Rwanda. The prince's office at Clarence House has refused to be drawn on comments made by Boris Johnson, who on Thursday appeared to take

a swipe at the royal and those who had attacked his plans to forcibly remove asylum seekers to Rwanda. The prime minister said before a meeting with Charles on Friday: "People need to keep an open mind about the policy, the critics need to keep an open mind about the policy."

### Guest House

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



Participants attend the 5th edition of the Benin International Investment Forum in Cotonou, Benin

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM DIRECTORATE OF WELFARE OF PLAIN TRIBES & BACKWARD CLASSES, ASSAM, RUKMINI NAGAR, DISPUR, GUWAHATI-06			
No. DW/NIT/77/2022-23/51			
<b>CORRIGENDUM</b>			
In partial modification of the following e-Tender notifications, the advertisement is modified as follows:			
Sl. No.	e-Tender notification No.	Name of item	Modification
1	DW/NIT/77/2022-23/25-26, Dated, Guwahati, 7 <sup>th</sup> of June 2022	1) Educational and Sport Essentials ; 2) Electric Hybrid Silk Spinning Machine approved by Central SILK Board 3) Combed Compact Fast Coloured Cotton Dyed Yarn	1) The bid document shall be available online from 24/06/2022 onwards. 2) The last date of submission of bids will be mentioned in the bid document
2	DW/NIT/77/2022-23/28-29, Dated, Guwahati, 9 <sup>th</sup> of June 2022	1) 4 HP Self Priming Water Pump; 2) House Hold Essentials 3) Bicycle and Water Bottle	1) The bid document shall be available online from 24/06/2022 onwards. 2) The last date of submission of bids will be mentioned in the bid document
Director, WPT & BC, Assam			
Janasanyog/C/5308/22			

জাননী					
ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰাই জনোৱা যায় যে ২০২২-২৩ বিত্তীয় বৰ্ষৰ বাবে "প্রধান মন্ত্রী নিয়োগ সৃষ্টি আঁচনি"(PMEGP) ৰ অধীনত অনলাইন যোগে আবেদন পত্ৰ দাখিলৰ প্ৰক্ৰিয়া চলি আছে। ইচ্ছুক প্ৰাৰ্থীসকলে <a href="http://www.pmegp.in">www.pmegp.in</a> বা <a href="http://www.kviconline.gov.in">www.kviconline.gov.in</a> ওৱেবছাইট যোগে আবেদন কৰিব পাৰিব। আবেদনকাৰীসকলে আবেদনপত্ৰৰ লগত নিম্ন উল্লেখিত নথিসমূহ আপলোড কৰিব লাগিব।					
১. এক কপি পাচপৰ্ট আকাৰৰ ফটো					
২. আঁচনি/প্ৰকল্প প্ৰতিবেদন					
৩. জাতিগত প্ৰমাণ পত্ৰ					
৪. আধাৰ/পান কাৰ্ড					
৫. শিক্ষাগত অৰ্হতা					
৬. গ্ৰামাঞ্চলৰ বাবে গাওঁ পঞ্চায়তৰ পৰা গ্ৰাম্য এলেকাৰ প্ৰমাণ পত্ৰ।					
প্ৰাৰ্থীসকলে আবেদনপত্ৰ পূৰণ কৰাৰ লগতে মূল্যায়ন পত্ৰ পূৰণ কৰি সংশ্লিষ্ট নথিসমূহ আপলোড কৰিব লাগিব।					
আবেদনকাৰীৰ অৰ্হতা সমূহ :-					
১. আবেদনকাৰীৰ বয়স কমেও ১৮ বছৰ হ'ব লাগিব।					
২. শিক্ষাগত অৰ্হতা:					
উৎপাদন প্ৰতিস্থানৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত			সেৱা/ব্যৱসায় প্ৰতিস্থানৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত		
১০ লাখৰ অধিক ঋণৰ বাবে আবেদনকাৰীৰ শিক্ষাগত অৰ্হতা কমপক্ষেও অষ্টম শ্ৰেণী উত্তীৰ্ণ হোৱা হ'ব লাগিব			৫ লাখৰ অধিক ঋণৰ বাবে আবেদনকাৰীৰ শিক্ষাগত অৰ্হতা কমপক্ষেও অষ্টম শ্ৰেণী উত্তীৰ্ণ হোৱা হ'ব লাগিব		
৩. আবেদনকাৰী কোনো বিত্তীয় প্ৰতিষ্ঠানৰ বাকীদাৰ(defaulter) হ'ব নালাগিব।					
আঁচনিখনৰ সুবিধাসমূহ:-					
(ক) নতুন প্ৰতিস্থানৰ স্থাপনৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত -					
ক্র.নং	প্ৰতিস্থানৰ প্ৰকাৰ	ঋণৰ পৰিমাণ	হিতাধীকাৰিৰ নিজা অংশ	ৰাজসাহাৰ্য্যৰ পৰিমাণ (নগৰ অঞ্চলৰ বাবে)	ৰাজসাহাৰ্য্যৰ পৰিমাণ (গ্ৰামাঞ্চলৰ বাবে)
১	উৎপাদন প্ৰতিস্থানৰ বাবে	৫০ লাখ টকা পৰ্য্যন্ত	মুঠ প্ৰকল্প ব্যয়ৰ ৫%	২৫%	৩৫%
২	সেৱা/ব্যৱসায় প্ৰতিস্থানৰ বাবে	২০ লাখ টকা পৰ্য্যন্ত	মুঠ প্ৰকল্প ব্যয়ৰ ৫%	২৫%	৩৫%
(খ) প্ৰতিষ্ঠিত প্ৰতিস্থানৰ সম্প্ৰসাৰণৰ বাবে দ্বিতীয় ঋণৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত:-					
ক্র.নং	প্ৰতিস্থানৰ প্ৰকাৰ	ঋণৰ পৰিমাণ	হিতাধীকাৰিৰ নিজা অংশ	ৰাজসাহাৰ্য্যৰ পৰিমাণ	
১	উৎপাদন প্ৰতিস্থানৰ বাবে	১ কোটি টকা পৰ্য্যন্ত	মুঠ প্ৰকল্প ব্যয়ৰ ১০%	২০%	
২	সেৱা/ব্যৱসায় প্ৰতিস্থানৰ বাবে	২৫ লাখ টকা পৰ্য্যন্ত	মুঠ প্ৰকল্প ব্যয়ৰ ১০%	২০%	
বিশেষ জানিবৰ বাবে প্ৰধান পৰিচালকৰ কাৰ্যালয়, জিলা উদ্যোগ আৰু বাণিজ্য কেন্দ্ৰ, যোৰহাটৰ লগত যোগাযোগ কৰিব পাৰে।					
প্ৰধান পৰিচালক জিলা উদ্যোগ আৰু বাণিজ্য কেন্দ্ৰ যোৰহাট					
Janasanyog/D/6278/22					



# Minister Atul Bora inaugurates APEDA conference



**Assam Rising**  
**Guwahati, June 24:** With the vision to harness the export potential of organic agricultural products from Assam and neighbouring states, the Agricultural Department of Assam under the aegis of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) today organized a conference focusing on the Export Potential of Natural, Organic and Geographical Indications (GI) certified

agro-products here. The prime objective of the conference was to promote the export of natural, organic and GI agro-products grown in Assam and neighbouring states by creating international market linkages. The meeting focused on agricultural products from Assam and other North East Regions (NER) and witnessed the presence of farmers, traders and exporters. Under the guidance of Assam Chief Minister Himanta BiswaSarma, the conference

was inaugurated by Shri Atul Bora, Minister of Agriculture, Assam Govt who was the Chief Guest of the event. Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, Additional Chief Secretary-cum-Agriculture

Production Commissioner, Assam government was also present on the occasion. In his inaugural address, Atul Bora, Agriculture Minister, Assam hailed the efforts and initiatives taken by APEDA for the promotion of the export of natural and organic agricultural products of Assam as well as other states of the North East Region. On the occasion, Dr. M. Angamuthu, APEDA Chairman said that the conference will provide an opportunity for the producers and processors of Assam to showcase their products and promote the exports as well as their wholesale and retail sales. At the workshop, farmers, FPOs, entrepreneurs and government officials were advised to fulfill all the basic requirements such as quality parameters, nutritional values, lab testing and health parameters. More than 20 exporters, 70 farmer producers organizations or farmers producer companies participated in the

event. Eighteen stalls displayed a range of natural, organic and GI products. APEDA under its Agricultural Export Policy is encouraging states to harness the potential of Agri produce exports. APEDA aims to create a platform for the buyers to get the products directly from the producer group and the processors. APEDA provides a platform for the exporters to market their food products in the global marketplace. APEDA also organizes national events like AAHAR, Organic World Congress, Bio Fach India etc. to promote agri-exports. Another key initiative includes the development and implementation of traceability systems which ensure the food safety and quality compliances of the importing countries.



## Star Cement Donates Rs. 1 Cr to Assam CM's Relief Fund

**Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 23:** Star Cement, the leading cement brand of the region has donated Rupees One Crore to the Assam Chief Minister's Relief Fund to aid the ongoing flood relief measures in Assam. The cement brand has also initiated a distribution drive of food and other essential materials in various flood-affected areas of the state. Apart from the donation made to the Chief Minister's relief fund, Star Cement has also initiated a distribution drive of food and other essential materials in various flood-affected areas of the state. Each day the cement brand has been distributing two trucks of materials that include rice, pulses, salt, biscuits, buns, cookies and packaged drinking water in various

flood-affected areas. The distribution has already covered some of the worst affected areas that includes Barpeta, Darrang, Pathsala, Howly, Nalbari and Tihu. The cement brand will continue to distribute three trucks of food and other essential materials to the flood-hit areas of the state on a daily basis until the situation normalizes. Today 1 truckload of relief material has been sent to affected areas of Silchar which is being airlifted along with the relief material being sent by the Govt. of Assam. Commenting on the flood situations of the state, Shree Tushar Bhajanka, Executive Director, Star Cement stated "In many locations, the people of the state are facing unprecedented hardships & we are saddened by the same. However, when

nature shows its fury, we can stand together in solidarity to help each other. We at Star Cement have made all efforts to reach out to the people & help them in whatever manner possible." Commenting on the distribution drive of food and other essentials, Shree Pradeep Purohit, Chief Strategy Officer stated "Star Cement is always committed to serve the people of Assam at the times of need. We have initiated the distribution of food and other essential materials in various flood-affected areas and will continue to do so until the flood situation normalizes." "The daily supply of food and other materials is increased to 3 trucks keeping in mind the unprecedented geographical spread of the current wave of these devastating floods." He further stated.

## Lakhimpur DM closed down Pranamika Nidhi Ltd.

**Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, June 24:** Lakhimpur District Magistrate Sumit Sattawan, through an order issued on Thursday, closed down an agency named Pranamika Nidhi Limited. In the order, it is read "Whereas information has been received by the undersigned that one agency named Pranamika Nidhi Limited with regional office at B.B. Complex, above Axis Bank, Khelmsti, Ward no. 14, North Lakhimpur, Assam-787031 has been operating financial operation namely Daily Deposit Scheme etc." The also read, "Whereas, it is also alleged that requisite permission from competent authority to conduct financial business is not obtained by the agency. And, whereas, if the allegation are found to be true and if the agency continues to conduct its trade or occupation without proper authorization, it may lead to cause disturbance of the public tranquility. And, therefore, in context of above, I am satisfied to draw proceedings under sect 144 of Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 and hereby pass an order directing the agency to close down the operation and cooperate with officer-in-charge, North Lakhimpur Police Station in immediate sealing of the premise in presence of Circle Officer (A), North Lakhimpur Revenue Circle cum Executive Magistrate, Lakhimpur and not allow movement of any person or documents from the premises without authorisation of the undersigned, and appear before the undersigned on 27 June, 2022, 11 a.m. with documents related to the agency justifying that all requisite permission from competent authority was received. In case, the agency is able to justify, this order shall be modified as per 144(5), Cr PC 1973". At last, the order read, "Considering the circumstances of the allegation and emergency of the matter, the order is passed ex-parte under 144(2), Cr PC 1973 and shall remain in force for 2 months from today or till modified further."

## 3 months IDDP completed in Nagaon

**Assam Rising, Rupohi, June 24:** Assam State SC Development Corporation Limited Successfully completed 3 months Integrated Design Development Program (IDDP) for Textile Embroidery sanctioned by the Ministry of Textile (Handicrafts), Government of India was started at Katimari Pathar, Nagaon district from March 24 last. The program was attended by 40 rural artisans from Rangagara Huj, Katimari Pathar, Itapara, Majrati and other villages. The design program is supervised by designer Devlina Das and master Craft person Shikha Bora. Jayant Thanyam Singh, Officer, Jorhat HSC and Devashish Das, Officer, Assam State SC Development Corporation Limited inspected the event on June 18 last and appreciated the organizers. The organizer distributed certificates within the artisans who have attended the whole program.

## Poetry book "Dhulikona" released at Gossaigaon

**Assam Rising Gossaigaon, June 24:** Dhulikona a self composed poetry book authored by young Journalist cum poet Mizanur Rahman was unveiled by Anurani Basumatary, a renewed Social worker and Retired Headmistress of Gossaigaon Girls' high School in an event held at Gossaigaon Press Club on Wednesday. Besides an award ceremony programme late. Prof Shamsul Hoque Memorial Life Struggle Award was also organized which was chaired by Khanindra Das, Secretary, Asam Sahitya Sabha, Gossaigaon Unit and the purpose of the event was lucidly explained by Mizanur Rahman, President, Green Leaf Foundation, NGO. It is noteworthy to mention that late. Prof. Shamsul Hoque was an Associate Professor and Head of Department, Economics of Gossaigaon College worked for the upliftment of downtrodden people of the society. His contribution towards setting up of Rabi Haji Junior College in Karim



Bazar and developing of Gossaigaon Jame Masjid for the greater interest of the people in our society was immensely appreciated by the dignitaries present. Hence, to commemorate his 4th death anniversary an award titled "Prof. Shamsul Hoque Memorial Life Struggle Award" was named after him and for the first time the maiden awarded presented to Habijul Mondal, a fatherly student for excelling in recently declared HSLC examination from Bhomrabil High School with first division. The award was presented by Amarjyoti Bailung, O/C, Gossaigaon police station which includes tree plants, letter of appreciation, package of study materials and cash prize. While speaking on both the occasion, Anurani Basumatary, eminent social

worker highlighted the colourful aspects of Professor Late. Shamsul Hoque's life and urged the students community to imbibe his ideas and ideologies for a successful career ahead. On the other hand, unveiling the poetry book, the eminent educationist welcomed Mizanur Rahman in the field of poetic career and applauded his poetic talent, his thinking, attitude of social worker, etc. The event was largely attended by educationists, literary figures, members of Gossaigaon Press Club, institutional heads from Gossaigaon sub-division, writers, eminent social workers, advocates, Student organization etc.

## Lokra Bn. Conducted plantation drive

**Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, June 24:** Lokra Bn under the aegis of HQ 21 Sector Assam Rifles and Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) organized a tree plantation drive on June 23, to create awareness on global warming. A total of 100 saplings of Ashoka tree, Guava and Elephant Apples were planted during the event. The event was aimed to raise awareness among all rks and local people to protect the environment and contributing towards restoring the ecosystem. A total of 72 Assam Rifles personnel and Civilians participated in the event organised.



## SOS Children's village observed SOS day in Hojai

**Assam Rising Hojai, June 24:** SOS Children's Village Hojai observed SOS Day on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Founder Late Dr. Hermann Gmeiner with pomp and gaiety on Thursday. Honorable Vice Chancellor of Rabindranath Tagore University, Hojai Prof. Amalendu Chakrabarty graced the occasion as the esteemed Chief Guest. Notably, SOS Children's Village came into being in the year 1949, and it was in the year 1964 that SOS Children's Villages of India was established. SOS Children's Villages of India provides children

without parental care or at the risk of losing it, a value chain of quality care services that goes beyond childcare alone, ensuring comprehensive child development. Our customized care interventions such as: Family Like Care, Family Strengthening, Kinship Care, Short Stay Homes, Foster Care, Youth Skilling, Emergency Childcare and Special Needs Childcare are aimed at transforming lives and enabling children under care to become self-reliant and contributing members of society. The organization also empowers vulnerable families in communities to become financially independent, thereby enabling them to create safe and nurturing spaces for children under their care. Today, over 6,500 children live in more than 440 family homes, inside 32 SOS Children's Villages of India, in 22 States / UTs, from Srinagar to Kochi, and Bhuj to Shillong. They are lovingly cared for and nurtured by over 600 SOS Mothers and Aunts. As India's largest self-implementing child care NGO, SOS Children's Villages India directly touches the lives of more than 35,000 children every year. Speaking on the occasion, Professor Amalendu empha-



sized that SOS Children's Villages is doing commendable work in the field of Child Protection, Child Rights both inside the Children's Village campus and in the communities. While addressing the audience, Prof. Amalendu said "these youths of today will be proud citizens of our nation, taking our nation forward". He said in all situation we should learn to be happy because happiness gives us inner strength to struggle in any circumstances. He further requested Children to be a responsible citizen of the Country. On this occasion, Director of Ajmal Foundation, Dr. Khasrul Islam, Child welfare Committee Chairperson, Prof

Pradeep Bagchi were also present who emphasized and appreciated that the work of SOS Children's Villages is a role model in the entire District and region. Dr. MRH Azad, General Manager, Ajmal foundation and Akkash Ali, Principal, Ajmal Law College were also present on the dais. During the programme, Felix Darlong, Co-

Worker, SOS Children's Village Hojai read out the message forwarded by Mr. Sumanta Kar, Secretary General, SOS Children's Villages of India said, "Currently more than 6700 children are served by our Family Like Care Programme. More than 7000 children have exited the programme and have joined mainstream society by becoming self-reliant and contributing

members of society. Our Basket of Care Solutions ensures customized solutions for pressing challenges that vulnerable families and communities face, thereby enabling prevention of child abandonment. We are currently impacting the lives of more than 35,000 children through our Family Strengthening Programme, the flagship intervention of our prevention initiative. SOS Day, commemorated on the 23rd of June every year, marks the birth anniversary of Dr. Hermann Gmeiner, the Founder of SOS Children's Villages. The first SOS Children's Village was founded in Tyrol, Austria in 1949, after World War II. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks by Chittaranjan Mohanty, assistant Village Director.

## Biennial session of district AJYCP postponed

**Assam Rising Nagaon, June 24:** The biennial session of district body of Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuva Chatra Parishad (AJYCP) which was scheduled earlier to be held on June 26 at Puranigudam Bapuji Library auditorium, has been postponed due to ongoing flood devastation in the district as well

as in the state. As per a release issued by the district unit of the organization, the session will be held on July 31 next. The decision for postponement of the session has been taken in an executive body meeting today due to the unusual devastation caused by the second wave of flood in the district, the release said.

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## THE ASSAM RISING

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## Most exploited countries

Developed by campaigners in some of the world's most exploited countries, it's a brilliant idea: simple but systemic. Rich nations owe a massive climate debt to poorer nations: for the devastating impacts of the fossil fuels we have burned. Yet they have no intention of paying for the loss and damage they have caused. Poor countries are deemed to owe massive financial debts to the rich nations, yet they cannot pay them without destroying their economies and their ecosystems. The proposal is simultaneously to cancel both the climate and the financial debts, liberating the money poorer nations need to take climate action. Debt for Climate, mobilising labour, social and climate movements in 28 countries, will be launched by campaigners during the G7 summit in Germany, which starts on Sunday. To understand this proposal better, let's begin with the poorer world's debt, now largely forgotten in the rich world. The powerful campaigns to cancel it in the 1990s have all but vanished from public view. This is not because the crisis has abated. Far from it: between 1990 and 2019, external debt in the global south (the poorer nations) rose on average from roughly 90% of their GDP to 170%. The pandemic has accelerated the crisis: 135 out of 148 nations in the poorer world are now classed as "critically indebted". Campaigners often talk of "odious debts", which means loans agreed by dictatorships, that provide no benefit to the nation. But all the debts deemed to be owed by poor nations to the rich world and its corporations could be seen this way. The idea that the global south, looted and enslaved for centuries, should owe money to its exploiters is grotesque. An analysis in the journal Global Environmental Change suggests that \$10tn of value is extracted from poorer countries by richer ones every year, in the form of raw materials, energy, land and labour. That's 70 times as much money as would be needed to end extreme poverty worldwide. This extraction provides rich nations with a quarter of their GDP: much of our apparent wealth depends on exploitation. Debt is imperialism by other means. It's equivalent to the hut taxes imposed by the British in their African colonies. These taxes, often levied in currencies Africans did not possess, forced them to surrender their resources or their labour to colonial projects. Today, foreign debt forces nations to hand their assets to rich countries and multinational companies.

## 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.

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## Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,  
The Assam Rising  
Guwahati, Assam

## Rich-poor divide on clean power is getting wider and hurting the climate fight



Sydney: To look at the way richer countries are spending money on the energy transition, you might think we're within reach of bringing climate change under control. Investment in clean energy has only accelerated in the years since Covid-19 struck. In the second half of the last decade, it grew at a 2% annual rate. Since 2020, that's risen to 12% a year. This year, it will hit \$1.4 trillion, the International Energy Agency wrote in its annual investment report Wednesday, putting green power comprehensively ahead of the roughly \$1 trillion that's being spent on fossil fuels. If you assume those trends will continue, it looks even more

promising. Just continuing to inflate existing spending at current growth rates would imply that advanced economies and China spend in the region of \$650 billion a year on clean power over the remainder of this decade, the IEA wrote - within sight of the \$850 billion-odd that's needed to put the world on track to zero emissions by 2050. The problem comes when you look elsewhere in the world. In emerging and developing economies (excluding China), clean power investment needs to grow at 25% a year up to 2030 if it's to hit levels consistent with net zero. In practice, spending remains stuck at the levels it was at in 2015,

David Fickling

By vacating his official residence Varsha, chief minister Uddhav Thackeray has signalled that the game is up for the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra. The strange bedfellows consisting of the Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress who cobbled a bizarre coalition in 2019 foiled the Bharatiya Janata Party's attempts to form a government with the help of about 54 MLAs led by NCP's Ajit Pawar. The three-party coalition paraded more than 160 MLAs who took an oath 'not to fall prey to any inducements' and switch loyalty. About twenty months later, more than half of Shiv Sena MLAs have left the party's father-son leadership high and dry, making the MVA coalition a thing of past. The political upheaval in Maharashtra looks more like a repeat of similar turbulence witnessed in many other states earlier. As far as carting away MLAs to secret locations, poaching of independent members and cross-voting goes, almost all political parties mirror each other. Last minute attempts to save the government do not work if its



very Seshadri Chari single foundation largest is skewed. Shiv Sena made the biggest mistake of joining hands with parties that were once considered by it as 'untouchables' and ideological adversaries. Incidentally, Uddhav Thackeray has added Shiv Sena to the list of parties with dubious distinction - Janta Dal (United), Janta Dal (Secular), Bahujan Samaj Party, Samajwadi Party and Telugu Desam Party, all of whom tied up with the Congress only to witness political Waterloo. The turmoil in Maharashtra should not come as a surprise to anyone who has been watching the state from close quarters. To begin with, the government formation in October 2019 was not based on strong democratic principles. The party position then was in favour of the BJP, which had emerged as the

cutting its nose to spite the BJP. Whoever scripted the split in Shiv Sena has attempted to highlight the irrelevance of feudalistic dynastic parties in modern democracy. Except the BJP and the Left parties, there is hardly any political outfit in India that can boast of not being a private business closely held by one family. Uddhav Thackeray's dream of anointing his son as his successor seems to have backfired. Meanwhile, if the BJP forms the next government, it should not come as a surprise if NCP extends its support. Maharashtra's political veteran Sharad Pawar may wish to teach a lesson or two to his nephew on politics. Again, he too has to settle the succession issue in his own party. One outcome of this turmoil is that a new Shiv Sena could emerge without the Thackeray clan at the helm of affairs. The rebel leader Eknath Shinde could lead the breakaway group, which now seems to be stronger than the party itself. Like after the Congress split during Indira Gandhi's tenure, the Shiv Sena might emerge as a renewed party with a new leader. In such a situation, the new leader will have to face the uphill task of

bringing the party back on the original track, which gave it a place on the political platform of Maharashtra. From being a parochial anti-north Indian and anti-South Indian outfit, Shiv Sena, under the leadership of Bal Thackeray made a turnaround. Under a Hindutva umbrella, it teamed up with the BJP and displaced the Congress from the state. The last Congress CM was Prithviraj Chavan (2010-2014). In spite of serious differences, the BJP and Shiv Sena partnership in 2019 election came up as a tough amalgamation to break. But the misstep by Uddhav proved to be a spoilsport. Compulsions of coalition made him make major compromises. A series of incidents like the lynching of Sadhus in Palghar was sought to be brushed under the carpet. As of now, it seems to be 'advantage BJP' as the Shiv Sena is vertically split, the Congress is history and the NCP's appeal is limited to half-a-dozen constituencies. As the single-largest party, the BJP with a proven leader in Devendra Fadnis, can lay the foundation and emerge as a strong force in the coming years.

## Britain is being swamped by yet another Covid wave - how can we stop them coming?

We are at the beginning of another wave of Covid - the third in six months. Roughly one in 50 people in England are currently infected, while that figure is as high as one in 30 in Scotland. An estimated 1.4 million people in the UK - more than 2% of the population - would have tested positive last week according to the latest Office for National Statistics (ONS) infection survey. Chances are you know someone who's got the disease. Covid hospitalisations have also been rising for the past couple of weeks. On Monday there were more than 1,000 admissions in England - the first time we've reached that level since April. It's possible that some of the stark 40% week-on-week rise in prevalence reported last Friday is due to large numbers of people getting together over the extended platinum jubilee weekend. However, scientists who have been monitoring the Covid situation closely have been predicting an uptick for a while now. Two new subvariants - BA.4 and BA.5 - of the Omicron variant have been increasing

their share of UK infections for several weeks. Last week they finally overtook the BA.2 version of Omicron responsible for the most recent wave that the UK experienced, in March and April. Although there is no evidence that these new subvariants cause more severe disease, their rise to dominance suggests that they can, at least to some degree, evade existing immunity. There are, however, some reasons for optimism. It's far from certain that we will see the same level of infections or hospital admissions that we saw in the previous two Omicron waves. Portugal is coming down from a BA.5 wave in which hospitalisations reached 80% of their previous Omicron peak. In contrast, South Africa, which is over the worst of its BA.4/5 wave, hasn't seen hospitalisations climb anywhere near the levels of the December/January Omicron peak. Another positive is that we are starting from a lower baseline than the most recent wave. Steep falls in infection levels have given hospitals some opportunity to recover from the Covid-related pressures they were experiencing. While it's important

to remember that there is a lag between cases rising and people ending up in the ICU, it is promising to note that steep rises in hospital admissions have not yet been commensurate rises in the number of Covid patients in mechanical-ventilation beds. Nevertheless, hospitals are still under severe strain with waits for ambulances far above their targets; accident and emergency waiting times are through the roof; and almost one in nine people in the UK are waiting to start NHS treatment. As well as the potential impact on hospitals and the inevitable increase in the nearly 200,000 people who have lost their lives to Covid, any rise in infection levels will necessarily lead to more people with long Covid. About 2 million people in the UK are living with self-reported long Covid, according to the latest ONS survey. Almost 400,000 of these suggest it has a significant impact on their day-to-day activities. With the recent tribunal ruling that long Covid is a disability, we must start to ask questions about the long-term economic viability of continually and repeatedly allowing huge swathes of our population to become infected with a potentially disabling virus. Surely, we



must start to invest in technology, like ventilation and air filtration, which will help to make schools and workplaces safer. We should also seriously consider improving sick pay so that people can afford to self-isolate when they are unwell, rather than going into work and infecting their colleagues. When Boris Johnson suggested in his February "living with Covid" strategy that we should learn lessons from our German counterparts, who are "much more disciplined about not going to work if you're sick", he neglected to mention that Germany has one of the best and most comprehensive sick-pay policies in the OECD, whereas the UK has one of the worst. The other bad news regarding this wave relates to its timing - in the middle of a patch of good summer weather. If ever there were a period when we would hope to see sustained falls in the levels of Covid it would be now, when it's more attractive to meet in low-transmission outdoor environments. Sadly, this

solstitial resurgence indicates that the pattern of repeated variant-driven waves is one we might expect to live with for the foreseeable future. While huge swathes of the world's population remain unvaccinated, high levels of Covid transmission present the opportunity for new immunity-evading variants to emerge. That fact makes the UK's international Covid strategy seem perverse. Embarrassingly, the UK was one of the last hold-outs to the World Trade Organization's belated partial agreement to waive vaccine patents. And despite promising last year to donate 100m vaccines to low-income countries, by May of this year fewer than 36.5m had been dispatched. The word pandemic derives from the Greek pandemos meaning "pertaining to all the people". To solve this global problem, we need truly global solutions that make all the people of the world safe. We cannot, despite Matt Hancock's claim, unilaterally declare ourselves "past the pandemic". It doesn't work like that.

## It isn't just the US: abortion barriers in Britain are forcing women to travel miles for treatment

When a draft supreme court decision was leaked in May showing that judges intended to overturn Roe v Wade, many in the UK reacted with outrage. Rightly so: such a law change would leave abortion rules up to individual states. Rights groups estimate that abortion could become illegal in about half the states if this is successful.

Americans would be forced to travel to states where it was still legal, or order costly abortion medicine online, risking severe legal consequences by doing so. Overturning Roe v Wade would probably also inspire anti-choice campaign groups to pursue legal action elsewhere in the world. It can be easy, in the UK, to look to the US with horror, while overlooking the abortion access issues closer to home. We have a habit of importing American discourse into the UK. It's understandable: the states are so huge and culturally influential that everything that happens there can feel weighted with great significance and the potential for a kind of butterfly effect. The issues with abortion in the UK are

different, and less drastic than a full legal overhaul. But they are nonetheless significant. Practical difficulties with access have a major impact on the lives and choices of people in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Earlier this month Lucy Grieve, the co-founder of Back Off Scotland, wrote an article for The Scotsman outlining the need to

travel from Scotland to England for second-trimester abortions, since no health board in Scotland provides abortion care up to the longstanding legal limit of 24 weeks. This is not widely publicised (Grieve only found out by interviewing people for her work on buffer zones, the legally protected spaces implemented around abortion clinics to deter protesters from harassing clients). She was surprised at how many described journeying to England for an abortion. Grieve found that people were having to travel as far as Bournemouth (around eight hours from Glasgow by train), and that 170 Scottish abortion clients had been referred by their doctors to travel to England for an abortion since 2019.

Rachel Connolly





## CONGRATULATIONS

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



**AFSANA HASSAN**, Class IV, St. Mary's High School, Lakhimpur

## QUIZ

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

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

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



**Bhargab Buragohain**, Class V, Mon ati akha group, Sivasagar

## Ugly face

There was an young man named Mohan whom everyone thought to be very unlucky. They avoided him and misbehaved with him. Everybody thought that they would meet bad luck during the day if they saw Mohan's face in the morning.

Akbar also heard about Mohan and felt sympathy for him. One day, he ordered Mohan to come to the court in order to test of himself. Mohan came next morning. Akbar met him and began talking kindly to him. Just then, a man rushed in and said, "My Lord, the queen has taken ill."

Akbar at once went inside the palace asking Mohan to wait. The queen was really very ill. The royal physician gave her medicine. The emperor sat beside the bed till the afternoon.

A servant came and informed the emperor that his lunch was ready. Akbar felt hungry but he found the food was tasteless and cold. Being very much angry, he left the food without eating a piece of them.

When he saw Mohan waiting for him in the court, he, too thought him to be unlucky. So, at once ordered his guards to put Mohan in prison. Birbal witnessed what happened to Mohan. He felt very sorry for the helpless young man. He took Mohan aside and whispered a few suggestion in his ear.

In the meantime, Akbar had eaten fresh lunch prepared again for him. He was in a good mood. But he got angry when he saw that the jailor brought Mohan in front of him.

"My Lord", said Mohan, "You have sent me in prison because you think my face is unlucky. What do you say to my question that your face has brought imprisonment for me?"

Akbar thought for a while and then began to laugh loudly, "You are right, young man", said Akbar, "I will surely spare you and I can guess from whom you have got such idea."

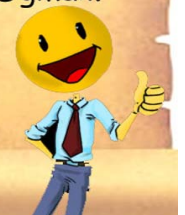
So Mohan was set free with some gifts. Later, Akbar thanked Birbal for checking him in right time when the emperor was about to do wrong. Birbal too felt happy and laughed.

Dear Bhaity, Bhonti,

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



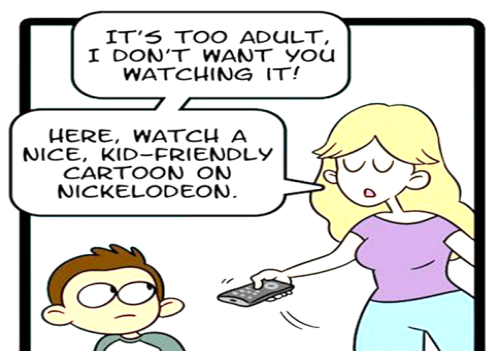
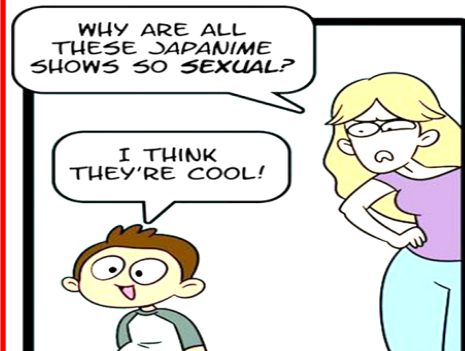
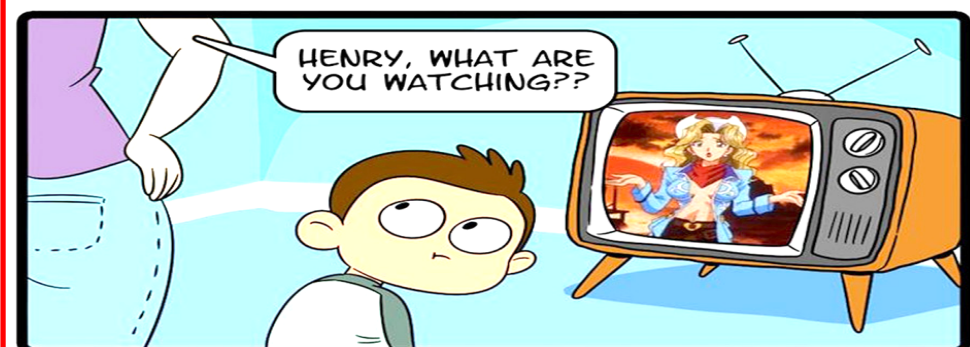
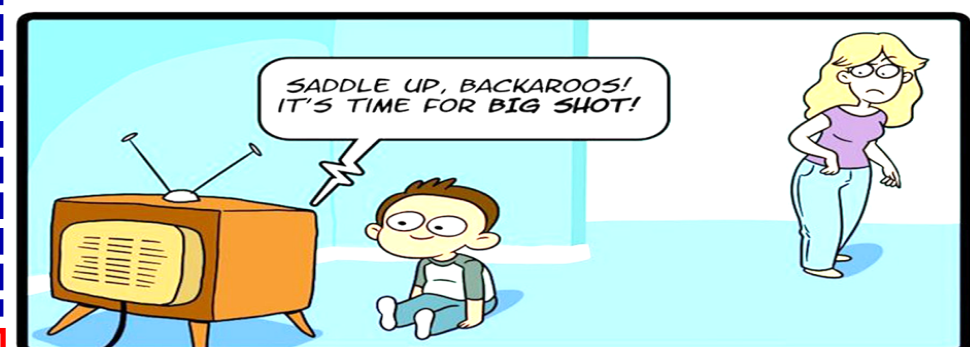
Your  
Abhi mama.



Home work : Fill the picture with colour



**Alok Borgohain**, Class VI, Mon ati akha group, Sivasagar



## FIND OUT 10 DIFFERENCES



For the cat and mouse are Tom and Jerry, and this, of course is a Tom & Jerry cartoon. The ever-dueling duo have chased each other from the Hollywood Bowl to Hungary to out space and back, and fifty years after their movie debut, are still going strong. Vintage Tom & Jerry cartoons still play at the cinema, on television, and are packaged for sale or rental on videotape. Born in Hollywood, Tom and Jerry have captured the delight, and the laughter, of audiences around the globe, garnered enough Academy Awards to make any movie star selfishly smug, and starred in motion pictures, television and comic books. And, Tom and Jerry have very definite personalities. Tom is a fiendish opportunist, always anxious to ingratiate himself with the powers that be, whether housekeeper, dog, or even, on occasion, mouse; while Jerry, the impish schemer, is happy minding his own business until cornered, piqued or generally provoked. To discover their secret, one must turn back to the place of their creation, the MGM main lot in Culver City, California. Here, in a round-cornered, two-story, cream-colored stucco building containing a rabbit warren of rooms for animators, layout artists, in-betweeners, ink and paint girls, cameramen and movieola machines, Tom and Jerry leaped magically to life.

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## Little Parrot

Sweet little parrot  
Do you want carrot?  
I shall give you that  
If you sit on my hat  
You are green in colour  
Before you all things are discolour  
I love your red beak  
Which helps you to pick  
The red chilly and fruit  
You are very cute.



## A Happy Child

My house is red - a little house;  
A happy child am I:  
I laugh and play the whole day long,  
I hardly ever cry.

I have a tree, a green, green tree,  
To shade me from the sun;  
And under it I often sit,  
When all my play is done.



**Aradhya Kashyap**, Class- IV, Don Bosco School, Guwahati,



## Contd. From Page 1 Presidential Polls 2022 Will Droupadi

Gujarat and Rajasthan. With Murmu in Rashtrapati Bhavan, the BJP will hope to consolidate the Scheduled Tribes vote behind it. However, behind the proposal may lie a bigger calculation by the BJP. While many political commentators have interpreted the development as the saffron camp's continued outreach to tribal communities, the elections in Gujarat later this year, and in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh next year, may also have shaped the consensus towards Murmu. Numbers show the BJP has mostly failed to make the cut in tribal-influenced seats. In the last assembly elections, the Congress had won 86 of the 128 ST-reserved seats in Gujarat, Rajasthan, MP and Chhattisgarh. In 2017, Congress had won 15 and BJP nine out of the 27 ST seats in Gujarat. In Rajasthan the following year, the Congress won 13 and BJP eight of the 25 ST seats. MP has 47 ST seats, of which 31 went to the Congress and 16 to the BJP. In Chhattisgarh, Congress had won 27 of the 29 ST seats, leaving only two for the BJP. There have been murmurs of the BJP looking to replace former CM Raman Singh with a tribal leader as the party's face in Chhattisgarh. BJP's tribal agony continues in other eastern and southern states as well. The party has just four MLAs in the 97 ST seats spread across Jharkhand (28), Odisha (24), Karnataka (15), Maharashtra (14), Telangana (9) and Andhra Pradesh (7). The BJP was forced to bring back estranged tribal leader Babulal Marandi to its fold in Jharkhand after the 2019 debacle with non-tribal Raghuraj Das as the party's face. The saffron camp's foray into tribal communities is being led by none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In April, he attended an event in Gujarat's tribal-dominated Dahod district, where donning a tribal jacket and headgear, he evoked tribal icon Birsu Munda's contribution to India's freedom struggle and also mentioned his work for tribal welfare as Gujarat CM. In the same month, Union Home minister Amit Shah addressed a gathering of tendu patta collectors in Bhopal and handed over cheques to them, besides announcing several schemes for the community. Since last month, Shah and Nadda have addressed tribal events in Rajasthan's Banswara and Sawai Madhopur, and Jharkhand's Ranchi in an aggressive bid to woo the community. In its second term, the Modi government has withdrawn proposals to amend the Indian Forests Act, 1927, and increased budgetary spending on tribal welfare. The RSS, on the other hand, has for long been trying to build a cadre base among tribal communities to blunt the influence of Naxalism and Christian missionaries.

## "Devoid of merits" : Supreme Court

design", the court said, in strong comments that, it added, were borrowed from arguments made by the SIT. "All those involved in such abuse of process need to be in the dock and proceeded with in accordance with law," the judges said, surmising that the appeal was filed under "dictation of someone". They said petitioner's arguments were bordering on "undermining the integrity and sincerity" of SIT members and most of the content in the plea was "based on versions of others which have been found to be replete with falsehood". It also said that the submissions by Ms Jafri were "far-fetched and an attempt to undo and undermine the industry of the SIT in investigating the cases". The Gulbarg Society massacre was one of the worst incidents of violence in the riots that began after a train coach carrying pilgrims was burnt in Godhra, killing 59 people, a day ago. Ms Jafri, 84, had sought a fresh investigation into the communal riots, alleging a larger conspiracy involving politicians and the police. Supreme Court Justices AM Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and CT Ravikumar had reserved the verdict last December. The massacre at Ahmedabad's Gulbarg Society - a cluster of 29 bungalows and 10 apartment buildings housing mostly Muslims - was among the 10 major Gujarat riot cases re-investigated by the special team appointed by the Supreme Court. Ehsan Jafri, a former Congress parliamentarian, was among 68 people dragged out, hacked and burnt by the rioters. The Congress leader's frantic phone calls to police officers and senior politicians for help went unanswered, Zakia Jafri had alleged. The Special Investigation Team had submitted its closure report in February 2012 - a decade after the riots - and exonerated Prime Minister Modi and 63 others, citing "no prosecutable evidence". In 2016, a special court in Ahmedabad convicted 24 attackers for the massacre that the court described as the "darkest day in the history of civil society." But the court, which also acquitted 36 people including a BJP corporator in this case, underlined that there was no larger conspiracy. Over 1,000 people, mostly Muslims, were killed in the three-day violence in Gujarat in 2002.

## More MLAs Likely to Join Shinde

and some gave unnecessary reasons," he added. Apart from Shinde, Shiv Sena has sought disqualification of Prakash Surve, Tanaji Sawant, Mahesh Shinde, Abdul Sattar, Sandeep Bhumare, Bharat Gogawale, Sanjay Shirsat, Yamini Yadhav, Anil Babar, Balaji Devdas, and Lata Chaudhari. The resolution, adopted on Tuesday by rebel MLAs, said that Shinde was unanimously elected as leader of the Shiv Sena Legislature Party in 2019 and continues to be the leader of the legislative party. Amid the continuing turf war within Shiv Sena, the Shinde faction also said that Bharat Gogawale has been appointed as Chief Whip of the party. The three legislators who arrived in Guwahati on Thursday include Agriculture Minister Dada Bhuse, MLA Sanjay Rathore and MLC Ravindra Phatak. Phatak is believed to be a close associate of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray who had sent him as an emissary to Surat where the rebel MLAs was lodged.

## President of India inaugurates AYUSH

phase. "Union AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that "For centuries, the AYUSH system of medicine has traditionally been used for health care. The health-promoting, preventive and curative roles of AYUSH systems are due to its acceptance among the public. Ministry of AYUSH and President's Secretariat collaborated to launch AYUSH Wellness Centre, President State as a first step in this direction. The Advanced AYUSH Wellness Centre will continue to provide AYUSH treatment in an uninterrupted and efficient manner. AYUSH secretary Rajesh Kotecha said the centre's level of approval should be gauged from this. It is possible that in the last 7 years, more than 1.6 lakh residents of the President's Estate have taken advantage of the centre. A total of 60 research papers have been published by the Centre so far. With its enhanced facilities the centre is obliged to serve residents in a more holistic manner. The event was attended by AYUSH Special Secretary KP Pathak, Joint Secretary Kavita Garg, Director, All India Institute of Ayurveda, Advisors and Directors General of various institutes of the Ministry, Chairman, Indian System of Medicine and National Commission for Homoeopathy etc.

## "Uddhav Thackeray Can Also Come

I am happy when anyone comes to Assam, they can stay as long as they want," Mr Sarma told. Asked what he would tell Mr Thackeray, he said, "You should come for a vacation too." Mr Sarma's quip comes amid a widening revolt in Maharashtra's ruling Shiv Sena against Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. Around 40 Shiv Sena MLAs led by minister Eknath Shinde are believed to be holed up in BJP-ruled Assam, challenging Mr Thackeray's leadership and an alliance with the Congress and the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). The rebels have called for the Shiv Sena to quit the unlikely alliance and partner with the BJP instead - a demand that Mr Thackeray's camp has said it was willing to consider, even as it moved to have 16 of the dissidents disqualified from the assembly. According to most counts, Mr Shinde has reached the critical number of MLAs, 37, required to split the party in the assembly without falling foul of the anti-defection law. Himanta Biswa Sarma was seen earlier this week at the five-star hotel moments before the rebel contingent checked in. Several BJP leaders from the state have since been sighted accompanying the MLAs.

## 'Did everything for Eknath Shinde

house. MVA govt will complete rest of 2.5 yrs," said Raut. Yesterday, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, extending his support to Thackeray, had said that whether the Maharashtra government is in minority or not has to be established in Vidhan Sabha. "When procedures are followed, it will be proved that this government is in majority," he said. The veteran leader said that this situation isn't new for the state. "We have seen such situations in Maharashtra several times. With my experience, I can say that we will defeat this crisis, and the government under the leadership of Uddhav Thackeray will run smoothly," he had said.

## Assam Floods: The devastating

army and the air force. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma conducted an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas in Silchar yesterday. "More army columns are joining the rescue operations. We are airlifting one lakh bottles of drinking water every day to Silchar from Guwahati. We also airlifted power department engineers and technicians to repair the electric transformers," he said. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the Centre is monitoring the flood situation in Assam. The government is working closely with the state to provide all possible assistance to overcome the situation, he said. "Army and NDRF teams are present in the flood affected areas. They are conducting evacuation operations and assisting those who are affected. The Air Force has conducted over 250 sorties as a part of the evacuation process," he added.

## Translation award conferred to Sanjib Upadhyaya

**Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, June 24:** Dr. Sanjib Upadhyaya, assistant professor of Zoology department of THB College has been chosen for the prestigious translation award 2021 of Sahitya Akademi. He was selected for his translation work in the Nepali language. He had translated eminent Assamese writer Homen Borgohain's Sahitya Akademi award-winning novel 'Pita Putra' into the Nepali language as 'Babu Chora'. The results of translation award were declared today after the national academy of letters executive meeting. Dr. Upadhyaya is a known text book writer, an author besides being a researcher. The college authority, Assam Nepali Sahitya Sabha, Assam Nepali Natya Sammelan, Freedom Fighters Chabail Upadhyaya Heritage Committee, Assam Gorkha Sammelan, All Assam Gorkha Students Union conveyed best wishes to Dr. Upadhyaya for his achievement. He is a permanent resident of Gelapukhuri here.



## Sootea youth joins KLO

**Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, June 24:** One Krishna Ray (30), a resident of Buduati to the south of Sootea under Biswanath district had joined KLO recently which has created a sensation among the residents of South Sootea at present. Krishna Ray, father of two children had joined KLO (Kamatapur Liberation Organization) in the month of February this year. According to information, Krishna had gone out of his home stating that he would go to Arunachal Pradesh in search of work. He made no contact with his family since February last. Wife of Krishna Mrs. Basanti Devi had to lead a troublesome life along with their two sons of the age group 7 and 3 respectively. There was no contact between Krishna and the family till May 28. On that Basanti received a video message in her WhatsApp in which Krishna was seen in military uniform of KLO. She has requested her husband to return home quitting the outfit.



## Assam Congress chief asks Eknath Shinde camp to leave immediately. Here's why

**GUWAHATI, June 24 :** Assam Congress chief Bhupen Kumar Borah has written a letter to rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde and his camp, asking them to leave the northeastern state at the earliest. Borah has attributed his letter for the greater good of Assam. The political violence erupted after minister Eknath Shinde was 'unreachable', a day after the Maharashtra Legislative Council poll results were declared. Shinde was later traced to a hotel in BJP-led Surat in Gujarat, from where he shifted to Assam's Guwahati. Shinde camp has claimed the support of 46 MLAs, which includes 37 Shiv Sena MLAs and nine independents. The rebel MLAs who are at a hotel in Guwahati since 20 June, authorised Shinde on 23 June to decide on a further course of action. At such a time, many political leaders at the eastern helm has expressed their views on the Maharashtra political crisis situation. On Thursday, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said, the Shiv Sena MLAs should come to West Bengal and she would extend good hospitality to them. On Friday it was reported that Assam Congress chief Bhupen Kumar Borah had written a letter to rebel Shiv Sena MLA Eknath Shinde and advised him to leave Assam at the earliest in the greater interest of the state. In a letter, Borah said that the MLAs' presence in Guwahati has not gone well with the Assamese people and is creating an unhealthy atmosphere. "You are aware that Assam is a land where people give a lot of respect to ethics and values. Your presence in Guwahati with MLAs of the ruling Shiv Sena from Maharashtra, who have been kept in a hotel for alleged horse-trading to topple the elected Government of Maharashtra and the continued media coverage of the same, has not gone well with the Assamese people and is creating an unhealthy atmosphere," the letter reads. He further said that Assam is facing a devastating flood situation and in such a critical and deplorable situation of the state, the presence of Shiv Sena MLAs in Guwahati and the busy activities of the Assam government in providing royal hospitality are quite unfair and unacceptable. "In such a critical and deplorable situation of the state, your presence in Guwahati and the busy activities of Assam Govt. in providing royal hospitality to you, is quite unfair and unacceptable. Assam has been defamed by your presence considering Guwahati as a safe haven for MLAs who have no respect for constitutional values and loyalty at all," he said. Further attacking Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the Congress leader said, the state Government machinery should be busy with the management of the flood crisis but the presence of MLAs here has been standing as a hindrance. "Assam has seen towering political personalities such as late Chief Ministers -- Bharat Ratna Lok Priyo Gopinath Bordoloi and Padma Bhushan Tarun Gogoi. But the present CM Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma has proved himself to be nothing but a wheeler-dealer encouraging and supporting political horse-trading in Assam. The BJP CM and the Government's support for your presence here has sullied the image of Assam and Assamese people. Sarma and the Government machinery should be busy with the management of the flood crisis but your presence here has been standing as a hindrance," the letter further reads. "Considering the damage that you have caused to Assam and its people by your presence,

## Collecting ransom for flood relief in Kampur, Raha

**Assam Rising , Nagaon, June 24:** Flood scene still remains unchanged in Nagaon district and over 5.9 lakhs people in around 331 revenue villages under Kampur, Nagaon, Raha, Dhing, Samaguri and Rupahi revenue circles are still reeling under flood water till the time of filing this report, sources added. Besides, taking the advantages to distribute flood relief including rice, dal and other essential commodities among the flood victims across the district, a section of people engaged in distribution system including village headman allegedly collected Rs 20/30 in the name of distribution of essential commodities from each of these flood victim beneficiaries in the flood ravaged areas especially at Kampur as well as at Phulguri Mohgarh in greater Raha areas. While Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma ensured sufficient supplies of food, sanitary and other facilities to the flood hit people, at that time, collection of ransom from these flood ravaged people by a section of people engaged in flood relief distribution system has drawn wide reaction among all in the district. Reacting sharply to such misdeeds or malpractices initiated by some agent engaged in the relief distribution system, many of inmates as well as other flood hit people alleged that the distributor - agents who went to distribute food and other essential commodities at Bahakabari and Garukhanda villages, allegedly distributed 1 kilograms rice, 200 gms dal, 200ml mustard oil per head among the flood hit families in the village and took Rs 30 from each family for that. Similarly, the village headman of Phulguri Mohgarh areas which is not far from the residence of Raha MLA Sashi Kanta Das, allegedly took Rs 20 from every flood hit families in exchange of a packet of flood relief containing 1 kilograms rice, 200 gms dal, 200ml mustard oil, 200gms salt. However, they alleged further that such packets of food and other essential commodities were being distributed once in a week with which they had to survive. Meanwhile DC, Nagaon Nisarg Hivare was intimated about such malpractices today during his visit to Kampur Puthimari area, he said he will take strict action against those who involved in such evil practices. On the other hand, Palash Ranjan Changmai, the state general secretary of Asom Jatiyatibadi Yuva Chatra Parishad, today arrived at Nagaon and reviewed the flood situation at various places in Nagaon and Raha revenue circles. During his visit, the students leader went to Rantholi Rojabethi, Jhalah, Ujoragaon, Adarshgaon (under Nagaon revenue circle), Raha Choki, Majgaon, Durgajan (under Raha revenue circle) and took stocks about damages as well as hardships of those flood ravaged people in those vast flooded areas. During his trip to the district, the students' leader also criticised the roles of the central ministers saying that no ministers from the centre could dare to come to Assam during this period of crisis and also took a dig at them asking why the union government had not been declared any special package for the state to combat the situation during this crucial hours. Changmai was accompanied by district president and secretary of the organization respectively Deepmoni Bora and Pragjyotish Bonia, central publicity secretary Prabin Chandra Das, district adviser to the organization - Mohendra Kalita and other district portfolios of the organization, a release said adding that during the day, the district body of the organization also distributed packets of food and other essential commodities among the flood hit people in those



## Minister Suklabaidya inspects relief camps in Hailakandi

**Assam Rising, Hailakandi, June 24:** Minister for Transport, Fisheries and Excise Primal Suklabaidya on Friday visited various relief camps in the flood affected areas of Hailakandi. Accompanied by Deputy Commissioner, Rohan Kumar Jha and other officials of the administration, Suklabaidya, who is also the Guardian Minister of Hailakandi, visited the relief camps set up by the administration to take stock of the condition of the flood affected people. On reaching the camps, the Minister inspected the various facilities with special focus on safe drinking water and medical facilities at those camps. He directed the Deputy Commissioner to ensure proper hygienic environment in the camps to keep diseases at bay. Suklabaidya also interacted with the affected people and assured all possible support from the government towards their rehabilitation. He also partook the food being served at the relief camps and asked the Deputy Commissioner to ensure hot quality food. More than 50,000 people have been hit by the deluge in South Assam's Hailakandi district.

## MoU signed between Kaziranga University & Biswanath College

**Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, June 24:** Biswanath College, a premier institution of Assam has joined hands with Kaziranga University in order to develop academic and educational cooperation on the basis of equity and reciprocity. Dr A. Sriharikrishna, Registrar of Kaziranga University and Dr Chinta Mani Sharma, Principal of Biswanath College signed MoU today at Biswanath College in the presence of Dr Shwetambara Verma, Professor and HoD of civil engineering department, Dr Abhishek Sinha, Professor of Kaziranga University, Dr Naresh Thakur, Coordinator, IQAC and Ms Deepjyoti Nath, President, IIC of Biswanath College. In a press release issued by Dr Chinta Mani Sharma, Principal of the college stated that both of the institutions will emphasise on extension of students' learning opportunities, faculty development programme to cover areas such as technical education policy, new concepts, methods and techniques, motivation, communication skills, skill based training, education and placement for students, exchange of sports and cultural activities, cooperation in research besides exchange of academic materials, publications and other scientific information.

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# Major League Rugby championship game pits New York v Seattle-and puts US in shop window

**New York, June 24 :** Rugby New York will host the Major League Rugby championship game on Saturday, at the Red Bull Arena in New Jersey. Regardless of the result, the city of Seattle, nearly 3,000 miles away, will celebrate. The mayor, Bruce A Harrell, joined other local leaders in declaring 25 June Seattle Seawolves Community Pride Day, in recognition of the two-time champions' reaching a third MLR final in five seasons. (Four completed, 2020 having been lost to Covid.) An official proclamation recognised "deep ties to our community" and "strong, positive role models for the young people in Seattle". The mayor also praised "one of the most passionate and vibrant fanbases in the league and beyond". The Red Bull, a Major League Soccer venue, can hold 25,000 fans of any degree of passion. New York have sold out JFK Stadium in Hoboken this year but it holds just 1,500. After beating the New England Free Jacks in the eastern championship game, they have had less than a week to sell tickets to the final. The game will be broadcast on Fox Sports 1 in the US and online around the world. MLR crowds are growing but small; a good-looking showpiece would be handy. George Killebrew, the MLR commissioner, told the Guardian: "Having your finals in Los Angeles or New York is the biggest



stage you can be on. So we had the final at the LA Coliseum last year, and then the final at Red Bull Arena this year. You want to be big on the coasts." We put 9,000 or so in the Coliseum [to see LA beat Atlanta]. There is a much shorter window here in New York. So I think... 5,000 would be awesome. The way they're configuring the stadium, they're focusing in on those sections that are camera-visible. If we can get those somewhat filled, I think we'll have a good day." MLR is forever in the shop window, seeking to prove itself to American sports fans, to rugby fans round the world and now to World Rugby itself. In May, the governing body placed a major bet, announcing US World Cups in 2031 and '33. That was seen as a major boost for MLR but not all has run smoothly

since. Just before the playoffs, the league announced the disqualification of the Austin Gilgronis and LA Giltinis, two teams owned by one Australian entrepreneur, Adam Gilchrist, and named for cocktails named after him. LA were champions last year, Austin top of the west this time. Fans were frustrated by MLR's silence about why the teams were disqualified. Eventually a statement said Austin failed to co-operate with a salary cap investigation and LA pursued "conduct deemed detrimental to the league". Since then, little has been said by anyone. Killebrew said: "I can't say anything on the record, for obvious reasons. One day when we get to tell the story, it'll be a good one. But right now, we

## Paolo Banchero is surprise No 1 overall pick for Magic in NBA draft

**London, June 24 :** The Orlando Magic took Paolo Banchero first overall in the NBA draft at Brooklyn's Barclays Center on Thursday, with Gonzaga big man Chet Holmgren going to the Oklahoma City Thunder and Auburn forward Jabari Smith headed to the Houston Rockets. Banchero, who averaged 17.2 points, 7.8 rebounds and 3.2 assists in 39 starts in his one year at Duke, will look to turn around a lackluster Magic after their 22-60 season. "I plan on bringing everything I have to Orlando," Banchero, dressed in a show-stopping bedazzled purple suit, told reporters. "First off, just a winning mindset, a work-first mindset. Just ready to get in with the guys and get to work. This is one of the best moments of my life. I'm super excited." While draft night shocks are rare, Orlando's selection surprised many - including Banchero himself - with some experts having predicted sharpshooter Smith would take the top spot. "I don't even know what to say. I can't believe what just happened, honestly," said the 19-year-old Banchero, who helped lead the Blue Devils to the

were a couple of grumblers but for the most part, people kind of just moved on and now here we are in the finals with two other teams." New York finished the regular season 11&5, behind the Free Jacks and Rugby ATL of Atlanta. Then they beat them both away from home. Seattle went 9&7 while Austin were 12&4 and LA 11&5 but the disqualifications happened and the Seawolves saw off the Houston SaberCats, coached by Heyneke Meyer, once of South Africa, to make the championship game. At the Red Bull, a 12pm ET kick-off will present challenges. For one thing, on the field in Harrison, NJ the heat will be north of 85F or 30C. But the early kick-off will also give European viewers a chance to watch at teatime. Now MLR is five years old, Killebrew said, "they're gonna see a better quality of play, a better quality of officiating, better quality of

coaching. That's kind of been the theme through the last few years. We're not at the place we want to be but we are on the right pathway." He also said long-rumoured expansion teams in Chicago and St Louis were "close but I'm not sure they get the finish line for '23", despite in Chicago's case an MLS-level venue, SeatGeek Stadium, standing free after the Fire switched to Soldier Field. The lot of an expansion team is never easy. This year the Dallas Jackals went winless. Killebrew said: "The team hotel caught on fire and the bus broke down and everything that could go wrong did." Dallas were snake-bit a little bit but it's in our best interest to have nobody going 0&16 and nobody going 16&0. We want everyone winning. If everyone was 8&8, I'd be satisfied. Right? So we get it. We've got to work with Dallas to get better."



Final Four this year. "I wanted to be in the NBA but I didn't know I would be here." Holmgren, a seven-footer, said he would use his size to help the Thunder, who were 24-58 last season. "I can use my length and my quickness to cover a lot of ground and take up space," he told reporters. Chet Holmgren's Ceiling: With his ability at both ends of the floor, Chet Holmgren is arguably the most prized talent in this year's draft. In fact, compared with some of the NBA's best big men - Joel Embiid, Anthony Davis, Karl Anthony Towns and Jaren Jackson Jr - Holmgren's freshman stats suggest he may already be ahead of his peers on the path to being the game's best. Smith said he was looking forward to playing in Houston. "Ultimately I just want to win championships and be labeled as a winner, always deep in the playoffs,

somebody always competing for championships," Smith said. "That's what I want to be." Rounding out the top five, the Sacramento Kings picked up Iowa forward Keegan Murray and the Detroit Pistons took Purdue's Jaden Ivey. The draft, which kicked off a week after the Golden State Warriors collected their fourth NBA title in eight years, featured a strong cohort of international talent. Canadians Bennedict Mathurin and Shaedon Sharpe were selected sixth and seventh by the Indiana Pacers and Portland Trail Blazers. Australian Dyson Daniels went eighth to the New Orleans Pelicans, Polish-American Jeremy Sochan went ninth to the San Antonio Spurs and the New York Knicks selected Frenchman Ousmane Dieng 11th. Dieng was later traded to the Thunder.

## In-form Rory McIlroy 'not trying to prove anything' as LIV row divides golf

**London, June 24 :** Rory McIlroy insists he is not playing to prove a point after continuing his fine run of form with an opening round of 62 to take a share of the first-round lead at the Travelers Championship. McIlroy's resurgence comes as the PGA Tour faces the biggest threat in its history from the Saudi-backed LIV Golf Series. Back up to No 2 in the world after winning the Canadian Open a fortnight ago and contended at last week's US Open, McIlroy denied being motivated by off-course events. "I just think it so happens that the most protective of the PGA Tour are the best players in the world right now," McIlroy said after his round. "I'm not going out to try to prove anything to anyone. I'm in a good run of form. I'm

playing well." "Whether that gives me a little more confidence to speak up on certain issues, maybe," McIlroy, a fierce critic of the new breakaway tour, added. "But I'm just going out there trying to play my game and trying to win some more tournaments." McIlroy's eight-under-par gave him the early clubhouse lead, only for JT Poston to match his bogey-free round to draw level at the top of the leaderboard at TPC River Highlands. The Olympic gold medallist Xander Schauffele and Scotland's Martin Laird are in a tie for third, one shot behind the leaders. In response to the growing LIV threat which saw the four-time major winner Brooks Koepka decamp on Wednesday, the PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan announced a combined



increased purse size of almost \$60m (£48.9m) at eight tournaments next year. The schedule will also revert to a calendar year, with the FedEx Cup season now running from January to August. McIlroy welcomed the changes and, asked whether he thought it would make a difference to players considering a switch to LIV, he added: "As he [Monahan] said, there's only one reason that the guys are going to the other



## Ons Jabeur: 'I chose to inspire people. I chose to be the person that I am'

**London, June 24 :** Last October, Ons Jabeur became the first Arab player, man or woman, to be ranked in the world's top 10. It was an important, proud moment for the 27-year-old from Tunisia, who has been setting firsts ever since she joined the WTA Tour. The first Arab woman to reach a grand slam quarter-final, at the Australian Open in 2020 and last year she became the first Arab woman to reach the last eight at Wimbledon. This year, she has won two more titles, including in Madrid, where she became the first Arab or African woman to win a WTA 1000 event. Next week, she will begin her Wimbledon campaign as the new world No 2 - providing she can shake off a knee problem that led her to withdraw from Eastbourne. Carrying the hopes of a nation on her shoulders, and blazing a trail for Arab and African players, has been something she has lived with throughout her career but it's only recently she has come to embrace it, rather than let it be a burden. "I see myself like I'm on a mission," Jabeur told The Guardian in an interview from Berlin, where last weekend she won her second title of the year. "I tell myself I chose to do this. Let's say, I chose to inspire people. I chose to be the person that I am. I want to share my experience one day and really get more and more generations here." "So I don't see it as a burden, I see it as a great pleasure and great responsibility. It's part of the job, it's part of why I am playing today. And I do believe in sharing. Sharing could help me, help me as a player and help the other generations." A junior grand slam champion at Roland Garros in 2011, it took Jabeur until 2016 to break into the world's top 100 and she made the top 50 in early 2020. Of late she has taken off, hitting the top 10 last October and now the top two for the first time, just a couple of months before her 28th birthday. It has taken time but for Jabeur, it's been a natural progression. "I honestly don't think that something changed this year," she says. "But the evolution that I'm getting from year to year, the experience that I'm getting, the matches that I've been winning are getting me more and more experience. That's helped me to be the player that I am today."

## England coach backs Eoin Morgan's batting failures to 'light fire' for form

**London, June 24 :** England's new white-ball coach, Matthew Mott, gave his backing to his captain, Eoin Morgan, after England's 3-0 thrashing of the Netherlands in Amsterdam. Morgan's dismissal for ducks in the opening two games of the series before sitting out the third with a tight groin raised questions over his position but Mott believes those failures with the bat will "light the fire" for the summer ahead. The two have bonded over a love of golf and chewed the fat over lunch in London before setting off for a Netherlands tour that proved relaxed, happy and victorious. "What I have worked out is that Eoin is an inspirational leader and we've already developed a great rapport," Mott said. We share a lot of the same ideas; we both put the team at the forefront of our minds and work out how we get the best out of individuals to work as a team. His is a pretty simple approach, he doesn't out-think it too much, he empowers others and believes in others. "The players thrive off that. They know he's got their back. Even when we do have a bad day, I think he'll be exactly the same person, I really get that sense. Hopefully, I'm a little bit similar there as well."

## Dramatic rescue at world championships after swimmer faints and sinks to bottom of pool



**London, June 24 :** It is a sport that relies on teamwork and promises spectacle - but rarely like this. The world aquatics championships were the scene of a dramatic real-life rescue when the US artistic swimmer Anita Alvarez had to be pulled from the water by her coach after losing consciousness and sinking to the bottom of the pool. Alvarez had just completed her solo free final in Budapest on Wednesday when she fainted and drifted to the bottom in front of horrified teammates, officials and spectators. Anita Alvarez of the US competes in the women's solo free final on day six of the world championships in Budapest. The US team coach, Andrea Fuentes, quickly noticed that something was wrong and dived fully clothed into the water to pull Alvarez to the surface. Alvarez, who was not breathing when she was dragged to the side of the water, was then taken to the pool's medical centre. "Anita has been evaluated by medical staff and will continue to be monitored. She is feeling much better and using today [Thursday] to rest," the US team said. Alvarez, who was placed seventh in the solo event, may still compete in Friday's team event, a decision to be taken "by Anita and expert medical staff". "It was a big scare," Fuentes was reported as saying by the Spanish newspaper Marca. "I was scared because I saw she was not breathing, but

now she is doing very well. She only had water in her lungs, once she started breathing again everything was OK." On Spanish radio, she reportedly said: "It felt like a whole hour. I said things weren't right, I was shouting at the lifeguards to get into the water but they didn't catch what I said or they didn't understand. She wasn't breathing. I went as quickly as I could, as if it were an Olympic final." It is not the first time that Fuentes has dived into the pool to assist Alvarez, a 25-year-old from New York state who competed for Team USA in the 2016 and 2020 Olympics. In 2021, while competing in Barcelona with Lindi Schroeder in the duet Olympic qualifying event, she lost consciousness during her routine, according to reports, and had to be pulled from the pool by her partner and coach. "She is a competitor who pushes herself to the limit, and sometimes beyond it," Fuentes told AS on Wednesday. "It isn't the first time, but what happened previously was that she floated and was able to keep breathing."

Eugene, Oregon he has sold his PlayStation 5, swapped fast food for cooking at home with Prep Kitchen, and worked hard to turn belly flab into lean muscle. The results have been startling. Last month, he ran a personal-best 9.93sec at the Golden Spike meeting in Ostrava, despite going into a notable headwind, which put him within a stride's length of Linford Christie's 29-year-old British record of 9.87. He believes there is a lot more in the tank.

## Reece Prescod finds form after giving up Call of Duty and Deliveroo

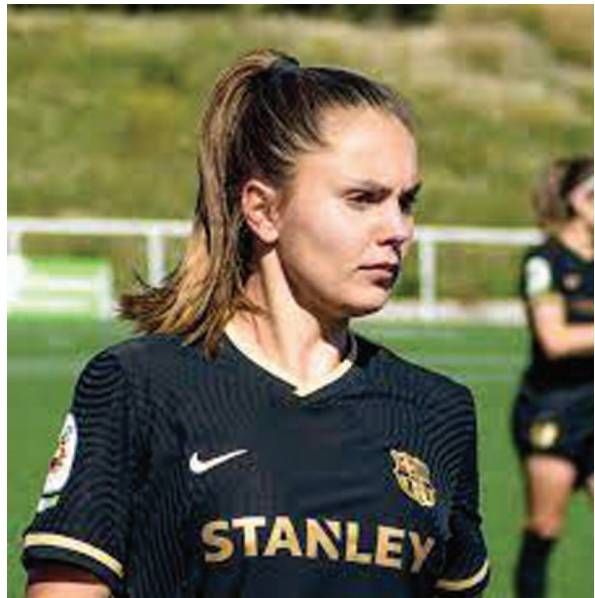


**London, June 24 :** When Reece Prescod turned up at the UK Athletics trials last year, he was 8kg overweight after bingeing on fast food and cake from Deliveroo

while enjoying epic eight-hour Call of Duty sessions deep into the night. Despite the 26-year-old's highly unorthodox preparations, he still made the Tokyo Olympics, only to false start in the 100m semi-finals. There was also a gnawing sense that Britain's most talented male sprinter was letting his extraordinary talent seep away. A year on, Prescod is a changed man. As he heads to Manchester again for the UK trials for next month's world championships in



## Past and present collide as England face Netherlands in 'special' friendly



**London, June 24 :** There may well have been moments this year when Sarina Wiegman and Mark Parsons unwittingly crossed paths at Schiphol airport but on Friday night the pair will come face to face in a "very special" pre-Euro 2022 friendly at Elland Road. While Wiegman frequently commutes to work as the England Women manager from her home in The Hague, Parsons can regularly be spotted travelling to the Netherlands from his family's base in Surrey. As Wiegman's successor, the Oranje's 35-year-old English manager has much to live up to. The former Chelsea Women reserve coach has enjoyed considerable success managing DC United, Washington Spirit and Portland Thorns in the United States after emigrating in 2010 but his predecessor's legacy is formidable. After leading her country to home Euro 2017 glory be-

fore losing the 2019 World Cup final to the United States in Lyon, Wiegman joined the Lionesses last year, tasked with guiding them to victory in this summer's showpiece on English soil. "What Sarina did was exceptional," says Parsons. "I don't know if it's too smart of me to have succeeded someone like that." His predecessor cannot wait to renew acquaintance with Vivianne Miedema, Sherida Spitse and co. "It's a very special game," says Wiegman, whose side defeated England 3-0 in the Euro 2017 semi-final. "I worked with that team for many years and it will be really nice to see them again." I don't think they've changed that much, the players are still the same and they have the same qualities; maybe they're better now. They've adjusted one or two minor things but they're still a very good team I know pretty well. I think they'll play their strongest XI. "Twelve games, 10

wins, two draws and 75 goals scored into her new role things look promising but England have rarely faced opposition of Friday's calibre in recent months. "This is a key game," Parsons says. "You don't really know where you are until you play the top teams." Wiegman agrees. "The Netherlands are defending champions and it is our home tournament but it's going to be a very strong Euros," she says. "We have Spain, we have France, we have Germany, Sweden are always up there and Norway. It's very equal, I think." England will be without record goalscorer Ellen White after the Manchester City striker failed a routine Covid test on Wednesday. She is asymptomatic and will rejoin the squad as soon as she tests negative, with Wiegman hoping the striker will be on the plane to the week-long training camp in Switzerland on Monday. "The world is open so sometimes players and staff can test positive," said a sanguine Wiegman. "We're trying to be careful so let's hope we don't have 15 positives." Elland Road will prove a particularly evocative venue for the Harrogate-born Rachel Daly. The Houston Dash utility player - she can play in pretty much any outfield position but excels at full-back and up front - began with Leeds and remains a staunch supporter of their men's team.

## PCB To Pay Extra Money To Players For Denying Offers From Foreign Leagues

**London, June 24 :** The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Friday introduced separate red ball and white ball central contracts for its players with increased retainers but would discourage its elite players from competing in foreign leagues, for which it is ready to pay them compensatory money. The PCB said that the Board of Governors meeting has approved an annual budget of 15 billion rupees for the fiscal year 2022-23 with 78 percent allocated for cricket activities. "As part of its strategy to incentivise, reward and encourage its high-performing elite cricketers, as well as to narrow the gap in salaries compared to players of other countries, the BoG has approved changes in the men's central contracts structure," the PCB said in a statement. From July 1, separate red and white-ball contracts will be given with increased retainers. The

number of centrally contracted players has been increased from 20 to 33. The Board announced a 10 per cent increase in match fees across formats and also an increase in match fee for non-playing members from 50 per cent to 70 per cent of the overall match fee. A captaincy allowance has also been introduced to compensate the team leader for the additional responsibilities that come with that role. PCB Chairman, Ramiz Raja also announced at a media conference in Lahore that the Board has also set up a special fund for current players who get offers for playing in foreign leagues. "We want to discourage our elite players from signing up for additional off-season events. We feel the players are better off not going to these leagues. We will pay them 50 to 60 percent of the contract amount they are offered where required." This



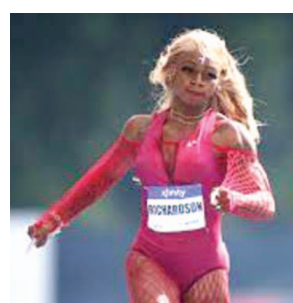
is a very important season for us we don't want our players to be tired or burnt out. We want them to be ready and fresh to go for national duties." Ramiz also confirmed a 15 per cent increase in retainers of women's central contracts across all categories. In addition to this, the pool of women's centrally contracted players may be increased from 20 players to up to 25 players. "Since September 2021, the Pakistan men's cricket team

has achieved an impressive 75 per cent success-rate across all formats, which is the highest amongst all the Test playing nations. This has contributed to Pakistan improving its rankings, which now stands at fifth in Tests (up by one), third in ODIs (up by three and the highest since January 2017) and third in T20s (up by one)," Raja said. Explaining the thought-process behind splitting red and white-ball contracts, Raja said this has been done to

recognise the importance of white-ball cricket in the growth and development of the game. "We have four international events in the next 16 months, including two World Cups. This recognition of offering contracts to white-ball specialists will help us to eventually develop two separate squads, which could simultaneously be engaged in white and red-ball cricket. This will also allow us to have a bigger spread of talent to showcase to the world." The former captain also made it clear that Pakistan was also working on the lines of creating a pool of talent where they can field simultaneous red and white ball squads like India and England for international events/series. He also said a Pakistan Cricket Foundation has been created to support retired cricketers, match officials, scorers and ground staff facing severe financial hardships.

## Sha'Carri Richardson suffers shock early exit in 100m at US championships

**London, June 24 :** Sha'Carri Richardson appeared to have both her speed and swagger back for the US track and field championships but she had a disappointing result on Thursday night in her signature event. Despite a few promising races heading into the national championships, Richardson failed to advance out of the first round of the 100m. She finished fifth in her heat and did not speak to reporters after the race. She is also entered in the 200m at the meet, so her hopes of making the US team for the world champi-



onships next month are still alive albeit dimmer. She must finish in the top three to make the team for the sport's biggest event outside of the Olympics. Richardson garnered attention last summer when she won the 100m at the Olym-

pic trials, which determined the team for Tokyo. But her title was stripped after she tested positive shortly after the race. She was handed a 30-day suspension that kept her out of the event in Tokyo, and she was also left off the US team's relay pool, although her suspension would have been completed by the time of the relay events. She acknowledged the mistake in an interview with the Today show after her suspension. She said she used marijuana as a way of coping with her mother's recent death. But on Twitter this week she lamented the interview: "I wish I never did this. I wish I had the choice

when it was time for me to tell my story." This month at the inaugural NYC Grand Prix, Richardson won the 200m in 22.38 seconds, and came second in the 100m in 10.85sec, a season-best. Elsewhere on Thursday, Tokyo silver medalist Fred Kerley produced a world-leading 9.83sec in the men's 100m heats. World champion Christian Coleman, who returned to action in January after serving an 18-month suspension for breaching anti-doping rules, won his heat in 10.08sec while Trayvon Bromell clinched his in 10.10sec. "I feel pretty decent. I feel like there's definitely a lot I can still continue to build off of," said Coleman. "I feel

pretty good for a prelim and so I'm pretty excited to try to put it all together tomorrow." Allyson Felix, the most decorated American athlete in the history of track and field, won her 400m heat in 52.30sec as the 36-year-old competes in her final US championships before retiring. "It's tough," said Felix, 21 years to the day since she first competed at the championships. "I think more than physically just mentally, emotionally all of that - I think that's been the biggest struggle. It's bittersweet for sure. But also, I feel so ready. I don't think I have anything left to give. And when I start to feel that I know it's time."

## Chun In-gee sets record pace in first round of Women's PGA Championship

**Beijing, June 24 :** Chun In-gee has set a blistering pace at the Women's PGA Championship, hitting an eight-under-par 64 to equal the lowest opening round in tournament history. The two-time major winner took a first-round lead with a score only posted three times before in the event, and also set the new course record at Congressional Country Club. The last player to open the Women's PGA Championship with a 64 was Nicole Castrale in 2006. Chun's round included nine birdies and just one bogey. It also set a new best mark for



the recently-remodelled Blue Course in Bethesda where Rory McIlroy won the US Open by eight shots in 2011. "I feel so good because I always think when my name is

going with something, then I feel very honoured and it makes me keep going to play golf," the South Korean said after her remarkable round. Chun, currently ranked No 33 in the

world, was so dominant among Thursday's early starters that she held a seven-shot clubhouse lead among the group of players teeing off in the morning. The defending champion, Nelly Korda, was one of the group who finished at one-under par. "I don't know what golf course [Chun] is playing!" she said afterwards. "She must be playing really well. When I tee it up today, I would be very happy with the score that I shot." Chun will begin her second round in Maryland with a three-shot lead after Thailand's Pornanong Phatlum and Chun's compa-

triot, Choi Hye-jin, shot rounds of 67 later on. Behind them, South Africa's Paula Reto and US hopeful Jennifer Chang are tied for fifth on two under par. The 27-year-old's flying start also caught the eye of the two-time men's PGA Championship winner, Justin Thomas. "I can't stop staring at the leaderboard," he tweeted. "Leading by seven halfway through day one!!!!" The 2015 US Women's Open champion has pedigree when it comes to low scoring. Her winning total of 21-under-par at the 2016 Evian Championship is the record for any major golf tournament.

## Former Olympic Pole Vault Champion Jenn Suhr Announces Retirement

**New Delhi, June 24 :** Jenn Suhr, the 2012 Olympic women's pole vault gold medalist, announced her retirement on Thursday as the US outdoor championships got underway in Eugene. Suhr, who won Olympic silver in Beijing before capturing gold in London four years later, had already opted out of the national championships, which are the selection meeting for the World Championships at the

same Hayward Field venue in July. "The words will come to me soon but my heart and soul are ready for the next phase of my life," the 40-year-old Suhr, who had competed at every nationals since 2006, posted on social media on Thursday. "Pole vault unlocked more than I could have wished for and let me experience more than I could have



dreamed of." Suhr, who toppled Russian Yelena Isinbayeva in London, still owns the highest indoor clearance ever of 5.02m, set at the 2013 US championships. She won the indoor world title in 2016.





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