



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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After Kolkata Police, ex-BJP leader Nupur...

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Youth died Assam Rising Guwahati, June 26:

A youth hailing from Assam has reportedly died in Gujarat after falling off from a moving train. The youth has been identified as Pranjal Medhi, a resident of Bhatipara in Suakuchi town of Kamrup district. According to the family members of the deceased, on June 22, Medhi had left his home to travel to Gujarat for working at a private company. According to the police, the youth lost his life after falling off from a speeding train. His body has been recovered by the Railway Police of Ahmedabad on Saturday and is currently at the Ahmedabad Police Station. Medhi's family members have been contacted by the officials of the police station and informed about the incident.

Drugs destroyed Assam Rising Guwahati, June 26:

The police will destroy massive quantity of drugs seized from different parts of Hojai and Nagaon districts of Assam on Sunday. The police had seized a huge quantity of drugs including heroin, brown sugar, morphine, many addictive tablets and cough syrups in several operations launched across the two districts recently. According to reports, the police seized 8.852 kgs of heroin, 69.33 grams brown sugar, 603.881 kgs of ganja, 1325 bottles of cough syrup, 2,01,558 addictive tablets, 202 grams of morphine and 1.028 kgs of opium from both the districts.

IAF in operation Assam Rising Guwahati, June 26:

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has rescued 253 stranded persons since June 21 in the current wave of floods in Assam. The IAF has flown around 74 missions, rescued 253 stranded persons and dropped more than 200 tonnes of relief material as part of the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operation, conducted in aid to the civil administration of the affected areas. IAF has deployed C-130J Super Hercules, An-32 transport aircraft, Mi-17V5 helicopters, Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Dhruv and Mi-17 helicopters to provide relief aid and supplies to the people stranded in the flood affected areas.

CSJMC Launches Talk Show 'Nazariya'

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 26:



The students of the Centre for Studies in Journalism and Mass Communication (CSJMC) of Dibrugarh University partnered with Dibrugarh-based news and media portal 'Dibrugarh 24X7' and launched 'Nazariya', a platform for a

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CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Visits Silchar, Reviews Damage

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 26:

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma took stock of the worsening flood situation in Silchar in Cachar district on a boat on Sunday. Sarma assessed the damage caused by the flood waters and interacted with the people. Sarma also held a review meeting on the flood situation and rescue operations being carried out in the district. It may be mentioned that this is the chief minister's second visit to flood-hit Silchar in one week. On Thursday, Sarma made an aerial survey of the Silchar town in a special aircraft to access the damage caused by the increasing water levels of the Barak River. Nearly 2.78 lakh



people are affected in the Cachar district with 96,689 people suffering in Silchar town alone. A total population of 1,09,868 are taking refuge in 224 relief camps in the district, including 25,148

people in Silchar. The flood situation in Silchar town in Assam's Cachar district continued to remain grim with several areas still being submerged for the sixth consecutive day. At least four

more people, including two children, died in floods in Assam in the past 24 hours, taking the death toll to 121 on Saturday. One death each was reported from Barpeta, Cachar, Darrang and

Golaghat districts. Though the overall flood situation in Assam improved slightly on Saturday, over 25.10 lakh people in 2,894 villages across 27 districts of the state-Bajali, Baksa, Barpeta, Biswanath, Cachar, Chirang, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Dima Hasao, Goalpara, Golaghat, Hailakandi, Hojai, Kamrup, Kamrup Metropolitan, Karbi

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Bypolls 2022 PM Modi thanks Tripura for reposing faith in BJP, hails 'historic' win in UP

New Delhi, June 26:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as it emerged victorious on five out of 10 seats - 3 Lok Sabha and 7 seven assembly - for which byelections were conducted on June 23, and counting of votes held today. "I thank the people of Tripura for reposing faith in @BJP4Tripura's develop-



ment agenda and blessing

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Maharashtra political crisis Assam Minister Ashok Singhal meets rebel Shiv Sena MLAs at Guwahati hotel

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 26:

Assam Minister Ashok Singhal on Saturday night arrived at Radisson Blu Hotel in Assam's Guwahati to meet rebel Maharashtra MLAs, including Shiv Sena's Eknath Shinde. The political crisis in Maharashtra seems to be slowly tilting in favour of rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde with four more party MLAs reaching Guwahati on Thursday and joining the others who have been



camping at a five-star hotel in the city since Wednesday. Notably, Eknath Shinde claims to have the support of 38 MLAs of the 55 Shiv Sena legislators,

which is more than two-thirds of the party's strength in the 288-member Maharashtra Legislative

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15 rebel Shiv Sena MLAs get Y-plus security from centre

Mumbai, June 26:

Sources said that 'Y+' category security cover of armed CRPF personnel has been provided to 15 Shiv Sena MLAs which include Prakash Surve, Sadanand

Kalyanar and Sandipan Bhumare. The Union government has decided to provide 'Y+' category security cover of armed Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel to 15 rebel Shiv

include Prakash Surve, Sadanand Sarvankar, Yogesh Dada Kadam, Pratap Sarnaik, Ramesh Bornare, Mangesh Kudalkar, Sanjay Shirsat, Latabai Sonawane, Yamini Jadhav, Pradeep Jaiswal, Sanjay Rathod, Dadaji Bhuse, Dilip Lande, Balaji Kalyanar and Sandipan Bhumare. These leaders have joined Eknath Shinde's camp in the ongoing political crisis in Maharashtra. The centre's decision came a day after Shinde in a letter to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray alleged that the security cover provided to the family members of the rebel Shiv Sena MLAs had been withdrawn. The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government had rejected the charges.

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PM Sheikh Hasina inaugurates Bangladesh's longest Padma bridge, to cut Dhaka-Kolkata travel time



Dhaka, June 26:

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday inaugurated the long-awaited Padma bridge, the country's longest and entirely built with domestic funding. The 6.15-km-long road-rail four-lane bridge is built over the Padma river connecting southwestern

Bangladesh with the capital and other parts. The

multipurpose road-rail bridge, which is fully funded by the Bangladesh government, has been constructed at a cost of USD 3.6 billion. The inauguration of the Padma bridge carries a lot of significance as the structure was built entirely with domestic financing, defying speculations by some financial analysts if Bangladesh could mobilise the fund depending on domestic re-

sources. Hasina expressed deep gratitude to the people involved with the construction of the Padma bridge. "I have no complaints against anyone, but I reckon those who opposed the Padma Bridge construction plan and called it a 'pipe dream', lack self-confidence. I hope this bridge will boost their confidence," the prime minister

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Drones Carry Water For Flood-Hit People In Assam

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 26:

Drones are being used to carry out flood mapping and provide essentials in Assam's Silchar, in a game-changing use of technology that is making its mark in relief operations. Two drones were deployed in Silchar for carrying water and other relief materials to the inaccessible areas where the flood situation remains grim. Floods and landslides have claimed over 120 lives across the state this year. As many as 25 lakh people still remain

affected in 25 districts though floodwater has been receding in parts of the state. Silchar in Cachar district is among the worst-affected areas. The central and state disaster forces along with emergency services and police personnel are helping the district administration in the relief operation. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma visited Silchar today during which he toured the flood-affected areas in an inflatable boat and took stock of the situation. Stating that his government's priority is to restore electricity, the Chief Minister said that the situation will be much better



in Silchar if there is no rain in the next 24 hours. In a mishap in the Nagaon district of Assam, as many as

three teenagers were washed away in floodwater on Sunday. The incident took place today at Bokabil

in the Barpujia village in Raha in Assam's Nagaon. According to reports, three youths were

washed away in floodwaters there after which the state disaster response force (SDRF) was called in. The SDRF ran an operation during which two out of the three youths were saved. Officials said that they barely survived. However, one of them still remains missing, they added. The missing teenager has been identified Bhupen Bordoloi. He is 17 years old. The SDRF said that they will keep the operation running in a bid to find the missing youth. It may be noted that several parts of Assam still remain

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'Kab tak chhipoge Guwahati mein, aana hi padega Chowpatty mein'

Sanjay Raut's jibe at rebel Shiv Sena MLAs

Mumbai, June 26 : Amid twists and turns in the political drama of Maharashtra, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday took a potshot on the Eknath Shinde-led faction of rebel MLAs and asked how long they will hide in Guwahati in Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled Assam finally they have to return to Mumbai. The political turbulence in Maharashtra was triggered by the faction war in Shiv Sena after Minister Eknath Shinde flew to Surat with some MLAs and then to Guwahati where he claims of having the support of 38 MLAs of the party, thus achieving the two-thirds majority in the Shiv

Sena. Taking to Twitter, Raut said, "Kab tak chhipoge Gauhati mein...Aana hi padega Chowpatty mein (How long will you hide in Guwahati, you have to come back to Chowpatty)." According to sources, Maharashtra deputy speaker Narhari Zirwal has sent notices to the 16 Shiv Sena rebel MLAs. The MLAs have to be present in Mumbai on Monday for the hearing of disqualification. Notably, Zirwal has earlier approved the appointment of Ajay Choudhary as Shiv Sena Legislature Party leader, replacing Shinde, the state cabinet minister who rebelled against the Shiv Sena

leadership. Zirwal also turned down the Shinde camp's suggestion to appoint rebel Shiv Sena MLA Bharat Gogawale as the chief whip of the legislature party in place of Sunil Prabhu. Interestingly, the Shinde faction named their group as 'Shiv Sena Balasaheb'. The naming of the group after the name of the Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray attracted sharp reactions from the Uddhav faction as the Chief Minister said that those who left the party should not seek votes in the name of the party founder. "Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has said that the leaders who have left Shiv Sena should not ask for

votes in the name of Shiv Sena and Balasaheb Thackeray. Ask for votes in the name of your father. Maha Vikas Aghadi is united," Sanjay Raut said earlier. "People will come to know what actions will be taken against those who have left the party by the evening. The work that Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has done is commendable. We will all fight the elections under his leadership," he added. Eknath Shinde claims to have the support of 38 MLAs of the 56 Shiv Sena legislators, which is more than two-thirds of the party's strength in the 288-member Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. It means that they

can either leave and form another political party or merge with another without being disqualified from the state assembly. Meanwhile, rebel Shiv Sena MLA Deepak Kesarkar claimed that their faction has two-thirds majority while denying merger talks with any party. "We are still in Shiv Sena, there is a misunderstanding that we have left the party. We have just separated our faction. We have the two-thirds majority to follow the path we wanted. Our new leader is chosen by the majority. They didn't have more than 16-17 MLAs," Kesarkar said. "There is no need to merge, our faction will be given different recognition

and we aren't merging with any other party. Recognition should be given to our faction, if it isn't given, we will go to court and prove our existence and numbers. We have numbers, but we respect CM Uddhav Thackeray, we won't speak against him. We must follow the path on which we fought Assembly elections," he added. Notably, Eknath Shinde was unanimously elected as the leader of the faction recently which is revolting against the Uddhav faction. The Uddhav Thackeray faction recently submitted a plea before the Maharashtra Assembly deputy speaker to disqualify 12 rebel MLAs.



People celebrate the Midsummer Festival in Stockholm, Sweden

After Kolkata Police, ex-BJP leader Nupur Sharma skips Mumbai Police's summons

Mumbai, June 26 : Suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma failed to appear before Mumbai police on Saturday to record her statement in the case registered against her for

Bengal. Sharma, in an email to Amherst Street Police Station, cited apprehensions of a possible assault on her if she visits Kolkata and sought four weeks' time to appear before the police



making allegedly objectionable remarks against Prophet Mohammad during a television channel discussion. An official said an FIR was registered against Sharma at Pydhonie police station on May 28 and police had executed summons to her via email while team from here had also visited Delhi to hand over a physical copy, an official said. "As she did not turn up for the recording of the statement, we will decide on Monday on the further course of action," the official added. On Saturday, she had again skipped summons issued by Kolkata Police in connection with her inflammatory comments on Prophet Mohammad that triggered widespread violence in parts of West

Bengal. She had earlier this week skipped the summons issued by Narkeldanga Police Station in the city citing similar reasons. "We have received an email from Nupur Sharma in which she expressed her inability to appear before officers of Amherst Street Police Station. She has sought four weeks' time, and also said she feared attacks on her if she comes to Kolkata," the officer told. Police had on Thursday issued a summons to Sharma after a complaint was lodged against her at Amherst Street Police Station. Sharma's comments, made during a TV debate, sparked violent protests in several parts of the country. Violent protests were reported from parts of West Bengal.

'I am not a criminal...': Teesta Setalvad who was arrested after SC's verdict on Gujarat riots

Ahmedabad, June 26 : "I am not a criminal," shouted activist Teesta Setalvad as she was being presented in Metropolitan Magistrates Court, Ahmedabad. Setalvad was on Saturday detained by the Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) from Mumbai in connection with an FIR registered against her at the Ahmedabad city crime branch. Setalvad's arrest is in connection to her NGO, which had supported Zakia Jafri throughout her legal battle. Jafri's husband Ehsan Jafri, who was a Congress leader, was killed during the 2002 Gujarat riots. The arrest came after the Supreme Court of India upheld the clean chit given to then Chief Minister Narendra Modi by the SIT investigation. According to ANI, Gujarat ATS will seek 14-



days of custody as she is not cooperating in the investigation. "The accused are not supporting us in the investigation. We are demanding 14 days of custody. Teesta will be produced in front of the Magistrate and all her statements will be recorded there. We are getting the documents arranged from various sources," said the DCP. The action against Setalvad came after Union Minister Amit Shah in an interview with ANI said that Teesta Setalvad-run NGO gave baseless information about the 2002 Gujarat riots to the police. "We have done the medical check-up, and the due process was followed by the Crime

Branch. The investigation is at a primary level, strict actions will be taken once the investigation is done. We have the primary affidavits and documents submitted by the accused," he added. The Supreme Court on Friday upheld the clean chit given to then Gujarat CM Narendra Modi in the Gujarat riots of 2002. The court's verdict highlighted that the state government made all the efforts to control the Gujarat riots and took the right decisions at the right time. The SIT, appointed by the apex court, conducted the investigation into the case and gave a clean chit to then Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi, and other top politicians and bureaucrats.

Kyiv, June 26 : Kyiv was hit by four Russian missile strikes early on Sunday morning for the first time in three weeks, during which life had been slowly returning to the Ukrainian capital in the relative calm. Columns of smoke rose over the central Shevchenkovskiy district, home to a cluster of universities, restaurants and art galleries at 6.22am. Kyiv's mayor, Vitali Klitschko, said two residential buildings had been hit in what he called an attempt to "intimidate Ukrainians" before a Nato summit in Madrid beginning on Tuesday. Around 11am, there were at least several unconfirmed reports of two more explosions in Kyiv. Two people, one a woman from Russia, were taken to hospital and a seven-year-old girl was rescued from rubble, Klitschko said. "She is alive," he said on Telegram, adding that rescue workers were trying to "save her mother". He said more residents could be trapped under rubble. "We heard four explosions, they were very loud," Marina, 33, a resident of an apartment building close to the missile strike. "An entire building was shaking. Luckily, our

apartment is fine. Originally we are from Chernihiv, we've lived through all this and now again... I don't know if I want to move out, I need to calm down and then decide." The area was previously hit almost two months ago on 28 April in a menacing display of defiance while the UN secretary general was visiting the city and a few hours after Joe Biden had announced a doubling of US military and economic aid to Ukraine. Vira Hyrych, a Ukrainian journalist from Radio Liberty who also worked for Voice of America, was killed in her apartment by the attack. The Ukrainian MP Oleksiy Goncharenko wrote on Telegram that "according to prelim data 14 missiles were launched against Kyiv region and Kyiv". Culture minister Iekhsandr Tkachenko

missiles were fired from planes over the Caspian Sea. Ukrainian presidential adviser Oleksiy Arestovych said missile strikes could continue for the whole day in Kyiv. The capital has not come under Russian bombardment since 5 June, when Russian forces hit the city with cruise missiles fired from the Caspian Sea, striking a rail repair facility. Meanwhile in eastern Ukraine, Russian forces were trying to cut off Lysychansk, having reduced its twin city Sievierodonetsk to rubble. Lysychansk is set to become the next main focus of fighting, as Moscow has launched massive artillery bombardments and airstrikes on areas far from the heart of the eastern battles. Russia's Interfax news agency said Russian troops had entered Lysychansk, the last city held



said on Telegram that a kindergarten was hit in the attacks. According to Ukrainian military officials, Kh-101 air-launched cruise

by Kyiv in Luhansk province, on Saturday after Ukrainian forces were ordered to withdraw from Sievierodonetsk.

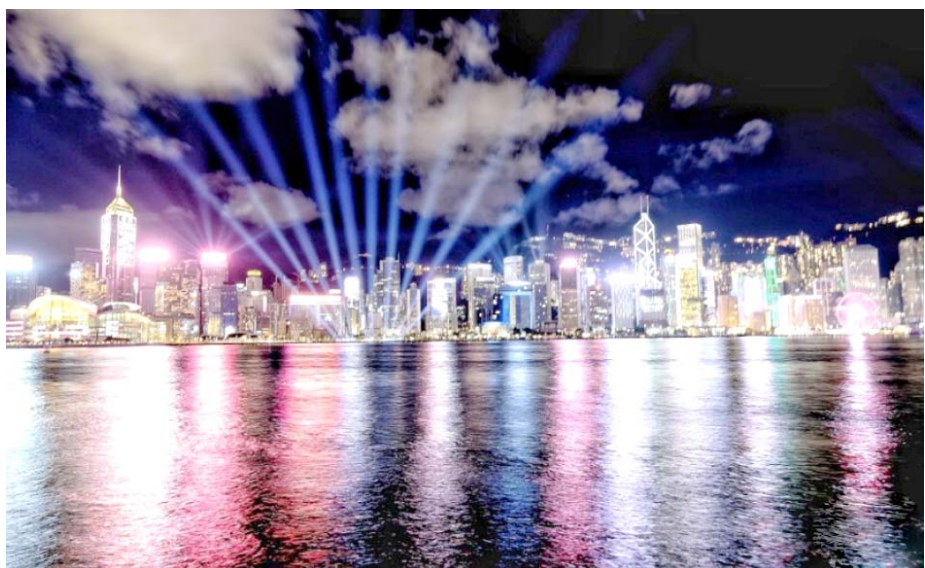
Seventeen people found dead in South African nightclub

Johannesburg, June 26 : At least 17 young people were found dead at a nightclub in a township in South Africa's southern city of East London on Sunday, police said. "We got a report about 17 [people] that died in a local tavern in Scenery Park which is based in East London," said Theminkosi Kinana, a provincial police spokesperson brigadier. "We are still investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident." He said the victims were aged between 18 and 20 years. The Eastern Cape provincial community and safety department official Unathi Binqose, speaking from the scene, ruled out a

stampede as a cause of the deaths. "It's difficult to believe it's a stampede as



of injuries, strewn on the floor of the club. Local television showed police officers trying to calm down a crowd of parents and onlookers gathered outside the club in the city, which lies on the Indian Ocean coast, nearly 620 miles (1,000) south of Johannesburg. "Parents whose children did not sleep home are gathered here and they want to enter the tavern to look for their loved ones," said Binqose. He said he understood the patrons were students "celebrating pens down, a party held after writing [high school] exams".



Shows a light show in Tsim Sha Tsui, south China's Hong Kong

Boris Johnson warns of risk of fatigue in west's support for Ukraine

London, June 26 : Boris Johnson has warned about the likelihood of "fatigue" among western nations over continued support for Ukraine, as he began talks at the G7 summit in Germany, where he hopes to push for renewed sanctions against Russia. Ahead of the first day of the annual gathering of political leaders, held amid ultra-tight security in the Bavarian countryside, Johnson also hailed a new international export ban on Russian gold. Speaking to reporters at the summit, Johnson, who has made support for Ukraine and its president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, one of the defining features of his premiership, warned that it would be hard to maintain a united front in the longer term. "Realistically there is going to be fatigue in populations and politicians," he warned, saying it was possible the current near-unanimity of the response to Russia's invasion could begin to fracture. "I think the pressure is there and the anxiety is there, we have got to be honest about that," Johnson said. "But the most

incredible thing about the way the west has responded to the invasion of Ukraine by Putin has been the unity - Nato has been solid, the G7 has been solid and we continue to be solid." But in order to protect that unity, in order to make it work, we have got to have really, really honest discussions about the implications of what's going on, the pressures that individual friends and partners are feeling, that populations are feeling - whether it's on the costs of their energy or food or whatever. "Johnson arrived at the talks from Rwanda, where he had been taking part in a Commonwealth summit. He will then head from Germany to Madrid for a gathering of Nato leaders, which will also be dominated by Ukraine. Zelenskyy is scheduled to take part virtually in both summits, with Downing Street saying Johnson would push for moves towards new sanctions and, at the Nato gathering, more countries to increase their defence spending. In what could be seen as a pointed

omission, asked just before a bilateral meeting with Emmanuel Macron about whether France and Germany were doing enough over Ukraine, Johnson only mentioned the

doing it. They are making the effort. They are making the sacrifice. That's because they see that the price of freedom is worth paying. "This is something that it's worth us standing



German response. "I never believed in my lifetime that I would see a German chancellor stepping up in the way that Olaf Scholz has and sending weaponry to help the Ukrainians to protect themselves," he said. "He has made huge, huge strides. We have 4% of our gas comes from Russia; in Germany, it's 40%. They are facing real, real pressures, they are having to source energy from elsewhere. But they are

up for together. And that is the principle that a free, independent sovereign country like Ukraine should not be violently invaded and should not have its boundaries changed by force. "Johnson, who will spend nine days overseas for the three summits, amid renewed discontent at his leadership among Tory MPs back in the UK, is scheduled to have a meeting with Scholz later on Sunday.

LOST

I have lost my original land registration document, Dalil No.1397/08 under Barpeta sub-register. It is true to the Affidavit Notary public Barpeta and Police Report vide kayakuchi O.P.GDE No.531/23-06-2022 Md. Safiqul Islam S/o-Lt. Ala Uddin Ahmed VILL-Banbahar P.O.-Kayakuchi P.S- Barpeta Dist.- Barpeta Cont. 9435025535

Name Correction

My Actual & correct name is GIAS UDDIN. But it is wrongly Recorded in Voter ID Card NO-DCS 1418048 as GIYAS UDDIN and Aadhar card no 367461645542 as Gas Uddin. Gias Uddin, Gas Uddin and Gias Uddin are the same person. GIAS UDDIN will be applicable for all future purposes.

GIAS UDDIN
C/o-JUL HASIM
HOJAI, ASSAM

Guest House

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

International Day against Drugs Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at Assam Police Head Quarter.

Assam Rising

Guwahati, June, 26: With the rest of the nation "The International Day against Drugs Abuse and Illicit Trafficking" was observed at the Assam Police Headquarters today on 26th June 2022 under the aegis of CID, Assam. On this occasion, a meeting with all the stakeholders was held at the Conference Hall of Assam Police Headquarters, Ulubari, Guwahati which was presided over by Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, DGP, Assam. Participating as the Chief Guest on the occasion, Pijush Hazarika, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Water Resources, Information and Public Relations and Parliamentary Affairs lauded the efforts of the Assam Police for their zero tolerance action against Drug Traffickers. He stressed on sensitising the parents and the society about the ill affects of the use of drugs and said that they can play a pivotal role in curbing use of drugs. He laid stress in cre-

ating mass awareness against drugs by involving all stakeholder and said that Government is keenly working to make the state of Assam Drugs Free. He praised the Assam Police for organizing the event. The Minister also laid stress on drawing up of a SOP for regulating the Rehabilitation and De-addiction centres. Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, DGP, Assam in his presidential speech stressed on the need for a multipronged strategy to tackle the drug menace. He requested the Social Justice Department to device standard guidelines for permitting setting up and running of the de-addiction centres. He called upon the Education and Health Departments to include drug abuse awareness in the academic curriculums. Mahanta said that Assam Police has been working towards supply deduction continuously, now the need of the hour is to focus on demand reduction. During the meeting, it was decided to compile an appropriate

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to regulate the rehabilitation and de-addiction centres and also subsequently to monitor their functioning. Earlier in his welcome Address cum Report



ADGP CID, A Y V Krishna, mentioned that, in order to tackle the drug menace there has to be a three pronged strategy namely supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction. He said that a record number of 3,232 cases have been registered under NDPS Act and more than 5,400 drug peddlers / traffickers have been arrested, 388 vehicles used for drug trafficking have been

seized, more than 100 kgs. of Heroin, 2,70,000 bottles of Cough Syrup, 39,42,000 nos. of tablets and several other banned narcotic substances have been seized. Cash and Foreign currency worth Rs.

2.80 crores have also been seized from the possession of drug peddlers, 31 bighas of Cannabis cultivation and 648 bighas of Opium cultivation have been destroyed. Worth mentioning that the CID Assam has got an App named "Drugs Free Assam" prepared with the help of NIC which can be downloaded through Google Play Store. This App has been successfully

downloaded by citizens and continuous information is pouring in through this channel, the identity of the informant kept confidential. District-wise Nodal Officers have been detailed to immediately act upon the information received through this App. The meeting was also addressed by Niraj Verma, Principal Secretary, Home and Political department; Avinash P D Joshi, Principal Secretary, Health and FW department, Mukesh Chandra Sahu, Principal Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment and others. The meeting was also graced by the Senior Assam Police officers, officials from Health department, Social Justice and Empowerment, Excise department, Education department, Home Department, FSL, Information & Public Relations, Doctors, Principals, Representatives of various NGOs.



Assam Governor offers puja to Goddess Kamakhya after temple reopens

Assam Rising

Guwahati, June 26: Assam Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi along with the First Lady of Assam Smt. Prem Mukhi today paid a visit to Kamakhya Temple and paid obeisance to Goddess Kamakhya and sought her blessings for the development of all sections of the

people of Assam. Visiting the Shakti Shrine at the descent of 'Nivriti' which marks the culmination of the five day Ambubachi Mela, one of the greatest spiritual gatherings of the country, Prof. Mukhi this morning offered his puja at the Shakti Peeth for the welfare of the people of

Assam. He said, "May the divine blessings of Maa Kamakhya bring abundance of health and happiness in everyone's life." He also thanked lakhs of devotees from the country and abroad who had flocked at the famous Shakti Shrine for making the Ambubachi Mela a grand success.

Protest for bridge on Suklai river at Budlapara



Assam Rising

Udalguri, Jun 26: The Indo-Bhutan border under Paneri legislative assembly constituency in Udalguri have been suffering from different types of crisis. One of the greater region of Udalguri district under Dimakuchi police station,

Budlapara have been facing problem since Independence of India for not having bridge on the Suklai river. Budlapara village is situated between two rivers like as Suklai and Nalapar river, for that whenever the water overflow on the both rivers people of this region

have to face different difficulties. Students are not able to cross the river for their school due to the absence of bridge over it. Whenever the water of these two rivers increases ambulance can't enter in this region for that many patients lose their life. For that the people of this greater region abstaining from different faculties. Therefore, demanding a bridge on the Suklai river people of this area protested in initiative of "Shramjeevi Mohila Shamanyarakshi Samiti" today. According to the

protesters, public representatives do not come to full fill their demands or their needs, they only come during the time of election for asking votes. They also called over local MLA and speaker of Assam legislative assembly Biswajit Daimary to make a bridge over the Suklai river. Students, youths, elders, women, etc participated the protest program and demanded for the bridge to Assam and BTC government.

Biswajit Sut felicitated at Nagsankar

Assam Rising

Biswanath Chariali, June 26: Biswajit Sut, son of Bakul Chandra Sut and Premalata Bora Sut is a resident of Balijan village here is an emerging poet and a challenging writer. He has started writing since his school days. He uses to



write for Assamese dailies, periodicals and journals. He

is a recipient of Kabi Sanman Bota 2021, Assam Gourav Bota 2021, Sankar Ajana Samannay Bota, Sahitya Surabhi Bota 2022 so far. Alok, a socio-cultural and environment friendly organization of the greater Nagsankar area had felicitated him for his contribution towards art and literature on Saturday night in a function held at Nagsankar N a t y a Bhawan. He was felicitated with a citation, gamocha, Sarai and a japi.

Nashe Se Azadi Pakhwada Concluded

Assam Rising

Aalo, June, 26: Joining with the rest of the country Nashe

and mental health. During the day e-pledge was also taken. Dr. Dubom Bagra, DMO Aalo

eral Hospital Aalo present the ill effects of drugs in details with the help of power-point



Se Azadi Pakhwada was concluded here at Gumin Kinn Aalo. Shri Henkir Lollen, SDO cum i/c ADC Aalo while welcoming all the participants said that the government of India is trying its best to stop drugs abuse. Lollen elaborately told the participants specially the students to focused on study and other co-curriculum activities for healthy physical

also highlight the ill effect of drugs. He advised the students and youths to focused on study and maintained one's health. Illicit trafficking of drugs must be stop. For this, District administration and police must be jointly work together. Awareness on drugs must be spread to the society, He added. Dr. Jumbom Kato, Medical Superintendent Gen-

presentation. Miss Binti Mibang, Circle Officer gave the vote of thanks on behalf of District Administration and General Hospital Aalo to all the participants. Shri Maryom Karlo EAC(J), Admin Officers, Doctors of general Hospital Aalo and HoD's and students took part during the day. Most of the Group A & B officers took e-pledge.

Hand made Magazine inaugurated at Maryam College

Assam Rising

Hojai, June, 26: Department of English, Maryam Ajmal Women's College of Science and Technology, Hojai has inaugurated the second edition of the Hand made magazine, entitled "Sesha" on 25th June, 2022. The Event has been charmed by Guests and dignitaries of Ajmal Foundation, Dr. Khasrul Islam, Director, Ajmal Foundation; Chief Academic Officer, Dr. R.K. Rath; College Academic Officer, Jahidul Haque Choudhury, College Inspector, Dr. Samim Sofika Begum and different Principals from Hojai based Colleges. The Event has been hosted by

Umme Kulsum (B.A 4th semester) where Guests were welcomed along with Teachers and Faculties. The handcrafted Magazine contains articles of different literary genres encompassing the Gender and Literature. In the Grand opening of SESHAT, the Department has also felicitated and rewarded with cash prizes to the winners of the Online Book Review Competition held in the month of April, 2022. The winners of the competition were: First Position: Sumaiya Parbin Choudhury, B.A (2nd Semester), Nazir Ajmal Memorial College of Education, Hojai

(Assam); Second Position: Rubina Yeasmin, B.Sc (Zoology), Rabindranath Tagore University, Hojai (Assam); *Third Position*: Tamima Rahman Barbhuyan, B.A (6th semester, English), Maryam Ajmal Women's College of Science and Technology, Hojai (Assam). The winners were felicitated by Dignitaries of Ajmal Foundation and Guests along with the faculties of the Department of English, Aditi Ghosh, Junumani Ahmed, Md. Quamrul Hassan. The event has ended with a vote of thanks offered by Esha Choudhury (B.A 4th semester).



Cancellation/short termination/short origination of train services due to flood damage of tracks in Lumding division

Assam Rising

Guwahati, June, 26 : In view of damages caused to railway tracks due to flood induced breaches at Jatinga Lumpur-New Harangajao, Bandarkhal - Ditokcherra, other locations in Lumding - Badarpur and Chaparmukh Senchoa section of Lumding division of Assam, several trains have been cancelled/short terminated/short originated as given below: Cancellation of trains: 1. 05504 Mairabari - Guwahati passenger, 07530 Silghat Town - Guwahati DEMU and 15418 Silghat Town - Alipurduar Rajya Rani Express of 27th June, 2022 will remain cancelled. 2. 12504 Agartala - Bangalore Cant. Express, 15626 Agartala - Deoghar Express and 15641 Silchar - New Tinsukia Express of 2nd and 9th of July, 2022 will remain cancelled. 3. 15642 New Tinsukia - Silchar Express of 3rd & 10th of

July, 2022 will remain cancelled. 4. 14620 Firozpur Cant. - Agartala Express, 15625 Deoghar - Agartala Express and 20501 Agartala - Anand Vihar Terminal Tejas Express of 4th and 11th of July, 2022 will remain cancelled. 5. 12503 Banga-



lore Cant. - Agartala Express of 5th and 12th of July, 2022 will remain cancelled. 6. 20502 Anand Vihar Terminal - Agartala Tejas Express of 6th and 13th of July, 2022 will remain cancelled. 7. 14619 Agartala - Firozpur Cant. Express, 14038 New Delhi - Silchar Express of 7

th and 14th of July, 2022 will remain cancelled. 8. 14037 Silchar - New Delhi Express of 11th and 18th of July, 2022 will remain cancelled. 9. 15615/15616 Guwahati - Silchar - Guwahati Express of 1st to 15th of July, 2022 will re-

main cancelled. 10. 15611 Guwahati - Silchar Express of 2nd, 4th, 7th, 9th, 11th and 14th of July, 2022 will remain cancelled. 11. 15612 Silchar - Guwahati Express of 3rd, 6th, 8th, 10th, 13th and 15th of July, 2022 will remain cancelled. 12. 15888/15887 Guwahati -

Badarpur - Guwahati Tourist Express of 2nd, 6th, 9th and 13th of July, 2022 will remain cancelled. Short termination/Short origination of trains: 1. 13173 Sealdah - Agartala Express of 30th June, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 12th, 14th and 15th of July, 2022 will be short terminated at Lumding and will remain partially cancelled between Lumding and Agartala. 2. 13174 Agartala - Sealdah Express of 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 12th and 14th of July, 2022 will be short originated from Lumding and will remain partially cancelled between Agartala and Lumding. 3. 13175 Sealdah - Silchar Express of 29th June, 2nd, 4th, 6th, 9th, 11th and 13th of July, 2022 will be short terminated at Lumding and will remain partially cancelled between Lumding and Silchar. 4. 13176 Silchar - Sealdah Express of 1st, 4

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THE ASSAM RISING

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The western powers delay decisive action

The western powers delay decisive action to break Russia's illegal Black Sea food blockade. The UN warns this reckless maritime siege, now entering its fifth month, threatens "catastrophe on top of catastrophe" for tens of millions of the world's most vulnerable people dependent on Ukraine's grain exports. Yet Nato and EU leaders are visibly floundering, disunited and distracted as apocalyptic disaster looms. Questions about the west's response to the Ukraine invasion - what weapons to send, whether Nato should act more forcibly - must be viewed in this larger context: the necessity of defending fundamental humanitarian principles upon which the UN and the global rules-based order have been based for 75 years. It's about blameless victims of a manmade atrocity. It's about decency, about leadership. What Vladimir Putin is doing, right now, by weaponising staple food prices, creating artificial shortages, and risking starvation and famine among 100 million people from the Horn of Africa and the Sahel to Central America, constitutes a crime against humanity. That's an act purposefully committed by a state as part of a systematic policy directed against civilians. There is no argument. He's gone rogue. He must be stopped. Ideally, the Russian people would do this themselves. Yet out of fear, impotence or ignorance, most now occupy a moral vacuum where a respected country used to be. So what are Joe Biden, Boris Johnson, Emmanuel Macron, Olaf Scholz and all the other democratic leaders waiting for? Putin is mining Odesa's waters, bombing silos and stealing grain. How many children must die horribly before they draw a line in the sea? Fear corrodes the will to act, even though rampant price inflation imperils their national interest. Soon after the blockade began, Lithuania, bravely punching above its weight, proposed a naval "coalition of the willing", preferably under UN authority, to escort Ukrainian grain carriers past Russian warships from Odesa to the Bosphorus. It's an entirely reasonable idea. But it hasn't happened - mainly because Biden disproportionately fears direct Nato-Russia confrontation, because the UN security council is paralysed, and because Macron and Scholz privately oppose it. The Paris-Berlin dynamic duo, AKA the two stooges, still believe they can talk their way out of trouble by pressing Kyiv to give ground and making nice with a monster.

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.

Editor,
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Guwahati, Assam

Everyone wants to be an IAS officer. But retired IFS officers write much better books

Retired government officers are rewriting books like never before, mostly those from the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). The trend has not spread to lower-caste officials belonging to the "central services", though some former police officers have penned their memoirs. Leaving these out of consideration for the moment, and looking only at books written by those from the IFS and IAS, one detects a pattern. IAS officers, those who occupied the primary positions of bureaucratic power in government, write mainly about their own exploits when in service. In contrast, IFS officers write less about themselves and more about the issues and context of their work (international relations and history), while straying also into unrelated fields. Some of their books are products of genuine scholarship. One can't say that about the IAS-authored books. This divergence merits some analysis. After all, officers from the two services have come from similar backgrounds. Many went to the same colleges, and studied the same subjects (usually history). Their performance in the

qualifying exam and interview would have shown little difference. Yet, at the end of their careers, what occupies the minds of those in the two premier services are vastly different territories. Also Read: How would India fare on a 'modified' misery index? Better than US & UK, worse than most others. Consider a few recent examples. From the IFS stable, there is Talmiz Ahmad's engrossing book *West Asia at War*, Shyam

TN Ninan

Saran's *How China Sees India and the World* (a companion to his earlier *How India Views the World*), Rajiv Dogra's third or fourth book *War Time* (two earlier ones had to do with the Durand Line), Shivshankar Menon's thoughtful *Choices*, Chandrashekhar Dasgupta's revelatory book on the Bangladesh war, and TCA Raghavan's remarkably varied offerings: One on three of India's leading historians (History Men), another on India-Pakistan relations (*The People Next Door*), and a third on courtiers and poets in Mughal India (*Attendant Lords*). Among those of less recent vintage worth mentioning

Women must be allowed to defend abortion as a sex-based right

To mark the supreme court judgment that guaranteed American women a right to abortion in 1973, the feminist magazine Ms. published a graphic photo of a dead 27-year-old woman kneeling over, surrounded by bloody towels. Her name was Gerri Santoro and she died alone in a motel room during a botched abortion in 1964, a mother to two young daughters who had left her violently abusive husband. That is the image the United States will today again have to confront as a result of the anticipated decision of the supreme court to overturn that federal guarantor of abortion rights, *Roe v Wade*. It leaves abortion rights to the states, meaning abortion is now illegal or soon-to-be illegal in 22 states in all or most circumstances, including, in some states, in cases of rape. It comes in the wake of already reduced access to abortion in many of those states as a result of practical restrictions on the operation of abortion clinics. It is a dramatic rollback of women's rights in one of the world's richest countries, which prides itself on its protection of individual liberties. The case against abortion bans is overwhelming. It is impossible to abolish abortion altogether: desperate women will always find ways, putting their own lives at risk and making them vulnerable to sexual and financial exploitation. The only effective and safe way to reduce abortion is to expand access to contraception, something Republicans have impeded under Trump. It has been estimated that maternal mortality will increase by 20% in places with a ban. It is always inhumane and degrading to

force a woman to give birth against her will, but there is something particularly chilling about doing it in a country as unequal as the US, where half of women seeking an abortion live below the poverty line. The US is a terrible place to be a poor woman:

exceptional among nations belonging to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in having zero national entitlement to maternity pay, it has no universal healthcare, the highest rates of maternal mortality of any wealthy nation and barely any

on their abusers. In some states, the criminalisation of abortion will be wielded to impose penal sanctions on these women - a breathtaking level of state-sanctioned misogyny. It is frightening to witness, but cannot be understood without reference to the fraught politics of the US. American feminists have long regarded women's abortion rights as fragile, established as they were by a supreme court that engages in unashamedly political interpretation of an 18th-century constitution that is

Sonia Sodha



support with the costs of childcare. Worst of all will be the impact on survivors of rape and domestic abuse. Abortion bans ally the state with violent men who use sexual assault as a means of control, by forcing women to carry the pregnancies that result from their rape to term, heaping trauma upon trauma and making them more dependent

almost impossible to amend. A majority liberal supreme court derived the right to abortion on privacy grounds, but it was inevitable that a majority conservative supreme court would one day overturn it. To ensure their longevity, women's reproductive rights needed to be codified by American legislators on grounds of sex

discrimination. But the levels of inertia built into the other two branches of government, the presidency and Congress, have empowered a loud and rich evangelical religious minority to the extent that Democrats would have had to expend significant political capital in order to protect the majority position on abortion. They chose not to: neither the Clinton nor the Obama administrations made this a priority, despite Obama promising before his election it would be one of the first things he would do. Women's rights were banked, even as they so clearly hung by a time-limited judicial thread. And Democrats have been far less strategic than their counterparts on the right in using the constitution to their advantage; Trump was able to appoint three out of the nine justices on today's court not just through luck or dirty tactics, but because Ruth Bader Ginsburg chose not to step down during the Obama presidency. The result is a supreme court that can impose its minority political views on a country for decades to come. While there remain huge issues of abortion access in Northern Ireland, there are limited parallels to be drawn with most of the UK, where we are lucky that abortion is a settled, non-partisan issue and there is no significant religious minority opposed to abortion rights. But there are broader lessons for British feminists and others who seek progressive social change. While abortion rights may be settled here, we have plenty enough problems: a woman is killed by a man every three days in the UK and rape convictions are at an all-time low.

Quiet conviction of 26/11 mastermind Sajid Mir shows Pakistan's flimsy terror crackdown

Ninety four for six, chasing 309: As the futility of prayer became apparent, the dented pride of India cricket fans degenerated into a tantrum, a shower of plastic bottles and Hindustani invective flying from the stands onto the manicured greens of the Delhi's Feroze Shah Kotla stadium. The hundreds of Pakistani visitors who'd come to watch the match among them, a slight young man with a neatly-trimmed beard, his hair parted down the middle-watched impassively. He, perhaps, was imagining another triumph, yet to come, as I have written before. The man in the stands that March day in 2005, Lashkar-e-Taiba's 26/11 operational head Sajid Mir, was secretly tried and

convicted by a Lahore anti-terrorism court last week-part of Pakistani commitments made to extricate the country from sanctions by the multinational terror-finance watchdog, the Financial Action Task Force or FATF. From a house in Karachi, Mir is alleged to have guided the 26/11 killing team in real-time, using a voice-over-internet connection-at one point, intervening to order the execution of a hostage, Rivka Holtzberg. Mir, investigators believe, also organised the reconnaissance operations carried out by Pakistani-American jihadist David Headley, which laid the foundations for the attack. Even though Mir was reported to have been kept in Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) custody since 2011, Islamabad long denied knowledge of his whereabouts, as I have pointed out earlier. In 2019, the United States government noted Mir was "widely believed to reside in Pakistan under the protection of the state, despite government denials." The conviction of the Lashkar commander now is meant to show Islamabad is changing course. The twisted trajectory of Mir's story raises questions about just how long it will hold to the new course. Few fragments have become available on Sajid Mir's life. According to the passport Mir used to travel to India, he was born in 1976 in an ethnic-Punjabi family of Partition refugees. Mir's father, Abdul Majid, worked for some time in Saudi Arabia, before returning to Pakistan to set up a small textile business. Following a college education in Lahore, Indian intelligence officials familiar with the case told ThePrint, Mir married the daughter of a retired Pakistan Army Maulvi, and fathered at least two children. Then, evidence began emerging that Mir had become a central figure in a plot to set fire to the world. Following 9/11, Willie Brigitte, a Guadeloupe-born former French naval cadet, arrived in Pakistan seeking to fight alongside the Taliban. A convert to Islam, Brigitte had become involved in neo-fundamentalist networks at mosques in Paris' Couronnes neighbourhood, linked to the Algerian jihadist

Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat-today known as al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. Brigitte ended up in a Lashkar training camp near Muzaffarabad, along with recruits from several other countries. 'Bill,' French judge Jean Louis Bruguière later wrote, had two bodyguards in constant attendance. To his students, it appeared 'Sajid Mir was a high-ranking officer in the Pakistani Army and apparently also was in the ISI.' In 2003, travelling on a ticket paid for by Mir, Brigitte travelled to Australia, with orders

Praveen Swami

to surveil potential targets along with Pakistan-born architect Fahim Lodhi-among them, a nuclear reactor near Sydney. French intelligence, however, had been maintaining surveillance on Brigitte, and notified their counterparts in Sydney. Lodhi is now serving out a life sentence in Australia. Brigitte received a nine-year sentence in France, was released, and then left for the Islamic State with his fourth wife and a child-where he is believed to have been killed in fighting. The jihad network the Lashkar nurtured grew similar branches across the world in the years after 9/11, intelligence services soon discovered. Eleven men were convicted in the US through 2004-2005 for running a jihad network in Virginia. Four of them, it was revealed, had trained at the camp run by Mir. Omar Khayam and Dhiren Barot, responsible for bomb plots in the United Kingdom, also trained with the Lashkar. In 2004, Lashkar jihadist Danish Ahmad, a Kashmir veteran, was held in Iraq. Exactly how Mir ended up at the centre of these networks remains unclear. Indian intelligence has no record suggesting he served in Kashmir, where the Lashkar's military operations were overwhelmingly focussed. From the work of scholar C. Christine Fair, it is clear that the Lashkar shared the world-view of groups like al-Qaeda. Lashkar cadre fought in conflicts from Tajikistan and Chechnya to Bosnia. In December 1998, Pakistani newspaper Jang reported that jihadists from more than 50

countries had attended a convention by Markaz Dawat wal'Irshad - Lashkar's parent organisation. "You can go to any jihadi frontline in the world," the organisation bragged, "and you will find Markaz Dawat wal'Irshad mujahideen crushing the infidels and destroying the fortresses of the devil." Lashkar-trained jihadists kept emerging in global counter-terrorism investigations: As late as 2012, one of the three men alleged to be involved in a plot to attack Gibraltar during the London Olympics was found to have trained with the Lashkar. Following 9/11, Pakistan's military rulers evicted foreigners from the Lashkar's training camps, and

imaging needed for the Lashkar to train the killing team that carried out 26/11. Ever since it was placed on the FATF's grey list in 2018, Pakistan has sought to demonstrate that it's acting against the Lashkar. In February 2020, LeT chief Hafiz Saeed was sentenced to two consecutive five-year sentences on terrorism-financing charges, and received another 31-year sentence in April. His deputies, Zaki-ur-Rahman Lakhvi and Abdul Rehman Maki, have also received prison sentences, as have a string of second-rung figures-even though none of the prosecutions was directly related to 26/11. "Even



tamped down its operations in Kashmir. The organisation's infrastructure, though, was untouched-and after brief periods of incarceration, its leadership was active again. The most important Lashkar asset was the son of urbane Pakistani diplomat Syed Salim Gilani and Philadelphia socialite Serill Headley-one of the many foreigners who had arrived at its camps after 9/11. The story of just why David Headley ended up there remains opaque. There has long been credible evidence he was spying for the United States Drug Enforcement Agency: From 2001 to 2008, interestingly, American authorities ignored at least six warnings of his involvement in terrorism. In 2005, Indian and American investigators say, the ISI provided funds for Headley to set up a cover business in Mumbai, to mount surveillance on potential targets. The visit Mir made to New Delhi the same year suggests multiple, similar missions. In the course of nine visits to India, supervised by Mir, Headley gathered the

if Saeed is technically not roaming the streets, the Government of Pakistan's inability to win the legal case against him is embarrassing," then United States ambassador Anne Patterson wrote in a 2009 diplomatic cable. That embarrassment, Pakistan now claims to have set right. There is some reason to suspect, though, that there's less than meets the eye to these actions. Following his conviction in 2020, as I have noted earlier, Saeed was moved out of Lahore's Kot Lakhpat jail and moved back to his white, three-storey home at 116E Johar Town-where he was targeted for assassination last year, in a bombing Pakistan alleges was carried out by Indian intelligence services. Since 9/11, Saeed has been jailed at least nine times-only to be released weeks later. Lakhvi, for his part, was reported to have unlimited access to visitors and the internet while in prison. He was even rumoured to have fathered a child.

GO FIRST to resume Srinagar- Sharjah flight

Delhi, June 26 : In a boost to international travel, GO FIRST (formerly known as GoAir), is set to resume scheduled direct flights to and from Srinagar to Sharjah from end of June 2022. The airline has recently received the bilateral rights to operate five flights per week on the Srinagar-Sharjah-Srinagar route and the final approval is awaited. The airline had started the Srinagar-Sharjah flight on October 23 last year connecting Jammu and Kashmir with the United Arab Emirates after



11 years. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had inaugurated the flight. GO FIRST will also introduce five additional direct flights to and from Srinagar to

Delhi and two additional flights between Leh and Delhi in order to cater to the additional demand from the impending Amarnath Yatra on June 30. With the en-

hanced connectivity, these new flights will be offering travel options to the pilgrims. GO FIRST currently operates nine flights daily between Delhi and Srinagar and five flights daily between Delhi and Leh. Kaushik Khona, Chief Executive Officer, GO FIRST, said: "GO FIRST is honoured to resume services between Srinagar and Sharjah. The service will improve international connectivity and cater to international travel. The Amarnath Yatra commencing soon and we will make every

effort to ensure a hassle-free and delightful travel experience for the pilgrims. We further reaffirm our commitment to the region and will build on our promise of our consumers' expectations." Last year, the Jammu and Kashmir government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with GO FIRST for the transportation of perishable horticulture and agricultural produce to various destinations across the country. GO FIRST had also signed a pact with the UAE-based Lulu Group to transport cargo from Srinagar to Sharjah in 2021.



WISSER Innovation Prize Launched

Assam Rising

Guwahati, June 26 : WISSER Innovation Prize was launched on Wednesday 22nd June 2022 for Designers and Innovators from the North East region. It is a design challenge for livelihood generation for the rural artisans in the North East Region in India. This design challenge is being organised by The Hub Jorhat, Bosco Institute and Childaid Network in collaboration with Dhriti-The Courage Within. The Prize aims to identify product design solutions with pre-determined natural resources available in the North East Region which would enable generation of livelihoods for rural artisans across clusters. The innovators/designers can apply as an individual or as a team (maximum 3 member teams). In case of individual innovators/designers, the applicant should

be from one of the 8 states of the North East Region and in case of teams, at least one of the team members should be a resident of any of the 8 states of the North East Region. Both students and practitioners can apply with their innovations/designs for the WISSER Innovation Prize. The selected innovators/innovator teams would be awarded cash prizes worth approximately INR 4 Lakhs and mentorship support by design and business mentors from across the globe. 4 selected innovations would be provided cash prizes and mentorship support to support them in prototype development. The selected innovations would be piloted to build a complete product value chain as a micro enterprise cluster for rural artisans. The intent is to select design solutions with the given natural resources which have the potential to be produced by numerous

micro/nano enterprises in rural areas and create livelihoods for rural artisans." said Fr. Jerry Tom, Bosco Institute, Jorhat. "WISSER Innovation Prize will work in the form of product/design hackathon wherein solutions which can support local artisans earn their livelihoods are invited. We are calling for design innovation ideas from both students and practitioners (in the field of design and innovation) in two categories of products, Category 1 being bamboo and cane and Category 2 being Natural Fibres (Water Hyacinth, Kauna Grass, Shitalpati)." said Mr. Anirban Gupta, Co-founder, Dhriti-The Courage Within. Jonas Pfaffinger, Advisor, Childaid Network says, "It is a pleasure to see the WISSER Innovation Prize being launched today and we would like to mention the vision, support and trust provided by the WISSER Family in Childaid Network."

Reliance Industries seeks new technologies



Mumbai, June 26 : Reliance Industries Ltd., controlled by Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani, is assessing new technologies for making electrolyzers in its efforts to produce low-cost green hydrogen in the country. As part of the push, the company also plans to bid for any production-linked incentives the government may offer to encourage the technology. Kapi Maheshwari, president for new energy at Reliance, said at the Bloomberg NEF summit in New Delhi on Wednesday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government unveiled the first phase of its green hydrogen policy in February, offering a range of incentives for companies to set up

projects. India is considering offering more "sweeteners" for producers, Power and Renewable Energy Minister Raj Kumar Singh said last week. Green hydrogen has drawn tens of billions of dollars in investment commitments from investors, including Ambani and rival tycoon Gautam Adani. The fuel, produced by splitting water with the help of clean energy like wind power, is seen as critical to decarbonizing hard-to-abate industries such as oil refineries and steel mills, helping meet global targets to zero out emissions and fight global warming. Maheshwari said India needs to provide certainty about policies and help build a market for green hy-

drogen by requiring some industries to purchase the fuel, a step the government is already discussing. Reliance will pursue an aggressive target to produce green hydrogen at \$1 per kilogram by the end of this decade, Ambani said last year. At the time, the cost of producing the fuel was between \$2.22 and \$4.62 a kilogram in India. Ambani and Adani have pledged more than \$140 billion in green investments, as their fossil fuel-driven empires pivot away from oil and coal. Green hydrogen is central to this shift, as the two tycoons champion the government's ambition to make India a global leader for production and exports of this fuel.

Ola shuts down used car business Ola Cars

Mumbai, June 26 : Ola has decided to close down its used car business Ola Cars, less than a year after it was launched. The shared mobility major has also decided to shut down Ola Dash, its quick commerce segment, sourced told CNBC-TV18. Arun Sirdeshmukh, the head of Ola's used car business and Varun Dubey, Head of Marketing at Ola Electric recently quit the company. In an official statement, Ola said that it has shut down Ola Dash, its quick commerce business, and will be recasting its cars business

and financial services. Ola Electric surpassed Rs 500 crore in revenue in first two months of FY23 and the company will be launching its second electric scooter before the end of the year. Ola, which had plans to list on the bourses this year, was looking to raise a new round of funding at a lower valuation, signifying a sharp reversal in fortune for startups after a record 2021 that saw sky-high valuations in the public and private markets. Ola was last valued at \$7.3 billion when it raised \$139 million in its Series J



to focus more on strengthening its electric division. Ola plans to increase pace of investments in electric cars, cell manufacturing,

round, led by Edelweiss PE, IIFL, and Sunil Munjal-led Hero Enterprises, in what seemed like the last round of funding before its IPO.

EarlySalary, Jupiter, Ola Money suspend some services

Delhi, June 26 : Fintech startups Jupiter and EarlySalary have suspended their credit-linked card services following the Reserve Bank of India's ban on non-banks loading credit into e-wallets, while other services including Paytm Postpaid and Ola Money too have been affected. Jupiter Edge, a unit of neobanking platform Jupiter, informed customers in a social media post on Thursday that it was "pausing" its services following RBI's recent guidelines. "Please be assured that we are in the process of evaluation, you'll be notified once we are back," the company said. EarlySalary said it has put the brakes on its card services for now.

"There was no preparation time given. We are also understanding (the RBI circular) and will come back with an answer," Akshay Mehrotra, Co-founder and CEO of EarlySalary, told YourStory. As for Paytm Postpaid, the 'buy now, pay later' arm of fintech giant Paytm has remained unavailable on third-party apps such as Zomato and Swiggy since RBI's announcement on Tuesday. Paytm, however, denied this and said its Postpaid services "continue to be fully operational for its users". "For a very small percentage of users, where they had linked Paytm Postpaid to the Paytm Wallet for use, when the wallet balance is low, the service has been

temporarily halted pending clarification," a company spokesperson said in an email reply to YourStory. "Moreover, Paytm wallet is issued by Paytm Payments Bank and hence is not covered under the guidelines as per our understanding. The spokesperson added the move by Swiggy and Zomato "was taken before this issue on another RBI concern." It wasn't immediately clear what that concern was. Ola Money Postpaid, the digital credit payment service of cab aggregator Ola, also informed users that it was disabling a provision allowing the use of its postpaid service along with a user's balance on Ola Money card or

change filings. These shares were bought during May 30-31, the filings showed. Sharma, who owns around 15% in Paytm parent One97 Communica-

tions, purchased shares worth Rs 6.31 crore on May 30 and the rest on the next day. In April, Sharma had said the employee stock options given to him would be vested to him only after the company's shares crossed the IPO price on a sustained basis. Paytm's shares had an immediate crash after the listing on bourses last year in November. The stock ended trading at Rs 629.10 on the



BSE Friday, up by 2.6% from the previous close. The Noida-based company's IPO price was Rs 2,150 per share, meaning it is currently trading 70% below the issue price. Based on the number of shares purchased and the amount spent, Sharma paid just over Rs 647 a share on average for the transactions on May 30-31. Sharma had sold shares worth Rs 402 crore through Paytm's Rs 18,300 crore IPO. Investors like SoftBank, Elevation Capital and the Ant Group also divested parts of their holding in the company under the Rs 10,000 crore offer for sale component of the IPO. According to Sharma, who is the managing director and CEO at the firm, the company is aiming for operational breakeven by the end of September next year. The company said in a June 15 filing that its lending business had seen strong growth of 471% in loan disbursements at 5.5 million in the April-May period of 2022. Last month, Paytm also said it would seek a new general insurance licence and invest up to Rs 950 crore in Paytm General Insurance in tranches for a period of 10 years. This came after the company failed to close its Raheja QBE General Insurance deal.

LIC stock rises for third consecutive day

Delhi, June 26 : Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) ended in green for the third consecutive session on Wednesday but shares of the state-run insurer are unlikely to cross the initial public offering (IPO) price even a year from now, according to the target price assigned by global brokerages. The best target of Rs 930 given by Bank of America (BoFA) is still falling 2% short of the issue price of Rs 949, while Goldman Sachs' target price of Rs 700 is 35% and JP Morgan's target price of Rs 840 is 13% away from the issue price. Most target prices are estimated for the end of the current financial year 2023. Setback for investors who participated in India's largest IPO ever launched. Since the stock hit bourses on May 17th at the discount of 8%, it has fallen about 24%. In the last three sessions, it witnessed marginal recovery from its 52-week low of Rs 650 and closed the Wednesday session at Rs 668.55 apiece. Bank of America in a report said there is headroom for growth of the insurer. It is in the view that LIC stock is available at a 47-70% discount in comparison to the private players. A global player in its segment, LIC can outperform going forward due to its widening penetration, analysts at BoFA noted. Global brokerage JP Morgan initiated coverage on the stock with an overweight rating and has set a target price of Rs 849



per share in one year. JPMorgan said that LIC's 0.75 times price to embedded value - is unduly harsh, even assuming no growth. It said that in reality LIC has picked

up growth recently and forecasted growth of 6% in FY22-24 for the insurer. "We believe the market views LIC as an equity market proxy and recent weakness in markets is overdue. We don't foresee LIC trading at private sector valuations of 2-3 times P/EV (price to embedded value), but our March-23 price target of Rs 840 is based on 1 time FY23 P/EV, which we think is justified on a mostly par back book, excess assets on the B/S (balance sheet), and a 185% solvency ratio," analysts at JP Morgan said.

RBI Extends Card Tokenisation Deadline Till Sep 30

Delhi, June 26 : The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) today extended the deadline for card tokenisation by three months to September 30, 2022 after its criticism by industry parties. The central bank had earlier directed the merchants to implement its tokenisation norms by June 30, 2022. This is the third time RBI has extended the deadline of its implementation. Last September, RBI prohibited merchants from storing customer card details on their servers with effect from January 1, 2022. In April this year, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed new rules related to debit and credit cards with the

security of user details as a key highlight. The central bank said a tokenized card transaction is considered safer as the actual card details are not shared with the merchant during transaction processing. The card tokenisation converts your card details into a unique code called 'token' that is specific to your card and one merchant at a time. The code does not reveal the details of your card and can be saved on the online portal's server. This prohibits all online shopping portals from saving your card numbers, CVV, expiry date, etc. on their servers. According to a recent report by The Dialogue and DeepStrat, there are operational and execution challenges that make the imple-



mentation of card tokenisation difficult. The report said the industry is not completely ready to implement the tokenisation framework yet. "Without

proper tokenisation infrastructure, deletion of Card-on-File data will cause tremendous user inconvenience as it will require them to re-enter the card details

for every transaction," the report noted, adding that further, implementation of the framework without sufficient preparedness may also lead to increased transaction failures and delays. The think tank also conducted a recent study which found that there is a varied level of preparedness for varied stakeholders. Talking about the findings of the study, Kazim Rizvi, Founding Director, The Dialogue noted that no stakeholder is fully ready to implement the tokenisation framework. As per industry inputs, while token provisioning has made considerable progress with more than ten crore tokens generated by the token service providers, which will

cover 60-70% of the Indian cardholders, the industry is still continuously working towards developing solutions for certain use cases such as guest checkouts, EMIs, and recurring payments, which have been in a constant phase of evolution. However, more time is required for testing and ensuring scalability for a successful implementation. The card networks such as Mastercard, Visa, and RuPay have claimed that their solutions are ready for tokenisation. Similarly, PayU, Razorpay, PhonePe, Pine Labs, etc. have also come up with solutions to help the businesses transition to the framework.

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CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Visits

Anglong West, Karimganj, Lakhimpur, Morigaon, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sonitpur, South Salmara, Tamulpur and Udalguri- still remain affected by the floods.Barpeta continued to be the worst-affected district with nearly 7.50 lakh people being affected, followed by over 5.11 lakh people yet to get respite from the flood fury.On the other hand, over 2.33 lakh people are still languishing in 637 relief camps. Over 80,346 hectares of agricultural land remain affected by the flood waters.The flood situation in Silchar town in Southern Assam's Cachar district continued to remain grim with several areas still being submerged for the sixth consecutive day. A breach in an embankment at Bethukandi on June 17, around four km from the town, left over two lakh people severely affected by the flood waters.Though Barak river adjoining Silchar town is receding, the plight of the people remains unchanged with no electricity and acute scarcity of drinking water for the past six days.Nearly 2.78 lakh people are affected in the district with 96,689 people suffering in Silchar town alone. A total population of 1,09,868 are taking refuge in 224 relief camps in the district, including 25,148 people in Silchar.River Brahmaputra and Kopili continued to flow above the danger level mark in Dhubri and Nagaon districts respectively.Four more persons, including two children, died due to floods in Assam in the last 24. This takes the total death toll in the recent floods and landslides in the state to 121.Out of the four deaths, one each was reported from Barpeta, Cachar, Darrang and Golaghat districts.Though the overall flood situation in Assam has slightly improved slightly improved, over 25.10 lakh people in 2,894 villages across 27 districts and 79 revenue circles of the state are still reeling under flood waters.The flood-affected districts are namely Bajali, Baksa, Barpeta, Biswanath, Cachar, Chirang, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Dima Hasao, Goalpara, Golaghat, Hailakandi, Hojai, Kamrup, Kamrup Metropolitan, Karbi Anglong West, Karimganj, Lakhimpur, Morigaon, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sonitpur, South Salmara, Tamulpur and Udalguri.Water levels of the Brahmaputra River in Dhubri district and Kopili River in Dharamtul and Kampur are flowing above danger level at present.The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel along with SDRF, Fire and Emergency personnel, Police Force and AAPDA MITRA Volunteers are carrying out relentless rescue operations in the flood-affected areas.Notably, the flood situation in Silchar town in Cachar district continues to remain grim with several areas still being submerged for the sixth consecutive day. Nearly 2.78 lakh people are affected in the district with 96,689 people suffering in Silchar town alone. A total population of 1,09,868 are taking refuge in 224 relief camps in the district, including 25,148 people in Silchar.Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma will visit Cachar district on Sunday to review the flood situation. This will be CM Sarma's second visit in a week to flood-affected Barak Valley. Earlier, on Thursday, Sarma made an aerial survey of the Silchar town. Sarma then chaired a review meeting with the officials of the district administration.

Bypolls 2022 : PM Modi thanks

our candidates, including CM @ DrManikSaha2ji with wins in the by-polls. Our Government will continue fulfilling people's aspirations. I laud our Karyakartas for their hardwork, " PM Modi, who is on a 3-day visit to Germany and the UAE, said in a tweet.In Tripura, where the saffron party is in power, its candidates were victorious on three out of four assembly seats where bypolls were held: Town Bardowali (contested by chief minister Manik Saha), Surma and Jubarajnagar. The fourth, Agartala, was clinched by Sudip Roy Burman for the Congress; in February, Burman resigned as a BJP MLA and joined the Congress.Meanwhile, in Uttar Pradesh, another BJP-ruled state, the party won the Lok Sabha constituencies of Azamgarh and Rampur, bastions of the opposition Samajwadi Party (SP). "The by-poll wins in Azamgarh and Rampur are historic. It indicates wide-scale acceptance and support for the double engine Governments at the Centre and in UP. Grateful to the people for their support. I appreciate the efforts of our Party Karyakartas. @BJP4UP," tweeted prime minister Modi.

Maharashtra political crisis

Assembly. It means that they can either leave and form another political party or merge with another without being disqualified from the state assembly.However, Shiv Sena MP Arvind Sawant claimed that some of the rebel MLAs went to Assam with Eknath Shinde due to pressure and fear and many want to come back. "Some of them (rebel MLAs) went due to pressure & fear, that's why they were taken so far to Assam. Many MLAs are calling us that they want to come back. It's Maharashtra's misfortune that when there's unemployment and inflation, some people are only concerned about getting into power. Without Shiv Sena's chief, they (rebel MLAs) can't even exist, nobody will ask them," Sawant told .Earlier on Saturday, rebel MLA Chimanrao Patil on Saturday expressed dissatisfaction over Shiv Sena's alliance with its "traditional rival" parties, Congress and NCP and said that they had urged Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray to stitch a "natural alliance".The leader, however, added that there was no response from the Chief Minister which is why Eknath Shinde, who is leading the faction, "took a stand"."We are traditionally the rivals of NCP and Congress, they are our primary challengers in constituencies. We requested CM Uddhav Thackeray that natural alliance should be done," said Shiv Sena rebel MLA Chimanrao Patil in a video tweeted by Eknath Shinde.Patil claimed that the faction has the support of two-thirds of the Shiv Sena MLAs along with 10 independents. The Uddhav Thackeray faction recently submitted a plea before the Maharashtra Assembly deputy speaker to disqualify 12 rebel MLAs. As rebels continue to camp in Guwahati, some of their offices were vandalised allegedly by Shiv Sena workers in Maharashtra. Following this, Shinde on Saturday wrote to Uddhav Thackeray over the alleged 'malicious' withdrawal of security of family members of the 38 MLAs camping with him in the Guwahati hotel.

Tripura Bypolls : BJP wins 3

cast their votes amid incidents of violence. Tripura bypolls results were announced today (June 26) for the by-elections to Agartala, Town Bordowali, Surma, and Jubarajnagar Assembly constituencies. BJP won 3 out of the 4 seats.Sudip Roy Barman, who came out of the BJP, saved the face of the Congress by winning the Agartala seat. The minister in Biplab Deb's cabinet returned to his old party after a rift with the chief minister. He was the Congress' bet in the by-election. However, the BJP won the remaining three seats.The results of by-elections to four assembly constituencies in Tripura were announced on Sunday. This is the first time Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha has contested the polls and won. Manik got 16,870 votes from Baradwali constituency. Two-time Congress MLA Ashish Saha got 10,930 votes.The Trinamool, which made Tripura a bird's eye, could not produce promising results in any of the four seats. They have a terrible result in all centers. For example, in Town Baradwali constituency, Trinamool's heavyweight candidate Sanhita Bhattacharya got only 986 votes. On the other hand, the Left candidate got 3,376 votes. In fact, by-elections to four assembly constituencies in Tripura on Sunday also saw a saffron storm. The Trinamool, on the other hand, got an average of 3 per cent of the votes.After the Tripura bypolls, there is a hint of tension as the BJP has been accused of attacking the Congress headquarters in Agartala. However, they denied the allegations."The people who voted for me, I thank them. This is the victory of BJP workers. I expected the margin to be a bit more. However, the results prove the understanding between the CPI(M) and Congress. We will work accordingly in the future, but people did not take this understanding in a good way," the chief minister told reporters .

Drones Carry Water For Flood

submerged after the state received heavy rainfall over the past month leading to artificial floods and landslides.So far, the death toll due to calamities has risen to 121 with four more lives lost in the last 24 hours, according to a report from the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA).

CSJMC Launches Talk Show 'Nazariya'

series of long-form discussions to bring forth less talked about but critical issues on diverse local and world issues. The talk show is a part of their current 45-day campaign on drug abuse and rehabilitation awareness titled Hopes UpDrugsDown which began on May 15 and will continue till June 29 to accelerate the message of the importance of seeking help against drug abuse and lasting benefits that rehabilitation provide. This is the second phase after a one-month long Phase-I starter campaign in February this year.A first-of-its-kind in Dibrugarh, the debut episode was held with a panel of esteemed members comprising of IPS Shwetank Mishra, Superintendent of Police of Dibrugarh district, Dr. Pranit Kumar Chaudhury, Former HOD, Dept. of Psychiatry, AMCH Dibrugarh, Plabona Borah Goswami President, Pratyavartan NGO, Dibrugarh, Narayan Upadhyay, Secretary, Pratyavartan NGO, Dibrugarh, Rashmirekha Changmai, Assistant Professor, Centre for Studies in Journalism and Mass Communication, Dibrugarh University and Dr.Trishna Duarah, Assistant Professor, Department of English, DHSK College, Dibrugarh.The talk show will air on Dibrugarh 24X7's social media platforms as the first episode of 'Nazariya' on June 26 to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.Commenting on the issue, Shwetank Mishra said,"The issue of drugs and substance abuse is a serious issue in the state of Assam and Assam Police is working dedicatedly to address this. But, at the same time, much work on awareness and education needs to be done which is of utmost importance from not just the individual's end but the public over all and take cognizance of the shared duty towards each other."Dr.P.K.Chaudhury, also a Drug De-addiction specialist, said,"We can start by using the term 'substance abuse' instead of 'drug abuse' since drug is a commonly misplaced word. The path to rehabilitation is an acutely intensive process and for it to be called a success, all stakeholders including educators, the police force, medical practitioners must all come together to work towards it sensitively. I must congratulate the organizers for their effortsin bringing this conversation to limelight which I say, must be a continued dialogue and not end here."As part of their assignment, the students of CSJMC specialising in Public Relations, have been using their subject of study of communications to bring difficult conversations around social causes to the table within Dibrugarh district.'Nazariya' collaborated with Lions Club Dibrugarh and NE-On Tours as their Volunteer partner, Tasty Treat as Food and Beverage Partner and Finewoods as Furniture Partner.The month-long campaign strives to offer an open space for respectful conversations around drug abuse and the address the reasons behind the taboo around seeking rehabilitation and aims to occupy a significant place in the public consciousness for the future.

PM Sheikh Hasina inaugurates

said."This bridge is not just bricks, cement, iron, and concrete? This bridge is our pride, a symbol of our capacity, our strength and our dignity. This bridge belongs to the people of Bangladesh," she said.The Padma Bridge project witnessed several engineering wonders as well as technological challenges. It emerged as the wonder structure for Bangladesh and saw the use of state-of-the-art machinery and know-how.The project was initially expected to be funded by a consortium led by the World Bank. In 2012, it cancelled the proposed credit saying it had "credible evidence" of high-level corruption among Bangladeshi officials.Bangladesh has all through denied these allegations and preferred not to approach the international global lender for funding.

15 rebel Shiv Sena MLAs get Y-plus

Shinde claimed to have the support of more than two-thirds of the Shiv Sena MLAs.Even as the BJP has officially kept itself away from the Shiv Sena's internal tussle, it is being reported that rebel leader Shinde, who is camping in Guwahati and Maharashtra former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis may have met Union Home Minister Amit Shah at an undisclosed location in Gujarat's Vadodara.

PLI scheme for apparel manufacturing on cards: Piyush Goyal

New Delhi, June 26: Textiles minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said that the government will soon put up before the Cabinet a scheme for production linked incentive scheme for apparel manufacturing.At the SIMA Textfair in Coimbatore, he also said that India and Canada have agreed to finalise an Early Harvest Agreement before the end of 2022."We are keen to support the apparel manufacturing sector and we are considering to come out with another PLI scheme," Goyal said, adding that dialogue is going on among the textiles ministry, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade and Niti Aayog.The government has announced PLI scheme, with an outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore, for over a dozen sectors including man-made fibre, technical textiles, white goods, medical devices, and automobiles and auto components."In consultation with industry participants, we will be shortly devising a scheme which we will put up before the Cabinet for their approval," Goyal said.Goyal, who is also commerce and industry minister said that India has already finalized two free trade agreements (FTA) with the UAE and Australia, and is now "fast progressing to finalise FTAs with Israel, UK, Canada and the EU. We will get access to these developed markets which are more competitive, invite investment in a big way into India"The GCC, EFTA and Eurasian Economic Union countries also asking India to conclude FTAs with them. We are confident that these FTAs will give a competitive edge," the minister said.On the National Textile Corporation, he said: "We should allow the private sector...we are examining whether NTC can run professionally and profitably. So far it hasn't been."Citing the 40% growth in textile exports last year, he said the target is to double domestic production to Rs 20 lakh crore in five years and triple the exports to Rs 8 lakh crore (\$100 billion) in 5 years from about \$44 billion now."Brands like GAP, Zara, Tommy Hilfiger, H&M and Puma are clients of garment manufacturers in Tiruppur," Goyal said.When asked about any plan to extend waiver of customs duty on cotton imports beyond September 30, Goyal said that cotton textile prices are easing and "I do not think there is a need to extend it beyond September, but if required, we may extend it for a month".On the Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) parks scheme, he said that several states including Tamil Nadu have put up allocations to set up Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel parks and the ministry is assessing those applications.

GST Council to discuss law changes to facilitate provision for GST tribunals

New Delhi, June 26 : The Goods and Service Taxes (GST) Council is set to discuss law changes to facilitate provision for setting up GST tribunals, sources told CNBC-TV18. The Council will also discuss a report by a Group of Ministers (GoM) on online gaming, casinos and race courses.The GoM has recommended imposition of 28 percent GST on casinos, race courses, online gaming and lottery should be uniform both in rates and valuation norms. It said that for the purpose of the levy, no distinction should be made for the activities on grounds of game of skill or game of chance.It recommends that in the case of online gaming, the full value of consideration will include contest entry fee, paid by the player for participation etc, while in the case of Race Courses, the full value of bets pooled in the totalisator and placed with bookmakers should be considered.In case of casinos, the full face value of chips or coins purchased from a casino by players will be considered. Once GST is levied on the purchase of chips or coins (on face value), no further tax will apply on the value of bets placed in each round of betting, including those played w/ winnings of previous rounds.Further, the entry fee to casinos including the price of one or more other supplies such as food and beverages, are recommended at 28 percent GST. And any other additional service or optional supplies made independently of the entry ticket shall be taxed at the rates as applicable on such supplies.

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking observed in Biswanath College

Assam Rising
Biswanath Chariali, June 26: Biswanath College observed 'International day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking' under the aegis of the IQAC, Biswanath College. Biswanath District Police collaborated the event. The awareness event was attended by Superintendent of Police, Additional Superintendent of Police, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Police personnel of Biswanath district apart from the teachers, students, employees of Biswanath College and media persons. Earlier, Dr Chinta Mani Sharma, Principal, Biswanath College who chaired the meeting welcomed the guests and deliberated on the menace of drugs and asked the students to keep away from drugs. Mr Nabin Singh, Superintendent of Police, Biswanath district also welcomed the audience and elaborated on the disastrous effect of drug abuse and illicit trafficking and urged the gathering to say no to drugs and to create awareness among the community members about the menace of drug. Mr



Singh also read out the pledge for the day to the audience. He said that the present govt has shown zero tolerance to drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Dr Bikram Sutradhar, Senior Resident of Psychiatry of LGBRIMH graced the occasion as a Resource Person. Through power point presentation Dr Sutradhar spoke on various aspects of drugs, its effect on human body and mind, various preventive and protective measures as well as treatments available for the drug addicts. He further interacted with students, teachers and other persons and quenched the queries. Ms Rituparna Dhar, another Resource Person from LGBRIMH also dwelt at length about the nature and affects of drugs, preventive measures, mental health of the addicts and the curative measures available. It is worth mentioning that Biswanath College has signed MoU with Lokpriya Gopinath Bardoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health(LGBRIMH) with an aim to provide emotional counseling, psychological counseling to keep students away from stress and mental anxiety and to foster an anxiety free environment for the students. Mr Kulendra Nath Deka, Additional Superintendent of Police conducted the interaction session with the gathering and especially interacted with two former drug addicts and some students. Two former drug addicts who now run Rehabilitation centres for curing the drug addicts shared their experiences with the audience and asserted that drug addicts could be brought back to the mainstream through proper counselling and guidance. Mr Jayanta Baruah, DSP, Biswanath Head Quarter also graced the occasion to make the awareness programme successful. Dr Naresh Thakur, Coordinator, IQAC, Biswanath College compered the programme with active support from Dr Debashis Sarmah, Dr Lalit Baruah, both Asstt Professors of Physics and Dr Rinku Moni Kalita, Asstt Professor of Botany.

International day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking: Drugs and other narcotics substances worth of Rs 15 crores disposed in Nagaon



Assam Rising
Nagaon, June 26: On occasion of the International day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, the district police administration ceremonially destroyed a huge quantities of drugs and other narcotics substances of

worth Rs 15 crores at Barhampur stadium today. Sources from district police administration here said the drugs as well as other narcotics substances which were destroyed, had been seized from drugs dealers as well as other peddlers of the district during last few months by Nagaon police. Superintendent of police, Nagaon Leena Doley, additional superintendent of police (headquarters) Dhruva Bora initiated the entire programme and destroyed the poisonous substances by rolling roller on it, sources said adding that during the programme, police disposed heroin 1.652 kilograms, brown sugar 69.33 gms, morphine 202 gms, 1.63,880 numbers of tablets, 7,948 bottles of cough syrups and 35,741 kilograms cannabis. The programme was done through district drugs disposal committee, sources added further.

Yogi Adityanath roars after Azamgarh, Rampur bypoll wins: Double-engine won, caste-dynasty lost

Azamgarh, June 26 : UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today said that BJP's impressive win in Azamgarh (Lok Sabha) and Rampur (Vidhan Sabha) is a result of welfare policies of the 'Double Engine BJP Government'."The historic victory in the by-election in Azamgarh Sadar Lok Sabha seat is the result of the welfare policies of the 'Double Engine BJP Government' under the leadership of the respected Prime Minister. This victory is dedicated to all the hardworking workers of BJP. Thanks people of Azamgarh!" Yogi Adityanath tweeted.Addressing a press conference later, Adityanath said that "People have sent message they aren't ready to accept dynastic and casteist parties who incite communal tensions". Adityanath announced that BJP candidate Ghanshyam Lodhi won from Rampur and Dinesh Lal Yadav 'Nirhau' from Azamgarh. However, an official declaration of the bypoll result in Azamgarh is awaited."The results of by-elections have given a signal about the outcome of the 2024 general elections," the chief minister added. The bypolls in Uttar Pradesh were necessitated by resignations of Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and party leader Azam Khan from Azamgarh and Rampur seats, respectively.

A third Tour de France would make Tadej Pogacar one of cycling's true greats

London, June 26 : It is rare for any cyclist to win the Tour de France twice, which is why it marks the point where a rider is truly established as one of the biggest names of the great race. A third Tour win is different again, however: only the very greatest have managed the feat. That is why the next four weeks hold such significance for Tadej Pogacar. Win that third Tour and "Pog" will be elevated to a select pantheon. The five-times winners - Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault, Miguel Indurain - are well known, while the disgraced former seven-times winner Lance Armstrong is simply notorious. But Louison Bobet (1953-55), Greg



LeMond (1986, 1989, 1990) and the four-times winner Chris Froome (2013, 2015-17) form the minute "band of three". That magic third Grande Boucle looks to be well within the 23-year-old Slovenian's reach given how

he dominated his home Tour a few days ago, taking two stage wins and the overall victory, as well as engineering two further stage triumphs for his main mountain lieutenant Rafal Majka. With only five stages

to play for, there weren't many crumbs for the other teams to pick up. That success took Pogacar's victory count this season to 10 and mirrored the dominance that has marked his progress everywhere he has raced in 2022. The UAE Tour, the Tirreno-Adriatico stage race, and the Strade Bianche one-day Classic all fell to him in the spring like saplings before a well-oiled chainsaw and he came within an ace of adding two of the biggest Monuments, Milan-Sanremo and the Tour of Flanders. The picture all this paints is of a young man who has rapidly matured and grown in confidence since his first Tour win in the Covid-delayed race of

Gareth Bale confirms Los Angeles FC move when Real contract expires

London, June 26 : Wales forward Gareth Bale has confirmed he is set to join Major League Soccer side Los Angeles FC when his contract with Real Madrid expires. The five-time Champions League winner is soon to be a free agent and is looking for a new club ahead of playing for Wales at the World Cup in Qatar, which starts in November. Bale, 32, had been linked with a move to hometown club Cardiff following the end of a nine-year stay at the Bernabéu, but will now continue his career with a switch to the United States. The Wales captain confirmed his move to LAFC, currently top of Major League Soccer's Western Conference, via his



official Twitter account. Bale wrote: "See you soon, Los Angeles. @LAFc" with a video of him in a club shirt and cap. The Welsh forward is thought to have agreed an initial one-year deal, which includes the option of an 18-month contract extension and will see him join former Italy captain Giorgio Chiellini as part of the LAFC squad. Bale and Chiellini should complete their moves to MLS when the competition's 'Secondary Transfer Window' opens on July 7, so would be cleared to make a debut against the

LA Galaxy. Last week, Bale had excited Cardiff fans by visiting the Sky Bet Championship club's Vale of Glamorgan base on their first day of pre-season training. Wales captain Bale had fuelled speculation he might prefer being closer to home following comments that the standard of football he played before the World Cup should not prove a decisive factor in any move. It is understood Bale - reportedly having earned around £600,000 per week at Real Madrid - had several options on the table, with former club Tottenham and big-spending Newcastle also suggested as potential destinations. Speaking while on recent international duty with Wales, Bale said: "I don't really know if the standard makes too much of a difference. A football game is a football game. I feel like I'll never really lose my quality on the ball. I guess it's a conversation to be had. I need time to think what's the best move for me, my family, my kids, and hopefully we'll sort that over the summer. I have options."

Frankie Dettori wins on his first ride since split from Gosden stable

London, June 26 : On his first ride since taking a "sabbatical" from his relationship with John and Thady Gosden, Frankie Dettori partnered Lezoo to victory at Newmarket. It became apparent that all was not well with the Dettori and Gosden association on Thursday when the jockey's name appeared alongside the Ralph Beckett-trained filly in the Maureen Brittain Memorial Empress Fillies' Stakes, but not the Gosden-trained horses on the same card. By Friday evening Gosden senior announced that the pair had paused their

won going away by a length and three-quarters. Despite producing a trademark flying dismount in the winners' enclosure afterwards, Dettori was reserved when speaking afterwards. "I haven't been away, I've only been off for five days," he said. "I'm really touched by the support though and I didn't expect that, so it was great." Dettori has a close relationship with owner Marc Chan and his racing manager Jamie McCalmont described the victory as an "emotional" one. "I don't need to say anything do I! It feels good



working relationship - without closing the door for good - but if Dettori has shown anything during his illustrious career, it is that he is a dangerous man with a point to prove. It briefly looked like Lezoo had a mountain to climb as Malrescia kicked clear at Headquarters, but Dettori's timing was on point and she

and it's great to see him have this reception," he said. "I'm quite emotional, it's like winning a Group One race and it's a Listed race. What more can I say, he made the horse great. Let's leave it at that. I wouldn't know Marc Chan if it wasn't for Frankie, what more can I tell you."

Nadal's fitness boost provides lift in quest to win calendar year grand slam

Paris, June 26 : Rafael Nadal has expressed his satisfaction about the development of his chronically injured foot since undergoing radiofrequency ablation treatment this month as he chases a calendar year grand slam for the first time. After winning his 14th French Open title with his foot under anaesthesia because of the degenerative syndrome he has suffered from since his youth, Nadal underwent treatment a day later. The 36-year-old slowly made his way back to action afterwards, first training on the grass courts of the Mallorca Championships, an hour drive from his home in Manacor, then taking part in the Hurlingham exhibition this past week. 2022 Wimbledon Preview - Friday June 24th - All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club - Nick Kyrgios practices ahead of the 2022 Wimbledon Championship at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Wimbledon. Picture date: Friday June 24, 2022. PA Photo. See PA story TENNIS Wimbledon. Photo credit should read: Adam Davy/PA Wire. Editorial use only. No commercial use without prior written consent



of the AELTC. Still image use only - no moving images to emulate broadcast. No superimposing or removal of sponsor/ad logos. In his exhibition matches against Stan Wawrinka and Félix Auger-Aliassime, he did not appear to have any physical problems and was much more preoccupied with perfecting his game. On Saturday, Nadal explained that he is particularly satisfied by the operation's impact on his day-to-day life so far, even if he is still cautious about how it may develop. "First of all, I can walk normal most of the days, almost every

single day. That's for me the main issue. When I wake up, I don't have this pain that I was having for the last year and a half, so quite happy about that," he said. "And second thing, practising. I have been in overall better, honestly, no? Since the last two weeks, I didn't have one day of these terrible days that I can't move at all. Of course, [some] days better; days a little bit worse. The feeling and overall feelings are positive. "They are particularly positive developments as Nadal reckons with an opportunity that will likely never come again. In his 20th season on

Eddie Jones' England must give it a real rip if spirit of 2016 is to be revived

London, June 26 : One by one the traditional pillars of shared Anglo-Australian culture are slipping away. Dame Edna Everage has long since hung up her frocks and the final episode of Neighbours is due to be aired on 1 August. Almost the last of the old-school entertainers still working the room is Eddie Jones, back on familiar soil and as keen as ever to enjoy his farewell Test series as England's head coach. With no July tours scheduled next year before the Rugby World Cup and every chance of one-off, home-and-away Tests in a Nations League

Australia under his stewardship. Outback droughts have to end some time, though, and this time around the Wallabies could be in a better place than the visitors. If the Rugby Football Union felt there was "solid progress" made in this year's Six Nations, it was not always obvious and the less said about last week's Barbarians' tour warm-up the better. The Wallabies have been quietly regrouping under Dave Rennie with some improvement visible at Super Rugby level. The Japan-based trio of Samu Kerevi, Quade Cooper and Marika Koroibete are



Keighley continue to break down barriers with unique Pride event

London, June 26 : Nestled on the edge of the Pennine countryside, not too far from Bradford, Keighley is hardly the first place that springs to mind when you think of the Pride movement. But on Sunday, the small West Yorkshire town stages one of the biggest parties it has ever thrown. A rainbow flag permanently flies outside Cougar Park these days but Ryan O'Neill remembers what life was like growing up in Keighley in the 1990s when he was coming to terms with his sexuality while supporting the town's rugby league team.

"I was totally in the closet when I used to go watch," he says. "Back then, people would say things on the terraces and you wondered how you could ever be yourself at a rugby match if you were gay." Keighley Cougars were owned by O'Neill's father, Mick, in their boom period of the mid-1990s and often attracted crowds of 5,000, around an eighth of the town's population at the time. It was dubbed "Cougarmania" but when the club were refused entry into the first Super League season, in 1996, the club went into



decline and in 2019 were on the verge of going out of business as they languished in the third professional tier, League 1. That is when O'Neill and his family saw an opportunity not only to step in and revitalise the team's prospects on the field but change attitudes off it, too. By 2019, O'Neill had relocated to London and married his long-term partner, Kaue Garcia. They became Europe's first openly gay owners of a professional sports club and one of their first goals was a bold one: stage a Pride event alongside

a rugby league match. "Growing up in Keighley I had a difficult teenage life, when being gay wasn't exactly something you shouted about," O'Neill says. "I remember hearing about an LGBT group meeting above a shop in Keighley in the 1990s and it wasn't exactly open, so we wanted people to feel as though they could come watch rugby league and be open about their sexuality. "There was certainly trepidation on Garcia's behalf, who had never even heard of rugby league, let

alone the Cougars, before O'Neill convinced him to get involved in the takeover. "It was worrying," he says. "Ryan admitted he didn't know how people would perceive us or the Pride events but it's been great. "We worried if anyone would show up for the first Pride game in 2019 but now it's a well-known party around the town." That first Pride event was a success and after a Covid-interrupted period, Keighley's annual Pride match returns on Sunday, bigger and better than ever. Keighley will play in a kit that has the Pride rainbow flag sported across the middle, local drag queens will perform live and the club have launched a music video featuring LGBTQ+ icon Billy Porter and the players. "To have macho rugby players dancing around in rainbow gear takes some courage," O'Neill says, smiling. It is certainly a far cry from his childhood memories. "When myself and Kaue took on the club, we thought we could make more of an impact than just building a team that was successful on the field," he says. "I hid in the closet for too long so I thought that if I could come back home and make people's lives better, the Cougars can help do that.

format becoming the future norm, the looming three-Test contest may prove to be the last of its type played by any England team in Australia. The constantly rolling narrative and competitive ebb and flow have played such a pivotal role in rugby's heritage that the alternative had better be good. All of which is further sharpening the appetite on both sides with the newly minted Ella-Mobbs Cup - formerly the Cook Cup - at stake. Last time England were in Australia, in 2016, their convincing 3-0 victory was among the finer achievements of Jones's tenure. Having just won a Six Nations grand slam, England were consistently up for the fight in all regards. As he bluntly put it in his autobiography: "I'm an Australian and so I know you've got to stand up to the Aussies. You've got to bully the bully. That's the only way you get on top of them." It possibly explains why England have won all eight of their Tests against

available and, in common with the upper house of the Australian parliament, to which the former Wallaby David Pocock has just been elected a senator, there is a mood of cautious optimism. While England did beat Australia 32-15 in November, the margin was inflated by Jamie Blamire's late try and a battered Wallaby side were hanging after a long year. A penalty count of 18-9 in England's favour plus two Australian yellow cards did not help either and Australia were ultimately bogged down in quicksand of their own making. Much, then, depends on the energy and dynamism England can generate up front when the series commences in Perth next Saturday. Jones frequently makes cricketing reference to the Waca where the opening sessions were all about extreme pace and bounce. On the other side of the Swan River at the city's modern sporting cathedral, England also need a fast start if the spirit of 2016 is to be revived.

Mark Webber backs 'phenomenal' Max Verstappen to cruise to another F1 title

London, June 26 : Max Verstappen is set to seal a second Formula One world championship in no short order, believes the former driver Mark Webber. The Dutchman's Red Bull team are firing on all cylinders and Webber, who won eight races with them, is convinced they have a car and driver that are unmatched this season. Verstappen won his first F1 title in 2021 and is already in a strong position this year. With nine races of a 22-race

season complete he leads his teammate Sergio Pérez by 46 points and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc by 49 points. After six wins, including five from the last six races, Webber predicted Verstappen would close out the championship comfortably. "Red Bull will continue to dominate this championship," he said. "They have a car that is very good on downforce levels, on all compounds of tyre. It's like a tennis player on all surfaces or a golfer on all holes, short, long, chipping, putting,

driving, the Red Bull can do everything. Red Bull have pretty much an answer for anything at the moment, Max could wrap it up with three races to go." Webber drove for Red Bull between 2007 and 2013, including the period alongside Sebastian Vettel when the team won four consecutive drivers' and constructors' titles. He went on to drive for Porsche in the World Endurance Championship, which he won alongside Timo Bernhard and Brendon Hartley in 2015. The

45-year-old was speaking at the launch of the new Porsche 963, unveiled at the Goodwood Festival of Speed, with which the marque will return to the top category of sportscar racing next season, including their attempt to secure a 20th win at the Le Mans 24 Hours. The Australian was no stranger to team orders while at Red Bull and the team have been clear they will favour Verstappen over Pérez this season. However, Webber believed the Dutchman

had proved he was already firmly in the ascendant at the last two rounds in Baku and Montreal. "I like Sergio a lot but over the course of the season, over time, Max will just find a way to start accumulating bigger points," he said. "In Azerbaijan Max drove away down the road, it was a very emphatic victory. Then in Canada it's raining, it's dry, it's cold, it's tricky and Max all weekend was phenomenal.

Can World Number 1,204 Win Wimbledon? Serena Williams Eyes Greatest Triumph

Wimbledon, June 26 : Ranked a lowly 1,204 in the world and without a competitive singles match in 12 months, Serena Williams will sweep into Wimbledon targeting what would be her greatest triumph. The seven-time champion at the All England Club will also be chasing down a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title. The odds have rarely been so stacked against the great American who can become the first unseeded woman to win Wimbledon. With her 41st birthday just three months away, Williams hasn't played a singles tie on tour since limping out of Wimbledon in tears in the first round against Aliaksandra Sasnovich in 2021. The American star has been frustratingly marooned on 23 Slams since winning a seventh Australian Open in 2017 while pregnant. She was runner-up at Wimbledon and the US Open in 2018 and 2019 as Margaret Court's all-time record of 24 majors remained out of touch. "I didn't retire. I just needed to heal physically, mentally. I had no plans. I just didn't know when I would



come back. I didn't know how I would come back," said the 40-year-old on Saturday. Williams warmed up for Wimbledon by playing doubles with Ons Jabeur at Eastbourne and starts her All England Club campaign against France's Harmony Tan, ranked 113 and who is making her tournament debut. When Williams played her first Wimbledon in 1998, current world number one Iga Swiatek was still three years away from being born. The 21-year-old Pole arrives at the tournament with a second

French Open title secured and on a 35-match win streak. That equalled Venus Williams' 35 straight victories in 2000 for the longest winning run by a woman in the 21st century. It also bettered Serena's mark of 34. "I saw Serena on Friday, I was pretty overwhelmed," said Swiatek who has six titles to her name in 2022. "Just seeing her around is great because she's such a legend, there's nobody that has done so much in tennis. Wimbledon will test her ability to keep the run going

where last year's fourth round was her best performance even though she was junior champion in 2018. "Grass is always tricky. Factually like the part that I have no expectations there. It's something kind of refreshing," she said. Swiatek faces Croatian qualifier Jana Fett in the first round on Tuesday. The women's draw remains open with defending champion Ashleigh Barty having retired earlier this year. Four-time major winner Naomi Osaka, rarely a serious threat on grass, has withdrawn with an

Achilles injury. The Japanese star, the world's highest-earning sportswoman, had already expressed reservations over taking part. She feared the status of Wimbledon had been reduced to that of an exhibition tournament after the ATP and WTA stripped it of ranking points. That was in response to the ban imposed on Russian and Belarusian players in the aftermath of the invasion of Ukraine. Three of the top 20 women will therefore miss Wimbledon-- Aryna Sabalenka, a semi-finalist last year, 2018 quarter-finalist Daria Kasatkina and Victoria Azarenka, a 2011 and 2012 semi-finalist. None of the top five have ever made it to the semi-finals. Ons Jabeur reached the last-eight in 2021, Paula Badosa, like Swiatek, has yet to progress beyond the fourth round. Second-ranked Anett Kontaveit and world number five Maria Sakkari have still to get past the last 32. British hopes of a first women's champion since Virginia Wade in 1977 rest with surprise US Open winner Emma Raducanu who comes into the tournament nursing a side strain.

Emma Raducanu fit and ready to go at Wimbledon after injury doubts

Washington, June 26 : Emma Raducanu says she is "ready to go" as she fine tunes her preparations before her first Wimbledon as a grand slam champion and the leading British women's player. "I'm very much looking forward to being back here at Wimbledon," said Raducanu. "I think that it's the most special place to be playing tennis. Just a very inspiring and motivating place to be. Definitely looking forward to stepping out on court on Monday. Yeah, ready to go." Raducanu will face the Belgian Alison Van Uytvanck in the second match on Centre Court on Monday, marking her first time on Wimbledon's biggest court. Since the very first game of her opening match of the grass season, when Raducanu suffered a side strain that forced her to retire in Nottingham, the 19-year-old has been trying to recover. "Definitely there were moments earlier in the week when we weren't sure," she said. "We were sort of going to see how the week goes. But it went pretty well. And, yeah, now it's full steam ahead. Everyone's really looking forward to it. Yeah, we're all ready." After cancelling a practice session with Garbiñe Muguruza on Friday, Raducanu said she and her team "just had to react to the

situation" and she noted that she had trained earlier. "We all collectively thought it was the best decision to pass on the afternoon session as well, and stay fresh and ready to go." Although her preparation has been dominated by injury speculation, Raducanu is returning one year on from her breakthrough run to the fourth round after receiving a late wildcard. "This year I get such a special feeling walking around the grounds," she said. "I definitely feel that people are behind me. Even



from some of the people working on the tournament, they're like: 'You got this.' Just cheering me on. That's pretty special in itself." As Raducanu prepares for her second Wimbledon, Serena Williams is unexpectedly back for her 21st after winning two doubles matches alongside Ons Jabeur in Eastbourne. Williams, who starts against the world No 113, Harmony Tan, will compete in singles for the first time since retiring in the first round last year. Williams returned to competition in

doubles only this past week in Eastbourne, partnering Jabeur as they won two matches and reached the semi-final before the latter withdrew. On Saturday Jabeur, the No 3 singles player, confirmed the withdrawal was precautionary. In the time away, Williams has become extremely active with her venture capital company, Serena Ventures, in addition to her contribution to the King Richard movie about her father. Williams joked that she feels more like a venture capitalist who plays tennis.

Coco Gauff : 'I don't think I can change the world, but I can change some people in it'

London, June 26 : It is three years since a 15-year-old Coco Gauff burst on to the scene at Wimbledon, qualifying for the main draw of a grand slam for the first time, knocking out Venus Williams in the first round and making it all the way to the last 16. This year, she arrives at Wimbledon with a career-high ranking of 12, fresh from reaching her first grand slam final at the French Open, with many tipping her to go one further. For many players that pressure would be too much to handle but Gauff is not your usual teenager. Even at 15 she seemed unusually mature in her handling of the occasion and her many media duties, honest and happy to speak her mind, not afraid to be herself whatever the subject. It is a trait that few leading sportsmen and women have. Many are often terrified to be honest, perhaps through fear that their words may be used against them or taken out of context. Gauff actively chooses to take a stand on matters much bigger than tennis. As a 16-year-old she gave an unscripted speech against police brutality toward Black people as part of the Black Lives Matter movement. Last month, after reaching the French Open final she wrote on the camera: "Peace. End gun violence. Coco." As a child, her father told her she could change the world with her racket. After her semi-final win in Paris, Gauff said he told her: "I'm proud of you and love what you wrote on the camera." She does her research, so she

knows what she's talking about. "For a lot of things, before I speak out on something, I try to make sure I have all the information," Gauff says. "If I don't know the answer, how I feel about my opinion on a certain situation, I'd just rather say I don't have enough information. I'm thankful for the platform that I have and I know how many

group of women who in 1970 broke away and founded the forerunner of the WTA Tour. "So I'm super thankful to get a shout out from her." I met her a couple of times, but every time I see her or meet her I get chills just because I'm super grateful that she made that decision then, because it's kind of hard to go



people that it reaches. I'm aware of that. So I try to make sure I use it to speak out about issues that can maybe slightly change some things. You know, I don't think I'm going to change the world. I'm not delusional, but I think it could change some people in the world." Her words and actions have caught the attention of Billie Jean King, the 39-time grand slam champion across singles and doubles who led the foundation of the WTA and who has been an activist, leader and motivator for the younger players throughout her life. Greatness recognises greatness and in Paris this month King explained why she admires Gauff so much. "I love the fact that Coco uses tennis as a platform for social change and to help others," King said. "Of course I like that. I always want every generation, both men and women, to step up, because sports is politics. Politics is sport. So anybody who doesn't think so, I don't agree with them. They could be right; I could be wrong. Sports is politics. Because people go, well, you're in sports. It's different." Gauff was touched by King's words. "I probably wouldn't even have the opportunity to play, at least [not] to the extent that I am playing, if it wasn't for her and the other Original 9," she says of the

against the norm. They had nothing secured. So having someone like her actually acknowledge me and congratulate me and say she's proud of me, not only how I am on the court, [but] off of court, means a lot to me. As a high-profile young Black athlete, Gauff is an easy target for internet trolls but it doesn't seem to bother her. Her message on the camera in Paris, she said, was about trying to reach as many people as possible. "I don't really care about the praise or the backlash," she said. "Obviously there was some backlash. People are like: 'Oh, what's one message going to change anything?' And I mean, I understand me writing on the camera isn't going to change or stop gun violence from happening. But it's all about getting the message out there and getting to the people in office who have the actual power to change this." "I know one thing is not going to change anything, but it's not about me. It's about the bigger picture. So when I write these things, I don't care about the praise or the backlash that I get because I didn't write it for me. I wrote it for those people who lost their lives not only this year, but in the past.

Rohit Sharma, Team India Captain, Tests Positive For COVID-19

New Delhi, June 26 : Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma has tested positive for COVID-19, just days before the start of the rearranged Test match against England. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) informed through an official release and also posted the information on its Twitter handle. "#TeamIndia Captain Mr Rohit Sharma has tested positive for COVID-19 following a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) conducted on Saturday. He is currently in isolation

at the team hotel and is under the care of the BCCI Medical Team," BCCI wrote on Twitter. Rohit Sharma was part of the team that is taking on Leicestershire in a 4-day tour game ahead of the decisive Test match against England, that will begin from July 1 at the Edgbaston in Birmingham. Rohit batted in the first innings on Thursday, but didn't come out to bat in India's second innings on Saturday. He scored 25 runs, before getting out in the first innings of the warm-up match. India

leads the Test series against England 2-1. Rohit had earlier captained India to a 2-0 home Test series win over Sri Lanka this year. If he recovers in time for the match in Edgbaston, then it would be his first Test match as captain of the Indian team away from home. Virat Kohli-led India had taken a 2-1 lead against England last year but the fifth and final test had to be cancelled due to a Covid outbreak in the Indian camp. The BCCI and ECB decided to rearrange the remaining Test

match this year. India will also play three T20Is and

three ODIs on the tour apart from the Test match.







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