



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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Gislaine Maxwell
prosecutors seek up to 55...

02

BBC diversity group rails at
decision to keep Michael ...

07



NEWS IN BRIEF

'The Mirana' hotel Assam Rising Guwahati, June 28 :

The Gauhati High Court on Monday stayed the cancellation order of trade licence of 'The Mirana' hotel issued by the Tinsukia Municipal Board till the next hearing scheduled on July 21, 2022. Justice Suman Shyam after hearing both the parties and the prayer for interim relief decided to stay the order dated June 17, 2022 relating to the cancellation of trade licence. The development comes after the counsels for the petitioner in Guwahati, Senior Counsel D.P. Chaliha and Counsel S. Islam, contended before the high court that the impugned order violated "the principle of natural justice as well as the statutory provision of the law" by not giving prior notice, sufficient time and definite reasons.

Doloo Tea Estate Assam Rising Guwahati, June 28 :

The authorities of the Doloo Tea Estate in Cachar district of Assam has announced complete lock-out of the tea garden with immediate effect. The closure of the tea garden was announced in an order passed by the Deputy Manager of the tea estate Supriya Sikdar on Tuesday. As per the order, the closure of the tea garden has been announced as a large number of workers of the tea garden were disobeying the daily deployment order of the garden management and engaging themselves in the work at their sweet-mill, leading to complete lawlessness in the garden.

Road accident Assam Rising Guwahati, June 28 :

Four persons have been killed after a vehicle fell into gorge at Kaliabor in Assam while one was critically injured. The Honda Accent vehicle bearing registration number AS 03 AE 8003 lost control as the National Highway 37 in Kanchanjuri under Bagori police outpost has been submerged under water while the vehicle fell into the gorge. Four persons have died on the spot while one critically injured. The incident took place at 8 am on Tuesday morning while the vehicle was on its way to Jorhat from Guwahati. The deceased have been identified as Sachin Bordoloi (18), Lohit Das (23), Risabh Das (19) and Rahul Senapati.

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Takes Stock of Flood Situation in Bajali



Assam Rising Guwahati, June 28 :

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday visited Kuwara and Medhikuchi areas under Bajali district and assessed the damages caused by the floods due to the overflowing water of the

Kaldia River. Sarma also interacted with the affected people and assured them of all possible assistance. Medhikuchi has witnessed immense destruction following the breaching of Pahumara embankment. Around 35 families were homeless following the flood havoc. Chief Minister

Sarma visited flood relief camps at No 425 Medhikuchi Model Primary School and Primary Health Camp at Bhabanipur. He said that Rs 9 crores assistance has been sanctioned for strengthening the embankment of Pahumara River and construction of a proper road. He also assured of

providing assistance to reconstruct damaged roads. The chief minister also inspected the flood situation at Charalpara Nayapara at Bhabanipur and took note of the hardships faced by the people. Sarma was accompanied by Minister of Panchayat and Rural Development Ranjit Kumar Dass. The flood situation in Assam remains grim as eight more people lost their lives on Monday, taking the death toll to 135. On Monday, five people died in the Cachar district, and one each from Kamrup Metro, Morigaon, and Nagaon, while one person was reported missing in the Cachar district, as per the

Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA). According to officials, over 22 lakh people have got affected in Assam. Meanwhile, a slight improvement was witnessed in the state as the total affected population declined to 21.52 lakh in 22 districts as against the previous day's 22.21 lakh in 28 districts. 1. According to Nagaon deputy commissioner Nisarg Hivare, the flood situation is grim in Assam's Nagaon district. Speaking to reporters, he said that they have sent three-day relief materials to the people and are now preparing to transport relief

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Cancer Hospital Forced To Give Chemotherapy On Roads due to Flood



Assam Rising Guwahati, June 28 :

An inundated cancer hospital in flood-hit Assam is publicly appealing for funds and essentials after being inundated due to incessant rains. The 150-bed Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in Silchar has been forced to even

administer chemotherapy on the road outside its premises as several hospital buildings are water-logged and roads leading to it are also inaccessible without a boat. Hospital staff and well-wishers are appealing to the administration to provide motor boats and essential items

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Prof. Mukhi attends 20th convocation of DU

Universities should set protocol for wise use of natural resources: Prof. Mukhi



Assam Rising Guwahati, June 28 :

Assam Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi observed that the institutes of higher education should be the centre of knowledge and development and the students should be the nodal agents of development and creators of wealth. Speaking at the 20th convocation of Dibrugarh University at

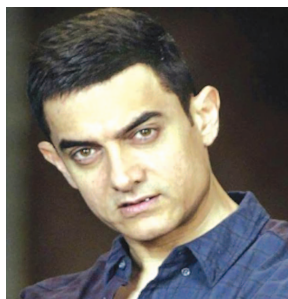
Dibrugarh today, Assam Governor and Chancellor of the University Prof. Mukhi said that the Indian universities as centre of development must initiate dialogue between industry, trade and commerce to create a standard protocol to make judicious use of the country's abundant natural resources. He, in this context, referred to the National Education Policy's objective for

collaborative engagements between industry and academia to bolster scientific and technological innovations. He said that in the changing academic environment in the wake of rolling out of NEP 2020, Dibrugarh university must take a stand to become a nodal agency in the state to facilitate industry and academic interactions to expedite the growth trajectory of Assam. The Governor also said that the institutes of higher education should also be responsible for maintaining and promoting environmental security. They should also take the role in inculcating respect for the environment among the students as this respect would be tantamount to sustainable development. Prof. Mukhi also said that the Indian universities should also take the lead towards social inclusion,

especially of the underprivileged classes into higher education. Inclusion of the hitherto marginalized sections into higher education has remained a challenge for the Indian society and needs to be overcome in order to harness the full potential of these sections, the Governor added. He also said that the inclusion

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Aamir Khan Contributes Rs 25 Lakhs to Assam Flood Relief



Assam Rising Guwahati, June 28 :

Popular Bollywood actor and director Aamir Khan has contributed Rs 25 lakhs

towards the CM relief fund for the flood-affected people of Assam. This was announced by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on his official twitter account. Taking to twitter, the chief minister expressed his deep gratitude towards Aamir Khan. He wrote, "Eminent Bollywood actor Amir Khan extended a helping hand to the flood-affected people of our State by making a generous contribution of ₹25 lakh to-

wards CM Relief Fund. My sincere gratitude for his concern and act of generosity." Earlier business tycoon Mukesh Ambani had contributed Rs 25 crores, Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor, director Rohit Shetty and singer Sonu Nigam had contributed Rs 5 lakhs each to the CM relief fund. On the other hand music producer Bhushan Kumar also donated Rs 11 lakhs for the flood-affected people of Assam.

Punjab budget promises free electricity to households from July 1

New Delhi, June 28 :

Punjab budget promises free electricity to households from July 1, silent on giving Rs 1,000 to each woman in the state Chandigarh: Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Monday presented the AAP government's first budget for 2022-23, announcing 300 units of free electricity to households from July 1, but remained silent on giving

Rs 1,000 to each woman in the state. The Bhagwant Mann-led government's budget also announced to setting up of 117 Mohalla Clinics and upgrading of 100 schools as 'schools of eminence' in the state among other proposals, besides setting up cyber-crime control units in all districts of the state while keeping its focus on health, education, agriculture and police modernisation. The Punjab Finance Minister

did not announce any new

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Indian Oil has ensured uninterrupted supply of petroleum products in flood hit Assam

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 28 :

Out of a total of 35 districts in Assam, 32 have been affected by floods but this has seen the highest extent of damage to silt. Silchar has also been cut off from its connecting roads due to



landslides that have taken place in the past. Public services including power and mobile connectivity have been disrupted and central agencies like NDRF, Army and Air Force have been deployed. Indian Oil has

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Shinde boasts 50 MLAs' support, says he will be in Mumbai soon



Assam Rising Guwahati, June 28 :

Days after rebel Shiv Sena MLA Eknath Shinde on Tuesday came out of the hotel and claimed that he will be in Mumbai soon, add-

ing that he is accompanied by 50 MLAs who have come on their own. While talking to media outside the Radisson Blu hotel in Guwahati, Shinde said,

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Maha crisis: What's happening inside Assam hotel hosting rebel MLAs?

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 28 :

The rebel Eknath Shinde camp has been on a high since they have gathered the support of two-thirds of the Shiv Sena legislative party, and the numbers keep swelling. Meanwhile, in a big relief to the Shinde sena, the Supreme Court on Monday put an interim stay on disqualification proceedings against 16 out of the 40-

odd rebel MLAs till July 11. These 16 MLAs had been served disqualification notices by the Maharashtra Assembly Deputy Speaker for not attending a party meeting convened by Uddhav Thackeray earlier this week. Sources within the rebel camp told India Today that after the apex court judgement, the mood in the camp has been high. According to sources, there



CONTINUED TO PAGE 6



Brown-headed gulls perch near water of Lhasa River in Lhasa, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region

'Mamata Banerjee is incarnation of Maa Sarada' - TMC leader's 'numerological' theory supporting his remarks

Kolkata, June 28 : Dr Nirmal Maji, sitting MLA from Uluberia North (West Bengal), says he finds Maa Sarada - Sarada Devi was the wife and spiritual consort of Ramakrishna Paramahansa - and Mother Teresa in Mamata Banerjee. At an event, he addressed the Bengal Chief Minister not only as 'Maa Sarada' but the Trinamool leader also emotionally referred to her as 'Mother Teresa'. Dr Nirmal Maji is one of the most trusted soldiers of Mamata Banerjee. But last month, he was removed from the post of chairman of the Calcutta Medical College's Patient Welfare Association following a series of complaints. However, this hasn't affected his



sense of duty to the party. According to some sources, he is even ready to die for 'Didi' (Mamata Banerjee), if the need arises and his comments clearly reveal his veneration for Mamata. At a function, Dr Nirmal Maji claimed, "Didi is mother Sarada! Mother Teresa". A few days before Swami Vivekananda's death, Maa Sarada had told some of Swamiji's teammates that

ogy, based on the death of Sarada Maa and the birth of Mamata Banerjee, it becomes clear that the CM is maa Sarada! She is Florence Nightingale, she is Mother Teresa, she is Sister Nivedita, she is Durga. Because she was born at the juncture of the Ashtami-Navami tithi of Durga Puja. "But Dr Nirmal Maji is not the first one to make such reverential comments about Mamata Banerjee. Earlier, Kamarhati MLA Madan Mitra had also claimed that Mamata has divine powers. Another minister Manas Bhuiyan had compared Mamta to Maa Durga. And now, Dr Nirmal Maji, who for 40 years has provided treatment free of cost to the poor, has said that Mamata is the incarnation of Maa Sarada. Expectedly, Dr Maji's comments have irked several Opposition leaders, who have slammed him for his remarks.

Ghislaine Maxwell prosecutors seek up to 55-year sentence for sex trafficking

New York, June 28 : Ghislaine Maxwell is scheduled to be sentenced on Tuesday morning in her New York sex-trafficking case, some six months after a jury found the British socialite guilty of luring teenage girls into Jeffrey Epstein's orbit for him to abuse. Maxwell, 60, faces up to 55 years in prison. Some of Maxwell's victims are expected to make statements at her sentencing. Maxwell maintains her innocence. Epstein, a convicted sex offender who once counted Britain's Prince Andrew and Bill Clinton in his circle of wealthy and influential as-



sociates, was arrested by federal officials in July 2019, on sex-trafficking counts. He killed himself in a New York City federal jail, while waiting for trial. Maxwell's attorneys have argued for leniency in sentencing, saying that she should receive a punishment "well below" the 20 years recommended by federal probation authorities. They cast Maxwell as a scapegoat for the crimes of Epstein - who could not be prosecuted because of his death - and a victim of childhood neglect. "Ms Maxwell cannot and should not bear all the punishment for which Epstein should have been held responsible. Ms Max-

well has already experienced a hard time during detention under conditions far more onerous and punitive than any experienced by a typical pre-trial detainee, and she is preparing to spend significantly more time behind bars," they argued. "Her life has been ruined." Ms Maxwell is not a dangerous criminal or a habitual offender. She is someone who wants nothing more than to live a normal family life - something she was denied because of her association with Epstein and will now almost certainly never have," they contended. "The public does not need to be protected from Ms Maxwell and such considerations should have no weight in determining her sentence." She had a difficult, traumatic childhood with an overbearing, narcissistic and demanding father," they also said. "It made her vulnerable to Epstein, whom she met right after her father's death. It is the biggest mistake she made in her life and one that she has not and never will repeat." In their



London, June 28 : In a militarised border zone, in the dead of night, asylum seekers say they have been coerced into violent, illegal pushback operations run by Greek police. Kept locked up between operations, the asylum seekers claim they were forcibly recruited or lured there by a Syrian man living in a container in the yard of a Greek police station, and then used as boatmen to ferry other migrants back to Turkey. Six migrants,

Syrian and Moroccan, have told how they participated in pushback operations on the Evros river under duress, in return for a police note permitting them a month's stay in Greece. Two of the men described themselves as "slaves". They said they witnessed Greek police strip, rob and assault asylum seekers before they were put back into overcrowded inflatable boats that the men were then ordered to transport back across the deep and fast-running river to the Turkish bank. A

ED and the state that the money recovered from the properties sold by Saradha should be immediately disclosed and submitted to the one member committee headed by S.P Talukdar. The properties that have not yet been sold should also be handed over to the one-member committee immediately. The Calcutta High Court has taken a big initiative to recover the money of the depositors of S The court directed SEBI, CBI,



gating agency CBI had started the investigation in the Saradha case on the orders of the Supreme Court, later SEBI and ED entered the case. Some properties were recovered even when the state was earlier investigating. The lawyer also alleged that so far no company has taken the initiative to return the depositors' money to the depositors in the case, i.e. the loss of depositors'

Ukraine's ammunition becomes defining issue in battle for Donbas



Moscow, June 28 : For Ukraine's military the question of ammunition for its

artillery has been something of a catch-22. In the battle for Donbas in the east - which has become largely an artillery duel between Russian and Ukrainian forces - Kyiv has been heavily reliant until recently on Soviet-era ammunition for the artillery that makes up a large part of its arsenal. Now that ammunition is running desperately short, Ukraine is appealing to its allies to replace its artillery with systems that use Nato ammunition, weapons that are arriving slowly in comparison with Ukraine's needs. "This is an artillery war now," Vadym Skibitsky, deputy head of Ukraine's military intelligence, said earlier this

month. "We are losing in terms of artillery. Everything now depends on what [the west] gives us," he added. "Ukraine has one artillery piece to 10 to 15 Russian artillery pieces. Our western partners have given us about 10% of what they have." At the centre of the issue is the fact that US and Nato and Soviet-era artillery use different calibres of shell that are not interchangeable. Nato's standard shells are 105mm and 155mm. Ukraine's guns, that date back to the time of the cold war, fire 122-152mm shells. Stocks of 152mm shells tend to be held by former Soviet republics, whose ability to sell to Kyiv is complicated by continuing relationships with Moscow, while a number of African and Middle Eastern countries also hold stocks. Moscow has been running a clandestine campaign to prevent former Warsaw Pact and other countries that do have the ammunition from supplying it to Ukraine. Despite intense efforts by the Pentagon - and by private arms dealers - to find additional

152mm shells, it appears that there are now few to be had. The issue has been a defining one in Donbas in recent weeks, where it has been estimated that Russian forces are firing up to 60,000 shells a day in comparison with Ukraine's 5-6,000. Kyiv's troops have increasingly been forced to conserve ammunition. According to some analysts, Russia itself is facing problems with the supply of ammunition, although it has a much larger stock than Ukraine. And while Ukraine's allies in the west have been working to supply systems compatible with Nato shells, the wholesale transformation of Ukraine's military in the midst of a conflict is lagging behind Kyiv's battlefield requirements. Another issue in transitioning to Nato systems is training. While Ukraine is receiving systems such as the M777 155mm howitzer and longer-range multiple-launch rocket systems such as the US-supplied HIMARS, Ukrainian troops need to be trained to use them.



Brown-headed gulls perch near water of Lhasa River in Lhasa, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region

No :- MECH/WR/W-126/ 476

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

Scaled quotations of rates affixing court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and paise twenty five paise) only are invited from the registered firms/suppliers of W.R. Department for the non-schedule various miscellaneous items for use in the Departmental vessel (VIP launch) as per format for fixation of rates and the same will be received in the office of the undersigned up to 15-00 hours of 28th June 2022 or on the next working day if 28th June 2022 happens to be a closed day/ half holiday. The quotations will be opened on the same date, place at 16-00 hours in presence of the quotationer or their representative, if any.

Detailed particulars along with terms and conditions may be collected from the office of the undersigned on any working days during office hours up to 14-00 hours of last date fixed on payment of Rs. 100 (One hundred) only in the form of crossed IPO pledged in favour of the undersigned. All rights are reserved by the undersigned.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jorhat Mech. W.R. Division
Jorhat-14
Janasanyog/C/5500/22

CORRIGENDUM Dated Goalpara the 27th June 2022

In continuation of advertisement vide No DJG/ 3108 dated 20/06/2022 communicated under Memo No DJG/ 3108-3113 dated 20/06/2022, the qualification for the post of Peon and Driver shall be read as minimum qualification is class VIII standard and those who have passed HS or above shall be ineligible to apply. Inform accordingly.

Sd/-
District and Sessions Judge,
-cum-Chairman selection Board
Goalpara.
Janasanyog/D/6401/22

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Pursuant to the notification No. HC.VIII-76/2019/2939/AC dated 07.05.2021 sealed tenders affixing Court fee of Rs. 8.25 (Non-refundable) are hereby invited from the bonafide/reputed agencies/individuals for hiring of LMV vehicle as per description given below on monthly rental basis for use of the Addl. District & Sessions Judge, Chirang, Kajalgaon. The interested firm/individual must submit their quotations in sealed envelope to the office of the undersigned on or before 07th July, 2022 during the working hours.

Sl. No.	Name of Vehicle	Brand	Quantity	Rate	Remarks for all vehicle
1	VERNA	HYUNDAI	1 No.	On monthly rental basis	Preference will be given to new vehicle and price range should be between Rs.13,00,000/- Rs.15,00,000/-
2	CITY	HONDA			
3	CRETA	HYUNDAI			
4	SELTO	KIA			
5	Any other vehicle class	of equivalent			

For details terms and conditions may visit the District Judiciary, Chirang website <http://chirangjudiciary.gov.in>

Janasanyog/C/5477/22

Sd/- District & Sessions Judge,
Chirang, Kajalgaon

Zubeen Garg Fan Club & Enajori offers helping hand to flood victims



Assam Rising
Udaluri, June 28: At present the whole of Assam is under floodwaters. Floods have caused severe damage to many people's homes, animals and the entire hu-

man population of Assam. Due to the flood many have lost their homes, many have lost loved ones. A huge loss all around Assam for floods. In this case, it is not uncommon for people to live in

camps with cows and goats in many places. In parallel,

such tragic scenes have been witnessed in different parts of Assam, including Udaluri-Darrang district. In addition to this, the government is extending a helping hand to the people of the flood affected areas during the disaster, and a number of individuals, community, fan clubs and voluntary organizations have also taken action. In parallel, as in the past, youths of Zubeen Garg Fan Club of Tangla in Udaluri district and the Anajori 'Ek Nirab Bandhun' have been working together for the relief of the victims. Over the past week, they have been seeking help from people in various places including shops, markets and roads in

Tangla city. The people of Tangla have been cooperating with the process of seeking help through their performances of songs which they named as "Sur Bahini". Ripul Boro, President of Zubeen Garg Fan Club, Tangla, said that the program would continue till the first week of July. In addition to the various donations made by people through this, they also voluntarily went to visit various flood victims in Assam to extend a helping hand. On the other hand, if any kind-hearted person wants to help them during this calamity, they are requested to call 7099545450.



Flood situation at Nagaon still grim

Agri minister Atul Bora distributes cheques of Rs 3800 each among 131 families

Assam Rising
Nagaon, June 28: The flood situation in Nagaon district is still critical and over 20,000 flood hit inmates are still waiting at various relief camps set up by district administration to go back to their respective homes till the time of filing this report, sources added. As per a report issued by district disaster

management authority, Nagaon this afternoon, over 5.2 lakhs people are reeling under flood water although the water level has slightly come down during the last couple of days. Meanwhile the state agriculture minister Atul Bora today visited the flood ravaged areas in Kamrup and Kothiatoli. During his visit, the min-

ister reviewed the flood situation and inspected the hardships of those flood hit people in the areas. The minister also visited the flood relief camps set up at Kamrup College and Kathiatoli Higher Secondary School respectively. During the visit, the minister distributed cheques of Rs 3800 each among 131 flood hit families issued under the scheme of financial assistance for disaster and other calamities by disaster management authority, Nagaon. The minister was accompanied by local Barhampur MLA Jitu Goswami, Deputy Commissioner Nisarg Hivare and other officials from disaster management authority, Nagaon. It is pertinent to be mentioned that during the visit to review the flood situation in the district, Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma announced an immediate monetary relief to be provided soon under disaster management authority to each of the flood hit families with which the flood ravaged people could combat the situation.

Excise raid in Margherita

Assam Rising, Margherita, June 28: An extensive excise search, patrolling and raid were conducted on June 27 jointly by the Margherita and Digboi Excise Circle led by Prasanta Dutta, DSE, Margherita in Tingrai Railway Station under Digboi Police Station. The Excise team acted



swiftly on a tip-off and arrested one Bitopan Pradhan, aged 28 years, son of Late Gantai Pradhan and Caseno.DIG/EX/2022/672 dated June 27, was registered against the accused. As per the recorded statement, the accused confessed that liquor from Arunachal Pradesh was re-bottled in bottles earmarked for sale in Assam and sold to consumers. The accused managed to arrange the empty bottles and hologram from the local market, IMFL around 83.04 litres for sale in Arunachal Pradesh, empty bottles around 92 Nos (180ml in size) and 62 No.s of Hologram stickers were seized and destroyed by the department during the exercise.

ACHSS, Tangla to include 10+ classes

Assam Rising, Udaluri, June 28: By following the new Education Policy 2020, Auxilium Convent Higher Secondary School, Tangla is going to include 11th standard from this current session. According to the headmistress of the school, Sr. Cicilia Rapunga from this year ACHSS, Tangla will start the 11th class with Arts stream. The school is already securing a good passing percentage as well as good results in Udaluri district in the previous HSLC examination. For better improvement of the stu-

dents, the school teaches discipline and moral education. Headmistress also mentioned that ACHSS also provides digital classes to the students and the school has good infrastructure and all the facilities in the classrooms. For the session 2022-2023 the school will provide only Arts stream and subject offered as English, Alt. English/MIL, Political Science, Sociology, Education, Environmental science, Economics/Computer science. Sr. Cicilia Rapunga requested all the interested students to



come and join the Auxilium family as soon as possible because seats for the students of the current session will be limited. Till

now the admission form will be available in the school office and for more information headmistress asked to call on 9435602429.

Dihanam competition held at Nagsankar

Assam Rising
Biswanath Chari, June 28: A district level dihanam competition was held at Nagsankar Natya Bhawan under the aegis of Alok, a socio-cultural and educational organization of the greater Nagsankar area on Sunday last with a day-long programme. A total of 34 teams from Biswanath, Sonitpur and Lakhimpur

districts had participated in the competition that began with a ghosha by local MLA Padma Hazarika. Lochan Bora, Karabi Saikia and Runu Hazarika graced the occasion as judges. The inaugural session was attended by Palak Sarma, BDO Sootea, Hitesh Barua, ZPC member of Nagsankar besides others. At the end of the competition the

Manikanchan team from Tezpur begged the title of the winner team while Koustav team from Sootea and Milijuli Dihanam team from Biswanath begged the second and third prizes respectively. A total of nine best teams were awarded with cash awards and memorial trophies donated by the family members of eminent personalities of the

greater Nagsankar area. The prize distribution ceremony was held with Baneshwar Bora in the chair that was attended by donor members along with invited guests. Parmeshwar Saikia conducted the proceedings while Putul Bora briefed the objectives. In between the programme Anjan Baskota, Sahitya Akademi awardee emerging writer was felicitated with a citation, gamocha, Sarai and a packet of books for his contribution towards literature. At the end of the programme Parash Saikia offered a vote of thanks. Earlier to this, Bandikhal, an Assamese drama scripted by the eminent Assamese writer Bhabendranath Saikia and directed by Julen Bhuyan, was staged at Nagsankar Natya Bhawan on Saturday night. Sootea MLA Padma Hazarika inaugurated the drama Shaw that was attended by Lakhi Kanta Bora, the president of Sootea Anchalik Panchayat, Hitesh Barua, ZPC member, Pranab Saikia, Labanya Devi besides other distinguished guests.

Assam Rising
Biswanath Chari, June 28: Biswanath district administration accorded a warm felicitation to cyclist Chayanika Gogoi who has shined in the national panorama by claiming bronze medal in the recently concluded Asian Cycling Championship. On arriving her home town on June 27, the district administration had organized a felicitation programme at Biswanath Stadium that was attended by Biswanath and Gohpur MLA's Pramod Borthakur and Utpal Bora respectively, Munindra Nath Nagatey, DC Biswanath, Nabin Singh, SP Biswanath, Liza Talukdar and Biswajit Saikia ADC's besides officials from Biswanath district

administration and office bearers of various sports associations here today. She was felicitated with a gamocha, Sarai, japi and citations and cash awards. She was brought to the felicitation site with a long procession. Notably, Chayanika Gogoi had participated in the 41st Senior and 28th Junior Asian Cycling Championship that was held in New Delhi from June 18 to 22. She participated in 4 Kms Team Pursuit Event and 10 Kms Scratch Race represent-

ing India and won a Bronze medal. Gogoi hails from Dubiya Bodi Gaon under Gohpur sub-division under Biswanath district. She is the daughter of Mr. Mridul Gogoi and Pabitra Gogoi. Individuals and organizations have conveyed best wishes for her achievement.

Cyclist Chayanika Gogoi accorded warm felicitation



E AUCTION NOTICE
WATER AFFECTED APPROX. 14,750 KG OF PADDY, 16,000 KG OF RICE, 12,000 KG OF BRAN, 22,500 KG OF HUSK & SPARE PARTS, ETC.
Interested Buyers are invited to participate in the e-Auction for the disposal of "Water Affected Approx. 14,750 Kg of Paddy, 16,000 Kg of Rice, 12,000 Kg of Bran, 22,500 Kg of Husk & Spare Parts, etc". The subject salvage will be sold on "As is Where is", "Whatever there is" and "No Complaint" Basis and belongs to M/s. Crioforma Industries Pvt. Ltd. The subject materials can be inspected at M/s. Crioforma Industries Pvt. Ltd., AIDC Complex, No. 2, Nathukchi Tiklu, Nabari, Assam, from 29-06-2022 to 06-07-2022 between 10 AM to 5 PM on working days only. Kindly contact Mr. Jyotisham Bora at 9864113351 for inspection.
E-Auction will be held on 07-07-22
Kindly contact Ms. Anjum Sayed at 8369652088 to obtain the form containing terms & conditions of e-Auction or download from website <https://www.sealthedead.co.in/>
Auctioneers: Seal The Deal having registered office at Shop No. 148, Pocket C2, Sector 5, Rohini, Delhi - 110085.
Last date of Submission of form & EMD Demand Draft is 06-07-22

No.23/228/2021-2022/2

Dated Kokrajhar, the 27/06/2022

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tender subsequently to be drawn in F-2 form affixing Non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs.8.25p (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only are invited from the Registered PWD Contractor's under Class-I (A, B, C) of Assam PWD (Rural Roads) and Class-II Roads category will be received for the following works up to 2-00 P.M. of 12-07-2022 in the office of the Executive Engineer, P.W.R.D. Kokrajhar Rural Roads Division, Kokrajhar which will be opened on the same date, place at 2.15 P.M in presence of the tenderers or their authorized agent.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Tender Amount (in Rs.) (Including G.S.T. L.W.C.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.) (ST, SC, OBC-1% & GEN-2%)	Cost of Tender Paper (in Rs.)	Time for completion In days
1	Temporary Restoration of flood damaged road from Kochugaon to Nabin Nagar Road (Eroded at approach of RCC Br. No. 2/2) under SDRF for the year 2021-22.	Rs. 4, 13,879.00	1%-Rs.4,139/- 2%-Rs.8,278/-	500.00	30 (Thirty)
2	Restoration of flood damaged approaches of RCC Br. No.3/1 on Kachugaon to Raimona Road under SDRF for the year 2021-22.	Rs. 19,99,898.00	1%-Rs. 19,999/- 2%-Rs.39,998/-	1000.00	60 (Sixty)

Details NIT may be seen in all working days in the office of the undersigned. Tender paper will be issued to the contractors or their authorized agent up to 12.00 Noon on all working days from 29-06-2022 to 01-07-2022 in the office of the undersigned on payment of in the form of Banker cheque/Demand draft of any nationalized Bank (Preferable SBI) duly pledged to the Executive Engineer, PWRD Kokrajhar Rural Roads Division. The contractor should submit valid Registration certificate, GSTIN, PAN Card and Labour License along with the tender. In case the office remain closed in tender receiving/opening day the same will be received/opened on the next working day.

Note:-

- The Executive Engineer, PWD Rural Roads Division, Kokrajhar does not bind himself to accept the lowest tender and also reserves the right to reject all tenders without assigning any reason.
- Payment will be made subject to availability of fund.
- Taxes will be deducted as per relevant provision of Act.
- Contractors will have to submit their tender with upto date registration certificate and item of annexure should be enclosed with the tender otherwise tender will be treated as cancelled.
- No T&P and stock materials issued to the contractors by the deptt. Contractor has to arrange the same by himself
- The tenderer should submit their tender with upto date GSTIN certificate and PAN card failing which the tender may be treated as cancelled.
- The tenderer must demonstrate the key equipment for road work specially the road Roller etc. failing which the tender may be treated as cancelled.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, PWD
Kokrajhar Rural Roads Division

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Climate change is a major threat

Majorities in most surveyed countries say global climate change is a major threat to their nation. In fact, it's seen as the top threat in 13 of 26 surveyed countries, more than any other issue the survey asked about. People in Greece express very high levels of concern, with 90% labeling climate change a major threat (similar to the 88% there who cite the condition of the global economy). People in South Korea, France, Spain and Mexico also express strong concerns. Eight-in-ten or more in each of these countries say climate change is a major threat. Americans are less likely to be concerned about climate change, with 59% seeing it as a serious threat. About as many people in the United States cite climate change as point to ISIS (62%) and North Korea's nuclear program (58%). Americans most frequently cite cyberattacks as a major threat. People in Russia (43%), Nigeria (41%) and Israel (38%) are the least likely to say climate change is a major threat to their nation. Substantial shares see climate change as a minor threat or not a threat at all. Not all people in the surveyed countries consider climate change to be a major threat. A median of 20% across these countries consider global warming a minor threat, while 9% say it is not a threat. About half or more in Israel and Russia say global climate change is a minor threat or not a threat (58% and 51%, respectively). In the U.S., roughly a quarter (23%) believe climate change is a minor threat, while 16% say it is no threat at all. Concerns about climate change have risen significantly in many countries since 2013. The share of people expressing concern about the threat of climate change around the world has grown since 2013, when Pew Research Center first asked respondents whether they see it as a major threat to their nation. In 2013, a median of 56% in 23 countries said climate change was a major threat; in the Center's most recent Global Attitudes survey, a median of 67% in the same countries hold this view. And in 10 countries, the share of people who see global warming as a major threat has grown by at least 10 percentage points. For example, 83% of people in France say this, up from 54% in 2013, an increase of 29 points. Mexico has seen a similar increase, from 52% to 80%, or 28 points.

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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,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

Let's call the overturning of Roe v Wade what it is: state-sanctioned forced birth



I write this on my birthday, a date when traditionally my mother likes to reminisce about her labour. I was a much-wanted baby, and that love has carried me throughout my life. I have never, for a fragment of a second, doubted it. I used to gently tease my mother about her reminiscences, but now that I have my own baby I understand the impulse more. In the past few weeks, I have been trying to put what happened during my own labour to bed, or at least arrive at a place of full acceptance. I was not traumatised, as I feared I would be, but there is still a process that needs to happen, a mourning perhaps of the birth I thought I would have. One day, when my son is grown and it is his birthday, and he asks me

how it is that he came into this world, I would like to be able to tell him a positive, happy story. I think this is what people tried to do when he arrived unexpectedly early, and they said, "he couldn't wait to meet you". It isn't true but it somehow soothes, in retrospect, the terror I felt when my waters broke early. These are the stories we tell each other and our children. They are palimpsests. The text beneath is written in blood, and it says that 50 years ago, 100 years ago, we would be dead. Like me, my son is a most wanted baby. The longing I had for a child, complicated though it was, is one of the most powerful emotions I have ever felt. In light

of the overturning of Roe v Wade, I've been thinking a lot about all the children who will now be born who are not wanted, to parents unable or unwilling to look after them, and a state with no interest in funding or protecting them. It will be a human crisis of devastating magnitude. Mostly, though, I think of all the women and girls who will suffer. We need to start calling abortion bans what they are: state-sanctioned forced birth on a monumental scale, which includes forcing children to give

Rhiannon Lucy Cosslett

birth. I am not even in America, but the news felt visceral, as vicious misogyny often does. If you have ever been pregnant, the thought of being made to go through it - not to mention labour - against your will can make you feel physically sick. I felt like vomiting, then I cried. The same thing happened when Poland banned it, in January 2021. And that will be nothing compared with how women in the US must feel now, as Polish women must have felt then: women who are expected to go about their daily lives as normal when their bodily autonomy has

been taken from them, who overnight have become second-class citizens, who must walk alongside those who seek to punish them. And punishment it is. The punishment is the point, as they say. No one is stupid enough to believe this decision will result in an end to abortion. We all know abortion bans never achieve this, they simply put an end to legal, safe abortion. The point is forced birth, which amounts to torture. The toll pregnancy takes on the body is monumental. I wanted, desperately, to be pregnant, and genuinely loved it when I was. It still felt frightening to find out. Premature rupture of membranes aside, my pregnancy was mostly happy and smooth, though I still experienced sickness, pain, shortness of breath, high blood pressure, anxiety, fearfulness, swelling, lightheadedness, months of sleeplessness, a lack of mobility, bleeding gums, fear, a diabetes scare, and obviously: the birth. Other women are not so lucky. Some want to be pregnant but still hate the experience. Pregnancy is often the closest a woman comes to death in her lifetime (I remember reading that pregnant women dream frequently of death, how it

feels like dancing next to its billowing curtain). It can kill you, and in the US, it is now more likely to do so. Beliefs in foetal personhood are now law in many states, meaning that doctors won't step in with a lifesaving abortion in the event of complications, even perhaps where, as in cases of ectopic pregnancy, the foetus will only live long enough to kill the woman carrying it. Furthermore, women who are miscarrying or haemorrhaging after having an abortion will be less likely to seek medical help, fearing prosecution. So, let's call it what it is: forced birth. And as for "pro-life", a term recently used - depressingly - on BBC radio: those who identify that way are nothing of the sort. How can anyone use such a term with a straight face, when they support the torture and murder of human women. It can be hard to find the words when faced with such hatred, so I've been reading the words of older women, women who have lived through this. Adrienne Rich, Annie Ernaux, Gloria Steinem, Alice Walker, Malika Booker.



Lack of advancement opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics - STEM - careers among Indian women is holding India back from realising its full potential. Women comprise only 26 per cent of India's STEM workforce, and the percentage of female researchers is among the lowest in the world, at just 13.9 per cent. Women represent only 9 per cent of fellows in the three Indian science academies - INSA, IASc and NASI - and hold less than 5 per cent of academic department chair posts. There are many reasons Indian women don't reach greater heights in STEM, which doesn't only affect them but also has far-reaching implications for India's economy and global impact. India boasts exceptional, nationally and globally renowned female scientists; but for every Soumya Swaminathan, Tessy Thomas, or Gagandeep Kang who have

cracked the glass ceiling, the sticky floor of scientific careers is crowded with millions of talented and aspiring Indian women and girls who have not had a chance to achieve their potential. Despite educational and professional credentialing, Indian women - along with women around the world - continue to be impeded by strong gender biases in the fields of science and research. They are routinely directed toward less technical and less lucrative STEM fields. Mentorship and career advancement opportunities often exclude women. There is well-chronicled discrimination against women scientists in hiring, promotion, and research funding and relegation to junior roles. And, women are often subjected to hostile working environments that dismiss or ignore sexual and professional harassment. Women carry the double burden of work and domestic responsibilities, and marriage and maternity often lead to their exclusion from professional

advancement. Uniquely Indian gender biases also hinder advancement for women in STEM, the most pronounced being that India's national labour market is not woman friendly. India has one of the lowest female labour force participation rates of all major economies, according to ILO estimates. Paradoxically, despite a growing economy and increases in female

Dr Amita Gupta

education, the rate has actually been declining - from 32 per cent in the mid-2000s, to 21 per cent in 2019, to only 19 per cent in 2021. This highly male-skewed job market reinforces the perverse motivation for parents to educate their daughters in prestigious scientific fields not to increase their labour market value, but to increase their marriage market value. Indian women actually outpace men in enrolment in key scientific fields including medicine, microbiology, and information technology. However, advanced degrees do not translate into workforce participation. Latest available data on Indian medical school graduates, for example, indicate that although 51 per

cent of them are female, only 17 per cent are practising physicians - a contributing factor to the lack of available doctors for a large share of the country's population. While the gap between STEM education and STEM career is a middle and upper class story, for the 70 per cent of Indian women hailing from lower-income backgrounds, STEM education and job opportunities are virtually non-existent. As girls, they are unlikely to complete secondary schooling, far less get a college degree, and thus are less likely to acquire credentials required for STEM careers. The untapped potential for national growth is immeasurable. First, India needs to invest in education for girls and women across economic backgrounds, and facilitate school-to-work transition and career advancement. Existing successful models that mentor and sponsor girls from low-income families for STEM careers should be expanded - for example Tata Trusts' Integrated approach to Technology in Education, Pratham's Google.org-funded Impact Challenge for Women and Girls, INSPIRE and Vigyan Jyoti by the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The Indian government, private sector, and civil society must work together to enact education and employment reforms that recruit women into

STEM, and that demonstrate to families the value of women's participation in the workforce and in scientific fields. Such reforms can include pay incentives, hiring bonuses, job flexibility and must ensure absolute protection from any form of harassment. We can build on successful programmes that promote retention of women scientists, such as WISE-KIRAN, GATI, and Mobility. Government incentives to industry to ensure a gender-balanced science and research workforce at all levels could also expand opportunities and change mindsets. Targeted social and media campaigns that recognise women as key contributors to the national economy and not just the household should be developed. STEM-related employers must document, develop plans to address, and evaluate efforts to eliminate gender bias in job and funding allocations, pay scales, and promotion systems. These should include targets for career advancement for women that are equitable with the rates for men, and the data should be tracked and assessed annually. The National Commission for Women and the DST could play key roles in assessing and recognising progress. India's growth is not in dispute. But just imagine what the future could hold with contributions from 50 per cent more talent.

We can't stop the war in Ukraine but we can prevent it causing world hunger

So here we are. The pound has slumped and Britain has the lowest growth and highest inflation in the G7. Manufacturing output has stalled and the financial markets are advising that sterling should be treated as an "emerging market" currency. The prime minister has broken the law and the government will reportedly soon publish a bill that could break international law in our name. You can only imagine the enormous respect and influence that Boris Johnson will carry into the room when G7 leaders meet in Germany. If they don't burst out laughing at the sight of our threadbare prime minister it will only be because of decent diplomatic manners. Yet, we're not starving. And I mean literally starving. We're struggling, or

eating badly, but we're not dying from hunger because there isn't a single grain of wheat to put into a child's distended, empty stomach. We haven't got it easy by any means, and perhaps we can be forgiven for being so absorbed by our own cost of living crisis, which is only just beginning to bite. But when our economy rebounds, which it will undoubtedly eventually do, the poorest of our world will already be dead. I think at this stage we all more or less know why, Vladimir Putin's filthy, sad war has left one of the world's great breadbaskets incapable of either harvesting its crops or shipping them. Between them, Ukraine and Russia produce 40% of the wheat consumed in Africa, and 25% of the global supply, but exports have stalled. Millions of tonnes are trapped at blockaded

ports, or are unable to be transported through war-ravaged zones or be harvested in the first place, as farmers defend their country and their fields are bombed and burned. Already vulnerable countries, still recovering from the pandemic, are being

Bob Geldof

thrown into further chaos. There are fears food prices could provoke riots and protests in the Middle East. Should this happen, many fear these already struggling countries could descend into chronic instability. All of which would have disastrous knock-on effects for the UK and Europe.



Then, once again, our television screens will be filled with awful scenes of the most destitute people of Africa and Asia desperately hoping for help - calls that, in a typical act of casually careless cruelty, will likely go unanswered as Johnson's government cut help to the poorest of our world by 39% last year. Perhaps we don't have a broad enough bandwidth to cope with more than one awfulness at a time. The mind can really only encompass so much horror. Compassion has a limit. But here's the thing: we can't stop this war but we really could feed the world. The World Food Programme calculates it would cost \$22.2bn. That's a lot, but then again Elon Musk has just bid \$44bn for Twitter. A thing on your phone. A messaging system. In a world economy of trillions, the funds necessary are truly "nothing money". Britain alone doesn't have it. But collectively we certainly do, despite the developed world currently being in no mood to find a single extra dollar for anything but its own immediate domestic concerns. But I don't buy that. When Ukraine turned to us for help, we responded. The US just last month passed a bill allowing \$40bn to be sent in aid to the beleaguered Ukrainians. This is quite right. But if we can instantaneously find that sort of cash to push back against a thug such as Putin, why couldn't the G7 - seven of our top economies - and others collectively find some billions for Putin's other victims, the poorest people of our world? For, make no mistake, Putin is using this food as a weapon, against millions of other utterly innocent families, many of whom won't even have heard of him or Ukraine. He truly

is a loathsome creep. But what if the UK were to take a lead to get everyone to put their hands in their pockets, and direct their political muscle to get the trucks and ships moving again? Why shouldn't Britain push for a guaranteed safe passage of grain to the hungry of our world, or better yet, halt the fighting, guard the grain and maybe begin tentative peace talks. We can all agree (except Putin, I suppose) that no child in any part of the world should die because of a war that has nothing to do with them. Why not do this? Make food, not war. We've done it before. When he was prime minister, Tony Blair got his G7 colleagues to agree to billions more than the \$22.2bn needed to fix global hunger. Why can't Johnson do the same? When polled, over half of UK citizens still support helping the poorest of our world. Maybe because of Britain's huge leading role on these issues in all previous governments, there's a slim chance that we may reestablish some shred of credibility on this if nothing else. With luck, this time Johnson may truly represent us. I worked with every prime minister from Margaret Thatcher to David Cameron to help achieve that genuinely noble, moving history. There is just about enough of Johnson's time left for him to join that pantheon of predecessors who decided Britain's politics needed to represent its people's inclination of compassion to others, and enshrine it in law and deed. Now is his opportunity. Pray God he doesn't fail us and the world's hungry children in this, as he has in almost every other aspect of his premiership, personally, professionally and politically.

Union minister Tomarattens Farmers workshop in Nagaland

Dimapur, June 28 : Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Sunday said Nagaland and entire northeast region have rich natural heritage and climatic conditions favourable for producing any crop. He stressed on increasing quantity and improving quality of the produce for marketability. Speaking at the inaugural function of the Farmers' Exhibition-cum-Workshop at Central Institute of Horticulture (CIH), Medziphema in Chumoukedima district, he said agriculture and allied sector is a very important aspect of the Union government while Nagaland and North East have immense potentiality due to favourable climatic conditions. Tomar said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given special focus to make agriculture progressive with an aim to increase



the income of farmers. Modi government is also working to provide the state government with adequate funds for agriculture and through the CIH, technology should reach the farmers, the Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare minister said. He said Modi has given special focus on the Northeast, on the funding and implementation of schemes. Tomar said Nagaland is rich in the horticulture sector and the products, including pineapple, mushroom, and Naga king chilli have the potential to be exported outside

the state. The Union minister also stressed on increasing the quality and quantity of the crops to improve the economy of the farmers. He lauded the efforts of the CIH in improving the horticulture sector in Nagaland and also

the Nagaland government for doing enough in the agriculture sector and also bringing development in the state. Nagaland Advisor for Border Affairs and Horticulture, Mhathung Yanthan stated that CIH established in 2006 is a very unique institute and the only institute in the north eastern region under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare which conducts training, demonstration and skill development programme in horticulture with focus approach on post harvest technology. Since its establishment, the CIH has been

implementing capacity building programmes offering model training and certificate courses in horticulture and providing quality planting materials to farmers which are raised from the CIH nursery, he said. The state has now three Geographical Indication (GI) registered crops - Naga tree tomato, Naga mircha and Naga cucumber, he said. Later the Union Minister also visited the Pineapple Farm at Molvom Village and National Research Center for Mithun (ICAR), Jharnapani.

AP Govt allocates adequate fund for waste management

Itanagar, June 28 : Arunachal Pradesh government has released an amount of Rs 15 crore for procurement of sanitation vehicles and for hiring additional manpower for Itanagar Municipal Corporation (IMC) and Pasighat Municipal Council (PMC), Town Planning, Urban Development and Housing Minister Kamlung Mossang said on Saturday. Out of the amount, as many as 30 vehicles including dumper trucks, tractors, JCB loaders and refuse compactors were procured for IMC and PMC, the minister said after flagging off 17 numbers of dumpers for District Urban Development Agencies (DUDAs) of Yachuli, Sangram, Chayangtajo, Kaying, Bordumsa, Kanubari, Halyuliang, Tato, Lemmi, Rupa, Kalaktang, Ruksin, Mechuka, Kharsang, Namsai, Miao and Raga, for effective solid waste management in the newly notified urban centres. Or-



der has also been placed for procurement of one truck mounted with sweeping machine for sweeping the main roads under IMC from the allocated fund, the minister disclosed. He said another amount of Rs 22 crore was released to the department during the current fiscal for solid waste management for 45 notified towns. The fund released also included for establishment of material recovery facility (MRF). The minister added that the annual allocation for sanitation activity under IMC and PMC has been hiked to Rs 8 crore. Mossang added that the state

has a total of 47 notified urban centres including IMC and PMC which housed 26.34 per cent of the total population living in 89,571 households. Of the total 47 notified towns, Itanagar Capital Region falls under Class-I town, five under Class-III and the rest under Class-IV category of towns as per census guidelines. There was no class-II category town in the state. In order to commemorate the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and to boost the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM

2.0), launched by the Centre, the state government led by Chief Minister Pema Khandu is determined to keep the towns and cities clean in the state, he said. Mossang added that the state and the central governments are focused to make the urban areas of the state more developed by providing basic services and amenities. The Centre has launched several programmes under urban sector in a mission mode to improve the living standard of the urban dwellers, he added.

Arunachal Cong protests against Agnipath

Itanagar, June 28 : The Congress in Arunachal Pradesh on Monday staged protests against the Centre's Agnipath scheme for recruitment in armed forces, stating that the BJP-led dispensation was "playing around with the country's security and the future of youth". Activists of the grand old party, holding banners and placards that flayed the scheme, criticised the BJP government for subverting "the long-standing traditions and ethos of the armed forces". Arunachal Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) spokesperson Gyamar Tana said the "ill-conceived scheme was introduced by the BJP government without any wider consultations". "The BJP is playing around with India's security and the future of the youths. Agnipath scheme not just compromises our national security, it is also a cruel joke on our youth," Tana told reporters. He maintained that the Congress, which has "always fought for safeguarding national interests", had on day one exposed the far-reaching impact of Agnipath 'on the national security and the morale of the armed forces.' "The Congress stands firmly with the youth and will non-violently seek the immediate rollback of the scheme by the NDA government," he added. Protests have broken out in several parts of the country over the 'Agnipath' scheme under which hiring has been proposed for a four-year period followed by compulsory retirement for at least 75 per cent of the personnel, without any pension benefits.

Mizoram provides drinking water to flood-hit Assam



Mizoram, June 28 : Barely a year after a clash over border dispute, two neighbouring northeastern states-Mizoram and Assam have now shown that humanity still existed when it came to tough time. With the flood situation in Assam remaining grim, Mizoram has decided to provide drinking water to the neighbouring state's Silchar town in Cachar district, which is the worst affected. Chief Minister Zoramthanga said that his government will extend all possible help from its end. "The Govt. of Mizoram will ensure all possible help from end. Mizoram will always be with #Assam in this trying time," he said in a tweet. An official statement on Sunday said that Zoramthanga and his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday had a tele-

phonic conversation and discussed the current scenario in Assam and extending humanitarian aid to Assam, the statement said. During the conversation, Zoramthanga informed Sarma that his government is willing to extend assistance to flood affected people of Assam during this hard time. Both discussed how Mizoram can send drinking water to flood devastated Assam. Zoramthanga said Mizoram is willing to provide and transport drinking water by trucks till Vairengte on the Mizoram-Assam border from where it would be distributed by the Assam government to flood ravaged people of Assam. Sarma thanked his Mizoram counterpart and told him that he would speak to Cachar Deputy Commissioner to make arrangements for reception and distribution of drinking water from Mizoram. Meanwhile, Central Young Mizo Association (CYMA) and many branches of the

YMA in the state capital Aizawl have extended a humanitarian hand by delivering bottled drinking water to the neighbouring state especially the flood devastated people of Cachar district. Mizoram disaster management and rehabilitation minister Lalchamliana said that over 14,000 litre of bottled drinking water have been dispatched to Silchar, which is worst affected, by CYMA on Sunday. A leader of CYMA said that the consignment will be handed over to the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar district to be distributed to the flood affected people in Silchar. Recently, Mizoram rescue team evacuated 33 people from a Mission compound in Silchar to safer places, according to Lalchamliana. At least 16 people were also brought safely to Mizoram flood devastated Silchar town, he said. It may be mentioned that at least six policemen and a civilian died when police forces of Mizoram and Assam exchanged fire in July last year due to border dispute.

Manipur Shiv Sena chief stopped from meeting

Manipur, June 28 : Security arrangements were on Monday tightened in the luxury hotel near Guwahati where rebel Maharashtra MLAs led by Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde are camping as advocates, senior police and government officials were seen entering there. President of the Shiv Sena in neighbouring Manipur, M Tombi Singh, came to meet the rebel legislators but he was not allowed. He said he wanted to tell them not to create a division in the party. Singh claimed that he had "some contacts with Mumbai" before coming to the hotel. Though the entry to the hotel has been restricted since June 22, when the MLAs reached Guwahati from Surat, a proper register



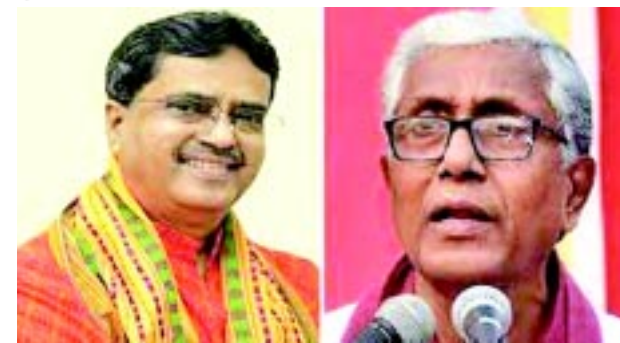
is being maintained from Monday morning to note who is coming and who

is going out. The police have been asking the names of all before opening the gates. Their names and vehicle numbers have been written in the register. Even each hotel staff was asked about their identities before allowing to go inside. "We are maintaining the register from today. We don't know why it has been started suddenly. We are doing what we have been told," a police official told PTI in front of the Radisson Blu hotel. Special Director General of Police (Law and Order) Gyanendra Pratap Singh has been inside the hotel since morning, while Guwahati Police Joint Commissioner

Partha Sarathi Mahanta reached there around noon. Several other IPS officers have also been making rounds since morning. Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) Chief Executive Officer Gyanendra Tripathi came to the hotel, while a car carrying a board mentioning the chief engineer of the Water Resource Department also entered the campus. Their vehicles left the hotel after around two hours. It is not known why these officers came to the hotel. Windows of the vehicles were either covered with curtains or the occupants were wearing face masks, making it difficult

to recognise them. A batch of people also came in cars carrying boards saying "Lawyer, Gauhati High Court" were also spotted entering the hotel. Shiv Sena's Manipur unit President M Tombi Singh, along with another person, came to meet the rebels from the Western state but they were stopped at the gate. "I have come here to talk to Eknath Shinde and tell him that Shiv Sena should remain as one party. We want the political crisis to end soon," Singh told reporters in front of the closed gate of the hotel. All the Shiv Sainiks are united under the leadership of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and his son Aditya, he claimed. To a question, the Manipur leader said: "I want to tell him to do a 'gharwapsi'. The Shiv Sena should not become two different parties." Though general people have been barred from entering the hotel for a week, senior police officials, ministers, MLAs and leaders of the ruling BJP have been visiting the hotel daily. Besides, the crew members of several airlines that have agreements with the hotel, are being allowed inside. A group of rebel Maharashtra Shiv Sena MLAs, led by Shinde, were taken to Surat from Mumbai on June 21 and then flown to Guwahati the next day. Shinde and his followers have rebelled against Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

Manik Sarkar alleged against Manik Saha



Agartala, June 28 : Tripura Leader of opposition Manik Sarkar on Monday alleged that Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha won the elections banking on large-scale rigging and proxy voting in his constituency. The results of the elections could not be considered as the people's expression towards the ruling party because the voters were not allowed to cast their votes free of any intimidation, he added. Speaking to the media on the sidelines of his visit to violence-affected families, Sarkar said, "What is happening today in the state is before everyone. Whom

should we approach with our grievances as the person holding the post of Chief Minister himself won the elections due to mass-scale forged voting?" Sarkar lamented that the voters had been threatened, terrified and attacked at the first place during elections and, after the BJP's victory, once again the general people are at the receiving end of violence. Meanwhile, senior CPIM leaders staged a road blockade at Shyamali Bazar as three shops belonging to CPIM workers were set on fire on Sunday night. CPIM state secretary Jitendra Chowdhury said, "The by-elections results triggered violence across the state with triumphant BJP pressing its terror squads

into action. We have been getting reports till Monday midnight that houses, shops, vehicles or other properties of opposition party workers are either being looted, ransacked or set ablaze. This ugly show of lawlessness is what the BJP calls its victory celebration." Chowdhury also claimed that to satisfy the BJP's political purpose, the party is misleading the gullible unemployed youth to adopt their way of violence uncritically. "Those who are involved in these violent attacks are brainwashed into believing that violence is the only way of politics. They are so isolated from the people that violence is left as the only weapon for them to keep themselves at the helm of affairs. But, mark my words, days of BJP are numbered in Tripura," he added.

Manipur sends flood relief, rescue team to Assam

Imphal, June 28 : As a goodwill gesture, Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh along with minister for relief and disaster management Awangbow Newmai flagged off relief materials from Imphal's Kangla Gate to flood-hit Assam on Monday. The relief materials worth Rs 1 crore include 135 quintals of rice, 102 bags of dal, 120 bags of salt, and 120 boxes of mustard oil, among others. Besides, over 40 personnel of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) have also been deputed for assisting in search and rescue operations in the flood-affected areas of the state. "It is our duty to help our neighbouring state and our great friend Assam in this time of need. Assam has constantly supported Manipur and we are always there to reciprocate the love and support the state has always bestowed on us," said CM Biren Singh. "We are concerned about the flood situation in Assam where many people have lost their lives and property. As a neighbouring state, today, we are sending the relief assistance for the flood-affected state. And all the SDRF personnel are well-trained on disaster management," said minister Awangbow Newmai. MLA Lourembam Rameshwar Meetei, Chief Secretary Dr Rajesh Kumar, Additional Chief Secretaries MH Khan and V Vumlungmang also attended the event.

Post-poll : Section 144 imposed in Agartala

Agartala, June 28 : Sporadic incidents of violence rocked Tripura after the results of by-elections in four assembly constituencies were declared on Sunday. Several Congress party offices were ransacked and later set on fire while leaders and workers of the opposition parties remained at the receiving end of the violence unleashed by a section of miscreants believed to have allegiance to the ruling Bharatiya Janata



Party. Two Congress party offices were ransacked by unidentified miscreants at Belonia under South Tripura and Khowai district. The attacks took place shortly after the violent face-off between Congress and BJP support-

ers at Agartala. Local Congress leaders of Belonia said some motor-cycle borne miscreants landed at the Congress Bhavan all of a sudden and broke open the lock put on the main entrance. Valuables and furniture from the building were thrown out and later set on fire. Before the locals could stop the miscreants, they had fled, he said. At Khowai NC Avenue, miscreants ran amok in the city, threatening and intimidating opposition party

supporters. The local Block Congress Office bore the brunt as BJP supporters allegedly indulged in massive vandalism in the office premises and the wreckage were dragged out to set ablaze. In the meantime, TIPRA leader and MLA from Shima Brishaketu Debbarma was also attacked at Khowai area while returning from Surma after discharging his poll related responsibilities for their party candidate Baburam Satnami. Debbarma said both the windshields of his car were

vandalized and his PSO sustained grave injuries after a gang of miscreants with saffron colors applied on their faces went on a rampage. "My party colleague Bidut Debbarma was also roughed up. All of them were armed with sharp weapons and threatened us with dire consequences. We somehow managed to escape from the spot," he told to a media.

Contd. From Page 1

Cancer Hospital Forced To Give

like food, fresh drinking water, diesel, life jackets and clothing for the hospital to continue functioning. In visuals from the spot, the hospital ambulance can be seen wading through water whenever possible and a makeshift raft made out of tyre tubes and wooden ply being used where water levels are high. Doctors from the hospital say the floods have been devastating and a lot of people from the administration and even the general public have been involved in relief work. "We have patients so we can't stop treating them. We try to do the quicker procedures in the dry area across the hospital as we are scared of crossing the flooded roads on makeshift rafts. We draw blood and give outpatient care from here and send those who need longer procedures across to the hospital," one of the doctors said, adding that care is being taken to ensure the process is totally safe. "Chemotherapy is being done inside the hospital and it's a three-hour procedure. Only some preparations like injections are given outside," the hospital's founder Padma Shri Awardee Dr Ravi Kannan told. Eight more persons lost their lives in the devastating flood in Assam on Monday, while over 21 lakh people continued to remain in distress under the impact of the deluge, news agency ANI said quoting officials. 134 people have died due to the floods in Assam this year, with eight deaths reported just yesterday -- five from Cachar district and one each from Kamrup Metro, Morigaon, and Nagaon. One person was also reported missing in the Cachar district, according to a bulletin of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA).

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Takes

materials for 5 days. "Relief material is being provided. Everything is at the expense of the government. No one has to pay anything," he said. 2. Most of the rivers in the state showed a receding trend, however, Kopili at Nagaon, Barak at Cachar and Karimganj, and Kushiara in Karimganj were flowing above the danger level, reported news agency PTI citing officials. The overall flood situation in Assam showed signs of improvement on Tuesday with most of the rivers showing a receding trend even though 21 lakh people remained affected by the deluge and most localities of Silchar town in Cachar district still under water for more than a week, officials said. The death toll due to this year's floods have increased to 134 with five more deaths recorded in the last 24 hours. As of Sunday, 2,524 villages in Assam were affected across 27 districts, with more than 200,000 displaced people taking shelter in 564 relief camps across the state, according to Assam's Disaster Management Authority. At last count, the death toll had reached 127. Heavy rainfall aside, the release of water from nearby hydroelectric projects on the Kopili River in Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong overwhelmed the embankments in districts such as Morigaon and the adjoining Nagaon. S Brahma, circle officer in Raha, a small town in Nagaon, told AI Jazeera they had been warned before the opening of the four sluice gates in Dima Hasao. "But even the weather forecast is uncertain these days," she said. "The weather has been very unpredictable this time."

Prof. Mukhi attends 20th convocation

of girls in higher education needs to be stressed. He, in this context, hailed Dibrugarh University which has more than 60 per cent girl students. The Governor during his speech also observed that a major challenge for higher education institutes of India is devising ways to increase the skilled workforce in the country which at present is tremendously behind many other countries. India is faced with a challenge of great proportions as only about tenth of the total workforce of the country has undergone skill training. Therefore, increasing the skilled manpower of the country has become a strategic priority for the country and for higher education institutes in India. It is, therefore, imperative that institutes of higher education find ways and means to integrate conventional education for knowledge creation and dissemination of skill-based education, which is indispensable for the much-needed human resources for the emerging sectors. Chief Guest of the Convocation Director of CSIR-NEIST Dr. G. Narahari Sastry called upon the graduating students to contribute towards nation building with strong moral character. It may be mentioned that out of 29,526 students, 188 got certificates PhD, 172 got MPhil, 3779 got post graduation and 25387 students got graduation.

Indian Oil has ensured

actively tackled this situation and ensured uninterrupted supply of LPG and petrol/ diesel to affected areas. Our newly established Moinorbond depot near Silchar has proved to be a saviour and continuous relief operations have been ensured by the local administration besides meeting the demand for fuel on a regional basis. In view of the situation facing continuous power cuts, priority is directed to be given to mobile tower operators for supply of diesel so that communication channels can be kept operational. Our dealer and distributor network has made concerted efforts to provide food and water to stranded drivers/passengers. Similarly, the distribution of LPG from house to house through boats is being continued using boats instead of delivery vans. This resulted in a backlog of lpg cylinders of just 1.03 days in Assam and a little over 1.7 days in three more severely flooded districts around Silchar. In this critical situation, the efforts of the entire team of Indian Oil, mainly frontline employees, contract workers, TT teams, security guards, LPG delivery persons and other stakeholders, our frontline workers face unprecedented situation and ensure uninterrupted supply of essential petroleum products in the region. Indian Oil is a diverse, integrated energy industry with presence in almost all areas of oil, gas, petrochemicals, and alternative energy sources. Indian Oil is the largest and most trusted corporate group in the country with a net profit of Rs 24,184 crore in fy 2021-22, affecting the lives of more than a billion Indians. With over 33,500 workforce, extensive refining processes, distribution and marketing infrastructure and advanced development facilities, Indian Oil has provided energy utilization to millions of people in different parts of the country through a gradually expanding network of consumer touchpoints, which currently exceeds 50,000.

Maha crisis: What's happening

were plans afoot to burst firecrackers inside the hotel to celebrate the win along with calling the Marathi media, camping with the rest of the jamboree outside Hotel Radisson Blu in Guwahati, to capture the celebrations. However, their plans were set aside. There was another reason for celebration as the hotel has been cooking some Maharashtrian dishes for them after they requested "ghar ka khana". 39 Shiv Sena MLAs and nine other MLAs, including two from Prahar Janshakti Party have been staying at Guwahati's posh Hotel Radisson Blu since they landed in the city last Wednesday in a private charter from Surat. The rebel MLAs, including leader Eknath Shinde, had reached Surat after staging a coup against the Uddhav Thackeray-led faction. They had gone 'out of reach' following the announcement of legislative council poll results on June 20, where the BJP managed to win all the five seats it contested. On the other hand, the NCP-Shiv Sena of MVA won two seats each and Congress one seat, proving to be a major setback for the ruling government in Maharashtra. A meticulously planned operation, that many say has "BJP" written all over it, is now inching towards its penultimate stage - the bringing down of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra (the climax being the formation of a new government in coalition with the BJP). To ensure that every step was closely guarded and there were no chinks in the ranks, India Today has learnt the mobile phones of all MLAs (barring that of the top few trusted lieutenants of Eknath Shinde) were switched off as soon as they landed in Guwahati. To compensate for the same, 16-17 new SIM cards were distributed among them, so they could stay in touch with their loved ones. It must be noted that many legislators are staying at the hotel along with their personal staff and some family members, who've travelled to the eastern city with them. Most of their days are spent enjoying the amenities at the hotel and watching the news, as they keep abreast of the fast-paced developments in Mumbai. India Today was told that most of them spend a lot of time in Eknath Shinde's room chatting with him about the future course, as the latter tries to keep the flock together. A top source added, "It seems they are very loyal to Eknath Shinde." Meanwhile, Shinde camp on Monday decided to extend their stay in Guwahati from June 30 till July 5.

Punjab budget promises free

tax in the budget for 2022-23 and chose to rely on an expected jump in revenue receipts and buoyancy in GST collections by plugging loopholes for funding the proposed expenditure in the budget. Cheema, however, remained silent on giving Rs 1,000 to each woman in the state, adding that the state government will soon fulfil this "guarantee". The budget of the government led by AAP, which came to power while making poll promises in the form of "guarantees", stressed that the government will fulfil its promise of giving 300 units of free electricity per month to each household from July 1, saying it has already planned to finance this scheme by cutting wasteful expenditure and through enhancement of own tax revenue. Cheema said that providing 300 units of free power will put an additional burden of Rs 1,800 crore on the state exchequer, adding that out of five, four "guarantees" giving 300 units of free electricity, quality education, improving health infrastructure and raising compensation to families of martyred soldiers" have been fulfilled. Cheema presented the first paperless budget in the ongoing assembly session and this step is expected to save Rs 21 lakh per annum. 1- Cheema announced setting up of modern digital classrooms in 500 government schools to bring quality education to villages, upgrading 100 existing schools as "schools of eminence" and posting estate managers for a cluster of schools for the upkeep of government schools and a comprehensive scheme for installation of rooftop solar panel systems in government schools. 2- Cheema proposed to start a Punjab Young Entrepreneur programme for encouraging class 11 students to propose their business ideas. The state government will provide seed money of Rs 2,000 per student under this start-up programme. 3- To augment additional resource generation, the budget proposed to establish a Tax Intelligence Unit which will equip the finance department to improve tax compliances under GST through taxpayer facilitation and communication. 4- The government will set up 16 new medical colleges over five years, taking the total number of colleges in the state to 25. The Punjab government will establish 117 "Mohalla Clinics", for which Rs 77 crore has been earmarked. 5- The government has taken a breakthrough decision by approving fresh recruitment of 26,454 people and regularisation of 36,000 contractual employees. 6- To strengthen the police force and equip them with the latest gadgets, technology and tools to tackle crime, and maintain law and order, an allocation of Rs 108 crore is proposed during the FY 2022-23. 7- On the stubble burning issue, Cheema said various possibilities and solutions will be explored and for this Rs 200 crore has been earmarked in the budget. Cheema also stressed on increasing farmers' income and promoting crop diversification and earmarked Rs 11,560 crore for the agriculture sector. The AAP government pledges to stand by its farmers and shall continue providing free power for the agriculture sector and allocated Rs 6,947 crore for the same. 8- Stating that his government was sensitive to the cause of the poor and downtrodden, the FM said door-to-door delivery of well-packaged 'atta' in place of wheat to 1.58 crore beneficiaries under National Food Security Act will be ensured. 9- Cheema also announced 'Farishtey' scheme on the pattern of Delhi whereby the road accident victims will be given free treatment and the helper would be felicitated. 10- The focus in the first year will be to restore deteriorating fiscal health, deliver on the promises of good governance by ensuring effective use of public funds and concentrate on health and education. The minister said, "I propose a budget expenditure of Rs 1,55,860 crore for 2022-23, which reflects 14.20 per cent growth as compared to 2021-22." 10- The government has launched a new project namely Shaheed-e-Azam Sardar Bhagat Singh Hariawal Lehar, under which 50,000 saplings would be planted in all Vidhan Sabha constituencies on the 115th birth anniversary of martyr Bhagat Singh. 11- For industries, the FM announced the setting up of a special commission with only traders and businessmen as its members for collaboration with the government in decision making. A sum of Rs 100 crore has been allocated for setting up and strengthening focal points to promote the industry, he said. 12- Cheema said the state government will issue this year the Gender Responsive Budgeting Guidelines, setting out the strategy to promote the goal of gender equality and mainstreaming for bringing in social transformation and eliminating inequality. 13- According to the budget at a glance, the state's effective outstanding debt is expected to be Rs 2,84,870.03 crore by end of the current fiscal as against Rs 2,63,265.41 crore (revised estimates) for 2021-22. Cheema proposed a revenue deficit and fiscal deficit of Rs 12,553 crore and Rs 23,835 crore respectively. The FM proposed revenue receipts of Rs 95,378 crore as against Rs 81,458 crore of 2021-22 (revised estimates). The finance minister said that the Janata budget (people's budget) has been prepared after receiving 20,384 suggestions on the government portal and through e-mails. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann termed the first budget as balanced, development-oriented and reflective of the pro-people policies of the state government, hailing the budget for FY 2022-23, which proposes no new taxes, as a roadmap for "New Punjab". Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was among those present in the visitor's gallery of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha. Opposition parties in Punjab called the AAP-led government's maiden budget a "bunch of lies" and claimed it "disappointed" every section of the society. Reacting to the budget, Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring said, "Budget is not just a financial statement, but also a means to set the course for future progress and was the best chance for the government to show what 'badlaav' (change) it envisioned for the state and it has miserably failed on that." "Not a single promise that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) made before the elections has been touched in the budget," PTI quoted Punjab Congress chief as saying. He further said there is no clarity about the "300 units of free power". Other than the token announcement, he said, the finance minister did not elaborate as to from where the government will get the money as there is no budgetary allocation made for the scheme. Taking on the AAP government over the poll promise of Rs 1,000 to each woman per month, Congress leader and Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa said, "The government of Punjab has made no announcement regarding the Rs 1,000 per month to every woman above 18 years." Issuing a statement, he said, "This promise I fear will not be seen till the last six months of the AAP government in 2027. This is a serious breach of trust committed by the government of Punjab. It clearly shows that their big promises are untenable under proper scrutiny." BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh said after facing a humiliating defeat in the Sangrur Lok Sabha by-election, the AAP has presented a budget which has made a "mockery" of the common man in Punjab. Chugh added that the budget has disappointed all sections of the society be it traders, farmers or the service class.

Shinde boasts 50 MLAs' support

"We are with the Shiv Sena and I'll be in Mumbai soon." He further added, "50 MLAs are here on their own. No MLA is suppressed here, and everyone is happy. The MLAs are with us at the Guwahati hotel." On being asked if MLAs in Guwahati are in touch with Shiv Sena, Shinde said if this is so, it should reveal their names too. "We are in Shiv Sena and will take the party ahead. We are taking forward Balasaheb Thackeray's Hindutva and there should be no doubt about this," he said. Shinde added: "Deepak Kesarkar is our spokesperson and he will give you the updates about our movement. We will let you know our further course of action." Meanwhile, rebel Sena MLA Sada Sarvankar also confirmed with the media that Shinde is expected to meet Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari soon, adding that a floor test might take place this week only.

What after 4 years? Mamata Banerjee slams BJP over Agnipath Scheme

New Delhi, June 28: Mamata Banerjee congratulated the people of Asansol in a meeting at Asansol on Tuesday. She thanked Shatrughan Sinha for his victory. She said, "Khamosh! People have crushed the BJP." Speaking in Asansol, Mamata Banerjee launched a scathing attack on the Centre. The Chief Minister called the Agnipath project a major corruption by the BJP. She questioned the appointment of the Agniveers for 4 years. Mamata Banerjee said, "80,000 posts have been removed in the railways. How do you get a job? The BJP is lying. They are showing Lollipops ahead of the 2024 polls." Mamata said, "For four years, the Centre has claimed to recruit 20,000 people all over India and then 40,000 people again. If you see, a thousand children in one state will not get a chance! Even if he gets a chance, his life span will be 4 years, then what will happen?" Mamata Banerjee further added, "After four years, the state is being asked to give jobs to Agniveers.

Assam Rifles rescue 6-day old baby from flood-hit Silchar

Assam Rising , Biswanath Chariali, June 28:

Engaging against the fury of the nature for continuous seven days Srikona Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ 21 Sector Assam Rifles & IGAR (East) persistently carried out flood relief and rescue ops in Silchar City of Assam on June 26 last, Srikona battalion of Assam Rifles along with Engineer Spear of Spear Corps evacuated a six day old infant with his mother to a safe haven through the highly inundated area of the city. The child was born on 20 June, the day when devastating floods inundated Silchar city. Upon getting a SOS call about the stranded family of the newborn, Srikona Battalion launched a swift and coordinated rescue operation to escort the infant and his family to a safer place. Due to the diligent efforts of the battalion the infant born on June 20 was brought to the outer world safely. The mother and the child reunited with their family hale and hearty. The relieved and rejoiced family members expressed sincere gratitude towards the Assam Rifles for their humanitarian contribution towards the society.



Teacher Ramzan Ali passed away

Assam Rising, Rupahihat, June 28: Ramzan Ali, a science teacher of Udmari Higher Secondary School in Rupahihat under Nagaon district, who worked at the school till yesterday, passed away at his residence in Nagabanda. Ali died due to cardiac arrest. It is to be recalled that Ali joined Udmari H.S. School in 1994 as a science teacher and was working in the school till death. He was involved in various social activities and always maintained good relations with the students. He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter. The death of the deceased teacher left a shadow of mourning in Udmari and surrounding areas.

Sonitpur Lokra Bn. distributed flood relief in Silchar

Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, June 28:

Lokra Battalion under the aegis of HQ Sect 21 and Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) distributed the essential food supplies and rations in gen area Latigram, Silchar, Cachar District, on June 27. A team of Lokra Battalion distributed essential food stores in the flood affected area inaccessible by road and helped the locals in their fight for survival. The relief material was distributed to approximately 120 families of the Latigram village.



4 killed, 1 injured in a road mishap at Kanchanjuri

Assam Rising, Nagaon, June 28: 4 occupants coming in a speeding car Hyundai Aura from Guwahati towards Jorhat were killed in a tragic road mishap early this morning on NH 37 road near Kanchanjuri in Kaliabor subdivision. Significantly, one occupant luckily got a lifeline in the tragic incident after grievously injured. He was immediately admitted to Jakhalabandha hospital in a critical condition, sources added. Sources claimed that the incident took place when the speeding car bearing registration number AS 03 AE 8003 lost control and jumped into a roadside ditch (wetland) near Kanchanjuri under Bagori police patrolling outpost in the subdivision. According to sources, the deceased occupants have been identified as Luhit Das (18), Ankur Jyoti (30), Rishab Das of Jorhat and Rahul Senapati of Majuli while the injured one has been identified as Chachin Bordoloi of Jorhat. Sources said that they were all students and were coming to Jorhat when they all met the disaster in the mid-way.

APCC organized Press Meet against Agnipath scheme

Assam Rising, Udalguri, June 28: In the against of the scheme Agnipath which is going to destroy the future of new generation of country and which is generating the phobia in security system of the country, Assam Pradesh Congress Committee and Udalguri District Youth Congress and in association of NSUI addressed a press meet in Udalguri on Monday. It is to be noted



that in the pre-recruitment process of the Indian Army, about 70,000-80,000 candidates were recruited every year. Instead, the decision to provide temporary employment for only four years as a 40/45 thousand candidate Agniveer through the current Agnipath scheme is never acceptable. Today Rohit Pariga president of Udalguri District Youth Congress asked the government through a press meet that in the case where the present government has promised to solve the problem of unemployment, is BJP trying to deprive the opportunity of unemployed youths of the country. On the other hand, in contrast to the long-term training of the regular army, it is easy to estimate how much training the Agniveers will be able to make them more efficient and this will raise more doubts about the security of the country. India's Agnipath scheme is set to gradually turn into a flame. Therefore, the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee and the Udalguri District Youth Congress have called on the Government of India to cancel the scheme.

Child drowns at Sootea

Assam Rising , Biswanath Chariali, June 28: One Gourav Chetry (12), a student reading in class six at Niz Sootea M.E school died of drowning today at Upar Gorpai, in the southern part of Sootea in the evening. According to information, Gourav went to swim in the bay of Biswanath-Panpur embankment along with his friends while he was swept away by the flow of Brahmaputra. Some of the boys informed the local people who rushed to the site and searched for him. The body was recovered after some time. A team of Sootea police reached the site and sent the body for postmortem.

Chelsea poised to table bid for Raheem Sterling to kickstart summer spree



Manchester City, June 28 : Chelsea are preparing an opening bid for Raheem Sterling after Todd Boehly, the club's new co-owner, told Manchester City of his intention to sign the England forward. Thomas Tuchel wants to increase his side's goalscoring threat and Chelsea, who saw Petr Cech leave his role as their technical and performance adviser yesterday, intend to give their manager the funds to strengthen his squad this summer. Tuchel has identified Sterling as a key target and Boehly, who is leading the club's recruitment drive, has contacted City to open talks over the 27-year-old. There is a willingness on all sides to make sure a deal is done. Sterling, who has a year left on his contract, has been reviewing his options since the end of the season and City do not expect him to be their player next season. It is thought that between £50m and £60m would be enough for City to sell Sterling, who has received

assurances from Tuchel that he will be a regular starter at Chelsea. The positive nature of Tuchel's discussions with the former Liverpool forward have raised confidence that he will kickstart Chelsea's spending under the Boehly-Clearlake consortium. Chelsea are yet to agree personal terms with Sterling but they are determined to sign him. Sterling's appeal to Tuchel is obvious. Chelsea, who are also talking to Juventus about the Netherlands centre-back Matthijs de Ligt, are planning a revamp of their attack after allowing Romelu Lukaku to join Internazionale on loan and want to improve their edge in the final third. Sterling, who has scored 131 goals since joining City in 2015, would represent an upgrade on many of Tuchel's current options. Sterling has won the Premier League title four times at City. However, Pep Guardiola has started him on the bench in many of City's biggest games in the last two seasons and the

player faces increased competition for his place following the arrivals of Erling Haaland and Julián Álvarez in Manchester, opening the door for Chelsea to make their move. Chelsea, who could allow Hakim Ziyech to join Milan on loan, are unlikely to replace Lukaku with a No 9. They are looking at versatile players who can contribute with goals from out wide. They are monitoring Everton's Richarlison, who is a target for Tottenham, and Leeds United's Raphinha, who is being courted by Arsenal.

'The best we've ever had' Eoin Morgan set to call time on England career

London, June 28 : Eoin Morgan will return on Tuesday to the scene of the World Cup triumph he masterminded three years ago and call time on an England career that will go down in history as one of the most significant of the modern era. As first revealed by the Guardian, the 35-year-old is poised to confirm his retirement from all forms of international cricket at a press conference at Lord's on Tuesday afternoon after accepting defeat in his battle for form and fitness. Morgan has long maintained he would stand aside if he felt he no longer merited his spot in the XI but after one half-century in his past 48 innings across international and domestic cricket - ending with two ducks in the Netherlands - the time is now. A T20 World Cup in Australia later this year, on pitches which should suit England's army of thunderbats, means Morgan has given his successor - most likely Jos Buttler - and the head coach, Matthew Mott, sufficient time to build their relationship. But the seven-year revolution is unlikely to end with his retirement. Buttler will take charge of not just a team in Morgan's image but a generation of cricketers all the way down the food chain who play in the style he dictated; should England go on to unite the T20 crown with the 50-over silverware

Cameron Norrie sees off rain delays and Pablo Andújar to reach second round

Wimbledon, June 28 : The weather caused Cameron Norrie as many problems as his opponent, Pablo Andújar, on Court Two on Monday. But after two delays for rain the only British seed in the men's singles was also the first Briton into the second round, with a straight-sets victory that was only in any real doubt when the second extended into a tie-break. Norrie has reached the third round at a grand slam tournament five times in his career, including Wimbledon last year and Roland Garros last month but has yet to progress to the last 16. As the ninth

seed and world No 12, however, an overdue debut in the second week should be the least of his ambitions and he opened his match on Monday in dominant form, reeling off six games in a row in 25 minutes. His fast start owed something to his opponent's fragility, as Andújar's service games teetered constantly on the edge of surrender, but Norrie did not offer up any chances for a counterpunch and swept through one service game with four first-serve winners. Andújar, a first-round departure in six of his eight previous visits to SW19, showed some signs of a revival at the start of the



second set, grabbing his first break of the match shortly before the first rain delay. He lost a close-fought service game when the players returned, however, before finally finding some consistency on serve to edge, game by game, towards a tie break. The Spaniard was starting to find the lines with his groundstrokes too, and some fine shot-making by Norrie in response, including a miraculous backhand crosscourt volley in the 12th game, was enough only to earn him the tie-break. Just

when he needed it most, however, Andújar's serve deserted him once again and Norrie, having won the tie break to three, won nine successive points near the start of the third set to get within touching distance of victory - just as the darkest cloud of the day started to poke its nose over the grandstand. Norrie did his best to get out in front of it but Three match points on the Andújar serve went begging before the inevitable dash for cover. But Norrie needed just five

minutes, three deuces and some more lacklustre serves from his opponent to wrap things up after the restart, though, sealing a 6-0, 7-6, 6-3 victory with a rifled forehand pass down the line. "It was a tricky one, obviously, with the delays and having to stop and restart," Norrie said. "Especially at the end, having a couple of match points and then coming out and having to play again, when it could be five minutes or it could be three hours. There's obviously still things I can improve but it was pretty solid." "I wasn't too aware of it [the approaching rain] until someone in the crowd shouted, 'Come on, Cam, get it done before the rain,' and I looked over and I saw the huge grey cloud. I think after that I had one more match point and it would have been nice to get it done earlier but it is what it is.

Lawsuit claims Texans 'enabled' Deshaun Watson's alleged sexual misconduct

Texas, June 28 : Texas attorney Tony Buzbee filed suit against the Houston Texans on Monday, saying the team "enabled" former quarterback Deshaun Watson's alleged sexual misconduct against his clients during massage sessions. Buzbee is representing the remaining four women suing Watson, accusing him of sexual misconduct. Buzbee indicated earlier this month he planned to add the Texans to the litigation. He followed through on that less than a week after settling 20 of 24 cases with Watson. It also comes one day before Watson's reported hearing with the NFL, with some predicting the league could suspend the 26-year-old for the upcoming season. "Today we filed the first case of what



will likely be many against the Houston Texans related to Deshaun Watson's behavior," Buzbee said in a statement provided to Cleveland.com. "Suffice it to say, the overwhelming evidence collected indicating that the Houston Texans enabled Watson's behavior is incredibly damning. We believe the Texans knew or most certainly should have known of Watson's conduct." Buzbee cited information from the Houston Police Department. The first lawsuit was filed in March

2021, with a flurry of additional women also filing complaints over the following months to bring the total to 24. The women all allege Watson committed sexual improprieties during the course of a massage. He has denied all accusations, and two grand juries in Texas declined to bring criminal charges against Watson earlier this year. The Browns acquired Watson, 26, from the Houston Texans in a trade in March and signed him to a five-year deal with \$230m in guaranteed money. Watson did not play during the 2021 NFL season. In 2020, the three-time Pro Bowl selection led the NFL with 4,823 passing yards and set a career high with 33 touchdown passes and just seven interceptions.

BBC diversity group rails at decision to keep Michael Vaughan on commentary



London, June 28 : An in-house diversity group at the BBC has sent an extraordinary email to staff at the corporation criticising as "totally inexcusable" the decision to employ the former England cricket captain Michael Vaughan as part of their team covering the third Test against New Zealand at Headingley. The email - written by BBC Sport's Black, Asian and minority ethnic group and sent on Monday morning - said the decision to allow Vaughan to commentate on the game for Radio 5 live was "totally inexcusable" and "a shocking miscalculation" that had caused "excruciating, overwhelming and unbearable" distress among many members of staff. Vaughan was dropped from coverage of the Ashes last November after he was accused by several players of making a racist comment before a Yorkshire game in 2009. He has repeatedly and categorically denied doing so. Having returned to the commentary team for the English summer Vaughan's participation in the BBC's coverage came under renewed focus last week after it emerged that he had been charged by the England and Wales Cricket Board's disciplinary commission with bringing the game into disrepute, in relation to the accusations first aired by Azeem Rafiq, and since corroborated by two other players present. Barbara Slater, the head of BBC Sport, nevertheless told staff that he would remain involved.

Tour de France: Cavendish and Alaphilippe miss Quick-Step team cut

Paris, June 28 : Mark Cavendish will not ride in this year's Tour de France after the British rider was named as a first-reserve rider by Belgian team Quick-Step Alpha Vinyl on Monday. Cavendish had made his case for Tour de France selection after winning his second British road race title on Sunday, saying he will win stages if selected. The 37-year-old equalled the all-time record for stage wins last year and was hopeful of breaking the record at July's race, but will be on reserve along with Florian Senechal while Julian Alaphilippe is not in the eight-man team.



Dutchman Fabio Jakobsen, who has 10 victories this year, will be Quick-Step's sprinter. Copenhagen's city mayor, Sophie Haestorp Andersen, cycles on a cargo bike as she transports the Tour de France Grand Depart trophy from Vesterbro Square to City Hall. "We have riders who can support Fabio, riders who can climb, but who can also do something in the breakaways," said the Quick-Step Alpha Vinyl sports director Tom Steels. "Concerning our reserves, we must stress that they showed a lot of professionalism, continued to train and remained focused in these past couple of weeks, and even brought two victories at the Nationals.

Wimbledon, June 28 : As a six-times champion here Novak Djokovic has experienced most things it is possible to feel at Wimbledon. But when he stepped on to court today he did so with a little trepidation, unsure what to expect from himself after not playing any grass-court warm-up tournaments and unsure what to expect from the crowd. His much-publicised decision not to be vaccinated against Covid 19 was not well received in Britain, with many asking if he should even be allowed to play. The dropping of Covid-19 restrictions in Britain ended that discussion and on Monday, he enjoyed a genuinely warm reception as he made his way out for the defence of his title. The top seed needed their support, too, as he shook off some rust with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 win against Soonwoo Kwon of Korea, setting up a meeting with the

talented Australian Thanasi Kokkinakis. "I was very pleasantly surprised, I mean, in a positive way," Djokovic said. "I felt support. Of course, the crowd was engaged in the match. They supported both players. I thought they were very fair to me. I enjoyed my time very much on the court." With no points on offer at this year's Championships - the ATP's and WTA's response to Wimbledon's decision not to allow Russian and Belarusian players to compete - Djokovic will slide down the rankings, win or lose this fortnight. It is a situation he accepts, just as he does the fact that, unless the US entry rules change, he will not be allowed into the country and will therefore be unable to play the US Open, unless he chooses to be vaccinated, something he says he will not do. "I guess that motivates me more to try to make the most out of this

tournament," the 35-year-old said. "I'll see how it goes, I guess, after Wimbledon. Not much time after Wimbledon before US Open. I'm hoping some things can change and that I'll be able to go and compete. I would want to. But it is what it is at the moment. My thoughts and attention is here." Djokovic admitted he was not at his best in his win against Kwon but he got the job done without too much drama. The victory was his 80th at Wimbledon and he is now the only man in the Open era to win 80 or more matches at each of the four grand slam tournaments. Carlos Alcaraz is at the other end of the scale, when it comes to experience. At 19 he is the youngest man in the draw and competing in the main draw at Wimbledon for only a second time but he is already a crowd favourite, the Spaniard thrilling fans on No 1 Court with a five-set win against



Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff. The big-serving Struff led two sets to one but it was the serve of Alcaraz, who has shot up the rankings this year to be the No 5 seed, which stood out, 30 aces getting him out of trouble and into the second round. "Starting Wimbledon in five sets, starting the same as last year, means I like to play on grass," he said, smiling.

"I don't want to leave the court." The third seed Casper Ruud, the runner-up to Rafael Nadal at the French Open this month, won a match at Wimbledon for the first time with a 7-6, 7-6, 6-2 victory against Albert Ramos-Vinolas of Spain but the No 7 seed Hubert Hurkacz, a semi finalist last year, endured a shock defeat by another Spaniard, Alejandro Davidovich

Fokina. Davidovich Fokina, a former junior champion here, looked to have blown it when he went for a twener at triple match point in the third set, only to be hauled back by Hurkacz, who then led 5-3 in the fifth. But the Spaniard broke back and came from 7-4 down in the deciding tiebreak to win it 10-8, his smile more of relief than joy.

Andy Murray battles back to beat James Duckworth and thrill Centre Court

Wimbledon, June 28 : Even after so many enthralling Centre Court nights under the lights, Andy Murray still finds fresh ways to entice and delight. He was at it again in the fourth set of a lively match against Australian James Duckworth, throwing in an underarm serve for the first time in his 14 Wimbledon singles appearances down the years. The crowd purred. Murray smiled. But while it only brought him a solitary point, it emphasised a far wider one: that he has more tricks in his locker than at any time since his career nearly ended in 2017. The impression was reinforced by the post-match statistics which showed Murray hit 35 winners and just 14 unforced errors on the way to beating Duckworth 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4. He knows time is short, at age 35, to make another deep run in the tournament he loves most. But if he can get past the 20th seed John Isner in the second round on Wednesday, you wouldn't put it past him. "I am getting on a bit now," said Murray. "I don't know how many opportunities I will get here so I want to make the most of it every time." Towards



the end, in particular, there were echoes of vintage Murray: particularly in the way he moved Duckworth around the court, teasing and testing, before applying the kill. And then there was that underarm serve, which his opponent could only scoop up in the air, allowing Murray an easy kill. "Well, he changed his return position," explained Murray. "That's why I did it. He was standing very close to return. He was struggling a little bit on the first-serve return, so he stepped probably two metres further back. As soon as I saw him step further back, I threw the underarm serve in." I personally have no issue with players using it. I never have. The underarm serve is a way of saying: 'If you're going to step back there,

then I'm going to possibly throw that in.' "Afterwards Murray accepted that he was no longer the same player he was when he last lifted the Wimbledon jug in 2016. Even so, he looks far fitter since linking back up with his old coach Ivan Lendl earlier this year - a fact reinforced by victories over Stefanos Tsitsipas and Nick Kyrgios in Stuttgart earlier this month. Encouragingly, he showed no signs of the stomach strain he suffered that put his Wimbledon appearance in doubt. "It felt fine, to be honest," he said. "The last few days when I've been serving was fine. I went to get a scan, an ultrasound scan on it on Saturday after my practice just to see how it was progressing. It was all clear for the first time on

the scans, which is really positive." Murray was also happy with the way he recovered after going a set down to Duckworth, who played far better than his world ranking of 74 suggested. "I did well to regroup after the first set," he said. "He likes to play on the grass. Once I managed to find my returns, I felt more comfortable." He also knew that Duckworth had run hot in that opening set, hitting 14 winners to 10 unforced errors. The question was, could it last? Slowly we got our answer: no. Murray's serving noticeably improved in the second set, giving him a platform to attack. And at 3-2 on serve, he produced a defensive masterclass after earning breakpoint before his opponent finally strayed into the tramlines. Further mistakes soon followed as Murray confidently took the second set 6-3. Suddenly Centre Court was carrying echoes of some of Murray's glory days. The Pimm's-soaked crowd living every point. The urgent chants of "Come on Andy". Only old stone-

face himself, Lendl, sat unmoved in the players' box. But when Murray quickly secured the third set 6-2 it was enough to impress even Lendl, who applauded along with the rest of Murray's box. Then came a 10-minute delay, while the roof came across the court and the lights were turned on, but Murray was not to be denied. The fourth set went with serve until he broke in the ninth game - before sealing the match in the next. "I did well to get through," he said. "There is always nerves and pressure and butterflies and stress before the first round. It was great to get a win under my belt." However he knows stiffer tasks await - starting with Isner, who hit 54 aces in his match. "I'm in a better place than I was last year when I played here," added Murray. "In terms of like pain, certainly in a better place than I was in 2017 when I played here." "I don't know about having a deep run or not. I've got a pretty tricky match in the next round against Isner. I'll need to be on it for that."

County cricket: Sam Curran earns maiden century as Surrey run riot-as it happened

London, June 28 : With a bound down the pitch, and a slammed six into the pavilion, Sam Curran had what Tiggers like best - his first hundred in senior cricket, seven years and 120 first-class innings after his debut. He leapt once, twice, rabble-roused his bat towards the dressing-room, kissed his helmet and grinned. There was time to smash 19 runs off one over from Jacob Duffy before he was bowled by George Linde for 126. Surrey eventually declared on 673 for seven, once Will Jacks had collected the fourth century of the innings - the first time that had happened since 1947. Curran then bowled 2022 run machine Ben Compton in the fourth over, but Kent rebuilt thanks to a half-century from Daniel Bell-Drummond. In a see-saw game at Chelmsford, Simon Harmer took eight for 46 - the best figures in the 2022 Championship - and then shovelled 61 to plonk Essex into a strong



position. But it didn't go all their way; Liam Dawson took seven for 38 before Felix Organ spanked Harmer for three sixes as Hampshire chased 299. Sussex's tricky season continued as Anuj Dal (146no) and Mark Watt jollied Derbyshire past 500 and onto a declaration. Sam Connors removed both openers but Tom Alsop and Mohammad Rizwan (54no) provided some stoicism. Rain made batting difficult at Wantage Road;

while Lancashire still trail Gloucestershire, despite 94 from Keaton Jennings. Mark Stoneman was the only batter to thrive in Middlesex's reply to Nottinghamshire's 551-8 declared, which included a century for Lyndon James. Thirteen wickets fell at New Road as Glamorgan were skittled for 139, Joe Leach taking six for 44, before Worcestershire finished the day on 147 for six, a lead of 279.

Wimbledon : Burrage saves the day while Djokovic makes history



Wimbledon, June 28 : Day one of the Championships and we already have a strong contender for the inaugural Big Heart of Wimbledon award: Britain's Jodie Burrage. The 23-year-old lost her first-round match with Lesia Tsurenko but more memorably went to the aid of a stricken ballboy after he suffered what appeared to be a fainting fit during the first set. Burrage, who says she has had similar experiences herself, first fed the lad some of her own energy gel, then requested

sweets from the crowd. A bag of popular gummy chews were provided (without advertising brands other than the Diary's official sponsors*, let's just say they rhymed with Dercy Dig) and Burrage sat with the boy as he recuperated. The All England Club later confirmed: "He's fine." Day one and the records are falling too. Monday's first rain delay was timed at 10.45am, just three-quarters of an hour into the competition and the earliest in the history of the tournament. Well, strictly speaking, that

cannot be confirmed as nobody keeps records on rain breaks and Wimbledon will say only that the first Monday has been washed out altogether on five occasions. But in the absence of information to the contrary, we'll take it as a win and just more evidence of Britain competing effectively on the world stage. Another record! Novak Djokovic became the first male player to win 80 matches across all four grand slams with his four-set victory over South Korea's Kwon Soon-woo. The Serb may be favourite to retain his singles title a week on Sunday, but has he ever dressed up as a little red car with cloud of exhaust fumes for a mouth? The answer to that is no (at least, it's not on his Wikipedia). Kwon can make that claim however, after he appeared on South Korean TV's King of the Masked Singer last year.

London, June 28 : This article is part of the Guardian's Women's Euro 2022 Experts Network, a cooperation between some of the best media organisations from the 16 countries who have qualified. theguardian.com is running previews from two countries each day in the run-up to the tournament kicking off on 6 July. Northern Ireland are without doubt the team that ripped up the script in qualifying for the Women's Euro 2022 finals, their first major tournament in the women's game. Pulled out of pot four in the draw, they lost only two games out of eight - both against the former world, European and Olympic champions and eventual group winners Norway, who scored six without reply in the two games. The key results were two draws against the second seeds Wales, in particular the 2-2 in Newport when Ashley Hutton marked her 100th cap with a late headed equaliser. Coupled with a 0-0 draw in Belfast in the final game before a Covid-19 enforced delay, that put Northern Ireland ahead of Wales on head-to-head record. Four straight wins against



Belarus - who had come out of pot three - and the Faroe Islands in the second half of the campaign clinched the runners-up spot in the group. Kenny Shiels's side finished with an identical record to Wales, but the two away goals in Newport saw them come out on top. In the playoffs, their qualification dream came true after fantastic home and away victories over Ukraine - 2-1 in Kovalivka, and 2-0 in Belfast - and the biggest disappointment was that Covid-19 restrictions at the time meant fans could not attend

the historic occasion when the team clinched their place in the finals. They will more than make up for that at the finals, with a large travelling support expected for their three matches in Southampton. "We had amateur players who were going to work in supermarkets, in hospitals. The majority of our squad is made up of that and I have to say, when you look at it in that perspective, it makes the achievement ridiculous," said Shiels after qualification was secured. The manager has experimented with different sys-

tems and setups; competition for places plus versatility within the squad mean he isn't wedded to a particular shape. Against the stronger nations lately, a fluid and somewhat unconventional 3-5-1-1 formation has been employed, with Lauren Wade coming from wide to join Simone Magill in attack, and midfielders Marissa Callaghan and Rachel Furness breaking centrally. An enigmatic character, Kenny Shiels's varied and colourful career, which has seen him coach at every level in Northern Ireland as

well as England, Scotland, the Republic of Ireland and Thailand over the course of 30 years, was at something of a crossroads when he parted company with Derry City in late 2018. His philosophy of attractive football brought trophies along the way, the most high-profile coming when he guided Kilmarnock to the Scottish League Cup in 2012. He continued in the same style after being appointed as manager of the Northern Ireland women's team six months after leaving Derry. Under his leadership they have achieved unprecedented success - record-winning runs, record victories and qualifying for a first major championship. Rachel Furness is many things to Northern Ireland women's football. She is the team's all-time leading goalscorer, their playmaker, most high-profile player and a fantastic role model to those who one day want to pull on the green shirt. Her amazing record of 38 goals in 84 appearances (at time of writing) is made all the more remarkable by the fact that a chronic knee injury forced her to take a two-year break from the game while still in her early 20s.

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