



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Bail granted

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 29 :

Former Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Saibur Rahman has been granted bail by the Gauhati High Court on Wednesday on the village headmen (Gaonburha) appointment scam. The hearing on the case took place on May 23 last and the court granted bail to Rahman today after the final hearing. He was granted bail on all the cases. Rahman was granted bail on November on the charges of acquiring disproportionate asset worth over Rs. 100 crore. He was arrested on August by CM Vigilance Cell. Rahman was granted bail in the case as the CM Vigilance Cell failed to submit the chargesheet even after 90 days of time given by the court.

Tree falls

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 29 :

The movement of vehicles on national highway number 37 in Assam's Nagaon district was blocked after a huge tree fell on the highway on Wednesday. The incident took place at Burapahar in Kaliabor in the Nagaon district of Assam. Due to incessant rains in the region, the tree was uprooted and it fell on the highway. Several vehicles were left stranded after the road got cut off by the tree. A long line of vehicles could be seen waiting for movement to be restored. The driver of a freight vehicle waiting in the line said, "We are waiting here since morning. We came up to this point to find the road had been blocked off."

Movement of traffic

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 29 :

Movement of traffic on the stretch of road connecting Kenduguri in the Bajali district of Assam to the Manas National Park was halted entirely on Tuesday leaving locals stranded. According to reports, floodwaters from the nearby Puhumara river that overflowed, has broken a section of the road making it very dangerous to traverse on it. Meanwhile, locals of the nearby area have been left stranded on either side of the portion of road after deep cracks appeared on it. They fear the road will get washed away any moment. Moreover, apart from vehicular movement, electricity in the area has also snapped.

Rebel Shiv Sena MLAs donate Rs 51 lakh for Assam flood relief

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma thanks Shinde camp for donation



Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 29 :

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday thanked Shiv Sena MLAs led by Eknath Shinde for donating Rs 51 lakh towards the CM Relief Fund. Biswa said the contribution will go a long way in reaching out to the flood victims and ensuring relief in flood-affected areas of



the state. Heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble Shiv Sena MLAs led by Shri @mieknathshinde ji for contributing 51 lakh to CM Relief Fund. The contribution shall go a long way in reaching out to the flood victims and ensuring relief in flood-affected areas of our State. Eknath Shinde announced the news on Wednesday even as the MLAs are set to leave

Guwahati to participate in the floor test in Mumbai tomorrow, June 30. The Himanta Biswa Sarma-led BJP government in Assam and the Shiv Sena were earlier criticised for "dragging the Maharashtra political crisis into the state at a time when it was devastated by floods". Eknath Shinde along with the Shiv Sena MLAs had arrived in Guwahati on June 22 from Surat in Gujarat. The political crisis in Maharashtra is now at a turning point after Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari called for a floor test to be conducted on Thursday. Rebel Shiv Sena MLAs from Maharashtra have contributed Rs 51 lakh for the flood relief work in Assam, where they have been camping since the last

week, their spokesperson said on Wednesday. The Sena legislators, led by senior minister Eknath Shinde, have raised the banner of revolt against their party. These MLAs had first come to Guwahati on June 22 and subsequently in several batches from Gujarat's Surat in chartered flights. Amid criticism that the Sena dissidents were staying at a luxury hotel in Guwahati even as parts of Assam were grappling with severe floods, Deepak Kesarkar, the spokesperson of the rebel MLAs told PTI, "Shinde has donated Rs 51

lakh to the Assam Chief Minister's Relief Fund as our contribution to their ongoing rescue work. We cannot ignore the plight of people here." Kesarkar added that with Maharashtra Governor B S Koshiyari asking the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government to face a floor test on Thursday, the rebel MLAs have decided to move out of Guwahati and shift to a place near Mumbai. A close aide of Shinde, however, said the

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Tejashwi Surya, National President of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha distributed assistance to 500 families in Hajo



Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 29 :

National President of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha and South Bangalok Lok Sabha constituency MP Tejashwi Surya today to take stock of flood hit people of Assam Hajo area. After arriving at Guwahati, Mr Surya went to Hajo constituency of

Kamrup rural district today. He distributed Food items among over 500 families this evening. The national president of yuva morcha goes house to house of the flood affected people and distributes food items. In the Hajo area several are also affected by the flood. The

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CM Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the ACA Fitness Centre, ACA Banquet and Lawn



Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 29 :

The ACA Fitness Centre, ACA Banquet and Lawn, and ACA Covered Practice Arena were inaugurated,

and the Foundation Stone of the ACA Parking and Commercial Complex was laid today by Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister, Assam in presence of a host of dignitaries includ-

ing Hon'ble Shri Debolal Gorlosa, Chief Executive Member, North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council; Shri Romen Dutta, President, Assam Cricket Association; Shri Devajit Saikia, Secretary, Assam Cricket Association; Shri Porikshit Dutta, Vice-President, Assam Cricket Association; Shri Tridib Konwar, Treasurer, Assam Cricket Association; Shri Kamakhya

Saikia, Joint Secretary, Assam Cricket Association; Shri Saibal Sengupta, Member, Apex Council, Assam Cricket Association and Shri Naba Konwar, Member, Apex Council, Assam Cricket Association. During the event, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, who was a former president of Assam Cricket Association, handed over a cheque amounting to Rupees 5 lakhs to Shri Debolal Gorlosa, Chief Executive Member, North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council for the people of North Cachar Hills affected by the vagaries of nature recently. Speaking at the event, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister, Assam, termed the occasion momentous for Assam Cricket Association and the cricketing landscape of the State. Understanding the significance of fitness in sports, he said that the newly developed state-of-the-art ACA Fitness

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Dr. Ajanta Nath Appointed Chairman Of APSC

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 29 :

Dr. Ajanta Nath was on Monday appointed as the new chairman of the Assam Public Service Commission (APSC) with immediate effect. The appointment was

made by the Governor of Assam, Professor Jagdish Mukhi via an official order dated June 27. According to the order, Dr. Nath, a member of the APSC has been appointed to take over the

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Assam Flood Situation Worsens Due to Incessant Rain, death toll rises to 139



Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 29 :

The flood situation in Assam worsened on Wednesday following incessant rain, with five more people losing their lives in the deluge and the number of affected people rising to 24.92 lakh, while Silchar town in Cachar district continued to remain inundated for the last 10 days, officials said. The MeT department has issued a 'red alert' in the districts of Kokrajhar, Chirang, and Baksa, and an 'orange alert' in Dhubri,

Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Udalguri, Biswanath, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, and Dibrugarh. The weather office has also issued an 'orange alert' in South Salmara, Kokrajhar, Chirang, and Baksa districts till Thursday. Five fresh fatalities have taken the total number of deaths due to floods and landslides in Assam this year to 139, while three more people have been reported missing, a bulletin issued by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said. Brahmaputra, Beki, Kopili,

Barak, and Kushiya rivers were flowing above the danger level in some places although most of the remaining rivers were showing a receding trend. Most localities of Silchar were still water-logged and the situation remained critical with residents facing a shortage of food, drinking water, and medicines. The town has remained submerged for the last 10 days due to a breach of a dike in Bethkundi. Deputy Commissioner Keerthi Jalli said work is underway to repair it. She said the priority was being

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IAF Airlifts Over 500 Tons of Relief Materials to Flood Affected Areas of Assam

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 29 :

The Indian Air Force (IAF) said that it airlifted a total of 517 tons of relief material across various flood affected regions of Assam and Meghalaya over the past six days. "Relief Operations by IAF continue unabated day and night. Over the past six days, a total of 517 Tons of relief material has been airlifted across various flood affected re-

gions of Assam and Meghalaya," IAF said in a tweet. According to IAF officials, it has flown more than 130 humanitarian assurance missions till now and dropped 700 tons of load in the last five days for Assam floods, ANI reported. Earlier, the Indian Air Force deployed seven types of fixed and rotary-wing aircraft in various flood-affected areas. Meanwhile, five people died due to floods in Assam in the

last 24 hours taking the death toll in the state to 139, according to official data. According to the flood reporting and information management system (FRIMS) under the government of Assam, which releases daily flood reports, as many as 24,92,913 people still remain affected by floods in the state. The report added that a total of 85,673.62 hectares of crop

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NFR to operate two special trains

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 29 :

The Northeast Frontier Railway has decided to operate two special trains between Silchar - New Haflong - Silchar and Guwahati - Langting - Guwahati to facilitate the movement of passengers in the hill section. Both the special trains will start running on daily basis from June to 30 July 14. But Guwahati -

Langting - Guwahati will not run on Saturday. Special Train No. 05616 (Silchar - New Haflong Special), will depart from Silchar at 07:20 hours to reach New Haflong at 11:30 hours. Train No. 05615 (New Haflong - Silchar Special), will depart from New Haflong at 15:30 hours to reach Silchar at 20:30 hours. During its both way journey the special train will have stoppages at

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CM Dr. Sarma attended various programmes at ACA Cricket Stadium, Barsapara in Guwahati on June 29.

Nupur Sharma comment row: Mamata Banerjee condemns Udaipur murder



New Delhi, June 29 : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday (June 29, 2022) condemned the killing of a tailor in Rajasthan's Udaipur and said "violence and extremism are unacceptable". The Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief urged everyone to maintain peace as the law takes its

own course of action. Mamata Banerjee took to her official Twitter account and wrote, "Violence and extremism are UNACCEPTABLE, no matter what! I STRONGLY CONDEMN what happened in Udaipur. As law takes its own course of action, I urge everyone to maintain peace." As law takes its own course of ac-

tion, I urge everyone to maintain peace. - Mamata Banerjee (@MamataOfficial) June 29, 2022/No true Muslim' will support such heinous act: Bengal Imams Association on Kanhaiya Lal's killing in Udaipur/Meanwhile, the Bengal Imams Association on Wednesday also joined in condemning the killing of Kanhaiya Lal, a tailor in Rajasthan's Udaipur and said "no true Muslim" will support such a heinous act. Demanding exemplary punishment for the assailants, Bengal Imams Association Chairman Md Yahia said in a statement a criminal, a murderer should only be known by his crime and either his name or purported religious identity

cannot belittle the severity of the act. The representative body of clerics also felt that for the crime of one-two individuals an entire community representing one particular religion or tribe should not be held responsible. "Islam doesn't permit taking away the life of a fellow human being, it is a sin," Yahia stated. Two men with a cleaver murdered a tailor in Udaipur and posted videos online on Tuesday that said they are avenging an insult to Islam. The men who allegedly carried out the daylight murder posted videos online admitting to the crime and were taken into custody by police. Indirectly, the assailants also referred to Nupur Sharma, the BJP leader suspended from the party over a remark on Prophet Muhammad.



A video screenshot shows the second shipment of earthquake relief supplies donated by the Chinese government arriving at Kabul International Airport in Kabul.

Philippines orders news site Rappler to close as Nobel prize-winner Maria Ressa vows to fight on

Manila, June 29 : The Philippine government is affirming a previous order to shut down the news website Rappler, according to its co-founder, the Nobel peace prize winner Maria Ressa. Rappler, which has been praised for exposing abuses of power and growing authoritarianism under the outgoing Philippine president, Rodrigo Duterte, has faced a series of legal charges over recent years. The latest decision comes just days before Duterte stands down and his successor, Ferdinand Marcos Jr, son and namesake of the late dictator, takes office. Speaking at the East-West Center's International Media Conference in Honolulu, Ressa

said the Securities and Exchange Commission, a key business regulator, had affirmed its earlier decision to revoke the certificates of incorporation of Rappler. "Part of the reason I didn't have much sleep last night is because we essentially got a shutdown order," Ressa told the audience. "We're not shutting down," she said. "Well, I'm not supposed to say that." A

copy of the order, dated 28 June 2022, made online by the SEC, said: "The Company Registration and Monitoring Department is hereby directed to effect the revocation of the Certificates of Incorporation of Rappler, Inc. and Rappler Holdings Corp. in the records and system of the Commission." The media has faced intense pressure under the Duterte's presi-

dency. During his term, the country's biggest broadcaster, ABS-CBN, was ordered off air, and Ressa has faced a number of legal charges that could lead to decades in prison.

Guest House

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

Ghislaine Maxwell sentenced to 20 years in prison for sex trafficking crimes

New York, June 29 : Ghislaine Maxwell was sentenced on Tuesday to 20 years in prison in her New York sex-trafficking case for procuring teen girls for Jeffrey Epstein for him to abuse. Maxwell, 60, has maintained her innocence. Epstein, a convicted sex offender and financier whose elite associates once included Prince Andrew and Bill Clinton, was captured by federal authorities in July 2019, on sex-trafficking counts. He killed himself in a New York City federal jail just over one month after his arrest. Maxwell's attorneys had pushed for leniency in sentencing, saying that she should receive "well be-



low" the 20 years recommended by federal probation officials. Prosecutors pushed for a sentence of 30 to 55 years in prison. Maxwell, a former British socialite, was convicted on 29 December of five of the six charges she faced. The jury came to their decision after 40 hours of deliberations

spanning six days. In addition to sex trafficking, Maxwell was convicted of conspiracy to entice individuals under the age of 17 to travel in interstate commerce with intent to engage in illegal sexual activity, conspiracy to transport individuals under the age of 17 to travel in interstate commerce

with intent to engage in illegal sexual activity; transportation of an individual under the age of 17 with intent to engage in illegal sexual activity; and conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of individuals under the age of 18. Maxwell was escorted into the courtroom in ankle shackles and throughout the three-hour proceeding, had an unsettled demeanor. She repeatedly touched her hair, sometimes tucking it behind her ears, scratched her neck and sipped water throughout the proceeding. The former media heiress wore drab gray-blue jail scrubs, and a white undershirt. She turned to look at her three siblings who were seated behind her in court - Isabel, Christine, and Kevin - multiple times.

North Korea accuses US of building an 'Asian Nato' ahead of security talks

Tokyo, June 29 : North Korea has accused the US and its allies of launching a "sinister" attempt to form an "Asian Nato" to contain the regime, hours before Joe Biden and his Japanese and South Korean counterparts meet for security talks. "The US is hellbent on the military cooperation with its stooges in disregard of the primary security demand and concern by Asia-Pacific countries," North Korea's state news agency, KCNA said, on Wednesday. Biden was due to meet the Japanese prime minister, Fumio Kishida, and the South Korean president, Yoon Suk-yeol, on the sidelines of the Nato summit in Madrid to discuss the North's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, in the countries' first bilateral summit for five years. Pyongyang has reacted angrily to plans by the US, Japan and South Korea to conduct a combined missile detection and missile tracking exercise near Hawaii in August. The regime routinely denounces joint military drills

between US and South Korean forces as rehearsals for an invasion, and uses them to justify its development of nuclear weapons. North Korea has conducted a record 31 ballistic missile tests this year, including one involving its largest intercontinental ballistic missile yet. Speculation is growing that the regime is preparing to test a nuclear weapon for the first time since 2017. Some analysts believe Pyongyang could use a nuclear test to claim that it has acquired the ability to build nuclear warheads small enough to be placed on short-range missiles capable of striking Japan and South Korea. North Korea's foreign ministry said at the weekend that the resumption of US-Japan-South Korea drills exposed the hypocrisy behind Washington's calls for a return to nuclear negotiations without preconditions, three years after talks between Donald Trump and the North Korean leader Kim Jong-un ended in failure. The exercises, the foreign ministry added, "re-

vealed again that there is no change in the US ambition to overthrow our system by force". Biden is coming under pressure to devise a more robust approach to North Korea, after years of international sanctions and condemnation failed to prevent it from developing weapons of mass destruction. Biden, Kishida and Yoon will discuss how to rein in North Korean provocations, the US national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, told reporters on Tuesday. The trilateral summit "will be mainly focused on the continuing threat from [North Korea], particularly after an extended period of intense testing and other provocative activities that the North Koreans have undertaken", he said. The three leaders will also "discuss what we will do on the economic pressure side, particularly when it comes to depriving the North of hard currency that they use to fund their nuclear and missile programs", Sullivan added. The shift towards

closer trilateral security cooperation will come as a relief to US officials, after years of tension between Japan and South Korea - its two main allies in the region - over historical issues relating to Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean peninsula. Washington has repeatedly encouraged Seoul and Tokyo to settle their differences in the face of North Korean threats and increased Chinese military activity in the South and East China seas. The KCNA statement, however, condemned the "military alliance" as "motivated by Japan and South Korea's kowtowing to the US," adding that it was a "danger-

ous prelude to the creation of an Asian version of Nato". In a separate commentary carried by the news agency, Kim Hyomyung, a researcher at North Korea's International Society for Political Research, blamed Nato for the war in Ukraine, adding that there were "ominous signs that sooner or later the black waves in the North Atlantic will break the calm in the Pacific". Kim added: "Nato is nothing more than a servant of the realisation of the US hegemony strategy and a tool of local aggression."

Turkey lifts objections to Finland and Sweden's Nato bid

Madrid, June 29 : A last minute agreement has been reached between Turkey, Finland and Sweden to allow the two Nordic countries to become Nato members on the eve of the military alliance's summit in Madrid. Nato said a trilateral deal had been reached at a meeting between Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President Sauli Niinistö of Finland and the Swedish prime minister, Magdalena Andersson, in the Spanish capital. After a period of intensive negotiations, Jens Stoltenberg, Nato's secretary general, said on Tuesday evening: "I am pleased to announce that we now have an agreement that paves the way for Finland and Sweden to join Nato." "Turkey, Finland and Sweden have signed a memorandum that addresses Turkey's concerns, including around arms exports and the fight against terrorism," he added. Andersson hailed the deal as a "very good agreement", rejecting claims that she had conceded too much to Erdogan in order to persuade him to drop his veto. "Taking the next step toward a full Nato membership is of course important for Sweden and Finland. But it's also a very important step for Nato, because our countries will be security providers within Nato," she told Agence France-Presse. Andersson said she had shown the Turkish leader changes in Sweden's terrorism legislation set to come into force next month. "And of course, we will continue our fight against terrorism and as Nato members also do so with closer cooperation with Turkey," the Swedish premier said. Sweden and Finland had historically declined to seek Nato membership, partly because of mixed public opinion and caution around their security relationship with Russia.



A video screenshot shows the second shipment of earthquake relief supplies donated by the Chinese government arriving at Kabul International Airport in Kabul.

O.O. No. 124

SHORT SALE NOTICE

This is notified for general information that 40 (forty) numbers of timber lots (A-I, A-II, A-III, B-I, B-II & E) are for sale & will be e-auctioned as per date & time mentioned below with the following terms & conditions. Interested individuals firms are hereby requested to inspect the forest produce before taking part in E-Auction Sale. Details may be obtained/seen in the O/o the undersigned before inspecting the lots concerned.

Sl No.	Lot No & Year	Nature of Timber	Volume (in cum)	EMD	Govt. Value	Depot
1	GT/DO/4310/G/140 OF 2022-23	Departmental Operated	5.741	716.00	716.622	Dergaon
2	GT/DO/4309/G/139 OF 2022-23		8.765	2047.00	20468.17	
3	GT/DO/4308/G/138 OF 2022-23		7.069	777.00	7773.66	Chitlopathar
4	GT/DO/4306/G/134 OF 2022-23		3.536	734.00	7342.57	
5	GT/DO/4307/G/135 OF 2022-23		7.996	317.00	3171.55	
6	GT/DO/4305/G/126 OF 2022-23		12.237	2054.00	20544.72	Dergaon
7	GT/DO/4304/G/127 OF 2022-23		5.417	582.00	5815.37	
8	GT/DO/4303/G/106 OF 2022-23	Departmental Operated	4.245	1270.00	12709.09	Chitlopathar
9	GT/DO/4302/G/123 OF 2022-23		5.312	3272.00	32720.94	Dergaon
10	GT/DO/4301/G/122 OF 2022-23		2.987	1661.00	16610.28	
11	GT/DO/4300/G/116 OF 2022-23	Seized	2.371	532.00	5318.23	Chitlopathar
12	GT/U/4290/103 OF 2021-22		1.319	235.00	2346.15	Merapani Beat Office Campus
13	GT/U/4289/102 OF 2021-22	Seized	1.150	534.00	5344.67	Jamuguri Range Office Campus
14	GT/DO/4280/G/128 OF 2022-23	Departmental Operated	2.446	732.00	7320.71	Departmental Operated
15	GT/DO/4275/G/125 OF 2022-23		4.245	1270.00	12707.73	
16	GT/DO/4272/G/124 OF 2022-23		3.475	897.00	8966.98	
17	GT/DO/4259/G/136 OF 2022-23		6.364	1532.00	15321.72	
18	GT/DO/4255/G/137 OF 2022-23		3.031	1108.00	11076.48	
19	GT/DO/4231/G/121 OF 2022-23		5.236	819.00	8193.07	
20	GT/DO/4227/G/120 OF 2022-23		3.300	789.00	7888.54	
21	GT/DO/4224/G/119 OF 2022-23		2.830	519.00	5194.37	
22	GT/DO/4222/G/118 OF 2022-23		4.093	827.00	8266.01	
23	GT/DO/4253/G/133 OF 2022-23		4.534	1072.00	10716.21	
24	GT/DO/4252/G/132 OF 2022-23		1.716	886.00	8860.41	
25	GT/DO/4250/G/131 OF 2022-23		7.131	1173.00	11731.35	
26	GT/DO/4248/G/130 OF 2022-23		7.232	1702.00	17024.91	
27	GT/DO/4247/G/129 OF 2022-23		5.333	1062.00	10620.63	
28	GT/DO/4221/G/113 OF 2022-23		4.726	640.00	6396.64	
29	GT/DO/4220/G/112 OF 2022-23		7.442	382.00	3818.09	
30	GT/DO/4219/G/117 OF 2022-23		5.695	1107.00	11073.05	
31	GT/DO/4218/G/111 OF 2022-23		7.261	761.00	7612.49	
32	GT/DO/4216/G/110 OF 2022-23		5.900	1307.00	13066.29	
33	GT/DO/4214/G/115 OF 2022-23		7.535	827.00	8269.62	
34	GT/DO/4208/G/109 OF 2022-23		3.988	826.00	8256.01	
35	G T / DO / 4194/114 OF 2022-23		7.386	1482.00	14823.29	
36	GT/DO/4199/G/108 OF 2022-23	Seized	6.282	605.00	6050.26	Nagin Forest Range Campus
37	GT/DO/4197/G/107 OF 2022-23		8.934	1423.00	14233.08	
38	GT/DO/3922/G/N/O/OF 2022-23		9.513	2833.00	28325.89	
39	GT/S/3910/N/O/OF 2022-23		2.283	1863.00	18630.91	
40	GT/DO/3911/N/O/OF 2018-19		0.842	906.00	9057.06	Samapathar Beat Office Campus

Bidders intending to participate in the e-tender are required to visit <http://www.assamforestonline.in> for further details.

The details of eligibility criteria experience, e-auction schedule and other terms and conditions are available in the e-auction document which can be purchased and downloaded by the bidders from the above portal as per the schedule given below. Online Bidding will commence from 30/06/2022 and last date for submission of Online bid is 22/07/2022. (4.00 PM).

Sl No.	Stage Name	Stage By	Start Date and time & end Date and Time
1	ONLINE RELEASE OF AUCTION	FOREST DEPARTMENT	30/06/2022 10.00 AM
2	AUCTION DOCUMENT PURCHASE	BIDDER	30/06/2022 10.00 AM
3	LAST DATE FOR DEPOSIT OF TECHNICAL BID AND FINANCIAL BIDDING	FOREST DEPARTMENT	22/07/2022 AT 4.00 PM
4	E-AUCTION CLOSING	BIDDER	22/07/2022 AT 1.00 PM
5	TECHNICAL BID RESULT	FOREST DEPARTMENT	25/07/2022 AT 1.00 PM
6	RESULT OF QUALIFYING BIDDERS	FOREST DEPARTMENT	TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER.
7	FINANCIAL RESULT OF E-AUCTION	FOREST DEPARTMENT	TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

Janasanyog/C/5568/22

Divisional Forest Officer
Golaghat Division.
Golaghat

Criticism is easy, encouragement is hard : Sirajuddin Ajmal



Assam Rising
Hojai, June 29 : "It is easy to criticize, but it is hard to encourage and support anyone", said Sirajuddin Ajmal, Trustee, Ajmal CSR and MLA, Jamunamukh Constituency while addressing the media on Tuesday here. Notably, Ajmal was here at Ajmal College of Arts, Science and Commerce to felicitate Md Shohid Ahmed Khandakar, who secured Sixth Rank in

Arts stream from Ajmal College of Arts, Science and Commerce and Sudipta Debnath, third rank holder from Sankardev Junior College, Hojai in Arts Stream. He said Ajmal Family wants to bring a paradigm shift in the education and health sector. "So, We request everyone including Government and media, the fourth pillar to help Ajmal in developing the education and health sector as what

the government is doing is not enough for the development of Assam", Ajmal added. He said the seeds sown by my father Late Hazi Ajmal Ali has now grown into a beautiful tree in Assam. He said Our dream is to make Hojai an International Education Hub in Central Assam, but without the cooperation of the Government and the people of Assam this is not possible. So, I appeal to Chief

Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and all the ministers to cooperate with us in developing these sectors for all-round development of Assam. He said at present more than 34,000 students are studying in various Ajmal institutions across the State. When they excel, Assam shines but for the proper growth of these Students we need support from the Government. Sirajuddin Ajmal further congratulated and thanked Parents and Students for their dedicated efforts. He said parents are the source of inspiration and energy and students are the shining example of what we can achieve despite any circumstances. He also thanked Dr. Khasrul Islam,

Director, Ajmal Foundation; Dr. MRH Azad, General Manager, Ajmal Foundation; Dr. SH Chowdhury, President, Markazul Ma'arif, Khalilur Rahman Laskar, General Secretary, Markazul Ma'arif and all the faculty members for relentlessly working amid the pandemic for the development of Ajmal CSR works. It is pertinent to mention, after felicitation Sirajuddin Ajmal announced that both the toppers will be extended a cheque of rupees twenty five thousand each from his side as a token of appreciation for their achievement in Assam Higher Secondary Education Council Results 2022.

Webinar on 'What Next After 10th and 12th'

Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 29 : WhatsApp group "Development Digitally Group" to organize an online career counselling seminar on "What Next After 10th and 12th" on July 10 next through google meet platform. The seminar will be held from 8 PM. Dr. Buljit Buragohain, a prominent career counsellor of the state and As-

stant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Assam Don Bosco University will attend the seminar as resource person. Bimal Bora, Core Administrator, Development Digitally Group has informed that interested students and parents may know in details of the seminar through email

Assam Rising
Kakopather, June 29: One of the renowned active NGO of Kakopather 'Abhiruchi Club' along with The Orchid Society of Eastern Himalaya (TOSEHIM) of Assam Circle carried a great initiative to planted trees from Kakopather's Tokupather Bypass to Route to Bhupen Hazarika Bridge (Sadiya). Moreover they also felicitated the Orchid Man of Assam Khyanjeet Gogoi with Certificate, Gamusa, Seleng, Memento and a beautiful art portrait of himself, painted by renowned artist and secretary of



Abhiruchi Club Tapan Mahatta. Advisor of the Abhiruchi Club Dr. Ajit Kumar Baruah, President Kakopather Press Club Bijoy Dutta, Tapan Sharma from Kakopather College, OC of Kakopather Thana Nabin Chetia, Subedar of Kakopather Army Camp Dhurba Sharma, film director and producer cum Rajat Kamal Award Winner Jaycheng Joy Dohutia, Nip Handique, NGO coordinator Manash Pratim

Dutta, Hoonmoni Chaliha from AJYCP, AASU Officials along with other renowned socialist and environmentalist along with members of Abhiruchi Club were present during the auspicious programme. At the end Nip Handique was also titled and felicitated as Environmentalist of Kakopather by the Club with Gamusa. People of the circle are seen admiring the programme from the bottom of their heart and are blessed to carry more such great initiatives in near future.

Torrential rain creates havoc in Margherita

Assam Rising, Margherita, June 29: Due to torrential rainfall for several days citizens of Margherita Town have been suffering from severe water logging problems



such as a t Margherita N. H 315 no road near Margherita Segunbari Tinali, Margherita municipality ward Number 1,2 said that water logging problems have occurred due to drains that have not been cleaned in decades, and rainwater has entered several houses in this area. We have informed the Margherita Administration (Civilian), the Chairman of margherita municipality several times, but no one has heard of our problems which has caused us to suffer in the rain sea for decades, locals people said. Citizens of the 124 Number Margherita Constituency would come out of their homes in the coming days to clean the drains and construct the poor roads of Margherita Subdivision at their own expense, according to a senior citizen.

Criticism is easy, encouragement is hard : Sirajuddin

Police SI arrested for demanding bribe



Assam Rising, Nagaon, June 29: SI Haidor Hussain, serving as officer in charge of Kawaimari police outpost, was arrested by Nagaon police last night for demanding bribes as well as custodial assault on a man in the outpost. Sources claimed that SI Haidor Hussain picked up

the man on June 25 last in connection with a disputed land related case which was not registered in the outpost and kept him in the outpost till June 27 during which SI Haidor Hussain assaulted the man and also demanded Rs 20,000 as a bribe for his release. Due to constant physical assault of the police official, the victim sustained severe head injury and he had to be admitted to hospital. Meanwhile the family members as well as other relatives of the victim, lodged an FIR in this connection and also informed the superintendent of police, Nagaon Leena Doley. Significantly, in pursuance of SP Doley, police immediately

registered a case in this regard and arrested SI Haidor Hussain last night. He was being quizzed in Rupahihat PS, sources added. While speaking to the local media persons here SP Doley said that SI Haidor Hussain tortured a man demanding bribe of Rs 20,000 and during investigation police had confirmed it and also received sufficient evidence. Besides, he picked up the victim without a registered case and kept him in custody for long, she added. Police have nothing to do in connection with land related cases and if any land related issue or complaint comes to a PS, police simply forward it to the local court, SP Doley said.

SITA handed over first installment to JNC to implement robotics training project

Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 29: SITA Vice-Chairman Ramen Deka visited Jawaharlal Nehru College, Boko and handed over the demand draft for first installment to implement the project "Survey for analysis of the potential of introducing robotics training in government provincialized schools of Kamrup (Metro) & Kamrup district of Assam" at the College on June 28. It needs to be mentioned that SITA had signed the Memorandum of Agreement on May 5 last and today it had handed over the first installment of rupees ten lakhs to start the project. The demand draft was handed over by the



Vice-Chairman Ramen Deka to Tapan Dutta, Principal of Jawaharlal Nehru College, Boko. The project aims to conduct a survey to assess the need of Robotics training in the provincialized government schools of Assam through creating an environment of competitiveness, by generating an ecosystem that fosters innovation, curiosity and a workplace where students are exposed to new edge technology. This is expected to enable or instill start-up eco-culture in the young minds. Under the implementation of Robotics training at school level, the students of rural areas will be able to learn how drone tech-

nology works and its uses in various fields and it is hoped it will reduce the dropout rate and encourage students with new age technology like Robotics, Automation and Artificial Intelligence. Deka hopes that the project will fulfill the dreams of the common people and may inspire the other institutions to take up such innovative projects for the welfare of the society. The programme was attended by the College Governing Body President Lakhi Kanta Sarma, GG Das, Advisor (F & A) SITA, D.S Hazari, ARO SITA and other officials.

IIE conducted 35 SDP under PMVDY

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June, 29: 'Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana' is a scheme exclusively developed for the forest dwellers collecting and processing naturally available forest produce for earning their livelihood. It is under the direct purview of the Ministry of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India and aims for the sustainable livelihood generation of the Tribal beneficiaries. The scheme is being implemented by APTDC with WPT&BC being the nodal agency. IIE has been engaged by the implementing agency as the Resource Agency for implementation, while TRIFED is the sponsoring agency for the project. Thirty Five (35) Skill Development Programmes (MFP Value Addition Programmes) has been



successfully conducted at 29 VDKCs over 12 districts namely Baksa, Dhemaji, Kamrup (Rural), Goalpara, Kokrajhar, Jorhat, Chirang, Udalguri, Sonitpur, Nalbari, North Lakhimpur and Nagaon of Assam under PMVDY project by IIE for the month of May 2022. These training programmes were conducted mainly on Food Processing, Food Processing (Sweet Making), Food Processing (Papad Making), Candle Making,

Vermicomposting, Bee Keeping and Lifestyle Accessories Making. These trainings are conducted for specific time periods such as all Food Processing Trainings were conducted for 4 days, Candle Making for 4 days and 2 days, Vermicomposting for 4 days, Beekeeping for 12 days and Lifestyle Accessories Making for 12 days. Thirty (30) beneficiaries participated at each SDP Training Programme. A total of 1050 participants have benefited from these 35 SDP Training Programmes.

3 brings glory to Gossaigaon Science Academy

Assam Rising, Gossaigaon, June 29: With the excellent result of Milan Upadhaya, Bilkis Parveen and Esterlini Murmu in the recently declared Higher Secondary Final Examination-2022 the Gossaigaon Science Academy once again has shown its excellence in the field of education. Milan Upadhaya, a student of Gossaigaon Science Academy from science

stream has secured distinction with 88.4% and letter marks in five subjects. He secured 442 marks with 95 in English, 87 in Alte. 91 in Physics, 86 in Chemistry and 83 in Biology. Bilkis Parveen from arts has secured distinction with 89.6% and scored 448 marks with 83 in English, 92 in Alte. 92 in History, 91 in Education and 90 in Logic

& Philosophy. On the other hand, Esterlini Murmu from the same institution from Arts stream has secured distinction with 89.2% with letter marks in all subjects. She scored 436 marks in total. She said that she would like to be a professor in the near future. The Management Committee of the academy felicitated the trio with fulom gamocha and wished them for a bright future ahead.

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আমাৰ পৰম গুৰু॥

প্রয়াত বেণু দাস
জন্ম : ইং ১৯/০১/১৯৩৮ চন
মৃত্যু : ইং ২০/০৬/২০২২ চন
আদ্যাশ্রাদ্ধ ও মংস্যস্পর্শৰ স্থান :

উন্নয়ন সমিতি, খাৰঘুলি,
গুৱাহাটী - ৭৮১০০৪
দূৰভাষ : ৭০০২৭১৩৭৮২ / ৯৯৫৪২০৭১৬৬

॥ জয় জগত গুৰু শ্রীমন্ত শঙ্কৰ ॥

শ্রদ্ধাভাজনেৰু,
যোৱা ৫ আহাৰ (ইং ২০ জুন, ২০২২) তাৰিখ
সোমবাৰে মোৰ/আমাৰ পৰম আৰাধ্যা মা/শাহু/আইতা
শ্রীমতী বেণু দাসৰ পৰলোক প্ৰাপ্তি ঘটে। সেয়েহে তেখেতৰ
বিদেহী আত্মাৰ সদগতি আৰু চিৰশান্তি কামনাৰে অহা ১৫
আহাৰ (ইং ৩০ জুন, ২০২২) বৃহস্পতিবাৰে আদ্যাশ্রাদ্ধ আৰু
১৬ আহাৰ (ইং ১ জুলাই, ২০২২) শুক্ৰবাৰে মংস্যস্পর্শৰ
দিন ধাৰ্য্য কৰা হৈছে।

তদুপলক্ষে উক্ত দুয়োদিনত উপস্থিত থাকি মৃতকৰ
আত্মাৰ চিৰশান্তি ও সদগতি কামনা কৰাৰ লগতে শোকসন্তপ্ত
পৰিয়ালবৰ্গক সান্ত্বনা দিব বুলি আশা কৰি আপোনাক/
আপোনালোকক সপৰিয়ালে নিমন্ত্ৰণ জনালোঁ।

শোকসন্তপ্ত পৰিয়ালবৰ্গ

শ্রীৰাজকুমাৰ দাস (বৰপুত্ৰ)
শ্রী নিতালি দাস (ডাঙৰ বোৱাৰী)
শ্রী দেবকুমাৰ দাস (বাবলু) (সৰুপুত্ৰ)
শ্রী অনামিকা বৰা দাস (বুলি) (সৰু বোৱাৰী)
শ্রী বোখা দাস (একমাত্ৰ জীয়ৰী)
শ্রীমন্তু দাস (জোঁৱাই)

নাতি-নাতিনী :
খৰিৰাজ, কৰণ, বিশাল, দীক্ষিতা, নয়ণিকা

THE ASSAM RISING

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Russia's continuing campaign of threats

Russia's continuing campaign of threats and bluster is having the intended effect: causing Moscow's adversaries to hesitate. The pervasive notion that provoking Russia would lead to disastrous consequences is a key victory for Moscow. Successfully dissuading the west from providing Ukraine all the support it needs to turn the tide of the war confirms once again for Vladimir Putin that Russia's military inferiority to the west can be overcome through leveraging western fear. In fact, the west's clearly stated fear of escalation proves to Russia that threats work, regardless of how implausible they may be or how often they have been shown to be empty. By now it's a tediously repetitive cycle of promises of nuclear annihilation for whoever has most recently upset Russia's propagandists - for example Russian state TV recently discussed attacking the Netherlands. Russia's nuclear threats will continue for as long as they are effective in preventing Ukraine being provided with war-winning military support. The G7 may have made the right noises about support for Ukraine continuing "for as long as it takes", but Ukraine's biggest challenge remains trying to persuade its international backers to match words with deeds. In addition there is a striking mismatch of aims and priorities between the two sides. While Russia has clearly laid out what it wants from the war - the extinction of Ukraine as an independent nation and the restoration of Russian imperial power over its neighbours - Ukraine's western backers are confused and divided over how they want the war to end, and what they want to happen to Russia as a result. All of this buys Russia time. President Zelenskyy has told the G7 he wants the war to be over by winter. There's a good reason for that deadline. Europe is still far from weaning itself off Russian energy, and a painful winter of even higher fuel prices will drive home for Europeans the true cost of supporting Ukraine in this conflict. But it's not just energy that Russia can exploit to induce third countries to argue for peace at Ukraine's cost. Food blackmail of the rest of the world through Russia's naval blockade is another tactic bringing success - Ukraine has claimed that it is under pressure to surrender from states in Africa and Asia who are alarmed at their grain supply being cut off.

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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

Putin is not yet ready to end the Ukraine war. When he is, we must be prepared

We are setting up an entirely false choice over Ukraine that, if pursued, could unnecessarily undermine European unity. Last week a poll for the European Council on Foreign Relations showed two camps in European public opinion emerging: a larger peace camp (35%) that wants to cut and run now, and a smaller justice camp (22%) that wants to push ahead until victory. In fact, if you look at the detail, there are three groups, with the biggest single group (43%) choosing both peace and justice. This divide between peace and justice is reflected in public polemic, too. At one extreme there is Henry Kissinger, arguing at Davos that Ukraine should concede territory now to secure a ceasefire and warning us to avoid humiliating Vladimir Putin. Not surprisingly, this provoked a sharp reaction from those who correctly point out that Putin shows no sign of being ready to negotiate seriously or respond to concessions. More likely, a pre-emptive cringe would not only fail to secure a lasting peace, but would also leave Putin in a position to return and grab more of Ukraine

once he regroups his forces. At the other extreme, passionate Ukraine supporters such as Anne Applebaum and Timothy Snyder believe that all negotiation is appeasement, and that Ukraine must be backed against Russia until total victory is achieved. Conveniently, they never actually define what victory is. Is it driving Russia back to 23 February lines? Or out of Ukrainian territory altogether? Does Ukraine have to keep fighting until the Russian armed forces are permanently disabled and Putin unseated? In this debate we seem not to have learned any of the lessons of our history. You can only impose terms on a country if you invade and conquer it, as the allies did in Germany in 1945. Otherwise, even "winners" have to negotiate, as at Versailles in 1919. And since no one is proposing that Ukraine invades Russia, Volodymyr Zelenskyy is right to maintain that this war will have to end with a negotiated settlement. Russia will continue to exist as a neighbour of Ukraine, and will still have much larger armed forces. There will only be a lasting peace if we do not leave Russia nursing a

grievance, isolated and waiting for the next opportunity to invade. There is always a tension between peace and justice when you try to solve a conflict. If President Santos Calderón of Colombia had told Farc leaders in 2012 that he wanted peace but they would have to go to jail for 30 years, it is a fair bet they would not have been interested in negotiating. Equally it would have been wrong to accept a blanket amnesty after 50 years of war, leaving victims without satisfaction. Instead, Santos set

 **Jonathan Powell**

up a system of transitional justice to achieve a balance between peace and justice, to give past victims the closure they deserved while making sure there were no new victims in future. There will have to be the same balance between peace and justice in Ukraine. Fundamentally, this debate loses sight of the essential fact that it is the Ukrainians doing the fighting, not us. We could have come to their defence as we did for Poland in 1939 (too late), in Kuwait in 1991, or in Kosovo in 1999. But we chose not to. Therefore only Ukrainians have

the right to decide when to negotiate and what concessions to make. They must not be pressured again into a peace agreement they cannot deliver, as they were in Minsk in 2014. Nor must they be pressured into an endless war. Putin is not yet ready for serious negotiations. But he may become ready, depending on his calculus after the battle of the Donbas, so we need to be prepared. He could declare a ceasefire in place, as he did in 2014, holding on to the territory he has gained. That would leave Ukraine with another frozen conflict, which Putin would exploit to prevent the country moving down the path to a European future. Such a ceasefire would be a trap. Ukraine may need to insist on fighting and talking at the same time to secure a satisfactory agreement. It should be supported in those negotiations by its allies, who hold the key to sanctions and security guarantees to deter Russia from invading again. We should act now to create a group of friends of Ukraine to offer that support, as other negotiation processes have done. The greatest guarantee of Ukraine's secure future lies in the EU's hands. If Ukraine is offered candidate status now and a clear track to membership, even if

disruption, where the Department has adopted a paradigm shift towards enhancing and ensuring right pension to the right person at the right time by a transparent and participative process.

There is a need to examine these legacy systems and corresponding transformational innovation. For the benefit of the reader, here is a short primer on the old system of Pensions Management, which involves nearly 2,500 offices across the Defence Services. When service personnel retire, their service details including their names, service records, commendations and details of their dependents inter alia are verified by the Pensions Initiating Agencies, be it Record Offices, Directorates, Head of Departments, or others. These details are sent to the Pension Sanctioning Agencies (PSAs) which are various offices of the Defence Accounts Department, namely, Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (PCDA) Pensions in Prayagraj, Jt. CDA (Air Force) in New Delhi and PCDA (Navy) in Mumbai for audit and sanction of pension payment and generation of the Pension Payment Order (PPO). The PPO is communicated to the pensioners and the various Pension Disbursing Agencies (PDAs) such as Banks and Defence Pension Disbursement Offices (DPDOs).

At this point, it is impressed upon the reader the importance and difficulty of audit. Errors in details are difficult to rectify by any singular agency and disconnect within the ecosystem is a bane to efficiency. The systems are old and need reform. The scale and size of the process is concomitant with the size and

complexity of how the Indian Armed Forces operate - with their own rules and customs. This is why even the Comptroller & Auditor General (C&AG) in their report on Defence Pensions recommended that the three pillars - Record Offices, PSAs, and PDAs - should be connected online, enabling automated flow of information, in a secure mode, with proper validation and security checks.

The SPARSH Portal bridges a long-pending lacuna in public service delivery, where the portal

 **Rajnish Kumar**

takes on the responsibility of connecting and interfacing with all stakeholders in the pension ecosystem. More than 5.13 Lakh pensioners have been onboarded to SPARSH, whereas more than 27 Lakh pensioners continue to be served by the legacy system. There is verifiable data of massive improvements in processing time and sanction, with majority of the PPOs being generated within a week.

There was a delay in credit of April 2022 monthly pension to 58,275 pensioners via SPARSH due to technical and procedural reasons was immediately addressed and pension was credited within four working days. In contrast, the department continues to actively pursue non-credit of pension in nearly 1.2 lakh

cases which are disbursed by the banks. SPARSH has the capability and the flexibility to generate corrigendum PPOs at the click of a button. Fresh cases i.e. the new retirees who are coming onboard SPARSH have expressed satisfaction at the ease of pension processing.

SPARSH services have further been expanded across more than 4 lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs) to ensure last mile access to pensioners, established backend linkage to fetch Aadhaar-based Jeevan Pramaan directly on the portal. Recently, a mobile number updation utility has also been deployed for pensioners for better communication and ease of access.

Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (PCDA) Pensions, Prayagraj is the primary agency for Pension Sanction on behalf of the Defence Accounts Department. However, it would be simplistic to assume only one agency or office is completely empowered and autonomous in function within a careful system of checks and balances.

The Pension Regulations for various Defence Services, as approved by the Parliament, are the primary rules based on which the Defence Pensions are regulated in India. The requirement for annual identification or life certification is drawn from these regulations, which bounds the Department as well as all other audit agencies in India. The rule of law is the

sine qua non of a functioning democracy.

TCS has been brought on board as software development partner. The SPARSH Portal has undergone testing and security clearances from the highest cyber security agencies in the country, to ensure that the handling of data of ex-servicemen and defence pensioners is protected and secured. With two rounds of pilots being run from February 2020 and despite the advent of a global pandemic, SPARSH was deployed in a phased manner successfully for the civilians and consequently for the Indian Air Force, Indian Navy and the Indian Army. The technical complexity of pensions management is matched by the innovation.

The SPARSH Portal has truly transformed this entire process and it has been the constant effort on part of the Ministry of Defence to ensure that Defence Pensioners are provided the best possible services, which is a vast improvement over the legacy system described above. The pensioner should not have to run from pillar to post, seeking to move offices and departments for their rightful pension. The Department is using technology to do so. The Defence Accounts Department, with the sincere cooperation of the Service Headquarters, is striving to ensure satisfaction of all stakeholders and welcomes the continued cooperation of the defence pensioners in this endeavour to transform defence pensions management in India.

Gayathri and Pushkar - Duo behind Suzhal-The Vortex, the Indian thriller going global

Tamil cinema and series have been making leaps and bounds in Indian entertainment - be it acting, plot, storytelling, production, or experimentation. This year has been extra special so far, with Kamal Haasan making the biggest comeback with his blockbuster Vikram, and the first Tamil original series Suzhal-The Vortex making a global splash. Suzhal, which is streaming on Amazon Prime Video, was created by the director-writer duo Gayathri and Pushkar. They are

said to be the only married couple filmmakers in Asia. The two earlier created the critical and commercial success Vikram Vedha in 2017, which had actors Vijay Sethupathi and R. Madhavan play the leads. The movie questioned the criminal justice system of the country and how it is vulnerable to manipulation and corruption by the powerful. The duo's foray into OTT has been a long-cherished dream, they told ThePrint. They were clear - they did not want to go for a TV drama, they wanted a bigger medium for their story, which could be watched on a

big screen, home theatre system preferably, Pushkar said. Amazon Prime approached them, and the rest is history. India now has a thriller with worldwide

 **Tina Das**

success. From directing the black comedy Oram Po (2007) to acing crime thrillers like no other, Gayathri and Pushkar have traversed a long way. The experimentation has paid off, both in terms of commercial

success and critical reviews. Their motto, "local is the new global", fits perfectly now, as South India shatters the language barrier and stands as a robust competition to Bollywood. One trope that Gayathri and Pushkar have employed successfully in both Vikram Vedha and now Suzhal is the use of myth. In Vikram Vedha, it is the use of the tale of Vikram and Betal. Betaal Pachisi was written in the 11th century by Kashmiri poet Somdev Bhatt about the stories told to the wise king Vikramaditya by the witty ghost Betaal. At the end of each story, Vikramaditya had to answer a question about the story, often moralistic but also morally ambiguous. In Vikram Vedha, Vedha takes on the role of Betal while the cop Vikram plays the king. The learning? That there is no good and bad in absolute terms. For Suzhal, the myth is a local one. The duo had started thinking about working on long-form content in 2015. Gayathri and Pushkar learned about the Mayana Kollai festival when they travelled to the village of Vellore in Tamil Nadu. Mayana Kollai literally means 'pillaging of the grave'. The festival intrigued them and eventually, it became the inspiration behind the web series. Pushkar says, "What draws us is the grey, and mythology also highlights that."

Be it Vikram Vedha or Suzhal, this greys colour every character. Mayana Kollai is celebrated a day after Maha Sivaratri, in the Tamil month of Masi. Goddess Angalamman is worshipped, and the colourful rituals and processions end with paying respects to the forefathers at the burial ground near the Palar river. For Suzhal, the festival simultaneously becomes the backdrop and the crux of the narration. Just as the festival begins, a teen girl Nila disappears, and the single source of income of the town of Suzhal, a cement factory, burns down. What follows is the story of a town and its inhabitants confronted by versions of themselves they didn't know existed. Gayathri says, "It is also about memories - the demon is hidden in your memories, and you have to find it." Myths help encapsulate the universal. They form the basis of every culture, and at the core of it, they have similar tropes and ideas. The duo wanted to make a show that is as local as it is global. In Gayathri and Pushkar's content what stands out is the painstaking attention to detail. For instance, in Vikram Vedha, the first interrogation scene between the 'good' cop Vikram and the 'bad' gangster Vedha has Vikram dressed in white and Vedha in black.

Letter to the Editor

An appeal to the Govt.

Dear editor,

I suggest the union government and state governments fix 10% of what they pay to public representatives (MPs, MLAs and Ministers) as honorarium. As once Modiji asked cooking gas users to sacrifice the subsidy. This changes our budget from deficit to balanced one soon (these are not Employees. Salary and pension need not be paid. They do Public Service only). Let Modiji start, all others emulate him. I respect all of them. Our Nation's borrowings are growing big. The interest on borrowings too is big. Hence my suggestion. I am sure Modiji will comply with my suggestion.

 **KLRao**

Artificial flood in Assam

Environment VsLife : an analysis



The city of Guwahati is located at the banks of the river Brahmaputra and several of its tributaries pass through the city. Urban growth in the city of Guwahati has been rapid, with uncontrolled development activities. These activities have had a detrimental impact on the ecology and environment of the city. The city is surrounded by wet lands that under threat due to the encroachment and unplanned urban development of the city. The city is prone to floods and landslides and is located on the earthquake prone (zone V) belt. In addition to being vulnerable to these natural hazards, the city of Guwahati and is frequently affected by seasonal flash floods, which are not entirely caused by natural factors alone. There are many sectors which are directly related with the resilience of Guwahati city against floods and their related impacts. Following are the key sectors that should be studied to understand the risk profile of the city for devising suitable strategies for resilience. These include, housing and urban planning; urban infrastructure and services (water supply, sewerage, natural and storm water drainage, solid waste management, electricity, health); informal settlements and slums; poverty and livelihood; ecosystems and land-use; emergency response capacity. Based on the above-mentioned situation (hazards and vulnerabilities), number of agencies (government, humanitarian and development) several experts have conducted studies on or linked with Guwahati and floods. These studies differ in their scope, timeframe and focus on different aspects such as socioeconomic factors, climate change, city development plans, disaster management planning, focus on single or multiple hazards etc. These studies reflect useful and micro level findings that are relevant to Guwahati and the surrounding areas. There are different studies which reflect the same findings with minor changes in the recent development of new vulnerabilities. Instead of conducting new study, it is better to a conduct review of studies that focus on Guwahati and floods.

This serves as the rationale behind conducting this study. The exercise is to bring all the flood study works in one place and review the same for arriving at the short term and long term measures for Guwahati for finding a solution to the problem related to risk of floods in the city. Urban flooding is one of the most recurrent hydro-meteorological disasters presently in the world. A sizeable portion of the world's population suffers from floods every year in major towns and cities. Conveyance of floodwaters in wash corridors and arroyo floodplains that were once predominantly overland sheet flow or flow in rills and gullies, are now obstructed by houses, fences, small buildings, streets, and other obstructions inhibiting their free flow. Guwahati city situated in the north-eastern state of Assam is fast becoming one such victim of flash floods that occur due to unplanned growth. Traditional one-dimensional backwater models are inadequate to predict the unconfined flow behaviour in such urban environments like Guwahati and if used, require too many assumptions regarding flow diversions and potential confinement. Two-dimensional flood routing programs can efficiently simulate these complex urban flood environments with accuracy and detail. Flood hazard mapping and flood inundation modelling are the vital components in flood mitigation measures and land use planning, and are prerequisites for the flood insurance schemes. As flood itself cannot be prevented but the damages due to floods can be mitigated with proper planning and preparedness at community level. For that it is very important to identify the degree of hazard associated with various portions of a

flood plain. Hence flood hazard zonation is an important component of overall flood management strategy. During monsoon season,



the river Brahmaputra flows over the danger level and the low lying areas of Guwahati City face problems of water logging and floods. The feeder drains to the main channels run overflowing, and because of siltation problem of drains, the carrying capacity is also reduced significantly. The water resource department in response to these existing problems took some effective remedial measures like construction of flood walls, installation of high capacity pumps in low lying areas, providing sluice gates on the channels to control flow of water and other significant measures. Some more proposed interventions are under way, which will address the existing flooding problem like re-sectioning of existing channels, construction of storm water drains to carry off excessive flow into the main channels, clearing the existing channels from waste disposal and restricting the drop of sewer in those channels. The remedial recommendations are provided at several levels covering structural and non-structural aspects. The proposed structural measures include: Inter basin transfer of load, so that in case of excessive flow in one channel, the flow can be directed to other river with

lesser load. The capacity of existing drain channels need to be increased as the amount of excessive water coming to them will be beyond the handling capacity of these channels currently. Defining the sections of existing channels, so that the problem of encroachment over them and the waste disposal in them can be checked. The action points in this report are derived from a literature review that considered evaluations, reviews, reports, lessons papers and existing practices relating to the city of Guwahati and floods. Most of these documents relate to particular issues of Guwahati with different direct or indirect link with urban floods with

focus on humanitarian and development aspects, as this is where government and humanitarian actors are most likely to be involved in disaster response and risk reduction. Many factors, such as rapid urban growth and a potentially increased risk of extreme weather events (especially floods), suggest that government and other development actors will increasingly be involved in urban humanitarian response in the city. This will be a steep learning curve: Guwahati urban areas present unique challenges in terms of complexity and scale, and many existing ways of working were originally developed to address these challenges. However, the situation currently appears to be a topic with several unanswered questions, and where many lessons have not been tested in the context of Guwahati. As a result, this report should be seen as an attempt to capture what is known at a specific point in time and based on existing studies. The report based on different studies shows that the existing vulnerabilities are too debilitating for Guwahati and addressing these now, will also help in building resilience in the long run. The last two chapters have listed

recommendations and measures for undertaking actions at different levels. There are some efforts that concern departments can incorporate in their response and or ongoing actions. The state and district government could support some of the suggested actions. A mainstreaming plan has been provided by TERI to implement the sectoral strategies in a recent (2013) study for climate resilience in Guwahati. A policy level support from the state government will ensure sustainability of the initiatives and also lead to encouraging implementable actions. The implementation of recommendations would



is a thin layer of soil made of rocks and minerals. The hydrosphere consists of various types of water bodies like seas, oceans, rivers, lakes, ponds, etc. Atmosphere, consisting of water vapour, gases and dust particles, is the layer of air that surrounds the Earth. The living world consisting of human beings, plants and animals constitute the biosphere. The environment is dependent on the interaction between all the different components. However, human beings play a huge role in the making and breaking of the environment. Being the supreme most intellectual power on Earth, human beings influence the wellness of the environment to a great extent. The impact of the environment on all living beings is directly proportional to the way human beings treat the environment. Any kind of existence would not be possible without air, water or land. Nothing to eat, not a drop to drink and nowhere to go is not what we or our future generations should expect to have. Every living thing depends largely on the environment for survival, and having a clean and safe environment is solely in the hands of the human beings. It is required to conserve the environment in order to protect wildlife and to preserve the different species. With the disastrous pace of climate change, a result of pollution and exploi-

tation of the environment, finding out ways to protect the environment from any further damage should be the first priority. Bringing back the environment to its original state is critically important and is the only solution. Working towards a common goal will be the easiest and fastest way to keep the environment from any more harm. According to Ban Ki-moon, "Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth... these are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women's empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all". This is what we have to act on and look forward to - finding the dots, connecting them and providing solutions. The leaders of the world are working to reduce the rapid degradation of the environment, and there are organizations like the United Nations who come up with initiatives to create awareness and get people to take actions to curb the problems of the environment. Some of these initiatives include the 2019 Sustainable Development Summit, 2019 Climate Action Summit, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Paris Agreement and many other programs that include river conservation, afforestation, coastal management, wetland conservation and so on.

Haflong- white ant hillock

Haflong is the only hill station of Assam, laced with lush greenery, scenic views and mist-covered hills. Sitting at an altitude of more than 600 m above the sea level, it is one of the best places to escape when the sun is beaming with pride in the plains. This hilly terrain is complemented with panoramic landscapes is not only a nature lover's haven but also a place for those seeking tranquillity. There is another element that makes it a favoured destination for its visitors; its location, i.e., Northeast India, which further offers you ample options to have an exciting trip itinerary. All in all, it is an ideal getaway option for a memorable vacation. If you are in for a trip that will offer both tranquillity and adrenaline rush,

Haflong, also known as White Ant Hillock, is a must-visit place. Read on to get all details about this beautiful destination from Northeast India. Located in the heart of the town, Haflong Lake is a beautiful place for spending



some quiet and memorable hours. In fact, it is one of the best scenic spots in this region. Here, you will get an opportunity to indulge in some leisure water activities

and also boating facilities. Fish lovers can go for angling, whereas one can even opt for spending some time in solace by the lakeside. Jatinga, also known as the 'valley of death for birds', is located

sent to other parts of India. The hot springs at Umragang, also known as Garampaani, are an exceptional gem that tourists can enjoy, especially as a delightfully contrasting relief during winter snowfalls. The water here is believed to have medicinal properties. Located nearby in Panimoor, the Kopili River gushes and rolls over the rocks, turning into a thrilling waterfall. This is surprisingly one of the least explored waterfalls in Assam, and provides the perfect scenic climax to a trek in this area. Haflong also has a rich cultural history, with remaining traces of British colonialism, which can be seen at the abandoned, hundred-year old railway tracks and the Christian village of Muolhoi, largely inhabited by the Hmar tribe. "I loved seeing the beautiful white chapels and churches again. They stand out like rare pearls with their unique architecture. And it's always a pleasure to interact with the residents; they're some of the kindest people I have ever met," says Dey fondly. The locals are well-known for their hospitality and make a trip to Muolhoi well worth it. Maibong, a town 50 km away from Haflong, was once the capital of the Dimasachari Kingdom, that ruled the region from mid-16th to mid-18th century. Here, one can visit the Mahur Lake, Ramchandi Temple and other ruins. These, unfortunately are the only remnants of a once flourishing city. If you were seeking to experience nature from close quarters, this is the ultimate place to enjoy it. One cannot ignore the fact that if this region is surrounded by mystery, it is not devoid of merits. Famous for its oranges, there are other charms of Jatinga that wait to surprise its visitors all the time.

Manas National Park : Project Tiger reserve

Manas National Park is a beautiful place, located in the two districts Bongaigaon, & Barpeta, in the state of Assam. Manas is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Reserve, Biosphere Reserve, National Park and also a Wildlife Sanctuary. Manas National Park is a national park, Project Tiger reserve, biosphere reserve and an elephant reserve in Assam, India. Located in the Himalayan foothills, it is contiguous with Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan. The park is known for its rare and endangered endemic wildlife such as the Assam roofed turtle, hispid hare, golden langur and pygmy hog. Manas is famous for its population of the wild water buffalo. The name of the park is originated from the Manas River. The Manas river

is a major tributary of Brahmaputra River, which passes through the heart of the national park. The Manas National Park was declared a sanctuary on 1 Octo-



ber 1928 with an area of 360 km². Manas bio reserve was created in 1973. Prior to the declaration of the sanctuary, it was a reserved forest called Manas R.F. and North Kamrup R.F. It was used by the Cooch Behar royal family and Raja of

Gauripur as a hunting reserve. In 1951 and 1955, the area was increased to 391 km². It was declared a World Heritage Site in December 1985 by UNESCO. Kahitama R.F. the Kokilabari R.F. and

the Panbari R.F. were added in the year 1990 to form the Manas National Park. In 1992, UNESCO declared it as a world heritage site in danger due to heavy poaching and terrorist activities. On 25 February 2008, the area was increased to 500 km². On 21 June 2011, it was

removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger and was commended for its efforts in preservation. There is only one forest village, Pagrang, in the core of the national park. Apart from this village 56 more villages surround the park. Many more fringe villages are directly or indirectly dependent on the park. Political Geography: The park area falls in the following districts: Chirang, Baksa in the autonomous territorial region, i.e. BTR in the state of Assam in India. The park is divided into three ranges. The western range is based at Panbari, the central at Bansbari near Barpeta Road, and the eastern at Bhuiyapara near Pathsala. The ranges are not well connected; while two major rivers need to be forded in go-

ing from the centre to the Panbari, there is a rough trail (the Daimari road) connecting the centre to the eastern range. Most visitors come to Bansbari and then spend some time inside the forest at Mathanguri on the Manas river at the Bhutan border. Physical Geography: Manas is located in the foothills of the Eastern Himalaya and is densely forested. The Manas river flows through the west of the park and is the main river within it. It is a major tributary of Brahmaputra river and splits into two separate rivers, the Bwrsi and Bholkaduba as it reaches the plains. Five other smaller rivers also flow through the national park which lies on a wide, low-lying alluvial terrace

spreading out below the foothills of the outer Himalaya. The Manas river also serves as an international border dividing India and Bhutan. The bedrock of the savanna area in the north of the park is made up of limestone and sandstone, whereas the grasslands in the south of the park stand on deep deposits of fine alluvium. The combination of Sub-Himalayan Bhabar Terai formation along with the riverine succession continuing up to Sub-Himalayan mountain forest makes it one of the richest areas of biodiversity in the world. The park is 950 square kilometres (370 sq mi) in the area and is situated at an altitude of 61-110 metres (200-361 ft) above mean sea level. The park is known for its rare and endangered endemic wildlife.

around 9 km from Haflong town. The shocking phenomenon of migratory bird suicides attracts visitors and ornithologists to the south of Haflong, a 20-km drive to Jatinga. "That used to absolutely fascinate us as children; it usually happened on those moonless, foggy nights, and this huge number of birds just flew straight down towards the searchlights, completely dazed, and died. Unfortunately, they were often captured and killed by locals using bamboo poles," explains Dey. The mystery remains largely unexplained by ornithologists, and can be viewed from an observatory tower between the months of August and November. There is also a variety of species of flowers and fruits to enjoy at Jatinga, famous for its hills covered with the gorgeous and rare purple orchid species, Blue Vanda. One can also take a look at and relish the delicious fruits grown here at the weekly farmers' market, such as pineapples, peaches, and oranges, which are also

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Tejashwi Surya, National

National President of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha offered elderly people personal financial assistance. In a press conference, he said the Chief Minister of Assam is always for the development of Assam. Dr Himanta Biswa Sharma and the Assam government are doing a lot of work. Also, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morsayo extends all support to the flood affected people in all districts from all angles. State youth Morcha president Siddhangku Ankur Baruah, two general secretaries Himanshu Shekhar Vaishya and Raktim Khatnia, BJP state committee member Ratul Sarma as well as other officials were also with Tejashwi Surya.

Rebel Shiv Sena MLAs donate

group will be staying in a Goa-based hotel and reach Mumbai by 9.30 am on Thursday. Kesarkar said, "We will be staying at a place that is one hour air distance from Mumbai, so that that we can comfortably reach the state capital for the floor test. The decision (of floor test) will be what we have been demanding for a long time from our leadership." Expressing disappointment with Shiv Sena president and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, he said the party MLAs had been asking him to move away from the NCP and Congress (allies in the government), but he never listened to them. "As majority of Shiv Sena MLAs decided to go away from these two parties, the remaining Sena legislators with him (Thackeray) will have to abide by our whip at the time of the floor test," Kesarkar said. Thackeray can definitely issue some instructions, but when we are in the House, we are bound by the Constitution of the country, he said. Shinde said on Wednesday that he will return to Mumbai on Thursday for the floor test against the beleaguered Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena-NCP-Congress government.

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

Centre would play a pivotal role in enhancing the performance of the professional cricketers of the State by improving their overall physical fitness. He, at the same time, also spoke about the ACA Covered Practice Arena, and the purpose it would serve towards enabling the cricketers to practice even during rains. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also lauded the different cricket-infrastructure projects being undertaken by Assam Cricket Association in different parts of the State, and added that it was now important to intensify sporting activities in those places so as to enable the budding cricketers to come to the fore by showcasing their skills. Earlier, Shri Devajit Saikia, Secretary, Assam Cricket Association delivered the welcome address. In his speech, he said that the ACA Fitness Centre would fill a longstanding vacuum, and would surely boost the existing infrastructure at the ACA Stadium in Barsapara. Speaking about the ACA Covered Practice Arena, he said that it would help the players continue their practice unabated, notwithstanding unfriendly weather conditions. He, at the same time, expressed gratitude to the Government of Assam for allotting 11 bighas of land adjacent to the ACA Stadium, Barsapara, and said that the proposed ACA Parking and Commercial Complex there would be instrumental in making Assam Cricket Association self-sustainable financially to a certain degree. Shri Saikia added that the ACA Banquet and Lawn would serve the same purpose of not making Assam Cricket Association solely reliant on the funds of BCCI. Shri Romen Dutta, President, Assam Cricket Association, in his speech, reiterated the commitment of Assam Cricket Association towards bettering the cricketing scenario of the State, and also thanked the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam for gracing the event with his kind presence. Shri Debolal Gorlosa, Chief Executive Member, North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council, while addressing the gathering, thanked Assam Cricket Association for the warm gesture of support and solidarity shown towards the people of his region battered by natural calamities. He also lauded the ambitious and challenging initiative taken by the present Apex Council of Assam Cricket Association to develop a new cricket ground along with a pavilion and all modern facilities in Umrangso, besides ramping up and upgrading the existing cricket facilities in Haflong.

Assam Flood Situation Worsens

given to reaching out to the affected people with clean drinking water and food while medical camps are being organised by the health department to ensure the prevention of water-borne diseases. A team of the National Health Mission, Assam, led by its Mission Director M S Lakshmi Priya is also camping at Silchar to ensure that the affected people get proper medical facilities. Medical personnel has been deployed in the 28 municipal wards of the town, while health camps have been organised at different relief centers where inmates have been provided with ORS packets for the prevention of diarrhea. Jalli said water pouches and water purifying tablets are being distributed among the affected people, while temporary toilets have been set up in some camps. She said officials are inspecting the markets to ensure that shopkeepers don't charge exorbitant rates from customers. An online form has been issued for organisations willing to help through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to rebuild the infrastructure damaged by the devastating floods, she said. A total of 2,389 villages under 72 revenue circles have been affected across the state, while 1,76,201 people have taken shelter in 555 relief camps. Floodwaters have damaged 155 roads and five bridges while seven embankments have been breached. A total of 64 houses have been fully damaged and 5,693 partially damaged by the floods. Farmlands over 85,673.62 hectares of land are still inundated, while 4,304 animals have washed away. Large-scale erosion was reported from Chirang, Dibrugarh, Hailakandi, Kokrajhar, Morigaon, Nalbari, Sonitpur, Tamulpur, and Udalguri districts, the bulletin said. Two landslides were reported in Karimganj and Lakhimpur districts, and urban flooding continued in Cachar and Morigaon. Video: Police Station Sinks Into River In Flood-Hit Assam. A police station was seen sinking into a river in one of the many scenes of devastation in Assam caused by the worst floods in years. A big chunk of the two-storey building in the Nalbari district submerged after the erosion of Brahmaputra river banks. The villagers were seen recording the dramatic visuals on their phones as a portion of the building collapsed like a house of cards. No injuries or casualties were reported as the building was empty at the time of the incident, according to several media reports. Several areas were plunged into darkness, buildings were seen floating in the flood waters as roads were taken over by rivers in recent weeks. While the flood waters have started to recede in many other areas located near Assam's mighty Brahmaputra river, the situation in Cachar and its neighbouring Karimganj and Hailakandi districts continues to be grim, Assam's Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma told Reuters. Over 24 lakh people in 28 districts are still affected by the deluge and several localities, like Silchar town in Cachar district still under water for more than a week. Five more deaths have been recorded in the past 24 hours. 139 people have died in the floods and landslides in Assam since April this year.

NFR to operate two special trains

Badarpur, Sukritipur, Hilara, Bihara, Chandranathpur, Damcherra, Bandarkhal, Ditokcherra, New Harangajao and Jatinga Lumpur stations. The special train will consist of 11 coaches. There will be 02 no's Seating cum Luggage Coaches, 03 no's General seating, 02 no's non AC Chair Car and 04 no's Sleeper Class coaches. Special Train No. 05611 (Guwahati – Langting Special), will depart from Guwahati at 08:15 hours to reach Langting at 12:45 hours. Train No. 05612 (Langting - Guwahati Special), will depart from Langting at 14:05 hours to reach Guwahati at 20:00 hours. During its both way journey the special train will have stoppages at Jagiroad, Chaparmukh, Hojai, Lanka, Lumding, Manderdisa, Hatikhali and Dibolung stations. The special train will consist of 07 coaches. There will be 01 no. Seating cum Luggage Coach and 06 no's General seating coaches. It may be mentioned here that in the beginning of 2nd week of May, due to heavy torrential rains and massive landslides, around 85 Kms of railway track in the Lumding – Badarpur hill section of Lumding division were badly affected. Breaches had occurred at more than 61 locations in this section, resulting in disruption of the rail communication to the hilly states of Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and parts of Assam. N.F. Railway is working day and night to bring the hill section back on track.

Dr. Ajanta Nath Appointed

office of the chairman. Dr. Nath replaces former APSC chairman, retired IAS Rajiv Kumar Bora. The order read, "In exercise of the powers conferred by Clause (1A) of Article 316 of the Constitution of India, the Governor of Assam is pleased to appoint Dr. Ajanta Nath, Member, Assam Public Service Commission, to perform the duties of the office of the Chairman, Assam Public Service Commission, with immediate effect until further order." It may be noted that Dr. Nath was the chairman in-charge of the APSC prior to his permanent appointment to the position, after the end of the tenure of previous chairman Bora on June 7, 2022.

IAF Airlifts Over 500 Tons

area has been affected by the floods. Meanwhile, 2,389 villages in 72 revenue circles in 28 districts of the state are still reeling from the effects of flooding even as the situation has improved over the last few days. According to the report, the Beki river at Road Bridge, the Kopili river at Dharamtul, and the Brahmaputra river at Neamatighat are flowing above danger levels, however, no rivers in the state are currently flowing above the highest flood level. As many as five people died due to floods in Assam in the last 24 hours taking the death toll in the state to 140, according to official government data. According to the flood reporting and information management system (FRIMS) under the government of Assam, which releases daily flood reports, as many as 24,92,913 people still remain affected by floods in the state. The report added that a total of 85,673.62 hectares of crop area has been affected by the floods. Meanwhile, 2,389 villages in 72 revenue circles in 28 districts of the state are still reeling from the effects of flooding even as the situation has improved over the last few days. According to the report, the Beki river at Road Bridge, the Kopili river at Dharamtul, and the Brahmaputra river at Neamatighat are flowing above danger levels, however, no rivers in the state are currently flowing above the highest flood level. Moreover, a total of 627 relief camps are being operated throughout the state by the government to provide flood relief to the affected people. These relief camps are currently housing 1,76,201 inmates, data showed. Apart from the five people who were killed in the floods, three others have been reported missing in the state in the last 24 hours. The report further mentioned that as many as 11,05,184 animals and 3,76,827 poultry remain affected due to the floods, in addition to which, 4,304 animals and 4,151 poultry have been reported washed away. Furthermore, landslides occurred in several parts of the Karimganj district during that time, the FRIMS report added. In the last 24 hours, as many as seven embankments were breached, while 155 roads and five bridges across the state were damaged.

Atul Bora visits flood ravaged areas in Nagaon

Assam Rising , Nagaon, June 29: The state agriculture minister Atul Bora today also visited various flood ravaged areas under Nagaon assembly constituency and reviewed the entire situation. During the visit, the minister also visited various relief camps set up respectively at Ujaragaon, Uriagaon, Nonoi Chakorigaon, Ghagrial, Tulsimukh, Borkula, Dakshinpat, Borjoha, Mahmorla and spent the whole day with the inmates of those flood relief camps. He inspected the facilities including medical, food materials, sanitary, etc and also took stocks about the hardships facing in the relief camps by the inmates and also asked them whether they were getting food and other facilities in the relief camps in time or not. While interacting with the inmates, the minister assured that the state government would ensure more food and other facilities soon in almost all flood relief camps set up the district administration. Besides, he assured the government will leave no stone unturned for immediate rehabilitation of those flood hit families. During his visit, the minister was accompanied by local MLA Rupak Sarma, additional chief secretary to Agriculture Department, Deputy Commissioner, Nagaon, district agriculture officer, concerned circle officer. In a review meet with the district agriculture officials, the minister ensured over 90 hectares of farmland for community nursery so that the department concerned could supply paddy saplings to the farmers of those flood ravaged areas of the district soon after the flood.

Eknath Shinde camp will head towards Mumbai to face the floor test

Guwahati, June 29 : Eknath Shinde camp will head towards Mumbai tomorrow to face the floor test. Eknath Shinde informed that the Maharashtra governor called his camp for the floor test in Mumbai and to take the decision. Now, the camp including 39 MLAs will be visiting Mumbai and later going for an all-MLA meet to take the final decision. However, he refused to speak about the visit of Devendra Fadnavis with the Governor of Maharashtra. Earlier today, Shinde camp visited the holy Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati. Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari has directed the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi authorities of Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress to take a ground check and show its House majority on June 30 (Thursday). Rebel Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde on Wednesday mentioned they're prepared for the ground check. Shinde and different insurgent Shiv Sena MLAs have been tenting in Guwahati's Radisson Blu lodge for over per week now, and earlier a report got here that the lodge was booked until June 30 for his or her keep. "Will return to Mumbai tomorrow," mentioned Shinde. "Maharashtra Governor has convened. We will take part in the floor test in Maharashtra Assembly and will follow all the protocols." The Shinde camp held a gathering within the lodge the place all of the insurgent MLAs have been current as was seen in a video that surfaced on Wednesday. Sources mentioned, "The rebel Shiv Sena MLAs are likely to leave for Goa from Guwahati this afternoon. A SpiceJet flight is en route to Guwahati to take all the rebel Shiv Sena MLAs from Guwahati to Goa today." The flight is predicted to depart Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport for Goa's Dabolim airport round 3 p.m., mentioned the sources. In Mumbai, a 3-page letter to the impact has been issued to the Maharashtra Legislature Secretary by the Raj Bhavan late on Tuesday - quickly after a delegation of the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) met the Governor and urged him for quick instructions to the MVA to show its majority. The Governor has convened a one-day Special Session of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Thursday with a single level agenda of a belief vote towards Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in view of the political upheavals together with authorized, procedural points witnessed previously 9 days. The Special Assembly will convene at 11 a.m. and finish at 5 p.m. Thursday. The day's proceedings shall be telecast stay, with provisions for ample safety each inside and outdoors the legislature, the Governor has directed. Meanwhile, there are indications that the Shiv Sena is more likely to transfer the Supreme Court for an pressing listening to within the matter amid hypothesis that Thackeray could take sure drastic measures on the Cabinet assembly scheduled later within the day. The insurgent group of Shiv Sena led by Minister Eknath Shinde - presently tenting in Guwahati - mentioned that they might return to Mumbai on Thursday and participate within the belief vote and all different proceedings that may comply with. He Shinde faction is returning to Mumbai tomorrow and is assured of its majority. Shinde told reporters outside the temple that he will return to Mumbai on Thursday to "complete the formalities". Implying he would participate in moves to form a new government. He along with two more MLAs from the western state visited the temple atop Neelachal hill on the bank of Brahmaputra early morning. Shinde and his colleagues were accompanied by Assam BJP MLA Sushanta Borgohain, who has been with them since the dissidents landed at Guwahati airport. "I visited the Kamakhya temple for happiness and prosperity of Maharashtra. I seek blessings of Maa Kamakhya," Shinde told reporters outside the temple.

Alpha Tutorials felicitates meritorious students

Assam Rising, Gossaigaon,

June 29: Under the banner of Alpha Tutorials a felicitation programme was organized for the meritorious students who have successfully passed out in the recently declared HS Final Examination-2022 at the Tutorial Centre here at Uttarpara in Gossaigaon on Monday last. The students were felicitated with a phulam gamocha each by the tutors of the Alpha Tutorial Centre. A total of 22 students appeared in Higher Secondary final Examination-2022 and all of them passed out successfully. Off these 2 secured distinction, 1 star mark, 9 first division and 7 second division respectively. While welcoming the successfully passed out students Shubhankar Devnath, tutor of the centre urged the students to study hard and move further with the same ambition. He also said that with the efforts of tutors some of the students who passed HSLC examination with third division this time came out with first division is a pride for our center. He again said Gossaigaon College HS topper from arts stream Mamoni Sarkar was also a student of this center who secured 87.2%. In the felicitation programme tutor Manoj Debnath, Biki Kundu, Reporter DA News Plus Ishwar Debnath and Ishan News Correspondent Sahisnu Das were seen gracing the programme.



Atma Nirbhar Baagbani Yojna meeting held at Mechukha

Assam Rising,

Mechukha, June 29: Atma Nirbhar Baagbani Yojna meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Mito Dirchi, Deputy Commissioner Shi-Yomi District in his office chamber at Mechukha to scrutinize the forms received from the private individuals and SHGs of the District for availing the benefits of Atma Nirbhar Baagbani Yojna. After the scrutiny, the names of the beneficiaries would be selected. The number of the applicants have increased manifold in comparison to the previous year which was noted during the meeting. The bank loan defaulters and forms filled without proper supporting documents would summarily be rejected, the Deputy Commissioner commented. It is pertinent to mention that Govt. has recently sanctioned Rs. One Crore for ANKY and ANBY each. DAO, DHO, DPO, BMs SBI and APEX bank, other officers of The line department and the members of Arunachal Pradesh Rural Livelihood Mission also attended the meeting and gave valuable suggestions. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by DAO.



Cluster Level KV Football Tournament in Lokra

Assam rising , Biswanath Chariali, June 30: Lokra Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ 21 Sector and Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) along with Kendriya Vidyalaya School Lokra organizes Cluster level KV Football tournament in Lokra of Sonitpur district, Assam on 28th June 2022. A total of 80 students from over 5 Kendriya Vidyalaya schools of Guwahati region participated in this tournament. The tournament will be conducted over a period of 3 days with effect from June 28-30. The event began with the opening address of the Commandant, Lokra Battalion (also the Chairman of KV School Lokra), wherein he urged all the teams to play the matches with a sportsman spirit. The tournament will culminate into the best team of KV School being ultimately selected to represent their team in Subroto Cup which will be played in the last week of July in New Delhi.



Silchar flood: Lokra Bn. provided drinking water and medicines

Assam Rising, Biswanath, June 29: Lokra Battalion under the aegis of HQ Sect 21 and Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) provided drinking water and medicines in the inundated areas of Silchar, Cachar District, on 29 June 2022. The worsened Flood situation in Cachar District has led to the areas of Rangirghat and Dakshin Mohanpur village, inaccessible by roads. Assam Rifles



assisted with tps from Army Engr units distributed essential drinking water bottles, as their water sources became contaminated due to floods. Two relief teams of Lokra Battalion distributed a total of

1534 ltr of drinking water and medicines. Details of the drinking water distributed are as follows, Rangirghat Village - 694 ltr, Dakshin Mohanpur village - 840 ltr. The relief material was distributed to approximately 100 families of Rangirghat and Dakshin Mohanpur village each.

RPF conducts “RUN FOR UNITY”

Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 29: On the auspicious day of “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” RPF team of Maligaon HQ conducted “RUN FOR UNITY” from Reserve Coy/Maligaon to Kamakhya Temple & back on June 29. The run was flagged off by Principal Chief Security Commissioner of RPF, N. F. Railway. Around 220 RPF officers & staff participated in the run.



Lewis Hamilton demands action after Nelson Piquet uses racist epithet about him



London, June 29 : Lewis Hamilton has said "the time has come for action" after a video emerged with the three-times F1 world champion Nelson Piquet using racist language when speaking about the British driver. Piquet used the term in an interview that was conducted last year but which was released publicly on Monday night. Formula One and Hamilton's Mercedes team had already condemned Piquet on Tuesday morning but Hamilton reacted with anger via Twitter, stating: "It's more than language. These archaic mindsets need to change and have no place in our sport. I've been surrounded by these attitudes and targeted my whole life. There has been plenty of time to learn. Time has come for action." Piquet was speaking in November to Motorsport Talk's

Ricardo Oliveira, in Portuguese, about Hamilton's clash with Red Bull's Max Verstappen at the British Grand Prix in 2021, which ended with the Dutch driver going off the track and suffering a major impact with the barriers. The video of the interview was picked up by Brazilian media including CNN, which reported his words as he referred to the incident. It included an epithet that can be translated as the N-word. F1, which has a clear anti-racist platform under the We Race As One banner, swiftly condemned Piquet. Its statement read: "Discriminatory or racist language is unacceptable in any form and has no part in society. Lewis is an incredible ambassador for our sport and deserves respect. His tireless efforts to increase diversity and inclusion are a lesson to

many and something we are committed to at F1." The Guardian understands F1 will now not allow Piquet access to its races until he publicly apologises and also apologises to Hamilton. Mercedes, who have supported the seven-time champion's outspoken efforts to promote anti-racism and diversity, meanwhile also immediately expressed support for their driver. "We condemn in the strongest terms any use of racist or discriminatory language of any kind." Lewis has spearheaded our sport's efforts to combat racism, and he is a true champion of diversity on and off

track," their statement read. "Together, we share a vision for a diverse and inclusive motorsport, and this incident underlines the fundamental importance of continuing to strive for a brighter future." Others were quick to react with BBC presenter Gary Lineker describing the former world champion as a "dreadful bloke" in a tweet linking to the initial story about Hamilton. Piquet, now 69, won the world championship in 1981, 1983 and 1987. His daughter Kelly Piquet is Verstappen's partner. The Brazilian driver has a record of issuing unpleasant comments, including, while he was

driving, a defamatory accusation toward Ayrton Senna of being gay and referring to Nigel Mansell's wife as "ugly". Last year Piquet was a chauffeur to Brazil's president, Jair Bolsonaro, on the country's Independence Day. F1's governing body, the FIA, also criticised Piquet's comments. "The FIA strongly condemns any racist or discriminatory language and behaviour, which have no place in sport or wider society," its statement read. "We express our solidarity with @LewisHamilton and fully support his commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion in motor sport."

Chelsea close to £55m swoop for Raphinha but still face battle over move

London, June 29 : Chelsea are close to clinching a £55m deal with Leeds to buy Raphinha after moving in front of Arsenal and Barcelona in the race to sign the Brazil international. The left winger, who has also been a target for Tottenham, is poised to become the second key player to leave Leeds this summer, after Kalvin Phillips, who is joining Manchester City. Chelsea have opened talks over City's Raheem Sterling and also want Raphinha as they rebuild



their attack. Arsenal, who have agreed a deal to buy Gabriel Jesus from City, have also made attempts to sign Raphinha. However they face the prospect of losing out to Chelsea, who are due to open discussions over personal terms with the 25-year-

old. Raphinha's preference had been to move to Barça, but the La Liga club's financial crisis has prevented them from matching Leeds's valuation. That has allowed Chelsea to move in and agree a fee with Leeds, though there could be a twist should Arsenal decide to raise their initial offer and go to £55m as well. Todd Boehly, Chelsea's co-owner, is ready to back Thomas Tuchel's desire to bring in two attacking players. Tuchel has considered moves for Barça's Ousmane Dembélé and Everton's Richarlison, whose main interest has come from Tottenham, but the head coach has focused his immediate attention on Raphinha. Sterling, who has held talks with Tuchel about life at Stamford Bridge, is expected to cost at least £50m.

Wimbledon reviews Covid-19 protocols after Berrettini is forced out by virus

Wimbledon, June 29 : Wimbledon's Covid-19 protocols are under review after Matteo Berrettini was forced to withdraw from the championships on the morning of his first-round match following a positive test for Covid-19. The Italian was the second player in the men's draw to pull out in less than 24 hours after a positive test and the withdrawals prompted the women's French No 1, Alizé Cornet, to claim the virus was widespread in the locker room at Roland Garros, with players maintaining a code of silence. Berrettini, the No 8 seed, was one of the biggest contenders for the title after reaching the final last year. After being out for nearly three months following surgery on his finger, the Italian returned at the beginning of the grass season and immediately won nine matches in a row, with titles in Stuttgart and Queen's Club. Wimbledon's review comes after the No 14 seed, Marin Cilic, another former finalist and a semi-finalist at the French Open this month, also withdrew on Monday having tested positive for Covid-19, stoking fears of an outbreak among the players. While Cilic trained with the men's defending champion, Novak Djokovic, in the days before the tournament, Berrettini trained with the No 2 seed, Rafael Nadal. Wimbledon



was conducted last year under significant Covid protocols, but this year the championships have returned to normal conditions. There are no preventative protocols for players, with the All England Club following UK government guidance. After the recent outbreak the All England Club will review its current measures on

Tuesday. "As a major event we have and continue to work in conjunction with the UK Public Health Security Agency and our local authority," a spokesperson for the All England Club said on Tuesday. "We have maintained enhanced cleaning and hand sanitising operations, and offer full medical support for anyone feeling unwell. We are

following UK guidance around assessment and isolation of any potential infectious disease. Our player medical team also continue to wear face masks for any consultation." After her straight-sets win against Yulia Putintseva on Tuesday, Cornet was asked about these recent developments and she said Covid was also present in the locker room at the French Open, referencing the withdrawal of Barbora Krejickova after she tested positive. "At Roland Garros there was an epidemic of Covid-19 and nobody talked about it. In the locker room, everyone had it and we said nothing," said Cornet. Berrettini had been due to play Cristian Garin in the opening round and he was expected to make another deep run considering his form and his comfort on the surface. In a statement on Instagram, Berrettini conveyed his disappointment. "I am heartbroken to announce that I need to withdraw from @wimbledon due to a positive Covid-19 test result. I have had flu symptoms and been isolating the last few days. Despite symptoms not being severe, I decided it was important to take another test this morning to protect the health and safety of my fellow competitors and everyone else involved in the tournament," he wrote.

Jamie George backs 'driven' Billy Vunipola to thrive on England return

Perth, June 29 : Billy Vunipola has been backed to capitalise on his England reprieve in the forthcoming series against Australia and is ready to make up for the pain inflicted by being dropped by Eddie Jones for more than a year, according to Jamie George. Vunipola is hoping for a first Test appearance since March 2021 in Saturday's opening Test in Perth, having earned a recall for his form in guiding

Saracens to this season's Premiership final and benefiting from injuries to Alex Dombrandt and Sam Simmonds. Northern: Jonathan Sexton of Ireland, Dan Biggar of Wales, Maro Itoji of England, Quade Cooper of the Wallabies, New Zealand captain Sam Cane and Siya Kolisi captain of South Africa. George initially suffered a similar fate to Vunipola when he was dropped at the start of the season and, while



injuries led to a swift recall, he has been able to empathise with the No 8's extended exile. The Saracens hooker revealed he had spoken to his clubmate in detail over the pain of being

dropped by England but believes Vunipola is ready to make his presence felt when he makes his international return. "Billy was hurting, I don't think he will mind me saying that," said George. "He loves playing for England. He loves playing at the top level. He is probably the most competitive person I have ever come across. He wants to compete against the best and show that he can be the best. What better opportunity than

against Australia on their home turf?" He has always been driven. The way that he leads at Saracens is different. He works incredibly hard. He is constantly wanting to evolve his game. I know that it hurt him not being involved in this. I have spoken to him at length about it. He was upset. This is where he wants to be. I am hugely excited to see him back in the Test arena because this is where he deserves to be. I

know he will be chomping at the bit if he gets his opportunity on Saturday." While injuries have aided Vunipola's cause his ball-carrying - never more evident than in the Premiership final - offers Jones a different option at No 8 and a valuable one given the England head coach has identified a lack of power as one of the key reasons behind the disappointing Six Nations campaign.

Legal fears could block moves to prioritise cis women over trans athletes

London, June 29 : The culture secretary, Nadine Dorries, has been told by numerous sporting bodies that they are nervous of legal challenges if they carry out the government's call to prioritise female sport over trans inclusion, multiple sources have told the Guardian. In an hour-long meeting with the chief executives of 15 national governing bodies, which included football, cricket and rugby, Dorries urged sports to "raise their game" and protect the integrity of elite and competitive women's sport. In what was described as a "pretty punchy" speech, Dorries stressed that competitive women's sport must be reserved for people born of the female sex as the science showed that trans women, who have been through male puberty, maintain significant advantages. However, she was told by a number of British sporting organisations that while they were reviewing their transgender policies, the threat of any potential legal challenges made them hesitant to conclude their reviews. Dorries promised to take that point on board, but also made it very clear that she expected action sooner. Another meeting is expected to be held by the end of the summer. In a statement released afterwards, the government said it had listened to the challenges that sports were facing in implementing policies on transgender participation. But it had also "encouraged sports to make progress



with moving towards a position where fairness takes priority in competitive sport." Multiple sources also described the meeting as cordial and stressed that there was a collective willingness to progress with clearer policies in place. However, it remains unclear if the government's references to "elite and competitive sport" also includes grassroots sports. The Football Association, for instance, is also working on guidelines for grassroots football, which may be different from those in elite competition, which are being drawn up by Fifa and are expected to be similar to swimming's. Speaking after the meeting, Dorries said: "The government has the utmost compassion for people born into a body they don't recognise. But we can't pretend that sex doesn't have a direct impact on a person's athletic performance. Asking women and teenage girls to compete against someone who was biologically born a male is inherently unfair." I recognise that this is a complex and emotionally

charged issue, so I welcome the support of our domestic governing bodies to protect and show compassion to all athletes. In the interests of sporting integrity, we must bring clarity to protect the future interests of sport around the world." Dorries also suggested that sports could consider launching inclusive open categories where appropriate to encourage transgender participation. "Sport is for everyone, no matter where you've come from in life," she added. She also encouraged governing bodies to engage with their international federations and encourage them to have consistent policies worldwide. Some sports bodies, including the Rugby Football League, are understood to have discussed their role in shaping the recent International Rugby League policy. Others told the government at the meeting that their sports are actively carrying out their own scientific research to establish the impact of athletes' sex at birth and gender reassignment on athletic performance.

LIV Golf Series: DeChambeau wants people to see 'good' Saudis are doing

London, June 29 : Bryson DeChambeau, one of the latest golfers to join the LIV Golf Series, wants people look to beyond Saudi Arabia's human rights abuses and see the "good" the league can do. Golfers such as DeChambeau and Phil Mickelson who have chosen to join the breakaway league have received criticism because of the human rights abuses carried out by the Saudi regime. In the US, the famed sportscaster Bob Costas offered a withering assessment of the LIV Series. "This is Saudi blood money," he said last week. "We know all we need to know about the royal family and what they have done. It's not just [Jamal] Khashoggi, it's not just the ongoing oppression of women and gays, they're directly or indirectly tied - according to US and British intelligence - to the 9/11 event." But at a press conference on Tuesday to promote the upcoming LIV Series event in Oregon, DeChambeau said he wanted the world to move



on from issues such as Khashoggi's killing. "Golf is a force for good," DeChambeau said when he was asked about criticism for taking Saudi money. "As time goes on, hopefully people will see the good they're doing. And what they're trying to accomplish, rather than looking back at the bad that's happened before. And moving on from that is important. And continuing to move forward in a positive light is something that could be a force for good for the future of the

game." The Oregon tournament has also attracted local criticism. The Saudi regime allegedly helped one of its citizens avoid trial for the fatal hit-and-run death of a teenager in Oregon in 2016. On Sunday, Oregon senator Ron Wyden said it was "wrong to be silent when Saudi Arabia tries to cleanse blood-stained hands." DeChambeau's contract with the LIV Series is worth more than \$100m, according to Golf Digest. The 2020 US Open champion called his choice to join the league a "personal business decision." Another new member of the LIV Series, Matthew Wolff, acknowledged on Tuesday that "it's a money thing". Wolff added that the team component of the league also appealed to him. "There's something to be said about playing hard for yourself and for your caddy but when you know people are relying on you, it's different," he said. "The best comes out when you're on a team. That dynamic really suited me." Abe Ancer, who joined DeChambeau and Wolff at Tuesday's press conference, said the series'

shorter schedule will allow him to spend more time with his family. "The last two to three years, I've been giving my all to golf. I haven't really had a life outside of golf," said Ancer. "I missed spending time with my family and friends and I wasn't as happy." The PGA Tour has banned golfers who have joined the LIV Series and there is a possibility they may be banned from the sport's majors, which are not run by the tour, in the future. Asked if that prospect worried him, Wolff said: "We're talking about today." Elsewhere on Tuesday, the PGA Tour and DP World Tour announced a 13-year joint venture partnership to combat the ongoing threat posed by the LIV Series' poaching of players. As part of the partnership, which runs through 2035, the PGA Tour will increase its stake in European Tour Productions to 40% from 15%. Beginning in 2023, the top 10 players in the DP World Tour's rankings, in addition to those already exempt, will receive PGA Tour cards for the following season. The DP World Tour will also guarantee growth in annual prize funds to its membership for the next five years. "The game of golf is rallying," PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan said. "Our members, partners and fans are rallying. Today's announcement should serve as further evidence that the ecosystem of professional golf continues to innovate and thrive." Monahan added that their work is not yet done and promised a "lot more exciting news" in the months ahead.

Iga Swiatek shows tantalising glimpses of new era of supremacy

Wimbledon, June 29 : For 10 minutes in the mid-afternoon, halfway through a first-round victory during which she seemed to be moving through a lighter air than her opponent, Jana Fett, Iga Swiatek did something interesting. Swiatek had just taken the first set 6-0. At which point she fell apart. Very briefly. And not in a way that mattered, or amounted to much more than a ripple, a 21-year-old drifting off midway through a stroll against the world No 252. Swiatek had been imperious on a Centre Court blown by the freezing June wind of an English high summer day. But suddenly she was looping her backhand drives into the tramlines, working the net like a boxer on the heavy bag, clanking out stray forehands off the frame with the sound of a spoon slapping an empty beer can. As Fett applied some pressure Swiatek started crouching lower, a little weirdly, hitting off her knees in a kind of Elvis-in-Vegas pose. Fett had chances to take it to 4-1 but was let down by her own lack of precision. The weather shifted. Swiatek took the next five games to close out the match and set



up a second-round meeting with Lesley Kerkhove of the Netherlands. And right now she is a fascinating figure, following an arc that doesn't have an end point just yet. At the start of her current winning run Swiatek was ranked No 7 in the world. Three months on she's out on her own, and with a set of tools - backhand, serve, movement - that offer up tantalising little glimpses of a potential, of ultimacy, of a Swiatek Supremacy. There are of course levels to this. Venus Williams set her own 35-match winning streak in 2000, a year before Swiatek was born. That run was imperial-age stuff for Venus, taking her

through two grand slam titles and an Olympic gold medal, with five successive wins against the players ranked No 1 and No 2. Swiatek has racked up six tournament wins of her own, three on hard courts, three on clay. At the end of this 6-0, 6-3 win she was asked if she was feeling comfortable on grass yet. "Um... we'll see," she said, being nice. Either way she was always winning this match, right from the first point. Swiatek is tall and slender, all levers, shoulders, small chopping steps, with that sense of authenticity elite athletes have, as though presenting an ideal version of basic human motion, things like walking

and jogging and lifting a tennis ball into the air, movements that pretty much belong to them now. There was art here, too. Swiatek makes the ball fizz, hitting up and over with such force you can see that thing start to dip as it shaves the net cord. At times in the opening set she sent the ball burning past Fett with backhands from the baseline that weren't a response to an error or a short ball but were just too fast, too hard, too good, the shots of somebody playing another game. Frankly Fett just wasn't equipped to stand in front of this juggernaut. As the first set slipped away, already half-forgotten like a woozy late lunch, it was tempting to wonder if Swiatek would need a brisk walk at the end just to lose the chill, get the heart rate going. What she will take from this game, as will her opponents in the rounds to come, is the lull at the start of the second set. At times she was slow to come forward. For a while Fett found some joy hammering the serve back at Swiatek's feet, making her stoop. This is the other thing about those long le-

vers types, with their easy grace, their synchronised moving parts: the timing can go on a breezy day and a skiddy surface. Swiatek lost her serve to love. And suddenly Fett, who came here as a qualifier, a bounty hunter with no form behind her, was being willed on by a crowd that was fond but still just a little bit cool toward this newbie world No 1. Wimbledon will do this. At the end there was polite applause and a cheer for the (kind of) record run. Swiatek was asked about opening on Centre Court in the absence of last year's champion, Ash Barty, and was good enough to give a serious answer when she could have just pointed to her ranking. "It's a huge honour. But... I think I earned it." She shrugged off the winning streak too, talking about how amazing it is to be mentioned in the same breath as the Williams sisters, whom she clearly adores. Swiatek showed both sides of herself: the rising star and the ingenue on grass, a grand talent learning this place, its ways and its angles. The challenge for the rest of the field is to get to her first. They'd better hurry.

Emma Raducanu admits greater experience brings pros and cons

Wimbledon, June 29 : As Emma Raducanu returns to the second round of Wimbledon a year on from her first big breakthrough, she is now, officially, in her second year around the sun as a tennis player. She is navigating the same locker rooms for a second time, facing many of the same opponents and, with her centre court debut complete, returning to the same courts. She may still be extremely inexperienced, but her familiarity with the sport is growing, something she admits comes with positive and negative consequences. "I think that it helps just with experience. Every tournament or every match you play, you learn something. It helps it all be a positive tool for the future," said Raducanu. "I think in a way, when you haven't played anyone before, it helps, too, because no one knows you, no one knows your game. That is something that I experienced in a positive way last summer because no one really knew who I was. Since, I think that people have definitely



atched me and raised their level and raised their game and played some great tennis." The next opponent for Raducanu, Caroline Garcia, is one such example. When they face each other as the second match on Centre Court on Wednesday, there will be no surprises. The pair played in the second round of Indian Wells this year, with Raducanu edging out a win 6-1, 4-6, 6-1. After her own 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (4) first-round win over Yuriko Miyazaki, Garcia hailed Raducanu as a "phenom-

enon" within the sport. "It has all happened in 12 months. From a player who was 350th to a worldwide phenomenon in every way," she said. "Especially with the sponsors and everyone. Good luck to her. Her personality, her play is very attractive to everyone. I have just got to concentrate on the tennis. And how I can find a way and a solution to beat her." When she was a teenager herself, Garcia was infamously tipped to become a world No 1 by Andy Murray. Although she fell short of those lofty predictions, she eventually reached a career high ranking of No 4 in 2018. The 28-year-old's talent is clear, with a good serve, a heavy top-spin forehand and her great athleticism. She is also in good form. Last week Garcia won her eighth career title in Bad Homburg on grass with an impressive win over Bianca Andreescu in the final. For all her physical attributes, she has often been held back by her mental frailty. On faster surfaces, her big groundstroke swings can be rushed, which Raducanu will aim to do by stepping inside the baseline and taking the ball early. Both before and after

Serena Williams loses epic to Harmony Tan as time catches up with 40-year-old



Wimbledon, June 29 : There are few things in this world that Serena Williams has enjoyed more than a comeback throughout her career. She underwent knee surgery in 2003, yet within a year of her return she was a grand slam champion again. After arriving at the 2007 Australian Open ranked 81st, she left with the title. She nearly died from a pulmonary embolism in 2011, but she toiled back to enjoy her greatest years. In 2017, she survived a life-threatening childbirth, yet she recovered to reach four grand slam finals. Over the course of her 27 years as a professional tennis player, Williams has seen generations rise and fall, with most of her contemporaries over a

decade into retirement. But time comes for us all, and in a torrid evening on Centre Court showed the challenge before her in the final chapter of her career. After tearing a hamstring in a fall on Centre Court last year and then not playing another singles match for 52 weeks, on Tuesday she made her singles return in the same venue. Rusty and short of confidence against a player who gave her none, Williams recovered from a set down and fought her heart out before falling in the first round 7-5, 1-6, 7-6 (7) to France's Harmony Tan. In terms of ranking and experience, the world No 115 Tan was one of the better draws Williams could have received. But Tan is a

tricky player with a deep toolbox of varied shots, slices and spins, and as Williams tried to find her range after a one-year lay-off, she raised her level and offered no rhythm at all. "When I saw the draw, I was really scared," said Tan afterwards. "Because it's Serena Williams, she's a legend. I was like, oh my God. How can I play? If I could

win one game, or two games, it's really good for me." Despite struggling early on, Williams led 4-2, 40-15 in the first set and it seemed she had taken control. Instead, Tan continued to work Williams with drop shots and slices off both wings, forcing her to move forward and bend her knees, arresting her rhythm. She took the set by drag-

ging Williams forward and angling a forehand passing shot winner. As Williams seethed, the roof was closed over Centre Court. She broke serve for 2-0 after a seemingly endless 20-minute game on Tan's serve that required seven break points and was sealed in comical fashion with a high, loopy backhand that elicited a shanked forehand from Tan.

Should Virat Kohli Lead India Against England In Rescheduled 5th Test?

New Delhi, June 29 : The fifth rescheduled Test between India and England will start on July 1 but there's no clarity on Rohit Sharma's participation. The Indian skipper is under isolation after testing positive for COVID-19 last week. With vice-captain KL Rahul also out injured, the question remains as to who will lead the team against England at Edgbaston in Birmingham. Rohit was named as India's all-format

captain after Virat Kohli had stepped down from the role, following the Test series defeat in South Africa. If Rohit fails to recover on time, the management might hand over the captaincy to either pacer Jasprit Bumrah or wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant, who recently led the team during the five-match T20I series against South Africa. England all-rounder Moeen Ali said that he would give the captaincy back to Kohli for this game,

but pointed out that the latter will have to take the final call. "It's a tough one. I was thinking about this last night. Because Virat was captain before of the same series last year, I would probably give it to him, yeah, for this one game. But it's obviously his call. He probably won't want to do it. He is happy, his mind is relaxed and saying 'I'm never captaining (in) Test cricket again'. So that can be also difficult but yeah, I think it's



a good idea. He has got the experience and it's a big series for India," Moeen told Sports Today. With Kohli at

the helm, India were leading the five-match series 2-1 before the final Test was postponed due to a Covid out-

break in the Indian camp. Moeen, however, feels that England might have the upper hand over India after the Ben Stokes-led side completed a 3-0 clean sweep of New Zealand recently. "If this series was finished last year, India would have won 3-1, but now, I feel the way England have played I think India might be slightly undercooked, due to the lack of cricket in England.

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