



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Poacher killed

Assam Rising Guwahati, July 02 :
A man suspected to be a poacher was killed in an encounter with the forest protection force at Orang National Park and Tiger Reserve on Saturday. Pradipta Baruah, DFO, Mangaldai Wildlife Division informed that the patrolling forest protection team under Kachomari and Chandanpur Anti Poaching Camp (ATP) during their routine patrolling at around 2:30 am came across a group of suspected poachers moving around the area.

Youth died

Assam Rising Guwahati, July 02 :
A youth from Assam was on Saturday found dead under mysterious circumstances in his residence in New Delhi. The deceased has been identified as Rakesh Singh, a resident of Assam. According to reports, the body of the deceased was found today in Delhi's Tilak Nagar area. Singh reportedly lived in a rented space in the Tilak Nagar area from where his body was recovered by the police.

PMFBY week

Assam Rising Guwahati, July 02 :
The agriculture department in Kamrup district has organized the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) week, in lieu with the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav-India 75. Notably, the PMFBY week is being organised in order to provide financial relief to the flood-affected farmers of Assam. In connection to this, awareness camps have been organized in various areas of Kamrup district throughout the week where farmers have been given information on the scheme. On Saturday, awareness camps were organised in Bejara, Trilochan and North-West Bongaon panchayat offices where officials of the agriculture department and panchayat members discussed about the scheme and its benefits with many farmers.

Six People Identified for Embankment Breach : CM Himanta Biswa Sarma



Assam Rising Guwahati, July 02 :

Six people have been identified as responsible for an embankment breach that led to devastating floods in Assam's Silchar, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has said during a visit to the Bethukundi dyke. The CM said the accused who allegedly left a gaping hole in the Barak river embankment, more than 3km from the town

centre, would be brought to book, adding that lapses on the part of officials would also be looked into. Assam's flood situation worsened with 14 more people losing their lives on Friday, taking the toll to 173 while a population of 29.70 lakh in 30 districts remained affected. Many parts of Cachar district's severely affected Silchar town are still water-logged. Rivers such as the Brahmaputra, Beki, Kopili, Barak and the Kushiya are flowing above the danger level at several places though most of them are maintaining a receding trend. "The Bethukundi incident is a big lesson for us. The next time there is a flood, we have to post

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Governor felicitates the 1st, 2nd and 3rd position holders of HS & HSLC



Assam Rising Guwahati, July 02 :

"Students should prepare themselves for the future by instilling in them a sense of nationalism, good moral character and love for the countrymen," said Assam Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi at a programme conducted to felicitate the 1st, 2nd and 3rd position holders of HSLC and HSSLC examination 2022 held in Raj Bhavan today. Speaking at the felicitation ceremony, the Governor said, "I am delighted to have felicitated the toppers of the State, who performed exceed-

ingly well and secured the first three positions in their HSLC and HSSLC examinations, 2022. This admirable success on their part is indeed the result of their tireless hard work, perseverance and top of all excellent guidance from their teach-

ers and parents. Indeed this is your victory and this has come by virtue of your perseverance, persistence and of course perspiration." The Governor also said, "Now is the time for every student to set a goal and keep working hard to reach the target

with strong willpower, grit and determination. No matter how hard the circumstances prevail they should not see back without achieving their goal. I am sure that perseverance and persistence will lead them to reach their long-cherished destination." The Governor also said that education is the keystone of the edifice of any progressive country. It not only assists the students to attain intellectual capacity but also helps them to build their character by imbibing values and rationality." The Governor further declared that the event of felicitating

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BJP's National Executive meet begins in Hyderabad, PM Narendra Modi marks presence

New Delhi, July 02 :

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday (July 2) arrived at Hyderabad Convention Centre to attend the National Executive meet of the BJP. The two-day meeting began in the presence of the top leadership including BJP national president JP Nadda, several central ministers, chief ministers of 19 states, presidents of BJP's state units and others. As per ANI sources, the BJP is expected to hold discussions over NDA presi-



dential candidate Droupadi Murmu and the recently formed Eknath Shinde-led government in Maharashtra under the political agenda.

The strengthening of the Indian economy is also on the party's agenda. A photo exhibition will be held at 6 pm today to display the

photos from the earlier national executive meet and important events. PM Modi is also expected to address the national executive meeting on Sunday. He will also address a public rally at the Parade grounds on Sunday afternoon. Meanwhile, a verbal spat broke out between BJP and Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) as Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Naraiah did not receive Modi at the airport when he arrived in

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ties due to rains and other factors, a Thorough Wall Radar is also being inducted by air to detect the presence of personnel buried in the debris," an official release said. The death toll of

the massive landslide at the Marangching railway construction site in Manipur's Noney district rose to 27 after 6 more bodies were recovered from the debris till 12 noon on Saturday, offi-

cials said. Around 35 others are still missing even as the search operation entered the third day. Meanwhile, a fresh landslide was

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Udaipur Killing: Accused beaten outside Jaipur court

Jaipur, July 02 :

All the four accused in the Kanhaiya Lal murder case were presented at a special NIA court in Jaipur today. They were sent to a 10-day judicial custody by the court. The two main accused, namely Riyaz and Ghaus Mohammad, have been brought to Jaipur from the Ajmer high security jail amidst tight security. Video shows angry mob attacking Kanhaiya Lal's killers. All the four accused involved in

Udaipur murder case were attacked by an angry mob in Rajasthan's Jaipur today. The mob, that largely included lawyers, slapped, pushed and shoved the four accused of Udaipur murder case. The cops, who were escorting the accused, somehow managed to put them inside the police van. The crowd was heard shouting "Maro... maro! (beat them)" slogans. All the four accused in the Kanhaiya Lal murder case were presented at a special NIA court in Jaipur today. They were sent to a 10-day judicial custody by the court. The

two main accused, namely Riyaz and Ghaus Mohammad, have been brought to Jaipur from the Ajmer high security jail amidst tight security. Initially, they were taken to ATS headquarters. The other two accused, Mohsin and Asif, arrested on Thursday night, were already kept in the ATS headquarters. Four of the two accused had executed Kanhaiya Lal, a tailor, inside his shop last week. They had even made a video recording of the incident and

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'Will reply legally'

Shiv Sena rebel on Uddhav Thackeray's letter

Panaji, July 02 :

Reacting to the removal of Eknath Shinde, now Chief Minister of Maharashtra, as leader of party (Shiv Sena), rebel MLA Deepak Kesarkar said that they will reply to it legally, but sender should introspect whether he is doing insult to the people of Maharashtra or not. Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray 're-

moved' Eknath Shinde as a 'Shiv Sena Leader' for allegedly indulging in 'anti-party' activities. The letter said: "You have been indulging in anti-party activities and have voluntarily given up your membership of Shiv Sena. 'Kesarkar, who is still camping in Goa along with other rebel MLAs and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, on

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Assam Floods: Situation remains grim, death toll rises to 173

Assam Rising Guwahati, July 02 :

The Assam's flood situation remains to be grim on 2 July as 14 more people lost their lives, taking the total death toll to 173 and leaving 29.70

lakh people in 30 districts affected. According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), among the 15 fatalities, 6 people belong

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Judiciary is only answerable to Constitution: CJI Ramana



New Delhi, July 02 :

The Chief Justice of India NV Ramana on Saturday said that the political party in power believes that every governmental action is entitled to judicial endorsement and the parties in opposition expect the judiciary to advance their political positions and cause but the judiciary is answerable to the Constitution only. Chief Justice Ramana affirmed at a felicitation organised by the Association of Indian Americans in San Francisco, US. "As we celebrate 75th year of In-

dependence this year and as our Republic turned 72, with some sense of regret I must add here that we still haven't learnt to appreciate wholly the roles and responsibilities assigned by the Constitution to each of the Institutions," Chief Justice Ramana said. "The party in power believes that every Governmental action is entitled to judicial endorsement. The parties in opposition expect the judiciary to advance their political positions and causes. This flawed thinking of all hues flourishes in the absence of proper understanding

among people about the Constitution and the functioning of the democratic institutions," he said. CJI further said, "It is the vigorously promoted ignorance among the general public which is coming to the aid of such forces whose only aim is to run down the only independent organ i.e., the judiciary. Let me make it clear. We are answerable to the Constitution and Constitution alone. To enforce checks and balances envisioned in the Constitution, we need to promote Constitutional culture in India. We need to

speak awareness about the roles and responsibilities of individuals and institutions. Democracy is all about participation." Both India and the United States are known for their diversity, said the CJI adding that this diversity needs to be honoured and cherished, everywhere in the world. It is only because the United States honours and respects diversity, that you were all able to reach this country and make a mark through your hard work

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Zhang Shouying (R) learns about the meals at the kitchen of a care center for the elderly in Hongniya Village in Wulian County of Rizhao

Moscow forcing teachers in occupied Ukraine to follow Russian curriculum

Kyiv, July 02 : Moscow has told Ukrainian teachers in occupied territories to sign a document within weeks certifying their willingness to switch to teaching the Russian school curriculum. The move puts many of them in a difficult position. If they do not sign, they will lose their jobs and be at risk of retaliation from Russian forces. If they sign, there is the risk of charges from Ukrainian authorities, which view teaching the Russian curriculum as a form of collaboration with the enemy. The Guard-

ian spoke with teachers in Russian-occupied parts of south-east Ukraine whose identities, for safety reasons, cannot be revealed. They said that around mid-June newly appointed local authorities told them they had until 21 July either to sign a document certifying their readiness to follow the Russian school curriculum or resign, with many of them being threatened with eviction from their homes. The Russian education minister, Sergey Kravtsov, announced in June that when the new school year began in September all schools in Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine were to work according to Russian standards. "We will do our best to open schools on 1 September so that they are

as ready as possible to function according to Russian standards," Kravtsov said. "Integration will take place. We are already taking some steps in this direction: teacher training and the supply of textbooks." One teacher living in a village in the occupied area of Kharkiv said: "At the moment, only history, geography, language and primary school teachers were asked to sign the document." In the teaching of literature, works by most of the Ukrainian writers are likely to disappear while the Russian history curriculum has become more politicised in recent years, especially on the Russian narrative of the Soviet victory in the second world war, and without much

space for critical thinking about repression during the Soviet period or Russia's imperial past. The teachers who do sign risk prosecution for abetting the enemy if the occupied territories come back under Ukrainian control. The Ukrainian ministry of education and science (MES) views teaching according to Russian standards as a type of collaboration and the Ukraine criminal codex was amended recently with a paragraph establishing a punishment of up to three years in jail for "propaganda in education institutions with the goal of assisting the Russian army".

Iran earthquakes: at least five killed and village flattened, state media says

Dubai, July 02 : At least five people were killed by a magnitude-6.1 earthquake in southern Iran early on Saturday, state media reported, with the area also hit by two later strong quakes of up to 6.3 magnitude. "Five people have died in the earthquake ... and so far 12 are hospitalised," Mehrdad Hassanzadeh, the head of emergency management in Hormozgan province on Iran's Gulf coast, told state TV. "Rescue work has been carried out and we are now providing tents as emergency housing." The state news agency Irna said a magnitude-6.3 earthquake and a magnitude-6.1 quake followed the 6.1 quake that flattened the village of Sayeh Khosh near Iran's Gulf coast. "There were more than a dozen aftershocks." All of the victims died in the first earthquake and no one was harmed in the next two severe quakes as people were already outside their homes," said Foad Moradzadeh, the governor of Bandar Lengeh country, quoted by Irna. Major geological fault lines crisscross Iran, which has suffered several devastating earthquakes in recent years. In 2003, a magnitude 6.6 quake in Kerman province killed 31,000 people and flattened the ancient city of Bam.

CSSS and CSCS' form the backbone of the central secretariat administrative functioning. (ALSO READ: Rakesh Jhunjhunwala's net worth reduced by more than Rs 1000 crore in THESE two stocks) Of the total of 8,089 promoted employees, 4,734 are from CSS, 2,966 from CSSS and 389 from CSCS, a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry said. (ALSO READ: PPF, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Senior Citizen Scheme, others: Here's how much interest they offer) Singh, the Minister of State (MoS) for Personnel, said the orders for mass promotion of these employees belonging to the CSS, CSSS and CSCS have been issued after several rounds of high-level meetings in Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) chaired by him in the last two-months. The

minister said even legal experts were consulted widely as some of the orders were subject to the outcome of pending writ petitions. Singh said it was disheartening to see government employees attaining retirement from service without getting their due promotions and thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for this kind decision. The minister also met delegations of central secretariat officials on several occasions to thrash out the issue, as he considered that these three services - CSS, CSSS and CSCS -- form the backbone of the central secretariat administrative functioning. Singh also recalled that over three years back, the DoPT had carried out mass promotions of nearly 4,000 officials in different departments at different levels, which had been widely hailed. Many of these pro-



motion orders were also issued, subject to the outcome of pending writ petitions, he recalled. Singh said that the secretariat services are an essential tool of governance, since the notes and drafts prepared by them form the bedrock of government policies as the proposals pass through various stages in the government hierarchy. The Central Secretariat Service officers' association has also been protesting over delay in their promotion, claiming it was causing ir-

reparable financial loss to them. The CSS Forum, an association of CSS officers, has recently written to the Secretary, DoPT in support of their demand. "We are thankful to PM Modi for taking prompt initiative for resolving long-pending regular promotion issue of the officers. We are also thankful to MoS Jitendra Singh and Secretary, DoPT for getting the mass promotion orders issued within the limited time," said Manmohan Verma, General Secretary of the CSS Forum.

Russia-Ukraine war

What we know on day 129 of the invasion



Moscow, July 02 : Powerful explosions rocked the Ukrainian city of Mykolaiv early on Saturday, the mayor said. Air raid sirens sounded across the Mykolaiv region, which borders the vital exporting port of Odesa, before the blasts. "There are powerful explosions in the city! Stay in shelters!" Oleksandr Senkevich, the mayor, wrote on the Telegram messaging app. It was not immediately known what caused the explosions. Ukraine's state-run nuclear company, Energoatom, has restored its connection between the International

Atomic Energy Agency and the surveillance systems of the nuclear plant in the south-eastern city of Zaporizhzhia. The connections had been down as a result of Russian occupation. The Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, denounced Russia's attack on Friday on the southern resort town of Serhiivka as "conscious, deliberately targeted Russian terror and not some sort of error". The strike on the town near Odesa, which killed at least 21 people, took place shortly after Russia pulled its troops off the strategic Black Sea outpost of Snake

Island. Ukraine's army accused Russia of carrying out strikes using incendiary phosphorus munitions on Snake Island a day after Moscow's withdrawal of forces. "Today at around 18.00 ... Russian air force SU-30 planes twice conducted strikes with phosphorus bombs on Zmiyni island," it said on Friday in a statement, using another name for Snake Island. Ukraine's rebuilding plans will need to address restoring war-torn ecosystems, the European Union's commissioner for the environment said. Virginijus Sinkevicius warned that the environmental cost of the conflict was "increasing every day" and said it could take "generations" to overcome. Volodymyr Zelenskyy called Latin American leaders on Friday in attempts to obtain support from their countries. "I continue to establish relations with an important region, Latin America,"

Jerry Hall files for divorce from Rupert Murdoch in US court

London, July 02 : Jerry Hall has filed for divorce from Rupert Murdoch, citing "irreconcilable differences" with the billionaire media mogul. In a petition filed in a California court on Friday, six years after they were married, the former model sought spousal

support and legal fees from the 91-year-old. It will be Murdoch's fourth divorce. Hall was previously in a long-term relationship with Mick Jagger, of the Rolling Stones, with whom she has four children. Hall and Murdoch started dating in 2015 and were married a year later. According to reports in the US, the split came as a surprise to people close to the family. In the petition, filed with the Los Angeles superior court, Hall said she was "unaware of the full nature and extent of all [Murdoch's] assets and debts, and will amend this petition



when the information has been ascertained". Hall, who on Saturday marked her 66th birthday, also requested that the court cut off its ability to award support to Murdoch. Hall's lawyer, Ronald Brot, and a spokesperson for Murdoch did not immediately respond to the Guardian's request for comment. News Corp, of which Murdoch

is executive chair, did not comment. Hall and Murdoch, who is thought to be worth £14bn, were married at a low-key ceremony in March 2016 at Spencer House in London. Hall has reportedly been left "heartbroken" and "devastated" by the sudden end to their marriage, allegedly blaming his children for "souring the marriage". According to the Daily Mail, she was waiting for Murdoch in the UK when she received an email from him telling her that their marriage was over and that she should only communicate with him through his lawyers.



People visit the Big Air Shougang in Beijing, capital of China

No. DTGW/DEV/10/2022-23/4-A

NOTICE

The Directorate of Tea Tribes Welfare, Assam invites online application for the scheme "Pre-Matric Scholarship from Class IX to X students belonging to Tea Tribes Community" for the financial year 2022-23.

Eligibility criteria:

- The Candidate must be a permanent resident of Assam and must belong to Tea Tribes Community.
- The Pre-Matric Scholarship is awarded to students from Class - IX to Class - X.
- Undertaking on the annual family income stating that it is exceeding Rs. 5.00 Lakh per annum to be submitted by the Parent /Guardian in Annexure-1.
- Must produce recommendation letter from Headmaster/Principal or Admission/Fee receipts.
- All children of the same Parents/Guardians are eligible.
- The scholarship holder under this scheme shall not hold any other scholarship/stipend disbursed by any Govt. Department.
- In no case shall students applying repeatedly from different Sub-Divisions shall be considered for the scholarships.
- In case of detained students, he/she shall not be eligible to apply for scholarship for the same class twice.

All the already registered candidates need to login through their User ID & Password created during previous year application and need to only upload proof of promotion into the next class / semester.

All fresh students applying for this Scholarship need to first register themselves in the www.sirishassam.in online portal and then follow the necessary steps to complete the application process.

The online application portal shall remain open from **4th day of July, 2022 to 31st day of August, 2022.**

For more information regarding the guidelines and necessary documents to be uploaded interested candidates may visit www.sirishassam.in

Sd/-

Director,
Tea Tribes Welfare
Assam, Rupnagar, Guwahati-32

Janasanyog/D/6680/22

No. BNI -50/2022/148

SHORT NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

Sealed quotations affixing non-refundable court fee stamps amounting to Rs. 8.25 (Rs. Light & Twenty Five Paisa) only are hereby invited from intending Transporters/Firms Suppliers etc for providing Toyota Innova from Biswanath Chariali to KCII. Factory. Hyderabad in connection with transportation of detective VVPATs for TI-T4 Tasks subject to the following terms and condition and will be received by the Election Officer. Biswanath up to **3.00 P.M of 06/07/2022** at his office chamber. The tender box will be opened on the same day at **4.00 PM.**

- Rates should be quoted inclusive of all Taxes. Viz. GST/Income Tax/Labour Cess/Daily wages to Drivers etc.
- The rate should be quoted for hiring charge of the Vehicle including POL & other Misc. expenditure for a period of 16 (Sixteen) Days Journey as per Govt. route Plan appended hereto.
- GPS Tracking should be available in the vehicle.
- The vehicle to be supplied should be in perfect running condition.
- The vehicle must be covered with proper and valid Insurance Policy.
- All running spares including spare tire must be available with the Vehicle.
- The Driver of the vehicle must possess proper and valid Driving License.
- All risks/liability including damage to the vehicle and other persons/ property/ shall remain with the owner of the vehicle and the undersigned shall not be liable for any statutory, legal and/ or financial liability except payment of the hire charge.
- The hire charges shall be paid on submission of Bills in duplicate on completion of the duty for which the vehicle is hired.

Deputy Commissioner
&
District Election Officer, Biswanath

Janasanyog/C/5774/22

ADG Maj Gen Bhaskar Kalita visits Chirang district



Assam Rising, Chirang, July 02: Additional Director General of NCC of North Eastern Region Bhaskar Kalita arrived in Chirang district today and held a meeting with Deputy Commissioner of Chirang, Narendra Kumar Shah and Superintendent of Police Pranjet Borah. During the meeting, Indian top Army officer Bhaskar Kalita was briefed about the current aspects of Chirang

district. Chirang Deputy Commissioner Narendra Kumar Shah and Superintendent of Police Pranjet Borah greeted the Army officer with Arana and a bouquet of flowers. After discussion with the Chirang Commissioner and Superintendent of Police, Major General Bhaskar Kalita told reporters that he was considering expanding the NCC in the state. He also advocated for the formation

of a good number of branches of NCC in Chirang district. Referring to the Agnipath scheme taken by the Central Government, the Major General advocated that this is a beautiful scheme and expressed hope that the jawans involved in it would get scope in the Assam Police in future. 'The scheme will be implemented by the Union Home Ministry and the Army will work on the

project', he added. He advocated setting up a good number of branches for NCC in Chirang district. The discussion was also attended by Dhubri NCC Commandant N Trivedi. Major General Bhaskar Kalita, YSM (Yudh Seva Medal) did his schooling from Sainik school Goalpara and is an alumni of National Defence Academy (NDA). He was commissioned into 19 Kumaon and has completed 36 years in the Army. The General Officer has held many important Regimental, Command and Staff appointments including that of Commanding Officer 19 Kumaon, Commander 11 Mountain Brigade, Deputy Director, War Establishment

(CNC), Integrated Headquarters (IHQ) of Ministry of Defence (MoD) (Army), General Officer Commanding 56 Infantry Division and General Officer Commanding Uttarakhand Sub Area. The General Officer was instrumental as Chief Project Co-coordinator at Headquarter Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) in managing the prestigious twin project of National War Memorial and National War Museum. The General has also been awarded the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) commendation card in 2010 and Yudh Seva Medal (YSM) in 2014.

Lecture on National Flag awareness and National Flag code



Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, July 2: Lokra Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ 21 Sector and Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) organized a lecture on National Flag awareness and National Flag code for Kendriya Vidyalaya School children to promote 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav' initiative by the Govt Of India to commemorate 75 years of Independence

on June 2 in Lokra. A total of 83 KV school children attended the lecture, wherein they were made aware about history and genesis of the national flag. Children were also educated about the relevance of 75 years of Independence and how the National flag instills a sense of patriotism, pride and honour for the nation.

DGP launched pilot programme for strengthening SJPU

Assam Rising, Guwahati, July 2: Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, DGP, Assam launched a pilot programme for strengthening of the Special Juvenile Police Unit at Goalpara on June 30. Launching the programme in a meeting held at the Natasurjya Phani Sarma Auditorium, Goalpara town, the DGP Mahanta said that police has a critical role in ensuring protection for children who came in to contact with the police system. Assam Police is committed towards children. Every Police Officer must be sensitive and must be able to provide justice for all children. A strong SJPU can play the critical role of bringing speedy justice to the door-steps of children, and this initiative is a stepping stone towards achieving that goal, he mentioned. In his welcome address the SP, Goalpara, VV Rakesh Reddy said that Goalpara Police is happy to take lead in the SJPU strengthening programme and district police will take all possible measures to ensure speedy justice for each and every child who comes into contact



with the police system. It may be mentioned that Section 107 of the Juvenile Justice Act, has a special provision for the constitution of a Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPU) at the District Level. This special Police unit has the responsibility of coordinating all children related issues in the district. To strengthen the SJPU structures across the State, the Assam Police, in collaboration with UTSAH Child Rights Org. and UNICEF Assam has been undertaking various initiatives like training of police officials in child-rights laws, upgradation of child-friendly infrastructure in police stations, organizing children-related initiatives,

regular monitoring of case pendency in child-related cases, social media campaigns on child-related issues amongst others. This 'SJPU Strengthening Program' is a component of the Assam Police Sishu Mitra Program. This pilot program will be initially implemented in Guwahati. Police Commissionerate, Sivasagar and Goalpara districts and will be later scaled up to other districts of Assam. IGP, Western Range, Superintendents of Police and Senior Police Officers from six districts of Assam, Officers from UNICEF, Senior officers from Goalpara district including officers from DLSC, CWC, JJB, DCPU, Health Department, Special Court; children from various schools, also attended the launch ceremony. Students of Royal Global University also performed a play themed around Child trafficking, child marriage, child labour and child sexual abuse.

Actor Kishor Das passes away

Assam Rising, Palasbari, July 2: Assamese actor-singer Kishor Das from Palasbari LAC in Kamrup district, who has been suffering from cancer for a long time passed away on Saturday in Chennai Hospital. He had been undergoing treatment in Guwahati for a long time and later moved to Chennai for advanced treatment in March last. According to reports, Das died due to COVID-19 complications and piles. Kishor Das has starred in more than 300 music videos, out of which one of his super hit songs "Turut Turut" became Assam's Number 1 top view video. It may be mentioned here that Kishor Das was known for his roles in TV shows like "Bidhata and Bandhun", and has also starred in multiple short films. He also won the "Candid Young Achievement Award" in 2019, and 2020-2021 in the Asianet "Most Popular Actor Icon Award."



Byatikram MASDO organized cycle rally

Assam Rising, Guwahati, July 2: Byatikram MASDO organized a cycle rally from Hotel Landmark on July 2, marking the 29th day of the 60 days anti-drug, tobacco and liquor awareness campaign with an aim to spread awareness among the people to prevent and reduce the consumption of drugs and other harmful substance abuse touching the



major routes of Guwahati city. The rally was attended by more than 80 cyclists from various places who participated supporting the noble cause. The rally was flagged off by Dr. S.N. Bhowmik in presence of Dr. Bedabrata Pathak, CEO and Managing Director of Gate Hospital, Prasennjit Ganguly, Manager, Hotel Landmark, Arghadeep Baruah and Naaz Sultana, the star cast of upcoming Assamese Film Guwahati Diaries and other distinguished guests. It is worth mentioning that the Byatikram MASDO has been conducting this 60 days anti-drugs, tobacco and liquor awareness campaign since the month of June. The campaign was launched from Raj Bhavan on June 4 which includes awareness activities being conducted in various educational institutions of Assam. A live painting program was also held on the occasion of International Anti-Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking Day on 26 June held at Taj Vivanta, Guwahati as a part of the campaign. Dr. S.N. Bhowmik conveyed his best wishes to all the cyclists and the people who participated in the program as well as said that awareness campaigns like this can help in eradicating the use of drugs and other substances in society. He also appealed to all the people to take necessary steps to be safe and stay fit and healthy. Dr. Saumen Bharatiya, President of Byatikram MASDO thanked and praised everyone for their kind co-operation and support for participating and being a part of the cycle rally. He also asked everyone to take a step forward against this menace and lead a healthy life.

NFR Initiatives to develop goods sheds



Assam Rising, Guwahati, July 2: North-east Frontier Railway is planning to use Public Private Partnership (PPP) model for selected freight terminals to induct modern technologies and improve efficiencies in freight handling. Buoyed by increased freight loading in the previous fiscal, Northeast Frontier Railway is on track to setting up freight terminals on public private partnership basis in the current financial year. Northeast Frontier Railway is planning to develop about 36 Goods sheds through PPP mode spreading all over the five divisions in states like Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Nagaland, Sikkim, Bihar and West Bengal. The aim of this new initiative of PPP model is to develop the existing/new goods sheds by inviting private parties to participate in development. Implementing the PPP model for goods sheds over Northeast Frontier Railway is also expected to increase its freight business volume. The participation of private parties will also augment

the terminal capacity for freight handling. Through the PPP model, development of existing/new goods sheds can be done which are not done so far due to lack of resources. Introduction of the PPP model will

Lokra Bn.provides flood relief and medical aids in Cachar

Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, July 2: Lokra Battalion under the aegis of HQ 21 Sector and Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) ensures sustenance of people amidst the surge by providing rations and medicines in



Cachar district of Assam on July 2. Due to the shortage of food supplies and other essential stores people with dire needs were provided with rations and medicines at various locations of Kanakpur and Dakshin Mohanpur of Silchar by the troops of Lokra Battalion Assam Rifles in assistance with detachments of Army engineer representatives. A Medical aid post with the help of medical staff of Serchip Battalion was also established in Rengti Basti of Ambikapur, Silchar where medical examination of the aggrieved people was carried out along with distribution of medicines.

District agriculture dept. plea to farmers community

Assam Rising, Nagaon, July 2: District Agriculture Department, Nagaon urged the farmers community to apply for insurance of their current seasonal crops like sali paddy and black gam under Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana and requested the farmers of the district to contact the district coordinator to Agri Book Company or the project manager of Future Generali India Insurance Company in this regard before July 31 next. In a press note issued today by district agriculture officer Tarun Hazarika, it was stated that a farmer could insure one hectare crop like sali paddy or other with a premium of Rs 100 and in return the insurance company concerned would pay upto Rs 69,920 if the crops

would be destroyed by natural calamities or other disasters. In the same note, it was also stated that the department concerned scheduled the last date for application for insurance of sali paddy on July 31 while for black gam it was scheduled on September 10, 2022. It is noteworthy to be mentioned here that the district agriculture department observed the 'PM Fasal Bima week' from July 1-7 and Deputy Commissioner, Nagaon Nisarg Hivare ceremonially inaugurated the week today. District agriculture officer Tarun Hazarika, Nodal officer Bhadra Kumar Bora, senior area development of-



ficer Ashim Kumar Nath, Bubul Sarma and the se-

nior officials from the insurance companies were

present in the programme, the press note added further.

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THE ASSAM RISING

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The technology based war

At first Baydachenko targeted the usual suspects – Google, YouTube, Facebook and other sites with high traffic. But with each passing day the task became harder. The introduction of Russia's "fake news" law catapulted the country's internet into a darker realm. And so Baydachenko moved into a darker one too: the world of online gambling and pornography. These sites were perfect – little moderation, huge audiences and people behind them whose allegiances were with the highest bidder. If all else failed she'd try to take on Putin through porn. Baydachenko wasn't a lone ranger. Instead she was part of a bigger network and through this network money began to come in. The operation expanded. Baydachenko reckons that their ads have reached hundreds of millions of Russian internet users. "Informational resistance works," Baydachenko says with confidence, adding that she believes pushback to the war from mothers of Russian soldiers is partly because of the campaign. This is just one example in a growing list of people and organisations exploiting digital loopholes in Russia to challenge Putin's control. Last month alone, hackers have turned the mobile version of news radio station Kommersant FM into a jukebox of Ukrainian anthems and have placed an appeal to end the war on smotrim.ru, the main website for accessing state-run TV channels and radio stations. Rob Blackie is one of the directors of Free Russia, a campaign to bring independent news about the war to Russians through ads. He spearheaded the campaign (first doing so in 2014 when Crimea was invaded) and now works with Baydachenko. He jokes that from Putin's perspective he's running "a criminal spam operation". What he and the other people in this space actually operate is a modern-day samizdat network. Samizdat, the Russian word for clandestine material, was highly influential in the USSR, helping spread a mass of protests, banned work and documents. The method was the typewriter, the means people's hands – now upgraded to the internet and its offshoot of tools such as virtual private networks (VPNs) and the encrypted apps Telegram and Signal. Even TikTok was recently used by US-backed news organisation RFE/RL to track the movements of troops across the country as they made their way to the front. RFE/RL – which has suspended operations in Russia after pressure from police and politicians – is still working with journalists there and breaking important stories. Its message is clear: we'll find ways to get information in and out.

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

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Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

You won't get rid of me Pakistan - I am your General, Top Gun, donkey farmer



Guess who am I? I am your political wizard, I am your chief economist, I am your foreign minister, I am your strategic brain, I am your war hero, I am your defence analyst, I am your everyday gardener - I am your General Johnny Sins. Not only do I take care of your needs, dear Pakistanis, I shoulder your sins as mine. This year has been special for two reasons. First, I continue to rule Pakistan like the Queen of England once ruled

united India. It is no joke that the Saudi crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman (MBS), felicitated me with the highest honour - the King Abdulaziz Medal. Given how my previous trips to the kingdom won me tonnes of rice bags, this award felt like a joke. But in my spare time, I also act as an adviser to MBS. How else do you think the young crown prince managed to pull off the bone-saw stunt in Istanbul's consulate. I also don't mind claiming that I am the brains



Udaipur killing is yet another incident that casts doubt on the progress humanity has made since the dark ages. Great minds throughout history have reiterated the role of peace in the development of society. But the incident is an example of the chaos that is unleashed when intolerance reigns over reason and fraternity. This condemnable act has reignited the discussion about how violent extremist actions contradict the fundamental principles that Islam professes. The Arabic root word for Islam is 's l m', which means peace. Islam has no room for bloodshed and the killing of other human beings. The Quran

declares that 'killing one human is comparable to killing the entire humanity' (Quran, 5:32). Killing someone is haram (forbidden) in Islam. It is illegal for civilians to physically or even verbally attack others. According to Islam, punishment is the prerogative of established courts, not of individuals or non-governmental organisations. If someone commits a crime, their case will be referred to a court created by a country's legislation, and the judge will render their decision after completing the necessary legal steps. Then, the appropriate legal authorities will execute the order. Civilians cannot do it. Not just performing rites, but a part of religious duty makes it equally necessary for a Muslim to

Raamish Siddiqui

respect and observe the legislation of the land in which they reside. Throughout history, Islamic scholars have uniformly agreed that respecting and obeying the law of the land is an essential aspect of faith. Those who use aggressive methods or words instead of reasoned responses are maligning their faith. Inflicting physical retribution or provoking others to do the same to anyone who makes a derogatory remark about the Prophet Muhammad is equivalent to implying that Islam is incapable of

providing a reasoned response, which, in itself, is discrediting Islam. Islam is a reason-based ideology. All Islamic teachings are founded on reason and argument, and it favours logical debate above physical punishment. There can be many reasons why a person might choose negative words against the Prophet and one of them is provocation. Provocation often leads to an exchange of harsh words and the Quran's golden rule of mutual respect and tolerance (6:108), where it asks its followers not to revile someone else's faith, seeks to address that. As per Quranic teachings, no individual has the authority to limit others' freedom - it's available to all. It is not for individuals to decide if someone used or abused their freedom. In all aspects of life, the Islamic path is to seek peace and reason. A popular anecdote illustrates this. Once, in Medina, a man came to the Prophet and said: 'Teach me something that is not too much for me so that I may abide by it.' The Prophet replied: 'Do not get angry.' The man repeated his request a number of times, but each time response was the same: 'Do not get angry.' It is profoundly distressing that, rather than following this advice, some Muslims continue to resort to violence, passive or aggressive, due to self-inflicted

paranoia. History shows that any success on the part of an individual or a community has been achieved by adopting a peaceful and conciliatory approach. It gives people the opportunity to fully utilise available options, whereas confrontation only leads to planning the destruction of others. The latter approach is inherently programmed to reach a destructive outcome. In the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Peace cannot be achieved through violence; it can be only attained through understanding." Despite the fact that no religion encourages violence, some of history's most horrible deeds of violence have occurred in the name of faith. So whose responsibility is it to be at the forefront of faith, preventing it from being misinterpreted and misrepresented? Followers. It is up to them to do everything necessary to build a society in which peace, free speech, and constructive dialogue exist. Extremist ideology and violent behaviour have no place in any society. A heavy burden rests on the shoulders of scholars and intellectuals of communities. The leaders must clearly and openly condemn any acts of violence, and effectively trickle these views down to the bottom in order to build a peaceful world for the coming generations.

Putin's war is also a crime - the world must punish Russia as a terrorist state

As I write, rescuers are still searching the remains of a shopping centre in the central Ukrainian town of Kremenchuk. There were hundreds of people inside the centre when Russian missiles hit it on Monday. The number of casualties is still unclear, but there are 20 confirmed deaths and tens of unidentified bodies. The mall was miles away from any military target. There could be no other reason to attack it than to spread fear and terror in Ukraine. The Russian military hit it with two missiles, ensuring devastating damage. G7 countries unanimously condemned those attacks, as they should. But unless the world puts a meaningful political and legal definition to these atrocities, such condemnations will very quickly be forgotten by the general public. The world needs to comprehend that along with a ruthless military

operation Russia conducts indiscriminate attacks on non-military targets: this is terrorist activity. We need to distinguish it and qualify it as such. Most people think of terrorism as an asymmetric tactic of political coercion pursued by rogue political organisations or insurgent groups against a more powerful adversary. In this case, it is pursued by a major state power against a smaller nation. But the goals and methods are the same. This is not the first time in this war that Russia has attacked civilian infrastructure. There were other attacks earlier this week, the most publicised on a block of flats in Kyiv at around 6am. I understand one family has been hit particularly hard, with the father killed and the mother and seven-year-old daughter wounded. A kindergarten was another target on the same day; thankfully it was empty. The world was shocked by the



Andriy Zagorodnyuk

shopping centre tragedy, but Russia did not stop. It sent more missiles on Tuesday and Wednesday, hitting the coastal towns of Mykolaiv and Ochakiv with 11 on Tuesday. One struck

housing in Ochakiv, wounding six people, including children. A baby is now in a coma. There were three fatalities, including a six-year-old. Rescuers are still sifting through the rubble. Later, Russia fired 11 more missiles at the city of Dnipro, and on Wednesday it hit a tower block in Mykolaiv again, leaving five wounded and three dead. It is relentless. These are just examples from the past couple of days. Ukrainian citizens hear air raid alarms daily, and for months we have had horrific missile attacks on civilians in seemingly random cities, towns and villages. Russia's vast stockpiles of missiles are being emptied on to Ukrainian territory on an industrial scale. The staggering number of hits on sites with no strategic or military value leaves us in no doubt as to the true purpose of the strikes. Some of the targets are well known: the rail station full of refugees in Kramatorsk and tower blocks in Chernihiv, Kyiv, Kharkiv and Odesa. A school in Kharkiv. A maternity hospital in Mariupol. Many more cases are much less known. The lists of the civilian buildings hit and the tragedies of the people who are affected are updated daily. Hundreds of children's deaths have been confirmed in Ukraine, but within the occupied territories many more deaths remain unknown. As a result, people there are buried in unidentified graves, and often not buried at all. Russia has not denied that it was behind the strikes in these

cases. On the contrary, sometimes it provides hasty explanations, mainly for its domestic audience. In the case of the shopping centre, a defence ministry spokesman claimed that Russia had hit a military target and fire had then spread to an empty shopping mall. Of course, video exists apparently showing the direct hit on the mall. These are seemingly random attacks that go alongside the more focused horrors we see in cities such as Mariupol. Five months ago, it was a thriving coastal city of half a million. Since then, Russian planes and missiles have been razing it building by building. An unknown number of people, but certainly tens of thousands, sometimes entire families, were buried under the wreckage. Russians use these destructive tactics in all their advances in Ukraine. These entail attacking cities from the air, then with multiple rocket launchers and artillery, and then with tanks. Infantry come in only when there is not much left to defend. Just recently, they took the industrial city of Severodonetsk after destroying most of it. They are doing the same with their next target, Lyssychansk. Although these assaults are nominally made as part of a military operation, as with the attacks on the shopping centre and apartment blocks in cities where no combat is taking place, they routinely hit targets with no connection to military infrastructure. The targets do not further any immediate operational objective.

behind Saudi Arabia's modernisation, in fact, I organised Salman Khan concerts and a Saudi pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival. You see, how I have sealed my future with the Saudi monarchs. Be assured, my friends, your General will never run short of dollars, even if the dollar rate keeps increasing in Pakistan. The PKR 1,523 billion in defence budget is just what we poor Generals need. While I don't understand your criticism on the few billions we need to survive, you should see India's defence budget in trillions and at least cry for

General Twitter

us. You will say that Pakistan is in dire need of money, and I hear you! That's why I made the new government make you cut down on tea. 'Save on tea and save Pakistan' is my new slogan. But don't expect me to cut on my ammunition expenses. When India launched Agnipath, I thought it was a remake of the remake. To my surprise, it was an overhaul of their soldier recruitment scheme. Devastated

as I was at not getting a chance to see a Chikni Chameli 2.0, I was happy for my old friend Ajit Doval. Not many people know - even Doval doesn't know - that we have been friends forever. During his time in Lahore as a superspy, we used to hang out at Data Darbar. But let's be honest, Agnipath can't match my sheer intelligence when it comes to recruiting jihadis under the garb of faujis to fight in Kargil. That was my own Agnipath. I never feel my pain. As you sleep at night, I stay awake to look after the cattle. I protect you, the sheep and the goats - all in the name of a greater national interest. This Eidul Azha, like many before, I will help you sacrifice goats for PKR 41,000 not dollars. FML is now my company Fauji Meat Limited. Although a bumper sticker of FML explains my life as your General accurately. But like many of my businesses, meat is also a money-making venture. During my latest visit to China, I scored some billions in loans and found my next project - investment in

donkey meat. Soon I will become a donkey entrepreneur - you can call me Donkey General. Pakistan has won no wars. So what? I have been inspired to make a Pakistani Top Gun with your favourite General in the lead. After all, I am your Tom Cruise. I can also adapt Jurassic Park, with donkeys replacing the dinosaurs. Just like I replace prime ministers in Pakistan. Four in my current tenure so far. Just like no one knew about the surprise baby-on-the-way announcement of my childhood crush Alia Bhatt. I want to leave this world a better place - that's why I might not leave from my post as your favourite chief. You want a better place? Try making it without me. Those who oppose my stay please remember 'Mera danda meri marzi'. This could be my election slogan if I ever run for the office of prime minister, but who needs elections when you rule the country by default.



Rath Yatra - the celebration of Lord Jagannath

Rath Yatra or chariot festival is celebrated on 1st July in honour of Lord Jagannath who is one of the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu in Hindu mythology. Rath Yatra is a symbol of unity, brotherhood, and peace. This is one of the most important festivals celebrated across India. Every year the Rath Yatra is celebrated on the day of Shukla Paksha Dwitiya of the month of Ashadha in the Hindu calendar.

This traditional rathayatra is the center of attraction not only in India but also for foreign devotees. It signifies a journey through life with family members. The emergence of the god from the temple is a symbol of his presence among ordinary men on earth. Thousands of devotees travel from all over the country to participate in this yatra and get good fortune by pulling the Lord's chariot. It is stated that anyone who takes part in the Rath Yatra would be blessed with pleasure and riches. Rath means 'chariot' and yatra means 'procession'. Up to 1400 carpenters build the three chariots each year for Rath Yatra. It's believed the festival receives

rainfall every year on the day it takes place. The English word 'juggernaut' is derived from Jagannath. The rites associated with the journey of Jagannath and his two companions from the great temple and their return nine days later has been recalled. Prajnanananda Paramahansa says "He is the eye of all eyes, the nose of all noses, the ear of all ears. - He is the Lord of

■ **Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit**
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ever changing cosmos. The Lord of the universe or jagat, is Jagannath." Jagannath Puri temple is called 'Yamanika Tirtha' where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the power of 'Yama', the god of death has been nullified in Puri due to the presence of Lord Jagannath. The faith and belief attached to Puri's rathayatra has come a long way and now many Indian cities and even countries like The UK, Dubai and Singapore observe their own versions of Rath Yatra. The festival of Rath Yatra commemorates and celebrates the annual journey of Lord Jagannath with his brother Balabhadra and his sister Subhadra, as he travels from his sacred temple located in

Puri to visit his aunt's temple located in Gundicha. The Puri Rath Yatra is world famous and attracts more than one million pilgrims every year, not only from India but also from the different parts of the world. Lord Jagannath is a form of Lord Krishna, the complete avatar of Lord Vishnu. In the city of Puri in the state of Odisha, Lord Jagannath visits his sister

Subhadra and brother Balarama. Every year the wooden temples like chariots are constructed newly. The idols of these three deities are also made of wood and they are religiously replaced by new ones in every 12 years. The name of this city is derived from Jagannath Puri to Puri. Every year the festival of Lord Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra is celebrated with great pomp and show. Lord Jagannath Puri Dham is counted in the Char Dham of Hinduism. According to Hindu belief, Lord Vishnu dines in Puri, bathes in Rameswaram, sleeps in Dwarka and meditates in Badrinath. Char Dham Yatra is considered incomplete without a visit to Lord Jagannath in Puri.

The Quiet Transformation in Defence Pensions

The mediascape is rife with narratives which may lead distinguished retired defence services personnel to get apprehensive about the quiet transformation which is happening in the management of Defence Pensions in India. The System for Pension Administration - Raksha or SPARSH, as announced in the Union Budget 2017-18, is a landmark policy decision of the Government of India, to provide comprehensive web-based interactive pension disbursement system for defence pensioners. The project is managed and implemented by the Defence Accounts Department under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence, with the support of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) as the software development partner. This article is not a declaration but a presentation of contrast, between legacy systems and technological innovation, and between facts and fiction. The phenomenon of governance in India has evolved, where numerous initiatives are being designed keeping the beneficiary at the centre. The Government is increasingly relying on digital systems to ensure transparency, efficiency and effective public service delivery. It is a privilege that the Defence Accounts Department, over the course of more than two and half centuries, continues to serve defence pensioners whose number is nearly 33 Lakh presently. Within this system, steeped in history, outdated processes and regulations, SPARSH comes as a positive disruption, where the Department has adopted a paradigm shift towards en-

hancing 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



■ **Rajnish Kumar**

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 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.

Parliamentarians must act as a catalyst of social change



The live telecast of proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on national as well as international electronic media channels has brought new dimension in the history of Parliament. From a 'Majdoor' in a Jhophary to a 'Malik' in a Mahal, all watch the scene inside the highest institution of Indian democracy. The behaviour of uneducated, uncivilized and some criminal history seater members presents the scene of nothing but 'Machhali Bazar'. This is not only unfortunate, but shameful for the 70-year old Great Indian republic. Parliamentarians should specialize in certain subjects so as to be able to truly serve as 'watchdogs of public interest'. They should not abuse their own privileges for personal benefit and at the same time ensure that the wastage and extrava-

gance of public money is prevented. The only way parliamentarians could curb the tendency to abuse their privileges and prevent misuse of public money is by going in for specialization in the subjects of their choice. In fact, information will flow to the person who is known to have specialized in certain fields. Apart from this, such type of parliamentarians will gain the respect of the authorities as well as the society as a whole. Given the changing nature of contemporary society, the parliamentarians' role is multi-faceted. They have to be active, vigilant, helpful and industrious if they wish to fulfill the role effectively. In this context, the members should actively promote both official and non-official efforts to ameliorate the social, economic and

educational conditions of the people, they represent. The country mourns at the leisurely scrutiny of bills becoming a thing of the past.

■ **Er. Prabhat Kishore**

The net result of hurriedly drafted and hastily adopted bills has a plethora of legal disputes and consequent uncertainty of law. Legislatures play a critical role in the debate surrounding the development of the budget, as well as final budget approval. They should advocate for a budget that adequately caters for the all-round development of the people and that the most pressing needs are given priority. They should offer constructive suggestions while participating in debates and other activities in different spheres. They should actively engage themselves in the affairs con-

cerning the State. They should treat politics as a serious profession and parliamentary career as a full-time job. As representative of citizens, parliamentarians have to highlight the concerns of all sections of society in the media and in the Parliament to ensure that these concerns are reflected in national development strategies and budgets. They create and enlighten public opinion as a prerequisite for the success of democracy. They are legislators and monitors of government policy at the national & State level, as well as the guardians of the will and conscience of the people as elected representatives of the population. A member of parliament is thus placed in a unique position. He provides a link between the public and the government. One of the worst features of the Parliamentary process is the committee on subordinate legislation that goes into rule-making, executive power, etc. It is in the work of this committee that the legislative role of the Parliament is meshed in with the administrative role of the executive which provides the essential linkage between law and daily life. The parliamentarians, irrespective of whether they have a legal background or administrative experience, could bring to bear a

fund of practical common sense based on their experience in public life in the field of subordinate legislation. They should bestow their attention to this important aspect of legislative activity. The present-day members have apparently no care of their duties. They have given up the healthy practice of explaining to the public at the end of each session of Parliament, the important issues discussed and the stands taken by each of the parties. This is in the nature of rendering account to the masters and thereby deserving the privileges conferred by them. Parliamentarians around the world should also play a crucial role in the efforts to counter terrorism. They scrutinize government's behaviour to ensure that human's rights as well as the rule of law is respected, in striking a balance between protecting citizens & promoting their liberty. Parliamentarians should act as a catalyst of social change by being in constant touch with the people and representing the views & aspirations of the people. They should contribute immensely in promoting; advancing & implementing the Sustainable Development Goals set up by the government and should create ownership for these goals at national level and within their constituencies.

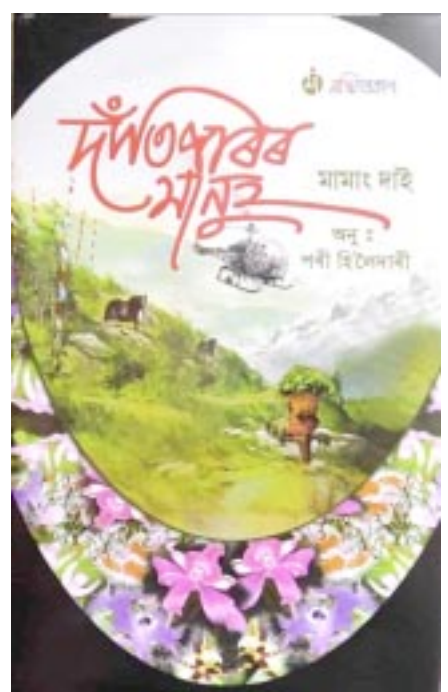
Sahitya Akademi Awardee Dr. Pori Hiloidari

Pori Hiloidari, one of the popular literary critics and translators of the State has been conferred with country's prestigious literary award 'Sahitya Akademi' for Translation 2021 for the novel 'Danti Paror Manuh'. It is an Assamese translation of the novel 'The Legends of Pensam' written by Mamang Dai, one of the popular novelists of Arunachal Pradesh. It is a set of stories interconnected across a few generations of a family. The novelist weaves the stories around lives of the Adi tribe of the Siang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh and she exudes essences of tribal life and the tribal world through her writing in an attractive manner and style.

■ **Rupak G. Duarah**

Dr. Hiloidari was born at Kamarbandha, Golaghat to Sri Nityananda Hiloidari and Smti Jayanti Hiloidari. She passed HSLC examination from Kamarbandha Higher Secondary School in 1984 in first division with letter marks in 5 subjects. In the Higher Secondary examination, she achieved the 4th rank in the state. For her extraordinary talent and performance in English, she achieved 1st class 1st posi-

tion in the BA final examination from Cotton College. After that she completed her Master Degree from Delhi University. In 1999 she had joined in the Handique Girls College, Guwahati as an Assistant Professor of English, specialization in fiction and literary criticism. She had been awarded the degree of Doctorate of Philosophy by Gauhati University for her research work in 2002 under the supervision of Dr. Govinda Prasad Sarma. Dr. Hiloidari is associated with different educational institutions and organizations such as Life Member of 'Forum on Contemporary Theory' based on Vadodara, Gujarat, Member of 'Syllabus Revision Committee for English', Assam Higher Secondary Educa-



tion Council, Member of 'Syllabus Revision Committee', CCS, Department of English, Gauhati University, Prepared study materials for Post Graduate Distance Learning, Tezpur University, IDOL, Gauhati University and K.K. Handique State Open University and set question papers for Cotton University. Dr. Hiloidari publishes different types of articles both in English and Assamese in some popular journals of Assam regularly.

Contd. From Page 1

Minister Pijush Hazarika Reaches

also reported on Saturday morning near the railway construction camp at Marangching area but there was no loss of life or property during the incident. The massive landslide, which is said to be the first of its kind with such a huge magnitude in the history of Manipur, took place near the railway construction camp at Marangching part 5 area, about 75km west of the state capital, in the intervening night of June 29 and 30. The landslide also hit 107 Territorial Army (TA) camp of the Indian Army deployed at the area for the protection of the railway construction work. "So far, we have recovered 27 bodies (as of 12 noon) including today's six bodies," said a senior state government official who is monitoring the situation from Noney district headquarters. "Out of them, 20 are army men," he said. Meanwhile, people familiar with the matter in the Army said that wall radars are being successfully used to detect humans and moving objects and search and rescue dogs are being employed to assist in the rescue operations. It may be mentioned that one person from Assam's Morigaon district has lost his life in the landslide in Manipur. He has been identified as Gupal Phukan of Lawbhurunga village. Meanwhile, five persons have been rescued and are undergoing treatment and at least 16 persons from the district are still missing. All the persons from Morigaon involved in the accident were working as labourers in the construction of railway lines. One person from Nalbari district is also missing in the landslide. Morigaon Deputy Commissioner P R Gharphalia visited the residence of the deceased person on Friday morning and paid condolences to the aggrieved family.

Six People Identified for Embankment

policemen at the embankment so that nobody can breach it," the Chief Minister said. It is speculated that residents of Mahisha Beel breached the embankment at Bethukandi to drain out excess water into the Barak river that flows down from Manipur and meanders into Bangladesh. On May 23, Debabrata Pal, the executive engineer of the Water Resources Department, lodged an FIR against unknown persons under Section 427 (mischief causing damage) of the Indian Penal Code read with Section 3 of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act. "As of now, we have information of six people's involvement in the breach. The SP had earlier filed an FIR in Silchar but now we have taken things to the next level," said Sarma. The Chief Minister also distributed ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh each to the next of kin of 10 of the 24 people who died due to floods in Cachar district. The process of granting relief to family members of the other deceased will be taken up in a phased manner. Visiting the Bethukundi dyke, Sarma reviewed the reconstruction activities being undertaken on breached locations and instructed officials to ensure that good quality raw material is used. Sarma, in his third visit to Barak Valley within 10 days, also held a meeting with Cachar district administration to review measures being taken to deal with the situation. The Chief Minister visited two relief camps in Silchar and four in Karimganj and assured those who have taken shelter there of all help by the administration. He also went by boat to the affected people of Srirampur village in Karimganj and directed the district authorities to take steps to provide relief to them. As many as 2,450 villages under 88 revenue circles have been affected across the state while 3,03,484 people have taken shelter in 563 relief camps, according to the official bulletin. Besides Cachar where a population of 14,04,748 were hit by the calamity, Nagaon and Barpeta districts were also hugely affected. A total of 17 embankments were breached - 12 in Cachar, four in Udalguri and one in Baksa while 486 roads and 14 bridges have been damaged. A crop area of 63314.75 hectares has been inundated while 795 animals were washed away and 9,55,089 were affected. Large scale erosion was also reported from Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Dhubri, Jorhat, Kamrup, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Morigaon, Nalbari, Sonitpur, Tinsukia and Udalguri. Urban flooding was reported from Cachar, Dibrugarh, Udalguri and Tinsukia, the bulletin added.

Udaipur Killing: Accused beaten

circulated the same on social media. In the video, Riyaz was seen attacking 47-year-old Kanhaiya Lal with a sharp-edged weapon while the other, Ghouse, recorded the crime on his mobile phone. The victim reportedly had recently shared a social media post in support of Nupur Sharma-- former BJP leader who had made controversial remarks against Prophet Mohammad. Riyaz and Ghouse were arrested from Bhim in the Rajsamand district. Kanhaiya Lal was cremated on Wednesday in Udaipur in the presence of a large number of people who raised slogans demanding capital punishment for the accused. His last rites were performed amidst heavy police security. Rajasthan Police on Wednesday said that the main accused involved in the killing of the tailor in Udaipur were in touch with Pakistan-based organisation Dawat-e-Islami and one of them also went to Karachi in Pakistan in 2014 to meet the organisation.

Governor felicitates the 1st, 2nd

the toppers would continue every year by the Governor. He congratulated the students, teachers and parents on the occasion and wished them great success in their future endeavours. It may be mentioned that for both HSLC and HSSLC toppers, the 1st position holder was awarded with a cash of Rs. 75,000, 2nd position holder with Rs. 50,000 and the 3rd position holder with Rs. 40,000 along with an appreciation letter and the traditional gamocha. The headmaster of the schools and colleges of the toppers were also felicitated. The felicitation ceremony was attended by the First Lady of Assam Prem Mukhi, Advisor, Chancellor's Secretariat Prof. Mihir Kanti Chaudhuri, Chairman SEBAR.C. Jain, senior officials from the education department, the toppers and their parents and teachers along with a host of other dignitaries.

Assam Floods: Situation remains

from Cachar district, three in Nagaon, two in Barpeta and one each in Karimganj, Kokrajhar and Lakhimpur. The Brahmaputra, Beki, Kopili, Barak and the Kushiyara are still flowing over the danger mark. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, during his visit to the Bethukundi dyke, said that people have been identified as responsible for an embankment breach that led to devastating floods in Silchar. He further added that the accused left a gaping hole in the Barak river embankment -- over 3km from the town centre -- would be booked. As per speculations, the residents of Mahisha Beel breached the embankment at Bethukandi to drain out excess water into the Barak river which flows down from Manipur and meanders into Bangladesh. Water Resources Department's executive engineer Debabrata Pal on 23 May lodged an FIR against unknown persons under Section 427 (mischief causing damage) of the Indian Penal Code read with Section 3 of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act. "As of now, we have information of six people's involvement in the breach. The SP had earlier filed an FIR in Silchar but now we have taken things to the next level," News18 quoted Sarma as saying. With the fatalities rising, the state CM distributed ex-gratia of 24 lakh each to the next of kin of 10 of the 24 people who died due to floods in Cachar district. Across the state, over 2,450 villages under 88 revenue circles have been affected, while 3,03,484 people have taken shelter in 563 relief camps, said the official bulletin. Apart from Cachar, Nagaon and Barpeta districts were also hugely affected. Official statement says a total of 17 embankments were breached -- Cachar (12), Udalguri (4) and Baksa (1) -- while 486 roads and 14 bridges have been damaged. A crop area of 63314.75 hectares has been inundated while 795 animals were washed away and 9,55,089 were affected. Cases of large soil erosion was reported from Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Dhubri, Jorhat, Kamrup, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Morigaon, Nalbari, Sonitpur, Tinsukia and Udalguri. Also, Urban flooding was reported from Cachar, Dibrugarh, Udalguri and Tinsukia, the bulletin added.

'Will reply legally' Shiv Sena rebel

Saturday addressed a press conference and said that Shinde has received a letter saying he has been removed as leader of the party organisation. "There is one tradition that the leader of the House, who gets elected and becomes chief minister, doesn't limit to one party. He is the leader of all parties in the House. This is why he is called the leader of the house. When he enters assembly, ruckus or business taking place gets paused till he sits on his chair. This is the respect to that chair," Kesarkar said. ALSO READ: Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra govt to face vote of confidence on July 4 "And when you say that you have removed the leader of the house from the party, you need to think of the people of Maharashtra, whether you are insulting them or not," he said. "We will not speak anything against Udhav Thackeray (as all respect him), but we will reply to the legal letter sent by him. We will take legal advice to reply to the legal letter," Kesarkar said. "Shinde is still our leader, all who had elected on the ticket of Shiv Sena had chosen him as leader of the organisation. Nobody can snatch it (right) from him, and those who tried it, we have approached the Supreme Court. I don't want to comment on it. But again and again such things are taking place," Kesarkar said.

Judiciary is only answerable

and extraordinary skills, CJI told the Indian diaspora there. He said, "It is the tolerance and inclusive nature of American society that is able to attract the best talents from all over the world, which in turn is contributing to its growth. Honouring qualified talents from diverse backgrounds is also essential to sustain the confidence of all sections of the society in the system. This principle of inclusivity is universal."

BJP's National Executive meet

Hyderabad. However, KCR received Opposition presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha at the Begumpet Airport a couple of hours before Modi landed at the same airport. Reacting to KCR's absence, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan tweeted, "Cooperative federalism in letter & spirit is cornerstone of our democracy. Breaching protocol on purpose yet again, Telangana CM has insulted institution of both CM & PM. KCR can hide but his corrupt politics will not remain hidden." Commenting on the development, Telangana minister T Srinivas Yadav had said earlier, "Why should he receive him? As per the protocol, a state representative is supposed to go and give an invitation. So, I am going there to receive him as a minister."

Amarinder Singh likely to be NDA's vice-president candidate, to join BJP soon: Sources

New Delhi, July 02 : There is speculation that former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh may formally join the BJP this month. Meanwhile, a BJP source said on Saturday that Amarinder Singh may be made the NDA's candidate for the vice-presidential election. Amarinder Singh is currently in London for a back surgery. According to sources in the saffron camp, the process of merging his party 'Punjab Lok Congress' with the BJP will begin when he returns home after a couple of weeks. If Amarinder is announced as the NDA alliance's candidate for the post of vice-president, the process of merger of his party will be led by his wife and former Union minister Praneet Kaur. Patiala MP Praneet is still in the Congress. The vice-presidential election will be held on August 6. The Election Commission will release the official notification regarding the vice-presidential election on July 5. July 19 is the last day for candidates to file nominations. The scrutiny of nomination will be held on July 20. July 22 is the last day for withdrawal of nominations. The NDA alliance is likely to announce its name for the post of Vice President by the second week of July. The term of the current Vice President Venkaiah Naidu ends on August 10. Polling to elect the next vice president will be held on August 6 and counting of votes will take place the same day. The BJP-led NDA has a clear edge in the poll in which members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, including nominated members, are eligible to vote. The notification for the election will be issued on July 5, which will set in motion the nomination process. The last date for filing of nomination papers will be July 19. The scrutiny of nomination papers will be done on July 20 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is July 22.

Pakistan registers protest against India's recent blocking of Twitter accounts

New Delhi, July 02 : Pakistan has lodged a strong protest against India's recent blocking of many of its official Twitter accounts, including handles of Pakistani diplomatic missions in various countries. The Foreign Office on Saturday summoned Indian Charge d'Affaires in Islamabad to hand over a strong demarche, terming the Indian action being against international obligations and norms. "The Indian Charge d'Affaires in Islamabad was called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today and a strong demarche was made on the Indian government's blocking of access to content of 80 accounts on Twitter including accounts of Pakistan's diplomatic Missions in Iran, Turkey, Egypt, UN-New York and the national broadcaster Radio Pakistan, by activating geo-blocking and censorship laws," said a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "The Charge d'Affaires was conveyed that these Indian actions were against the international standards, obligations, norms, and framework of flow of information and reflected the alarming pace of shrinking space for pluralistic voices and curbing of fundamental freedoms in India." Pakistan maintained that blocking of its twitter accounts of its diplomatic missions abroad was a clear and deliberate attempt to block Pakistan's right to access to information and "fundamental freedom of opinion or expression". "It was noted that the new illegal practice employed by the Indian government of regulating the internet sphere with regard to diplomatic accounts, with a clear intent to stifle dissent stood completely against the rights to access to information and fundamental freedom of opinion or expression," the statement said. Pakistan was faced with this issue when at least 80 of its official twitter accounts of diplomatic missions in important countries were blocked by Twitter. Pakistan raised the matter with the micro-blogging site, and called for an immediate restoration of the handles which were banned by India. "Diminishing the space for plurality of voices and access to info in India is extremely alarming. Social media platforms must abide by applicable international norms; we are urging twitter to restore immediate access to our accounts and ensure adherence to democratic freedom of speech and expression," the Foreign Office had said after it raised the matter with Twitter.

'Got Congress, NCP's support but not of own party', Uddhav ahead of floor test

Mumbai, July 02 : CM Uddhav Thackeray further said that he received the support of Congress and NCP but unfortunately he didn't get the support of his own party's (Shiv Sena) people: NCP leader & Maharashtra minister Jayant Patil after state cabinet meeting. Adv Singhvi says - The people who have changed sides and defected cannot represent the will of the people. Can't the Governor trust the Court to not call a Floor Test tomorrow? Will heavens fall if there is no Floor Test tomorrow? he Governor of Maharashtra on Thursday issued a trust vote notice to prove the government's numerical majority. The Shiv Sena reacted sharply by opposing governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's issuance of the notice. Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut termed the governor's order as "illegal". He said the governor is working faster than the Rafale after the meeting with BJP leaders. We are not rebels. We are Shiv Sena. We are carrying forward the agenda and ideology of Balasaheb Thackeray's Shiv Sena.



World sports journalists day observed at Tangla

Assam Rising, Udalguri, July 2: On the occasion of World Sports Journalists Day and 100th years of Assam Sports Journalists Tangla press club organized a felicitation and close discussion program. In this felicitation program TPC felicitated senior national football player Kameswar Basumatari from Hugum village under Harisinga Police station of Udalguri district with japi, gamusa, medal and memorial. In addition to this, sports organizer Khargeswar Bora, International Kabaddi referee Namal Rabha and sports organizer Ramesh Deka were also felicitated by TPC. The close discussion program which is led by Phatik Rabha, member of TPC and managed by journalist Prafulla Boro. After taking felicitation senior national football player Kameswar Basumatari expressed his journey of sports from the beginning when he used to play football with pomelo. He also said that he used to exercise in games with hardship to achieve success, even after being retired from football in 1999 he is still encouraging and trying to attract a new generation for sports. He is also involved with Harisinga sports association and working as a coach. On the other hand, Khargeswar Bora, vice president of Assam Kabaddi Association said that when we play games our health, mind and soul should be pure and peaceful. Also international referee Namal Rabha expressed that his aim is to produce new players from backward areas. Whereas, sports organizer Ramesh Deka expressed his feelings on the occasion and said that in the game there should not be religion and politics. In the end of the felicitation program Diganta Kumar Sarma, vice president of TPC praised all the guests and persons present in the program and said that Assam Sports Journalist has successfully completed 100 years. Ujjal Kumar Das, president of TPC, Kaustav Mani Sarmah, secretary of TPC, asst. secretary Arup Boro, Members of TPC Bikash Rabha, Phatik Rabha, Chinmoy Deka, Office secretary Hridayananda Rabha, Education secretary of Tangla Students' Union Chintu Mani Chakraborty, Journalist Dwipen Deka, Dhiren Mahalia and senior journalist Gouri Sankar Das were present at the program.

34th Rath Yatra celebrated at Hatigarh TE

Assam Rising, Udalguri, July 2 :

Hundreds of devotees from different parts of the country, including Sanatani Hindus, assembled at Udalguri during the Jagannath Rath Yatra. On the occasion of the 34th Rath Yatra of Hatigarh Tea garden in the district, everyone from children to old from the garden participate at the procession from Velakuti Jagannath Mandir to Hatigarh Jagannath Mandir which carried Jagannath, Balaram and Subhadra by the great Brahma Rath. The tradition of Jagannath Rath yatra was first started in Velakuti in 1988 with the blessings of Guru Maharaj Sri Sri Anku Kandhar. From that time onwards, the tradition of the Sanatan religious people has been observed to be still intact. The entire Jagannath Rath yatra travels through the Hatigarh Tea Garden. Suren Digal, secretary of Velakuti Jagannath Mandir Samiti, said that like last year, the support and the presence of people of Hatigarh tea garden were unprecedented. Kanai Nayak, Chief Adviser, Velakuti Jagannath Temple Management Committee, said that the efforts of the organizing committee were successful due to the enthusiasm of people. According to the temple management committee, the Jagannath Rath Yatra was a success with the gathering of more than 700 devotees.



Bengal GTA poll results 2022: Mamata Banerjee's TMC Wins Siliguri

Kolkata, July 02 : West Bengal bypolls, GTA election results 2022: The final results of the elections to the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) in West Bengal's Darjeeling are out and the Anit Thapa-led Bharatiya Gorkha Prajatantrik Morcha (BGPM) has won 26 seats of the 45 seats. Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC), on the other hand, has grabbed five seats while the Independents and the newly-formed Hamro party have won seven seats each. This is for the first time that the TMC has managed to win a seat in the GTA, alongside the newly floated Hamro Party and the BGPM. Polls to the GTA, the semi-autonomous council that governs the Darjeeling hills, were held on Sunday, after a decade marked by a series of changes in the region's political dynamics. By-elections were also held in six wards of six municipalities of the state in which the TMC has won four, whereas the Congress and the CPI(M) have bagged one each. Siliguri Sub Division Election: The results for 462 seats of 22 gram panchayats under Siliguri sub-division council were declared on Wednesday. The Trinamool has won 320 seats. The BJP won 86 gram panchayat seats. The Congress won 21 gram panchayat seats. The CPM won 15 gram panchayat seats. Independent candidates have won 20 gram panchayat seats. For the last five years, there was a Left Front board in the Siliguri subdivisional council. This time it's just the TMC. West Bengal CM says, "I thank the people of the hills for peaceful voting. There was a lot of unrest in the Hills. Now peace has returned to the Hills. There was such a peaceful vote. We had an alliance with Anit (Thapa). The opposition won only eight seats. Our alliance won the rest. The Trinamool Congress won 19 of the 22 gram panchayats. There are three panchayats undecided. That is, the BJP. The Congress and the Left stays empty handed. Siliguri poll results 2022: The fight is on for 462 seats in the Siliguri subdivisional council panchayat elections. Of these, The Trinamool is ahead in 311. The BJP got 74. Then there's Congress. The Congress has 16 seats. The Left Front and Independent candidates won 12 and 11 seats respectively. The fight is currently on for 462 seats in the Siliguri subdivisional council panchayat elections. The Trinamool Congress is currently ahead in 283 seats, while the BJP is leading in 65. Congress is ahead in 11 and the Independent candidates are leading in 11 seats. The final results of the elections to the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) in Bengal's Darjeeling are out and the Anit Thapa-led Bharatiya Gorkha Prajatantrik Morcha (BGPM) has won 26 seats of the 45 seats. TMC, on the other hand, has grabbed five seats while the Independents and the newly-formed Hamro party have won seven seats each. Results of 30 out of 462 gram panchayat seats of the Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad election 2022 are declared. Of these, TMC has won 27 seats, while BJP has bagged two and the CPI (M) has won one. In the by-elections that were held in six wards of six municipalities of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee's TMC has won four, whereas the Congress and the CPI(M) have won one each. The Congress retained ward number 2 of Jhalda Municipality in Purulia, winning it by a margin of 778 votes, whereas the Trinamool Congress won ward number 8 of Panihati Municipality in North 24 Parganas district.

Euro 2022 is here, and can be the living proof women's football has arrived

London, July 02 : For so long women's football has been that tree, struggling to be seen or heard. There was so little coverage and attendances were so low that you could be forgiven for wondering if matches had even taken place. Now, all eyes are on the tree. There are journalists camped in the woods, laptops at the ready, a crowd has gathered around it and specialists wait nearby. The world has woken up to the existence of the women's game in recent years and is now hungry for more. Finally, the game is being delivered to fans on a plate and the quality is the best it has ever been. When the England captain, Leah Williamson, steps out in front of a sold-out crowd at Old Trafford on 6 July it will be impossible to avoid the sound or sight of the tree falling. The Arsenal defender's face, and those of her teammates, have stared out from the front pages, from billboards and adverts, appearing on everything from crisp packets to drink bottles. Day after day children have ripped open the slightly sticky Panini packets and watched as their favourite players tumble out. It is mainstream. So mainstream that demand is outstripping the tournament's capacity. When the FA announced its bid and list of host cities for the Euros in 2018, the collection of stadiums



chosen was overwhelming. But the FA believed it was being cautiously ambitious. The number of tickets available would be double the number available for the 2017 edition in the Netherlands. Except it did not allow enough wriggle room for the huge growth the game would experience in the meantime. Since that tournament in 2017 we have had a World Cup, in France in 2019, that captured a record audience of 1.12 billion. The final pulled in an average live audience of 82.18 million, according to Fifa, while the BBC confirmed that 47% of the UK population watched its coverage of the tournament. Perhaps the most exciting thing about this edition of the European Championship is its unpredictability. So often there is a tournament favourite. This time around there are, arguably, six or



seven teams with realistic hopes of lifting the sweeping silver trophy come 31 July. Ticket sales have outstripped capacity, with many games already sold out, including England's tournament opener against Austria at Old Trafford on 6 July. The bookies favourites, Spain, have caught the attention of many and have the Ballon d'Or holder, Alexia Putellas, and many of her Barcelona teammates in their squad but on the international stage they are a young team. Spain reached the quarter-final stage in 2013 and 2017, and the last 16 at the 2019 World Cup, but they have qualified for only five major tournament finals prior to this summer's competition and lack the dynamism up front of Barcelona, which is a squad boosted by talent from beyond their borders. Germany are eight-time winners of the Euros and

manager, Corinne Diacre, has been criticised for her rocky relationship with a number of the team's biggest players. Both Amandine Henry, who scored a stunning opener for Lyon in the Champions League final against Barcelona last month, and the team's record goalscorer, Eugénie Le Sommer, have been omitted from the squad for these finals. Sweden, who have the Chelsea captain, Magda Eriksson, in the heart of their defence and the Arsenal forward Stina Blackstenius up top, have finished runners-up in consecutive Olympic finals and secured third place ahead of England at the 2019 World Cup. The Netherlands lifted a first major trophy in 2017 in front of gamechanging crowds for the home side before finishing as runners-up behind the US at the World Cup in 2019. They are all in with a shout.

Wimbledon accused of sacking temporary staff for 'bizarre' reasons

Wimbledon, July 02 : Wimbledon has been accused of sacking temporary staff for "bizarre" reasons after overestimating the number needed. It is believed that several people working on a temporary basis in hospitality and housekeeping abruptly lost their jobs for reasons such as going to the toilet without asking. At least three temporary workers are said to have lost their jobs for sitting on the hill with a drink after their shift had ended. A 19-year-old gap year student working as part of the housekeeping team said they had at first been "chuffed" to get their shifts as they were relatively well paid. "But we were working on Wednesday and during our lunch break my [friend] sat on the hill and had some strawberries," they said. "Next thing, he gets an email saying that he won't



be getting any more shifts. Now we're literally all bricking it to do anything on our breaks or even sit on the hill after we finish working in case we get told there won't be any more shifts for us. The whole thing is bizarre." Another temporary worker called the situation a "shambles", saying: "I think it's reflective on the management here. They're firing people left, right and centre. They're basically overstaffed and they said there's not enough fans here - not what they expected - so they're having to fire people." People are being fired because they're overstaffed and they're using the fact that staff are watching tennis and drinking as an excuse," n

email sent by a contractor to its staff confirmed that the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club (AELTC) was looking to reduce its staffing numbers. "As you may have noticed, visitor numbers are lower than expected, for this reason the AELTC have asked that we look at reducing our day staff numbers," it said. Attendance numbers at Wimbledon have been slightly lower than expected. Although the capacity is 42,000 a day, the total may be higher than this when ticket resales are included. On Wednesday and Thursday there were about 38,500 fans in attendance. The highest ever attendance was 46,826, on a day in 2009.

Cameron Norrie routs Steve Johnson and begins to win over Centre Court

Wimbledon, July 02 : There are stealth planes that have flown less under the radar than Cameron Norrie has at Wimbledon down the years. But halfway through the British No 1's quiet destruction of the American journeyman Steve Johnson, something shifted. People started to get to their feet. Wave their fists. Make noise. And as the decibel levels rose, the increasingly rowdy crowd also came up with a new chant: "Norrie! Norrie! Norrie! Oi! Oi! Oi!" It was the sound of joy, but also acceptance. It has taken a while. The fact that Norrie



was born in Johannesburg to a Scottish father and Welsh mother - and then spent the first 16 years of his life in New Zealand - perhaps has played a part. His late development and the pandemic has also meant it has taken a while for him to cut through. But Norrie certainly has now after destroying Johnson 6-4, 6-1, 6-0 to make the last 16 of a grand slam for the first time. "I played really well today and enjoyed it," said Norrie. "It was great to see the crowd reacting and it definitely added to the atmosphere of the match." Asked directly about the chant, he began to smile. "Honestly, it was pretty funny," he replied. "I don't know why I was thinking, every time they sang it, I broke serve. It's a good sign - I'm a little bit superstitious. But when you've got the momentum and everything is kind of going your way, it can help. I'll definitely take that." On the flip side of that, if I was down in the score, they can bring me through it. Trying to use it to my advantage as much as I can. It was good fun out there." Norrie also addressed his background, pointing out that he had lived in London before and after going to college in the US. "I'm very rarely in New Zealand," he added. "I've barely been in the last five years obviously with tennis. I really feel good in London." That certainly seems to be the case. And suddenly Norrie can see a path to the semi-finals that looks far more manageable than he could have dared believe. Next up is the American No 30 seed Tommy Paul, who has enjoyed a strong grass-court season. Then it is likely to be the 23rd seed Frances Tiafoe.

Underestimated Alenquer can clinch Coral-Eclipse



London, July 02 : Five of the six runners in a fascinating renewal of the Coral-Eclipse at Sandown Park on Saturday have at least one Group One win in the form book already, and it is a big boost for the first all-aged Group One of the season that Vadeni, the French Derby winner, was supplemented to the field earlier this week. Christophe Soumillon kicked off the celebrations some way out at Chantilly and a mixture of proven form at the trip and his scope for improvement means Vadeni looks a better bet than Native Trail, the

Irish 2,000 Guineas winner and the other three-year-old in the race. The older horses will put up stiff resistance, however, and not for the first time, Alenquer (3.35) seems to have been seriously underestimated in the betting. William Haggas's colt has been progressing steadily ever since his win in the Classic Trial - over this track and trip and with the subsequent Derby winner in second - in April 2021, and got his first Group One on the board in the Tattersalls Gold Cup at the Curragh last month. There is

no reason to think he has stopped improving yet and at around 8-1, he is an attractive bet to keep the Classic generation at bay. andown Park 1.50 Raasel put up a new career-best to win a Listed event at Haydock Park last time out and could make a further step up to Group company here. Haydock Park 2.05 Harry Davies could make the difference on Valsad, who was staying on again near the finish at Goodwood last time and should appreciate the step up in trip. Sandown Park 2.25 Darkness is slowly edging down the weights and another 2lb drop could get him over the line. Haydock Park 2.40 On the face of it, Eshaada was a little disappointing at Newbury last time but she had a big penalty for her Group One win at Ascot in October and probably needed the race too. A return to racing against her own sex could well be the answer.



London, July 02 : Geraint Thomas of Ineos Grenadiers threw caution to the wind in the Copenhagen rain as the 2022 Tour de France got under way with a treacherous opening individual time-trial stage in the Danish capital. Thomas, who won on a similarly drenched course at the start of the 2018 Tour in Düsseldorf, "pulled the pin" on a nervy start to the stage, but it was not enough to lift him into the top 10, as the defending champion Tadej Pogacar (UAE Emirates) proved faster than all his rivals for final victory in Paris. Yves Lampaert of Belgium, riding for Quickstep-Alfa Vinyl, was seen as an unexpected stage winner despite his time-trialling pedigree, and took the first mailot jaune, as the controversy over the team's omission of the

sprinter Mark Cavendish finally subsided. "My mind is exploding," a tearful Lampaert said after his win. Thomas raced in a sleeveless gilet over his aerodynamic kit after forgetting to remove it after his warm-up. "That was the worst first half of a time trial that I have ever done," the Welshman said. "Everyone's telling you to take it easy, but the main thing when I won in Düsseldorf, is just flow. This felt so bitty, stop and start. When I heard the time gaps, 18 seconds down to Mathieu van der Poel, I thought: 'Sod it, just race' and then I went better." The legs were good anyway, but it's a shame about that blinking gilet. Because I zipped it up all nice and snug, I forgot I had it on and nobody spotted it. I did think about taking it off but it would have been a bit dodgy." The main thing is

the legs felt good, really good to be fair. When I put the power down I had plenty of it. Mentally it was one of the hardest time trials I've ever done. "The stage was dominated by riders from the Jumbo-Visma with Wout van Aert, Primoz Roglic and Jonas Vingegaard all finishing in the top 10. Of the early starters, Van Aert set the fastest time but as the rain eased, later in the afternoon his time was surpassed by Lampaert. Yet the die seems already cast with Pogacar finishing fastest of the major contenders for overall victory. The 23-year-old Slovenian, reserved in the earlier and more technical sections of the course, picked up pace towards the finish in a demonstration suggesting that he had maintained the flying form that recently secured victory in his native tour.

Nelson Piquet aimed further racial and homophobic slurs at Lewis Hamilton



London, July 02 : The condemnation facing Nelson Piquet has escalated as evidence of further racist and also homophobic slurs he has made against Lewis Hamilton has emerged. The Briton had already demanded the sport take action to combat racism and called for a change to the "archaic mindset" in the sport. On Monday an interview from a podcast in 2021 was released of Piquet

using a racial slur to describe Hamilton. The three-time champion in the 1980s was roundly vilified by the sport, with F1 and the FIA issuing statements condemning racism. The Brazilian, whose daughter is the partner of Max Verstappen, has since been banned from the F1 paddock for life. Piquet had issued a statement saying his words had been "ill thought-out" but denying they were racist,

claiming they had been mistranslated. His arguments were given little credence and now look all but hollow as further footage has emerged. The Brazilian website Grande Prêmio said it had obtained a full copy of November's podcast and in it Piquet repeated the racist epithet and added a homophobic slur, when discussing his former rival Keke Rosberg, his son Nico and Hamilton, who drove with the younger Rosberg. F1 had no intention of revoking its ban on Piquet despite his statement and these further details will surely ensure he never returns to the F1 paddock. "Discriminatory or racist language is unacceptable in any form and has no part in society," F1 stated after the first comments were made public.

ECB suspends official over alleged comments directed at Devon Malcolm

London, July 02 : The ECB's attempts to rebrand cricket in the wake of the Azeem Rafiq racism scandal have faltered after the governing body suspended a senior official, accused of making a racially offensive comment about the former England fast bowler Devon Malcolm. According to reports in the Times and the Telegraph, the official, who has worked at the ECB for a significant number of years, allegedly commented earlier this summer that he was unable to see Malcolm "until he smiles". The ECB

refused to comment on the claims, but the official is understood to be standing down pending the result of the investigation. Malcolm caught the country's imagination when he steamed in at The Oval in 1994, taking nine for 57 against South Africa. He finished his career with 128 Test and 16 ODI wickets, after moving to the UK from Jamaica as a teenager. Last year, Malcolm was one of five people appointed onto the ECB's match referee's panel, in an attempt to diversify the start. He had previously



being rejected twice in his bid to become a first-class umpire, despite others breezing through the system. In 2020, former umpires John Holder and Ismail Dawood alleged discrimination in the ECB's

appointments system, pointing out that no non-white official had been added to the first-class list since 1992. Holder, the most important black official in the English game, was dropped from

the Test match list in 1991, not long after reporting an alleged ball tampering incident by an England player; while Dawood never made it off the reserve list. They later withdrew their employment claim against the ECB, shortly after Malcolm's appointment to the new 'supplementary panel' of match referees. The latest incident comes two weeks after the ECB announced it was bringing charges against Yorkshire and seven individuals for bringing the game into disrepute.

Ravindra Jadeja In Elite Club With Third Test Ton



New Delhi, July 02 : Ravindra Jadeja continued from where he left on Day 1 in the fifth rescheduled Test against England at Edgbaston and scored only his third Test ton. He reached the three-figure mark in style with a boundary off Matthew Potts. While Rishabh Pant's ton on Friday was fiery, No. 7 Jadeja took his time to settle in and made a late flourish on Saturday. His ton was only the fourth instance of any No. 7 or

Singh (169) against Pakistan in Bengaluru (2007). Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatesh Prasad and several others lauded the effort. India, 2-1 up in the five-match contest, are without captain Rohit Sharma after he was ruled out with Covid-19. Fellow opener KL Rahul, who with Rohit scored heavily in England last year, had already been sidelined with a groin problem. Both teams have experienced major upheaval since they last met, with Chris Silverwood and Root replaced as England's coach and Test captain respectively. Kohli stepped down as India captain in February, with paceman Jasprit Bumrah leading the side for the first time at Edgbaston, while Rahul Dravid succeeded the retiring Ravi Shastri as coach in November. By playing the game, albeit almost a year later than schedule, India are helping fill an estimated £40 million (\$48 million) hole in English cricket's finances.

Boulter and Broady break through in pandemic bounce for British tennis

Wimbledon, July 02 : The Battle of the Brits tournament, organised by Jamie Murray, gave competitive tennis when they needed it most. The only disappointment for Boulter, in particular, is that she will not be back on one of the main two courts, having revelled on Centre Court in beating Karolina Pliskova, last year's finalist, in the previous round. Instead, she will be first on No 2 Court, while Broady will play on No 1 Court, against Boulter's boyfriend, the Australian, Alex de Minaur. The 17 British players in the main draw this year was the most since 2001 and though 10 were wildcards, the success rate has been impressive. Seeing a group of home players supporting one other and feeding off one another has been uplifting. And the fact that it's a group of new names for the most part is equally encouraging. Boulter's resurgence has been especially noteworthy. Having dropped out of the top 100 in 2019 after suffering a stress fracture in her



back, she has had to be patient, something she admits is not in her nature. When Emma Raducanu came out of nowhere to win the US Open, she could easily have been thinking: "That should have been me." Instead, she told herself: "Why not me?" "Hundred per cent, yeah," she said, when asked if she had been inspired seeing Raducanu win her first slam. "What she did was astonishing. I think everyone in this room knows how incredible what she did was. It doesn't come every day. She came out, she surprised everyone, and she played some fearless tennis. That's what's so im-

pressive. I hope I can go out there and do the same thing. I'd love to do what she's done. You never know, one day it might happen. "I'm going to take one step at a time. I don't want to get too far ahead of myself. I knew I've put the work in to win some rounds here. I just hope I can keep that going, keep the momentum going. I just look forward to going out there and enjoying myself and having a smile on my face. I don't think it gets any better than playing on Centre Court and getting my first win on there. Ultimately that's going to give me a lot of energy going through to many more rounds, hopefully many more tournaments."

Boulter faces France's Harmony Tan who stunned Serena Williams in the first round. The left-handed Broady has been smiling his way around the All England Club and fully deserves his chance. At 28, it has taken time for Broady to reach this stage and if there were ranking points at this year's event, he would surely be ranked inside the top 100 for the first time. The banter between Broady and Andy Murray has been a regular source of amusement for the tennis twitterati but Broady also said the former world No 1 has been an inspiration and major factor in his success of late. "Andy has been one of my toughest critics, but also one of the greatest advisers that I've had," he said. "It's easy for people to say: 'You have to believe in yourself more, you're a great player.' But when one of the greatest players of all time says that to you, it carries a lot more weight and does kind of strike home a lot harder."

Women's Euro 2022 team guide No 12: Switzerland

London, July 02 : This article is part of the Guardian's Women's Euro 2022 Experts' Network, a cooperation between some of the best media organisations from the 16 countries who have qualified. theguardian.com is running previews from two countries each day in the run-up to the tournament kicking off on 6 July. "I am tired like a dog but we have fought for each other. I don't give a shit how we won, we are going to the Euros." The words were Lia Wälti's, speaking moments after Switzerland had beaten the Czech Republic on penalties in April 2021 to qualify for this summer's tournament. The second leg had been a gruesome evening, finishing 1-1 and 2-2 on aggregate before the spot-kicks. To make matters worse Switzerland missed their first two, through Malin Gut and Coumba Sow, but up stepped the goalkeeper Gaëlle Thalmann to save two penalties while the Czech midfielder Katerina Světlá hit the bar. Qualifying was so im-

portant for Switzerland and their Danish manager, Nils Nielsen. Having missed out on the 2019 World Cup, being absent again would have meant that the team would have fallen further behind the best sides. And for the Swiss FA it is important that the women's side, like the men's, qualify for the major tournaments. The men have missed out on only one since 2004; the women have some catching up to do when it comes to consistency. It was Martina Voss-Tecklenburg, the German who oversaw Switzerland from 2012 to 2018, who changed the mentality of the women's side in the country. She implemented a whole new structure when she took over, including youth talent programmes. It resulted in Switzerland qualifying for their first finals, the World Cup in Canada in 2015, and she followed that up by reaching the 2017 Euros. She is now the German manager. Several players were rewarded with big moves abroad and by 2017, stars such as Lara Dickmann and Ramona Bachmann had become known to the wider Swiss public. Before the Voss-Tecklenburg era the games were watched by just a handful of fans. Switzerland travel to England more in hope than expectation but Nielsen



knows he can count on his players to give their all. "This is an incredible group of players," he said after that dramatic night in Thun. "They have so much character, it is great to work with them." Nils Nielsen took over the national team in 2018, just after Switzerland had missed out on qualifying for the 2019 World Cup. He was in charge of the Danish women's national team between 2013 and 2017, taking them to European Championship final in his last year in charge. That led to him finishing second in the Fifa Best Women's Coach award. Born in Greenland, he moved to Denmark when he was five. Had accepted a job in China in 2018 but quit after a short while because his son had trouble breathing in the Beijing smog. That

opened the door for Nielsen to take the Switzerland job. Lia Wälti is the backbone and leader of the Swiss national team. The 29-year-old midfielder became captain in 2018 and is closing on a century of caps. She has always strived to develop and moved abroad, to Germany and Turbine Potsdam in the Bundesliga when she was 20. She was made captain in her second season. In 2018 she moved to Arsenal, where she has established herself in the WSL. Just before the Euros, she spoke out about the differences between the men's and the women's national teams. "We have female players who have to take unpaid leave from their real jobs so they can attend the national team's training camps," she said. "That's a

problem. We just want to have the same conditions and structures as the men." Svenja Fölmler. Arguably the biggest talent of all Swiss forwards. She followed in the footsteps of her older brothers when it came to football and was quite clear at the age of 10 she wanted to become a professional footballer. And she managed that before she was out of her teens, coming through the performance centre in Biel to join Lucerne in the Super League. "She is the first one on the pitch for training and the last one to leave," said her former coach at Lucerne, Glenn Meier. Joined Freiburg in the Bundesliga at the age of 18 and made her international debut at 17 and is hoping that this tournament can be her big breakthrough.

Venus Williams to play in Wimbledon mixed doubles alongside Jamie Murray

London, July 02 : Two of tennis' most famous families will join forces once again at Wimbledon, with Venus Williams playing mixed doubles alongside Jamie Murray after the pair had a late wildcard entry accepted. The 42-year-old Williams has not played on tour since August 2021, and there has been speculation she could be easing herself back into tennis before the US Open, which starts at the end of August. Murray has won the mixed doubles twice at Wimbledon – with Jelena Jankovic in 2007 and Martina Hingis in 2017 – while Williams reached the final in 2006 alongside Bob Bryan. She has also won the women's doubles six times with her sister Serena to go alongside the five singles titles she has at SW19. Andy Murray and

Serena Williams paired up in the mixed doubles at Wimbledon in 2019, when they reached the third round. Now it is the turn of their siblings, who will play New Zealand's Michael Venus and Poland's Alicja Rosolska in the first round. Kyle Edmund will make his long-awaited return from injury in the event, as he partners Olivia Nicholls. The former British No 1 has been sidelined since October 2020 with a knee problem, but appears to be nearing full fitness at last. The British duo will face the American pair Coco Gauff and Jack Sock in their opener. Britain's Neal Skupski and the American Desirae Krawczyk, the defending champions, are the second seeds behind Ena Shibahara of Japan and Dutchman Jean-Julien Rojer.







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