

The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

Vol. No. VII ■ Issue No. 153 ■ RNI-ASSEN/2014/58385 | GUWAHATI ■ WEDNESDAY ■ JULY 20, 2022 | PAGES 8

Russian journalist who staged TV protest ...

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Bayern Munich agree •80m deal to sign ...



NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman burnt alive

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 19 :

Woman was burnt alive by her own husband in Assam's Nagaon district on Monday night. The incident has been reported at Rupohihat. According to sources, the husband allegedly locked the house from outside and burnt it down with his wife sleeping inside, resulting in her death. The deceased woman has been identified as Marjina Khatun. Following the incident, the accused husband, namely Sader Ali, fled the scene and is currently untraceable. The motive of the murder is yet to be ascertained, police said, adding that a manhunt to nab the accused has been initiated.

Covid cases

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 19 :

Assam on Monday reported 764 new cases of Covid-19, taking the active caseload to 4,409. The positivity rate stood at 10.46 per cent. According to the data published by the state National Health Mission, 43 cured cases of the virus were discharged and 3 deaths were reported in the state. The new cases today were detected out of 7,301 tests conducted in the last 24 hours. The highest cases were reported from Goalpara (65), Baksa (61), Dibrugarh (59) and Kamrup Metro (59). Meanwhile, the three deaths were reported from Darrang (1), Golaghat (1) and Jorhat (1). The overall Covid-19 tally of Assam now stood at 7,30,907 cases, with the total recoveries touching 7,18,495. The recovery rate stood at 98.30 per cent.

Auto-rickshaw driver

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 19 :

A Golaghat police constable was on Monday seen assaulting an auto-rickshaw driver in Bokajan in the Karbi Anglong district of Assam. The Bokajan auto-rickshaw union condemned the vile actions of the policeman against the auto driver in broad daylight. His comes after allegations were leveled against police officials of the Sungajan police station in Sarupathar for harassing an auto-rickshaw driver by profession in Bokajan.



Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma is speaking while dedicating 25 MW Solar Power Project at Lalpul in Udalguri on Tuesday.

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma launches Swanirbhar Naari scheme

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 19 :

Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma launched "Swanirbhar Naari", an initiative of the Handloom & Textiles Department, to empower the indigenous weavers of the state and to provide financial support to the weavers' families in a programme held at Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra in Guwahati today. Under the scheme, the Government has decided to procure handloom items directly from the indigenous weavers without involving any middle men through a specially developed Swanirbhar Naari web portal. The scheme will be implemented with the help



of ARTFED and AGMC under the administrative control of Director, Handloom Textiles, Assam. Altogether 31 nos. hand woven items are covered in the scheme belonging to various communities residing in the state. After procurement, products will be sold through formal channels of

ARTFED's outlet Jagaran and AGMC's outlet Pragjyotika in Assam and in other states of the country. The online registration is designed in a way to reach those areas also, where departmental yarn banks are not available. It is expected that the portal will bridge the gap in between the

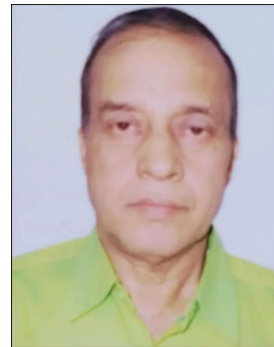
weavers and the buyers. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said that handloom & textile sector of Assam has a rich history and it has been playing an important role in the state economy. He said

that the Assam's handloom & textiles sector reflects the state's civilization and cultural heritage and the textiles of different ethnic groups have enriched this, he observed. Stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a distinguished identity to Assamese gamosa across the country, the Chief Minister said that this has immensely popularized gamosa in India today. Taking advantage of such a favourable environment, he urged the Handloom & Textiles department to generate more awareness about

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Former Sonai MLA Anwar Hussain Laskar Passes Away

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 19 :



Former MLA of Sonai in Cachar district Anwar Hussain Laskar passed away on Monday night due to heart related disease. He died on the way to hospital. He was 60 at the time of his death. Anwar Hussain Laskar was a two-time MLA in Sonai in 1996 and 2001. In 1996, he contested from Sonai district from Asom Gana Parishad (AGP). He won the seat with 42,519 votes compared to his nearest rival Trailakshya Bhushan Nath, an Independent contestant who secured only 19,118 votes. In 2001, he once again won

and retained his Sonai seat from Samajwadi Party. He secured 28,523 votes compared to Congress's Kutub Ahmed Mazumder who secured 23,064. He left behind his wife, a son and two daughters. Laskar's demise has been mourned by his family and near and dear ones.

'Agnipath' scheme

Supreme Court directs Registrar General to transfer various PILs to Delhi High Court



New Delhi, July 19 :

The Supreme Court on

Tuesday (July 19) directed Registrar General to transfer various PILs challenging the

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Monsoon Session 2022

Rahul Gandhi joins Opposition protest on inflation

New Delhi, July 19 :

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday joined the opposition protest against inflation and 5 per cent goods and service tax (GST) price on essential items, in front of the Gandhi statue in Parliament, on the second day of the Monsoon session. Rahul Gandhi joined the Opposition protest at Parliament along with other Congress MPs including Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, KC Venugopal, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, and Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi. Speaking on the protest, Mallikarjun Kharge said that they will fight against price rise, inflation and GST

rate hike of some essential commodities. Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh said, "Today, 53 years ago, banks were nationalised. It was a transformational change. Now, Modi Sarkar is on a privatisation spree. Public sector banks must be equipped to face competition, but selling them off to a chosen few will be disastrous! Congress will oppose the Bank Sale Bill." Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday is discussing the government's strategy in Parliament with his top ministers, for the ongoing Monsoon session. DMK Rajya Sabha MP Tiruchi Siva has given a suspension of business in the Rajya Sabha on the issue of a "hike in the price of petro-



leum products leading to increase in the price of essential commodities" while CPI(M) Rajya Sabha MP Elamaram Kareem sought suspension of business under rule 267 to discuss

the issue of price rise and imposition of 5 per cent GST on essential items. In the Lok Sabha, Congress MP Manickam Tagore filed an

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African Swine Fever Spread to 22 Districts in Assam: Atul Bora

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 19 :

Assam Agriculture Minister Atul Bora on Tuesday said that the African Swine fever in Assam spread in 22 districts. He said that the chance of spreading the virus is more after lockdown. Addressing a press conference here in Guwahati, the minister said that the sale of pig has been banned in Tinsukia and Sivasagar. "40,000 pigs died since March 2020 in Assam. 72 places have been identified from which the virus might be spread. We have formed 427 Rapid Response Team to monitor the situation," the Minister said. This year



900 pigs died of the disease while 500 have been killed from the government. He further said that the government has taken up special schemes to revive the pig business in the state. The minister further stated that the government will also provide compensation to the pig farmers. He said that pig farmers will get compensation up to Rs. 2200 for 15 kilogram of pig, Rs. 5800 for

15-40kg of pig, Rs. 8400 for 40-70 kg pig, Rs. 12000 for 70-100 kg and Rs. 15000 for pig weighing more than 100 kg. The 22 districts in which the disease has been spread are Dhemaji, Sonitpur, Lakhimpur, Biswanath, Darrang, Udalguri, Baksa, Kamrup, Kamrup Metro, Majuli, Dibrugarh, Karbi Anglong, West Karbi Anglong, Morigaon, Golaghat, Nalbari,

Bongaigaon, Goalpara, Tinsukia, Sivasagar, Charaideo and Jorhat. Notably, African swine fever was detected in Assam on Sunday after a pig in Dibrugarh's Bhogali Pathar village tested positive for the virus. According to the reports, the culling of pigs has begun in the area where the first case of African swine fever has been registered. Dr Himandu Bikash Barua, Dist Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Officer in Dibrugarh, told news agency ANI that a sample of the pig confirmed that it had an African swine fever. African swine fever causes fever, nausea, and diarrhoea in pigs. "In Dibrugarh's Bhogali Pathar village, a farmer's pig had a disease. The pig was examined and the sample was sent for testing. The sample confirmed that the pig had African Swine Fever," he said. African swine fever is a highly contagious and

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12 of 19 Shiv Sena MPs join Shinde faction, tell LS speaker to identify them as 'separate group'

Mumbai, July 19 :

After a vertical split in the legislative division of the Shiv Sena last month, 12 of the party's 19 MPs have now asked the Lok Sabha Speaker in a letter that they be identified as a "separate group". The 12 MPs, joining the party's rebel faction

led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, submitted the letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Tuesday morning. Hemant Tukaram Godse, Shiv Sena's MP from Nashik, told ThePrint, "Us, the 12 MPs, have given a letter to the Speaker to identify us as one group under the leader-

ship of Rahul Shewale. Our chief whip will be Bhavana Gawali." At least eight of these 12 MPs now in the Shinde camp had attended a meeting called by Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray at his Mumbai residence, Matoshree, last

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75th Independence Day: Assam To Hoist 80 Lakh Tricolours From Aug 13-15

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 19 :

Around 80 lakh flags will be hoisted in houses, offices and commercial establishments across Assam from August 13 to 15, 2022 along with rest of the country. This will be done as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga Programme, being implemented by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit

Mahotsav' to mark the celebration of the 75 years of Independence, an official release stated. Under this initiative, 20 crore tricolours will be hoisted across the country with the active participation of the public. In Assam, the target is to cover 80 lakh rural and urban households including the government and private institutions, schools and commercial establishments. The idea behind the initiative is to invoke the feeling

of patriotism in the hearts of the people and promote awareness about our national flag. In Assam, the Cultural Affairs Department has started preparations for the successful implementation of the programme with the Panchayat and Rural Development, Information & Public Relations Department and other govt departments. Accordingly, the Panchayat and Rural

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PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Deoghar Airport To have flights to Patna, Kolkata, Delhi

New Delhi, July 19 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially inaugurated the 657-acre, Rs 401 crore Deoghar airport. In addition, he also flagged off the IndiGo flight from Deoghar to Kolkata to take off from the new airport. The airport's runway, which is 2,500 metres long, can accommodate the landing and takeoff of Airbus A320 aircraft. Modi laid the foundation stone of Deoghar airport on May 25, 2018. Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, on the occasion, said the airport will be linked to Ranchi, Patna and Delhi in the days to come. The new Deoghar airport is expected to increase connectivity in the region. Based on Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia's statement the airport will have flights connecting it to other states like Kolkata, Patna and Delhi. According to earlier statements made by officials, the airport is

prepared to begin operations after two successful flight run trials. The low-cost airline IndiGo has declared that it will begin operating flights between Kolkata and Deoghar in Jharkhand on July 12. The airline announced in a statement that beginning on July 12, there will be four weekly flights between Deoghar and Kolkata. The airport will offer aviation connectivity to Jharkhand, northern West Bengal, and south-eastern Bihar, and is the second of international standards in Jharkhand after the Birsa Munda international airport in Ranchi. The Ministry of Civil Aviation earlier tweeted about the newly-built Deoghar airport and has laid emphasis on how it will give a big boost to Baba Baidyanath Dham-centric tourism in the region. "The newly constructed airport at Deoghar is a big boost to Baba Baidyanath Dham-centric

tourism in the region. Jharkhand's second airport after Ranchi will add to the prosperity of the state," the tweet read.

'Worth waiting for': Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck get married in Las Vegas

Washington, July 19 : Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck got married in a Las Vegas drive-through chapel late on Saturday night, culminating a relationship that stretched over two decades in two separate romances and headlined countless tabloid covers. Lopez announced their marriage on Sunday in her newsletter for her fans. On the J Lo, with the heading "We did it". Lopez initially made their engagement public in April on the same newsletter. is kind. And it



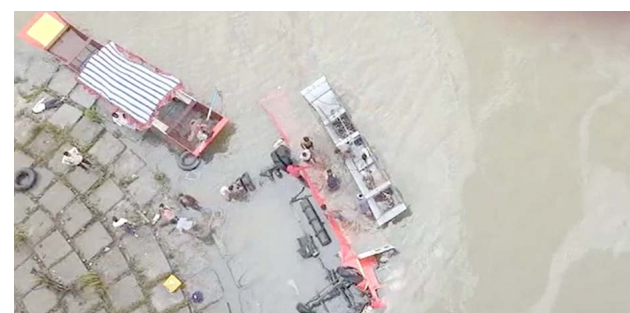
turns out love is patient. Twenty years patient," she wrote in a message, signed Jennifer Lynn Affleck. Lopez wrote that the couple flew to Las Vegas on Saturday, stood in line for their licence with four other couples and were wed just after midnight at the Little White Chapel, a chapel boasting a drive-through "tunnel of love". "They were right when they said, 'all you need is love'. We are so grateful to have that in abundance, a new wonderful family of five amazing children, and a life that we have never had more reason to look forward to," she wrote. "Stick around long enough and maybe you'll find the best moment of your life in a drive through in Las Vegas at 12.30 in the morning and

at the tunnel of love drive through, with your kids and the one you'll spend forever with. Love is a great thing, maybe the best of things - and worth waiting for. "News of their nuptials first spread on Sunday after the Clark county clerk's office in Nevada showed that the pair obtained a marriage licence that was processed on Saturday. The marriage licence filing showed that Lopez was taking the name Jennifer Affleck. Representatives for Affleck have declined to comment. Lopez, 52, and Affleck, 49, famously dated in the early 2000s, spawning the nickname "Bennifer", before rekindling their romance last year. They earlier starred together in 2003's Gigli and 2004's Jersey Girl. Around that time, they became engaged but never wed, citing "excessive media attention" in a statement announcing it would be postponed.

Bus falls into Narmada river in Madhya Pradesh, 13 dead

New Delhi, July 19 : At least 13 people were killed and several others were injured after a bus plunged into the Narmada river in the Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh, on Monday morning. The Maharashtra Roadways bus was going from Indore to Pune when the accident took place. The Pune-bound bus fell off the Khalghat Sanjay Setu

after crashing into a railing of the bridge in Dhar. "About 40 people were onboard the bus and 13 bodies have been recovered so far," Narottam Mishra, Madhya Pradesh Home Minister, said. Nearly 15 people have been rescued so far. Further details are awaited. "The district administration team is present at the accident site. The bus has been removed. I am in constant touch with Khargone, Dhar district administration. Instructions have been given to make arrangements for proper treatment of the injured," Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said in a tweet, expressing grief over the loss of lives in the accident. EAD The MP CM also telephoned his Maharashtra counterpart, Eknath Shinde, and ap-



prised him of the current situation at the accident site. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "The bus tragedy in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh is saddening. My thoughts are with



reading "No war" in English. On Friday, Ovsyannikova posted photos of herself on Telegram showing her near the Kremlin and carrying a protest placard raising the deaths of children and denouncing Putin as a

"killer". Declarations of this kind expose her to criminal prosecution for publishing "false information" about and "denigrating" the army - offences that can carry heavy prison sentences. Ovsyannikova became internationally famous overnight in March when

she staged her live TV protest. Pictures of her interrupting the broadcast went around the world. She was briefly detained and then released with a fine, but while a number of international observers praised her protest, it was not universally acclaimed by Russia's opposition. Some critics said she had spent years working for a channel, Pervy Kanal, that they said was effectively a mouthpiece for the Kremlin. In the months following her March protest, Ovsyannikova spent some time abroad, including a brief period working for the German newspaper Die Welt. In early July, she announced that she was returning to Russia to settle a dispute over the custody of her children.

"Defined By Her Simplicity", Droupadi Murmu's Proud Brother Tells

New Delhi, July 19 : As Droupadi Murmu prepares to be India's youngest President and the first tribal woman to take the office, a village in Odisha is overjoyed. The 64-year-old former Governor lives in Rairangpur in Mayurbhanj district with her younger brother and his wife in a five-room house built by her husband in the 1990s. She returned to the house after retiring as Governor of Jharkhand. "I just have no words to describe how proud and happy we are that she is becoming the First Citizen," said Taranisen Tudu, Droupadi Murmu's brother. "The first woman from the Santhal tribe will be India's first citizen. Think how happy we all must be..." As the presidential candidate of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance, Droupadi Murmu is assured of a win. For her brother, it comes down to a big change in the routine he



has seen his sister follow for decades, throughout her career as an MLA, minister and Governor. She has even used the same car for years - the one her daughter gifted her. "She is very simple. She gets up early, meditates, goes for her morning walk and does Yoga," Mr Tudu shared. Droupadi Murmu lost her husband and two young sons who were 21 and 25, but she did not let her personal tragedies beat her, say neighbours. "She was always very stoic," one neighbour said. A member of her staff fondly de-

scribes her as "ladaku (combative)". "She is never one to back down. That is why she could stay strong through her immense loss," Pradip Kumar Rout said. "The meditation and guidance by brahmakumaris helped her overcome her grief," he added. He also recalled when, as a municipal councillor, Ms Murmu personally supervised a clean-up. Ms Murmu was in the race for the country's highest office before the 2017 presidential elections but Bihar Governor Ram Nath Kovind, a Dalit, was named as the government's choice for the post.

Bernie Sanders condemns Joe Manchin for sabotaging president's agenda

Washington, July 19 : Bernie Sanders harshly criticized prominent fellow Democrats on Sunday, accusing his Senate

colleague Joe Manchin of sabotaging the president's agenda and rebuking Joe Biden for traveling to Saudi Arabia last week. During an appearance on ABC's This Week, Sanders interrupted host Martha Raddatz when she said Manchin had "abruptly pulled the plug" on supporting a scaled-back version of a spending bill that is crucial to Biden's agenda. Manchin said he would not support provisions in the bill that increase spending to combat climate change and close tax loopholes. Democrats cannot pass the bill without Manchin's support in a US Senate that is divided 50-50, with vice-president Kamala Harris serving as a tiebreaker in the event one is needed. "He didn't abruptly do anything - he has sabotaged the president's agenda," Sanders

said. "If you check the record, six months ago, I made it clear that you have people like Manchin, Sinema to a lesser degree, who are intentionally sabotaging the president's agenda, what the American people want, what a majority of us in the Democratic caucus want." "Nothing new about this," he added. "The problem was that we continued to talk to Manchin like he was serious. He was not," noting how the West Virginia senator and coal baron has benefited from campaign contributions from fossil fuel companies. Manchin said last week that he wants to delay any major decisions on the bill because of high inflation. Sanders said Sunday he wasn't buying that justification, saying the people of West Virginia would support the provisions in the bill.

Sudan: scores of people killed in tribal clashes in Blue Nile state

London, July 19 : The death toll from days of tribal clashes in the southern Sudanese state of Blue Nile has climbed to at least 65 people, according to a senior health official. Around 150 people have been injured in the fighting between the Hausa and Birta

ethnic groups, the state's health minister, Gamal Nasser al-Sayed, said. Most of the dead were young men, he added. Sayed urged authorities in the capital of Khartoum to help airlift 15 seriously injured people because hospitals in

Blue Nile did not have the equipment and life-saving medicine they needed. The fighting was sparked by the killing of a farmer earlier last week and continued until Saturday, according to the local government. Authorities

deployed the military and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces to bring stability to the region. They also imposed a nightly curfew and banned gatherings in the towns of Roseires and Damazin, where the clashes took place.

Guest House

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

No.DWCD(ICDS)/G/SNP/61/2022/42

CORRIGENDUM

Reference to e-Tender No.DWCD(ICDS)/G/SNP/61/2022/31, dated 13/7/2022 in regard to Expression of Interest for supply of Ready to eat (RTE) food items such as Dal Khichdi, Multigrain Suji Halwa as cereal-based Micronutrient Fortified Energy Dense Food for Children of age group (6 months to 3 years), Children of age group (3-6 years), Severely Malnourished Children of age group (6 months to 6 years) and Pregnant Women & Lactating mothers for various Anganwadi Centres and Mini-Anganwadi Centres at General areas of Assam for implementation of SNP during the year 2022-23, the following modifications are hereby notified through this corrigendum.

- In General Instructions: SI. No. 19 at Page No. 5 of Tender Booklet may be read as:**
"The product should be in the best condition & fit for human consumption for maximum 6 months (in a sealed packed) from the date of delivery. The same should be visibly printed in the individual package."

Instead of:

"The product should be in the best condition & fit for human consumption for at least 1 (one) year (in a sealed packed) from the date of delivery. The same should be visibly printed in the individual package."

Director
Women and Child Development, Assam
Janasanyog/C/6765/22 Uzanbazar, Guwahati-1

Memo No. DFS.1432/PT-II/2022/03

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS (RFQ) NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF CLEANERS ON OUTSOURCING BASIS

Sealed bids affixing Court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and Twenty Five Paisa) are hereby invited for quotations from various authorized manpower supply firms with a branch Office in Guwahati for the "Supply of Cleaners on outsourcing basis" for Directorate of Forensic Science, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati- 781019.

Brief Description of the services	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Tender Processing Fees in INR	Period of Engagement
Supply of Cleaners on outsourcing basis	22000.00	500.00	1 year

The detailed Bid Document is available and is to be downloaded from website.
<https://forensic.assam.gov.in>. **Bid submission last date: 2.00 P.M 3rd August' 2022.**

Director (In-Charge)
Directorate of Forensic Science, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati- 781019.
Janasanyog/C/6747/22

Statue of Miles Branson unveiled today at Nagaon baptist church



Assam Rising, Nagaon, July 19: The complete statue of Miles Branson, an American missionary who was the pioneer of modern Assamese

language and also dedicated his service for christianity and native education in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, will be ceremonially unveiled by

Transport minister mulls plans to rejuvenate ASTC

Assam Rising, Guwahati, July 19: Transport Minister Parimal Suklabaidya on Monday reviewed the overall functioning of the state owned Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC) for its rejuvenation here. At a high level meeting held with the Secretary, Transport department, Adil Khan, Vice Chairman, ASTC, Pranabiyoti Lahakar, Managing Director, ASTC, Rahul Das and other officials at his office conference room at the Janata Bhawan, Minister Suklabaidya pitched for evenly deployment of the workforce following detailed discussion on functioning structure. Rejuvenation of the corporation figured prominently in the meeting and it was decided to repair some buses instead of going for new purchases, as maintenance will entail lesser money. Emphasis was also laid on creating self-employment opportunities by leasing out old vehicles through spot auctions. Suklabaidya directed the transport authorities to chalk out a roadmap of the routes where ASTC buses are plying, routes where there is lack of ASTC buses and to explore new economically viable routes to mobilise revenue. It was decided that full fledged e-ticketing software services will be launched in Kamrup (Metro) and Sonitpur by AMTRON as a pilot project on revenue sharing basis on July 21. The Transport Minister directed ASTC to hold a meeting with Guwahati Traffic Police to resolve issues related to bus stoppage, parking, etc in Guwahati and find quick ways and means as to how ASTC buses can carry passengers to the maximum capacity in order to generate more revenue. The meeting decided that ASTC buses would be inspected regularly by nodal officers in the rank of assistant engineers who will be accountable for proper route maintenance, vigilance, tickets, etc. Timings of buses across the state will also be monitored and such timings will be shared with the public for their convenience. It was also decided that JAN buses, which were non-functional following orders from Gauhati High Court that these buses will not be able to run in Guwahati, will now operate on the outskirts of the capital city by ASTC in PPP mode. The meeting further decided that the lacunae detected by the Transport Minister during his surprise visit to ISBT would be resolved at the earliest and necessary action would be initiated immediately against the officers and staff accountable for all this. A report encompassing all the matters discussed in the meeting will be submitted to the Transport Minister within seven days.

Workshop on research tools conducted

Assam Rising, Nagaon, July 19: Department of Education of Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya organized a one-day workshop on construction and standardization of research tools on July 17. The program started at

10.30 am and the program was inaugurated by Dr. Tribeni Saikia, Head Department of education, MSSV, Nagaon. Dr. Manashee Gogoi, Professor, Dept. of Education, Dibrugarh University, joined as resource person. She gave a thought

Kuladhar Saikia, the president of Asom Sahitya Sabha here at a function tomorrow at Nagaon Baptist Church. The 23 feet height statue of the great American missionary activist has been constructed by Nagaon Zila Sahitya Sabha in financial assistance from local MP Pradyut Bordoloi under his MP fund. The noted budding sculptor Lakhyajit Bora along with other 20 workers constructed the complete concrete statue of

the great pioneer of modern Assamese language within two years. The sculptor Lakhyajit Bora used special cement and dust of marble to build up the statue. Lakhyajit Bora who completed degree of master of fine arts from Chhattisgarh Indira Art and Music University and is currently working as an art - teacher simultaneously in Royal Global School and Royal Global University, prepared the design as well as the model

project for the complete statue and the concerned authorities of the Zila Sahitya Sabha as well as the local MP approved his entire concept for the proposed project. It is noteworthy to be mentioned here that the sculptor Lakhyajit Bora has a series of experiences in construction of various statues as well as other works of art and sculpture across the state. Bora constructed the statue of the great musical maestro Dr Bhupen Hazarika at his cremation ground near Guwahati

Assam CM inaugurated Azure Power's 90 MW solar project

Assam Rising, Guwahati, July 19: Azure Power (NYSE: AZRE), a leading sustainable energy solutions provider and renewable power producer in India, announced that its 90 MW solar power project in Assam, the largest solar power project in the state, was inaugurated by Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister of Assam. CM inaugurated the project at a special ceremony, jointly hosted by Azure Power and Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL) in Udalguri and Boko districts of the state. The power generated by the plant will be supplied to Assam Power Distribution Company Limited under a long term 25-year PPA on the inauguration, Harsh Shah, CEO, Azure Power said. The project spread across four districts - Udalguri, Boko, Nagaon, and Cachar, was commissioned in phases.



"The commissioning of our 90 MW solar power plant, the largest in Assam, is an indication of our strong project development and execution skills. The project also demonstrates the state's commitment towards sustainable development by promoting clean, accessible, affordable, and equitable solar energy availability. In addition to meeting the state's sustainability targets, our project will help in creating a self-sustaining ecosystem by providing jobs, skill development, and revenue opportunities for local popula-

tion," Rakesh Kumar -IAS, MD, Assam Power Distribution Company Limited said, "Participation of Azure Power in Assam's journey towards clean and green energy is appreciable. APDCL is committed to supplying uninterrupted, reliable, affordable, safe, and quality power to all its valued customers. These projects strengthen the resolve to reduce carbon emissions in the state, in line with the declaration of Prime Minister at Glasgow. Such endeavours will pave the way for making Assam one of the top states of the country as envisioned by Hon'ble Chief Minister."

GAEF organized webinar'



Assam Rising, Guwahati, July 19: GAEF (Global Assamese Entrepreneurship Forum, (www.gaefnortheast.org)) organized a webinar "Role of packaging and market placement in generating sales" on July 17 last. Branding, Brand positioning and marketing play a significant role in the success of any product or the service industry as do the various forms of packaging. It has become especially

important in this era of sustainable packaging. To address these issues and provide a resourceful platform for the young Entrepreneurs from Assam, GAEF organized the webinar which was graced by Speakers Prof. Dr. Narayan C. Saha, Founder Chairman of FIPS and Former Director of Indian Institute of Packaging, and Manoj Kumar Das, Former Managing Director of NERAMAC with Commodore Rajiv

Ashok (retd.) and Managing Director of NERAMAC as the Chief Guest and Ellora Goswami as the Moderator. The Speakers addressed several issues regarding sustainable packaging, economic and environmental impact, product marketing, the importance of branding and related issues. Partha Gogoi, President GAEF informed that this was the first episode of a series of webinars planned by GAEF. GAEF plans to hold such webinars on the 3rd Sunday of every month and invites all entrepreneurs to participate. The webinar was concluded by Anjana Bordoloi, General Secretary, GAEF USA.

One tests J.E positive at Itakhola

Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariail, July 19: One Satya Gupta, a resident of Itakhola under Biswanath district tested positive for Japanese Encephalitis on July 17. He was admitted to a private hospital at Tezpur days back due to

high fever and cough and is undergoing treatment. It is to be noted here that this is the second case of JE positive in Biswanath district. One Pramod Bhattacharya, a resident of Sootea old centre died of JE a week back.



Assam Youth Congress president appointed Dipankar Das as Dhakuakhana youth congress president.

Cow Protection Bill 21: Riverine cattle breeders deprived in Majuli

Assam Rising, Majuli, July 19: The issue of cow slaughter and cattle smuggling has long been a controversial issue in Assam. There is a lot of smuggling of cattle to the neighboring country along the Bangladesh border with Assam. Assam is considered as a safe corridor for cattle smuggling to Bangladesh for some smugglers from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. In Assam, cattle are considered to be the main driving force of the agricultural society and one of the components of the agricultural economy. Therefore, it is necessary to take measures to prevent the smuggling of cattle. The indigenous people of Assam

do not support the killing and smuggling of cattle used for their agriculture. For Hindus, cows have always been considered sacred. On the basis of such a heritage and culture, it is a very positive development that cattle slaughter and cattle smuggling have been made compulsory in the state. Although the Act appears to be passed from a religious perspective, the cultural and heritage issues behind it have given it universal recognition. This Act is more important to protect Indian civilization and culture than to protect the religious beliefs of Hindus. This is because the Sanatan Indian culture advocates equality towards all religions. Ana-

lyzing the Cow Protection Act from a broad perspective reflects this philosophy of equality towards equality. Unfortunately, the demand for riverine cattle breeders in Majuli, decreased after the passage of the bill in the state. According to the unfortunate cowboys, more than 1,000 families who earn their living by selling cows are in dire straits. Because the sale and purchase of cattle decreased, cattle did not get a fair price. Most of the families supported their children's education by raising cows. Therefore, the Chief Minister of the state is urged to take alternative measures to alleviate the plight of the cattle breeders.

Railway department eviction drive in Margherita

Assam Rising, Margherita, July 19: An eviction drive by the railway department continued in Margherita on Tuesday morning. The railway department today launched an eviction drive against illegal encroachments on both sides of the train line connecting Margherita to Digboi. Many people have been living on both sides of the train line connecting Margherita to Digboi by illegally encroaching houses etc. The railway depart-



ment today demolished several houses and freed the railway department's land encroachments. Department officials said the railway department will carry out eviction drives at 25 illegal residences in the area. Department au-

thorities also informed that notices in this regard were sent to each family in advance from the railway department. Families living on railway land for a long time are devastated and outraged by the eviction drive.

Relief aid to flood-affected people in Assam

Assam Rising, Palasbari, July 19: The Adani Foundation, CSR arm of the Adani Group, has extended timely sup-

port to over 7,000 flood-hit victims in Assam. The Foundation initiated the relief efforts on June 27 last, immediately after heavy rainfall lashed the state. At first, the Foundation and the airport team identified four worst-hit districts, namely Kamrup, Barpeta, Morigaon and Darrang, all of which are within 100 kms of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LGBIA) in Guwahati. A major part of the population residing in these districts belong to low-income

groups and tribal communities. Relief material kits were provided to 2,000 families each in Kamrup, Barpeta, and Darrang, and to 1,000 families in Morigaon. Highlighting the massive relief operations, Utpal Baruah, Chief Airport Officer of LGBIA, said, "It was a prompt decision of Adani Foundation's Chairperson Dr Priti Adani to stand by the flood affected families in Assam. We are grateful to have been able to serve our people to the best of our abilities."

NFR holds steady growth in freight unloading

Assam Rising, Guwahati, July 19: N. F. Railway is continuously registering a steady growth in Freight Unloading. N. F. Railways has unloaded 3427 freight carrying rakes during the first quarter of current financial year (April to June, 2022). This is an increase of 4.76% in comparison to the corresponding period of last year. N. F. Railway unloaded 1003 freight carrying rakes during the month of June, 2022. This is an increase of about 5.60% as com-

pared to the corresponding period of last year. N. F. Railway has transported goods like FCI rice, sugar, salt, edible oil, food grains, fertilizer, cement, coal, vegetables, auto, tank, container and other items during the month and unloaded them in different goods sheds within its jurisdiction. During June, 2022, 581 rakes of freight carrying trains were unloaded in Assam out of which 360 were loaded with essential commodities. 36 rakes in Tripura, 30 rakes in Nagaland, 7 rakes in

Arunachal Pradesh and 1 rake in Mizoram were unloaded during the month. Moreover, 196 freight rakes in West Bengal and 152 freight rakes in Bihar were also unloaded during the month within the jurisdiction of N. F. Railway. Essentials and other commodities are being transported regularly to not only meet the essential requirements of common people but also to keep the local economic activity of the region moving. Improved terminal handling facility



and introduction of more goods sheds have made it more convenient for customers and other stakeholders to unload and clear inward rake in a time

bound manner. Continuous monitoring at all levels has also resulted in reduction in turnaround time and increased unloading efficiency.

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Feels like it is on fire

Feels like it is on fire. The heat comes off the road in blistering waves, and the water that flows from the cold tap is too hot to touch. Daytime temperatures have hit 44 degrees Celsius (111 Fahrenheit) and often do not fall below 30 in the night. A giant landfill on the outskirts of the capital spontaneously combusted a week ago, and the 17-story high dump that contains millions of tons of garbage continues to smolder, worsening the city's already dangerously polluted air. Daily power outages driven by a surge in demand for electricity have resulted in blackouts as long as eight hours in some parts of India, while coal stocks - the fuel that accounts for 70% of the country's electricity generation - are running low, prompting warnings of a fresh power crisis. The northern wheat crop is scorched. It was the the hottest March in 122 years. There is evidence to suggest that climate change is increasing the periodicity and intensity of some extreme weather events.[3] Confidence in the attribution of extreme weather and other events to anthropogenic climate change is highest in changes in frequency or magnitude of extreme heat and cold events with some confidence in increases in heavy precipitation and increases in the intensity of droughts. Current evidence and climate models show that an increasing global temperature will intensify extreme weather events around the globe, thereby amplifying human loss, damages and economic costs, and ecosystem destruction. Extreme weather has significant impacts on human society as well as natural ecosystems. For example, a global insurer Munich Re estimates that natural disasters cause more than \$90 billion global direct losses in 2015. Some human activities can exacerbate the effects, for example some forms of urban planning, wetland destruction along the coast, building homes along a floodplain. In Australia, the searing experience of drought, extreme heat, unstoppable bush fires and deaths has transformed a climate-sceptic nation into mainstream greens, putting its hitherto ascendant right on the defensive. Tomorrow is when Britain will begin to follow suit. For this will not be a traditional heatwave, a moment to sunbathe joyfully in the park. Instead, keep out of the desiccating sun. The summer of 2020 saw 2,500 excess deaths from heat; it will be more this summer. Suffocatingly hot nights will offer little relief. Nor does anyone know how our infrastructure, which was not built with resilience or weather extremes in mind, will hold up. Train, bus and tube cancellations are likely. Will the electricity and water networks hold up under extreme demand? Even if they do, will we get through July and August without problems as a heat dome settles over Europe? Only some 70 parliamentarians turned up to last week's presentation on climate change led by Sir Patrick Vallance and other scientific officials. None of the Tory leadership candidates was among them. The accepted Tory wisdom, driven by its right, is that, at best, climate change commitments should be deferred until the cost of living crisis is over - at worst, they should be scaled back indefinitely or wholly reframed. Finally, at Friday's Channel 4 debate, three candidates publicly committed to the legally enshrined target of net zero by 2050: Rishi Sunak, Tom Tugendhat and Penny Mordaunt. The right's frontrunner, Liz Truss, offered a commitment, but carefully not to a date; and Kemi Badenoch, the insurgent candidate from the right, wanted the whole issue reframed.

Be a Citizen Journalist

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

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Letter to The Editor

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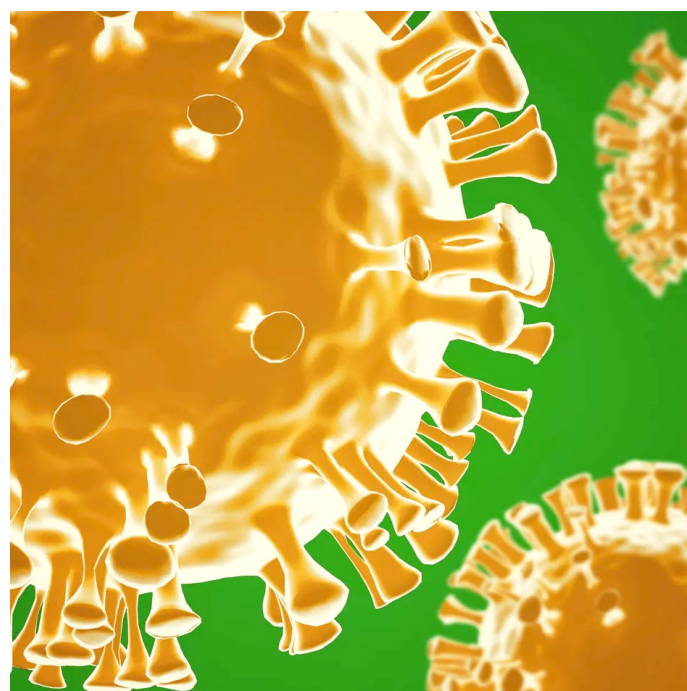
Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

As Covid deaths in the UK surpass the grim milestone of 200,000, what have we learned?

On 17 March 2020, the UK chief scientific adviser, Patrick Vallance, said that keeping the number of UK deaths below 20,000 would be a good outcome from the pandemic. That number was on par with the number of lives that seasonal flu takes each year, the most deadly infectious disease in Britain until then. Two years in, we've now crossed 200,000 deaths: 10 times higher than initially expected. What have we learned about Covid-19 in that timespan, and what old beliefs and myths from the early pandemic still persist? First, Covid-19 is a disease that can also kill young people, especially those who are unvaccinated. The idea that Covid is only a threat to older people is still prevalent. But consider that the US has passed a million deaths, and roughly a quarter of those deaths are in people of working age,

that is those under 64. Another quarter are in people between the ages of 65 and 74. This is not a disease that just kills over-80s as the prime minister, Boris Johnson, reportedly messaged: "Hardly anyone under 60 goes into hospital ... and of those virtually all survive. And I no longer buy all this NHS overwhelmed stuff. Folks I think we may need to recalibrate ... There are max 3m in this country aged over 80." However, the fatality rate of Covid-19 has also reduced massively over time. At the start of the first wave in 2020, a third of patients admitted to hospital died, putting the disease on par with Ebola's fatality rate. The fatality rate is now estimated to be less than seasonal flu for all age groups. This progress is due to mass vaccination, better clinical management in hospital, and

The pace of the news cycle around the Covid-19 pandemic is relentless. Just last week, the UK announced that the grim landmark of 200,000 deaths involving the virus had been reached. And as the current wave of infections, largely fuelled by the Omicron BA.5 variant, starts to recede, fears have been building up that a worse Sars-CoV-2 variant may be on the horizon, in the shape of BA.2.75. There is probably no precedent for a scientific topic having captured the public's imagination to such an extent - and for so long. In fact, a sizeable proportion of all news articles published over the past two years have been dedicated to the pandemic. It's also one of the most widely discussed topics on social media, with people from all walks of life taking part in heated, if not at times toxic and confused, debates about the exact meaning of the latest scientific publication. The massive interest shown by the public in Covid-19 science is one of the few silver linings of the pandemic. However, the iterative, slow progress of science, through replication, or conversely, refutation of prior findings, has been put under severe stress. Many people find it difficult to accept that a published finding may just be false. Science's self-correction mechanism also simply cannot keep up with the lifecycle of news coverage. Before an article has been read, digested and dissected by the experts in the field, it has often been widely covered in the news and shared by millions on social media. And the publications that attract massive attention are generally those reporting unexpected, extreme results,



which are also the most likely to be false-positive findings. Just look at the staggering numbers of Covid articles that have been written. There are now nearly 5 million publications on Covid recorded on the Google Scholar database. There is a scientific article supporting essentially any imaginable claim and narrative about Covid-19, however implausible or far-fetched. This allows anyone to make the most bizarre claims and back them up with published scientific evidence, which has become a serious problem for productive discourse on social media. This also means that the Covid-19 news and social media cycle is fuelled by a mix of scientific facts, inaccuracies and misunderstandings, as well as genuine scientific observations that are often largely irrelevant outside a wider body of evidence. A common misunderstanding is that "the science" is a set of absolute, immutable, indisputable and verifiable facts. Rather, science is a messy process eventually converging to-

wards the truth in a process of trial and error. Many scientific publications are false - because they relied on inadequate data or analyses, but more often the results are just false-positives, picking up a statistically significant association when they shouldn't. Indeed, each time a statistical test is performed, there is a small chance it will pick up a pattern even when there is none. Such false-positive findings are particularly likely to arise in studies with small sample sizes, as those are inherently noisier. The problem is made worse because studies reporting positive findings are more likely to be written up and publicised. (Those failing to detect a statistically significant effect often tend to remain

unpublished.) Publications reporting false-positive results are also more common among the first studies, a pattern known as the "winner's curse". There have been several instances during the pandemic where the first studies pointed to results that could not be replicated by other, often larger, studies. One example was the anti-parasite drug ivermectin. Several early studies on a small number of patients reported promising results, which led many to believe that it was a miracle cure for Covid-19. It was only once data from large clinical trials became available that ivermectin could be confidently ruled out as a useful drug against the virus. More recently, a pre-

Francois Balloux

print reported that current Omicron lineages in circulation (BA.1.12, BA.4 and BA.5) may have reverted to a level of virulence comparable to the previous Delta variant, mostly on the basis of experimental infections in hamsters. Those early results caused considerable alarm but could not be replicated in other hamster experiments. They were also at variance with the massive body of real-world evidence from many countries showing no increase in hospitalisation or death rates for infections caused by current strains in circulation. Of the myriad doomsday Covid-19 variants that have been anticipated on the basis of early and often poor evidence, few did in fact sweep the world. Though some did: the Alpha and Delta variants were both more transmissible and associated with higher hospitalisation and death rates than any lineage in circulation before them. And

the Omicron variant spread globally very rapidly, mainly because it could largely bypass existing population immunity conferred by vaccines and prior infections, but luckily, its severity lies well below that of the early pandemic lineages and any subsequent variant. The truth is that it remains next to impossible to predict how the next Sars-CoV-2 variant to spread globally will look. BA.2.75 might be it, though it is probably more likely to fizzle out. This massive uncertainty, combined with the high stakes of correctly predicting the next Sars-CoV-2 variant, makes it challenging to hit the right note between caution and public reassurance. There is no easy solution to these problems. Irrespective of the immense efforts of the scientific community during the pandemic, we haven't managed fully to communicate how science is an inherently slow and self-correcting process. I don't blame the public - it is understandable that they, the media and policymakers all crave certainty and conviction, but this is not something science can generally deliver on. A society where science is performed in the open, with engagement from, and under the gaze of, the public, is fundamentally a better-educated, fairer, more democratic society. Though another aspect we scientists have largely failed to convey to the public during the pandemic is that science is primarily about dealing with uncertainty rather than providing immutable, absolute truths. One simply cannot "follow the science". The best you can hope to achieve is for the science to tend towards the truth, though that process can be complicated and at times erratic.

The beauty of the 'new' Van Gogh is to point up the work that goes into genius

Van Gogh has been spotted in Scotland. No, this isn't a Loch Ness-like apparition but the manifestation of the likeness of someone with equally mythic status. A self-portrait by the man himself has been found on the back of a small painting called Head of a Peasant Woman. Discovered by an X-ray during a routine conservation and cataloguing process, the portrait, estimated to date from after his move to Paris in 1886, is invisible, having been sealed inside its frame for years. This self-portrait is hardly some kind of lost masterpiece whose incomplete and inaccessible status will forever be a tantalising mystery of flouted potential. It's more like a bonus edition of Antiques Roadshow for the art world, individuals and institutions alike, part of the worldwide scavenger hunt for undiscovered Van Goghs in attics, basements and collections. And, of course, it's a thrill for conservators who will be working painstakingly on clearing gunk away from the image. Van

Gogh made a collection of self-portraits and he looks pretty wan and unhappy in all of them. Clearly, he preferred the woman's portrait on the other side. There are five other self-portraits from roughly the same period also on the backs of other canvases currently on show in the Netherlands. What this discovery grants us is not hitherto unknown biographical or psychological detail, but an understanding of general artistic process that serves to humanise Van Gogh, to make his image less cartoonish, less grandiose, less ridiculous and pathetic. The discovery is significant because it debunks the idea of the great master and his masterpieces, the genius whose every daubing contains something that fascinates, that draws the eye or moves the art form forward. Even spontaneous-seeming "mad geniuses" such as Van Gogh reuse canvases, paint on both sides and display the better side, rehash and rework and repeat themselves. Although they might never admit it, all artists want their work to be seen by others, and perhaps it became clear to Van Gogh that flowers, night skies and local

life had more resonance than too much self-reflection and self-representation from a total unknown. It was an artistic stage that was necessary for him but not for his viewers. This discovery also counteracts the idea of Van Gogh in particular - and artists in general - as instinctual emotionalists, generating their art through cathartic bursts of creative impulse. Van Gogh has become the

Bidisha

softboi king of this archetype, supported by a powerful mythos that portrays him as unlucky in love, career, finances and fate, a doomed genius, crazed and gifted, volatile and vulnerable, an eccentric who went unrecognised, whose self-belief bordered on delusion and who swung between rapture and depression. It's moving (and encouraging, if you're an artist, too) to know that the names we revere can



also go down creative paths that don't work out, lose interest in a piece or simply find their own work a bit blah and not worth pursuing. Beautiful and emotionally charged artworks, which move millions of spectators across thousands of years, are often the result of rehearsal, boredom, rejigging, practice, dissatisfaction. The path to genius is strewn with dozens of mediocre attempts on the backs of canvases, compositions that don't quite come together, attempted techniques that look somewhat ham-fisted or fads that burned themselves out fast. If you're an artist, your studio is your office and you have to clock in repeatedly and for long stretches of time and do your work before anything half-decent comes out, let alone gets completed. This discovery contributes to the idea of Van Gogh as a dedicated artist, someone who had a professional sensibility even if he didn't "make it" during his lifetime. He didn't produce perfection every time, in a burst of creative and emotional fusion; he tried something, realised it wasn't working and tried something else. He did what we all do, regardless of what field we work in. It shows a degree of self-awareness, measure and critical self-appraisal that Van Gogh is not known for. The discovery of this "hidden" self-portrait also counteracts the hagiographic tendency of art lovers and art historians to impute significance to works that

the creators viewed only as prep. The work on the recto side, Head of a Peasant Woman, is not a definitive, capital-A artwork but one of a series of studies of local people that Van Gogh made as he worked up to a major piece called The Potato Eaters. So this new portrait is a quickie on the back of a study. Mabe neither side of the canvas was meant to be treated with reverence. The spicy detail for me is that nobody is saying this rediscovered portrait is expected to be particularly good, beautiful or revelatory once restored. It is not anomalous in terms of Van Gogh's techniques and inspirations at the time. It has value only because of the novelty of its discovery and its rarity in the art economy; every bit of news gives a tantalising bump to the value of shares in Van Gogh, the brand name. Van Gogh the man, Van Gogh the artist and Van Gogh the industry are three different entities. The industry involves the sellers' market but also the historians, the commentators, the academics who continually study and reinforce this man's significance. Van Gogh the man died over a century ago, in 1890, at the age of only 37, after a self-inflicted gunshot wound. His was an ignominious reality. It is only in the wake of his death that his work has sold at all, let alone for insane prices; Starry Night, held by the Museum of Modern Art in New York, is estimated to be worth \$100m.

Devi Sridhar

discoveries of new therapies and drugs. One thing that has changed significantly from the early stages of the pandemic is that having Covid-19 multiple times is now likely. This virus continues to evolve, and new variants have emerged with immune escape, meaning they can reinfect those who have had Covid-19 before. Avoiding infection has become more difficult as the virus has become increasingly transmissible. We have seen that estimates of R0, the theoretical number of people each new case goes on to infect in a population with no immunity, rocket as new variants have emerged. The original wildtype was estimated to have an R0 of 3.3. Delta was estimated at 5.1, with the ability to reinfect people. Omicron (BA.1) brought this up to

9.5, with BA.2 moving this up to 13.3. Estimates from South Africa put our current dominant strain BA.4/BA.5 at 18.6. While this type of estimate must be interpreted carefully, the BA.4/5 variant has been compared with measles, which has been considered the most infectious disease. The available vaccines still work well to protect us from serious illness, but the protection they offer wanes fairly rapidly, so we need regular boosters offered to the population to protect against severe infection. Ideally, these would be tailored towards Omicron, of which the recent variants have been sublineages. The UK is still not committing to offering boosters to those over 50, which seems a bad decision given the risks it entails going into winter, and knowing that vaccination is the best protection from severe disease.

Contractual NHM employees call off agitation

Aizawl, July 19 : Contractual employees of the National Health Mission (NHM) Mizoram called off their week-long agitation following an assurance from the state government that some of their demands would be met, a union leader said on Monday. The NHM employees went on mass casual leave from July 11 to 13 and thereafter went on indefinite strike from July 14 after their meeting with state officials ended in a deadlock. The contractual NHM employees are demanding regularisation of their service under the state government, regular pay, medical reimbursement and transfer allowances. National Health Mission Employees Union of Mizoram (NEUM) president Malsawmtluanga Hauhnar said that the meeting of the union held late Sunday night unanimously called off the ongoing agitation with effect from 9 am



on Monday following an assurance from the state government to meet their demands. He said that the Central Committee of Young Mizo Association (CYMA), which acted as a mediator between the state government and NEUM on Sunday met concerned state ministers over the demands of the union. During the meeting with deputy chief minister Tawnluia, who also holds the personnel and administrative reforms portfolio, the CYMA representatives were told that the govern-

ment would publish the recommendation and findings of the a study group, which was constituted last year to assess the problems of the employees, for implementation at the earliest, he said. Health minister Dr R

Lalthangliana also assured the CYMA leaders that the NHM employees would be paid regularly and that the order banning holding of strike by healthcare workers issued under the Mizoram Essential Service Maintenance Act, 1990 (amended in 1995) would be lifted and rectified as it is basically connected with COVID-19 and not due to the strike, Hauhnar said. During the meeting, Lalthangliana also informed the CYMA representatives that the government has paid salaries to the employees till May and salaries for June is under processed. The health minister also assured the revocation of show cause no-

tices served to the NHM employees with immediate effect, Hauhnar said. On Saturday, the government had served show cause notices to the employees and warned that they could be terminated, jailed and fined for violating the Mizoram Essential Service Maintenance Act and not honouring the agreement deed they have signed with the government on their recruitment. The government had also issued an order banning staging of strike by healthcare workers under the Mizoram Essential Service Maintenance Act on July 8.

Kanchenjunga Kalam Purashkar for journalist BhimRawat

Gangtok, July 19 : Chief Minister Prem Singh Golay awarded senior journalist BhimRawat with the prestigious 16th Kanchenjunga Kalam Purashkar on the occasion of the 20th foundation day celebration of the Press Club of Sikkim. Along with Rawat, SujalPradhan, a young and upcoming journalist, was awarded the Lagansheel YuvaPatrakar award. PCS also felicitated veteran journalist SukvirBlone on the occasion. The CM gave prize money of Rs. 51,000 to the award-winning jour-



nalists and announced a third category of award to be started from next year. The Teesta Rangeet Abhiral Kalam Purashkar will come with a prize money of Rs 1 lakh and the winner will be picked by the Press Club of Sikkim and the Information and Public Relations Department of the State government. Senior journalist BhimRawat in his speech highlighted that the PCS was founded two decades ago with the sole aim of speaking up for the benefit of the journalists in Sikkim. Rawat, as one of the founding members of the PCS, shed light on the various accolades of PCS in terms of social services and reporting. He urged the upcoming journalists to be responsible and not just run after viewership during the times of social media. Chief Minister Prem Singh Golay, in his address, highlighted the various demands placed by the press fraternity. He stated, "Among the demands presented by Press Club of Sikkim, pension for journalists seems a priority. But who should get, how much work experience should count and how much they should get, the criteria for the pen-

sion proposal must be discussed between IPR (Information and Public Relations) Department and PCS. It can either be a pension or a golden handshake. We understand that journalists are not in the profession to earn money, it needs and is driven by passion and patience. They may not earn money but they will earn a name. It is a sad profession in a way. There is genuine need and demands of the journalists are valid." On health insurance for journalists, Sikkim CM shared, "We will work this out with Central Referral Hospital (Manipal). We will make this work as annual medical insurance. During COVID, we gave away some money to journalists knowing they were facing difficulties. If a journalist gets sick, we have immediately helped journalists in their time of need." The Chief Minister also reminded the gathering about the exposure trip for journalists wherein Rs 2 lakh will be given to 10 journalists for such exposure trips. The CM urged the journalists to write analytical reports on various announcements made by the government. He said, "Write the truth, analyse the same. Just not a plain simple report but analysis of the truth. We can be corrected as a government by the journalist."

CM Rio speaks on Naga issue

Kohima, July 19 : Just days after the Nagaland government urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home minister Amit Shah to invite NSCN-IM for talks, chief minister Neiphiu Rio said that his government will do everything possible to see that a solution to the vexed Naga political issue is arrived at. Interacting with journalists, Rio said that besides resolutions, the core committee made many attempts to mediate between the NSCN-IM and



the Government of India by meeting the leaders. "We'll do everything possible to see that success comes, and I've been telling others also in our resolution point no 3 the parliamentary committee requests the negotiating parties to refer to the competencies agreed in the Framework Agreement on 3rd August 2015," he said. As reported earlier, the state government's parliamentary committee on Naga political issue appealed to the negotiating parties to refer to the competencies as reflected in the Framework Agreement of 3rd August 2015 signed between the Government of India and the NSCN-IM to arrive at a mutually acceptable definition of competencies to resolve the contentious issue at the earliest and to bring about a final solution that is honourable, acceptable and inclusive. "It is signed by them and it is that word competencies inserted in the Framework Agreement. We do not know that secret, it is with them, that was why we requested the honourable PM and HM to call and discuss and sort it out, that is the gist," the CM said. Leader of the Naga People's Front Legislature Party (NPFLP), Kuzholuzo Nienu, said that the NSCN-IM, NNPGs and Dr SC Jamir had also made calls congratulating the Parliamentary Committee for the resolutions it adopted. "Now this will be a final push, and the dynamics will be different now. Delhi will have to take it seriously. The 60 legislators and two members of parliament (MP) are very serious," he said. Nienu also said that two agreements cannot be made, and so the NNPGs 'Agreed position' and the NSCN-IM's 'competencies' will be clubbed. He said that a comprehensive study of both the agreements will be made and a common draft will be presented in the public domain for public acceptance after which only a final agreement will be inked. When asked if a solution could be inked before Indian Independence Day, Nienu said that such a situation is uncertain.

Naharlagun, July 19 : The significance of 'LGBTQ+ visibility' that creates a vital sense of individual belonging and security for the community was discussed at length during the third "queer community meet-up" organized by the AP Queer Station at the Oju Welfare Association (OWA) on Saturday. AP Queer Station is a newly-formed rainbow community support group of the state. The meet-up, which was attended by around 15 LGBTQ+ members from the Itanagar Capital Region and the Lower Subansiri and West Kameng districts, also saw the participants "discussing and highlighting the need for more public awareness and the significance of education to break down the social taboo that has been since long hovering over the community". Earlier, while interacting with the participants, lawyer and activist EboMili shared his side of concern for the LGBTQ community and assured that his team will put their best foot forward when it comes to fighting



for the rights and other important legal battles of the community. Stressing the impact of trauma, psychologist Yuma Narah reminded the members of the significance of being careful with one's words, thoughts, and language as something 'trivial' for someone can be a 'triggering factor' for another. SawangWangchha, founder of AP Queer Station, in his address spoke about the importance of community meet-ups and how unanimous unity can help in the all-around development of the queer community. He also expressed his gratitude to Oju Welfare Association chair-

person Ratan Anya for her relentless support to the community members and for providing them with a safe space to conduct their meetings. Wangchha said his team will be organising more such community meets as well as awareness and sensitization programmes in the days to come. The meet also included a short film-watching session, in which a short film titled 'Gender Identity' was screened. The film was followed by a brief story-sharing session during which the core members of AP Queer Station - TR

Nending, Taw Simon Tara, Rituraj Borah - and other members shared their life experiences to invoke a sense of community bonding and peer support. Mental health professionals from Arunachal Pradesh Psychological Association (AAPPA) and a few legal rights practitioners also participated in the meeting and motivated the community members. The LGBTQ+ community of the state still faces several challenges like intolerance, discrimination, and harassment, among others.

59 MLAs cast votes till noon in Arunachal



Itanagar, July 19 : As many as 59 MLAs out of 60 in Arunachal Pradesh exercised their franchise till 12 am on Monday to elect the new President of India. Assembly secretary K Habung said. Chief Minister PemaKhandu and his deputy Chowna Mein were among the early ones to cast votes at NokmeyNamati Hall of the Assembly, Habung stated. BJP lawmaker

LokamTassar is yet to exercise his franchise. Taking to Twitter, Khandu said, One of India's Most Defining Moments. Privileged to cast my vote for 16th Presidential election in State Assembly Premises, today. All four Congress MLAs including, former chief minister NabamTuki, have also cast their votes. NDA presidential candidate DroupadiMurmur and joint opposition nominee YashwantSinha are the two contenders for the office of the President. In Arunachal Pradesh, the ruling BJP has 48 MLAs in the 60-member Assembly while the opposition Congress and National People's Party (NPP) have four each. JD (U) has one. The House also has three Independ-

dents as members. The four NPP MLAs and the lone JD (U) member, along with the three Independents, have pledged their support to Murmu. Arunachal Pradesh has two Lok Sabha MPs Union Law and Justice Minister KirenRijiju and Tapir Gao and one the Upper House member Nabam Rebia. Vote value of each MP is 700 across the country. MLAs in Arunachal Pradesh have a vote value of eight each, Habung said. The BJP presidential candidate is expected to score 2,584 in the state, having secured the backing of NPP, JD(U) and Independents, and Sinha 32, with the support of the Congress.

95% voter turnout in presidential elections in Meghalaya

Shillong, July 19 : Meghalaya saw a 95 per cent turnout for the voting to elect India's next President. The voting in Shillong at the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly Building started at 10 am and ended at 5 pm. Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Meghalaya, Frederick Kharkongor said the vote took place smoothly, and 56 MLAs and one MP RajyaSabha had cast their votes. The presidential election candidates are National Democratic Alliance (NDA) can-

didate DroupadiMurmur and Joint Opposition candidate YashwantSinha. The counting process will take place on July 21. The new president will take oath on July 25. NDA candidate DroupadiMurmur is a tribal candidate and this reignited the memories of several people in the state. In 2012, late Purno Agitok Sangma contested the presidential election but lost the race to Pranab Mukherjee. PA

Sangma, the former Chief Minister of Meghalaya, was also the father of CM Conrad Sangma. Speaking with media persons, Sangma said that the concerns and issues on atrocities against Tribals have always been there. "If she (DroupadiMurmur) is elected in the post of the president there will be a huge impact on the different issues concerning tribals, and we know that is going to happen," said Sangma.

Tripura awaits Bangladesh's nod to reopen border haats

Agartala, July 19 : The Tripura government is waiting for a green signal from Bangladesh to reopen two border haats, which have remained shut for almost two years now. Both the border haats were closed immediately after the first wave of the Covid pandemic, officials of Tripura Industries and Commerce Department told to a media. SwapnaDebnath, Director Tripura Industries and Commerce Department, said, "We have already received all the necessary clearances from the Government of India. Accordingly, the orders have been forwarded to the Additional District Magistrates of the districts concerned, where the border haats are located. The district administration has informed us that they have taken up the issue with their Bangladesh counter-



part but yet to receive any positive response." She said, "In Meghalaya, border haats have started functioning gradually. We also want that the border haats start functioning as soon as possible. From our end, all the necessary approvals have been granted and we are ready," said Debnath. There are altogether two such trade points in Indo-Bangla border that have been identified as Srinagar-Chhagalnaiya in South Tripura and Kamalasagar-Tarapur in Sepahijala district. Vishwasree B, District Magistrate Sepahijala district, said, "The Additional District Magistrate heads the border haat managements committee. After Meghalaya border haat was opened, we have been consistently corresponding with the Bangladesh authorities to reopen the border haats. Once Bangladesh authorities show a green light to our proposal of reopening, a joint official visit will be organized and subsequently, the border haat will be opened again." Apart from the two existing border haats, Tripura is also planning to open two more such trade points in North Tripura (Dharmanagar) and Dhalai (Kamalpur) district. "The foundation stone for the Kamalpur border haat have already been laid. We are ready for the Dharmanagar one also. As soon as we get time from the dignitaries arriving from Bangladesh, the foundation stone-laying ceremony will be organised," Director of Industries and Commerce department said. Sub-divisional Magistrate Bishalgarh, under whose jurisdiction the Kamalasagar Border Haat comes, said that since March 2020 the border haats had been closed down. There are altogether 49 vendors in the border haat. The Srinagar Haat has remained closed since March and the number of vendors is also almost similar.

Alobo School of Music organises ABBA tribute night

Nagaland, July 19 : "ABBA, a tribute night" organised by Musik-A (Alobo school of music), Chumu branch, was held at council town, Chumukedima Hall, on July 16, 2022 as part of their summer recital. The school hosted their annual summer recital from July 11-July 16. In the 90 minutes show, the students from age of 3 years to 18 years came

together and sang almost all the hits from the legendary group ABBA: Mama Mia, Thank you for the music, Super Trooper, Chiquitita, Fernando, Take a chance on me, I Have a Dream, Waterloo. The winner takes it all, Dancing queen, GIME GIME, Andante, Angel Eye and many more. Alobo Naga, the Director of Musik-A school, in his welcome address stated that recitals are just

an extension of their classroom learning. They believe that every time a child goes up on the stage to perform they learn how to face the audience, confidence, and courage and also learn what to do and not to do on the stage. This is the reason why they always make their recitals more like a concert with real audiences. Naga stated that most of the parents love songs from ABBA, so to entertain and show appreciation to the parents, they did the ABBA tribute night as the finale of the summer recital. The program was graced by the upcoming promising leader Shri Z KashetoYephtho Class 1 Contractor and intending candidate for the 2023 general election from Ghaspani 1.



Contd. From Page 1

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

Assamese gamosa in the country, which is a unique handloom product of the state. He also called upon the organizations and people of the state to procure gamosa that is produced in handlooms only. Handloom & Textiles Minister UG Brahma also spoke on the occasion. Power Minister Nandita Garlosa, Revenue Minister Jogen Mohan, Deputy Chief Executive Member of BTC & MLA Gobinda Basumatary and several MLAs, senior officials of the Handloom & Textiles department and other dignitaries were also present in the programme.

African Swine Fever Spread to 22

deadly viral disease affecting both domestic and feral swine of all ages. ASF is not a threat to human health and cannot be transmitted from pigs to humans. It is not a food safety issue. ASF is found in countries around the world. Assam is the latest state to report African Swine Fever in pigs, after a pig in Dibrugarh's Bhogali Pathar village tested positive for the virus. Dibrugarh animal husbandry and veterinary officer, Dr Himandu Bikash Barua, told reporters on Saturday that all pigs within a 1 km radius of the epicentre had been culled. "We first declared the area up to 1 km as infected. According to the rules, we've killed and buried all the pigs in the infected area. Simultaneously, we have also sanitised the entire area," he said. According to experts, African Swine Fever does not infect or spread to humans even though it is deadly and highly contagious for pigs. As per government data, around 40,159 pigs died of the fever in the state, besides the culling of 1,181 pigs, till July 11 this year since 2020. Assam, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland, Tripura, as well as Uttarakhand and Bihar, have reported cases of African Swine Fever (ASF). Since the disease is highly communicable and has no vaccine, the government has urged residents to avoid eating pork. The Centre has also suggested an African Swine Fever action plan, which will be followed by all district animal husbandry officers. All diagnostic institutions have been asked to take precautionary steps. District Animal Husbandry officers have been asked to intensify surveillance and to report on the event of fever or fever death in pig farms.

'Agnipath' scheme Supreme Court

till a decision from the latter if the petitioners before it so desire, said a PTI report. The apex court bench reportedly said that petitioners before the four high courts can also opt to intervene in the proceedings before the Delhi High Court, adding that it is transferring the pleas as it would be appropriate if it has the benefit of the Delhi HC's considered view on them. The Delhi High Court is asked to consider all the transferred PILs along with the pleas which are already pending before it expeditiously on this issue. The top court directions came after hearing advocates Kumud Lata Das and ML Sharma for petitioners and SG Tushar Mehta for respondents. Various petitions were filed before the court challenging the Agnipath recruitment scheme for defence forces. The Centre has also filed a caveat application in the Supreme Court urging it to hear the government in the petitions filed before the top court challenging the Agnipath recruitment scheme for defence forces. A Caveat application is filed by a litigant to ensure that no adverse order is passed against him or her without being heard. Advocate Harsh Ajay Singh has filed a PIL seeking directions to the Centre to reconsider its Agnipath recruitment scheme for armed forces. The plea said the announcement of the scheme has caused protests in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Haryana, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and various other states due to the short-term duration of the scheme in the Indian Army for four years coupled with future uncertainties of the trained 'Agniveers'. The advocate also sought a stay in the implementation of the scheme from June 24, 2022. Advocate ML Sharma also filed the PIL seeking quashing of the Centre's notification for the Agnipath scheme saying the scheme is "illegal and unconstitutional". Tejashwi slams BJP for asking about caste & religion in Agnipath scheme Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav on Tuesday slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) for having caste and religion section under the documents required during the recruitment of Agniveers as the recruitment under the Agnipath scheme commenced across various states in the country, Tejashwi Yadav also shared a screenshot of a notification which required the candidates to produce caste and religion certificates. Taking to a micro-blogging site, Yadav slammed the RSS and BJP citing that the 'Agniveers will be sorted out or filtered out on the basis of caste. Tejashwi tweeted, "Don't ask the caste of the monk but ask the caste of the soldier. The BJP government of the Sangh runs away from the caste census but asks for caste from the Agniveer brothers who gave their lives for the service of the country. These castes are being asked because the country's largest casteist organization RSS will later sort out Agniveers on the basis of caste." Religion is also required for performing last rites as per religious rituals for recruits who die during training and soldiers who die in harness, ANI quoted Army officials on allegations by Opposition that caste and religion certificates are now being asked for Agniveer scheme. Army officials further told ANI that requirement for aspirants to submit caste certificates and "if required, religion certificates was always there. No change for Agniveer recruitment scheme in this regard." The Agnipath scheme, announced on June 14, provides for the recruitment of youth between the age of 17-and-a-half and 21 years for only four years with a provision to retain 25 per cent of them for 15 more years. The government extended the upper age limit to 23 years for recruitment this year in the wake of protests in several states against the scheme. Earlier, the Ministry of Defence had said that the Agnipath scheme has been designed to enable a youthful profile of the Armed Forces. It will provide an opportunity to the youth who may be keen to don the uniform by attracting young talent from the society who are more in tune with contemporary technological trends and plough back skilled, disciplined and motivated manpower into the society.

12 of 19 Shiv Sena MPs join Shinde

week to discuss the party's stand on the presidential election. The Shiv Sena has backed the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Nationalist Democratic Alliance's (NDA) candidate Droupadi Murmu in the election, saying she is a tribal and a woman, and deserves support going beyond politics. The MPs who still support the Thackeray-led Shiv Sena include Gajanan Kirtikar, Vinayak Raut, Sanjay Jadhav, Arvind Sawant, Rajan Vichare, Omprakash Rajenimbalkar and Kalaben Delkar. "Some of us had expressed our unhappiness to Uddhavsahab and told him that we wished for the party to ally with the BJP," said Godse. Addressing a press conference in Delhi on Tuesday morning, Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut said, "The houses of some MPs in Maharashtra are being watched. All of a sudden, a lot of security has been placed in front of the houses of some MPs. Police strength, central forces and money are being used. There's blackmailing involved. But it is okay. Jo hoga dekha jayega (we will deal with whatever happens)." Several MPs had told ThePrint last week that some of them had been holding meetings among themselves to strategise on how to get Thackeray to reconcile with Shinde and agree to an alliance with the BJP. Last month, Shinde had rebelled against the state's Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition government, led by Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray as Chief Minister. He eventually got the support of 39 of the Shiv Sena's 55 MLAs and formed the government with the BJP. The MVA government comprised the Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Congress. Shinde's MP son, Shrikant Shinde, and Gawali were among the first parliamentarians to pledge their support to the Shinde faction, prompting Thackeray to remove Gawali from the position of the chief whip and appoint Vichare instead.

75th Independence Day: Assam

Development Department has started the production of national flags of different sizes locally through Self-Help Groups. Further, the department will also set up stalls at district and village levels so that national flags can be made available for purchase by the public at their nearest locations.

Rahul Gandhi joins Opposition

adjournment motion notice on imposition of 5 per cent GST on some items. Opposition leaders said they will keep up the pressure on the government on these issues. Both the Houses on the first day of the monsoon session of Parliament was adjourned for a day amid disruptions by the opposition over the issue of price rise. The recommendations on Goods and Services Tax rates that were made during the 47th GST Council meeting held in June came into effect from Monday. Pre-packaged and labelled pulses, and cereals like rice, wheat, and flour (atta) will now attract 5 per cent GST when branded and packed in a unit container, whereas curd, lassi, and puffed rice would attract 5 per cent tax cent when pre-packaged and labelled. Other items such as curd, lassi, and puffed rice too would attract GST at the rate of 5 per cent when prepackaged and labelled.

Administration raze 90 homes of 'encroachers' in Karimganj

Guwahati, Nagaon, July 19: At least 90 houses in Assam's Karimganj were bulldozed during an anti-encroachment drive by the district administration Saturday. The drive took place in what locals say is a Muslim-dominated area of Patharkandi town in Karimganj district which borders Tripura and Bangladesh. "Ninety houses, kacha and pucca (mud and permanent) have been demolished. Twenty JCBs were brought in... there are several hundred big has of encroached land and there are many structures, so



we are demolishing them in phases," Arpita Dutta Mazumder, the Patharkandi circle officer (CO), told reporters Saturday afternoon. Notices had been furnished in advance to the owners of these houses, she said, adding that authorities had also made announcements and published details of the anti-encroachment drive in newspapers. Locals affected by it say they have valid documents for the land, a claim Mazumder refutes. "The papers they have shown are internal agreements, it's not the same as the official documents," she said. ThePrint reached Mukul Yadav, deputy commissioner of Karimganj district, via calls and messages but did not get a response. This report will be updated if and when a response is received. Videos shot minutes before the anti-encroachment drive began show locals arguing with the district officials and the police. "What will we do if you break our houses," they could be heard asking the police. "I've made the house with a lot of difficulty, there are 15 of us living here, now we have nowhere to live. We've been living here for four years now," Amar Hussain, a resident of the area, told reporters. Asked about the drive in Patharkandi, local BJP MLA, Krishnendu Paul, told ThePrint: "There have been complaints that these people are coming from outside and encroaching on tea garden land owned by Assam Tea Corporation in the area. The tea garden panchayat has also given a memorandum against the encroachers." Anti-encroachment drives like the one in Karimganj are routine in Assam. In its manifesto ahead of the 2021 Assam Assembly elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had promised voters that if voted to power, it would "free" government land from "encroachers". To that effect, similar anti-encroachment drives were carried out in Jamurhat in Sonitpur district and Lanka in Hojai district last year. In September last year, two people had died and several were injured in clashes between protesters and the police during an anti-encroachment drive in Sipajhar in Darrang district.

CMIPP launched at Biswanath

Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, July 19: 'Chief Minister's Institutional Plantation Programme' (CMIPP) the mega greenery drive initiated by the state government's Science, Technology and Climate Change department was formally launched at Biswanath today. Munindra Nath Nagatey, the deputy commissioner of Biswanath inaugurated the drive in presence of august gathering. The plantation drive was initiated with an aim of preserving local but important breeds of plants at Baghmora development block. The inaugural session was attended by Liza Talukdar, ADC, Devashish Goswami, nodal officer of CMIPP, Ananya Lahkar, assistant commissioner besides officials and dignitaries. The plantation drive will last till August 15 at Biswanath district. All the government offices of Biswanath district will observe CMIPP as per the guidelines, stated a press release.



Medical awareness camp at Aalo

Assam Rising, Aalo, July 19: Ramakrishna Mission School Vivek Nagar Aalo organized a medical cum awareness camp at Dasi Nigi Village on July 13 which is about 27 km away from District Hq. Aalo. During the Medical Camp 64 Patients including male, female and children are given medical assistance with free medicines and free blood sugar check-up.



DTO, Hailakandi placed under suspension

Assam Rising, Guwahati, July 19: District Transport Officer, Hailakandi, Apu Mazumdar has been placed under suspension for gross negligence of duties. In an order issued to this effect, Secretary, Transport department, Adil Khan has placed DTO, Mazumdar, who left the district headquarters without prior permission from competent authority on June 15, has been placed under suspension with immediate effect under Rule 6(1) (a) of Assam Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1964, pending drawal of departmental proceedings against him. The then Deputy Commissioner of Hailakandi, Rohan Kumar Jha reported to the Transport authorities that DTO, Mazumdar left the headquarters for Gurugram, Haryana without prior permission from the district authorities. Meanwhile, Secretary Khan has asked the district authorities to appoint an officer of the rank of Assistant Commissioner to run the district transport office.

Lecture on National Flag awareness held



Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, July 19: 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 for the school children of Assam Rifles Public School, Lokra to promote Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative by the Govt Of India to commemorate 75 years of Independence on 18 July 2022 in Lokra, Sonitpur District, Assam. A total of 73 ARPS 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.



Agri Minister Atul Bora addressed a press conference at Janata Bhawan on July 19.

Thief loots 90 rounds of ammunition from Nagaon police

Assam Rising, Nagaon, July 19: Sensation prevailed in Nagaon after some miscreants looted over 90 rounds of bullets of AK 47 series of rifle from the official quarter of a police constable named Arunjoyti Saikia situated at Nagaon police reserve colony a week back when the constable and his family were being out of the quarter. The incident came into limelight only on Sunday last although it was reported by the constable concerned just after the incident. Meanwhile Nagaon police registered a case and initiated investigation into the entire episode and also examined the CCTV camera footage of the quarter and had confirmed the movement of some unidentified people into the police quarter so far. It is reported that the police personnel Arunjoyti Saikia is being deployed as a PSO to an Additional Superintendent of Police, Nagaon for several months. The miscreants also looted cash and other gold ornaments along with those ammunition from the official quarter of the police personnel. The incident has drawn sharp reactions from the people of all sections of the town and raised their voices on how miscreants could dare to enter into the high security areas like Nagaon police reserve colony and could be able to loot the ammunition so easily. While speaking to the local media persons here, SP Leena Doley claimed that the incident took place on July 9 and a case was registered and police immediately arrested one person in this regard. Besides, the concerned police personnel Arunjoyti Saikia was also put under suspension with immediate effect so that a neutral and proper investigation into the entire episode could be carried out, she reiterated further. SP Doley claimed that during the examination of CCTV footage of the police quarter, police had already confirmed about the movements of some people in the official quarter. The man who was arrested by police in connection with the incident tested positive for COVID 19 soon after the arrest for which he was admitted to Nagaon BP Civil Hospital for treatment and police were yet to interrogate the man, she added. Significantly, Nagaon police kept in secret all about the theft of those ammunition till Sunday last.

CM's institutional plantation programme starts in Hojai

Assam Rising, Hojai, July 19: Along with the rest of the State, inauguration of the month-long Chief Minister's Institutional Plantation programme began in Hojai District too. The programme was held under the aegis of Hojai District Administration and in collaboration with Lanka Mahavidyalaya at Lanka Mahavidyalaya campus in Lanka under Hojai District on Monday. During the plantation drive Deputy Commissioner, ADC- Gokul Chandra Brahma, Raktim Barua, Urmi Medhi, Manasjyoti Nath, Upasana Dutt, election officer Jangamir Rongharpi, Lanka Mahavidyalaya Principal Phatik Tamuli, Ranger from Forest department Dibyajyoti Nath planted saplings and formally inaugurated the Chief Minister's Institutional Plantation programme in Hojai. The teachers and students of Lanka Mahavidyalaya were also present on the occasion.



Body fitness centre inaugurated

Assam Rising, Bishwanath Chariali, July 19: A physical gymnastic centre named SB fitness club was opened at Sonitpur B h o j k h a w a Chapri Centre on Sunday. With introduction by Journalist Srimanta Das opened this centre of the event which was inaugurated by eminent player and master Assam Samir Paul. The event was attended by Biswanath District Transport Department's official inspector Krishna Kant Chetia and Assistant inspector Rajiv Das. People present welcomed such a move by Babul Islam, the owner of the centre.



ATTSA felicitated meritorious students at Biswanath

Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, July 19: The Biswanath branch of All Tea Tribes' Students' Association (ATTSA) in association with the primary unit of Nilpur T.E with Mahesh Shattri in the chair on Sunday. The day-long programme began with hoisting of the flag by Mahesh Shattri followed by swahid tarpan. The main session was attended by Dr. Chinta Mani Sharma, principal of Biswanath College, Ananta Sona, general secretary of ATTSA, Oiban Tanti, Mintu Bhumi, Laba Bhuyan, Swapna Bora Das, Goutam Guwala, Rupnath Bhumi, Diganta Ghatowar, Rupam Das, Dilip Gajurel, Hemanta Gogoi, Amil Haque besides others. The students were felicitated with a citation, gamosa and a packet of books.





Birsa Munda football XI won the football match

Assam Rising, Margherita, July 19: A football match was held on Monday at the initiative of Army Camp at Philobari in Assam Regiment 14 of the Indian Army. The football match was held on the occasion of 75 years of Independence in line with "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav". The football match was played between The Philobari based Army Camp XI and Birsa Munda Football XI. Birsa Munda Football XI won 5-2 by defeating Philobari based Army Camp. The football match was inaugurated by Naveen Rao, an Officer of the Army Camp at Philobari in the Indian Army. Both the football teams participating in the match were awarded by the Army Camp at Philobari in Assam Regiment 14 of the Indian Army.

Bayern Munich agree €80m deal to sign Matthijs de Ligt from Juventus

London, July 19 : Bayern Munich have reached a verbal agreement with Juventus to sign the centre-back Matthijs de Ligt for a fee that could reach €80m. The Serie A club are guaranteed to receive €70m and the add-ons vary in how likely they are to be achieved. A deal was struck after day of talks between the clubs and De Ligt, who has agreed personal terms, is preparing to sign a contract to 2027. An €80m



fee would equal Bayern's transfer record, paid to buy Lucas Hernández from Atlético Madrid in 2019. The German

champions stepped up negotiations for De Ligt after concluding a deal to sell the striker Robert Lewandowski to

Barcelona for a fee that could reach €50m. De Ligt, who had also been wanted by Chelsea, joined Juventus from Ajax in 2019 and has played 117 times for the club. The 22-year-old is poised to become the second Netherlands international to join Bayern this summer after the midfielder Ryan Gravenberch. Bayern have also bought Sadio Mané from Liverpool and the right-back Noussair Mazraoui from Ajax.

Hampshire hold nerve with last ball to beat Lancashire in T20 Blast final



Hampshire, July 19 : Cricket analysts have quantified just about every metric in the game. Bar one. The single variable they haven't been able to put a number to is the incalculable phenomena called momentum. It moved like an invisible wave across this Vitality Blast final. It undulated this way and that before settling with Hampshire, who roared back from the depths to claim a remarkable one-run victory on the final ball of the match. Momentum started with Lancashire as the pace of Richard Gleeson and Luke Wood, delivered from their right and left arms respectively, left Hampshire stuttering on 15 for two. Gleeson may have claimed the scalps of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Rishabh Pant in his international debut this month, but he surely hasn't bowled a better ball than the ripper from a good length that knocked over James Vince. Then momentum tilted towards

Hampshire once Ben McDermott started finding the fence in his knock of 62 off 36 balls. But momentum is fickle and it shifted once more when Matt Parkinson claimed four for 26 to restrict Hampshire to 152 for eight. On a pitch that was becoming increasingly difficult to bat on, the stocky wrist spinner found grip and turn with the odd one skidding on. It was Parkinson who bowled McDermott in the 12th over as Lancashire were able to tighten the screw. That Hampshire reached their tally was a consequence of Ross Whiteley's 22 and Chris Wood's 21 not out batting at nine. Their score never looked like it would be enough, especially when Keaton Jennings and Steven Croft were in full control in their chase at 72 for two inside eight overs. Jennings, player of the match in the semi-finals against Yorkshire for his 75 off 51, and fresh from his 318 in the County Championship this week, once again



Portugal coach, who describing his goalkeeper switch as "strategic". "But at this level every detail counts and it was very hard for us to stop the set-pieces of Sweden. This is one element we have to improve." Sweden started brightly with Kosovare Asllani, captaining the side in the absence of the injured Caroline Seger, appealing in vain for a first minute penalty following a strong but clean challenge by Ana Borges. Portugal's most capped player also proved one of their most versatile. She led the attack against the Netherlands and started at left-back here before switching to right-back

after Catarina Amado was stretchered off with a foot injury as a result of a dangerous foul by Johanna Rytting Kaneryd. Amado would leave the stadium on crutches. Morais saved well from Johanna Rytting Kaneryd when the winger was played through by Filippa Angeldal. The keeper's next involvement was less convincing. When Jonna Andersson's corner landed in the six yard box Morais connected with both fists but failed to get distance on the punch. The clearance dropped to Angeldal, who made no mistake from 12 yards. That was Sweden's first goal from a set-piece at

the tournament but the fourth that Portugal had conceded out of six in total. A fifth would arrive on the stroke of half-time. Stina Blackstenius thought she had doubled Sweden's lead in style with a convincing finish from Asllani's back-heel but was ruled offside. The second arrived from more intelligent play from Asllani who, having been fouled near the byline by Jessica Silva, pulled the resulting free-kick away from a crowded penalty area and into the path of Angeldal. Ghosting in unmarked, the central midfielder swept her second goal into the far corner. A cooling break in the stifling heat plus a procession of

injuries resulted in seven minutes stoppage time in the first half. It was enough time for Sweden to prey on Portugal's set-piece vulnerabilities again. Morais stayed fixed to her line when Andersson floated another corner in from the right. Amid the uncertainty the ball struck Portugal centre-half Carole Costa and bobbled over the line. Portugal never threatened a repeat of their comebacks against Switzerland or the Netherlands as Sweden's powerful defence contained the dangerous Diana Silva and Francisca Nazareth. Gerhardsson's side made it four from a penalty when Diana Gomes was penalised for handball. The excellent Asllani got the goal her performance merited with a precise spot-kick inside Morais' left hand corner. The unfortunate Blackstenius converted a fifth with a looping header but a lengthy VAR review, and another offside decision, denied her for a second time. She vented her frustration superbly in stoppage time when creating space inside the box for an unstoppable right foot finish into the top corner. Sweden cruised through.

Rishabh Pant century guides India to series victory over England

London, July 19 : As Jos Buttler reflected on a tricky start to life as England's new white-ball captain, and a sparkling century from Rishabh Pant that made it two series defeats to India in the space of a fortnight, he admitted: "We just need to be better." It was a simple diagnosis from the man tasked with following Eoin

Morgan's gilded reign. England were again below par with the bat in this one-day international decider and powerless to prevent Pant's unbeaten 125 chasing down 260 with eight overs to spare for a five-wicket win. India's supporters, the vocal majority of this sellout crowd, were in clover, suffering flashbacks to the 100-run

defeat at Lord's last Thursday when Reece Topley rolled over his form from that six-wicket performance by wiping out India's top three with the new ball. But from 72 for four in the 17th over, once Craig Overton had nicked off Suryakumar Yadav with some extra bounce, Pant and Hardik Pandya began brutalising Buttler's attack in a 133-run stand that ultimately made it 2-1 series wins in both the Twenty20s and the ODIs. Adil Rashid, back to face South Africa on Tuesday, was missed. After earlier delivering four wickets through seven overs of right-arm spite, Pandya fell with 55 runs required for a 55-ball 71. But Pant was unperturbed, muscling 15 fours and two sixes overall and finishing the job with a flourish. This was a vintage innings – his first century in 27 ODIs – and the type that could well unlock

offering more for the seamers, the captain put it down to a lack of ODI cricket of late and thus a lack of rhythm. After losing the toss the England captain arrived with one ball of the powerplay remaining at 66 for three. Mohammed Siraj was in the Indian XI following Jasprit Bumrah's late back spasm and forced low-key series from Jonny Bairstow and Joe Root – stars of the early Test summer – to end with a pair of ducks. Bairstow chipped a leading edge to mid-off in the second over, Root was a genuine nick to second slip three balls later. Jason Roy did add some early impetus with a 31-ball 41 but saw this terminated with a spooned catch behind off Pandya when attempting to whip a length ball square with a snap of the wrists. Ben Stokes was already out there continuing his summer of



more. But while Pant batted like a left-handed Asterix after a swig of magic potion, and Pandya crackled all day, they did offer chances. Buttler missed a stumping when the former was on 18; while the latter, on six, sent a four over Overton's head when the Somerset man misjudged its trajectory. As Buttler later put it: "Give good players a second chance and they'll hurt you. Take those and we go on to win the game." It was Buttler who had earlier provided the ballast for England's 259 all out from 45.4 overs, top-scoring with a gutsy 80-ball 60 from No 5 that overcame two nasty blows to the head from Pandya. This was the only half-century from his side in the series and, though the roads of the recent past have been replaced with pitches

outright aggression but on 27 tried to charge Pandya. His fellow-all-rounder spotted this, banded the ball in and held a simple return catch. In came Moeen Ali at 74 for four, making 34 in a stand of 75 alongside Buttler that steadied a listing ship. Moeen was becalmed at first but soon he and Buttler tucked into Yuzvendra Chahal with three heaved sixes. It prompted a smart change by Rohit Sharma, Ravindra Jadeja replacing the leg-spinner and, third ball, seeing Moeen glove behind on the sweep to bring the local hero, Liam Livingstone, to the crease. Jadeja was not done there, however, with two wonderful catches to send both Lancashire men packing in the 37th over and in the guts out of England's innings.



England Women will have to be at their best without the ball against Spain



London, July 19 : England's momentum is growing and they will not be worried about facing Spain in the Euro 2022 quarter-finals on Wednesday. They have played them before and know what it takes to get the better of one of the best sides in Europe. At Euro 2017 I was in the England squad that beat Spain 2-0 despite having only 22% possession during the match. England will be happy to let Spain have the ball as long as they themselves are organised and disciplined, which they have shown to be thus far. Sarina Wiegman's side have dominated possession in the group stage but they might need to be at their best without the ball on Wednesday. England will play top nations in the latter part of the tournament and will be embracing the challenge. The tournament is the lesser for her absence after she was cruelly sidelined with an ACL injury just hours before the first game. She scored 11 goals in the Champions League and another 18 in the domestic

league for Barcelona last season. She is the person who can make a difference in a major tournament. The experienced forward Jennifer Hermoso is also out, leaving gaps to be filled in the spine of the team. Spain hit four against Finland but struggled in front of goal in the loss to Germany and only scored late on against Denmark with the opponents chasing the game in their final group match. They are not as clinical as they would like given their possession stats; they are the best team between the two 18-yard boxes thanks to their style, buildup play, ability to receive the ball under pressure and how they can dribble through in central areas but they are lacking something in the opposition box. England are yet to concede a goal in the Euros and have rarely looked like doing so since Wiegman took over as head coach, making the prospect even more daunting for Spain's attackers. Putellas's Barcelona teammates Mariona Caldentey and Aitana Bonmati are two of the players putting in the extra yards to try to

make up for her absence. Caldentey is best when cutting in from the left and has shown she is good at drifting into any space left between the full-back and central defender. She would have two goals to her name in the tournament already if it was not for a couple of world-class saves. Apart from the penalty against Finland, which was won by a wide player, all of Spain's goals have come from crosses, whether set pieces or from open play. It is a surprising revelation because I have watched Spain for a long time and you can see their style is similar to that of Barcelona in how they like to control possession and open teams up. The tournament overall has more headed goals than ever before, so it is a common theme. Spain are incredibly dangerous in wide areas and have the players to provide the delivery demanded by those in the box. With the amount of possession they have they try to stretch the opposition and work their way through. I remember Barcelona men's coach, Xavi Hernández, discussing the importance of

the third player run and this team has a lot of that, whether it is Bonmati or Caldentey, they all try to play that role by spotting the gaps in defence. England, despite being very good defensively, will need to be wary of what is happening on the flanks. Stopping as many crosses as possible is the best way to go about it. Spain are susceptible to a ball over the top because they are not the quickest side on the turn. They are so good in possession that they want to get high up the pitch which means they can be caught out at the back. Maria Pilar León had problems against Denmark and Pernille Harder, but as a team the Scandinavians did not have the numbers to catch up with the Chelsea player, whereas England have Lauren Hemp and Beth Mead on the flanks to exploit space. Finland scored early on thanks to a ball over the top which turned the defence and Spain were not quick enough to get back. Irene Paredes was lucky not to be dismissed against Germany after being outpaced by Alexandra Popp, pulling her down to stop her going through one-on-one. England will be mindful of this and Keira Walsh has the passing range to send balls into the right areas for forwards to chase. The further good news for England is that they are scoring all types of goals: from long range to tap-ins and are not reliant on one scorer. They have the competition's top scorer in Mead with five goals in three games and Alessia Russo is the joint second-highest scorer - and she has had to make do with coming off the bench in the group stages. It shows that even if England are struggling to find a goal, they have options

on the bench. There is no reason to think about changing things; Ellen White is doing a great job starting and Russo is the perfect impact player and that is a great role to have, especially as a young striker. The players will be very pleased to go back to Brighton after defeating Norway 8-0 there. It is a ground I felt very comfortable at during my career because it is a fantastic new stadium where the fans are close to the pitch, creating an intimidating atmosphere. They have a built-in iPad system for music, which is good news for the dressing room DJs, and it really does help the players a lot pre-match. Let's hope they will be rocking it after the match, too.



Lokra Bn organized friendly football match

Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, July 19 : Lokra Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ 21 Sector and Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) organized a friendly football match between Director General Assam Rifles Football team (men) and Rhino Football Club of Lokra Moni-

tor. The DGAR team won by 4 - 1 goals. The greater aim of the friendly match was to promote football as a sport and to inculcate values of sportsmanship amongst the youth. Both the teams got an opportunity to learn new techniques and playing skills of each other.

Cameron Smith wins the Open after reeling in Rory McIlroy with stunning 64

Melbourn, July 19 : It will be of scant consolation to Rory McIlroy that Cameron Smith produced a major championship final round for the ages to claim the 150th Open. McIlroy found himself standing short of the Valley of Sin, wedge in hand, needing to hole out for a two to join Smith in a playoff. The crowd offered an impromptu roar in vain hope of sporting fairytale. How had it come to this? There was to be no miracle moment. McIlroy's wait for a fifth major success will rumble into 2023. Salt was rubbed into McIlroy's wounds by the fact he did not even finish second here. A 72nd-hole eagle from Cameron Young, who enjoyed an outstanding



Open debut, afforded him the runner-up spot. Smith's 20 under par saw off Young by one and a rueful but magnanimous McIlroy by two. It is difficult to state McIlroy did much wrong during round four, save perhaps not capitalise appropriately on opportunity. He will be stung, for example, by failure to birdie the 9th or 14th. This was the wrong time for McIlroy to deliver a St Andrews Open round not in the 60s for the first time. It was just that 70, two under par, was insufficient to keep pace with the unflinching Smith. The Australian's back nine of 30 is the lowest score on a Sunday inward half by any champion in Open history. The 28-year-old is no longer one of the finest golfers of this generation never to win a major. He played with a day-four fearlessness that renders him the worthy champion of such a landmark event.

Smith, who won the Players Championship in March, is enjoying the time of his life. With McIlroy and Viktor Hovland in the final group, it was the Norwegian who blinked first. Hovland three putted the 4th, which edged McIlroy into a one-shot lead. McIlroy comfortably birdied the par-five 5th to double his advantage. Hovland was playing tentatively. Pressure on McIlroy suddenly arrived from elsewhere. Smith birdied the 10th and 11th to move within one. Almost immediately McIlroy left a 126ft putt on the 10th within kick-in range. The two-stroke margin for error was restored, with McIlroy now 18 under. Smith jabbed back by picking up another shot at the 12th. Smith, now five under for his round, was posing a serious threat. That challenge by the Brisbane native intensified with a fourth

birdie in a row, this time from 15ft. The lead was now shared. Smith was inspired, McIlroy aware of what was happening in the group ahead. Smith's 19 under played McIlroy's 18 under as the former birdied the 14th. Smith, it seemed incredible to recall, had started the day four shots adrift of McIlroy and Hovland. A 74 from Hovland meant he tied fourth with Tommy Fleetwood, who signed off with a 67. Young, meanwhile, cut a figure of frustration despite signing for a 65. "It probably hurts a little worse to come up one shot short," he said. "If you lose by eight, you don't really care." The 25-year-old's curious major year has seen two missed cuts, a tied third and a second. Smith chopped his drive right from the 15th but was able to rescue par from a favourable lie in the rough. McIlroy needed to make short work of the par-five 14th but could not after failing to reach the green in two. Smith recorded a straightforward, two-putt par at the 16th and refused to wobble at the iconic Road Hole despite missing the green with his approach. McIlroy's last realistic hope came at that penultimate hole following a majestic iron to 18ft. As the birdie putt dribbled past, Smith had one hand and four fingers on the Claret Jug.

Para-shooting World Cup: Manish Narwal and Rubina Francis clinch gold for India

New Delhi, July 19 : Indian shooters continued to excel in the World Shooting Para Sport World Cup at Munich, with the pair of Manish Narwal and Rubina Francis claiming gold in the P6 - 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event and Nisha Kanwar bagging a bronze medal in women's 10m Air Pistol event. In the mixed team event, pistol shooters Rubina and Manish defeated Mousa Ali and Sarah Al-Shabbani of Iraq in the final with a combined total of 173 while the Iraqi pair ended with 166. Manish Narwal was in great form in the final, tally 90.3 while Rubina shot 82.7. Narwal and Francis came out with a brilliant show to shoot 552 with seven hits in the qualification round and book the

gold medal match against Iraq (550). On Sunday (July 17), Nisha finished third in the P2-Women's 10m Air Rifle SH1 event while Narwal faltered in the final and missed a medal in the P1-Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1 event, according to information reaching here. In the women's 10m Air Rifle event, three Indians - Nisha Kanwar, Sumedha Pathak, and Rubina Francis - made the final but

only Nisha managed to bag a medal. Of these three, Rubina was best-placed among the Indians at second with a score of 565 behind Krisztina David Hungary (572) while Nisha Kanwar qualified seventh and Sumedha Pathak eighth with scores of 546 and 543, respectively. But in the final, it was Rubina who went out in the first elimination series with a score of 108.0. Sumedha was eliminated

next as she ended with a score of 128.5. Nisha Kanwar, with some brilliant shooting, remained in contention till she was eliminated in the sixth series as she managed a score of 16.5 to claim the bronze medal with a total of 206.3 while Gaelle Edon (229.2) of France and Krisztina David of Hungary (230.0) claimed the gold medal.

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