



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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Ukrainians on the frontline in Donbas

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'I never have any fear': Josh Kerr sets out golden vision for world...



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman burnt alive Assam Rising Guwahati, July 20:

One person was killed and several others were left injured in a major road mishap in Assam's Bokajan. According to reports, a pick-up truck transporting labourers met with an accident at Balipathar in Bokajan in the Karbi Anglong district of Assam. The Tata D1 pick-up vehicle, which was carrying nine labourers reportedly engaged in the construction of national highway, met with an accident after the driver lost control. The driver of the vehicle reportedly lost control and rammed into a tree on the side of the road resulting in the death of one.

New book

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 20:

Assam Education Minister Ranaj Pegu inaugurated the book titled 'Bhinno-jonor Drishtit Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma' at the Janata Bhawan in Dispur. The book is based on the working ethics of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. The book has been jointly published by the Asom Pravah and the Assam Jyoti newspapers. Assam minister Pijush Hazarika, education adviser Dr. Noni Gopal Mahanta, Jayanta Malla Barua, the brother of chief minister Sarma, Guwahati Mayor Mrigen Sarania and other dignitaries were present at the occasion.

Zubeen Garg hospitalised in Dibrugarh



Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 20:

Singer Zubeen Garg was admitted to a hospital in Dibrugarh after he sustained a minor injury. Garg fell in the bathroom and became unconscious on Tuesday night as per reports. The singer is now admitted to the Sanjeevani Hospital in Dibrugarh and is under-

going treatment. He was staying at a resort where the incident took place. However, hospital authorities have stated that the singer is now in stable condition and is out of danger. The doctors said that they are running a few tests on him and if things go well, they will discharge him by

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Cabinet Brings Financial Relief to EWS Category

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 20:

Assam Cabinet on Monday brought major changes for those who belong to the Economically Weaker Section of people. The cabinet decided that those, who are of the General caste category but have an annual income of less than Rs 8 lakh and property of not more than 30 bighas of land on the rural side or 2 bighas of land in urban space and up to 8240 sq. feet in the municipal area, can get the benefits of EWS. Cabinet Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah, "We did it because we examined the fact that mostly, people have joint families in villages, so it's necessary for them to have that much agricultural land.

We could see that people who earned less than 8 lakh but had more than 5 acres of land in the whole joint family were left out of EWS benefits. The ultimate goal is to guarantee that no one, who is in need of the benefits of EWS, is denied it. Further, Baruah clarified that any Indian citizen regardless of any religion will enjoy these rights. Besides, he added that Assam will now have a museum, guest house, and conference hall to be built under the supervision of Srimanta Sankardev Kalakhetra. Moreover, Assam will also take the land of 4000 sq feet in Navi Mumbai for tribal faith and culture. The Assam cabinet also took up

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China plotting to enter India illegally? Has built a whole village

New Delhi, July 20:

Reports say there has been a construction of a Chinese village East of the Doklam plateau on the Bhutanese side, a region that is considered important for India's strategic interest. The Indian and Chinese armies were locked in a 73-day stand-off at the Doklam tri-junction after China tried to extend a road in the area that Bhutan claimed belonged to it. Images captured by MAXAR, a company that focuses on space technology and intelligence, were issued by

NDTV. The reports said the village is fully inhabited with cars parked at the doorstep of virtually every home. It said alongside the village is a neatly marked all-weather carriageway, which is part of China's "extensive land grab" in Bhutan. The road could give China access to a strategic ridge in the Doklam plateau. There was no

place in the state over the last year. Angkita Dutta, the chief of the Congress youth wing, told the news channel that her outfit had filed RTI queries on the basis of media reports, asking the police for information about the number of such inci-

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Assam Citizens' Register Data Release After Aadhaar-type Security: Centre

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 20:

The data of Assam's National Register of Citizens will be released only after a data security system like Aadhaar is established, the Centre has said, underscoring that this has been mandated by the Supreme Court. Thereafter, the data will be released to the Centre, state and the RGI (Registrar General of India), the

government said. The data of the Assam NRC lists published in 2019 has not yet been officially notified by the Registrar General of India. On August 13, 2019, the Supreme Court - which is monitoring the Assam NRC process -- directed that an "appropriate regime be enacted on lines similar to the security regime provided for Aadhaar data." Today, responding to a question of Assam Con-

gress MP Abdul Khaleque in the Lok Sabha, junior home minister Nityanand Rai pointed to the court's order. "On the directions of the Supreme Court, the supplementary list of inclusions and exclusions have been published on 31st August, 2019," he said. The Supreme Court, he added, has directed the State Coordinator of NRC, Assam, "to enact an appropriate security regime on lines similar



to the security regime provided for Aadhaar data and only thereafter the list shall be made available to the State Government, Central Government and Registrar General of India". Sources in the NRC direc-

torate have indicated that the authorities have submitted a proposal for creation of an Aadhaar-like regime to the RGI. The project will cost around Rs 18 crore and

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Bangladesh praises Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

Invites him to visit at "convenient earliest"

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 20:



Bangladesh has invited Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma to visit Dhaka, the Chief Minister's Office in Guwahati has confirmed. In a letter written on July 5, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen praised Mr. Sarma's "inno-

vative ventures" and said that the visit would provide both sides a better understanding of the developmental work that are taking place in Bangladesh. Dr. Momen had visited Assam

along with a delegation during May 28-29 for the third conference of Natural Allies in Development and Interdependence (NADI-3). During the conference, he had conveyed that the Bangladesh Government will "eliminate" radicalism from its soil. Chief Minister Sarma had expressed his

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Cachar- Minister Pijush Hazarika inspect the erosion On Wednesday

Assam Police evading RTI queries on police shootings, alleges Youth Congress

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 20:

The Assam Youth Congress on Tuesday alleged the police were evading response to Right to Information queries on "fake encounters" that have taken

place in the state over the last year. Angkita Dutta, the chief of the Congress youth wing, told the news channel that her outfit had filed RTI queries on the basis of media reports, asking the police for information about the number of such inci-

dents and the tally of persons killed or injured. "Out of 35 police districts in the state, only 18 of them sent us RTI replies," she said. "Till now only in Nagaon the state government has ordered a CID [Criminal Investigation Department]

probe that found that the encounter was fake, so we demand that all the alleged fake or doubtful encounters needs to be investigated." In the Nagaon incident, police personnel had allegedly assaulted former student leader Kriti Kamal Bora and then shot him on his knee on January 22. Bora had said that he was shot after he tried to intervene when he saw police officials beating up two persons he knew. But the police claimed that Bora was involved in illegal drug trade and had

assaulted an official. Subsequently, the case was handed over to the Assam Police's Criminal Investigation Department that named sub inspector Pradeep Bania in its chargesheet filed on July 5, according to The Meghalayan. On Tuesday, Dutta also alleged that superintendents of police in some districts were evading response by saying that the shooting was under investigation while others claimed that the police action

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CM inaugurates Boko Solar Park

Govt. gives focus on renewable energy for speedy development: CM



Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 20:

Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today inaugurated 25 MW Boko Solar

Park at Bhalukghata, Boko in Kamrup district, which was build under Build,

Own, Operate (BOO) model as a part of Assam Solar Energy Policy, 2017. This project is one of the four projects taken up under the Assam Solar Energy Policy, 2017. While the 25 MW Solar Park at Lalpul in Udalguri was inaugurated by the Chief Minister yesterday, other projects developed at Nagaon and Silchar are likely to be commissioned soon. Th Boko Solar Park is developed by Azure Power Pvt. Ltd. and the developer has committed supply of 5.70 Crore units annually. The entire power

will be procured by APDCL at a fixed rate of Rs. 3.24 per unit for 25 years which will ultimately benefit the consumers. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said that the Solar Park would lead to enhanced solar power generation, employment opportunities, check environment degradation and overall augmentation of power generation capacity in the state. He informed that the State govt. is taking steps to establish solar projects in various locations to boost generation capacity and improve power supply. The

Chief Minister further said that the State government doesn't want to restrict the state power generation capacities only in conventional sources of energy and is giving adequate focus on renewable sources of energy for speedy development and to mitigate the results of environmental pollution. Dr. Sarma also said that the Assam government would increase the number of beneficiaries for Orunodoi and add six thousand more beneficiaries

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Guwahati- Mid-day Meal Workers Association Protest



Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma interacting with a delegation of Mukti Joddhas of Bangladesh who are on a visit to Assam at No. 1 State Guest House, Koinadhora in Guwahati today.

Secure and hassle-free RC, driving licence introduced by Assam Govt.

Guwahati, July 20: The Government of Assam has introduced a new system for hassle-free issuance of vehicle registration certificate and driving licence. Disclosing this information, Secretary, Transport department, Adil Khan said that as per direction of Chief Minister, Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, a new system has been introduced for issuance of QR Code based registration certificate and driving licence cards replacing the obsolete chip based smart card and in line with the Ministry of Road Transport's notification. "The new system introduced will ensure no multiple visits to the office of DTOs to submit papers, pay fees and collect the printed Driving License/RCs," said Khan, adding that the automobile dealers have been delegated powers of registration authority by the Transport department for registration of both transport and non transport vehicles, and to print RCs at the time of selling the vehicles to customers through Aadhaar authentication. The new RC with QR Code embedded on it will have additional security features added to it like Guilloche pattern, Micro line, Water mark, Hologram below the top layer. Khan

also revealed that after one has passed the driving licence test, he or she need not have to visit the DTO for obtaining the driving licence as 'the process of printing will be done at remote centralised locations and the same sent by post within three to five days'. "The advantages of the QR code embossed driving licence is that any traffic personnel or law enforcement agencies can easily verify the antecedents of a card holder by scanning the QR Code with mobile phone and that there is no risk of duplication," Khan quipped. The Transport Secretary pointed out that the hassle-free printing and delivery of RCs at dealer points and driving licences through remote centralised locations would not only eliminate the role of middlemen but also bring about transparency in the whole system. Khan further said that though they are issuing the plastic cards as a tradition, they need not be carried by the motorists as they can be easily accessed through the m parivahan and digi locker apps. The Transport authorities are exuding optimism that around 10 to 15 lakhs motorists each year following the introduction of the hassle-free new system in the state

ahead. In its endeavour for excellence in public service, the Transport department has already introduced 40 Aadhaar based contactless services, including registration of fully built transport and non transport vehicles at dealer points.

Manoj Kumar Assumes Charge of KVIC as Chairman

Assam Rising, Guwahati, July 20: Manoj Kumar takes charge of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) as Chairman recently. After taking over the charge Kumar said that KVIC would continue working on the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that would make the youths "Job givers" instead of being "Job seekers". Manoj



Preliminary chargesheet in connection with Batadroba PS arson case will be filed in next 15 days : Central zone DIG Saityaraj Hazarika

Prime accused Majida Khatun is still absconding

Assam Rising, NAGAON, July 20: The investigative team constituted by Nagaon police administration (SIT) will file the preliminary chargesheet to the local court in context to the sensational Batadroba arson case in the next 15 days as the SIT have almost completed the enquiry into the entire episode, Central zone DIG Saityaraj Hazarika said today here while addressing a press conference held at Nagaon police reserve. The SIT will submit the preliminary chargesheet in connection with the Batadroba PS arson case right after receiving three special reports as the team asked, Hazarika said. He however said that in the sensational arson case, the investigative team accused 25 persons among those police arrested 11 and one accused was killed in an unfortunate road mishap right after his

arrest. Besides, the prime accused Majida Khatun is still absconding from police and police are carrying out a series of search operation in quest of the accused female till the time of filing this report, he added further. He said that the investigation in connection with another case registered against negli-

gence of the on-duty police personnel of the PS was also being carried out by an additional superintendent of police level senior official and the report of the investigation would be completed soon. Hazarika also said that the Batadroba PS would be promoted to a full fledged PS under an Inspector level police official soon. As per pro-

posed promotion of the PS, an unit of fire services center at Batadroba PS campus, will be ceremonially inaugurated tomorrow, DIG Saityaraj Hazarika reiterated further. SP, Nagaon Leena Doley, Additional Superintendent of Police were also present there while he addressing the press conference.

CM Dr. Sarma dedicates 25 MW solar power project at Lalpul

■ CM appeals to hoist the National Flag at all households during August 13 to 15 as a part of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' ■ BTR Vasundhara to be launched in BTR areas: CM ■ Udalguri Campus of Bodoland University to be set up at Udalguri

Guwahati, July 20: In an attempt to make Assam self-reliant in green energy, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today dedicated the 25 MW Solar Power Project at Lalpul in Udalguri district. Established on build, own, operate in short BOO under Assam Solar Energy Policy 2017, this project is expected to benefit around 65 thousand consumers in Udalguri district. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, State government in the next five years is committed to take the development of the state altogether to a new height by driving the state power generation towards non-conventional energy sources instead of conventional sources of energy. Of all the problems in the world, climate change is one of the major problems, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said that in its bid to take the development of the state to a new height, Assam government has taken a decision to strike a balance between development and its nature. Therefore, steps have been taken to reap the benefits of renewable sources of energy. He also said that in the next five years,

Assam will be one of the leading states in the country to use renewable sources of energy to steer development of the state and mitigate the results of environmental pollution. Stating that the recent spate of flood in the state has a lot to do with the environmental degradation, the Chief Minister said that since large number of people were affected by the flood, State government has decided to rehabilitate and compensate the flood affected people within one month. Already, the flood affected people taken shelter in different relief camps have started leaving the camps for their homes, as State government has already started crediting Rs. 3800 to each of the flood affected families. Referring to the Prime Minister and his appeal to the nation, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma requested all the residents to hoist the National Flag at their residences during 13 to 15 August as a part of 'Har Ghar Tiranga'. He also said that National Flags will be available at all fair price shops at subsidized rates. He also said that in view of the 75 years of India's Independence and the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav being celebrated on this occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said that government has taken a decision to dig '75 Amrit Sarovar' in



each district of the state. The Chief Minister also said that from 10 October onwards, the cash incentive in Orunodoi scheme will be enhanced to Rs. 1250 from the existing Rs. 1000. He also appealed to the beneficiaries who are economically solvent to give up benefits of the Orunodoi scheme to make an inroad for the inclusion of more needy beneficiaries in the gamut of the scheme. Dr. Sarma said that in the HSLC examinations the students who secured first division will be given this time Rs. 16,000 instead of computer. He also said that besides the girls who secure first division in HSSLC

examination, boys who pass the examination in first division with letter marks will be given scooter. He also said that in line with Mission Basundahra, BTR-Basundhara will be launched BTR areas to give land pattas to ensure land rights to the indigenous people living in the BTR areas. Speaking on the Minimum Support Price of paddy which is at present Rs. 1960, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said that at the instance of the Prime Minister the MSP will be increased to Rs. 2020 from the coming October. He also mentioned that the State government has been able to procure paddy to the tune of five lakh metric

tonne. For the convenience of the students receiving higher education, an Act has been passed in the State Assembly to start the Udalguri Campus of Bodoland University. Moreover, Rs. 18 crore has been sanctioned for the construction of bridge on Rowta-Udalguri road. Power Minister Nandita Gorlosa gave the welcome address in the programme which was also addressed by CEM BTC Promod Boro. Irrigation Minister Ashok Singhal, Deputy CEM Govinda Basumatary, MLA Charan Boro, Mujibur Rahman and host of other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Itbp Jawan Save The Life Of A Person

Aalo, 20 : On dated 12 July 2022, while ITBP troops of 20 Bn ITBP were preparing themselves for routine operational duties at one of the Bops at Tadagee (District Shi Yomi), a one civilian rushed to the Bops and informed the officials concerned that his brother namely Shri Rajan, aged 32, S/O Lt. Shri Taje of Namosibo village had suffered severe chest pain and his condition is increasingly deteriorating. After hearing the incident, Shri Srikrishna Kaushik, Deputy Commandant of 20 Bn ITBP took prompt action to save his life. Beside the unavailability of proper medical facilities at that place due to remoteness and having limited resources, ITBP Officers and Jawan rushed hurriedly and tried to save the life of Shri Rajan. After giving CPR and first AID, condition of patient got stable and further ITBP evacuated the patient to Manigong primary health centre within no time, due to timely evacuation and first AID, ITBP ultimately saved life of a poor villager. The ITBP forces are always ready to serve the nation as informed by Assistant Commandant, 20 Bn, ITBP Police



A woman gives birth three sons in one time in Lakhimpur

North Lakhimpur, July 20 : A woman named Farida Begum of Chaporigaon, North Lakhimpur town gave birth three sons, aged about eight or eight and half months, in one time at Avanish Hospital and Research Center, North Lakhimpur on Tuesday under the supervision of Dr. Arup Kumar Dutta. Considered

as a rare incident in Lakhimpur district, the woman gave birth the child in healthy condition in cizarean process and presently, the child are too in good health condition, the hospital authority informed. The family of Farida Begum highly appreciated Dr. Arup Kumar Dutta for his achievement in solving Farida's maternity case.

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THE ASSAM RISING

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Record warm temperatures in July

The record warm temperatures in July provide an example of how global warming can combine with natural variability to produce record heat waves. This spring portends yet again that higher frequency, duration, intensity and area covered by such heatwaves are expected in these regions with continued warming - not only locally but also because of the Indian Ocean and the Arctic. Over the last few decades, Pakistan, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean have been hotspots for warming. Over the 1990-2020 period, this is well above 1 degree Celsius over this region while over India it is relatively lower. The heatwaves during the spring months, referred to as the pre-monsoon season over India, can be expected via the high-latitude planetary waves diving down into the Indian subcontinent along with the western disturbances. But the spring season has also become extreme now with excess rains and locust attacks, pre-monsoon cyclones, and severe pre-monsoon rainfall deficits. This year's record-breaking heatwaves are part of this spectrum of extremes global warming can produce over this region. Global warming is loading the dice as expected - from once in a decade, heatwaves are occurring about once in three years and once in 50-year events are occurring about once in a decade. The intensity and duration of the heatwaves have also trended up over South Asia and the areas covered by heat waves have increased substantially. The latest IPCC report assigns a high confidence to the detection of increasing extreme temperatures over South Asia. The other hammer swinging over this region is the impact of a La Niña-like warming pattern, that is, a slower warming over the eastern tropical Pacific around the Galapagos compared to the relatively faster warming over the western Pacific around New Guinea and the Indonesian Seas. The unusual persistence of La Niña into the third consecutive year is expected in 2022, providing a clear example that the future is already here - natural variability and global warming combining to amplify natural hazards like heat waves over South Asia. During a La Niña winter, a north-south pressure pattern sets up over India, which can funnel in bitterly cold temperatures far down into peninsular India unlike during an El Niño winter when the cold blast of air tends to be more confined to the north. The persistence of the La Niña pressure pattern into spring has been driving the unprecedented dust storm and heatwaves far south into the western coast of India. The much warmer than normal temperatures over Central Asia and Eastern Europe were associated with colder than normal temperatures over the Indian Subcontinent during December 2021 into February 2022 giving India a cold winter. But the surface temperatures flipped to a much warmer anomaly over the Indian Subcontinent extending into the Middle East and a cold anomaly over Central Asia and Eastern Europe. The associated low-pressure anomaly over the Indian Subcontinent has been inviting westerly winds and the blast of hot air from the Middle East into Pakistan and India. The La Niña pressure pattern has been splitting the hot air over the Arabian Sea south into western India and north into Pakistan and northern India. The record pre-monsoon rainfall deficits have accompanied the deadly heatwaves. The bad news, of course, is that the La Niña-like pattern is expected to continue under global warming and may produce more such spring heatwaves. Additional amplification of the misery may come from excess pre-monsoon rainfalls with unusual hazards such as the locust attacks or agricultural and ecological droughts during the pre-monsoon.

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

Climate-wrecking air conditioning units aren't the only way to survive a heatwave

Historically, very few UK homes have had any sort of air conditioning - neither the country's climate nor its culture have called for it. But things are changing. Global heating is no longer a distant threat but a felt reality, air pollution is taking people's lives, and our cities are getting so noisy they're causing elevated blood pressure and heart problems. All these things make home air conditioning more attractive than

opening a window. In summer 2020, sales of domestic cooling systems were 20% up on summer 2019, with home working understood to be the major driver. Sales have been up in recent years in Europe as well. The continuing Covid-19 pandemic has changed working patterns, and those used to working in cooled offices are often at home struggling to concentrate or worse, to control heat-related aggression. So if you

An alien visiting Westminster may conclude that Britain has two classes of citizen - a lay herd that elects parliaments, and a priestly caste, the Conservatives, that anoints prime ministers. That is how Boris Johnson first got the job and it is the method that will name his successor. The candidate list was ceremonially whittled to three by Tory MPs today - Rishi Sunak, Liz Truss and Penny Mordaunt (Kemi Badenoch is out). Tomorrow three become two, whereupon the power of investiture is handed to 160,000 party members. There is nothing improper about this arrangement. Eventually, the new leader will have to face the country. But something can be constitutionally permitted and also ridiculous. Most of the past six years has been an experiment in how absurd politics can get before some unwritten rule imposes sobriety. That limit has yet to be found. The prime minister is whoever the Queen appoints on the basis that they can command a majority in the Commons. An incumbent party can switch leaders between elections, but the fee for novelty is paid in legitimacy. That tax will be especially heavy on the new tenant in Downing Street for three reasons, or one reason - the outgoing prime minister - viewed from three angles. First, Johnson's fall rips up the revolutionary calendar that marked 2020 as Year One of Brexit, and everything that came before as the era of a remainer ancien regime. That delusion, resetting the dial after a decade of Tory incumbency, was fabricated by a personality cult in Downing Street. It treated the 2019 general election as confirmation of



the 2016 referendum mandate, and both as extensions of the "Boris" brand - a personal licence to govern uninhibited by institutional checks or law. The revocation of that licence by Tory MPs restores parliamentary supremacy, but with the unintended consequence of reminding the country that we are now in year 13 of uninterrupted Conservative rule. Second, the leadership candidates struggle to articulate reasons for replacing Johnson that don't also discredit them and their party. It would be easier if there were a single disastrous policy or standalone scandal that demanded regime change. But the problem was cumulative and vast - a carnival of incompetence and mendacity, in which all contenders for the succession were participants when it suited them and quietly complicit the rest of the time. In public debates, the candidates have distanced themselves from Johnson. Away from the cameras they must reach out to Tories who pity the outgoing prime minister, believing him the victim of moralising prurience, media hysteria and the bloodthirsty ambition of cabinet mediocrities. The need to handle Johnson loyalists delicately skews the contest towards the school of Brexit militancy that locates the problem for Britain's economy in the portion of sover-

eignty that got snagged on the way out of the EU. The remedy is to pull harder.

Rafael Behr

Coupled with that view is an expectation that the party will soon repent of its impetuous regicide. That is the third reason why the new Tory leader will struggle for authority. Johnson and his monstrous vanity are not going anywhere. The role of former prime minister will suit his taste for elevated status without any burden of responsibility. He can rely on Fleet Street sycophants to amplify his meddlesome pronouncements and to reinforce the myth of his tragic and premature defenestration. The unrepentant leader gave his party a taste of the future in a rambling, incoherent speech to the Commons defending himself in a confidence motion on Monday. The thrust was that Britain has been blessed with leadership of steel and panache despite subterfuge by Europeans in league with the "deep state". On the subject of forces conspiring to unseat him, the prime minister

promised to reveal "more in due course". There was no trace of contrition nor any claim to humility. Johnson's final weeks in power will combine despotic indolence - milking the job for its perks - with self-pity and spite. He bunked a Cobra meeting on extreme weather, but found time for a jolly ride in a fighter jet. He has turned the cabinet into a kennel of nodding dogs. There is no hint of forgiveness for old enemies, only vengeance. When Johnson was defending himself against the barrage of resignations that forced him from office, he regularly cited the 14m votes garnered by the Tories in 2019 as if it were a presidential mandate. When announcing his departure in front of Downing Street he lamented overreaction by the "herd" in response to midterm polling doldrums; a needless flinch from "sledging". For that view to be vindicated, Johnson will want his successor to falter. It may not be a conscious desire, but he needs history to one day record that the "Boris effect" was a unique force of political magnetism drawing disparate parts of the electorate together. And since he has no loyalty to anyone but himself, the craving to be proved special will overwhelm any care for the success of his party when led by someone else. In other words, he is emotionally invested in the next prime minister's failure (especially if it is Rishi Sunak, whose resignation as the chancellor has engendered the bitterest grudge). This would be less of a problem if the leadership contest had begun with an appraisal of what has gone wrong and progressed to a debate of what

should be done instead. But that would be a different campaign, speaking to the country ahead of the party, which is not the current exercise. So candidates must skirmish in ideological niches, bickering over the correct pronunciation of Tory shibboleths - whether the pleasure of tax cuts should be indulged this instant or deferred and savoured just before an election; whether it is EU regulation or "woke" leftism that most suffocates the national spirit of free enterprise. These are not preoccupations for the vast majority of British citizens, but we must know our place in the constitutional pecking order. It is behind the vanguard, awaiting the judgment of the special ones who will pick a prime minister from their charmed ranks. The winner could then invite the country to confirm the appointment in a general election, but at the risk of defeat, and never getting to do the job at all - a gamble none of the contenders looks brave enough to risk. So we will get a leader appointed in the weird hybrid mode that is presidential in style, parliamentary in principle and plain weird in practice. The new prime minister will try simultaneously to repudiate and preserve Johnson's legacy, relying on a hand-me-down mandate that the current jealous holder will not relinquish, because he thinks it is his personal property. The government will be tenuously held together by the flaking glue of deference that treats Conservative rule as Britain's default setting and accepts a back-row seat on the ritual selection of yet another Tory ruler, as if that is close enough to democracy.

Want to get wed in a forest or a field? A makeover of marriage laws could be love at first sight

Summer wedding season is in full flow, with guests descending on venues to witness thousands of couples coming together for their special day. It's the first summer in two years when ceremonies haven't been curtailed by the pandemic, so couples, rightly, have cause for celebration. But despite jubilant scenes, many tying the knot also know they will have had to make some serious compromises in order for their big day to go ahead.

And I don't mean the usual wrangling over the guest list, choice of starter or flower arrangements, but rather more fundamental tradeoffs and sacrifices concerning the ceremony itself. It's becoming increasingly clear that for many couples wedding laws are simply no longer fit for purpose. Outdated, restrictive and complex regulations mean many getting married in England and Wales will have been denied a legally recognised wedding ceremony that is meaningful to them.

Parts of our ancient wedding laws date back to the 1830s, so it's no wonder they fail to reflect the needs of society today. Their incremental evolution since then has

left us with rules that are not only outdated, but highly complex and difficult to navigate, with different belief systems bound by a host of different restrictions. Couples must choose between either a religious marriage (with Anglican, Quaker, Jewish and other religious weddings all subject to individual requirements) or a civil marriage, with no option for legal ceremonies reflecting other beliefs. For some, such as Muslim or Hindu couples, an additional, civil wedding may be needed for their marriage to be legally recognised. Some may not take this step, leaving them without the legal rights that marriage brings. Current law also means that couples face a highly restrictive choice of locations, and further unnecessary rules dictating the content of their ceremonies. It is hard to justify such a confusing and out-of-date system. That is why the Law Commission, the independent body of which I am a commissioner, is proposing a fundamental overhaul of wedding laws; a new scheme that meets the needs and beliefs of couples today, and supports and celebrates marriage. At the heart of our approach is shifting regulation away from the building where a wedding can take place towards the officiant who would oversee the ceremony. This

change would open up a wealth of venue possibilities, giving couples the freedom to marry in places such as the beach, their local village hall or their home. Under our system, nature-loving couples would, for example, have the option of holding a ceremony in a forest, on a hilltop or in an orchard. For those more comfortable at sea, a cruise-ship

Nick Hopkins

wedding would get the green light. The new freedoms would also allow more choice over the songs, rituals and vows at ceremonies, allowing content that reflects a couple's relationship and personal beliefs. But these options don't just mean more personalisation - they also mean saving money. With financial pressures hitting hard, the choice of having simpler, cheaper weddings will help couples to dramatically drive down costs. Our reforms would not result in unfettered freedoms; weddings would have to be dignified and safe, all approved by the officiant. Publicity and legal safeguards would be kept or enhanced to en-



sure that there is a lower risk of sham, forced or predatory marriages. Underpinning the reforms is the idea that the same laws would largely apply to everyone. This would mean untangling the hodgepodge of conflicting laws across different beliefs, and replacing them with universal rules for all. This wouldn't undermine religious marriages, and couples would still be free to decide the location and content of their ceremonies. The traditional Anglican church wedding preceded by banns will continue as usual, for example. But there will be more freedom for couples and religions who are not served by the current law to have wedding ceremonies that

honour their beliefs. Our changes will also create a path to making non-religious belief ceremonies, such as humanist weddings legally recognised - if permitted by the government. By getting rid of unnecessary barriers and anomalies our reforms would ultimately bring England and Wales in line with our close neighbours, including Scotland and Northern Ireland, as well as those farther afield such as Canada, New Zealand and Australia. Couples should have the freedom to choose where and how they get married, with a ceremony that's meaningful to them. We need a new set of laws that delivers this. It's time to make weddings fit for the 21st century.

Letter to the Editor

Monkeypox surfacing at Kannur

Dear editor,

News reports say another case of money pox was confirmed at Kannur, Kerala. This disease spreads by physical contact with the patient or respiratory droplets. In the case of covid our preparedness was not adequate. Lack of hospital beds, lack of oxygen supply led to deaths. Moreover, Kumbh mela celebrations in 4 cities ignoring the guidelines caused disaster due to the fast spread of the pandemic. Hence this time the Medical Department should alert all the Hospitals with Guidelines, infrastructure, and Staff. This time we have to learn lessons from the past.

KLRao

Air pollution-a brief study



Air pollution consists of chemicals or particles in the air that can harm the health of humans, animals, and plants. It also damages buildings. Pollutants in the air take many forms. They can be gases, solid particles, or liquid droplets. Pollution enters the Earth's atmosphere in many different ways. Most air pollution is created by people, taking the form of emissions from factories, cars, planes, or aerosol cans. Second-hand cigarette smoke is also considered air pollution. These man-made sources of pollution are called anthropogenic sources. Some types of air pollution, such as smoke from wildfires or ash from volcanoes, occur naturally. These are called natural sources. Air pollution is most common in large cities where emissions from many different sources are concentrated. Sometimes, mountains or tall buildings prevent air pollution from spreading out. This air pollution often appears as a cloud making the air murky.

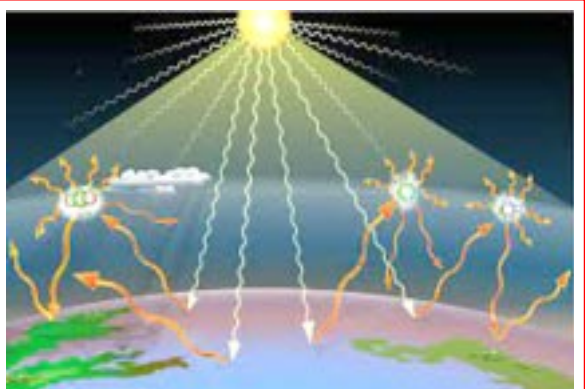
It is called smog. The word "smog" comes from combining the words "smoke" and "fog." Large cities in poor and developing nations tend to have more air pollution than cities in developed nations. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), some of the world's most polluted cities are Karachi, Pakistan; New Delhi, India; Beijing, China; Lima, Peru; and Cairo, Egypt. However, many developed nations also have air pollution problems. Los Angeles, California, is nicknamed Smog City. Air pollution is usually thought of as smoke from large factories or exhaust from vehicles. But there are many types of indoor air pollution as well. Heating a house by burning substances such as kerosene, wood, and coal can contaminate the air inside the house. Ash and smoke make breathing difficult, and they can stick to walls, food, and clothing. Naturally-occurring radon gas, a cancer-causing material, can also build up in homes. Radon is released

through the surface of the Earth. Inexpensive systems installed by professionals can reduce radon levels. Some construction materials, including insulation, are also dangerous to people's health. In addition, ventilation, or air movement, in homes and rooms can lead

house. People can become sick from breathing in the spores. People experience a wide range of health effects from being exposed to air pollution. Effects can be broken down into short-term effects and long-term effects. Short-term effects, which are temporary, include illnesses such as pneumonia or bronchitis. They also include discomfort such as irritation to the nose, throat, eyes, or skin. Air pollution can also cause headaches, dizziness, and nausea. Bad smells made by factories, garbage, or sewer systems are considered air pollution, too. These odors are less serious but still unpleasant. Long-term effects of air pollution can last for years or for an entire lifetime. They can even lead to a person's death. Long-term health effects from air pollution include heart disease, lung cancer, and respiratory diseases such as emphysema. Air pollution can also cause long-term damage to people's nerves, brain, kidneys, liver, and other organs.

different types of air pollution. Young children and older adults, whose immune systems tend to be weaker, are often more sensitive to pollution. Conditions such as asthma, heart disease, and lung disease can be made worse by exposure to air pollution. The length of exposure and amount and type of pollutants are also factors. Like people, animals, and plants, entire ecosystems can suffer effects from air pollution. Haze, like smog, is a visible type of air pollution that obscures shapes and colors. Hazy air pollution can even muffle sounds. Air pollution particles eventually fall back to Earth. Air pollution can directly contaminate the surface of bodies of water and soil. This can kill crops or reduce their yield. It can kill young trees and other plants. Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide particles in the air, can create acid rain when they

house gas that has had the biggest effect on global warming. Carbon dioxide is emitted into the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels (coal, gasoline, and natural gas). Humans have come to rely on fossil fuels to power cars and planes, heat homes, and run factories. Doing these things pollutes the air with carbon dioxide. Other greenhouse gases emitted by natural and artificial sources also include methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases. Methane is a major emission from coal plants and agricultural processes. Nitrous oxide is a common emission from industrial factories, agriculture, and the burning of fossil fuels in cars. Fluorinated gases, such as hydrofluorocarbons, are emitted by industry. Fluorinated gases are often used instead of gases such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). CFCs have been outlawed in many places because they deplete the ozone layer. Worldwide, many countries have taken steps to reduce or limit greenhouse gas emissions to combat global warming. The Kyoto Protocol, first adopted in Kyoto, Japan, in 1997, is an agreement between 183 countries that they will work to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions. The United States has not signed that treaty. In addition to the international Kyoto Protocol, most developed nations have adopted laws to regulate emissions and reduce air pollution. In the United States, debate is under way about a system called cap and trade to limit emissions. This system would cap, or place a limit, on the amount of pollution a company is allowed. Companies that exceeded their cap would have to pay. Companies that polluted less than their cap could trade or sell their remaining pollution allowance to other companies. Cap and trade would essentially pay companies to limit pollution. In 2006 the World Health Organization issued new Air Quality Guidelines. The WHO's guidelines are tougher than most individual countries existing guidelines. The WHO guidelines aim to reduce air pollution-related deaths by 15 percent a year. Anybody can take steps to reduce air pollution. Millions of people every day make simple changes in their lives to do this. Taking public transportation instead of driving a car, or riding a bike instead of traveling in carbon dioxide-emitting vehicles are a couple of ways to reduce air pollution. Avoiding aerosol cans, recycling yard trimmings instead of burning them, and not smoking cigarettes are others.



Greenhouse Effect

Global warming describes the current rise in the average temperature of Earth's air and oceans. Global warming is often described as the most recent example of climate change. Earth's climate has changed many times. Our planet has gone through multiple ice ages, in which ice sheets and glaciers covered large portions of the Earth. It has also gone through warm periods when temperatures were higher than they are today. Past changes in Earth's temperature happened very slowly, over hundreds of thousands of years. However, the recent warming trend is happening much faster than it ever has. Natural cycles of warming and cooling are not enough to explain the amount of warming we have experienced in such a short time-only human activities can account for it. Scientists worry that the climate is changing faster than some living things can adapt to it. In 1988, the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme established a committee of climatologists, meteorologists, geographers, and other scientists from around the world. This Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) includes thousands of scientists who review the most up-to-date research available related to global warming and climate change. The IPCC evaluates the risk of climate change caused by human activities. According to the IPCC's most recent report (in 2007), Earth's average surface temperatures have risen about 0.74 degrees Celsius (1.33 degrees Fahrenheit) during the past 100 years. The increase is greater in northern latitudes. The IPCC also found that land regions are warming faster than oceans. The IPCC states that most of the temperature increase since the mid-20th century is likely due to human activities. Human activities contribute to global warming by increasing the greenhouse effect. The greenhouse effect happens when certain gases-known as greenhouse gases-collect in Earth's atmosphere. These gases, which occur naturally in the atmosphere, include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases sometimes known as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). Greenhouse gases let the sun's light shine onto the Earth's surface, but they trap the heat that reflects back up into the atmosphere. In this way, they act like the insulating glass walls of a greenhouse. The greenhouse effect keeps Earth's climate comfortable. Without it, surface temperatures would be cooler by about 33 degrees Celsius (60 degrees Fahrenheit), and many life forms would freeze. Since the Industrial Revolution in the late 1700s and early 1800s, people have been releasing large quantities of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. That amount has skyrocketed in the past century. Greenhouse gas emissions increased 70 percent between 1970 and 2004. Emissions of carbon dioxide, the most important greenhouse gas, rose by about 80 percent during that time. The amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere today far exceeds the natural range seen over the last 650,000 years. Most of the carbon dioxide that people put into the atmosphere comes from burning fossil fuels such as oil, coal, and natural gas. Cars, trucks, trains, and planes all burn fossil fuels. Many electric power plants also burn fossil fuels. Another way people release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere is by cutting down forests. This happens for two reasons. Decaying plant material, including trees, releases tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Living trees absorb carbon dioxide. By diminishing the number of trees to absorb carbon dioxide, the gas remains in the atmosphere. Most methane in the atmosphere comes from livestock farming, landfills, and fossil fuel production such as coal mining and natural gas processing. Nitrous oxide comes from agricultural technology and fossil fuel burning. Fluorinated gases include chlorofluorocarbons, hydrochlorofluorocarbons, and hydrofluorocarbons. These greenhouse gases are used in aerosol cans and refrigeration. All of these human activities add greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, trapping more heat than usual and contributing to global warming.

Gardening: A fun hobby for health



Gardening may be a fun and relaxing way to get in touch with nature, but did you know that it also has plenty of health benefits? Gardening is an activity that's good for both the mind and body, and can be enjoyed by people of all ages. Plus, you get to eat the delicious fruits, vegetables and herbs that you grow. So, grab your tools and get in the dirt! It only takes a little bit of gardening to work up a sweat. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, just 2.5 hours of moderate activity each week can help reduce the risk of many health problems, including heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure and Type 2 diabetes. You may not think of gardening as exercise, but all the lifting, shoveling and raking involved definitely counts, says Raychel Santo, MA, senior research program coordinator for the Center for a Livable Future at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Your brain also benefits from time spent in the garden. Being outside in the fresh air and sunshine is an effective way to boost your mood and de-stress. In fact, gardening has shown to be helpful in reducing the risk

of depression. If something is weighing heavily on your mind, gardening can allow you to focus on an activity that will bring you joy. Don't forget the health benefits that come from the produce you grow. Gardening is a simple way to get more fresh fruits and vegetables into your diet, and you're sure to appreciate them even more because you grew them. When it comes to deciding what to plant, it may be hard to know where to begin. But if you're new to gardening, keep it simple with produce that's easy to grow. Santo recommends herbs and greens such as lettuce, kale and collards. Santo says these foods are not only easy for first-time gardeners, they are also full of important nutrients. Gardening is also an excellent opportunity to try new healthy foods that will help you and your family become more adventurous eaters. Growing a variety of produce is as fun as it is healthy. Don't get discouraged if you don't get it right the first time. Gardening requires some patience, but it's worth it when you get to dig into a plate of your own fresh produce. Make sure that you have the proper tools and gear for a safe gardening experience.

Santo recommends wearing light, long-sleeved shirts and pants and a hat for protection from the sun, as well as slathering on sunscreen. Wearing gardening gloves is a must to keep yourself safe when pulling weeds and carrying out other tasks that could hurt your hands. And don't forget to wear mosquito repellent. The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons encourages gardeners to take regular breaks and drink enough water. Remember, this is exercise. The organization also suggests making the physical activity in gardening as easy as possible, from sitting on a garden stool to getting close to the objects you want to lift to reduce strain.

Using a wheelbarrow is helpful for these kinds of tasks. Ask for help if something is too big or heavy to move by yourself, or if you're unfamiliar with certain tools. Soil safety is another thing to keep in mind. Santo notes that especially in urban and suburban areas, soil may be contaminated with heavy metals and other pollutants. Soil could also have tetanus bacteria, which is why it's so important to wear gloves and stay up on vaccinations. That way, any cuts on your hands won't get infected. It's a good idea to get your soil tested before you start gardening. Images courtesy iStockphoto: Woman by Michaelpuche; couple, Michaeljung; man and child, Rawpixel; illustrations, Colorcocktail.

mix with water and oxygen in the atmosphere. These air pollutants come mostly from coal-fired power plants and motor vehicles. When acid rain falls to Earth, it damages plants by changing soil composition; degrades water quality in rivers, lakes and streams; damages crops; and can cause buildings and monuments to decay. Like humans, animals can suffer health effects from exposure to air pollution. Birth defects, diseases, and lower reproductive rates have all been attributed to air pollution. Global warming is an environmental phenomenon caused by natural and anthropogenic air pollution. It refers to rising air and ocean temperatures around the world. This temperature rise is at least partially caused by an increase in the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases trap heat energy in the Earth's atmosphere. (Usually, more of Earth's heat escapes into space.) Carbon dioxide is a green-

Organic farming and environmental benefits

Organic agriculture is an ecologically intensive production system expanding worldwide as demand for sustainability increases (Eyhom et al., 2019; Willer et al., 2019). Although organic farms produce lower yields than comparable conventional farms (Seufert et al., 2012; Ponisio et al., 2015), they are more profitable, more friendly to pollinators and the environment, and deliver equally or more nutritious foods with fewer pesticide residues (Kennedy et al., 2013; Tuck et al., 2014; Reganold and Wachter, 2016; Kovács-Hostyánszki et al., 2017; Seufert and Ramankutty, 2017). These findings are based on comparison studies (Mäder et al., 2002; Crowder et al., 2010; Reganold et al., 2010; Forrest et al., 2015) and

meta-analyses (Crowder et al., 2010, 2012; Gattinger et al., 2012; Seufert et al., 2012; Tuck et al., 2014; Crowder and Reganold, 2015; Ponisio et al., 2015; Lichtenberg et al., 2017; Lori et al., 2017) of the mean effects of organic and conventional farming systems on sustainability metrics such as biodiversity, yield, soil quality, and profitability; they did not consider variability. In contrast, few studies have considered variability of any sustainability metric over time (Pimentel et al., 2005; Smith et al., 2007). Not taking variability of sustainability metrics into account when comparing production systems is a key knowledge gap. Producers depend on reliable provisioning of yields, profits, and environmental services to ensure production system sustainability over time. More-

over, reduced yield variability is necessary to ensure reliable food access for consumers (Schmidhuber and Tubiello, 2007; Müller et al., 2018; Mehrabi and Ramankutty, 2019). Low variability allows producers to achieve consistent production and avoid unprofitable years, while also ensuring that consumers have reliable access to nutritious and sufficient food. When producers are able to generate consistent crop yields, food prices are also less volatile and global trade markets are more stable (Müller et al., 2018). Decreased variability in ecosystem services can also prevent food shortages (Mehrabi and Ramankutty, 2019). Systems that promote low variability in ecosystem services may also be



more resilient to changing climatic conditions, including an increased frequency of drought and extreme weather events (Schmidhuber and Tubiello, 2007). We hypothesize that organic farms will have lower yields as well as greater variability in yield

over time compared to conventional farms (Knapp and van der Heijden, 2018). This is because organic farms are more reliant on ecosystem services for production of high crop yields, whereas conventional farms can rely more

heavily on external inputs (Reganold and Wachter, 2016). Specifically, conventional producers may be more readily able to react to pest outbreaks or low soil nutrient availability by applying a broad range of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers.

Contd. From Page 1

Assam Citizens' Register Data

can be completed in around seven months, sources said. The final NRC list in Assam, published on August 2019, had found more than 31.1 million people eligible to be included. But it had left out over 1.9 million people, setting off a huge controversy. Rejection slips are yet to be issued to those excluded - who can move the Foreigners' Tribunal to challenge the decision - and the RGI has not yet notified the NRC as final.

Zubeen Garg hospitalised

evening. As per reports, Zubeen had a seizure following an epileptic fit. He also received 5 stitches on his head. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday instructed Dibrugarh DC to assure that singer Zubeen Garg should get all kind of advanced treatment. The singer was admitted to the hospital today after he fell in the bathroom yesterday night. The chief minister also instructed that all arrangement should be done for his treatment and if needed, he should be shifted to Guwahati or should be shifted to a hospital outside state for advanced treatment through air ambulance. The chief minister also instructed state health minister Keshab Mahanta to monitor the entire process of treatment of Zubeen Garg. It may be mentioned that the singer was admitted to the hospital after received a head injury. He was in Manohari Resort in Dibrugarh. A CT scan has been conducted by doctors to ascertain his condition, while his vital parameters are stable.

Bangladesh praises Assam CM

ambition to turn Assam into an industrial hub. In the letter, Dr. Momen referred to the visit warmly and thanked the leader for the hospitality extended to his delegation. Inviting Mr. Sarma, Dr. Momen called upon the northeastern states including Assam to "reap the benefits" of the developmental dividends of Bangladesh. "Bangladesh has achieved remarkable socio-economic advancement under the able and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina. Bangladesh has been among the fastest growing economies of the world over the past decade," said Dr. Momen in his letter. "Your visit will enable us to review the status, trend and composition of existing trade relationship and to explore the potentiality for cross border economic interweaving, on other bilateral issues," said Dr. Momen. Assam is currently hosting a delegation of Muti Joddhas from Bangladesh who were welcomed by Mr. Sarma Tuesday evening in Guwahati. Addressing the meeting, Mr. Sarma praised Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and said, her "determined steps" against terrorism and extremism have been instrumental in ensuring peace in both "inside and outside" Bangladesh. Mr. Sarma said the tough actions against the ULFA leadership inside Bangladesh have "tremendously" helped Assam. "Without Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's law and order measures in Bangladesh, we would not have been able to welcome you to our peaceful Assam in this way," said Mr. Sarma welcoming the Mukti Joddhas from Bangladesh. Bangladesh is carrying out several major infrastructure and power projects including major airports, bridges and power plants such as the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant that have the potential for creating regionwide developmental dynamics. For trade, connectivity, and natural resource management, it requires close coordination with the Governments of West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and in the recent years there have been demands in Dhaka to engage these states directly to impress upon them the requirement to work closely to deal with common problems. Assam has been in news in Bangladesh because of the NRC and CAA and that apart, the presence of alleged nationals of Bangladesh have been an issue in the politics of the State. Bangladesh has however maintained official silence on these matters terming them as "internal issues" of India.

Ranil Wickremesinghe elected

Sri Lankan President, has the mandate to serve out the rest of Rajapaksa's term, which ends in November 2024. This is for the first time in 44 years that Sri Lanka's Parliament has directly elected a president. Presidential elections in 1982, 1988, 1994, 1999, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2019 had elected them by popular vote. The only previous occasion when the presidency became vacant mid-term was in 1993 when president Ranasinghe Premadasa was assassinated. DB Wijetunga was unanimously endorsed by Parliament to run the balance of Premadasa's term. he island nation off the tip of southeast India needs about USD 5 billion in the next six months to cover basic necessities for its 22 million people, who have been struggling with long queues, worsening shortages and power cuts.

Cabinet Brings Financial Relief

a revised state action plan on climate change, becoming the fourth state in the nation to do this. "Looking at the necessity for a national forensic university in the state, the cabinet on Monday decided to get a National Forensic Science University. Until the University comes into shape, students will start classes in Guwahati Medical College and Hospital," Barua said.

China plotting to enter India

immediate comment from the Army on the new images. "The new satellite images, sourced from Maxar, indicate that a second village in the Amo Chu river valley is now virtually complete while China has stepped up construction of a third village or habitation further South," the NDTV said in its report. This development also means China would have a direct line-of-sight to India's sensitive Siliguri corridor, the narrow sliver of land that connects the northeast states with the rest of the country. The government had said previously that it keeps an eye on all the activities along its border. China has been ramping up border infrastructure in several sensitive locations, including along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh where the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) has been locked in an over two-year standoff with the Indian Army.

CM inaugurates Boko Solar Park

in Boko constituency. The Chief Minister also appealed people to hoist National flag in their homes from 13 to 15 August to mark the celebration of 75 years of India's independence. Power Minister Nandita Gorlosa, Environment & Forest Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, Handloom & Textiles Minister U G Brahma, MLAs Nandita Das, Hemanga Thakuria, Suman Haripriya, Rekibuddin Ahmed, CEM of Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council Tankaswar Rabha and other dignitaries were also present in the programme.

Assam Police evading RTI queries

was part of their duty and no departmental inquiry has been initiated. "How is the police going to justify that they were doing lawful duty?" she asked. Several persons accused of a crime have been shot dead or injured in police shootings since Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma assumed office in May last year. In most cases, the police have claimed they opened fire in self-defence or to prevent the accused person from escaping custody. In an affidavit in June, the state government had told the Gauhati High Court that 51 persons have been killed and 139 injured due to police action or during their custody since May 2021. The affidavit was filed in response to a public interest litigation by Delhi-based lawyer Arif Jwadder, who had sought an independent investigation into the rise in police shootings in Assam. Jwadder had cited media reports to claim that over 80 such incidents have taken place from May 2021 till December that year. He had added that 28 persons were killed and 48 were injured in "fake encounters" in this period. On March 15, Sarma had defended police action in the state Assembly. The number of cases registered in January and February had fallen by 30% compared to the same period last year, Sarma had said, adding that the police's tough stand against criminals was working. "The fall in crime rate shows that the police action against criminals has worked," the chief minister added. "We have been criticised in the House repeatedly for the encounters. Nobody supports the encounters. Police have to work within the law. But while working within the law, if a bullet hits a rapist, we must be clear whether we should sympathise with the rapist or the victim."

Lokra Battalion of Assam Rifles organised awareness lecture on Agnipath Scheme to join Armed Forces



The Assam Rising, Biswanath chariali 20 July : Lokra Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ 21 Sector and Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) organised awareness lecture on Agnipath Scheme to join Armed Forces for the local youth of Lokra and Charduar town in Sonitpur district, Assam. During the lecture aspirants were given a detailed introduction and comprehensive insights about the Agnipath scheme. The youth was also made aware about the advantages of the scheme along with the future prospects. The ongoing issues regarding the scheme were also discussed and the doubts were clarified. The lecture was conducted in the Gyaan Vikas Academy where in students from class 9th to 12th were benefitted from the lecture. A total of 110 students attended the lecture.

CM's 'Tricolour' appeal draws Opposition's ire Congress says 'people don't need to prove their patriotism'

Guwahati, July 20 : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's appeal to the people of the state to hoist the Tricolour at their homes from August 13 to 15 evoked immense backlash from the Opposition. Sarma urged residents of Assam to hoist the national flag at their respective houses to prove that they are "real children of Mother India". The Assam CM's statement drew sharp reactions from the Congress party which said that there is no need to ask people to prove their patriotism. "Every citizen of this country is a 'Desh Bhakt'. There is no need to ask people to prove their patriotism," Congress MP Naseer Hussain said. Another party MP, Manickam Tagore, said that Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) members should put Tricolour at their houses first, pointing out that the right-wing organisation had not unfurled the national flag at their offices till 2002. "This shows the arrogance of Assam CM. It should be the RSS that must be asked to put Tricolour in their houses because, for 52 long years, they did not put Tiranga at their offices," he said. Speaking at a public event in Udalguri in North Assam, Sarma on Tuesday said hoisting the tricolour is a more credible way than applying for inclusion of names in the National Register of Citizens to prove one's nationality. "Between August 13 and 15 this year, hoist the Tricolor in your houses. Applying for the NRC to say that you are Indian citizens is not enough. You have to give proof by hoisting the Tricolor that you are genuine children of Bharat Mata. Is it or not?" Sarma asked. The Assam CM also said that the government will make the Tricolor available for Rs 16 each at ration shops in the state. "We will not take it for free, because we have an obligation towards the country. We will not take the flag given by others, we will buy it ourselves," he said, urging the residents to buy flags on the occasion of India completing 75 years of Independence this August 15. "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. The cultural affairs department has started preparations for successful implementation of the programme with the panchayat and rural development, information and public relations department and other govt departments," the Assam government said in a statement, as per reports.

Fan who appeared to urinate from SCG roof given life ban by Rugby Australia

Melbourn, July 20 : Rugby Australia has condemned the "deplorable" behaviour of a Wallabies fan who climbed up the big screen during Saturday's third Test against England and appeared to urinate from the roof of the SCG. The intruder, who made his way to the roof of the Bill O'Reilly stand during the second half of the series decider, was charged by police after the game in Sydney and on Monday RA handed him a lifetime ban. "Rugby Australia is disappointed with the reported incidents within the crowd at the Sydney Cricket Ground for the third Test of the Wallabies' series with England," said RA's chief executive, Andy Marinos. "The deplorable actions of the alleged intruder that made his way to the roof of the grandstand were disgraceful and dangerous. This individual has been issued with a life ban from Rugby Australia events - and we will continue to support the authorities in their handling of the matter." RA also criticised the treatment of England's coach, Eddie Jones, after the Australian was heckled and insulted a number of times by members of the crowd. Video footage of two separate incidents emerged after full-time in which Jones reacted angrily to supporters who labelled a him "traitor". "The offensive remarks made by spectators in the members' areas towards England staff were unacceptable - and not representative of the values of rugby," Marinos said. "We have a zero-tolerance policy for inappropriate behaviour, and we are working with Venues NSW on appropriate sanctions for these individuals." Rugby prides itself on values of respect and integrity - as seen in the players of both teams after the final whistle of a hard-fought series at the SCG on Saturday night. It is our expectation that spectators adhere to these values of respect and integrity when attending rugby matches - and, we would hope, in society in general. "England's 21-17 third-Test win completed a 2-1 victory for Jones over his former team in what has at times been a testy series. Jones had previously hinted that he had suffered similar abuse from Australian fans after England's victory in the second Test in Brisbane a week earlier. "Please, cheer for your team with all that you have," Marinos added. "But please, always show respect for others."

5 Kurdish militants killed in Turkish drone strike in northern Iraq: official sources

BAGHDAD, July 20 : Five militants of Turkey's Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) were killed on Sunday in a Turkish drone strike in Iraq's northern province of Nineveh, official sources said. The five PKK members, including a woman, were killed when a Turkish drone bombarded their vehicle moving near a village in the west of the provincial capital Mosul, some 400 km north of Baghdad, according to a statement by the Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service. The attack occurred at 2:20 p.m. local time (1120 GMT Saturday) when a Turkish drone bombed a civilian vehicle in the west of Mosul and killed four men and a woman, said Governor of Nineveh Province Najm al-Jubouri in a separate statement. Al-Jubouri strongly condemned the drone strike, saying such attacks would destabilize the security situation in the Iraqi province and demanding a protest by the Iraqi central government. The Turkish forces frequently carry out ground operations, airstrikes, and artillery bombardments in Iraq's semi-autonomous region of Kurdistan, especially the Qandil Mountains, the main base of the PKK. The PKK is listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union.



Baijayanti Devi remembered at Biswanath

Assam Rising ,Biswanath Chariali, July 20: Baijayanti Devi; the first lady martyr of the historic Assam agitation was remembered on her birthday at Golia here on Tuesday. The meeting convened by the Biswanath district committee of All Assam Gorkha Students' Union (AAGSU) in association with the Biswanath sadar committee of AAGSU and other regional committees held at Gyanada Pustakalay located at Golia. Gopi Pokhrel, a retired teacher lit the earthen lamp in front of the portrait of the martyr and offered floral tributes. Dilip Gajurel, vice president of the AAGSU graced the memorial meeting as a key speaker who highlighted on the role and contributions of Baijayanti Devi in the historic Assam agitation. The memorial meeting was attended by Prakash Khanal, secretary of Biswanath AAGSU, Nabadeep Chetry, Numal Bhattarai besides other members.

4th district level badminton tournament concluded at aalo



Aalo, July 20 : The 4th district level Badminton tournament, organized by District Badminton West Siang w.e.f 15th July 2022 to 17th July 2022, ended with pomp and show at indoor Badminton Club Old Market Aalo. More than 95 Badminton enthusiasts from the District took part in different age categories as prescribed by Arunachal State Badminton Association such as Under -9 to Under -19, Open Category along with Sub- Veterans and Veterans. Shri Tomar Ango State gd-I Referee (A-P) has assigned as Tournament Commissioner. In the Opening Ceremony Er. Tumme Amo IPS Commandant 2nd AAPBn Aalo and Er. Jumnya Angu EE(RWD) Aalo division, graced the occasion as chief Guest and Guest of honour respectively and Shri Markar Padu (Rtd. DDSE) a Badminton cover himself and Shri Kento Ngomdir, BEO, graced the closing ceremony as Chief Guest and Guest of Honours respectively. Sri Lee Sora and Shri Kenjum Rina were the winners of 45+ Mens' Double, Shri Jarsa Gamlin and Er. Kenjom Ete in 35+ Mens' Double and Shri Karki Poyom and Dekam Yongam in Men's Open Double category. The closing ceremony Programme ended with vote of thanks by Shri Lee Sora (org. Secretary 4th DLBT-2022 Aalo

Educational workshop held at Gyan Bharati School



Assam Rising , Biswanath Chariali, July 20: A summer educational workshop on 'Let us make learning a fun' was held at Gyan Bharati Public School, Sootea with a three day programme from July 18 that concluded today. The workshop was conducted by Bhogendra Nath Konwar, resource person of SSA, SCERT and RMSA, faculty member of DIET, BTC and College of Education; Lakhinath Gohain Resource Person of NCERT, SCERT, SSA, DIET and RMSA and Rafique Ahmed Baruah resource person of NCERT, SCERT, SSA, DIET, RMSA and Assam Science Society. The Educators, with vast experience on the relevant fields, paid special emphasis on enlightening the students about the intricacies of learning Science, Mathematics and English which are generally considered as difficult subjects. Through various audio-visual presentations and practical training, the students were taught how the understanding of these apparently difficult subjects can be simplified and become a fun. Besides motivating the students on various aspects of becoming a conscious citizen and contribute to the process of nation building, the educationists also covered an assortment of career prospects that the students can pursue after completing their High School and Higher Secondary education. On the closing day, the parents of the students also attended the workshop. The educationists discussed a variety of issues with the parents so as to develop a congenial environment for the overall development of the students.

Assam to be completely fossil fuel free by 2031, says CM

Guwahati, July 20 : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday claimed that there will be no usage of fossil fuels by 2031 in the state. Speaking at a function after inaugurating a solar plant in Assam's Udalguri district, he said: "The complete elimination of the use of petrol, diesel in Assam will happen by 2031. The electric vehicles will be used in the substitute of fossil fuel." According to a senior government official, Assam is looking forward to producing 50,000 MW of solar power in the future. Also, the government has issued an order to cut down carbon emissions by 2030. The Assam government has planned to adhere to 50 per cent electricity from solar energy in the next five years. On Tuesday, Sarma inaugurated a 25 MW solar power plant in Udalguri district. Another two 25 MW solar power plants are being set up in Samaguri and Nagaon districts in Assam. "The state government is also planning to set up floating solar energy plants on lakes in the state which may produce up to 1,000 MW of energy," the Chief Minister said.

Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce fixes wig mid-race but still qualifies in worlds 200m

London, July 20 : World 100m champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce had to fix her wig halfway through her women's 200m heat as she suffered a surprise defeat to Niger'sminatou Seyni. The incident occurred as the Jamaican flew around the bend and felt her electric turquoise wig slipping – forcing her to reach her right arm upwards and take a second or so to adjust it. However she still finished in 22.26sec as she qualified easily for Tuesday's semi-final. Afterwards Fraser-Pryce explained that it was one of 10 wigs she has packed in a bag to Eugene. "I had my hair done, coloured from home, and I packed them," she said. "I had different hair stylists here install them for me. This one I actually did myself." All the big names also qualified for the semi-finals, including Britain's Dina Asher-Smith, who took it easy in finishing second in her heat in 22.56. "I got instructions from my coach to make sure that I ran a smart race and conserved energy for the semi-finals

and the final in a few days," she said. However the performance of the round came from Seyni, who set a national record of 21.98 in qualifying fastest for Tuesday's semi-finals by beating Fraser-Pryce. Namibia's Beatrice Masilingi also looked super-smooth in beating the Olympic 200m champion Elaine Thompson-Herah with a run of 22.27 in her heat. From both Seyni and Masilingi there was a sense of more to come – and that could lead to an interesting couple of days here in Eugene. Both are barred from running in their favourite event, the 400m, under World Athletics rules for athletes with a difference in sex development (DSD), introduced after the Caster Semenya legal case in 2019. Those rules mean 46 XY DSD athletes are banned from events between 400m and a mile, but are eligible for other events. However last month World Athletics president Sebastian Coe indicated that these rules might be



changed because he favoured fairness for women's sport over inclusion. Coe is also mindful that in the Semenya case the court of arbitration for sport stated that 46 XY DSD athletes, who are born with male testes, "enjoy a significant sporting advantage ... over 46 XX athletes without such DSD ... including greater lean body mass, larger hearts and larger V02 max than 46 XX individuals". The hugely

controversial issue has played out repeatedly in some of the biggest finals in recent years with Masilingi's compatriot Christine Mboma winning the silver medal in Tokyo last year behind Thompson-Herah. It could yet be another talking point

again. On a day where women's events took centre stage, Venezuela's Yulimar Rojas, Kenya's Faith Kipyegon and Belgium's Nafi Thiam all added world titles to their Tokyo 2020 Olympic crowns. Rojas secured an unprecedented third world triple jump title with a 15.47m leap, while Kipyegon took a thrilling 1500m. However there was drama in the heptathlon with Thiam having to overturn a 19-point deficit going into the final event to beat Anouk Vetter to win gold. Thiam smashed her 800m PB by two seconds to end up with 6,947 points, the second-best mark of her career. However Britain's defending champion, Katarina Johnson-Thompson, could only finish eighth with a score of 6,222. Elsewhere, Qatar's Mutaz Essa Barshim won his third straight world high jump title after clearing 2.37m.

Barcelona's summer spree is not about building a team but selling a story

London, July 20 : Robert Lewandowski has signed a four-year deal with Barcelona, which means he probably has a good 18 months before they ask him to take a wage cut. Give or take. Naturally a good deal depends on how much deeper into their financial quarry Barcelona have managed to dig themselves in the meantime. Perhaps, alternatively, Lewandowski will be asked to defer a portion of his salary, or maybe amortise it into 420 easy monthly instalments, or accept payment in the form of SBAR fan tokens. This is the perk of being the world's biggest and most incoherent club: there is always another lever to squeeze. Bankrolled by the partial sale of their broadcast rights for the next 25 years, Barcelona have brought Lewandowski, Raphinha, Franck Kessié and Andreas Christensen to the Camp Nou this summer. César Azpilicueta, Jules Koundé and Bernardo Silva are also being pursued. In a way this is the most mystifying part of Barcelona's spending spree, over and above the question of where the money is coming from. What sane player would join this



ridiculous club in the first place? What have they been told? And just what, exactly, are Barcelona playing at? It is just under six months since the president, Joan Laporta, held an extraordinary press conference unveiling the results of an internal audit that discovered evidence of false accounting, forging of documents, unexplained payments to third parties and colossal financial mismanagement. Debts were running at close to £1bn. Player wages required a substantial cut to comply with La Liga regulations. Nevertheless, Laporta also had some proud news to report: the signing of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang was on the verge of being completed by the end of the week. This curious doublethink – "we're broke, new signings incoming!" – has persisted into the

'I never have any fear': Josh Kerr sets out golden vision for world 1500m final

Paris, July 20 : It has been impossible to miss Josh Kerr at these world championships. He is the man in the golden \$255 Oakley shades, with the speed and confidence to back up his sartorial flair. And having won his 1500m heat and semi-final, the 24-year-old Briton senses a golden opportunity in the final on Tuesday. Last year Kerr won Olympic bronze in a time of 3:29.05 – quicker than Seb Coe, Steve Cram and Steve Ovett in their prime. And while he faces a stacked field that includes the Tokyo 2020 champion from Norway, Jakob Ingebrigtsen, the silver medallist Timothy Cheruiyot and Abel Kipsang, the world's fastest man in 2022, Kerr insists he is in the form of his life. "I am Scottish," he said. "I never have any fear. I've been running since I was



nine years old and I've learned a lot of lessons through the years. This final is going to be an accumulation of 15 years of really hard work. I am going to give it every single thing I've got." The temperatures are due to reach the 30s in Eugene on Tuesday but Kerr has been helped by his sponsor, Brooks, installing an air-conditioning device in his dorm room to give him the best possible chance of staying cool. Sked whether his golden shades were sending a message to the rest of the pack, Kerr smiled. "I've won two for two, so you can't change it now, can you? I enjoy racing in them. I'm able to look around and no one knows where I'm looking. It makes

me feel like I'm making smart decisions." Kerr, who will be joined in the final by fellow Briton Jake Wightman, has never been short of confidence or an opinion. And having made waves this year after saying he did not want to be on a yoghurt pot – a reference to the fact that UK Athletics has a sponsorship deal with Müller – he now wants to make a giant splash. "You're going to watch me play hopefully the best game of chess I've done in my life. I am ready for anything. I'm ready to go out and run a PB so wherever whatever happens, happens and I'm just gonna give it my all. Hopefully I can go out there and be better than I was last year."

Geraint Thomas plays waiting game with Tour de France on a knife-edge



London, July 20 : Geraint Thomas enters the critical phase of this year's Tour de France knowing that victory in Paris on Sunday is a long shot but, if the stars align, still possible. After 15 stages the race's outcome is on a knife-edge. Unlike in 2018, when Thomas, the de facto leader of Ineos Grenadiers, seemed to win stages at will, he is playing a waiting game but one that might yet pay off if the defending champion, Tadej Pogacar, or the current race leader, Jonas Vingegaard, self-destruct in the final stages. "When I won the Tour, I felt I was the strongest and could do what I wanted," Thomas said, admitting that this year had required a different mindset. "Now there's two other guys that have been riding stronger and it's about waiting for any moment of vulnerability." I could do with Pogacar having another bad day to be honest," he said, referring to the Alpine climb to the Col du Granon, on which the Slovenian's form suddenly collapsed

and lost him the overall lead. "Coming into this Tour I had a different mindset, because I was playing more of a team role," Thomas said. But his consistency and resilience has paid off and the Welshman now stands third overall, just 21 seconds behind the UAE Emirates' Pogacar and 2min 43sec behind Vingegaard. "When I won the Tour I was able to go for the [stage] wins, whereas on the Granon I didn't have the legs to do that. On Alpe d'Huez I was getting to the top as quick as I could, but I wasn't going to jump with those guys [Pogacar and Vingegaard] because they're a lot more explosive than me." So Thomas has to cling on and wait, a patient limpet, waiting for the right tide. He must limit his losses in the summit finishes yet to come, at Peyragudes and Hautacam, and then hope for the time trial performance of his life on Saturday, on the 40km "race of truth" from Lacapelle-Marival to Rocamadour. Vingegaard's team, Jumbo-Visma, are now missing two teammates, both at their best

in the high mountains, in the form of Primož Roglič and Steven Kruijswijk. The team needs to present a united front if they are to successfully support the 25-year-old Dane all the way to Paris. Yet the behaviour of Wout van Aert, the race leader's star teammate, whose attacking style, particularly during the stage to Carcassonne on Sunday, has not always been in Vingegaard's interest, has surprised even Thomas. "Yes, pretty much. He just seems to have power to burn at the moment," he said of Van Aert. "It is strange to see especially when they lost two guys [Roglić and Kruijswijk] yesterday. It's definitely going to be a [challenge for them]." "They've got three days [the Pyrenean stages] left to control so it's not too long, but so much can happen in that time. If Vingegaard is vulnerable or isolated, even by a puncture, and he's got nobody there, that can cost him a lot of time. If they balls it up, it's not going to look good."

LIV golf tour 'talking' to Open winner Cameron Smith, says Ian Baker-Finch

London, July 20 : But reports persist he may be poised to join the Greg Norman-led venture, which is bankrolled by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund and has been heavily criticised by human rights groups, but has already recruited a list of high-profile names with exorbitant contracts. "I know that they are talking to him and many others," Baker-Finch, who won the Claret

Jug in 1991, told SEN radio. "I hope he doesn't because I think he can leave a great legacy by winning major championships and becoming the best player in the world. "I don't think he needs the money. I don't think it is going to be something that he should do." He will be a \$100m guy or more now. Does he want to win more majors or does he want the money? I am

hoping he stays and leaves a great legacy like a Tiger Woods or Rory McIlroy ... which he could do. I think Justin Thomas and Rory McIlroy and a lot of those guys that still compete and play well in majors, and want to leave a legacy, they're the guys I would be following." Former PGA Tour player turned on-course commentator, Colt Knost, has claimed Smith has been offered \$90m to defect. That would be almost four times his current career earnings, which stand at just short of

\$25m. Smith would be arguably the most significant signing yet given his major win has propelled him to a No 2 world ranking behind American Scottie Scheffler. But Baker-Finch said such a move would be detrimental to his overall career. "I think the young guys are missing out," he said. "The guys who go join LIV are going to miss out on the grind, what it takes to be a champion, to play in the great tournaments against the great players. It is hard work. You're not going to

become a better player by going and playing 54-hole exhibition matches and getting paid \$150,000 to finish last. "I understand the over-40s, the guys who can't beat the young guys any more. I get it, I totally understand it. Go play, have a good time, make good money for your family. I understand it all. I just hate the way they are saying that the other tours haven't done well by them or aren't doing a good job. "I just wish it wasn't so combative, I wish it wasn't ruining the ecosystem as we know it. Smithy has won \$8m [this year] already. I think that is pretty good. The guy that leads the tour over there this year will win \$30m. How can you complain about that? If you want to go play LIV, go play on that tour. Say goodbye. But don't ruin the system or speak ill of the system that has made so many millionaires."



NFL receiver Devon Allen disqualified by 0.001sec in world 110m hurdles final

Washington, July 20 : As it ended up, the Americans still won nine medals on home turf on Sunday at the world championships in what will go down as one of the most memorable days for the red, white and blue in its long, successful history. It was the best single medal day for a nation at the worlds, according to ganizers. Devon Allen's false start kept the US from a possible sweep in the 110m hurdles final and what could've been the 10th medal of the day. He will now take his talents to the NFL, where he'll attempt to make the roster for the Philadelphia Eagles. It was hardly the way he wanted to finish at worlds. "Track and field is so difficult because you train the whole year for one

competition that lasts 12, 13 seconds and that's that," said the 27-year-old, whose training camp with the Eagles starts on 26 July. "I'll learn from it and I'll make sure I just react not as fast next time." Allen's disappointment hardly spoiled a day in which the recording of the Star-Spangled Banner got worn out. It began with the hammer throw, where Brooke Andersen took gold and Janee' Kassanavoid won bronze. That was a warmup act for the night session, where seven medals piled up in a span of 10 minutes. The women's pole vaulters led the run with Katie Nageotte and Sandi Morris finishing

Tottenham seal Djed Spence signing from Middlesbrough in £20m deal



London, July 20 : Tottenham have completed the signing of the right-back Djed Spence from Middlesbrough on a contract to 2027. Spurs are paying an initial £12.5m but the fee could rise to £20m with add-ons. The England Under-21 international spent last season on loan at Nottingham Forest and helped the club win

promotion via the playoffs. He was named in the EFL Championship team of the season and the Professional Footballers' Association's Championship team of the year. Spence, who joined Middlesbrough from Fulham in 2018 and made 70 appearances for the club, is Tottenham's sixth signing of

the summer after Richarlison, Yves Bissouma, Clement Lenglet, Fraser Forster and Ivan Perisic. Antonio Conte, the Spurs manager, identified Spence because he believes he will thrive in his wing-back system, given his speed and desire to drive forward. Spence completed more dribbles than any other

Championship defender last season (76). Conte wants greater productivity from his wing-backs and he has upgraded on the left side with the free agent signing of Perisic. Conte converted the 33-year-old Croat from a pure winger to a wing-back when he was the manager of Internazionale.



Britain's Laura Muir emerges from 1500m slugfest with world bronze

London, July 20 : Moments after a world 1500m final so brutal it could have carried an 18 certificate, Laura Muir flopped to the track, closed her eyes and began swallowing vast gulps of oxygen. She was still on the floor five minutes later - longer than the race itself - waiting for the fire in her lungs and legs to extinguish, when a kindly official slipped a bronze medal around her neck. Then she began to smile.

The toughest race of her life, she called it. But in truth it was less a race, more of a slugfest between three of the greatest female middle-distance runners in history. There was no room for in-race subtleties or tactical niceties. Instead it became an all-out war from gun to tape: the 1500m equivalent of Marvin Hagler v Tommy Hearns with Ken Buchanan also wading in. The pace was so extraordinarily high from the start that after 800m there were only three women left chasing a medal: the double world champion, Faith Kipyegon, and Gudaf Tsegay, and Muir. Every-one else's dreams had been blasted to smithereens. The three continued to scrap it out until Kipyegon broke her rivals' spirit with 200m to go, to quadruple-plate her greatness with a fourth global title. The Kenyan's time,



3min 52.96sec, was as breathtaking as the race itself. Tsegay held on to take silver in 3.54:52, with Muir third in 3.55:28 - her second fastest time ever. Astonishingly the fourth-placed finisher, Frewyni Hailu, was six seconds and about 40 metres back. "Everything hurt," Muir said. "The last 100m my legs were just on fire. I felt like I couldn't lift them. I was running in treacle. Everything was burning. Even walking around afterwards, Faith [and I] were like: 'We are not OK, this is not good, everything essentially feels on fire.' But I knew if I got to the finish line, it was going to stop." What made Muir's performance even more remarkable was that she was unable to run for two months this year after suffering a stress fracture of her right femur in February. "It was the most significant injury I've ever had in my

running career," she said. "Two months I couldn't run, two weeks on crutches. It was the longest time I've had off running since starting." But she rebuilt herself. First in the pool and in the gym, then on anti-gravity treadmills and tiny runs on the grass. Gradually a season that looked a write-off began to go sunny side up. "We were lucky we caught it early," she said. "We knew something wasn't right. We got some advanced imaging. Had it been a fracture it would have been me out for a long, long time." The uncompromising mood of the race was established from the gun, with Tsegay charging to the front like a Pamplonian bull eyeing its first victim. But Muir had the smarts to go with the break, and the lungs to stay with it. The first 400m flew by in an unfathomable blur - and when the sta-

dium clock wrongly flashed 55 seconds instead of the correct 58.05 there was an audible gasp. By then two groups had already formed with two Ethiopians, Tsegay and Hirut Mesheha, alongside Kipyegon and Muir in front. By 800m Mesheha had been burned off and the only question for Muir was the colour of her medal. Not that she necessarily saw it that way. The 29-year-old has been gazumped so many times before at major championships that she half-expected disaster to strike again. "I was so scared someone was going to pass me," she said, recalling how in 2017 she was in second place in the final lap only to come a heart-breaking fourth, beaten by Caster Semenya by 0.07. "I was like: 'This isn't happening again.' I was going to give absolutely everything until I got to that line. "I was very, very tired. But that's what you want to be, knowing you've given absolutely everything. If I'd got to the finish having not given my all and lost I'd have been absolutely devastated." The taste was made even sweeter by the fact that her parents, Alison and Crawford, were there to see her win a global medal for the first time. They had been due to come to the world indoors

in Birmingham in 2018 before the Beast of the East struck, while last year's planned trip to the Tokyo Olympics was aborted due to the Covid-19 pandemic. No wonder Muir hugged them long and hard on her victory lap. Now she only needs a podium place at next month's Commonwealth Games in Birmingham to have obtained medals from all the major championships. And she received some welcome news afterwards when Kipyegon promised to give it a miss in favour of celebrating with her husband and daughter, Alyn. "My daughter means everything to me," said the Kenyan. "When I look at her every morning I work hard and believe in myself. This morning I asked her if I should bring chocolates or gold for her. She told me to bring home the gold, I am proud I can give it to her." But there was no one more proud in Hayward Field on Monday night than Muir, after a performance of staggering intensity and heart. Not that she is finished yet. "When I started in my running career I wanted to run all six champs, I've done that," she said. "Then the goal was to make the final of all six, and I've done that. Now I want to win a medal at all six." And who would dare bet against her now?



Jonas Vingegaard crashes but retains lead as Jasper Philipsen wins stage 15

London, July 20 : Jonas Vingegaard's Jumbo-Visma team suffered another traumatic day on stage 15 of the Tour de France with the race leader losing two key climbing lieutenants, as the peloton raced through furnace-like conditions on the road to Carcassonne. Primož Roglič, who had started the day as lead support rider to Vingegaard, and Steven Kruijswijk, both quit the Tour through injury, Roglič withdrawing before the stage began and Kruijswijk after crashing with 135 kilometres to race. Worse still, Vingegaard and teammate Tiesj Benoot also came down with 58 kilometres remaining and, in an echo of the stage to Arenberg, in which the Dutch team appeared chaotic, had to chase to re-sum position alongside closest rival, defending champion, Tadej Pogacar (UAE Emirates). But the loss of both Roglič and Kruijswijk, two of the team's strongest climbers, with three days of racing in the Pyrenees looming, may yet prove damaging. "I'm OK," Vingegaard said at the finish. He still leads Pogacar by two minutes and 22 seconds. "I've some road rash down my left side. I went down but quickly got up again. I feel a bit sore but that's how it is after a crash." On the absence of Roglič and Kruijswijk, he admitted that he had "lost two very important team members, two very strong riders, which isn't nice. It was quite a bad day for us". Vingegaard's

sports director, Grisch Niemann, was more direct. "It was a shit day," he said. "When Steven crashed it was immediately clear that he wouldn't continue as he fell hard on his shoulder. Then we jumped in the car to continue to chase the peloton and just when we arrived, Jonas and Tiesj were on the ground. "So everybody waited for them and then they got dropped trying to bring Jonas back to the peloton. I think Jonas was OK after that but we're another man down and that's not good. Luckily, there's the rest day. And then we see what the impact of this day was." The 202-kilometre stage was run in broiling heat, with several riders appearing at their very limit as the peloton raced on tarmac that had been sprayed with water to avoid it melting. Professional cycling's extreme weather protocol, allowing for more regular feeding and drinking from team cars alongside a relaxation of the stage's time limit, was also invoked, but for some riders the 40 degree temperatures were too much. Jasper Philipsen (Alpecin-Deceuninck) took the first Tour stage win of his career, after a final breakaway, French rider Benjamin Thomas (Cofidis), was caught inside the final 500 metres. "It's incredible," Philipsen said. "I know how much it means to win a stage of the Tour de France." Steven Kruijswijk (left, alongside Jonas Vingegaard) had to quit the race through injury after crashing with 135 kilometres of the stage left. Photograph: Marco Bertorello/AFP/Getty

Images Monday is a rest day, but the racing resumes on Tuesday with the first major Pyrenean climbs and the stage set for Pogacar to set about Vingegaard, much as he did Roglič in 2020, when he won the Tour on the penultimate day. The irrepressible 23-year-old is now, once again, breathing down Jumbo-Visma's neck, with his preferred terrain of the Pyrenees on the horizon. There are three days of mountain stages between the best riders, the leaders, and I don't think that having teammates will make such a big difference," UAE Emirates team manager Mauro Gianetti said. "Tadej just had one bad day, but we are in the position now that we have the opportunity to try something." "This is a different situation to 2020 [when Pogacar usurped Roglič in the final time trial]. We still have one week, there's a lot of kilometres still to race but Tadej is confident. He knows he has won the Tour twice and that he can do it again." Roglič, winner of the past three Tours of Spain, will now turn his attention elsewhere but even injured, his presence will be sorely missed. Niemann, though, dismissed suggestions that the Slovenian's absence could be critical. "If we thought he could have played a role for Jonas in the Pyrenees, he would still be here but he was going downhill very, very fast and his body was just not reacting anymore," Niemann said of Roglič's injuries.

Romée Leuchter puts Netherlands in last eight and eliminates Switzerland

London, July 19 : The Netherlands got the job done in sweltering conditions to secure progress to the quarter finals but despite an emphatic win they did not score enough to top the group and will next play a dangerous looking France. The Netherlands needed a draw to qualify and were level until three late goals, two from the substitute Romée Leuchter, secured victory. The holders were tested early on by Switzerland's persistent, high press. Such was the effectiveness of Nils Nielsen's 4-2-3-1 that Switzerland were able to deny Lieke Martens, usually a defensive nightmare on the Netherlands' left flank, access to the ball. In contrast, Switzerland's attack was powering through the opposition midfield with ease, evident through

Sandy Maendly's curling effort in the 12th minute that had to be tipped over by Daphne van Domselaar and highlighted also by Ramona Bachmann's swashbuckling runs down both flanks. A sloppy start from the Netherlands buoyed Switzerland's qualification hopes. But what Switzerland had failed to factor in was the Netherlands' second wind - which they have displayed in all their performances across the Euros. As the Dutch attack regained more possession, more passes got through to Martens and Lineth Beerensteyn. In the 20th minute Beerensteyn latched on to one of those through balls. Driving towards Gaëlle Thalmann's goal, her long legs seemed to become entangled with the keeper's hesitant hands and the referee, Juliana Demetrescu, pointed to the penalty spot. A few mo-

ments of VAR inspection later and replays would show the keeper had just got a glove to the ball. The overturned decision, however, allowed only a brief reprieve before Mark Parsons' side got going again. First, Jackie Groenen unleashed a volley from close range from a smart set-play routine. Next, in the 34th minute, Martens' looping header was pushed over by Thalmann's outstretched fingers. Nielsen's team would have to summon the same energy after the interval that they had started the game with to create a shift in momentum. However, before they could muster a charge, Ana-Maria Cmorogorovic had headed into her own goal. The Swiss midfielder had been attempting to clear Stefanie van der Gragt's header from a corner. Instead, she gave her side the mountainous task of needing to score twice. Yet



where there's a will there's a way, chiefly in Bachmann. The attacker muscled her way into the box four minutes later, squaring to Géraldine Reuteler who top-kicked past Van Domselaar. Van Domselaar was in the thick of the action shortly after when she made three saves to keep her side level while the Dutch defence faltered and tottered. Parsons' response was to controversially take off the experienced attackers Martens and Beerensteyn, along with the steadfast defenders Aniek Nouwen and Jill

Roord. Perhaps he had one eye on Saturday's quarter-final and a focus on helping his star players through 30C heat. The exodus did not matter. The Netherlands continued their assault on Thalmann's goal and the Swiss keeper had to make a brilliant array of saves to keep it 1-1. It took a decisive Leuchter header from Lynn Wilms' cross for her goal to be breached again, before the floodgates opened for the third and the fourth during stoppage time.





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