



# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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**Kate Moss 'sick and angry' at being made a scapegoat...**

02

**LIV has paid big money for golfers past their best. Will the ...**



07

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Newborn baby

**Assam Rising**  
**Guwahati, July 24 :**

A newborn baby was found lying beside the national highway at Ghograpar in Assam's Nalbari on Sunday. The infant is suspected to have been abandoned by someone on the roadside. Meanwhile, police in Ghograpar rushed to the spot and retrieved the baby. They have sent it to Nalbari civil hospital. Police said that they are still looking for the people who left the baby there.

### Drugs seized

**Assam Rising**  
**Guwahati, July 24 :**

One person has been arrested and heroin has been seized from his possession in Bokajan in Assam's Karbi Anglong district. Acting on specific inputs, a Bolero pick-up vehicle was intercepted at Dilai Tiniali. After conducting search operations in the vehicle, 19 soap boxes filled with heroin were recovered which were concealed by welding the body of the vehicle. The seized heroin weight around 241 grams. The vehicle bears registration number AS 02BC 7638.

### Road accident

**Assam Rising**  
**Guwahati, July 24 :**

Several persons have been critically injured in a road accident that took place at Raha in Assam's Nagaon district on Sunday. The accident took place after a traveler bus collided with a huge truck at a bridge at the national highway in Raha. Many passengers have been injured. According to police reports, the condition of the driver and two passengers are serious. They have been shifted to the Nagaon Civil Hospital for treatment. The traveler bearing registration number AS-01-HC-3783 was heading from Nagaon towards Guwahati. The bus has been completely destroyed as a result of the collision.

## Assam Likely to Face LPG Cylinder Shortage



**Assam Rising**  
**Guwahati, July 24 :**

Assam may face a shortage of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders in the com-

## Outgoing President Ram Nath Kovind expressed his gratitude to all Indians



**New Delhi, July 24 :**

In an address to the nation on the eve of demitting office, President Ram Nath Kovind expressed his gratitude to all Indians. "Ram Nath Kovind, who grew up in a very ordinary family in Paraunkh village of Kanpur Dehat district, is address-

ing all of you countrymen today, for this, I salute the power of the vibrant democratic system of our country," he added. Further, he stated that he received full support and cooperation from all sections of society during his tenure. The outgoing president also dwelled on the climate crisis and

low citizens, it has to be this," he added. Emphasising that the country is getting equipped to make the 21st century "the century of India", Kovind highlighted the importance of healthcare and education and said these, along with economic reforms, would enable citizens to pursue happiness by discovering their potential. "The pandemic has underlined the need to further improve the public healthcare infrastructure. I am glad that the government has accorded

top priority to this task," said Kovind. "Once education and healthcare are in place, economic reforms will let citizens find the best course for their lives," he said, adding that "I firmly believe that our country is getting equipped to make the 21st century, the century of India." He said the National Education Policy will go a long way in making it possible for young Indians to connect with their heritage and also find their

said the National Policy on Health envisages inter alia mainstreaming of Ayush in healthcare and to integrate these systems in areas of education, research in all tiers of healthcare delivery, the statement said. He said the Ministry of Ayush has undertaken various steps to encourage research and development, and innovation, develop apex Institutes for education,

## One More Assam Labourer Rescued from Arunachal



**Assam Rising**  
**Guwahati, July 24 :**

One more construction labourer from Assam who had gone missing in Arunachal Pradesh last

week has been rescued. The labourer was rescued on Saturday evening in the forest nearby Furak River in Kurung Kumey district of the neighbouring state. The rescued labourer was found in a very critical condition and thus was rushed to district hospital at Koloriang along with two other rescued labourers, as per District Commissioner Kurung Kumey Koloriang, Nighee Bengia. Earlier on Friday, seven out of 19 labourers who went missing in



**Islamabad, July 24 :**

A war of words between Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan erupted on Twitter on Saturday

(July 23, 2022) over the issue to bypass all the procedures for selling assets to foreign countries in order to prevent Islamabad from defaulting. In a fiery debate on Twitter hours after the cabinet approved an ordinance,

Continued on Page 6

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## Twitter war erupts between Pak PM Shehbaz Sharif and PTI chief Imran Khan

Khan questioned the credibility of "imported govt" for the sale of national assets, reported Geo News. "How can imported

Continued on Page 6

## Presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha does not want to return to TMC, says Mamata Banerjee

**New Delhi, July 24 :**

The Presidential Election 2022 is over. But Yashwant Sinha, the recently defeated presidential candidate, is not returning to the

## Union minister Sonowal inspects newly constructed campus of Unani institute at Ghaziabad



**New Delhi, July 24 :**

Union Ayush minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Sunday inspected the newly constructed campus of the National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM) at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. The institute is an extension of a similar facility in Bengaluru and will be the first-of-its-kind to be established in northern India, an Ayush ministry statement said. Sonowal

said the National Policy on Health envisages inter alia mainstreaming of Ayush in healthcare and to integrate these systems in areas of education, research in all tiers of healthcare delivery, the statement said. He said the Ministry of Ayush has undertaken various steps to encourage research and development, and innovation, develop apex Institutes for education,

Continued on Page 6



Trinamool Congress. When asked about the matter today, he said, "I thought about this after the announcement of the results. Decided not to join any political party. I will be with the people even without joining a political party." Yashwant has indicated that he will be seen active again in the Rashtriya Manch created by him. From there he can 'speak for himself. Apart from this, decide whether to create another stage or not. Yashwant joined Trinamool in March last year. He also became the National Vice President of

the party. After rejecting three consecutive presidential bids, Yashwant was finalized by the opposition. He told the press conference that he was leaving Trinamool for 'greater reasons'. After he lost, speculations started in the political circles, about will Yashwant return to the TMC again Yashwant himself rejected that possibility today. Despite not returning to his old party, Yashwant today expressed his gratitude to Trinamool and leader Mamata Banerjee. He said, "I got the most votes

Continued on Page 6

## With a 21-Gun Salute, Droupadi Murmu to take oath as President Today

**New Delhi, July 24 :**

President-elect Droupadi Murmu will take the oath of office and assume in duties of the office of president in the Central Hall of Parliament. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Chairman of the Rajya Sabha M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and members of the Council of Ministers, state Governors, Chief Ministers, Heads of Diplomatic Mis-



sions, Members of Parliament and principal civil and Military Officers of the government of India will as-

semble in the Central Hall for the ceremony on July 25. President Ram Nath Kovind and President-elect Droupadi Murmu will arrive in the Central Hall in a cer-

emonial procession. The President-elect will take the Oath of Office in the presence of the Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, followed by a 21-gun salute. The President will then deliver an address. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the President will leave for Rashtrapati Bhavan where an Inter-Services Guard of Honour will be given to her in the forecourt and courtesies will be extended to the outgoing President. The National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu was officially declared the 15th President of the country after the conclusion of the counting of

votes on Thursday. The term of President Ram Nath Kovind comes to an end on Sunday. Murmu will be the first member of the tribal community and the second woman to hold the top constitutional post in the country. Murmu was the first woman governor of Jharkhand and served in the post from 2015 to 2021. Born in a poor tribal family in a village of Mayurbhanj, a backward district in Odisha, Droupadi Murmu completed her studies despite challenging circumstances. She taught at Shri Aurobindo Integral Education Centre, Rairangpur. She has also served as a minister in Odisha.

## Iconic 100-year old Neral-Matheran mini toy train to resume services by this year

**Mumbai, July 24 :**

About more than a century old, the iconic mini toy train at Matheran hill station near Mumbai is likely to resume train services by the end of 2022. The mini toy trains' services were suspended following extensive damage to its narrow gauge rail tracks due to heavy rains. Once this more than a century-old heritage train starts chugging again after the restoration work worth Rs 5 crore gets over, travelling by it will be safer and more com-

fortable as compared to the pre-2019 period. The 20-km long narrow gauge Neral-Matheran train came to a grinding halt three years back as the railway line was severely damaged due to torrential rains and landslides. The train is currently operational only between two stations - Matheran and Aman Lodge - out of the total five stations. Between Neral and Aman Lodge, there are two stations named Jummapatti and Water Pipe. The officials said that the Central Railways (CR) has undertaken track renewal and



other related work, which is expected to get over by the

end of this year. The Neral-Matheran line was built in

1907 as a family enterprise

Continued on Page 6



## Texas lawmakers test how far their threats against abortions can reach



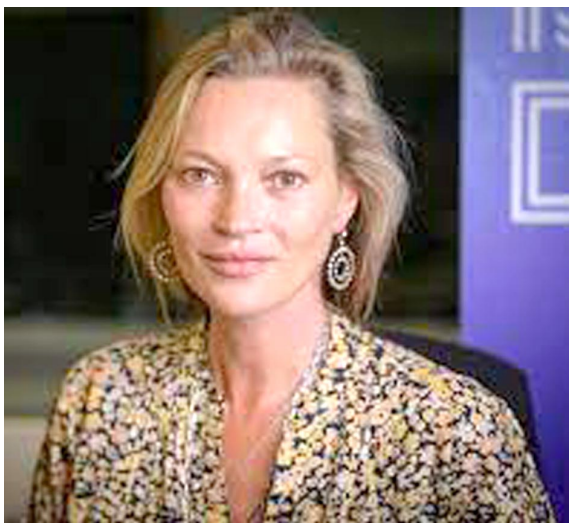
**Texas, July 24 :** Republican lawmakers have sent legal threats to Texas organizations that offer to fund out-of-state travel for abortions, potentially setting up a showdown between abortion law and long-held constitutional rights such as freedom of association and freedom of travel. The Texas Freedom Caucus, a conservative faction of Republicans in the state legislature, sent a letter on 7 July to a law firm that offered to cover employees' expenses if they travelled for abortion. It threatened Sidley LLP with felony charges, claiming Texas can criminalize anyone who "furnishes the means" for an abortion, regardless of where the abortion occurs. The letter cites a 1925 law which was not formally repealed after the supreme court codified the right to abortion in *Roe v Wade* in 1973; last week, the Texas supreme court confirmed the 1925 law can be applied. The lawmakers also outlined proposed legislation that would allow individuals to sue anyone who financially assists with a Texan's abortion, regardless of where the abortion occurs. The law proposes that such assistance be considered criminal even if a Texan travelled out of state for a medication abortion and took part of the drug in Texas. Texas already allows individuals to bring civil

cases on abortion, potentially costing defendants tens of thousands of dollars; the proposed new legislation would build on it, making defendants liable for actions that happen out-of-state, even where abortion is still legal. The letter is just the latest move by rightwing lawmakers, lawyers and activists to crack down on abortion provision in Texas. Last week, the state's attorney general, Ken Paxton, sued the Biden administration for mandating that states provide abortions in medical emergencies. In March, a state legislator, Briscoe Cain, sent a cease and desist letter to Citibank, who had announced a policy to pay for employees' out of state abortion expenses. The Texas Freedom Caucus did not respond to requests for comment, and Sidley LLP did not comment on how it would respond to the letter. Other firms have pushed back against similar requests. In September of last year, Uber and Lyft responded to the Texas bill that laid out legal repercussions for taxi drivers who (knowingly or unknowingly) transport a pregnant individual for an abortion after six weeks by declaring they would cover all legal fees for charges brought against their employees. Regardless, the

threats could have a chilling effect on employers in a state where abortion funds have temporarily shuttered in response to the shifting legal landscape. Local lawyers said they believe such threats won't hold up in court, but that abortion funds could be stuck awaiting their day in court. "Rightwing activists, lawyers and legislators have taken on a coordinated effort to intimidate and threaten anyone who advocates for helping people obtain reproductive care, without any concern for whether their actions are legal or constitutional," said Jennifer Ecklund, a lawyer for Thompson Coburn,

which is currently working on behalf of most abortion funds in Texas. "If they can scare everybody out of supporting pregnant people who need care, then they've achieved their end, no matter what a court says two years from now," she added. Texas could be a litmus test for other states hoping to enforce state bans across borders, at a time when a large swath of the population is forced to travel out of state for medical care. A Guttmacher Institute report this week showed that nearly one in ten people travelled out of state to get an abortion in 2020 - and that was before the reversal of *Roe*.

## Kate Moss 'sick and angry' at being made a scapegoat for taking cocaine



**Washington, July 24 :** Kate Moss, one of the world's most famous models, has spoken of her anger at the condemnation she received after publication of photographs of her taking cocaine in 2005. She took the blame, she believes, for the widespread acceptability of

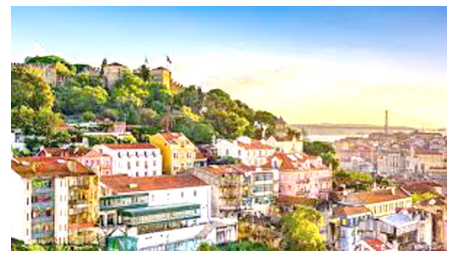
drug-taking in her circle. "I felt sick and was quite angry," the British supermodel revealed on Sunday in a rare radio interview, "because everybody I knew took drugs. So for them to focus on me, and to try to take my daughter away, I thought was

really hypocritical." Although Moss was not charged for the offence, and she kept her daughter, Lila, she lost lucrative contracts with several top brands and later said "sorry" formally in a public statement. "I had to apologise really, if people were looking up to me," she told Lauren Laverne, host of BBC Radio 4's long-running *Desert Island Discs* programme. For 30 years, Moss, 48, has represented the summit of British cool. But the woman whose motto "never complain, never explain" was borrowed from her former boyfriend, Johnny Depp, used the interview to speak out about the anxiety that crippled her teenage modelling years and of the abuse and mistreatment she suffered in the industry. Moss also explained her decision to speak up for Depp in his recent American libel case

against his ex-wife, Amber Heard, and talks about defending her old friend, the British fashion designer John Galiano, who was found guilty of racist abuse in 2011. "I believe in the truth and I believe in fairness and justice," she said. Her appearance at Depp's trial was prompted by a wish to set the record straight. "I know the truth about Johnny," Moss said. "I know he never kicked me down the stairs. I had to say that truth." The urge to stand by Galiano came from her belief that he is "not a bad person - he had an alcohol problem and people turn." "People aren't themselves when they drink," suggested Moss, "and they say things that they would never say when they were sober." At 14 years old, Moss was approached on an aeroplane journey by the owner of the Storm modelling agency, but she didn't imagine herself as a model. "I thought it was vain," Moss said. The start of her career in 1988 was traumatic and "a hard slog", she recalled. She had to travel across cities alone for photographing castings. At 15, she had the "horrible experience" of being asked to take off her top for a bra catalogue shoot. "I was really shy then about my body, and I could feel there was something wrong, so I got my stuff and I ran away."

## Ministers knew about UK passport helpline firm's poor performance a year ago

**New Delhi, July 24 :** Warnings about the "unsatisfactory" performance of the private firm running the beleaguered Passport Office advice line were made to government ministers more than a year ago, it can be revealed. Teleperformance, a French-owned multinational, failed to meet targets for responding to calls and emails as early as May 2021, according to official documents seen by the Observer. They show that a review of its performance last summer concluded that it needed improvement. But instead it worsened over the following months, prompting officials to pledge that they would work with the firm to improve standards. The revelation comes amid a mounting crisis at the Passport Office, with thousands of people unable to travel for holidays, weddings, funerals and family emergencies due to application delays. MPs were told last Wednesday that around 50,000 Britons had been waiting more than 10 weeks for their passports, with 550,000 applications in the system in June. The department is said to have too few staff to deal with post-pandemic demand and has failed to attract new recruits quickly enough. Teleperformance, which does not process passports but is the first point of contact for people seeking advice on their applications, is accused of worsening the backlog by providing unhelpful and sometimes even inaccurate advice. Customer service agents, who are paid just above minimum wage and work from home, in many cases do not have the security clearance needed to access details from the secure Home office system. A whistleblower said people were turning up at passport offices "in their droves" after getting a "bad service" from the helpline, leaving other staff working for the service to pick up the pieces. "By the time customers come to us they're saying they've been cut off, had the phone put down on them, been told they'll just have to wait for someone to get in touch and then no one gets in touch. They're really angry," she said. She added that the "sheer volume" of applications combined with staffing pressures meant workers processing the documents "just can't get through them all". On Friday, Dame Diana Johnson MP, chair of the home affairs committee, urged the Home Office, which runs the Passport Office, to review its five-year, £22.8m contract with Teleperformance, whose helpline she said was "one of the biggest frustrations cited by applications".



People attend a cultural event called Tramvaiul Bookaresti (Bookarest Tramway) in a vintage tram in Bucharest, capital of Romania

## Puzzle of prized white truffle finally yields to science

**London, July 24 :** They emit intense aromas of garlic, fermented cheese and methane, and are so rare that they can fetch up to £9,000 a kilogram. Now, the puzzle that has confounded experts for more than half a century, of how to cultivate the elusive white truffle on a commercial scale, appears to have been solved. This week, scientists from France's National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE), will reveal that, at a secret location in Nouvelle-Aquitaine, western France, they have cultivated 26 white truffles. While more than 90% of black, highly prized Périgord truffles sold are cultivated, previous attempts to farm their rarer white cousins have failed. This bumper harvest follows two productive years at the experimental plantation during which barely a handful



were cultivated." This significant increase in production is very promising," said mycologist and project leader Dr Claude Murat, of INRAE and the University of Lorraine, Nancy. "It confirms the truffle is well established." With black truffles it is usual to have just a few truffles at first and then a quick increase, and it seems the white truffle is behaving in the same way, which is good news for future cultivation." Truffles, like many other fungi, form symbiotic

relationships with certain tree species by linking up with their roots. They deliver extra water and minerals to trees in exchange for carbon-based nutrients. Scientists developed a way to inoculate trees with Périgord truffles in the 1970s, leading to the establishment of thousands of plantations in France, Italy and later Spain. The same technique failed with Italian white truffles (Tuber magnatum), despite planting more than 500,000 seedlings in Italy. A few

truffles were found in the plantations 15-20 years after planting, but because these were in areas in which T. magnatum occurs naturally, researchers believe these came from native fungi. Starting in 1999, researchers at INRAE and the Pépinières Robin nursery, in France, produced oak trees genetically confirmed to have partnered Italian white

truffles. These were planted in a number of truffle orchards from 2008. Tests on soil samples from five sites, all outside the part of the country where the species occurs naturally, showed the fungus was present at four of these. Three truffles were found at the orchard in Nouvelle-Aquitaine in 2019 and four were found in 2020. The 26 found in 2021 weighed about 900g in total. So far, 12 of the 52 oaks planted in 2015 have produced truffles.

## Kherson's secret art society produces searing visions of life under Russian occupation

**London, July 24 :** Under the threat of imprisonment, interrogation and the constant pressure of searches by Russian soldiers, six artists secretly met in a basement studio in the occupied Ukrainian city of Kherson. In the months after their homes were taken over by Putin's forces, the artists formed a residency during which they created dozens of works, including drawings, paintings, video, photography, diary entries and stage plays. The results, which they have named Residency in Occupation, offer a harrowing insight into the horrors endured by millions of Ukrainians living under the Russian invasion. Images show agonising embraces at train stations, families sheltering in basements - death looming behind them - houses on fire and figures dancing, human skeletons underfoot. When it became too dangerous to meet in person, the artists continued to work

individually. Some have since escaped the city but others remain, risking their lives. The group wants to exhibit its works, but to do so in Kherson, which has been occupied since February, is impossible. The residency's curator, Yuliia Manukian, who is now in Odesa having fled Kherson, said art could act as a powerful act of resistance. "I see how our artists tell the world the truth about the war through the language of the arts. It is also important for me to convey how cultural resistance takes place, as it is no less powerful than the physical one, because the front of culture is the place where a free future is being elaborated," she said. "Much has already been written about the need for a clear sounding of our independent voice in the international cultural and artistic arena, where for many years Russia dominated as a representative of eastern European artistic practices. So it is time to voice this more than ever." Since 2002, Kherson has developed its own art movement, known as "kher-art", embracing irony, sarcasm, audacity and being



against the mainstream. For the first three weeks of occupation, Manukian said they were "in shock". But after coming across the first works in response to the war by artists outside of Kherson, she started to see art as imperative for "mental salvation", and brought together six local artists. ZHUK, a well-known naive artist working under a pseudonym, had already started the work The

Unwanted Guest, a huge homet painted in acrylic on an old tablecloth, to represent the destroyer and invader. And within hours of the atrocities in Bucha being revealed, he created a poster entitled Putin Cock-a-doodle-doo. An artist working in an occupied village near Kherson under the name Marka Royal created an art diary entitled Z-Notes of Mrs Solodukha. "The war crossed out my whole life but my tiny workshop beckoned me," she

wrote. "But how could you draw if you heard explosions? I thought: who am I kidding and why? You can't pretend that the war is somewhere beyond. You have to document a series of your experiences on paper."

### Guest House

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



Villagers attend a celebration of a torch festival in Taiping Village in Nanjian Yi Autonomous County, southwest China's Yunnan





Guwahati- Jayanta Malla visited GMCH

## Bandhan bank growth in first quarter in FY 2022-23

**Assam Rising, Guwahati, July 24:** Bandhan Bank announced its financial results for the first quarter of financial year 2022-23. The Bank continued to witness strong business growth, as the economy revived strongly. The Bank's total business (deposits and advances) grew 20.3% year-on-year to reach around Rs. 1,89,707 crore as on June 30, 2022. The Bank serves 2.69 crore customers through 5640 banking outlets across 34 of the 36 states and union territories in India. The total number of employees

working at Bandhan Bank stands at 61,247. During the first quarter of the current financial year, the Bank's deposit book grew 20% over the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The total deposits now stand at Rs. 93,057 crore. In this period, the Bank's retail deposit book showed a substantial growth and grew 14.14% year-on-year to Rs. 72,950 crore. The current account and savings account (CASA) book grew by 21% year-on-

year, and the CASA ratio now stands at 43.2% of the overall deposit book. With respect to advances, the bank saw 20.3% growth over the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The total advances are now at Rs. 96,650 crore. Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR), an indication of the stability of the Bank, is at 19.4%, much higher than the regulatory requirement. Bandhan Bank is planning to open more than 500 new branches across India, in this financial year. The Bank is also growing its portfolio in areas like SME Loans, Gold Loans, Personal Loans and Auto Loans among other product ranges. Speaking on the results, Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, MD & CEO, said, "It has been a good first quarter for the Bank as we registered strong year-on-year growth. While we expand our distribution and also the product suite, we are fully equipped to serve the banking needs of Indians across the nation. We have been fortunate to earn the trust of crores of Indians and will continue to serve them."

## 221 took booster dose in Hojai

**Assam Rising, Hojai, July 24:** 221 people took booster dose at the Covid Vaccination Camp organised on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav by District Health Department in collaboration with Marwari Community at Sri Ram Sadan in Laxminaryan Temple in Hojai on Sunday.



A team from health department comprising of ANM Lakhirani Das, Phulpuli Pegu, MPW Dipesh Sarkar, Sanjib Debnath administered the camp with the help of Kamakhya Prasad

Agarwal, ex-president, Marwari Samellan, Hojai, Pradeep Sureka, President, Marwari Panchayat and Marwari Samellan; VP Mohan More, Manoj Samra, Pratap Kayal, Sunil More, Ramesh Mundra, Niranjan Sarawagi, Sanjay Murarka, Rakesh Agarwal, Kailash More, Jyoti Sureka, President, Marwari Mahila Samellan, Aman Kejriwal and other volunteers smoothly administered the camp where about two hundred twenty one people took the covid booster dose. People appreciated the efforts of Marwari Community in organizing

## Sali paddy saplings distributed in Nagaon



**Assam Rising Nagaon, July 24:** District Agriculture Department today ceremonially started the distribution of free sali paddy saplings among the flood hit farmers in the district. The distribution programme was ceremonially inaugurated by the local MLA Rupak Sarma here at Nagaon Dakorghat village. During the programme, the department concerned distributed free sali paddy saplings among 14 flood hit farmers of the village just for the first phase and the rest of the flood hit farmers of Kamrup, Nagaon and Raha revenue circles respectively would be distributed in the next phases of distribution programmes, a release

added. District agriculture officer Tarun Hazarika, Sub divisional agriculture officer, Nagaon Ranjan Kumar Deka, district coordinator to Assam Project on Agri-business and Rural Transmission,

Pankaj Hazarika were present in the programme. It is noteworthy to be mentioned here that just within a month, two recent waves of flood

submerged over 1900 hectares of farmland under Kamrup, Nagaon and Raha revenue circles in the district and destroyed all crops and vegetables of the larger areas. The district agriculture department led by district agriculture officer Tarun Hazarika initiated various steps to fulfill the requirement as well as aspirations of the flood ravaged farmers of the district for cultivating of sali paddy at the flood ravaged areas of the district right after the flood. Besides, the department concerned also made all arrangements to nurture sali paddy like Bahadur Sub 1 and Bina 10 specific species of Sali paddy in 18 community nurseries over 90 hectares of land for free distribution of saplings among the flood hit farmers of the district, the release added further.

## Special felicitation ceremony for the meritorious children of journalist held



**Assam Rising, Margherita, July 24:** The students who have qualified well in the recently announced high school education examination and higher secondary final examinations were today felicitated by the Journalists Association of Tinsukia district (TDJA). The special felicitation ceremony was organized at The Kakopthar Regional Cultural Association Auditorium in association with Kakopthar Press Club in collaboration with The Tinsukia District Journalists Association. A total of 10 students of journalists from Tinsukia, Margherita, Kakopthar, Digboi, Doomdooma, Sadia, Saikhowa and Jagun Press Club were felicitated under the Tinsukia District Journal-

ists Association respectively. Ranajyoti Neoug, general secretary of the Tinsukia District Journalists Association,

explained that "war is easy with co-war" and every fellow called for a happy partnership. He also promised to ex-

tend all possible support to the children of each journalist from the District Journalists Association. The special

felicitation ceremony was attended by the district president as well as several former presidents and secretaries



Guwahati- Assam Youth Olympics Gymnastic

## Review Meeting on Cross-Verification of House Damage Assessment in flood

**Assam Rising Guwahati, July 24:** A review meeting for cross-verification of house damage assessment in the recent flood under Kamrup District was held at the Conference Hall of the Integrated DC Office today. The meeting was attended by Chandra Mohan Patowary, Minister, Environment & Forest and Guardian Minister of Kamrup District. In the meeting 25 Nos. of cross-verification teams were constituted from the officials of

Education and Forest Department of Kamrup Metropolitan District which will visit and randomly verify at least 20 percent of the listed houses from tomorrow. The teams will finish their works within 3 days and submit its report for finalization of the list. In today's meeting Deputy Commissioner, Kailash Karthik N along with ADC, Revenue and Disaster Management Pranab Dutta Goswami briefed the rules to be followed by the teams. While addressing the meeting, the Guardian



Minister, Chandra Mohan Patowary directed them to do their works sincerely so that no genuine benefi-

ciary is left out or no genuine beneficiary's name is included in the list. The review meeting was at-

tended by all circle officers of the District and other senior officials of the various Departments.

## Humaira Tasnim of JNV Dhubri shines by scoring 99.8%

**Assam Rising Dhubri, July 24:** Humaira Tasnim, a student of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Alomganj in Dhubri district, has set a record by scoring 99.8% marks in the class 10 examination result declared by the CBSE recently. She has secured the second position across India.

Humaira has secured cent percent marks in English, Mathematics, Social Science and Science and 99 percent marks in Assamese. Apart from this, Rupak Burman, a student of class 10, has secured second position in the school with 97.40% marks. In class 12th, Abdul Hai Mondal has

made the school family proud by securing the first position with 94% marks while Saklin Mostak has secured the second position with 93% marks in school. Giving details of the result of the school, the in-charge Principal, Dinesh Prasad said that the result of both 10th and 12th class was 100%. He further said that humaira's top position has brought laurels not only to the

school family but also to the entire district. Humaira has credited her success to her parents and teachers. It is notable that Navodaya Vidyalayas are an autonomous body run by the Department of School Education and Literacy under the Ministry of Education, Government of India. The objective of this institute is to provide the best quality education by grooming rural talent.

## Cough syrup seized in Srirampur



**Assam Rising, Gossaigaon, July 24:** Simultapuri police on Sunday seized huge quantity of banned fancydyl cough from a truck bearing registration number RJ18-GB-1950 from inter state border Srirampur and apprehended one person in this connection. The truck was heading towards Silchar from Assam for the delivery of the banned cough syrup. The seized fancydyl was kept secretly and used other substances to hide the cartoon. Around 36 cartoons containing 3600 fancydyl have been seized by the police in the raid based on a secret input. The person have been arrested by the police identified as Rajesh Kumar (37) of Rajasthan driver of the truck. The value of the seized banned cough syrup would be around INR 12 lakhs in open market, police said.

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## THE ASSAM RISING

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## Monkeypox in India

Delhi has confirmed its first case of monkeypox on July 24, 2022, a day after it was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the World Health Organisation. The Health Ministry confirmed that a 34-year-old male resident of Delhi was isolated at Lok Nayak Hospital as a suspected case of Monkeypox. "A confirmation of the diagnosis has been done by National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune. The case is presently recovering at the designated isolation centre at Lok Nayak Hospital," said the Ministry. The close contacts of the case have been identified and are under quarantine as per the MoHFW guidelines. Further public health interventions like identification of the source of infection, enhanced contact tracing, testing sensitisation of private practitioners etc are being carried out. A high-level review of the situation has been planned by DGHS on Sunday evening. This current Disease Outbreak News on the multi-country monkeypox outbreak is an update to the previously published Disease Outbreak News of 10 June, with updated data, some further details on surveillance and reporting, One Health, gatherings, Risk communication and community engagement and International travel and points of entry. In this edition, we are removing the distinction between endemic and non-endemic countries, reporting on countries together where possible, to reflect the unified response that is needed. Since 1 January 2022, cases of monkeypox have been reported to WHO from 42 Member States across five WHO regions (the Regions of the Americas, Africa, Europe, Eastern Mediterranean, and Western Pacific). As of 15 June, a total of 2103 laboratory confirmed cases and one probable case, including one death, have been reported to WHO.

## 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

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

**Editor,**  
**The Assam Rising**  
Guwahati, Assam

## Victims of war crimes in Ukraine have an unprecedented chance to seek justice



There was no fear, no defeat in the eyes of Valentina (not her real name) - only quiet determination. She spoke calmly about the Russian soldiers, her younger son's age, who raped her and her friend in a small village outside of Kyiv. When her friend's husband tried to stop them, they shot him dead. I asked whether she wanted to pursue the case in court, and she did not hesitate. "To be able to live, I need to see him either dead or behind bars," she said. I have been documenting war crimes in different parts of the world for more than two decades, and every time I agonise about how to ask survivors whether they want to pursue justice. At what is probably the most traumatic moment of their lives, offering up an abstract concept like justice as a solution seems insensitive. But, every time, people like Valentina prove me wrong. Many survivors of atrocities may not be aware of the legal intricacies involved in holding perpetrators to account, or how long this journey may take, but they immedi-

ately understand the importance of seeking justice. Unless the perpetrators are held to account, they say, they can't turn the page. Using justice mechanisms to punish those who commit atrocity crimes is neither easy nor quick but, most importantly, it is impossible without the survivors themselves. The 2016 conviction of the Chadian dictator Hissène Habré for crimes against humanity and war crimes, including torture, sexual slavery and rape, was the culmination of an almost two-decade quest for justice. It was started by seven Chadians who filed a complaint against him in 2000. Despite being subjected to threats and harassment, these survivors pressed on to bring Habré and other high-ranking members of his regime to account. The survivor's group leader, Souleymane Guengueng, was eventually able to confront the man who imprisoned him in court. All the defendants were convicted, and significant reparations were ordered. Earlier this year, a regional court in Germany con-

**Any Neistat**

victed a senior official in Bashar al-Assad's government for crimes against humanity in Syria, sentencing him to life imprisonment. The court found him guilty of murder, torture, sexual violence and other crimes. The court also sentenced another Syrian official to four and a half years in prison for aiding and abetting crimes against humanity. While the case file included extensive documentary evidence, and expert and insider witness testimony, the case would not have happened without the Syrian survivors who came forward as joint plaintiffs. In another emblematic case in Germany, Nora T, a Yazidi woman and client of the Clooney Foundation for Justice's co-founder, Amal Clooney, launched a complaint against a former Isis member who had enslaved her and her five-year-old daughter and caused the child's death. The Isis member was sentenced to life imprisonment for genocide and crimes against humanity. Now, Ukrainian survivors of horrendous crimes committed during the Russian invasion have a unique and unprecedented opportunity to pursue justice on multiple fronts. The Ukrainian prosecutors have opened thousands of cases, and the office of the prosecutor of the international criminal court, supported by dozens of ICC member countries, moved swiftly to launch an investigation. Ukrainians can also file criminal complaints in many other countries under the principle of universal jurisdiction, which allows countries to

prosecute the most serious crimes regardless of where they have been committed or the perpetrator's nationality. This principle has been developing since the Second World War as a mechanism to pursue justice for the survivors of mass atrocities. There are more than 150 other countries where cases can be brought under this principle - but so far, only a handful, mainly in western Europe, have used it. It has never been simple. Legal requirements for bringing cases under universal jurisdiction principles vary and often require the presence of the perpetrator or some other "link" to the country. Foreign prosecutors are sometimes reluctant to open investigations, knowing that they may not have access to countries where crimes have been committed and will receive no cooperation from the authorities. The witnesses and victims may be far away, making it difficult to put a case together. And finally, the political will to go after members of the foreign military forces or officials is often lacking. For Ukraine, however, most of these obstacles are easy to overcome. Ukrainian authorities welcome international efforts to pursue justice and have demonstrated their willingness to collaborate. Millions of Ukrainians, including witnesses and survivors of international crimes, are already abroad in Europe and further afield. There is no shortage of evidence, with many national and international organisations carrying out documentation, supported by Ukrainian citizens themselves, who actively share information through social media and other channels. And there is an abundance of political will internationally to pursue justice for Ukraine.



Even the slowest-witted member of the Conservative party must have twigged by now. The pussy-bow blouse she wore to one of the televised debates. All those shriekingly unsubtle snaps of her riding a tank, sitting in a fighter jet and wearing a faux fur hat in Moscow's Red Square. Added to which are the thudding claims that she is a steely woman of conviction who will bulldoze through establishment obstruction in a heroic mission to save Britain. Liz Truss is not quite so crass as to explicitly call herself the second Margaret Thatcher, but she is very happy to encourage that illusion among Tory members. She certainly reminds me of a blond prime minister with intense ambitions and an outside personality, but not that one. The Tory leader she most resembles is not Mrs Thatcher. It is Boris Johnson. Should Tory activists choose Ms Truss, they will be replacing Mr Johnson with someone who shares a lot of his personal and political characteristics. She would be elevated to Number 10, as he was, with a thin record when it comes to governing. "She was never very good at anything she did," says one Tory who sat in cabinet with her. David Cameron promoted her to the top table in 2014 where she has sat ever since. That makes her the longest continuously serving member of the cabinet and yet colleagues struggle to identify a single standout achievement she can genu-

inely claim as all her own work. The most memorable legacy of her period as environment secretary was a toe-curlingly terrible speech to the Tory conference in which she expressed herself scandalised that two-thirds of the cheese eaten in Britain was imported. "That. Is. A. Disgrace," she declared to bemused delegates and giggling journalists. Her style owes debts to pantomime, another trait she shares with the outgoing prime minister. She has a Johnsonian penchant for boosterish rhetoric expressed in flamboyant phrases. Lacking his flair as an entertainer, she can also sound like a robot with malfunctioning circuits. Her collected quotations include such gems as "I want to surf the zeitgeist to where it's all happening". Theresa May made her the first female lord chancellor and then demoted her after less than a year in a role that overwhelmed her. The first job handed to her by Mr Johnson was international trade secretary which she used to satisfy her voracious appetite for self-publicity. Flanked by a union jack, she hailed every deal she signed as a fantastic triumph for Brexit and herself when most of them simply rolled over agreements Britain had already enjoyed as an EU member. Mr Johnson promoted her to foreign secretary last autumn because she was popular with Tory activists and he wanted to create a counterweight to Rishi Sunak. An indefatigable tooter of her own trumpet, she boasts that she has "stood up to Vladimir Putin". The people really doing the standing up are the brave citizens of Ukraine. Ms Truss is just one of a chorus of politicians to make speeches con-

demning the Russian dictator. She also likes to brag that she presided over the bargain struck with the Iranians to secure the release of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe. She did put effort into that, but comes distastefully close to suggesting this was an entirely personal coup, rather than the culmination of many years of campaigning by the family and behind-the-scenes negotiation. "I know all politicians do it, but she is a wholesale appropriator of credit she doesn't deserve," remarks one senior Tory.

**Andrew Rawnsley**

That's another trademark shared with Mr Johnson. The only constant of his shamelessly self-serving ascent to the top was the advancement of his own ambitions. In extremely challenging times, Britain could now do with a less shallow and narcissistic and more serious and responsible personality at the head of its government. One of the questions troubling many of Ms Truss's colleagues, less than a third of whom supported her in the final ballot of MPs, is whether her zigzagging political journey has ever been about anything more than limitless self-regard and incessant self-promotion. She was a leftwing Lib Dem as a student at Oxford and sought attention by moving a party conference motion to abolish the monarchy. After graduating, she morphed into a Conservative. She was a Cameron "moderniser" when that was the Tory fashion and she was seeking a parliamentary seat. She was a Remainder in the 2016 referendum, arguing that membership of the single mar-

ket was "precious". The power within the Tory party was then in the hands of Remainers and aligning with them looked to be the clever career move. When Out won, David Cameron quit and the Leavers began their takeover of the party, she recanted to become not just a born-again Brexiter, but an ardent apologist for the extremely hard version unleashed on Britain. With the reckless zeal of the late convert, she is hyper-aggressive about the Northern Ireland protocol, saying she is prepared to unilaterally tear up large parts of the agreement with the EU, even at the risk of precipitating a trade war in the middle of a cost of living crisis.

For all his bluster, the outgoing prime minister was secretly nervous about what that would do to an already battered economy. In belligerence towards Europe, Ms Truss, the former Remainder, now out-Johnsons Johnson. "Liz is so much fun!" one of her cabinet-level supporters recently said to me, which is exactly what I used to hear from Johnson backers before they put him in Downing Street. She is another libertarian with a contempt for rules and conventions. The national media first took notice of her when she ran into trouble with local party activists over an affair with the Conservative MP Mark Field. Her marriage survived; his didn't. "I've never liked being told what to do," she said in a speech at the London School of Economics in which she lauded those with a "maverick spirit", mocked environmental regulations and government advice on healthy eating, and exclaimed: "I see myself as the disruptor-in-chief!" Others say she is a "human hand grenade". Dominic Cummings, who has known her for a long time, remarks: "She's about as close to properly crack-

ers as anybody I have met in parliament." He predicts that she would be an "even worse" prime minister than his former boss. On the basis that it takes one to know one, that assessment is extremely alarming. The signature pledge of her campaign is that she can magic up £30bn of instant tax cuts by putting the cost on borrowing. Mrs Thatcher would not applaud this; she would be aghast at the frivolity of such fantasy economics. The Iron Lady didn't believe in unfunded and inflation-fuelling giveaways. She would be horrified by the notion of piling on more national debt when the government is already making record interest payments on its borrowing. Truissism isn't Thatcherism. What she's peddling is cakeism. In that sense too, she is the true heir of the outgoing prime minister. She is the anointed one of the Johnsonites. Jacob Rees-Mogg and Nadine Dorries are her noisiest cheerleaders. The Johnson-backing media has wielded its hatchets in a brutal effort to destroy her competitors. This is in part because she stayed in his cabinet to the shabby end and in part because the Brextemists think she will be their puppet. "She is the adoptive child of the ERG [European Research Group] and all the other batshit groups on the right of the party," says one Tory MP who would describe himself as a man of the right. Some think Mr Johnson wants her to succeed him not just because he hates Mr Sunak, but because he believes Ms Truss will protect him and his secrets. Mr Cummings has a conspiracy theory, which sounds so wacky it could be true, that Mr Johnson reckons there's a good chance she will blow up at Number 10, opening the door for him to return.

## Whatever happens with Agnipath scheme, it offers 3 real lessons for future reform

Further, the book proposes a seven-stage ideal-type pipeline for effecting a public policy change. The first stage of this pipeline is "the establishment of the statistical system". Highlighting the importance of this stage, the authors write, "Facts need to be systematically captured. Without facts, the entire downstream process breaks down." This precisely is the problem with the entire debate over defence pension - the absence of reliable, foundational data. Believe it or not, the government does not release defence pension data beyond the aggregate numbers listed in budget documents. For instance, we still don't know how this Rs 1.15 trillion amount is split between officers, non-officers, and de-



the armed forces community are convinced that defence civilians account for more than 45 per cent of the total defence pension expenditure. And whenever the issue of defence pension comes up, they cite this data point. However, there is no reliable information for this claim. Based on the last available data from 2016-17, defence civilians' pension was only 20

17 years. This move meant every soldier qualified for a pension by default on retirement. This decision was the primary reason for a steady rise in pension spending. Increasing life expectancy (a welcome development) and the One Rank One Pension scheme further contributed toward the pension expenditure rising from Rs 228 crore in FY81 to Rs 1.15 lakh crore in FY21. Here's why we need an Independent

**Pranay Kotasthane**

per cent of the total defence pension expenditure. And even if the pension outflow for defence civilians were somewhat higher, new defence civilians are now part of the National Pension System (NPS) since 2004. The issue has already been managed over the long term. But in the absence of reliable data, myths continue to be peddled. Calls for reforms become zero-sum contests between defence civilians and uniformed personnel or between developmental and defence expenditure. Had the government come out with a position paper on pensions, allowances, and personnel, the chances of getting people on board for reforms would have been higher. Seemingly small changes in pension policies can have hard-to-reverse, long-term detrimental effects. For instance, an executive decision in 1976 increased a 10-year service term for a non-officer soldier to

need an Independent Fiscal Council, which can help people and politicians understand the financial consequences of such plans before execution. While India has an institution (the Comptroller and Accountant General) to audit policies that are already in action, no organisation makes an independent financial evaluation of government policies before they receive approval. The 13th, 14th and 15th Finance Commissions have highlighted this institutional gap. This absence results in tall promises from parties' electoral manifestos becoming government policies without regard to fiscal sustainability. To take this idea further, Rajya Sabha MP Sajeet Kumar, Vedant Monger, and Vikram Vennekanti have proposed a law that mandates executive decisions pass through a legislation impact analysis ex ante and a post-implementation assessment in Parliament. Pension reforms have a reputation for being notoriously tricky across the world.



## Reliance warns of global recession



**Mumbai, July 24:** Reliance Industries Ltd. has warned that a global recession can hurt oil refining margins, flagging the possibility of more pain ahead after the owner of world's largest refining complex posted a lower-than-expected profit. "Recession fears are overtaking oil market fundamentals, resulting in lower prices and margins," Reliance's Joint Chief Financial Officer V. Srikanth said in a post-earnings call

Friday. He added that while there has been a lot of spotlight on the windfall gains for oil refiners like Reliance, there are also several headwinds such as higher operating expenses due to soaring freight and input prices. Raw material costs jumped 76% in the June quarter. The International Monetary Fund will cut its global economic growth outlook "substantially" in its next update later this month, according to Ceyla Pazarbasioglu, its di-

rector for strategy, policy and review. Surging food and energy prices, slowing capital flows to emerging markets, the ongoing pandemic and a slowdown in China are making it "much more challenging," she said. Crude oil prices have slipped in the past two weeks and if they fall this week, it will be the third weekly drop – the longest run of declines this year – primarily due to fears that a global slowdown may dampen demand for fuels. In the past few months, Reliance's refining business was boosted as it secured cheaper Russian oil shunned by western buyers amid the ongoing war in Ukraine. It was then exporting at higher prices and pocketing a healthy profit. That benefit is now eroding.

## Jennifer Rumsey Promoted to President and CEO of Cummins Tom Linebarger

**Mumbai, July 24:** (NYSE: CMI) announced that, effective August 1, 2022, Tom Linebarger will end his term as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Jennifer Rumsey, President and Chief Operating Officer (COO), will assume the role of President and CEO. Rumsey will be the seventh CEO and first woman to lead the company since it was founded in 1919. Linebarger will continue to serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors and in an Executive Chairman role, working directly with Rumsey on specific initiatives that position the company for continued success, including completing the pending acquisition of Meritor. "Jen is a once in a generation talent

and the right leader for Cummins at this important time in our history," said Linebarger. "She has been my partner in developing the Destination Zero strategy, which sets forth how the decarbonization of our industry will be a significant growth opportunity for Cummins. Her background as an engineer and technology expert provides her a deep understanding of the major technical changes taking place and how to capitalize on them. Jen uniquely understands our customers and business, having worked in many different parts of the business during her more than 20-year career, and in every role, she has consistently delivered results. Most re-



cently, she led our global operations as COO during one of the most challenging periods in our history, delivering record revenues and dramatically improving product quality and our market position while addressing unprecedented supply chain constraints. Most importantly, Jen is a principled leader who cares deeply about our stakeholders. We share a common vision for Cummins, and I am confident that Jen will lead Cummins into an even more prosperous future." Tom Lynch, Cummins Lead Director, said, "On behalf of the Cummins board, I want to thank Tom for his three decades at the company, including the last 15 years where he served first in the COO role and then as CEO.

His leadership has grown Cummins' global business, positioned the company to lead in zero- and low-carbon solutions, and developed a highly capable and diverse management team to lead us through the technology transition. We look forward to his continued contributions as Executive Chairman. During our long-term strategic planning, the Board had the opportunity to see Jen lead on key business initiatives and co-author the Destination Zero strategy with Tom. Jen is the ideal choice to lead Cummins into its next chapter, and we are confident that Jen will drive continued success for our business and customers." Since taking on the role of COO in March 2021, Rumsey has

overseen Cummins' global operations. In February 2022, she was elected to the Cummins Board of Directors, and she will maintain her seat on the board. "I am honored and proud to be appointed the next CEO of Cummins and excited about the future holds for the company," said Rumsey. "Growing up in Columbus, Indiana, where Cummins was founded, and spending most of my career here makes this announcement incredibly meaningful. I am grateful to Tom for his support and mentorship over the years and to the Board for their confidence in my leadership. My technical background, business experience and focus on people, purpose, and impact have prepared me for this moment."

## Banking Beyond Tomorrow - Annual Banking Conference 2022 in BOB

**Mumbai, July 24:** Bank of Baroda (Bank), one of India's leading public sector banks, organised the first edition of its Annual Banking Conference with the theme being "Banking Beyond Tomorrow" on Friday, July 22. Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, Reserve Bank of India was the Chief Guest at the conference and delivered the inaugural address. With over 20 eminent speakers from within the banking and financial services industry and outside, the full-day conference features five stimulating and thought-provoking panel discussions covering Banking Beyond Tomorrow; New Frontiers in Financial Inclusion; Innovative Technologies and New Business Models for Digital Banking; ESG Finance and Tackling Climate Change, and ending with an Economists' Roundtable. Shri Sanjiv Chadha MD & CEO, Bank of Baroda said, "As we step into the post-Covid-19 era, we have the opportunity to debate on longer-term trends and steer the discussion towards identifying the contours of Banking Beyond Tomorrow. The other aspect that we have learnt over the last few years is that banks cannot do everything themselves. They need to work with partners - partners who are increasingly embedded in core banking areas. The conference is therefore all about an outside-in perspective, and how we can define and shape the future of banks." The notable highlight of the event was RBI Governor's inaugural address. He spoke about the macroeconomic backdrop, noting that India's growth remains strong. He also mentioned that RBI will take adequate steps to ensure a 'soft landing' for the Indian economy. Notably, he defended the flexible inflation targeting approach of the MPC, highlighting

that it ensures the stability of the overall ecosystem. He also noted that RBI is well positioned to weather any external shocks. He mentioned that spillovers from global policy tightening, ongoing geopolitical tensions, Covid-19 induced slowdown, and commodity



price shock have impacted growth across economies. To reiterate India's strong external position, the RBI Governor stated that unhedged ECBs account for only a small portion of the total debt, hence India is adequately insulated against foreign exchange risk. On the regulatory front, the Governor pointed out that good governance and a sound risk management framework is essential for an efficient and well-functioning banking system. He emphasised how social media can increase customer penetration and used a tool for grievance redressal. He also flagged the need to recognise climate-related risks and incorporate them into business models. The theme of the first session was Banking Beyond Tomorrow. Eminent panelist Ms. Arundhati Bhattacharya, Salesforce India raised an important point and suggested the need for creating end-to-end digital products. She also mentioned the need for automation of services for the efficient functioning of the entire banking system.

Mr. Ashish Gupta, Credit Suisse said that customer activities should be through regulated entities to ensure KYC compliance and customer safety. Mr. Deep Gupta, Macquarie Asset Management noted that technology and green infrastructure are two of the

more products to further penetrate the rural and Agri markets. BOB World already has onboarded over 20 million customers. Ms. Kalpana Ajayan, Women's World Banking emphasised the need to focus on advocacy, gender-sensitive policies and mak-

ing women more comfortable with technology. Ms. Sucharita Mukherjee and Kaleido Fin spoke about the importance of account aggregators providing tailored credit solutions. Mr. Anil Gupta, MicroSave Consulting, the moderator, ended the session by stating that it is time to move from Jan Dhan to Jan Saham. A special address was delivered by Mr. Harsh Wardhan Modi from J.P. Morgan through video conferencing. He pointed out that in the current scenario, inflation is sticky and global interest rates will remain high. Banks with the best total cost-to-asset ra-

tio will gain long-term shares. Furthermore, in terms of digitisation, he highlighted that customer experience is becoming a prime driver of value creation in financial services. On cryptocurrencies, he pointed out that regulatory buy-in will be necessary for any form of money and payment system to gain scale. The next session shed light on innovative technologies and new business models for digital banking. In this session, moderated by Bank of Baroda's Chief Digital Officer, Mr. Akhil Handa, the conversation revolved around solutions-based services to enhance the digital outreach in the banking sector. Mr. Ajay Khurana, Bank of Baroda mentioned that micro-service-based architecture is better for enhanced customer experience. Further, he noted that Bank of Baroda's data lake is ushering in new dimensions of analytics. Ms. Lizzie Chapman, Zest Money spoke about complementarity between technology companies and banks wherein banks will bring stability and regulatory awareness. Pranav Arora, Accenture said that Open Banking is indeed a massive opportunity for all banks. Ms. Chetna G Sinha of Mann Deshi Bank agreed and further stated that the rural population is eager for digital financial solutions and that banks should pave the way.

## Expensive iPhone 14 Warning, MacPro Ignores M1, MacBook Air Problems

**London, July 24:** Taking a look back at another week of news and headlines from Cupertino, this week's Apple Loop includes iPhone 14 price shock, iPhone 14 Pro supply issues, latest MacBook Air problems, Mac Pro ignoring M1, Apple updates everyone's software, keyboard class-action suit progress, and a USB-C mode for your AirPods. Apple Loop is here to remind you of a few of the very many discussions that have happened around Apple over the last seven days. The Apple faithful were already bracing themselves for a price hike on the iPhone 14 family and this week saw more details on the impact of the economy on the production

of the iPhone. "We believe a \$100 price increase is coming for the iPhone 14," explained Ives. "Prices have been increasing across the whole supply chain, and Cupertino needs to pass these costs to the consumer on this release." One of the other issues raised by the strained supply chain is the availability of the iPhone 14. The projected stock has been moving up and down for some time, with more analysts now coming down on reduced availability at launch. If you're looking for a new iOS smartphone,

you'll have to be quick! "At that time, Kuo added that "Apple doesn't usually markedly change shipment forecasts for new iPhones (double-digit increase/decrease) before launching new models and confirming the actual market demand/feedback." Now, Kuo follows the same line by saying there's a supply issue but it will have "a limited impact on the coming mass production of the iPhone 14 because other suppliers can fill the supply gap."



## BHARTI AXA Life elevates MurliJalan

**Mumbai, July 24:** Bharti AXA Life, a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises, one of India's leading business groups, and AXA, one of the world's largest insurance companies, today, announced that MurliJalan, Head-Tied Agency &amp; Direct Distribution has been elevated to the role of Chief Distribution Officer, Proprietary. Mr. Jalan joined Bharti AXA Life in May 2020 and held the position of Head-Tied Agency &amp; Direct Distribution for two years. He has spearheaded several critical business initiatives and brings in rich reach with a strong commitment to building and enriching long-term relationships with distribution partners. Mr. Jalan has been at the forefront of conceptualizing the company's distribution vertical strategy and has been instrumental in driving its transformation. In his new

role, Mr. Jalan will anchor the Agency 2.0 initiative which is among the key growth engines for the organization. He will oversee product distribution and insurance income. He will devise and implement strategies to increase overall revenue, and boost productivity levels across channel hierarchies. He will be responsible for setting up internal controls to efficiently manage resources, optimize costs, and increase agency strength to drive profitability and sales. He will have a granular focus on developing new markets, designing new business models to achieve operational excellence, and leading a core group of senior members to improve the company's bottom line and the channels volume and scope. Further, he will look to create profitable scalability by designing and constructing a multi-able agency with a multi-



faceted alternate channel strategy and establish a fully reliable sales governance rhythm to track sales and support the top line for Bharti AXA Life. Commenting on the development, MurliJalan, Chief Distribution Officer, Proprietary, Bharti AXA Life Insurance said, "I look forward to the new role and help in broadening the company's footprint across India through strategic distribution channels. We will continue to foster an envi-

ronment that drives agility, efficiency, and innovation, and in turn, help us deliver value for all our stakeholders. Further, we will bolster our focus on strengthening our distribution network to broaden life insurance penetration across the length and breadth of the country." Mr. Jalan comes with three decades of strong experience in sales and business development across the manufacturing, banking, and insurance sectors, with a robust un-

derstanding of quality distribution build-up. With his vast experience, he combines industry best practices with market-driven insights to achieve measurable gains across key performance indicators. Under his leadership, Bharti AXA Life's distribution channels have been poised to achieve exponential business growth. Along with his team, he has been responsible for strengthening the agency channel and empowering agents to develop deeper relationships with prospects and customers. He has enabled the organizations distribution team to flourish as a powerful revenue creation engine by leveraging opportunities across customer segments. Prior to Bharti AXA Life, Jalan was associated with Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Co. Ltd., Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd., and TATA AIA Life Insurance Co. Ltd.

## LIC DhanSanchay Policy Provides Rs 22 Lakh at Maturity



**Delhi, July 24:** The Life Insurance Corporation, or LIC, of India is one of the most popular ways to save money for Indians who want a secured future and yet do not want to take any

risk in the fear of losing their hard earned money. Along with bank and post office savings schemes, investing in LIC policy is a go-to way to save money when it comes to getting guaranteed returns without having to take any risk. The LIC, has for this reason, curated specific plans for a specific group of individuals. The

corporation, backed by the government has an array of insurance plans for people of almost all ages and categories. The LIC DhanSanchay policy is a non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings, life insurance plan, which offers a combination of protection and savings. This plan provides financial support to the family in case of unfortunate death of the life assured during the policy term.



## Contd. From Page 1

## Union minister Sonowal inspects

and research in the Unani Medicine. "I am confident this Unani institute will popularise the Ayush system and cater to the needs of northern region of the country," he added. The foundation stone for the NIUM was laid on March 1, 2019. It will have 14 departments and provide post graduate and doctoral courses in various disciplines of Unani Medicine, the statement said. The institute will also focus on fundamental aspects, drug development, quality control, safety evaluation and scientific validation of Unani medicine and practices. It will establish benchmark standards in education, healthcare and research, it said. NIUM is constructed at a cost of Rs 381 crore and shall also function as an international collaboration centre for global promotion and research in Unani Medicine, it stated. The institute will have a pivotal role in making bilateral and multilateral collaboration with the universities/research organisations of international repute, the statement added.

## Twitter war erupts between Pak PM

government brought to power through US conspiracy, led by crime minister, who's family along with (PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali) Zardari have volumes written on their corruption, be trusted with the sale of national assets (and) that too (through) bypassing all procedural (and) legal checks." Pakistan's cabinet abolished regulatory checks including the applicability of six relevant laws in a desperate move to save the country from default through the emergency sale of state's assets to foreign countries, reported The Express Tribune. These are the Companies Act, 2017, Privatisation Commission Ordinance, 2000, Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2002, Public-Private Partnership Authority Act, 2017, Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan Act, 1997, Securities Act, 2015 or any other law for the time being in force or in any instrument having effect by virtue of any law other than the ordinance. Khan further accused them of "plundering Pakistan for the last 30 years" and for the "present economic meltdown." "These thieves should never be allowed to sell our national assets in the devious manner they are attempting. The nation will never trust them with our national assets," he wrote. Meanwhile, replying to the PTI chairman's tweets, PM Shehbaz said that he "suffers from a memory loss and needs a few reminders," reported Geo News. He wrote, "One, as per Transparency International report, corruption increased during his rule. Even transfers/postings were on sale in addition to big scams." "Two, the people are paying the price of how he mismanaged the economy," he added. Highlighting the third point, he accused Khan of "deeply hurting" the global prestige and standing of the country and its relations with friendly countries, reported Geo News. "Four, he has lost a sense of balance in his lust for power, which is evidenced by his habitual recourse to lies, propaganda [and] blatant twisting of facts," he wrote on Twitter. According to the ordinance, no court in the country shall entertain an application, petition or suit against any process or act of sale of assets to a foreign entity. However, legal experts say that the courts do not accept such ouster clauses, reported The Express Tribune. The ordinance states that no court shall grant an injunction or entertain any application for an injunction against any process undertaken, intended or purported to be undertaken for a commercial transaction or agreement. No suit, prosecution or any other legal proceedings or action in damages can be claimed against people who will be involved in selling these assets. Similarly, no investigating agency, anti-graft agency, law enforcement agency or court can initiate an inquiry into or initiate an investigation for any procedural lapse or irregularity by any person in a commercial transaction or agreement under the ordinance unless there exists evidence of personal monetary gain with corroborative evidence of the link between such monetary gain to the undue benefit rendered to any part of the agreement. No person will be sued in his personal capacity for action taken in his official capacity. However, sources said the price discovery mechanism could become controversial in the absence of transparency and low stock values due to a plunge at the Pakistan Stock Exchange, reported The Express Tribune.

## Presidential candidate Yashwant

from Bengal. But I did not campaign there even once. Mamata told me that to focus more on other states, she would look into the West Bengal polls." Yashwant is angry about the role of JDS. He said, "Both Deve Gowda and Kumaraswamy attended the presidential candidate selection meeting called by Mamata Banerjee. They talked about voting with the opposition. But in the end, why you did not vote for me, is not understandable!" Yashwant sees not only the tribal card but also the Central Investigation Agency's poker behind JMM's Hemant Soren standing by the BJP candidate instead of voting for him. Yashwant said, "If Shiv Sena had not broken up and those who had spoken, would have voted (JMM and JDS) then my vote share would have reached 45 per cent. The votes I got, despite that, were more than any losing presidential candidate before." On the other hand, the Trinamool camp said that Mamata tried hard to bring the opposition parties under one umbrella in the presidential polls. Proof of this is the record number of votes cast in favour of Yashwant Sinha as a defeated candidate despite hundreds of oppositions.

## Iconic 100-year old Neral-Matheran

of the Peerbhoyas and is now on the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) tentative list of World Heritage Sites. This toy train is one of the major attractions among the tourists, especially children, visiting Matheran hill station, located about 100 km from here in Raigad district. Apart from carrying passengers, the train helps the locals in ferrying essential items and other things. The track renewal work includes replacing old rails with new ones, changing the earlier steel, iron, and wooden sleepers with concrete ones, installing anti-crash barriers, erecting gabion walls, and building drains, among others, they said. According to the CR, it has already installed cement sleepers on the nearly 12 km stretch of the route. Matheran hill station is located at an elevation of around 2,600 feet above sea level. Since the train passes through a ghat (hilly) section having some sharp curves, the railway authorities are also installing new anti-crash barriers at dangerous spots overlooking the deep valley. To avoid damage to tracks during monsoon, the CR has been building drains along the route in some sections, erecting gabion walls at certain locations, and bolting rocks at some places to prevent landslides. According to the officials, the estimated cost of the work is around Rs five crore. "The Neral-Matheran track renewal and other safety work will help make travel safer, more comfortable, and better. The work is expected to be completed by the end of the year," Shivaji Sutar, chief public relations officer of the CR, said. The officials said that during the 2019 monsoon, the railway line was severely damaged and got breached at more than 20 locations. At a few spots, the tracks loosened up and even started hanging out as the embankment under it got washed away. Sutar said that the replacement of sleepers and rails will improve the train ride experience as passengers won't feel the bumps. Anti-crash barriers will make journeys safer, he said. A small stretch between Aman Lodge and Matheran was restored in December 2019 and has been functional since then. In the normal course, tourists can reach Matheran either using this train or by road. Since the mini train service is currently shut between Neral and Aman Lodge stations, passengers have to rely on either cabs or private vehicles to reach the hill station. But vehicles are allowed only up to Dasturi Naka, the entry point of Matheran, and only ambulances have permission to proceed further. In the absence of the mini train service till Matheran, tourists, as well as locals, have to shell out a hefty amount for the road journey. Moreover, after reaching Dasturi Naka, they have to either walk or hire a horse ride or hand cart to go to their desired destination in Matheran. In this situation, carrying luggage becomes a tough task. So the mini train is the only mode of transport that takes tourists to Matheran market from Neral village, and perhaps the most convenient one that also offers an enchanting view.

## Outgoing President Ram Nath

feet in the twenty-first century. Kovind was sworn in as the 14th President of India on 25 July 2017, at Rashtrapati Bhawan. He was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Chief Justice of India J S Khehar. On Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted a farewell dinner for the outgoing president. His successor Droupadi Murmu will be sworn in as India's 15th President on 25 July in the Central Hall of Parliament. Chief Justice of India NV Ramana will administer the oath of office to her.

## One More Assam Labourer Rescued

Arunachal were rescued. Meanwhile, five out of eight people were airlifted by an Indian Air Force (IAF) chopper and then taken to Tomo Riba Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (TRIHS) in Naharlagun as their condition was serious and required health treatment. As many as 19 persons are missing since July 5 from the project site and the body of one labourer was found in a nearby river. According to a missing report dated July 13 filed by the contractor who had brought them to the state for work, the labourers had allegedly fled the labour camps at the road construction site of BRO in Damin circle on July 5 after being denied leave to return home on the occasion of Eid al-Adha.

## Assam Likely to Face LPG Cylinder

against Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) authorities for not fulfilling the demands of the local transporters. LPG transporters of seven plants will be closed starting today. LPG plants including North Guwahati bottling plant, Tinsukia Gopanari Plant, Sarpara Bottling Plant, Bongaigaon, Dimapur, Slichar and Duliagan Bottling Plants will be shut down in support of the strike.

## Monkeypox reaches Delhi: Centre to hold review meeting amid new virus scare

**New Delhi, July 24 :** As the threat of Monkeypox outbreak continue to expand its horizon in India with the country's fourth confirmed case being reported in Delhi, after Kerala, the Centre on Sunday said that a high-level review meeting on Monkeypox will be held by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) today afternoon. The review meeting was held by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, reported ANI. The meeting comes as a 34-year-old male resident of Delhi was isolated at Lok Nayak Hospital as a suspected case of Monkeypox. A confirmation of the diagnosis has been done by the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, said the Ministry. According to the ministry, the man is presently being recovered at the designated isolation centre at Lok Nayak Hospital. The patient has no travel history. "Further public health interventions like identification of the source of infection, enhanced contact tracing, testing sensitisation of private practitioners etc are being carried out. A high-level review of the situation has been planned by DGHS at 3 pm today," added the Ministry. Meanwhile, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has urged people not to panic and assured them that the government is monitoring the situation as the first confirmed case of Monkeypox was logged in the national capital. According to Kejriwal, separate isolation wards have been made at LNJP hospital for Monkeypox-infected patients. "First case of Monkeypox detected in Delhi. The patient is stable and recovering. There's no need to panic. The situation is under control. We have made a separate isolation ward at LNJP. Our best team is on the case to prevent the spread and protect Delhiites," tweeted Arvind Kejriwal. The first case of the Monkeypox virus originated in India on July 14 after a UAE traveller returned to Kerala. He has been admitted to Thiruvananthapuram medical college. India reported its second case of monkeypox in Kerala's Kannur district on July 18.

## AAP MP alleges PM Modi disrespect Ram Nath Kovind, BJP clarifies

**New Delhi, July 24 :** Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Sanjay Singh on Sunday (July 24, 2022) shared a video of political leaders greeting outgoing President Ram Nath Kovind at the farewell ceremony in the Central Hall of Parliament. In the video, Prime Minister Narendra Modi can be seen standing and looking the other way, while other Members of Parliament including Union Minister Piyush Goyal welcome President Kovind with folded hands. Sanjay Singh posted this video and questioned PM Modi over it. He wrote, "Such an insult. Very Sorry Sir. These people are like this, your term is over, now they will not even look at you." Soon after this, a war of words erupted between the BJP and AAP today, in which BJP hit back at Sanjay Singh over sharing an edited clip of PM Narendra Modi. BJP's IT cell chief Amit Malviya hit back at AAP leader and fact-checked the video posted by him. Sharing the full version of the clip, which shows PM Modi welcoming President Kovind with folded hands before all other leaders, Malviya on Twitter wrote, "Fake news peddler Sanjay Singh at it again. Whose (from Kejriwal to Sisodia) lies are caught every day, and habit of tolerating humiliation, how do you know the way people are respected?"

## BJP questions Mamata Banerjee's silence on 'close confidant' Partha Chatterjee's arrest

**New Delhi, July 24 :** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday slammed the Trinamool Congress and said that the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's silence over the arrest of the state's Commerce and Industries Minister and close confidante Partha Chatterjee is an admission of corruption committed by the latter. Chatterjee was arrested on Saturday by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the recruitment irregularities in West Bengal School Service Commission when he was the state Education Minister. West Bengal BJP Co-incharge Amit Malviya tweeted: "Nothing else explains Mamata Banerjee's silence on Partha Chatterjee, her close confidant, now in jail, except an admission of the crime, when she had hit the road to defend a police officer! Mamata may be trying to distance herself from Partha, but their association is well known." Hitting out at the West Bengal Chief Minister, Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Saturday said: "In a well-planned conspiracy, Mamata Banerjee is trying to target the central law enforcement agencies and its senior officers and spreading lies so that her political and financial crimes remain under the carpet and are not made public. It is a ploy to hush up cases of massive corruption and scam of the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress government." Referring to ED seizures made from Chatterjee's close associate, Chandrasekhar added: "Ironically till a few days ago West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee used to praise her Minister Partha Chatterjee and his associates for their 'good work', now the entire world knows what kind of work they were doing. It is because of the 'good work' that illegal money and property worth crores is being accumulated." BJP National Vice-President Dilip Ghosh said: "A few days ago Chief Minister Banerjee had openly praised Minister Chatterjee and his close female associate. It is also a truth that under Banerjee's government, the recruitment process has never been fair and transparent, and in every government recruitment process there has been massive corruption and nepotism." Mamata Banerjee claims that she knows everything, but she does not know what her Ministers are doing."

## House collapses in Bihar's Chhapra due to explosion, six dead

**Chhapra, July 24 :** At least six people died after a house collapsed due to a blast in Bihar's Chhapra. Efforts are being made to rescue people trapped under the debris. We're investigating the reason behind the explosion. A forensic team and bomb disposal squad have also been called, reported ANI quoting Santosh Kumar, Saran SP. The explosion took place in the house of a person named Riyaz Mian in Khodaibagh village under Khairi police station, where firecrackers were kept in large quantities. Riyaz Mian is a firecracker trader, who allegedly sold crackers illegally during marriages. The explosion was so intense that his house was completely destroyed while cracks appeared in more than six adjoining houses. The police and firemen have recovered three bodies from the debris, including a woman and a child, which are yet to be identified. According to the local police, five more persons are trapped inside the debris which could further increase the death toll. The injured persons have been admitted to the Sadar hospital in Chhapra where their condition is stated to be critical.

## Vladimir Putin's msg for President-elect Droupadi Murmu: 'Russia attaches much importance to...'

**New Delhi, July 24 :** Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday (July 22, 2022) congratulated Droupadi Murmu for becoming the 15th President of India and hoped for further development of the Russian-Indian political dialogue and productive cooperation in different areas under her leadership. "We attach much importance to the relations of special privileged strategic partnership with India. I hope your activities as the head of state will promote the further development of the Russian-Indian political dialogue and productive cooperation in different areas for the benefit of our friendly nations and in the interests of stronger international stability and security," an official statement from the Indian Embassy in Russia said. Droupadi Murmu received 2,824 votes with a value of 6,76,803 and defeated opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha, who got 1,877 votes with a value of 3,80,177. She will be the first member of the tribal community, and the second woman, to hold the top constitutional post in the country. Born in a poor tribal family in a village of Mayurbhanj, a backward district in Odisha, Murmu was the first woman governor of Jharkhand and served in the post from 2015 to 2021. She will be sworn in as India's 15th President on July 25 in the Central Hall of Parliament. Chief Justice of India NV Ramana will administer her the oath of office.

## 'Centre tried to hijack...', Arvind Kejriwal's minister makes allegation against Modi government

**New Delhi, July 24 :** The Aam Aadmi Party on Sunday (July 24, 2022) alleged that the Centre tried to hijack an event of the Delhi government at the Asola Wildlife Sanctuary by replacing posters put up by the Delhi government with that of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the venue last night. Environment Minister Gopal Rai said Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was supposed to attend the event but has now decided not to participate in it. Rai alleged the Delhi Police acted on the directions of the prime minister's office. "Last night, the Delhi Police reached the venue of the event and took control of the area. They forcibly put up banners carrying pictures of PM Modi... The banners belonging to the AAP government were torn off," Rai alleged at a press conference. The Delhi Police warned people not to touch banners carrying pictures of PM Modi, Gopal Rai claimed. Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal were supposed to attend the event and all preparations had been made, he said. "An event of the Kejriwal government has been turned into a political event of PM Modi. The Delhi chief minister and I have now decided not to participate in the programme," he said. Rai said the incident showed that PM Modi is afraid of Kejriwal. "Attempts are being made to malign our government. Satyendar Jain was arrested on frivolous charges. Now a conspiracy is being hatched to arrest Deputy Chief Minister (Manish Sisodia). The CM had to go to Singapore but the file was stalled," he said. "The police are supposed to ensure the safety and security of people and not put up banners of PM Modi," he said.

## Dover travel chaos enters third day as queues also block access to Eurotunnel

**London, July 24 :** Holidaymakers hoping to travel to France have been told to expect a third day of disruption as the Eurotunnel was hit by long queues of traffic trying to reach Dover. Passengers hoping to cross the Channel on Sunday were told to expect delays of at least two hours due to miles of tailbacks to get to the ferry terminals. A day after authorities declared a critical incident at Dover, officials were handing out food and water to those stuck on the way to the Eurotunnel crossing in Folkestone. National Highways warned holidaymakers travelling to France to expect severe delays in Kent on Sunday. About 600 lorries were parked on the M20 as part of Operation Brock, which is designed to keep non-freight traffic moving when there is disruption to travel across the Channel. Jack Cousens, heads of roads policy at the AA, said Folkestone would be the focus of disruption on Sunday due to the aftermath of the "bumper-to-bumper" chaos in Dover. Two of the main roads towards the Eurotunnel - the A259 and A260 - were both gridlocked by 10am on Sunday as thousands of passengers headed for France at the start of the school summer holidays. Cousens told Sky News: "We've had lorries being stacked as part of Operation Brock on part of the M20 and the subsequent diversion now on to the A20 - they now meet each other at the terminal at Junction 11a and that's causing congestion." Our concern is the Eurotunnel is now going to be the main problem of congestion, particularly in the south-east. "People reported sleeping in their cars overnight as delays reached an average of about six hours on Saturday, although some waited much longer. Andrew Dyer-Smith and his family, who are heading to France for their summer holiday, spent 21 hours in traffic on roads around Folkestone. "We arrived at Folkestone at 9am yesterday morning for a train at 10.30 and then have been slowly crawling along for the last 21-plus hours," he told the .

## China says Xi Jinping given local Covid jab as it seeks to ease vaccine safety fears

**Beijing, July 24 :** China's Covid-19 vaccines are safe and have been given to leaders of the state and ruling Communist party, officials said, as Beijing steps up efforts to allay public concerns about safety that risk hampering its vaccination drive. "China's state and party leaders have all been vaccinated against Covid-19 with domestically made shots," said Zeng Yixin, deputy head of the National Health Commission, on Saturday. In China, "state and party leaders" is a specific category of top officials at the national and deputy national level that would include the president, Xi Jinping, and premier, Li Keqiang. Zeng's comment, which did not specify when officials received the jab and how many doses they have received, came about two years after the country launched its Covid vaccination drive. China lags behind many other countries in informing its public about the vaccination status of their leaders. Experts and officials have warned that lower vaccination rates for elderly people would probably squeeze health resources if the virus spreads widely, and render China less ready to emerge from its strict "dynamic Covid zero" policy that demands strict quarantine requirement for international travellers and various curbs on people's movement and local businesses in domestic areas with clusters. China reported 982 new coronavirus cases for 23 July, up from 817 new cases a day earlier, the National Health Commission said on Sunday. The bulk of the cases were in the northwestern province of Gansu and the southern region of Guangxi. The country has achieved a 89.7% vaccination rate and given about 56% of its 1.41 billion people a booster dose, but only 61% of those aged above 80 have finished their primary vaccination. However, more aggressive pushes by frontline officials, including limiting access of the unvaccinated to public venues, triggered online backlash and were quickly reversed. A major concern among the unvaccinated is the safety of shots being used in China, with anecdotes of post-vaccination severe disease stirring fear online and criticism over the lack of transparency of the government and Chinese vaccine makers. "Covid vaccines do not cause leukemia or diabetes, nor do they affect genetic development, cause tumor metastasis or antibody-dependent enhancement, and those are irresponsible, false information on the internet," said Wang Fusheng, an infectious disease expert at a hospital affiliated with the Chinese military.



# Old rules no longer apply as new breed of all-rounders embrace 'crazy' Tour



**London, July 24 :** Fifteen years have passed since the new Tour de France organiser, Christian Prudhomme, announced his intention of "sexing up" the race - my words not his - after watching a dramatic stage across Burgundy. Since then the Tour has gone in one direction: shorter stages, more hilltop finishes, the odd gravel road, cobbles, a search for routes where crosswinds may affect the peloton, fewer and shorter time trials; a search for ways to create tension and excitement, to

## Katherine Brunt sets record as England clinch T20 series against South Africa

**London, July 24 :** Katherine Brunt surpassed Anya Shrubsole and became England's leading women's Twenty20 international wicket-taker as the hosts beat South Africa by six wickets at New Road. The result means England clinch the three-match T20I series with a game to spare, having already wrapped up the multi-format contest. Alice Capsey, filling in for the captain, Heather Knight, who was ruled out with a hip injury sustained in the last game, took her maiden wicket on her debut for her country. Anneke Bosch and Lara Goodall combined for an opening partnership of 102 as the tourists set a target of 149, which England comfortably chased down with an over to spare. England had gone into the match with a 10-2 lead, having also won all three one-day internationals and the T20 opener at Essex after a draw in the standalone Test. Nat Sciver won the toss in place of Knight and elected to field first. South Africa settled into a comfortable opening rhythm, the opening partnership of Bosch and Goodall combining for 25 runs in their first five overs. The pair had put on 98 before Capsey, who watched England win the World Cup in 2017 as a fan, was handed the ball for the 15th over. Goodall pounced on the 17-year-old's first delivery with a reverse-sweep through point for four to bring up the century partnership for the tourists. The debutant responded in style, taking her first wicket with the next ball when Goodall, on 42, sliced to Sciver at backward point for an easy catch. Bosch reached 61 before falling lbw to Sophie Ecclestone, who finished with two for 27.

# Charles Leclerc takes French F1 GP pole for Ferrari with help from Sainz

**Paris, July 24 :** Against the painted symmetry of the Paul Ricard circuit, Ferrari excelled in qualifying for the French Grand Prix with a suitably artistic display of synchronised scarlet teamwork. So often the butt of criticism for poor strategy, the Scuderia pulled off an Italian job to perfection, ensuring Charles Leclerc secured pole for Sunday's race. He put in a fine lap for Ferrari but was aided by a tow from his teammate, Carlos Sainz, that helped him clinch pole, beating the Red Bulls of Max Verstappen and Sergio Pérez into second and third. Lewis Hamilton and George Russell were fourth and sixth - decent enough given their season but far from the improvement Mercedes had hoped for. An end to their winless run seems as far off as ever. Sainz finished in ninth but, with the team knowing he would start from the back row of the grid after taking new power unit components, they opted to use him tactically to



Leclerc's advantage. Leclerc had set the pace on his first hot lap in Q3 after enjoying a slipstream from Sainz on the Mistral straight. It was a vital advantage as Verstappen was breathing down his neck and crossed the line eight-thousandths of a second down, setting up a mighty head-to-head for the final runs. Ferrari repeated their tactics on the second hot laps with Sainz leading Leclerc but Red Bull did not use Pérez similarly for Verstappen, instead choosing to ensure they had two drivers in the mix

at the front of the race. Once more Leclerc, in Sainz's wake with the two a shimmering blur of red, line astern in the Provence sunshine, took advantage before the Spaniard elegantly peeled off from his path. Leclerc sailed past and smashed his previous lap with a 1min 30.872sec. Verstappen could not match it and was three-tenths back. "I have to say thanks to Carlos for the help," Leclerc said. "Carlos judged it perfectly and got out of the way at the right moment. I think [the time gained] is around two-tenths, so it's

great marathon; no team was physically capable of controlling Friday's stage finish, and the peloton was split into tiny groups on what, in less extreme days, would have been a routine bunch finish. Such crazy times call for the right actors, and it's clear that the old-style Team Sky/Ineos routine of cycling as catenaccio has been left far behind in the wake of Vingegaard and defending champion Pogacar, who has finally run up against a rival he can measure himself against, and - as when all greats meet their nemesis - he will emerge larger in stature for the way he battled vainly but enthrallingly against imminent defeat. The limitations of old-school race management were writ large in the sight of Geraint Thomas plugging away consistently but anonymously for a third

place which had little impact on the bigger picture. The eclipse of Thomas and other Tour contenders of a few years ago - Thibaut Pinot, Romain Bardet, Nairo Quintana, Primož Roglič - underlines that a generational shift has taken place. Given that we will all be able to revisit the Tour behind the scenes on streaming at some time soon, let's call it the arrival of the Netflix youths. In 2023, Egan Bernal is likely to play his part following his recovery from a horrendous training accident. His Ineos teammate Tom Pidcock's debut this year pointed at even greater things to come. Much is expected of the precocious Belgian Remco Evenepoel, held back from the Tour until he hits maturity, just as his illustrious countryman Eddy Merckx was, although Evenepoel grates at the comparison.

## LIV has paid big money for golfers past their best. Will the Saudis care?

**London, July 24 :** Sportswashing is not supposed to make commercial sense. Therein lies the reason that no normally functioning business saw fit to throw hundreds of millions of dollars at a disruption plan for golf. Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) can attempt to rebrand a kingdom for which the murder of a journalist and human rights atrocities are typical reference points with the benefit of an apparently bottomless pit of cash. If the PGA and DP World Tours find themselves embroiled in a commercial long game with the Saudi-backed LIV Series, they know they will be outmuscled. Events of recent days did, however, serve as a reminder of what advantage players of a certain vintage have taken of Saudis bearing gifts. There is cause to ponder the point at which the PIF - which is by very definition answerable to somebody - reflects on the value of golfers who have slipped towards irrelevance. That



day of reckoning will arrive. It is merely a question of when. LIV understandably heralded the coaxing of Henrik Stenson from Ryder Cup captaincy duties. This was a body blow inflicted by Greg Norman against golf's anti-LIV establishment. The behaviour of Stenson and his representatives is dispiriting stuff; having agreed to lead Europe against the United States next year in Rome, he had a contractual obligation to stay clear of LIV. If the Swede and his management knew a change of plan was possible all along, or even used the captaincy to leverage towards that, they should be ashamed. If this

chain of events took Stenson by surprise, there is a serious amount of naivety at play. In an incredible public statement, the 2016 Open champion tried to paint himself as a victim who was somehow edged out of the captain's role despite wanting to combine it with LIV appearances. What Norman, LIV's figurehead, will not want to focus on is that Stenson's on-course performances have fallen off a cliff. It is a triumph these days if he breaks 72. Since a share of ninth at the 2019 US Open, the 46-year-old's major record reads: T20, cut, cut, T38, T64, cut, cut,

**Paris, July 24 :** Two years almost to the day before the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics, organisers are reportedly "in a cold sweat" over security, financial, venue and staffing concerns that could take the shine off Emmanuel Macron's promised "national triumph". The reformist French president, who holds a meeting with key ministers on Monday for a progress report, has personally invested in the success of the Games, having energetically backed the city's successful bid to host them for the first time in a century as an opportunity to showcase the best of modern France. Organisers promise to deliver a new standard for mega-events with what they have said will be "the most sober, participative and sustainable" Olympics yet, thanks mainly to the use of existing high-quality



venues and a relatively modest •8bn (£6.8bn) budget - by comparison, the 2012 London Olympics cost almost £9bn and last year's rescheduled Tokyo Games had an official budget of £11bn. Just •1bn of the •8bn will come from taxpayers. But French media reports and a recent leaked financial update suggest all may not be going entirely to plan for the Paris Games, which will bring about 9 million fans, 25,000 journalists and 14,000 competitors from 206 countries to the French capital. Chief among organisers' concerns is safety, with current plans for the 26 July opening ceremony involving a high-risk waterborne extravaganza in which athletes and national delegations sail down the Seine in 162 open-topped boats, watched from the river's banks by a planned 600,000 spectators. The unique security challenge of the opening ceremony is already giving organisers "cold sweats", according to Le Monde. A former police chief said it would be "a dangerous moment" and

## Cricket must act to combat heat-and sooner than had been expected



**London, July 24 :** After all the jokes about climate breakdown warming up the chilly north of England - suddenly it wasn't so funny any more. A young Durham bowler being forced off the field at the Riverside by the fierce heat on his ODI debut wasn't on anyone's bingo card, but that was Matthew Potts' lot on Tuesday - as the UK spoiled and burned under its hottest day in history. Potts managed four overs before he left the field as the mercury hit 37C at Chester-le-Street in the first ODI between England and South Africa - hoping to return, but not, apart from a brief innings of four balls in the game's dying moments. In order to keep the show on the road, the players were offered regular drinks breaks, accompanied by wet towels, ice packs and parasols. Off the field, it was a similar story. The Riverside is an open

ground - with relatively low-level stands unfurled like hibiscus flowers and overlooked by Lumley castle. There is very little protection from the elements and on Tuesday, as the heat grew more relentless, spectators left the stands in droves searching for respite. Durham did what they could, opening up air-conditioned rooms to those suffering, but many fans gave up and went home. The club were forced to set up extra water stations as the queues for the existing ones stretched round the ground and such was the concern about player and spectator safety that the ECB and Durham had to consider calling off the match. In the wider north-east, sporadic wildfires spread and the nearby Durham University weather station recorded a temperature of 36.9C, four degrees hotter than the previous record set in 2019. Away from Chester-le-Street, in the County Championship, four clubs took up the ECB's offer of reduced playing hours: Gloucestershire and Hampshire and Northamptonshire and Lancashire, who played three sessions of 90 minutes, finishing early. Around the country, spectators stayed away and MCC members were allowed to remove their jackets - but not their ties.

## Woeful Red Sox concede inside-the-park grand slam in record 28-5 loss to Jays

**Boston, July 24 :** Raimel Tapia put his head down and started a slow jog to first base, not sure he'd gotten the pop he wanted when he drove a bases-loaded fly ball to deep center field in the third inning. Then everything about the play and the rest

of the night changed. Tapia hit an inside-the-park grand slam after a misplay by Boston center fielder Jarren Duran and the Toronto Blue Jays set a franchise record for runs in a game, rolling past the Red Sox 28-5 on Friday night. Toronto came within two of the

modern major league record for runs in a game after stranding two runners in the ninth inning with Boston infielder Yolmer Sanchez on the mound. Every Blue Jays starter had at least two hits, and Lourdes Gurriel Jr tied Frank Catalanotto's franchise

record with six of them. Danny Jansen homered twice and drove in six runs. Matt Chapman and Teoscar Hernandez added solo homers for Toronto, who topped their previous single-game mark of 24 runs set in June 1976 against the Baltimore Orioles.



# England netballer Eleanor Cardwell: 'People tell me my face has quite a lot of emotion'



**London, July 24 :** If you were awake at 4am in Manchester on 15 April 2018, you may have heard Eleanor Cardwell screaming. The netball player, like many of her kind, braved the early hours to witness a watershed moment in the sport's history. England's Roses, in their first Commonwealth Games final but up against the vaunted Australia, came from behind in the dying minutes to snatch victory from the hosts with a penalty shot after the whistle. "It was absolute chaos," says the 27-year-old with a grin. Having been a part of the Roses squad since 2016 the shooter was delighted: "I just remember feeling extremely proud of all the girls because I'd been through all the training with them and knowing what they'd gone

through as a team and how much it meant for them. I remember texting some of the girls who were also at home: 'Can you believe it?' "Four years later, Cardwell will go from watching at home to centre stage on court to make her Commonwealth Games debut as one of the 12 England players - and one of seven based in the UK - chosen to defend their historic title. While the make-up of the final team has yet to be finalised, the shooter's name has been a dead cert on anyone's list. Under the head coach, Jess Thirlby, Cardwell has clawed her way to the front of the pack. With her pinpoint shooting accuracy and commanding presence she has proven her worth against some of England's toughest

rivals. But perhaps Cardwell's best quality is that she is never overawed by the occasion. Where others can go missing at crucial moments, she is always there hunting the gamechanging moment. "People tell me my face has quite a lot of emotion. They'll say I'm angry, but I'm actually never really angry. I'm just trying," she says. "If I've missed a shot. I'm like: 'Right, that was definitely my bad; that was my mistake.' I go into a complete zone where I'm like: 'I need to win this ball.' "It might be instances where the centre is running towards me, and I'll mark them, or I'll try my best to mark her out the game. I'm not thinking too much at that moment. 'Right, I've got her - I'll keep her here.' There is definitely a switch. 'Right, here we go into that

mode - get it back: win the ball." Cardwell offers up two possible sources for her tenacity. The first is from years practising taekwondo. She credits the martial art for an "inner strength" opposition defenders have found themselves running into. The second is from having spent most of her netball life as a defender. The switch to attack occurred nine years ago when Cardwell bibbed up as a shooter to make up numbers in training. The then Manchester Thunder head coach, Tracey Neville, saw her potential and called her the next morning to tell her it was her new position. While she is grateful to Neville, who coached England to gold in 2018, Cardwell believes the shift may have slowed her England trajectory. "It was more me learning how to shoot was the initial thing," she says. "It was hard to make that transition, especially so late in my career." In the past year Cardwell has become a regular starter for England as well as going the entire domestic season undefeated as Thunder clinched the Superleague title. But she believes she has always been capable of producing the form she is currently showing, it's just now she has been afforded the chance to do so: "I

think I've always been able to do it, I've always shot the way I have, I've always been willing to go to post. Even when I was learning how to shoot, I was still just trying to shoot from everywhere." The opportunities I have been given have given me more confidence in my own ability and maybe the confidence in those people around me as well to just give me the ball and let me shoot. "I definitely feel ready on the international stage. I feel proud of the player that I've become and the journey that I've gone through to get to where I am. "A self-assured Cardwell will be crucial to the Roses' Commonwealth Games campaign, but expectant English fans will not be the only ones studying her closely. Next season Cardwell will join the Adelaide Thunderbirds in Australia's Super Netball, becoming one of the select few English players in the world's best league. If there is pressure on England to win and sustain the precious momentum they gained four years ago, Cardwell doesn't show it. Excitement is the prevailing emotion for now. But she is under no illusions about the challenge ahead. "We'll give it our best," she says. "We're hoping to get that gold medal and we'll do our utmost to get it."



## At Neeraj Chopra's Panipat Home, Tears Of Joy And Dance Of Victory

**New Delhi, July 24 :** Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra bagged the silver medal in the men's javelin throw final at the World Athletics Championships today, making him only the second Indian and first male track athlete to win a medal at the tournament. The legendary Anju Bobby George won a medal in athletics with a long jump bronze in the 2003 edition. Celebrations broke out at Mr Chopra's home in Haryana's Panipat soon after the 24-year-old produced a best throw of 88.13m to finish second. Family members were seen distributing laddoos to the guests soon after the medal announcement. The women in the family, who were largely indoors,

broke into dance to celebrate his victory. "We are very happy that his hard work has paid off," Neeraj Chopra's mother, Saroj Chopra, told. "We were aiming for a gold medal but we are happy that he's won a silver," said Dharamsingh Chopra, Neeraj Chopra's grandfather, as tears rolled down his eyes. "We hoped for gold but this feat (winning medal) is in itself a record in Indian history. In 2003, Anju Bobby George won bronze medal in long jump. Neeraj has set history today by winning the first-ever silver medal for India at the World Athletics Championships. He always creates history," Gaurav, a relative of Neeraj Chopra, told. Mr Chopra, who had come into the showpiece as a hot medal favourite, began with a foul throw and had 82.39m and

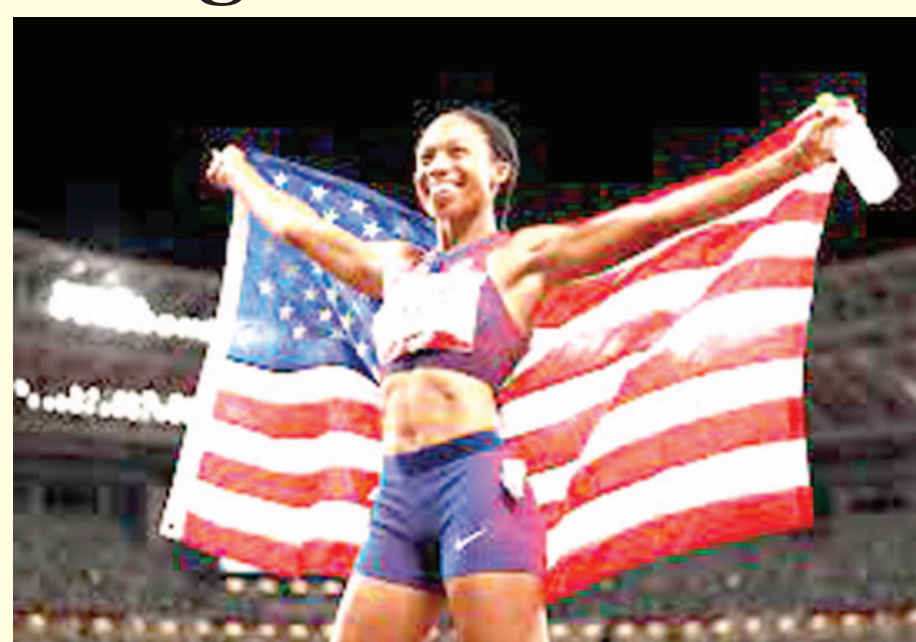
86.37m to be at fourth after three rounds. He jumped to second place with a big fourth round throw of 88.13m, his fourth career-best effort. "I am glad that he has reached the second place," his father told NDTV, which was present with the family at their home in Panipat. Mr Chopra's family was joined by neighbours and relatives as they watched the live broadcast of the competition in Oregon, USA. District Collector, Panipat, Sushil Sarwan was seen sitting with the family in the front row as they watched the competition. Inspired by Mr Chopra's performance in Tokyo Olympics last year, where he won gold, a majority of young boys in his village have taken to javelin throw. "We have also started training for javelin throw. We train daily in the evening," said one neighbour, who was present at Mr Chopra's home. "We are really happy that Neeraj bhaiya won the medal," said another. Defending champion Anderson Peters of Grenada won gold with a best throw of 90.54m while Olympic silver winner Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic took the bronze with 88.09m. Mr Chopra had topped the Group A qualification round and qualified for the final at second place behind Peters by sending his spear to 88.39m for his third career-best throw. Peters had topped Group B with an effort of 89.91m. The other Indian in the fray, Portugal's Pedro Pichardo continued his dominance in the men's triple jump by adding his first World Championships title to his Olympic gold with a world-leading 17.95m.

## Allyson Felix goes from eating hot wings in retirement to searing track comeback

**Eugene, July 24 :** Allyson Felix was enjoying hot wings and a root beer float at her favourite LA restaurant when she got the call. Would she come out of retirement for an encore? The answer was emphatic. As was her performance in the women's 4x400m relay heats after she arrived back in Eugene. The 35-year-old ran 50.61 sec - the fastest in the US team - as the Americans won their heat in 3:23.38, ahead of Great Britain, to qualify for Sunday's final. Great Britain's Dina Asher-Smith (centre) is consoled by teammates Imani Lansiquot and Daryll Neita after injuring herself during the women's 4x100m relay final at the world athletics championships in Eugene, Oregon. After Hayward Field roared its approval once again, Felix explained how her unlikely return came about. "I was at Halloween's cafe, one of my favourite cheat-meal restaurants," she said. "I was having hot wings and a root beer float, and I was just diving into that when I got a phone call. They just asked if I would be willing to come back and run a round and help the team get a position, and so I dropped the wing." She admitted there was no hesitation. She talked to her coach Bobby Kersee for some workouts and then got on a plane. "To me it is an honour to come here and run in front of a home

crowd and help the team," she said. "That is what it is all about. Bobby gave me a couple more workouts and then I jumped on a plane to head back here." And while Felix does not expect to start in the final, she will get a medal if the US team finishes in the top three. "This is a moment I will never forget, ending my career with the roar of the crowd," she said. Elsewhere on the penultimate day of the championships, a number of Tigray protestors marched around the Hayward Field concourse after Gudaf Tsegay's 5,000m gold medal. "End Tigray genocide," they chanted at the end. One protester also ran onto the track holding a Tigray flag. Tsegay, who had won

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a 1,500m silver early in these championships, won in a brilliant sprint finish as world record-holder

Letesenbet Gidey faded down the straight to miss the podium. Kenyan Beatrice Chebet won silver

and Ethiopian Dawit Seyaum claimed bronze. In the men's 800m, Kenya's Olympic champion

Emmanuel Korir ran a text-book tactical race to win in 1:43.71, with Algerian Djamel Sedjati taking a surprise silver ahead of Canada's Marco Arop. "I knew there were some guys close behind me in the last 100m. I was expecting someone to come, but no one did. Elsewhere, Grenada's Anderson Peters beat Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra to retain his world javelin title, saving his best for last with a throw of 90.54 metres after leading the competition throughout. Meanwhile, Portugal's Pedro Pichardo continued his dominance in the men's triple jump by adding his first World Championships title to his Olympic gold with a world-leading 17.95m.

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