



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

Vol. No. VII ■ Issue No. 165 ■ RNI-ASSEN/2014/58385 | GUWAHATI ■ MONDAY ■ AUGUST 01, 2022 | PAGES 8 ■ PRICE RS. 10.00

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NEWS IN BRIEF

40 Cattle Heads Seized In Kaziranga

Assam Rising Guwahati, July 31 :
The cattle heads were being transported from Dergaon in Golaghat and was en-route Sonapur when it was intercepted by police, sources informed. Assam Police on Sunday seized a truck on suspicion of illegal cattle smuggling at Kohora under Assam's Kaziranga. According to sources, around 40 cattle heads were recovered from inside the truck. Two persons, identified as Muhammad Mubarak Ali and Ankur Saikia, were arrested in connection to the seizure. The cattle heads were being transported from Dergaon in Golaghat and was en-route Sonapur when it was intercepted by police, sources informed. Earlier last month, Assam police seized a cattle laden pick up van in National Highway in Rangia. As many as 12 cattle heads were recovered from the van. Three suspects were arrested in connection to it.

Assam Couple Held

Assam Rising Guwahati, July 31 :
A couple was arrested in Assam's Golaghat for allegedly torturing a minor house help they had employed at their house. According to reports, the couple, identified as Nirupam Das and Pinky Saikia, was arrested based on a complaint lodged by the minor girl's family. The couple was arrested from Moran under Dibrugarh district, police said. The family alleged that the couple had been torturing the girl physically and mentally for the past four months. The woman however denied the allegations and said that they were being framed. An investigation into the matter has been launched by the police. It is learned that Nirupam Das works as an official of the Tea Board at Sonari and Pinky Saikia is an employee of the Sericulture department at Demow.

Cleanliness drive at Laxminarayan Mandir

Assam Rising Biswanath Chari, July 31 :
As a part of celebration of 'Azadika Amrit Mahotsav' Sri Sri Laxminarayan Mandir management committee, Samar Dalani conducted a cleanliness drive inside the temple premises in collaboration with the NCC cadets of Dakshin Nagsankar High School and public of the locality today. A total of fifty NCC cadets from Dakshin Nagsankar High School and the public put their hands together in the cleanliness drive. The drive was attended by Lila Kanta Sarma, secretary of the temple management committee besides other members.

Ab kab medal aayega?

How Cristiano Ronaldo-fan Jeremy Lalrinnunga answered critics with CWG gold medal

Assam Rising Guwahati, July 31 :



In Jeremy Lalrinnunga's cellphone, the wallpaper reflects a gold medal. Whenever he went to the phone, the wallpaper reminded him of the gold medal for which was madly passionate about. The same gold medal that he looks every now and then and is wrapped around his neck. Jeremy lifted a total of 300 kgs in the final of the men's 67 kg class to clinch it and it didn't come without pain. There was pain

that the world saw, on the screen, when he suffered cramps during his second attempt in the Clean and Jerk and then when he hurt his right arm in the third attempt, trying to lift 165 kg. In the end, it was all worth it. The visuals of him lying on the floor went viral on the internet. The commentator called him one of the toughest kids in the circuit. But there's also the pain that does not make it to the television screens.

The pain of several injuries, the pain of waiting for the big day, the pain of missing the chance to medal for more than four years and the pain of not going to your home for 2 years. Jeremy, at 19, has seen it all. What a kid, you must think when you see him cry in pain one second and then in the next moment, he goes and greets his fellow medalists on the

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Monkeypox hits children?

8-year-old in Andhra found with suspected symptoms

Assam Rising Guwahati, July 31 :

Suspected monkeypox in children. An eight-year-old boy in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur was found with suspected symptoms of monkeypox. Health officials said on Sunday that his samples have been sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune. The boy has been admitted to the isolation ward at Government General Hospital



(GGH), Guntur. The boy, son of daily wage workers from Odisha, approached the hospital with fever and rashes. The doctors isolated him and collected his

Viral Video Showing A Day In The Life Of A Panda Caretaker Leaves Internet In Awe

New Delhi, July 31 :

The internet is full of animal videos which show their funny behaviours. One such video now going

viral online shows some pandas playfully tussling with their caretaker. Shared on Twitter on Friday, the video has already garnered more than 6 million views

and over 220,000 likes. The clip opens to show a panda holding on to its caretaker while he moves around. The cuddly animal then even tries to climb onto the keeper's back. The video then cuts to four pandas following the caretaker around and playfully tussling with him. Watch the adorable video below: In the video, the pandas seem determined to stop their caretaker from doing their



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'Drastic' rise in high Arctic lightning has scientists worried

London, July 31 :

The high Arctic saw a dramatic rise in lightning in 2021 in what could be one of the most spectacular manifestations of the climate crisis. In a region where sightings were once rare, the Earth's northernmost region saw 7,278 lightning strikes in 2021 - nearly double as many as the previous nine

years combined. Arctic air typically lacks the convective heat required to create lightning so the latest findings, published in the Finnish firm Vaisala's annual lightning report, have scientists like Vaisala's meteorologist and lightning applications manager, Chris Vagasky, worried. "Over the last 10 years, overall lightning counts north of the Arctic Circle have been fairly consistent," Vagasky

said. "But at the highest latitudes of the planet - north of 80° - the increase

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CM provides financial assistance to orphan children under CM's Sishu Seva Scheme



Assam Rising Guwahati, July 31 :

Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma provided financial assistance under Chief Minister's 39's Sishu Seva Scheme (Phase-II) to 8 orphans who lost their parents during COVID-19 pandemic in a programme held

at Janata Bhawan today. The orphan children who received the assistance include Manjeet Baro, Taslima Khatun, Raju Chouhan, Annas Ali, Arjun Pegu, Shiba Pegu, Shivani Pegu and Priyanka Kalita. On the occasion, the Chief Minister also provided financial assistance to the

orphaned children of the horrible Satekona murder case, Tunesbar R. Marak and Joreka R. Marak, both residents of Satekona village under Boko Police Station in Kamrup district. They are the two surviving children of late Moindod D. Sangma

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Big Attack Foiled ? Techie with IS links arrested in Tamil Nadu was planning to kill 'VIP'

New Delhi, July 31 :

Horoscope Today, July 31 by Astro Sundeep Kochhar : Today is your lucky day, Libra! Big Attack Foiled? Techie with IS links arrested in Tamil Nadu, was planning to kill 'VIP' Chennai: Amid the ongoing Pulwari Sharif Terror module threats and Udaipur killing, in which a terrorist angle was suspected, engineering students in Tamil Nadu have been arrested for their



alleged links with the terrorist outfit Islamic State (IS). According to IANS,

the man was allegedly planning a terrorist attack and was in touch with the

banned organisation for the same. The terrorist suspect is a 22-year-old engineering student at a private college in Tamil Nadu. The suspect was conspiring to kill an important personality in Tamil Nadu to instil fear among the non-Muslim communities in the state, IANS reported quoting sources in the state police. Who is the IS terrorist suspect arrested in Tamil Nadu? Meer Anas Ali,

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Three white men sentenced to life in prison for Ahmaud Arbery's murder

London, July 31 :

A judge in Georgia sentenced Travis McMichael, Gregory McMichael and William "Roddie" Bryan to life in prison on Friday for the murder of Ahmaud Arbery, a Black man who was running through their mostly white neighborhood in February 2020 when they chased him down and killed him. Under Georgia law, murder carries a



mandatory life sentence unless prosecutors seek the death penalty. For the judge, Timothy Walmsley, the main decision was whether to grant

father and son Greg McMichael, 66, and Travis McMichael, 35, and their neighbor, Bryan, 52, a chance to earn parole. Arbery's family

had made powerful statements, asking Walmsley to show no leniency. Before sentencing, Walmsley said: "Ahmaud Arbery was hunted down and shot, and he was killed because individuals here in the courtroom took the law into their own hands. "Walmsley said Arbery left his home for a jog and ended up running for his life for five minutes as the men chased

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Assam Governor attends SVANidhi Mahotsav

Hails street vendors for their resilience and script success stories in spite of adversaries of COVID 19 pandemic

Assam Rising Guwahati, July 31 :

Assam Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi attended SVANidhi Mahotsav, a celebration of Atmanirbhar Street Vendors organized by Guwahati Municipal Corporation, DAY-NULM, ASULMS under Department of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of Assam at Srirama Sankardeva International Auditorium in the city today. It may be

mentioned that SVANidhi Mahotsav is a festival for empowering and celebrating the street vendors' growth story and their contribution towards Indian economy. The festival also aims at celebrating 75 years of India's independence with these grass root level entrepreneurs, honoring their journey under PM SVANidhi scheme. PM SVANidhi scheme provides initial loan of Rs. 10,000 and subsequently Rs. 20,000 and

Rs. 50,000 respectively after successful repayment of previous loans, allowing them to plan their business expansion. A vendor gets an interest subsidy at 7 per cent on timely repayment of the loans. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that he was very happy to be present at the Mahotsav where the government is working for the welfare of the weaker sections of the

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'We can't ignore reality': Colorado fires highlight urgency of US climate legislation

Washington, July 31 : Joe Biden ended his tour of neighborhoods devastated by Colorado's most destructive blaze by emphasizing the link between America's escalating wildfires and the global climate crisis, saying that the US can "no longer ignore the reality" of weather conditions that have "supercharged" blazes. Biden's trip to Boulder county on Friday marked his sixth climate disaster tour since taking office a year ago, underscoring the growing threat of global heating in the US and the need for radical action to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Last week's prairie grass fire destroyed almost 1,100 homes and some businesses after hurricane-force winds drove flames through to densely populated Denver suburbs,

forcing 35,000 people to flee. The cumulative effect of unusually wet conditions last spring followed by extremely dry and warm conditions through December - weather patterns linked to global heating - enabled the rare



winter fire to scorch over 6,000 acres, engulfing residential neighborhoods and commercial districts alike. After meeting some of the affected families, Biden

praised the courage of survivors and said: "We can't ignore the reality that these fires are being supercharged. They're being supercharged by changing weather." Biden pledged not to abandon



families as they try to rebuild, saying "we're here with you and we're not going away". The Colorado disaster capped a catastrophic year for the US in which at least 650 people

died from climate disasters including heatwaves, hurricanes, fires and floods. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the estimated economic cost of the destruction had topped \$100bn even before the Colorado blaze. A 69-year-old construction worker, Robert Sharpe, has been confirmed dead, while another person remains unaccounted for. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Biden's latest disaster tour underlines the stakes of his teetering Build Back Better (BBB) legislation, which earmarks \$550bn to tackle the largest sources of global heating gases - energy and transportation. The bill's passage has been impeded by the fossil-fuel friendly

senator Joe Manchin, who angered his Democratic colleagues by opposing the historic social spending package that includes major investments in forest restoration, wildfire resiliency, and mitigation as part of what would be the country's largest ever climate crisis investment. Experts say that without the bill it will be impossible to meet the administration's target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to at least 50% below 2005 levels by 2030. Globally, the US is the second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, after China, and scientists warn that even halving emissions by 2030 may not be enough to avoid a catastrophic rise in atmospheric and oceanic temperatures, which elevate the risk of wildfires, intensify drought and rainstorms, and exacerbate flooding.



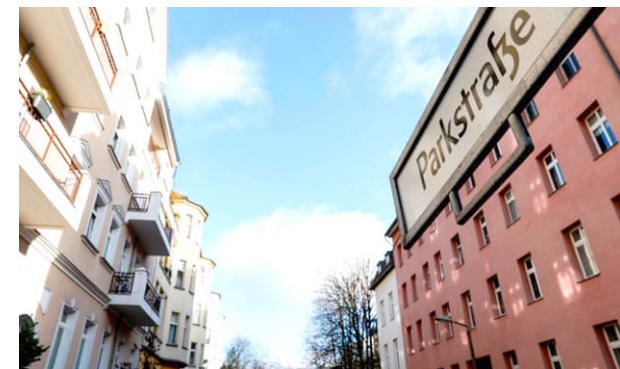
A Palestinian protester uses a slingshot to throw back a tear gas

German killer who had 'cannibalism fantasies' jailed for life

Berlin, July 31 : A Berlin teacher has been convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison for the killing of another man that the judge said was carried out as part of "cannibalism fantasies". The 42-year-old,

identified only as Stefan R., in keeping with German privacy rules, was also convicted of disturbing the peace of the dead after a trial that opened in August. The Berlin state court found that the defendant killed a 43-year-old mechanic in September 2020 "to live out his cannibalism fantasies", the news agency dpa reported. "What you did was inhuman," the presiding judge, Matthias Schertz, said. The men met on a dating portal and agreed to meet for sex at the teacher's Berlin apartment, according to investigators. The court found

intention. Police spent weeks looking for the missing mechanic before walkers found bones in a Berlin forest. The court found that the defendant bore "particularly grave" responsibility, meaning he will not be entitled to the automatic parole after 15 years that is customary in Germany. The defendant disputed the charges, saying he found his acquaintance dead on a couch after he spent the night, and did not call police or an ambulance "because it would have come out that I am homosexual".



that the defendant killed his acquaintance there, cut up his body and then left parts of it in different neighbourhoods of the city. It said the victim had not expected "an attack on his life". The defendant had increasingly "developed slaughter and cannibalism ideas" and had visited online cannibalism forums, Schertz said. Investigators found a bone saw and specialist knives at his apartment. Prosecutors said the defendant cut off the victim's genitals with the intention of eating them, and judges agreed, dpa reported. It could not be established whether he carried out that

The defence sought his acquittal. It is not the first case in Germany involving alleged cannibalism or fantasies involving it. In 2006 a court convicted Armin Meiwes of murder and disturbing the peace of the dead for killing and eating a man he had met online. Meiwes is serving a life sentence. A German police officer was convicted of murder in 2015 for killing a man he met in an internet chat forum devoted to cannibalism. Prosecutors said the victim had fantasised about being eaten, but there was no evidence that the killer had fulfilled that fantasy.

US secretary of state says diplomatic solution to Ukraine crisis still possible



Washington, July 31 : The US secretary of state, Tony Blinken, has said that a diplomatic resolution to the Ukraine crisis was still possible and preferable, but warned that progress was impossible while Russia continued to escalate pressure along the border. Blinken was speaking after a virtual meeting of NATO foreign ministers and before a week of intensive diplomacy in Europe aimed at fending off a threatened Russian invasion of Ukraine. He said that the US and its allies could talk about "confidence-building measures, greater transparency, [and] risk reduction" with Russia but the treaties Moscow is

demanding the US and NATO sign on unilateral troop withdrawal from eastern Europe and ruling out future Ukrainian membership of NATO were "non-starters". Jens Stoltenberg, the NATO secretary general, also vowed that NATO would never withdraw its conditional offer of membership to Ukraine, arguing the true threat to Russia was Ukraine's secure democratic politics. Blinken accused Russia of "gaslighting" the world with its claim that NATO and Ukraine were threatening Moscow rather than the other way around. "No one should be surprised if Russia instigates a provocation or incident then tries to use it to justify military intervention, hoping that by the time the world realises the ruse it'll be too late," he said. The secretary of state pointed out that Russia had massed 100,000 troops around Ukraine with "plans to mobilise twice that number on very short order".

Dubai, July 31 : Employees and schoolchildren juggled work and studies with weekly Muslim prayers on the first ever working Friday in the United Arab Emirates, as the Gulf country formally switched to a Saturday-Sunday weekend. Some grumbled at



the change and businesses were split, with many moving to the western-style weekend but other private firms sticking with Fridays and Saturdays, as in other Gulf states. The weekly day of prayer has always been a free day in the UAE, which had previously observed a Thursday-Friday weekend until 2006. Mosques

appeared busy as worshippers carrying prayer mats arrived as usual, before many of them later headed back to the office. "I'd rather take [Friday] off," said the 22-year-old Briton Rachel King, who works in the hospitality industry and has been living in Dubai for six months.



"That is what we all know and love - having a Friday off and going to certain places that are open and we could do things. But now it is going to be Saturday." The UAE made the surprise announcement about the weekend switch for the public sector in December as it grappled with rising competition in international business from other Gulf

countries, particularly Saudi Arabia. Government bodies and schools will operate four and a half-days a week, closing at 12 noon on Fridays for a fixed prayer time of 1.15 pm. The Muslim prayer schedule usually depends on the position of the sun. Out of 195 businesses polled by the human resources consultancy Mercer, only 23% were preparing to follow the four-and-a-half-day week, but more than half would switch to Saturday-Sunday weekends. "Luckily I have the same days off as my kids, but that's not the case for my husband," said Fati, who works in an international distribution company, asking not to give her full name. "He works for a multinational that hasn't changed its schedule for the moment. I hope they will do it quickly, otherwise our family life will be ruined." Nearly a third of companies were worried about the impact of being out of sync with other countries in the region, the Mercer poll found. "We work a lot with Egypt and Saudi Arabia," said Rana, an employee of an events

company who said some of her teams would have to work on Sundays. Dubai's financial district was unusually quiet on Friday with large numbers working remotely, especially at a time of rising Covid levels when many children are also doing online schooling. "Today is the first working Friday, it feels a bit weird," said Ahmad Bilbisi, 34, a banking employee. "It makes sense to me, at least for the banking industry. We are now working on the same day as everyone else in the world. The new arrangement was a major talking point on social media, with one Twitter user complaining: 'It just feels so wrong.' My body and mind have fully acclimatised to having Fridays off. I think today is going to be a long hard struggle," they added. Sharjah, an emirate neighbouring Dubai, has found a simple solution: mandating Friday, Saturday and Sunday as a three-day weekend.

Japan attempts to stem surge in Covid cases linked to US military bases

Tokyo, July 31 : Japan is to introduce limits on bar and restaurant opening times in three areas in an attempt to stem

a surge in coronavirus cases that has been linked to US military bases. The measures - officially described as a quasi-state of emergency - will go into effect from Sunday until the end of the month in Okinawa, home to more than half of the US service personnel based in Japan, and parts of the western prefectures of Hiroshima and



Yamaguchi, which also hosts American troops. The prime minister, Fumio Kishida, has come under increasing pressure this week to address outbreaks that began at US military facilities last month

and have since spread to the local civilian population. US military authorities on Thursday announced stricter Covid-19 measures, including mandatory mask wearing off base and stronger testing regimes. New cases have surged in Okinawa, Japan's southernmost prefecture, since the start of the year, rising from 51 last Saturday to a record 1,414 on Friday. Those numbers do not include new infections found among US military personnel and their families. "This number will likely stay high and steadily increase," said the governor of Okinawa, Denny Tamaki, who has publicly criticised the US military over its response to outbreaks at local bases. Tamaki now has the power to ask restaurants and bars in Okinawa to reduce their opening hours. While the measures are voluntary, establishments that refuse to comply can face fines. The measures approved on Friday will be the first in Japan since last September, when a dramatic fall in cases prompted the government to end months of restrictions in many parts of the country. Infections have also been on the rise in the larger cities. Tokyo reported 922 new cases on Friday, the most since 15 September, prompting officials to direct restaurants to reduce the number of people in groups of diners from eight to four.

Cambodian PM Hun Sen's visit with Myanmar military chief sparks protests

Yangon, July 31 : Cambodian prime minister Hun Sen has met Myanmar's military ruler Min Aung Hlaing, amid criticism of the first visit by a head of government since the army seized power from an elected government last



year. Hun Sen was greeted by an honour guard and red carpet when he arrived on Friday, just as protests by coup opponents broke out in other parts of the country over fears his trip will provide more legitimacy to the ruling junta. Myanmar state television later showed images of the two leaders bumping elbows and sitting down for talks in gilded chairs. Hun Sen's two-day visit was the first by a head of government since the army overthrew the civilian administration of Aung San Suu Kyi on 1 February last

year, sparking months of protests and a bloody crackdown. The Cambodian leader, who has been criticised over crackdowns on his political opponents at home, has said he was

Myanmar, opponents of military rule have said Hun Sen, who seized power in Phnom Penh in a 1997 coup, is backing the junta by making the trip. In Depayin, about 300 km north of the capital, Naypyidaw,

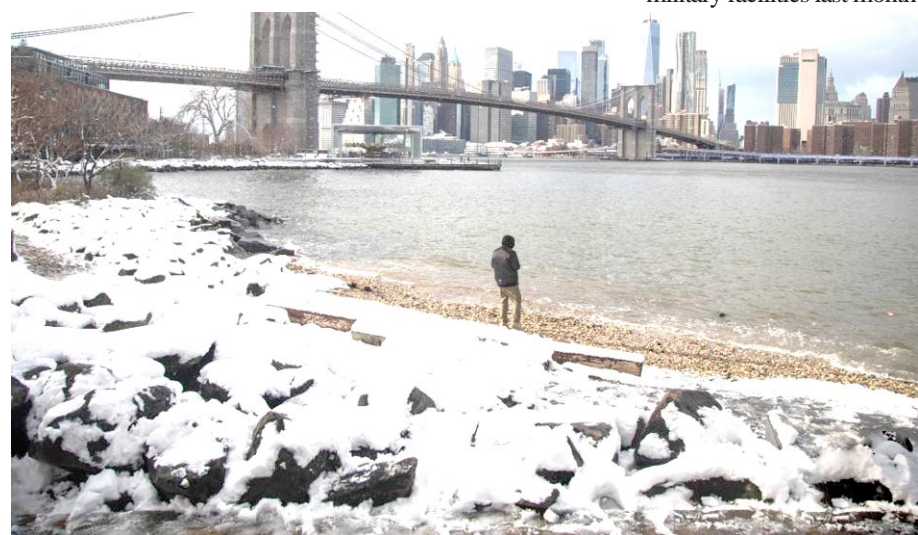
protesters burned a poster of the Cambodian prime minister and chanted "Hun Sen don't come to Myanmar. We don't want dictator Hun Sen", photographs on social media showed. There were also reports of protests in the second city of Mandalay and the Tanintharyi and Monywa regions. In a speech on Wednesday before his trip, Hun Sen called for restraint from all sides in Myanmar and for the peace plan to be followed. "Brothers in Myanmar, do you want your country to fall into a real civil

war or want it solved?" he said. People carry food aid distributed by a volunteer group in Myanmar's eastern Shan state, which has faced food shortages due to the conflict. After a phone call this week with Hun Sen, Indonesian president Joko Widodo said in messages on Twitter if there was no significant progress on the peace plan, then only non-political representatives from Myanmar should be allowed at Asean meetings. In October, junta leader Min Aung Hlaing was barred from attending an Asean summit for his failure to cease hostilities, allow humanitarian access and start dialogue, as agreed with Asean. But in a further sign of divisions in the 10-member bloc, Hun Sen last month said junta officials should be allowed to attend Asean meetings. Min Ko Naing, a leading activist in Myanmar, said in a social media post that Hun Sen would face big protests over his visit, which would hurt Asean. Hun Sen is one of the world's longest serving leaders and western countries and human rights groups have long condemned him for crackdowns on opponents, civil rights groups and the media in Cambodia.

Delhi's air quality improves further, moves from 'poor' to 'moderate' category as heavy rain lashes city

New Delhi, July 31 : Delhi's air quality on Saturday (January 8, 2022) morning improved from 'poor' category to 'moderate' with Air Quality Index (AQI) standing at 132 as the capital city and its adjoining areas witnessed heavy rainfall and thunderstorm. Today's AQI is the best air quality in the Capital city since October 26 last year, when it was recorded at 139. Earlier, on Thursday, the air quality in Delhi stood at 258. Meanwhile, the Indian

Meteorological Department (IMD) said, "Thunderstorm with moderate to heavy intensity rain would occur over and adjoining areas of NCR (Chhapraula, Noida, Greater Noida, Faridabad, Ballabhgarh) Palwal, Aurangabad (Haryana) Tizara, Alwar (Rajasthan)." On the other hand, the air quality of Noida remains in the 'moderate' category with the AQI at 110, while Gurugram recorded its air quality in the 'moderate' category with the AQI at 156.



A person stands by the waterfront in Dumbo, Brooklyn, New York

CM releases video on Har Ghar Tiranga, urges people to hoist tricolour from Aug 13-15

Assam Rising

Guwahati, July 31: Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma released a video on Har Ghar Tiranga to generate awareness on the initiative to mark the Independence Day celebration in a programme held at Janata Bhawan today. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister urged people to hoist the tricolour at their homes, business establishments, government and private offices, religious places and all other public places from 13th to 15th August. Dr. Sarma said that following request from the government of Assam, the Self-Help Groups in the state have taken steps to produce around



30 lakh flags. He urged the owners of business establishments and people who are economically well off to buy flags from the SHGs only. Dr. Sarma also informed that the state gov-

ernment will procure around 50 lakh flags from the Textiles Ministry. He said that flags will be available at Fair Price Shops also, which can be purchased at Rs. 18 only. The Chief Minister said

that the state government aims to make the Har Ghar Tiranga initiative a mass movement and urged people to gift the tricolour to others as well. He also said that the state government will provide Rs. 18 additionally to

the Orunodoi beneficiaries with the monthly financial assistance during the month of August to purchase the tricolour. Dr. Sarma also urged people to upload photos of hoisting the tricolour at Har Ghar Tiranga website. He also informed about the publicity campaign to be carried out across Assam to make the initiative successful. Cultural Affairs Minister Bimal Bora, Rajya Sabha MP Pabitra Margherita, Chief Secretary Jishnu Barua, other senior officials and artists who took part in the video were also present.

Many Retailers in Dhemaji Who are Facing Difficulties in Selling Vegetables

Assam Rising

Dhemaji, July 31: Retailers in Dhemaji have expressed their anger over the massive increase in taxes at the weekly market on Thursday. There are many retailers in Dhemaji who are facing difficulties in selling vegetables. According to the complaint, the tax rate was somewhat satisfactory in the past but since May 1, the new Mahaldar has increased the fees by beating up poor retail vegetable vendors. Earlier, they collected Rs 20-30 from retailers but have increased it to Rs 50 after receiving the tender of the new mahaldar. The victims alleged that the victims were extorting money from villagers who came to the market with a handful of spinach, coconut,

elephant apple, watermelon or carrots etc. They have made it compulsory to pay Rs 50 to the mahaldar for bringing a 50 kg bag of vegetables to the market for sale. They also collect Rs 5,000 from each Bolero pickup van. There is also a lot of chilli. 100 per bag (50 kg) of chillies. The government has also collected increased taxes on retailers of every commodity, not just vegetables. Therefore, the villagers are reluctant to come to the market. There are many reasons why the prices of goods have been increased to cover the burden of taxes paid to the mahaldars. Many villagers stopped shop-

ping on Thursday due to the high tax burden. There is no significant difference between the tender figures of the previous year and the current one. The union filed a complaint with the district administration on July 6 to take action on the matter. The victims were identified as Babul Sonowal, Rituraj Phukan and Nayanmoni Saikia, District President of the Women's Congress. They also handed over a written complaint to the District Commissioner for action on the matter. The city council president Deeparekha Das came to the market on July 21 and asked the mahaldars not to increase the tax.

Laharighat's Nagabandha village unknown person mixed drug's in dinner victim family

One recently admitted to ICU at Nagaon Due Care

Assam Rising

Bhuraogon 31 July : The victim's family alleged that an unknown person mixed drugs in the curry through the window last night with the intention of stealing or robbing the house of Abdul Rauf in ward no. 2 of Nagabandha Gaon Panchayat under Barshala police station in Morigaon district. The victims were identified as 20-year-old Arun



Kumar and 18-year-old Arun Kumar. The victim was admitted to Nagaon Dew Care Private Nursing

Home for treatment. Abdul Rauf is currently being treated in the ICU. The victim's family informed the Barshala police station and police inspected the scene.

The funeral of 16 workers killed in Laharighat in Manipur will be held today.

Assam Rising

Bhuraogon, July 31 : The 16 deceased workers of Kushtali area of Laharighat district of Morigaon district were buried at Khoragosai Bari today. The landslide killed 16 workers in Kushtali area of Tupul in Nani district of Manipur on June 29 night. However, the body of Tupen Patar has not been recovered yet. The victims were identified as Devjit Fukan, Bugendra Fukan, Gopal Fukan, Ramu Fukan, Pallav Laram, Akash Laram, Hanuman Konwar, Sanal Konwar, Upendra Konwar, Momin Dekarja, Dipankar Bardoloi, Jonti Bardoloi, Harmohan Deka and Kalpajyoti



Bardoloi. The victims were identified as 19-year-old Arun Kumar, 19, and 18-year-old Arun Kumar,

Election Officer Ahmedullah Thakuria briefs about modifications in Election Rules and roll out of new forms at SDO-Civil Office, Gossaigaon

Assam Rising

Gossaigaon, July 31: Ahmedullah Thakuria, Election Officer, Gossaigaon in a press meet organized here at the conference hall of SDO-Civil office, Gossaigaon briefed about the activities for Summary Revision with effect from 1st January, 2023 as qualifying dates and also sensitize the voters about modifications in Election rules and roll out of new forms. In the press meet Ahmedullah Thakuria, Election Officer, Gossaigaon said that instead of one, four qualifying dates have been framed by the election Commission of India for the greater interest of voters so that no voters have to wait for a long time to enroll themselves in voter list and a new form (Form-6B) is being rolled out from 1st August for voluntary linkage of Voter ID with Aadhar number. He said that the voters can file claim and objection from 9th November to 8 December and during that time a special awareness and SVEEP activities will be carried

out to dispose off their problems by the Gossaigaon Election Office. As briefed by the Election Officer, Gossaigaon Ahmedullah Thakuria youths of the country will get an opportunity to become part of the voter list by Election Commission's new user friendly forms which will be available from 1st August, 2022. He said that applicants becoming eligible for registration with 1st January as qualifying date with subsequent qualifying dates for the year can submit their claims in Form-6 in advance, beginning from the date of draft publication of electoral roll. It may be recalled that on the recommendations of ECI, the Ministry of Law & Justice recently amended the RP Act to provide for four qualifying dates such as 1st January, 1st April, 1st July and 1st October as eligible for youngsters to register in electoral rolls as opposed to the earlier single

Majuli District Election Officer and District Commissioner held a press conference

The press conference was held on the Special Brief Amendment of Voters List- 2023

Assam Rising

Majuli, July 31: Majuli District Election Officer and District Commissioner held a press conference with journalists and persons of various political parties in the district at 1 pm on Saturday as per the directive of Election Commission of India. The Commissioner informed the journalists about the changes in Forms Nos. 6, 7 and 8 by the Election Commission of India and urged them to disseminate them widely among the people. He also requested everyone to cooperate in the linkage of Aadhaar against voter names starting from 01-08-2022 Form 6-B can be filled up for voter and Aadhaar link-

age, said Commissioner Pulak Mahanta. Voters can fill up Forms 6, 7, 8 and 6-B themselves through the Voter Helpline App, nvsp.in and Voter portal. The Election Commission has fixed

October. Finally, the Commissioner felicitated the five newly added voters. From 2 pm to 4 pm, the Election Officer gave a training to the AEROs and BLO Supervisors on Garuda App, Voter



four eligibility dates for new voters to be added to the electoral rolls this year: January 1, April 1, July 1 and

Helpline App, nvsp.in and Voter portal on the upcoming Special Brief Amendment of Voters List-2023

Transport department to intensify drive against traffic offenders

Assam Rising

Guwahati, July 31: A team of officials from the Transport department's enforcement wing stepped up their drive against offenders for flouting road safety rules and other norms. A drive was conducted on Friday night against drunken driving and non wearing of helmet in greater Guwahati areas. Of the total 42 offence cases registered, seven cases were related to drunken driving and 35

without helmets. The team from the enforcement wing of the Transport department was ably assisted by the city's police and traffic personnel. Transport department authorities revealed that they will intensify their drive against traffic violations including not wearing helmets, not using seat-belts, over-speeding, overloading, rash driving and vehicles plying without valid fitness certificates. It may be mentioned that 31 city buses were seized and

20 cases registered for offences like non issuance of ticket, boarding through front door, doors flung open while running, haphazard parking on stoppages, non display of route number, permit number, route diversion, waiting at a stoppage for more than a minute, rash overtaking, undue halt on non designated stoppage and misbehaving with passengers. As 70 per cent of accidents happen due to overspeeding leading to loss of precious lives, the Transport department has issued the speed limit notification. In order to detect and control overspeeding, the department has deployed tripod mounted speed radar guns and traffic interceptor vehicles with speed detection ANPR cameras across the state.



Felicitation program by Tangla AKRSU

Assam Rising

Udalguri, July 31: In the initiative of Udalguri AKRSU (west), Bhergaon District Koch Rajbongshi Mol, Mohila Sammilan and Tangla Anchalik Koch Rajbongshi Students' Union was organised a felicitation program in Amrit's Bibah Bhawan of Tangla. The felicitation program was inaugurated by advisor Niladhar Deka and explained the motive by Joint Secretary Pankaj Deka which was presided over by Mintu Baruah, president of Bhergaon

District Koch Rajbongshi Sammilan. Whereas the program was led by journalist Narayan Deka. In the program, passed out students of 32 Anchalik's students in HSLC and HS examination of this current year 2022, energetic worker Nayan Jyoti Baruah, Rickshaw driver Ela Deka and socialist Bhabendra Nath Saikia has been felicitated. Dharendra Nath Deka, president of AKRSU Darrang District

Parishad, Gautam Saharia, chief advisor of AKRSU and Ghataswar Baruah, Assamese professor of Tangla College gave lecture on the occasion as a special lecturer. The program was also attended by Chief Publish Secretary of AKRSU and all the workers of Udalguri AKRSU.



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THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VII, ISSUE NO. 165 MONDAY, AUGUST 01, 2022

Decline in Russia's grain exports

What is provoking these warnings is that there is no way to replace Ukrainian grain exports, which constitute 9% of the world's, made worse by the decline in Russia's grain exports. Only a fraction of Ukraine's cereal harvests can find their way into global markets via road or through ports in Romania - and Russia has no intention of lifting its blockade while it faces sanctions that may last years, given the stalemate in Ukraine. The price of grain is thus certain to rise - it is already 59% higher than in January - reflecting that there is less to go around. Those who can't pay will simply go without, raising the prospect of famine spreading to hundreds of millions in poorer countries and a new flood of refugees. Nor will Britain be unaffected, although it is largely self-sufficient in grain. Overall, we rely on imports to meet around half our food demands. All over the world, countries facing shortages of grain and other foodstuffs are simply halting their food exports; already, 22 countries have prohibited 10% of all food trade. Our four major food suppliers are our EU neighbours and former partners, now all too often turned into enemies: France, Ireland, the Netherlands and Germany. Yet, just at this moment the Johnson government, with its habitual reckless incompetence and obsessive hatred of all things EU related, is prepared to risk an EU trade war by unilaterally abrogating the Brexit treaty. The UK may not want to damage crucial EU food imports, already deferring any regulatory checks until the end of next year. But why should EU member states play ball with a country whose leader they regard as a deceitful clown in hock to the worst of his party's right, who never loses the chance to criticise the common agricultural policy (CAP), built to ensure European food security? Suddenly the CAP looks like a strategic asset, with the EU recently moving to strengthen its farmers' productive capacity and self-sufficiency in ways wholly at odds with Britain's disdainful neglect of its own farmers. The EU may decide in response to Britain's provocation that EU food security is of paramount importance, directing food exports only to where there is more need than Britain - for example, increasing its already hefty food support to Ukraine - or just making haulage and shipping regulatory requirements even tougher. They can do so, secure that EU producers can sell their food elsewhere, so creating food shortages in Britain. If the EU does not wish to go so far, it has other effective levers to make Boris Johnson back down. Russia is the world's biggest exporter of fertilisers, whose price has now soared 300% following the west's trade sanctions. The UK produces only two-fifths of the fertiliser our farmers need, the balance imported mainly from the EU, Germany in particular.

Be a Citizen Journalist

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Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

Is the great pandemic parcel boom finally over?

As regular life resumes in fits and starts, Royal Mail is feeling the squeeze. This is partly because everybody's squeezed, but partly because deliveries are down, and from this it would seem that the new normal is steadily returning to the old normal. If you have observed the younger generation over the past two years, you'd think times had changed for ever. Teenagers and twentysomethings see a five-day delivery estimate as a breach of their human rights. I've seen a look of mild bafflement cross my kids' faces when they order something on Amazon and it doesn't arrive immediately, as if they were dealing not with a complex delivery chain but a magic lamp. For the rest of us, those pandemic years during which there was an actual cardboard shortage because we were sending and receiving so many parcels were more mixed. Did our online shopping habits bring us closer to our neighbours? Maybe for a while, as we took in each other's parcels and made like characters in a Richard Scarry book, but there was always the question: "When will this go too far? When will next-door have had an absolute bar of my repeat dishwasher tablet order? When will the smiling fade?" There was something unsettling about the gallop-

ing consumption, typified not by Royal Mail, but by Amazon. Midway through the pandemic, I ordered a fishing net from there which came in a box the size of a coffin. It begged the question, if you ordered a coffin, what size box would that come in? Would it be as big as your house? Resituating my shopping back to the actual shops was quite soothing, as it protected me from the realities of its waste and needlessness, which was a bit of a, ahem, paradox. The whole move to online shopping reminded me of the move from cash to credit cards. It was a simple enough



switch, but would it change our attitudes in a more profound way? Would we lose our bearings and just spend indiscriminately? Or would the joy seep

out of the process, so that we stopped buying stuff and, sooner or later, stopped wanting it? Neither, it turned out; we just adapted to a new reality, just as we adapted to the reality of carrying the sum of human knowledge in a phone. Back when we assumed that

Zoe Williams

deliveries were the new normal, the mirroring prediction was that high streets would decline. It had implications for capital, playing out now in the conflicted new culture war of "back to the office or not?", which is a proxy for "protect commercial landlords or not?" But it also raised questions about what on earth would happen to our high streets if we could not shop in them. Would defunct department stores become a hub for civic activism or, more likely, table football? Or would they just inevitably wither into dereliction until someone turned them into flats? Early signs from where I live are that everything that previously went bust is now a bar. The real mistake

Dear PM Modi, only you can stop Hindutva brigade that attacks Islamic history for attention

The Hindutva brigade, which has been nurtured by the Bharatiya Janata Party, is getting out of hand. Both its intentions and actions run afoul. In a series of petitions against 'Islamic' structures and practices, the latest wants to dig the Taj Mahal and find out whether it was a temple. Even the Qutub Minar in Delhi hasn't been spared. Facts and evidence for such claims are usually found in WhatsApp forwards. Similarly, the list of mosques with 'temple-underneath' claims keeps increasing with each petition gaining maximum media attention. There's the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi and then there's the Shahi Idgah in Mathura. Not to mention Mohammadpur becoming Madhavpuram and 40 other villages whose names Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta wants to be changed into more Hindu-sounding ones. All of this for what? Just to get your attention and get into the BJP? After all, the saffron mob gone wild has enough examples. BJP MP Jayant Sinha, Union Minister at the time, felicitated and garlanded seven men convicted of murdering a Muslim meat trader after the high court suspended their sentence and released them on bail. MP Giriraj Singh has often told Muslims of India to 'go to Pakistan'. Kapil Mishra's provocative speeches just before the Delhi riots go unpun-

ished while MP Anurag Thakur can fearlessly lead a BJP campaign rally with the chant 'Desh ke gaddaron ko...', which his supporters complete with 'Goli maaro saalon ko.' Soon after,

Zainab Sikander

Thakur is made minister of sports (youth affairs) and minister of information and broadcasting. Clearly, such things give members of the saffron brigade a hope to make it big in the BJP. How come former Dumariyaganj MLA Raghvendra Pratap Singh can organise a rally in Uttar Pradesh, whose CM Yogi Adityanath credits himself for improving the law and order situation in the state, where people chant 'Jab katue kaate jaayenge, tab Ram Ram chillayenge (when Muslims will be killed, they will shout Ram's name)'?" Do they think doing such things will increase their chances of getting an invite from you to meet them at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg for discussion on their elevation in the ranks of BJP? The question is, when are you going to tell them that this isn't what sets your soul on fire? Because if it did, why would you only speak of vikas (development) or vishwas (trust) in your bid to become

the Prime Minister of India. Twice! Home Minister Amit Shah's anecdotes of your compassion are just about all right because not everyone gets "feeding peacocks" as a message of kindness. I won't be surprised if BJP workers start putting up videos of force feeding peacocks just to draw your attention. The Hindu Right really needs you to spell some things out for them. Maybe just put out a 'Mann ki Baat' and tell everyone to stop going after the lives, monuments, mosques, food, hijabs,



marriages of Muslims. What you must understand, Mr Prime Minister, is that India cannot get rid of its almost 204 million Muslims or its long tryst with Islam, which was brought to this land in the 7th century. Muslims had settled here by the 12th century when India was

a mass of land with diverse kingdoms. If the Hindutva mob thinks it can wipe away the 900-year-long history, then it's just not possible. Through your silence, Mr PM, you are only enabling these anti-Muslim narratives and letting these lunatics create expectations among your voters that can simply not be met. Hatred against Muslims spread on TV and social media is perhaps changing hearts rapidly on ground too. It was widely believed that the lust for civilisational dominance would end with the Ayodhya dispute being settled in the favour of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement followed by a grand temple being built there. But who knew this was just the beginning of a long temple run with many mosques ready to be stomped upon and erased. But history would remember such acts only in the manner that we remember the demolition of Bamiyan Buddhas by the Taliban today. They, too, did it in the name of 'aastha' or faith. Mr PM, India can't go down the same rabbit hole because the consequences will be disastrous for all, not just Muslims. Speak up and put an end to this madness by the Hindutva brigade. Your silence will not do good to anyone, least of all your image.

Australia has shown how quickly the right can crumble Boris Johnson, be warned

Populists can be beaten. There was a time not long ago when few could type that sentence with confidence, so the outcome of Australia's recent elections will leave many progressives battling with the still unfamiliar sensation of victory. Scott Morrison, the now ousted rightwing prime minister dubbed Australia's first "post-truth" leader, was never quite a Trumpian. But he was a shameless culture warrior presiding over a bungled Covid response and ensuing recession, plus a clumsy response to high-profile sexual misconduct allegations against parliamentary colleagues. He dragged his feet on the climate crisis even as apocalyptic floods, fires and droughts were convincing Australians that something had to change, and holidayed in Hawaii as wildfires raged at home. His opponent, Labor's Anthony Albanese, was not exactly overburdened with charisma and the progressive vote eventually split between Labor, the Greens and the so-called teal independents, an exasperated army of mainly female candidates pledging to clean up politics and tackle the climate. But the cautious Albanese and his mantra of "safe change" - nothing too big or scarily radical - still made it over the line, having seem-

ingly learned from a previous Labor defeat blamed on an over-ambitious manifesto. If any of this sounds uncannily familiar to British readers, then it's easy to see why Keir Starmer's Labour party (and indeed the Greens) might suddenly have their tails up. First Donald Trump, then Marine Le Pen in the French presidential elections, now Morrison. This toppling of rightwing dominoes creates the sense of momentum British progressives have been missing. Now there are successful campaign architects to learn from overseas, and new ideas being road-

tested in government; there will be friends in strategic places, perhaps new energy behind global efforts to combat the climate crisis, and the morale-boosting idea that the zeitgeist might finally be with them. You can almost feel the pendulum swinging away from a polarising and ultimately grubby era back towards a politics at least vaguely

Gaby Hinsliff

connected to truth and reality. Or at least you can if you want to badly enough. For a more cynical way of looking at this is that two years in, Biden's ratings have sunk far enough to give Republicans plenty of hope for next time; Le Pen still got way too many votes for comfort;



Albanese's victory was not thumping; and Britain's first-past-the-post system makes similar Green breakthroughs or

progressive alliances harder here. Nor is Australia, which shifted rightwards in 1996 just as Britain was doing the reverse, historically a very reliable political weathervane. All that said, what should send a shiver down Tory spines is that Morrison's aggressively divisive approach to issues such as immigration and his pursuit of socially conservative Labor voters seemingly cost his party dear in its wealthier, more metropolitan former heartlands. The nagging fear some Conservatives have that a diet of sleaze, culture wars and threats to tear up the Brexit deal will only lose them Tory votes in Worthing or Surrey has just played out on a big screen Down Under, producing roughly the kind of electoral realignment they fear. What makes this otherwise faraway election feel closer to home is that the Australian right's thinking remains core to Boris Johnson's project. Priti Patel's plan to export asylum seekers to Rwanda mirrors an

Australian scheme to send refugees to Papua New Guinea, and she recently hired the man who negotiated that deal to lead a review of Britain's Border Force. Lynton Crosby, the 65-year-old Australian campaigns guru who enjoys near-legendary status in the Conservative party, doesn't personally run campaigns any more but he still takes the odd phone call; his protégé Isaac Levido ran Johnson's successful 2019 campaign, months after helping deliver a surprise victory for Morrison. David Canzini, the new deputy chief of staff installed at Downing Street to restore order post-Partygate, has also worked closely with Crosby. Interestingly the same questions asked in recent years about Crosby's companies and their past relationships with the fossil fuel industry are now being asked in Whitehall, as the government wrestles with what to do about soaring gas bills. The Treasury is visibly warming to the idea of a windfall tax on oil and gas companies, just so long as it doesn't look like Labour's windfall tax plan. But reports that Downing Street considers such a move "un-Conservative" have set rumours swirling. Johnson has never noticeably cared whether something is or isn't conservative, if it's popular. But Canzini cares. He is close to the pro-Brexit, low-tax,

strongly ideological Tory right in Britain, some of whom also happen to be hostile to the net-zero agenda and may prefer to see fuel bills cut by scrapping green taxes (which fund the development of renewable energies in the longer term) than introducing new taxes. The outcome of all this wrangling obviously matters most to people who can't pay their heating bills, but it's a litmus test of Downing Street's intentions too. If the windfall tax doesn't happen some may begin to wonder - as an unnamed MP suggested recently to the Times - about the government's commitment to ban the installation of new gas boilers by 2035. Does Johnson really want to go into an election arguing with outraged pensioners who can't afford to replace their central heating? Or is this bold climate policy too at risk of being deemed a "barnacle on the boat", that famous Crosby shorthand for anything that creates unnecessary friction or muddies the message? Contrary to popular belief, Crosby disciples don't just blindly run the same hard-right campaign every time. Instead his hallmark is clarity, or the disciplined repetition of one key message carefully tailored to electoral circumstances, excluding everything else. That was as true of the London mayoral campaign he ran, pitching Johnson as a cuddly liberal, as of Levido's tubthumping "Get Brexit Done" campaign. But campaigns are ultimately just strategies for helping a party survive in office; they're not necessarily about providing what a country actually needs. What's interesting about Australia is that voters seem to have been pragmatically focused on the latter. Morrison was found wanting in thoroughly practical ways by climate emergencies and Covid. Some of Le Pen's wilder ideas about tackling the cost of living crisis fell apart under scrutiny. Donald Trump did not make America great again. Simple answers to complex problems appeal, but they don't actually work, and when that becomes painfully obvious - whether because wildfire smoke is choking your Melbourne suburb, or because your export business is collapsing thanks to Brexit - then populists become vulnerable. Perhaps the most useful lesson to take from Australia is that bad politics can still melt on contact with inconvenient truths. That feeling you vaguely recognise, but can't quite put a finger on? That would be hope.

Honda India Power Products forays into e-commerce

Delhi, July 31 : Honda India Power Products Limited (HIPP), India's leading and best-in-class power product manufacturer, and market leader in the Power Products category for the past 36 years, today announced the launch of an exclusive e-commerce portal on its official website: www.hondaindiapower.com. With this launch, HIPP has become the 1st Power Products company in India to launch e-commerce. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Takahiro Ueda - Chairman and Managing Director, President, and CEO at Honda India Power Products Limited said: "India has always been an important market for us at HIPP, and today with this announcement, we are excited to get one step closer to our valued customers by



embracing more digital connectivity. In the wake of the COVID 19 pandemic, various e-commerce platforms became a quick, reliable, and easy choice for people for daily decision-making. This was further augmented due to social distancing and frequent marketplace lockdowns. Embracing the changing trends and driven by our 2030 vision statement "Empower People, To Do Better!" we are thrilled to provide our faithful customers

the ease of acquiring Honda Power Products online through our official website. We believe that this announcement will enable access to Honda's trustworthy products in a few clicks." He further added, "We aim to leverage our long-standing patronage in the Indian market by opening up new avenues like the "Online sales" through our company website. This will offer our

valued customers a delightful experience and right from pre-sales guidance to after-sales service with a vision of meeting and surpassing their expectations. Guided by this principle, we will offer Honda Power Products for online sales through our official company website: www.hondaindiapower.com. With our diverse and robust network of channel partners spread across the country, prospective customers ordering through an online medium can be assured of continued after-sales support. This announcement is a bold step forward in strengthening HIPP's dealership support, brand visibility, and customer loyalty in Indian market. The products available on the website for direct purchase will include Generators, Water

Pumps, Tillers and Brush Cutters. For every purchase made online, HIPP will provide end-to-end support to customers to foster a seamless and trustworthy buying experience from the safety and convenience of their homes. HIPP as a company is mindful of the shifting dynamics in the Indian e-commerce landscape and aims to leverage the potential of digital transformation to augment customer service, product access, and reliability, owing to this launch. More information about the Honda Power Products range can be found at www.hondaindiapower.com and Facebook page / [hondapowerproductsindia](https://www.facebook.com/hondapowerproductsindia). Optionally, customers can call on Honda's Toll-Free no. 1800-11-2323 for any sales inquiry.

India's frequent probes of its firms hurt business confidence : China

Mumbai, July 31 : Multiple investigations by Indian enforcement agencies into Chinese companies are damaging the confidence of foreign entities investing and operating in the country, China's embassy in the South Asian nation has

followed this week by a financial crime fighting agency, the Enforcement Directorate, targeting smartphone maker Vivo, owned by China's BBK Electronics, in a money laundering investigation. Such frequent investigation "im-

pedes the improvement of business environment in India and chills the confidence and willingness of market entities from other countries, including Chinese enterprises to invest and operate in India," the embassy said in a statement. Raids were conducted at 44 production and operation sites of Vivo and related entities across India, and China was closely following progress, it added. This week Vivo said it was cooperating with authorities and was committed to full compliance with Indian laws. Spokespersons for the ED and the government did not immediately respond to requests for comment. In May, Reuters reported that Xiaomi Corp, one of India's biggest smartphone sellers, had said in court that its executives faced threats of violence and coercion during agency questioning about accusations of illegal remittances. Xiaomi has denied wrongdoing, and the agency denied the accusations at the time. India's tighter scrutiny also led China's Great Wall Motor to shelve plans to invest \$1 billion and lay off all employees there this month, after New Delhi denied regulatory approval for purchase of a factory.



said. Many Chinese firms have struggled to do business in India following a border clash in 2020. India has cited security concerns in banning more than 300 Chinese apps since, and toughened rules on Chinese investment. Wednesday's comments by the embassy

pedes the improvement of business environment in India and chills the confidence and willingness of market entities from other countries, including Chinese enterprises to invest and operate in India," the embassy said in a statement. Raids were conducted at 44 production

5G auctions: Jio&Airtel may spend up to 60,000 cr.

Mumbai, July 31 : Reliance JioInfocomm and Bharti Airtel are expected to bid for 5G spectrum worth Rs 55,000-60,000 crore and Rs 45,000-50,000 crore, respectively, in the airwaves sale starting from July 26, according to analysts and industry estimates. The Adani group, through unit Adani Data Networks, and cash strapped Vodafone Idea (Vi), in turn, may bid for spectrum worth Rs 13,000-15,000 crore and Rs 5,000-6,000 crore, respectively. Experts expect a fairly intense three-way fight - between India's largest telco Jio, second-ranked Airtel and new entrant Adani for 5G airwaves - particularly in the coveted, but expensive, 3.3-3.67 GHz band, also known as the C-band or mid-band. This could push the price of the band 10% higher than the base rate of Rs 317 crore a unit. They also expect all three companies and Vi to bid for the much cheaper but useful 26 GHz spectrum. Earnest Money Estimates Industry executives and analysts familiar with telco spectrum bidding strategies estimate that Jio and Airtel may have put in earnest money deposits (EMDs) of Rs 6,500-7,500 crore and Rs 6,000-7,000 crore, respectively. They expect Adani and Vi to have deposited Rs 2,000-2,500 crore and Rs 600-700 crore earnest money, respectively. The deposits are part of the applications that the four have filed to participate in the 5G auc-

tion, but are not public yet. If these estimates are correct, it could mean the government may net around Rs 1.3 lakh crore from this year's auction, of the roughly Rs 4.3 lakh crore worth of 5G airwaves on sale. As of press time, Adani Group, Jio, Airtel and Vi had not responded to ET's emailed queries. The quantum of EMD is indicative of a company's bidding strategy and spectrum buying capac-

space at Vi's expense, and to also ward off any competition from a new adversary like Adani," a sector analyst at a top global brokerage told ET. A senior industry executive familiar with bidding strategies expects Jio to also bulk up on spectrum in the 800 MHz, 1800 MHz and 2300 MHz bands, along with the two mainline 5G bands (read: 3.3 GHz and 26 GHz), to have a blend of coverage and ca-

besides the 26 GHz band. Vi is yet to conclude its long-pending Rs 20,000-crore equity and debt funding, which will limit its bidding appetite, experts added. The Centre plans to auction 72 GHz of spectrum valid for 20 years in frequency bands ranging from low (600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300, 2500 MHz) and mid (3.3-3.67 GHz) to high (26 GHz).



city, as it gives the applicant eligibility points, based on which it can target a certain quantum of airwaves in select or all available bands in specific or all circles. Analysts say that on an average, a telco can typically target spectrum worth up to eight times their respective EMDs in the 5G sale. Expansion & Consolidation "The probable EMD ticket sizes would enable Jio and Airtel to mop up enough 5G spectrum that would allow them to roll out pan-India 5G networks - primarily on the coveted C-band (read: 3.3-3.67 GHz) - to further consolidate their market positioning in the mobile broadband

capacity. Likewise, he expects Sunil Mittal-led Airtel to also make strategic spectrum top-ups in the 900/1800/2300 MHz bands to boost network capacity, as 5G rollouts are likely to drive up data consumption levels sharply and increase network load. The executive expects Adani, with its immediate 5G play around private captive networks, to primarily target 400-500 units of 26 GHz spectrum, coupled with 40-50 units of C-band (3.3-3.67 GHz) that it would require to effectively run private 5G networks in sprawling locations such as airports and ports. Vi may selectively mop-up airwaves in the 900/1800 MHz bands,

Mumbai, July 31 : The Indian pharma market declined 8.7 per cent YoY in value terms during Apr-May'22 owing to a high covid-led base. The volumes declined 14.8 per cent YoY during the same period. Ahead of results for the quarter ended June, brokerage firm ICICI Direct expects the pharma companies and healthcare companies to report subdued growth during the quarter ended Jun'22 due to a high base in the domestic market. Besides, higher raw material and freight costs, as well as pricing pressures in US business due to high channel inventory, continue to drag overall performance. It further said that "Hence, we expect the EBITDA margin of the covered companies to decline 300bps YoY to 19.2 per cent. The healthcare segment (hospitals, diagnostics, and devices) will also report subdued YoY performance mainly due to a high base, which was driven by covid-led revenue.

Overall, we expect our coverage universe to report a mere 1 per cent YoY revenue growth and 13.3 per cent/15.3 per cent decline in EBITDA/PAT respectively." Global brokerage and research firm BNP Paribas projects its Indian pharma and healthcare coverage universe to report aggregate c6 per cent year-on-year (YoY) revenue growth and c3 per cent year-on-year earnings decline in 1QFY23. It expects revenue growth during the quarter to be company-specific, with the domestic formulation segment growing aggregate c1 per cent year-on-year due to the high base of Covid-related sales in the India business for some companies and US sales improving only c2 per cent quarter-on-quarter or QoQ (+6 per cent year-on-year) even as new launches partially offset the price erosion. Speaking about the key factors one has to watch out for, ICICI Direct said that in manage-

Noise announces Pan India Distribution Partnership

Delhi, July 31 : Noise, India's leading audio and wearable manufacturer, today announced exclusive distribution partnership for its ColorFitQube Plus SpO2 edition of smartwatches. As part of the partnership, Noise's range of smartwatches would be made available on udaan, India's largest business-to-business (b2b) eCommerce Platform. The Noise range of smart watches will be available under the Electronics category on the udaan platform to retailers across 1200 towns and cities covering over 12500 pin codes. Noise ColorFitQube Plus is the upgraded version of the bestselling ColorFitQube SpO2 watch. This latest affordable smartwatch from the brand is exclusively made available to all the retailers on udaan platform. The smartwatch is priced at a Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of Rs. 4999 and comes with features like a heart rate sensor, a touch screen display, one-week battery life, multiple sports modes, and more. It comes with a square display spanning 1.4-inch with a 240*240 pixels resolution along with curved display and a TFT panel. The smartwatch also supports cloud-based watch faces. In terms of connectivity, the Noise ColorFitQube Plus is compatible with both Android and iOS devices using the NoiseFit Track application. Apart from that, the smartwatch offers features like steps count, calories burnt, sleep tracking, dis-

tribute, and exercise records. The watch is also IP68 waterproof and optimised for outdoor usage. Speaking on this partnership, Gaurav Khatri, Co-founder & CEO, Noise said, "Since its inception, Noise has strived to offer groundbreaking products that us-



ers genuinely appreciate and want to buy. We've been able to do this because we think of the customer first and then come up with the products and their features. This latest product launch will further solidify our position as the customer's favourite and most loved brand. We will continue introducing new products backed by technology and stylish aesthetics to offer our customers the most incredible possible experience at competitive prices." The smart wearable can also track multiple sports modes including cycling, walking, yoga, treadmill, running, hiking, spinning, and climbing. In terms of smart features, the Noise ColorFitQube Plus offers push notifications from paired devices, camera control, music control, weather info, stopwatch, find my phone, alarm, and timer. Hirendrakumar Rathod,

Head - Electronics Category, udaan said, "We look forward to bringing cutting edge products at affordable prices to our retailer partners across Bharat. This exclusive arrangement highlights the trust that udaan enjoys among reputed brands

while providing them with cost effective national distribution network to launch new products or enter new markets." Several large manufacturers and brands such as Samsung, SanDisk, boat, itel, ptronics etc. have already leveraged udaan's strong distribution network to access newer markets while enjoying cost efficiencies. In addition, retailers across Bharat get access to a wide array of selection at affordable prices on the platform from leading brands and manufacturers. udaan connects millions of MSMEs throughout India and helps them grow their business through the adoption of technology. It has built inclusive tech tools for Bharat, specially catering to the needs of brands, retailers & manufacturers providing them a level playing field to conduct and grow their business.

LIC Policy Returns All Your Premiums After Maturity

Mumbai, July 31 : The Life Insurance Corporation, or LIC, of India is one of the go-to options for Indians when it comes to buy insurance policies. The LIC, has for this reason, curated specific plans for a specific group of individuals. The

like investing in risk-free assets, and after bank FDs and post office savings schemes these LIC policies are a favourite among them due to is comparatively high returns. There are LIC policies that you can avail for yourself and your fam-



corporation, backed by the government has an array of insurance plans for people of almost all ages and categories. LIC policies are loved among Indians who

ily. The LIC JeevanMangal plan is one such policy that will help in times of a financial crisis. LIC's new JeevanMangal is a protection plan with return of premiums on maturity, where you may pay the premiums either in lump sum or regularly over the term of the policy. This is one of the biggest benefits of the LIC JeevanMangal plan. This plan has an in-built accident benefit which provides for double risk cover in case of accidental death. The LIC JeevanMangal policy is a protection-oriented, non-linked, non-participating, individual, life, and micro-insurance plan. It is a term assurance plan with return

of premiums on maturity, where you may pay the premiums either in lump sum or regularly at yearly, half yearly, quarterly, monthly, fortnightly or weekly intervals over the term of the policy. "A grace period of two calendar months but not less than 60 days will be allowed for all modes of payments," as per the LIC JeevanMangal policy brochure. The minimum sum assured under the LIC JeevanMangal policy is Rs `10,000 while the maximum sum assured is Rs 50,000. To avail the LIC JeevanMangal policy, one has to be minimum 18 years old (completed) and maximum 55 years old (nearest birthday) on the date of buying the plan. The maximum age at maturity is 65 (nearest birthday), while the LIC JeevanMangal policy term is 10 to 15 years for regular premium plan and five to 10 years for single premium plans. Provided that the LIC JeevanMangal policy is in force, on surviving to the date of maturity, the sum assured on maturity will be payable, which is equal to the total amount of premiums paid during the term of the contract (excluding the taxes and extra premium, if any). It must be noted that there are no loan facilities under this policy. There are death benefits associated with the LIC JeevanMangal policy.



Contd. From Page 1

Ab kab medal aayega?

podium and sings the national anthem while saluting the tri-colour. Jeremy earned the moment with his sheer dedication, passion and some top-class coaching. And he has sight set on Paris Olympics and you know he can go on to repeat the same in 2024 when you hear him complain about his 'below expectations' show. "I could have done much better, not totally satisfied with my performance. But I am also happy with the love I have got. So many Indian fans came to watch here as well as from India back home, made me feel special and I would like to thank them as well," said Jeremy from Birmingham, to a group of Indian journalists over a Zoom call. The hunger in him remains as he feels he could have lifted more weight and made the competition one-sided. This is what champions are made of. This is what set Mirabai Chanu out in the final a day before, with 29 kg difference between her and the silver medalist. 'Didi motivate karta hai, woh cheer up kar raha tha mujhe ekdum aage se. Indian flag haath mein leke,' he said on impact of Mirabai Chanu on his career. The other person who has had a big impact on him is his father, who was a state-level boxer whose tattoo is there on his right arm, which motivates him to do well. The weightlifter who comes from Aizawl, Mizoram clinched the gold medal at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires in the Boys' 62 kg category with a lift of 274 kg. Jeremy says that after this gold, there was a drought of big medals at senior level and he would hear people question his talent and wondered if that was a fluke. But he was adamant to prove his critics wrong and by making the CWG gold medal as his phone's wallpaper, he began a tough journey to stardom. He has reached here and now there would be another aim, another gold in phone's wallpaper before it becomes a reality. "Many people used to ask me kab medal aayega. But I had it in my mind that I want to win medal for India. Performance was not that great here but I got what I wanted," said Jeremy. He started playing the sport in 2011 and in 11 years time, he had worked his way to the CWG gold. It has taken many sacrifices to do so. He was not there at home when his grand parents passed away. He has not been home for two years now as there was non-stop training and tournaments he did not want to miss. There won't be much celebration for now. He just wants to go home and be with his brothers, sisters and parents, even if for a short time. And maybe watch his favourite athlete Cristiano Ronaldo in action on TV. "I have not thought about celebration. I have not been to home for two years, will go there for a week and will spend time with family," said Jeremy.

Viral Video Showing A Day In The

work. The caption of the post read, "A day in the life of a panda caretaker". Since being shared, the video has left internet users in awe. While some users jokingly asked how pandas have managed to survive this long, others said that they wanted the caretaker's job. One user wrote, "I'd do this job for free, no human beings to annoy me, just happiness 365 days a year." Another added, "That is the cutest video that I have ever seen how adorable are those pandas I just love this video 1000% of HEARTS." Not sure how pandas have made it to this point in history. They as a species seem to have all the same survival instincts of a suburban toddler whose parents have told him that playing in the streets, talking to strangers, and falling out of trees is ok if that's what they choose," commented third. "Looks strangely familiar - like parents with toddlers," added fourth. Meanwhile, videos of pandas enjoying themselves in their natural habitat or in captivity are widely shared on social media. A while back another video showing many individuals cuddling pandas in their laps, trying to put them to sleep had gone viral online. The clip had amassed more than 10 million views and left the internet heart warmed.

Assam Governor attends SVANidhi

society. He said that the street vendors play a significant role in ensuring availability of goods and services at affordable rates. Prof. Mukhi also hailed the initiatives of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for launching the PM SVANidhi scheme to facilitate working capital loans and help the street vendors resume their business which were adversely impacted due to the lockdowns imposed during COVID-19 pandemic. He said that it is a great initiative to empower the street vendors financially for their holistic and economic development. He also appreciated the street vendors for showing resilience and script several success stories in spite of the sluggishness resulted from COVID 19 pandemic. The Governor congratulated the bank authorities, the implementing agencies and other stake holders on the successful implementation of the scheme in the state. He said that the scheme will go a long way to benefit the lives of the street vendors and also help the vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat. It may be noted that in Guwahati, as on date 10563 street vendors have already availed the benefit of the scheme. Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Ashok Singhal also spoke on the occasion. The programme was attended by Mayor Guwahati Municipal Corporation Mrigen Sarania, Padmashree Jahnur Barua, National Coordinator Arbind Singh, Industrialist Pabitra Buragohain, Commissioner and Secretary DoHUA Kavitha Padmanabhan, Deputy Mayor GMC Smita Rai, State Mission Director DAY-NULM Panchami Choudhury, GMC Commissioner Devasish Sharma, street vendors along with a host of other dignitaries.

Three white men sentenced to life

him in pickup trucks then cornered him. The judge paused for a minute, to help drive home a sense of what that time must have been like for Arbery."When I thought about this," he said, "I thought from a lot of different angles. I kept coming back to the terror that must have been in the mind of the young man running through Satilla Shores." The McMichaels will spend the rest of their lives in prison. Walmsley ruled that Bryan could seek parole after 30 years, the minimum sentence allowed. Arbery's mother said she suffered an intense loss made worse by a trial where the men's defense was that Arbery made bad choices. "This wasn't a case of mistaken identity or mistaken fact," Wanda Cooper-Jones said. "They chose to target my son because they didn't want him in their community. They chose to treat him differently than other people who frequently visited their community. And when they couldn't sufficiently scare or intimidate him, they killed him." Cooper-Jones rebutted a point made by a defense lawyer that caused outrage. During the trial in November, Laura Hogue made a reference to Ahmaud Arbery's appearance many found egregious and racist. Hogue said: "Turning Ahmaud Arbery into a victim after the choices that he made does not reflect the reality of what brought Ahmaud Arbery to Satilla Shores in his khaki shorts, with no socks, to cover his long dirty toenails." On Friday, Cooper-Jones said her son was sometimes messy. "He sometimes refused to wear socks or take good care of his good clothing. I wish he would have cut and cleaned his toenails before he went out for that jog that day. I guess he would have if he knew he would be murdered." Marcus Arbery Sr, Ahmaud's father, also addressed the court. He said: "When I close my eyes, I see his execution in my mind, over and over. I will see that for the rest of my life.

Big Attack Foiled ? Techie with IS

a resident of Masudi street in the Ambur district of Tamil Nadu was arrested by the police on Saturday after Central intelligence agencies received information about him having regular contact with the IS groups. As per the intel, he used to communicate through these militant groups via telegram and other social media platforms. Ali has come on the radar of the Central Intelligence Bureau after some of his online activities raised suspicion in the police officers. He is a third-year Mechanical Engineering student at a private college in the Ranipet district of Tamil Nadu. After his arrest, Ali was taken to Anaicut police station in Vellore, police sources told IANS. Police have registered FIR against him under IPC Sections 121 (waging war, or attempting to wage war or abetting the waging of war against the Indian state), 122 (collecting arms, etc with the intention of waging a war against India), 125 (waging of war or abetting of war against any Asiatic power that is in alliance with India) and various other sections under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). He was produced before a magistrate court during the early hours of Sunday and remanded in Vellore Central Prison.

CM provides financial assistance to

and late Salje R. Marak, who were murdered by miscreants on the night of 1 st September, 2021. Under the assistance given, the children will be provided with a monthly income scheme (MIS) of Rs. 3,500 per month, being the interest accrued on a Fixed Deposit of Rs. 7.67 lakh deposited in their respective names. The MIS will continue till they attain the age of 24 years, when the principal amount will be deposited into their savings accounts. Cultural Affairs Minister Bimal Bora, Rajya Sabha MP Pabitra Margherita, Chief Secretary Jishnu Barua and other senior officials were also present.

Monkeypox hits children?

on skin, have been sent to Pune. Officials said the reports are likely to be available on Monday. The boy's parents came to Yedlpadu in Palnadu district in search of work 15 days ago. He developed fever and rashes a week ago and his parents initially thought it was nothing serious. As the boy's condition didn't get better even after a week, they rushed him to Guntur GGH on July 28. The doctors examined the boy and noticed rashes and fever, both symptoms of Monkeypox and shifted him to an isolation ward. According to doctors, his condition is stable. His parents have also been kept under observation as a precautionary measure. This is the second suspected case of Monkeypox in Andhra Pradesh. The first suspected case was reported from Vijayawada on July 17. A two-year-old child, who had gone to Dubai with family, was found with skin rashes on return. However, the samples sent to NIV, Pune tested negative for Monkeypox. Last week, the first suspected case of Monkeypox in neighbouring Telangana had also tested positive. The 40-year-old man had arrived in Kamareddy town from Kuwait on July 6. He had later developed fever and rashes on the body. Suspecting it to be a case of Monkeypox, doctors had sent him to Hyderabad, where he was admitted in Fever Hospital. However, the samples tested negative for Monkeypox.

'Drastic' rise in high Arctic lightning

has been drastic. Such a significant shift certainly causes you to raise your eyebrows. "With temperatures rising in the Arctic at three times the global average, tracking lightning in the region has become an important indicator of the climate crisis. Three things are required to generate thunderstorms - moisture, instability and lift. The disappearance of sea ice means more water is able to evaporate, adding moisture to the atmosphere. Higher temperatures and atmospheric instability create the perfect conditions for lightning. Monitoring how lightning trends change in the Arctic can therefore reveal a lot about how the atmosphere is changing in response to shifts in climate.

Elephant-Human conflict in Udalguri



Assam Rising
Udalguri, July 31: The conflict of elephant-human in Indo-Bhutan border is hilariously increasing day by day. Wild elephant made the people of Indo-Bhutan border under Udalguri district sleepless. For the lack of food, shelter and for deforestation, hundred of wild elephant herds are coming in the population. In this current year, many innocent people died for the conflict of elephant-human and many wild elephant also died unnaturally in entire Udalguri district. Wild elephants are causing terror continuously in the district which are coming from the mountains of Arunachal and Bhutan including Khalingduar Reserved Forest and Barnadi sanctuary from evening till next day early morning. These herds of wild elephant have been destroying houses, valuable plants as well as crop fields in the greater region. Today in the early morning also a large herd of wild elephant destroyed 11 families houses in Farm line Budlapara of Udalguri district. On the other hand, a herd of wild elephant destroyed 8 families houses in Bamunjali Tea estate. It is mentionable that, today in the early morning wild elephants destroyed 11 families houses in Farm line Budlapara Tea Estate including Sunny Kawnar, Birsu Khediya, Savio Tigga, Gahnur Munda, Birsu Munda, Raj Kawnar, Richa Khediya, Dane Khediya, Francis Kujur, Pouwlos Munda and Lobo Guria. Whereas, wild elephants also destroyed 8 families houses of Bamunjali Tea Estate including Nanda Rajbongshi, Dibyajyoti Das, Shrimanta Boro, Pratima Bhumij, Shrisaran Tanti, Deba Munda. To prevent the elephant-human conflict in Indo-Bhutan border, Udalguri District Forest Department has failed so far. Noticeable that currently, to banish the wild elephant from population Dhansiri Divisional Forest Office have taken 4 domestic (kunki) elephant, but they have not used to banish so far.

MiG-29K Trainer Jet Crashes Into Sea, Pilot Saved, Search On For Other

New Delhi, July 31 : A MiG-29K trainer aircraft has been lost over the Arabian Sea on Thursday evening. The Navy says one pilot has been rescued while a search by air and surface units are in progress for the second pilot. The incident took place at around 5 pm in the Arabian Sea, it said, adding that a high-level inquiry has been ordered to investigate the matter. "A MiG-29K trainer aircraft operating at sea met with an accident at about 1700 hrs on 26 November. One pilot has been recovered and search by air and surface units in progress for the second pilot. An inquiry has been ordered to investigate the incident," the Indian Navy said. The Indian Navy has a fleet of over 40 MiG-29K fighter aircraft based out of Goa and also operated from the INS Vikramaditya aircraft carrier. This is the third mishap of MiG-29K aircraft in the last one year. In February this year, a MiG 29K crashed after being hit by birds over Goa. Both pilots had steered the jet away from habitation before ejecting, an action which drew praise from Union Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik. In November last year, a MiG-29K trainer aircraft crashed outside a village in Goa. Both the pilots had then ejected safely.

5 Patients Killed In Fire At Covid Hospital In Gujarat's Rajkot

New Delhi, July 31 : Five patients have died after a fire broke out in the ICU of a designated COVID-19 hospital in Gujarat's Rajkot in the early hours of Friday. Twenty eight other coronavirus patients being treated at the hospital were rescued, the reports added. Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has ordered a probe into the incident, news agency reported. The fire broke out in the ICU of Uday Shivanand Hospital in Mavdi area around 1 am on Friday. "We rushed to the spot and rescued 30 patients after a call informing about the fire was received. Three patients died inside the ICU, while two died shortly thereafter," a fire brigade official was quoted. The fire was brought under control, he said, adding the cause of the fire has not been ascertained yet. The rescued patients have been shifted to other COVID-19 hospitals. In August, eight COVID-19 patients were killed after a fire broke out on the top floor of a four-storey private hospital in Ahmedabad.

Fashion Photography Workshop by Dabboo Ratnani for students of Dream House Music and film Academy



Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 31: A Fashion Photography Workshop by Dabboo Ratnani (Renowned Bollywood Celebrity Photographer) was conducted on Sunday at Dream House Music & Film Academy, Guwahati. The celebrity photographer gave the students an insight into the hard work, dedication and creativity along with techniques that goes into fashion photography. Dabboo Ratnani is a name that is synonymous with celebrity and fashion photography. His annual calendars are a thing that everyone in the entertainment industry waits for through the year. Speaking about the workshop, Mrs Neeta Sharma, Director of Dream House Music & Film Academy in association with Dream House Productions said that the ultimate goal of the workshop is to motivate and guide the students aspiring to be photographers. "We believe that Northeast has immense talent in every field of performing arts including Fashion Photography, and hence interaction with ace photographer like Dabboo Ratnani will definitely be a moral boost for the talent aspirants of our region." Earlier speaking on this occasion, Dabboo Ratnani said that Assam is full of inspirations for any aspiring photographer. Dabboo Ratnani said that he will keep coming to Dream House Music & film Academy, Guwahati Besides performing arts, Dream House Music & Film Academy also offers various courses in the field of film production. The Bollywood Photographer thanked Neeta Sharma, Director of Dream House Music & Film Academy and also thanked all the students for participating in his workshop.

Effigy Burnt, FIR Lodged against Angoorlata Deka

Assam Rising
Golaghat, Jul 31: Tai Ahom Yuva Parishad (TAYPA) Golaghat District Committee yesterday staged protest against State President of BJP Mahila Morcha and former MLA of Batadrawa Constituency Angoorlata Deka for making ill remarks on the Ahom Community. Protesters led by President of the TAYPA Golaghat District Committee Subhon Konwar burnt an effigy of the BJP leader at Bata Point in Golaghat. Also the organization lodged an FIR against Angoorlata Deka at Golaghat Police Station. The protesters stated that the Tai Ahom community had played the key role in the formation of the greater Assamese community and it has a great history and making ill remarks on this community is not only an insult to the Tai Ahom community but also a great insult to the entire Assamese community. So the protesters demanded that Angoorlata Deka must apologize for this act. It is to be mentioned that in a rally of the BJP led by Angoorlata Deka slogans were raised against the Tai Ahom community.

Oxford Vaccine Faces More Questions After AstraZeneca Admits Error

New Delhi, July 31 : While an announcement Monday by Astra and Oxford showed their shot was 70% effective on average in a late-stage study, the scant details released by the U.K. partners have sparked worries about whether regulators would clear it. AstraZeneca Plc and the University of Oxford, among the front-runners in the quest to deliver a Covid-19 vaccine, face mounting questions about their trial results after acknowledging a manufacturing error. While an announcement Monday by Astra and Oxford showed their shot was 70% effective on average in a late-stage study, the scant details released by the UK partners have sparked worries about whether regulators would clear it. In a later statement, Oxford said a difference in manufacturing processes led to some participants being given a half dose instead of a full one. Astra and Oxford said their vaccine was 90% effective when a half-dose was given before a full-dose booster, and that two full doses showed an efficacy of 62%. But the head of the US vaccine program known as Operation Warp Speed said the next day that the dose showing the higher level of effectiveness was tested in a younger population, and that the half-dose was given to some people because of an error in the quantity of vaccine put into some vials. None of this was disclosed in Astra's original statement. The findings had fueled optimism that an end to the pandemic is in sight and that multiple vaccines to combat Covid-19 could be ready soon following positive results from Pfizer Inc. and Moderna Inc. Astra and Oxford remain near the front of the pack, although the way they have handled the large trial has rattled scientists and investors, raising the risk it could slow them down. "Any time you have confusion in trials it's not a good thing because it effectively removes any kind of credibility you had," said Ketan Patel, a fund manager at EdenTree Investment Management. "I think there will be a lot more scrutiny of Astra's product due to the manufacturing issue." In its statement, Oxford said that when it was apparent that a lower dose was used, it was discussed with regulators, and an agreement was reached to push ahead with the two regimens. "The methods for measuring the concentration are now established and we can ensure that all batches of vaccine are now equivalent," according to the university. A spokesman for Astra said the trials were conducted "to the highest standards" and more analysis is being done to refine the efficacy reading. Astra shares were little changed Thursday after slumping 6.2% earlier in the week amid questions about the trial results. "The most likely explanation for the divergent efficacy in its interim analysis is either chance or patient demographics," Sam Fazeli, a Bloomberg Intelligence analyst, wrote in a note. "Either way, approval based on current data means people will be inoculated with a vaccine the true efficacy of which is unknown." The battle against Covid-19 is at a turning point with encouraging vaccine trial findings coming this month. One vaccine from Pfizer and BioNTech SE and another from Moderna Inc. were both about 95% effective in preliminary analyses of trials of tens of thousands of volunteers. Fazeli added: "We remain most convinced by the Moderna and Pfizer data for now."

Emma Raducanu insists she will not be dazzled by spotlight after US Open win



New York, July 31: Emma Raducanu says she will endeavour to continue working in exactly the same manner as before her shock US Open victory last month as she adjusts to the increased

attention and her transformed status as the newest grand slam champion on the women's tour. The 18-year-old will make her first appearance since winning the title at Flushing Meadows at the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells, California, after being given a wildcard to compete. "What got me to this point is not thinking anything differently," she said. "If I just put additional thoughts in my head, then that will just create a problem. I am just going to keep going on about my business and stay the same." With her seeding of 17, Raducanu received a first-round bye and she awaits either the world No 71 María Camila Osorio Serrano or Aliaksandra Sasnovich,

who is ranked No 100, in the second round. Raducanu faces a potential third-round match with the 11th seed, Simona Halep, should both players win their opening tie. Indian Wells also marks Raducanu's first tournament since opting not to continue working with Andrew Richardson, who had temporarily coached her during the US hardcourt season. She is currently being helped by Jeremy Bates, the head of women's tennis at the LTA, and says she is confident she will handle herself well until she appoints a permanent coach. "I know that even though I'm quite young, I've got a lot of experience banked," she said. "And at the end of the day you're out there on your own and

you have to be your own coach on the court." The enormous amount of popularity and attention Raducanu gained in New York has immediately led to appearances at events such as the Met Gala and the No Time To Die James Bond movie premiere, but she says that aside from the odd event, she has been focused on training since her time in New York. "When I was at home I still didn't really go out," she said. "I didn't go to a restaurant or anything. I was just at home with my family. I got some really cool invitations. It felt nice to receive the support and everyone's kind messages and kind words but, yeah, I didn't really get too caught up in it. I just focused on my tennis and my

training. "Despite getting to experience "some great things that I probably never would have got to do before," Raducanu says that the most special moment of the past three weeks remains the night she shared with her team in New York after winning the title. "The highlight for me still and always will be the night that I won and afterwards after the match when we went back to the hotel and it was just me and the team, having a really nice meal and chatting and reflecting on the past three weeks," she said. "For me that's always going to be the highlight, even though all of the invitations were very cool I think that's what's going to stick in my mind."

'Not just surviving, thriving' interest in women's sport has risen since pandemic

Leicester, July 31: A fifth of UK adults have increased their following of women's sport during the pandemic, research has found, with many citing the rise in coverage as a reason for their greater interest. A report published by Leaders in Sport and Sky Sports found that 21% of adults have spent more time following women's sport in the past 18 months, with 68% of those attributing that to increased coverage and the quality of the coverage. The biggest rise was among men, with 24% of those surveyed saying they were following more women's sport. The new Women's Super League broadcast rights deal, worth £8m a season, has Sky Sports showing up to 44 live games - and the BBC one live game per round, with 18 of its 22 matches on BBC One or BBC Two. The other 75 games are also available on the FA Player. Increased visibility of women's football generally has also played a role in drawing eyes to games, with 19% saying news reporting on women's sport had made them want to watch games live or on TV and 41% believe broadcasting of women's sport should be treated the same as men's. Tracey Crouch MP,



chair of the fan-led review into football and a former sports minister, said: "This new research shows that despite the challenges of the pandemic, women's sport has great resilience and is not just surviving but thriving after an exciting summer of sport. "The managing director of Sky Sports, Jonathan Licht, said: "The success of [cricket's] the Hundred and the incredible viewing figures for the Women's Super League at the start of the new broadcast deal highlight the momentum behind women's sport."

Alleged victims of sexual abuse launch group proceedings against Celtic FC

London, July 31: Twenty-five men who claim they are victims of historical sexual abuse at Celtic Boys Club have launched group proceedings against Celtic

Football Club. The case will mark one of the first of its kind in Scotland, with solicitors claiming the potential exists for damages payments running into millions of pounds being ordered by the court of session. The ability to launch a class action - where two people or



other abuse survivors to come forward. Patrick Maguire, a partner at the firm, said: "This is completely unique. I know of no other group actions, or involving such a large number of claimants, against any other club in Europe. I hope this a wake-up call for

Celtic and they decide to face up to their responsibilities instead of rubbing salt in the wounds of survivors." Thompsons states the claims "stem largely from their time playing for Celtic Boys Club in the 1980s". Celtic have always maintained they operated as a separate entity from Celtic Boys Club, which no longer exists. A number of individuals have been charged and sentenced in connection to abuse at

Celtic Boys Club. In a statement, Celtic said: "The club again expresses its sincere sympathy, regret and sorrow to all those affected across Scottish football including at Celtic Football Club and Celtic Boys Club, something which the independent review acknowledged and welcomed. Today we reiterate this apology."

Barcelona pay homage to Cruyff by teaching Arsenal harsh WCL lesson

Barcelona, July 31: Barcelona ripped Arsenal apart in style to kickstart their Champions League defence. Goals from Mariona Caldentey, Alexia Putellas - the newly crowned European player of the year, who received her trophy before kick-off - Asisat Oshoala and Lieke Martens earned the home team a comfortable win, with Frida Maanum scoring a consolation goal from a corner. The scoreline, terrifyingly, flattered the Gunners, who had six shots while their opponents had 35. Arsenal barely registered time on the ball. "I've learned that we have a team that never gives up," said the deflated Arsenal manager, Jonas Eidevall. "It was a really, really tough game. I can probably do things better in preparing the team to find those solutions even quicker than they did today." In the first half Arsenal were forced to ride wave after fluid wave of Barcelona attack and it was surprising they clung on for half an hour. Within minutes of the whistle the reigning European champions fizzed around the Arsenal box, pinning back the Women's Super League leaders with the shadow of the famous La Masia academy looming over the stadium. On approach to the Johan Cruyff Stadium, the 6,000-seat ground opened in 2019, a quote by the Dutch master adorns a wall: "In my teams,

the goalkeeper is the first striker and the striker the first defender." This Barcelona team were doing their best to make those words come true. Sandra Paños spent much of the first 45 minutes closer to the halfway line than her goalline as the strikers drove forward, forcing save after save from Manuela Zinsberger and denying the Gunners any time on the



ball. Given her heroics, which included a late penalty save from Putellas, it was cruel then that Zinsberger would be let down by her defence for the opening goal. Having firmly parried Oshoala's effort from the edge of the area it was Caldentey who pounced on the rebound and fired in without a yellow Arsenal shirt in sight. Barcelona doubled their advantage two minutes before half-time. Oshoala, who spent a season with the Gunners in 2016-17, was played in behind the Arsenal defence on the right. The Nigerian forward cut back to Putellas who smashed in from six yards

between Leah Williamson and Zinsberger. Prior to this match Eidevall had brushed aside warnings of the strength of a Barça side that had scored 35 goals in their first five Superliga games and conceded just once, when he said: "It's a very good football team, but they are also beatable. It's 11 humans against 11 humans. In Sweden, we say 'a shovel is a shovel'. A football game is a

football game." The problem, though, was that Barcelona looked superhuman, a shovel digging a hole that the Gunners were desperately trying to fill back in with bare hands. If Arsenal hoped for respite in the second half it did not come. Barcelona, who dismantled Chelsea 4-0 in last season's Champions League final, had come back out with a digger. Within two minutes they had their third goal and it was disappointingly easy from an Arsenal point of view as Oshoala latched on to a low ball in behind, easily outpacing Jen Beattie, before calmly slotting past Zinsberger.

Red Sox rush Cole and end archrival Yankees' season in AL wild card game

New York, July 31: Xander Bogaerts and Kyle Schwarber homered off Yankees ace Gerrit Cole, and Nathan Eovaldi took a shutout into the sixth inning to help the Boston Red Sox beat New York 6-2 Tuesday night in the AL wild card game. Bogaerts also made a perfect relay to throw out Aaron Judge at the plate when the game was still close, sending the Red Sox into the AL Division Series against the Tampa Bay Rays. Game 1 in the best-of-five matchup is Thursday night in St Petersburg, Florida. With Bucky Dent in the crowd and Aaron Boone in the Yankees dugout, Boston chased Cole in the third inning and beat New York in the playoffs for the third straight time. The Yankees, who lead the ma-

jors with 27 World Series championships, have not won it all since 2009. A year after baseball took its postseason into neutral site bubbles to protect against the pandemic, a sellout crowd of 38,324 - the biggest of the year - filled Fenway Park to rekindle one of the sport's most

Yankees won thanks to Dent's homer into the net above the Green Monster. Boone, the former infielder who is now the Yankees manager, added to the heartbreak with his 11th-inning walk-off homer in Game 7 of the 2003 AL Championship Series. The Red Sox haven't lost to



passionate rivalries. Enough Yankee fans were among them to fuel a raucous back-and-forth of insulting chants. It was the fifth playoff matchup between the longtime foes, with Boston taking a 3-2 edge. That doesn't count the 1978 AL East tiebreaker - technically regular season Game No 163 - that the

them since. They got their revenge the next year when they rallied after losing the first three games of the ALCS to eliminate the Yankees, then went on to win their first World Series title in 86 years. They won three more Series, in '07, '13 and in '18 when they knocked out the Yankees in the divisional round.

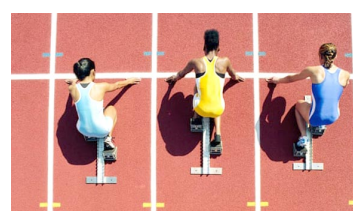
Women's Tour of Britain: Clara Copponi takes lead as Amy Pieters wins stage two

London, July 31: Amy Pieters won a cold and rainy second stage of the Women's Tour of Britain in a sprint finish, while second-placed Clara Copponi took the overall leader's jersey. Tuesday's stage began and ended in Walsall, with a 10-woman breakaway group battling for the stage victory in what the 30-year-old Dutch cyclist Pieters described as "a hectic finale". British 21-year-old rider Pfeiffer Georgi (Team DSM) led into the final corner but had to settle for fifth place, with Movistar's Sheyla Gutiérrez in third. France's Copponi (FDJ Nouvelle-Aquitaine Futuroscope) was pipped to the line by Pieters but took the general classification lead after finishing third on Monday's opening stage. "The conditions made the

race hard, but I liked it," Pieters said afterwards. "We wanted to race aggressively, and that side went well." Pieters (Team SD Worx), who is second in the overall standings, looks the better equipped to emerge from Wednesday's time trial in Atherstone with the blue jersey. British time trial specialist Joss Lowden - who recently broke the hour record - is a contender for the stage victory. Lowden (Drops-Le Col) is in 25th place overall, 52sec behind Copponi. The two-time former winner, Lizzie Deignan, is down in 45th place after her dramatic triumph in the Paris-Roubaix on Saturday. The overnight leader, Marta Bastianelli, fell to 10th in the standings after finishing 46sec off the pace.

Who's included ? Views of the report on transgender participation in sport

London, July 31: A report for Britain's sports councils argued last week there was no magic solution that balances the inclusion of trans women in female sport while guaranteeing competitive fairness and safety. They can continue to prioritise trans women in female sport at the expense of women and girls. Or they can protect the future of women's sport by restoring the integrity of the female category and looking for new ways to increase participation of trans women. This was a comprehensive review canvassing the opinions of all sides: scientists, athletes, lawyers, trans groups, women's groups. When an organisation takes a serious look at the issue, the problems are undeniable. Last year World Rugby took the necessary steps to protect women's rugby. And now the sports councils are trying to do the same. It's great to see UK sport taking the bull by the horns. Everyone knows the current system is not fit for purpose. Even the International Olympic Committee said that this summer. But it's the UK sports councils that have taken the lead to find a new way forward. They must be commended for that.



England face Autumn Nations Cup final mismatch against depleted France

London, July 31 : England's Autumn Nations Cup final against France on Sunday is in danger of descending into farce after Les Bleus named a desperately depleted squad for the Twickenham showdown. Eddie Jones warned his players they



will need to "beat up" France to claim the one-off trophy but Fabien Galthie is unable to name his front-line names amid a legal dispute over player release, with a huge mismatch now on the cards. Following a legal challenge from the Top 14 clubs over the summer, it was determined that France players could only appear in three of their six matches this autumn - a stipulation that rules out 20 of the squad, including Antoine Dupont, Virimi Vakatawa and the captain, Charles Ollivon. They are further weakened by injuries with Romain Ntamack also missing, and not one of the XV who

started the 24-17 win over England in February will feature. France were already hampered by the ruling for Saturday's 36-5 win over Italy, which booked their place in the final, fielding a XV with only 111 caps - England's lineup for their victory over Wales had 807 - and more

for the finale to a first foray into rugby union either, but Jones issued a clear message to his players regardless. He came in for criticism for promising "brutality" against France in February - in part because of how the word translates - and it backfired with their

have on their opponents, however, so soon after the death of Christophe Dominici. In 1999 Dominici - who died last week aged 48 - was part of the France side who pulled off a miraculous World Cup semi-final comeback against New Zealand, scoring one breathtaking try and teeing up another for Christophe Lamaison at Twickenham. Youngs said: "My theory is always that rugby is built around emotion. With the sad news of Dominici and what that will do to their emotional levels, trying to put a performance out there to represent him, I expect a really emotional, passionate team. The 1999 semi-final against New Zealand is a hugely memorable game and I suspect that they'll be desperate to channel that emotion into a performance. "E England meanwhile, will be boosted by the return of some supporters at Twickenham for the first time since March, even if the 2,000 will be somewhat sparse in a stadium that holds 82,000. Some players will be buoyed by having their families in attendance but not all will, with anyone living in tier three not attending, according to Rugby Football Union protocols. Youngs added: "[Someone] like Jack Willis for instance has just started his international career and his family haven't been able to sit in the stands to watch him. If he's involved that will be a great moment."

than half of those came from Baptiste Serin and Teddy Thomas, both of whom reached the three-match threshold. Indeed, of the 31 players named on Sunday, only two have 10 caps or more while Anthony Jelouch, who assumed the captaincy when Serin went off on Saturday and could do the same against England, has only three. To hammer home the disparity between the sides, the French pack on Saturday had 13 caps between them, England's 360, and Galthie outlined the size of the task ahead when describing Jones's side as "the best team in the world right now". The expected mismatch is hardly what Amazon Prime had in mind

opponents coasting to victory. But he had similarly bullish words for Sunday's weakened opponents, with England having won their seven matches since that defeat in Paris. "The French have always got a tough forward pack so we are going to have beat them up, up front," he said. "The challenge is to get on top of them up front and then we can create some space out wide so we can play a bit. They were too good for us on that day [in February]. I did not prepare the side very well. I have learnt from that and we will have a great preparation this week. "England's scrum-half Ben Youngs is wary of the effect playing at Twickenham may

Leah Williamson leads way as England's defensive trio delight Phil Neville

London, July 31 : The seasoned England midfielder Jill Scott was full of praise for the attitude of the young players in the Lionesses' latest training camp, after a back three of Manchester United's Millie Turner and the Arsenal duo Lotte Wubben-Moy and Leah Williamson all impressed. "They were brilliant," said Scott. "The communication from behind made my job very easy today and technically they are such good players. One thing I like about all three of them is they are front-footed defenders and they want to put a tackle in." Scott's thoughts were echoed by Phil Neville who, having watched the trio shine in an 8-1 defeat of a team led by England's captain, Steph Houghton, looks to have found the players he needs at the back to make the best of the system he sees as an important part of England's future. "I love the system, I really do," the manager enthused. "With that system you need to have the right profile or players in the right position. What we saw today was that we had the right players in the right positions." It is hard to read much into experimental internal friendlies under a manager who will be gone in the summer, if not before, but there was perhaps some symbolism to be found in the contrast between the resolute, youthful three-at-the-back at one end, marshalled by Williamson, and the collapse of a back four led by Houghton at the other. Playing with three defenders also looks to get the best out of Lucy Bronze,



with the 2019 European player of the year afforded an extra layer of protection when she forges forward on the right wing. Houghton is not quite England's past - at 32 and still playing at the top level for Manchester City she has a lot more to give. But with each match it is becoming clearer that Williamson is the future. Arsenal's manager, Joe Montemurro, has hinted as much in his glowing assessment of Williamson and her new partner Wubben-Moy, who returned

to the club following three years in the US with the dominant University of North Carolina Tar Heels. The pair collaborated to stifle a star-studded Chelsea attack on 15 November - only a cruel deflection off Wubben-Moy in the 90th minute denied the Gunners three points - and the unfortunate player "looked like a seasoned professional" according to Montemurro. "Have a look at that, Leah Williamson and Lotte Wubben-Moy, two centre-backs, it's amazing and it's maybe something exciting for

England going forward," he said. Now, excitingly, the blossoming partnership at club level is being tested by the national team coaches. Speaking after Friday's England v England game, Williamson said: "We really made everything count, the way we were playing, in terms of the score line. It was different roles in terms of playing in a two and now playing in a three, but everyone adjusted really well and yes, I suppose those minutes with Lotte at Arsenal have really helped."

NFL round-up : Mahomes magic leads Chiefs past Brady's Buccaneers

Paris, July 31 : Patrick Mahomes threw for 462 yards and three touchdowns to outplay Tom Brady and lead the Kansas City Chiefs to a 27-24 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sunday. Tyreek Hill scored on receptions of 75, 44 and 20 yards, backflipping into the end zone on his second TD, and finishing with 13 catches for 269 yards the last an eight-yard catch on third-and-7 to give Mahomes an opportunity to run out the clock. The Chiefs (10-1) won their sixth straight game and clinched their seventh 10-win season in eight years under coach Andy Reid. The reigning Super Bowl champions improved to 6-0 on the road and have won nine straight away from home going back to last year. Brady was 27 of 41 for 345 yards, three touchdowns and a pair of second-half interceptions in falling to 2-2 in four career meetings against Mahomes, who built an early 17-0 lead and also had the Chiefs up by 17 entering the fourth quarter. The Bucs made it close, with Brady throwing TD passes of 31 and seven yards to Mike Evans, the latter trimming Tampa Bay's deficit to 27-24 with 4:10 remaining. The Bucs

never got the ball back. Taysom Hill's two touchdown runs led the New Orleans Saints to a 31-3 win over the Denver Broncos, who were thrust into a quarterback quandary when their passers failed to wear masks as mandated by the NFL's Covid-19 protocols. In a grind-it-out slugfest that

Broncos QB Kendall Hinton, a rookie receiver and former Wake Forest quarterback from their practice squad, had an understandably shaky NFL debut, going one for 9 for 13 yards, no touchdowns and two interceptions. Broncos starting quarterback Drew Lock, backup Brett Rypien and practice squad veteran



resembled pro football's early days, the Saints (9-2) won their second straight game with Hill subbing for the injured Drew Brees. Hill wasn't nearly as sharp as a week earlier against the Falcons, when he completed 18 of 23 passes for 233 yards and a 108.9 passer rating. This time, he was nine of 16 for 78 yards, no touchdowns, an interception and a paltry passer rating of 43.2. He also ran 10 times for 44 yards.

Blake Bortles were disqualified over the weekend when the NFL discovered the three weren't wearing masks Wednesday, the day before No. 3 QB Jeff Driskel tested positive for the coronavirus. Robbie Gould made a 42-yard field goal as time expired, and the San Francisco 49ers snapped their three-game losing streak with a 23-20 victory over the Los Angeles Rams, sweeping their season series for the second straight year.

NFL with no quarterbacks? The league's Covid-19 problems are just starting

London, July 31 : There was no shortage of bemusement in advance of Sunday's Denver Broncos-New Orleans Saints game. On Saturday all four Broncos quarterbacks were ruled out, Jeff Driskel because



he tested positive for Covid-19, the others because they took their masks off around him and were therefore deemed "close contacts". The Broncos naturally panicked. First they

asked the NFL to postpone the game. Denied. Then they asked the league if offensive quality control coach Ron Calabrese, a former college quarterback, was an option given his familiarity with the

team's playbook. Denied again. Out of options, the Broncos finally settled on wide-receiver Kendall Hinton, an undrafted rookie practice squad member who had

played some quarterback at college. We had no idea what to expect. Perhaps the Broncos would introduce some new brand of offense that would take the league by storm. Or ... maybe not. It turns out watching an NFL team play without an actual quarterback is like watching a car being operated by someone who doesn't know how to drive. They might know where to find the pedal but when it comes to making U-turns or changing lanes, watch out. To no one's surprise, the Saints routed the Broncos 31-3. There is no way to overstate how much more enjoyable the build-up to this game was than the experience of watching it. Hinton, to his credit, took the field with grace. He is just a kid trying to get some action; he wasn't begging coaches to make a

positional switch. All told, poor Hinton completed one pass for 13 yards and threw two interceptions. There is a deeper lesson for the NFL. The league is a powerful, rich organization but it can't outwit Covid-19, which is raging out of control in America. Positivity rates have surged across the country, and between 150,000-200,000 new cases are reported every day. It's a terrifying and difficult time to try and squeeze in the remainder of an NFL season. The Broncos' situation was unusual because it involved all of their quarterbacks but every team is being hit with Covid, despite strict protocols. There is no guarantee the Broncos' situation won't be repeated elsewhere. We're only at the beginning of the holiday wave and already the quality of play

and competitive balance has been severely impacted. The undefeated Pittsburgh Steelers lost their Thanksgiving miniseries after the Baltimore Ravens' Covid outbreak. The San Francisco 49ers will probably move to Arizona for three weeks after Santa Clara county, where the team is based, banned contact sports as Covid-19 rates surge in California. More players every week are missing games due to their appearance on the Covid list. This week stars such as Adam Thielen, Jonathan Taylor, Larry Fitzgerald and the reigning MVP, Lamar Jackson were among the lengthy list of players sitting out due to the virus. The NFL seems hellbent on finishing the season, no matter the health risks and watered-down quality of the product.





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