



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

Vol. No. VII ■ Issue No. 167 ■ RNI-ASSEN/2014/58385 | GUWAHATI ■ WEDNESDAY ■ AUGUST 03, 2022 | PAGES 8 ■ PRICE RS. 10.00

Taylor Swift: claims about private jet use 'blatantly ...

02

Ryder Cup captain Luke Donald still in dark over Europe's ...



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Drugs seized

Assam Rising
Guwahati, August 02 :

The Assam Police on Tuesday arrested three drug dealers, and seized narcotics worth over Rs 15 crore in the grey market from their possession, in Assam's Karbi Anglong district. Based on specific input, a joint team of Assam Police from the Dilai police station and 20 battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), led by Bokajan Sub Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) John Das, intercepted a Bolero vehicle, bearing Sikkim registration number SK03-P-1143, at Dilai Timali, along the Assam-Nagaland inter-state border.

Poachers Arrested

Assam Rising
Guwahati, August 02 :

Poachers has been arrested by the Crime Investigation Range of the Forest department in Biswanath district in Assam. The poachers were planning to kill a one-horned rhino in Kaziranga National Park. Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of Crime Investigation Range of Forest department, police launched an operation at Behali area in Biswanath district on Monday (August 1) and apprehended four poachers including an ex-National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB) cadre. The arrested poachers were identified as Ajit Das, Padum Hazarika alias Dhandu, Dhanidev Saikia and Dipankar Boro. Jatindra Mohan Das, Officer of Crime Investigation Range in Biswanath district said that they planned to kill a rhino.

Over-speeding

Assam Rising
Guwahati, August 02 :

Assam Transport Minister Parimal Suklabaidya emphasized the need to check over-speeding of vehicles in the state. He stated that 70 percent of accidents occur due to rash-driving. According to an official press release, the minister called for intensified road safety awareness programmes, especially in rural areas. The minister directed the transport department to work in sync with the Assam Police to ensure that road rules are followed and two-wheeler riders wear helmets at all times, he said.

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma met MLA who levelled horse-trading charges against him



Assam Rising
Guwahati, August 02 :

Assam minister Pijush Hazarika on Tuesday rejected Congress lawmaker Kumar Jaimangal's allegations that he was lured him to meet chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma as part of attempts to topple Jharkhand's Hemant Soren-

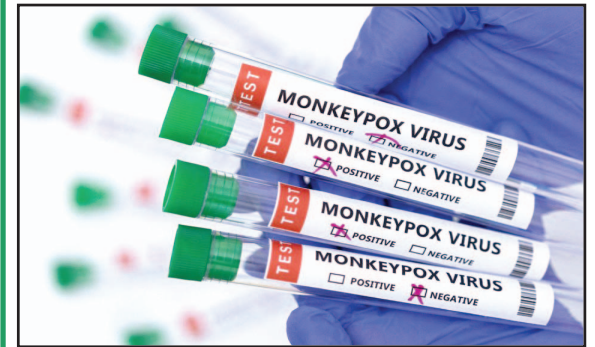
led government. He maintained that Jaimangal regularly met Sarma, who also took the Jharkhand lawmaker for a meeting with Union minister Prahlad Joshi in Delhi on July 26. Jaimangal on Sunday filed a case in Ranchi against suspended Jharkhand Congress legislators Irfan Ansari, Rajesh Kacchap, and Naman Bixal Kongadi after they were arrested in West Bengal's Howrah with 749 lakh cash. He claimed the three called him to Kolkata to take him to Guwahati for a meeting with Sarma for engineering a defection for toppling Soren's government. In his police complaint, Jaimangal claimed the three offered him 210 crore, a ministerial berth

and that Sarma has the "blessings" of top Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders in Delhi to topple Soren's government. Hazarika, a close aide to Sarma, shared photos in a series of tweets and said five days before Jaimangal filed the case, Sarma took the lawmaker to the Delhi residence of Union coal minister Joshi on July 26 to discuss some trade union matter. He added Jaimangal sought Sarma's help to meet Joshi. "Jaimangal... has been regularly meeting Chief Minister Himanta

Biswa Sarma Sir. He should face the law for making a fraudulent allegation against Hon'ble CM of Assam and against those tribal MLAs [members of the legislative assembly]," Hazarika tweeted. Sarma, who joined the BJP in 2015, on Sunday dismissed Jaimangal's allegations and claimed even top Congress leaders have stayed in touch with him. "...when I have spent 22 years in that party [Congress], there will be contacts ... just because of that someone [Jaimangal] will lodge an FIR [First Inform-

mation Report]... I do not know what has happened to Congress," Sarma said on Sunday. Jaimangal said he met Joshi in connection with the registration of a trade union with the coal ministry. "Sarma took me to Joshi's residence in Delhi... I informed my party in charge Avinash Pande and Soren. If they make any other charge, I will respond accordingly," he said. He added he stands by his charges made in the FIR. "You cannot expose such a huge cash haul without meeting a few people."

Monkeypox virus outbreak: 8 cases so far in India, no specific community at risk, says Centre



New Delhi, August 02 :

Eight cases of monkeypox have been reported so far in India and a national task

force has been set up to monitor the development of diagnostics and vaccines,

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18 ACS Officers In Assam Promoted To IAS

Assam Rising
Guwahati, August 02 :

As many as 18 ACS officers serving in the government of Assam were on Monday appointed IAS officers by virtue of promotion. The President of India, Droupadi Murmu approved the promotion of the members of the state civil service of Assam. An order from the ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions dated August 1 read, "In exercise of the powers conferred by Rule 8(1) of the Indian Administrative Service (Re-

cruitment) Rules, 1954 read with Regulation 9(1) of the Indian Administrative Service (Appointment by Promotion) Regulations, 1955 and Rule 3 of the Indian Administrative Service (Probation) Rules, 1954, the President is pleased to appoint the following members of the State Civil Service of Assam to the Indian Administrative Service against the vacancies determined by Government of India under Regulation 5(1) of the said Regulations in consultation with the State Government

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CM Dr. Sarma takes review of Transport Department

Assam Rising
Guwahati, August 02 :

Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma asked Transport Minister Parimal Suklabaidya to hold a meeting with PWD and Transport department to ensure necessary safety norms are introduced in accident prone areas to bring down the incidences of road accidents. Taking a review of the Transport Department with the District Transport Officers in Janata Bhawan here today, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma asked the Transport Minister to hold the meeting with the department to assess and analyze the road accidents in the accident prone areas and suggest measures to introduce more safety norms to save precious lives. Moreover, taking into consideration of the number of accident related fatalities, Chief Minister Dr.



Sarma also observed that the districts which recorded more than 100 fatalities caused by road accidents in the last one year, the Deputy Commissioners of the concerned district should convene a meeting with all the stakeholders and find out ways to cut down the accidents. A letter to that effect will also be sent from the Chief Minister to the respective DCs. Moreover, since most of the road related fatalities are caused for not wearing helmets or not using seat belts, the Transport Department and Police will jointly

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brother Prahlad Modi, who is also the vice president of All India Fair Price Shop Dealers' Federation (AIFPSDF), on Tuesday staged a dharna here with various demands of the organisation. Prahlad along with several other members of the All India Fair Price Shop Dealers' Federation (AIFPSDF) gathered at Jantar Mantar, holding banners and raising slogans. "A delegation of AIFPSDF will submit a memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, listing our long-standing demands



for the sake of our survival. With the current situation of hike in the cost of living and overhead expenditures for

running shops, a raise of mere 20 paise per kg in our margin is a cruel joke. We request the Union government

to grant us relief and end our financial miseries," Prahlad said. He further stated that AIFPSDF will hold a national executive meeting on Wednesday and based on that, their next course of action will be decided. AIFPSDF national general secretary Biswambhar Basu told PTI that they also plan to meet

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday. The AIFPSDF has been demanding compensation for loss on rice, wheat and sugar, and also for edible oil and pulses to be supplied through fair price shops. It has also demanded that the 'West Bengal Ration Model' of free distribution be implemented across the country. Further, the members said all due margins for all the states, including Jammu and Kashmir, should be reimbursed immediately. "We also demand that edible oil, pulses and LPG gas cylinders be supplied through fair price shops. Rural areas' fair price shop dealers should be allowed to function as direct procurement agents for rice and wheat. Our demands were also raised by TMC MP Sougata Roy in Parliament," Basu said, adding that their protests will continue until their demands are met.

ED attaches 67 windmills of Chennai company in Rs 3,986 crore money laundering case

New Delhi, August 02 :

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday provisionally attached 67 immovable properties including 67 windmills valued at Rs 113.32 crore belonging to the Chennai-based Surana Group of Companies under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in connection with three cases of Rs 3,986 crore bank fraud. ED initiated a money laundering investigation on the basis of three FIRs made by the Central Bureau of Investigation against Surana Industries Limited

& Others, Surana Power Limited & Others and Surana Corporation Limited & Others. The investigation revealed that the three companies of Surana Group defrauded the banks by floating a web of shell companies wherein they appointed its employees as Directors, Proprietors, and Partners and indulged in paper transactions with them without actually moving the goods. The credit capital of the banks was layered into the personal accounts of the promoters of the company by projecting

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Govt To Award State Employees For Good Performance

Assam Rising
Guwahati, August 02 :

The government of Assam will reward as many as 10 non-gazetted employees at the state level and 89 at district level in a bid to incentivize their good performances. The 'Lok Sewa Puraskar' award will be presented on Lok Kalyan Divas on August 5, the death anniversary of Gopinath

Bordoloi, the first Chief Minister of Assam. Employees who perform well will be awarded a one-year extension of service, pushing the age of superannuation to 61 years, and a cash award of Rs 25,000 and a citation, an official statement read. For the evaluation and selection of the awardees, a screening committee and a state-level committee have been constituted, the statement added. It further men-

tioned that the main criteria for selection for the awards will be work ethics, punctuality, integrity, and other measures decided by the committees. The 89 people selected for the district-level award this time were picked from 259 nominations received from 35 districts and the 10 state-level awardees were chosen from 99 proposals submitted by various departments and directorates.



Dhakuakhana- Women planting rice saplings on Tuesday



A passenger train runs on the Tsavo River Super Major Bridge near the Tsavo National Park in Kenya

Germany puts coal power plant back on network after gas supply cut

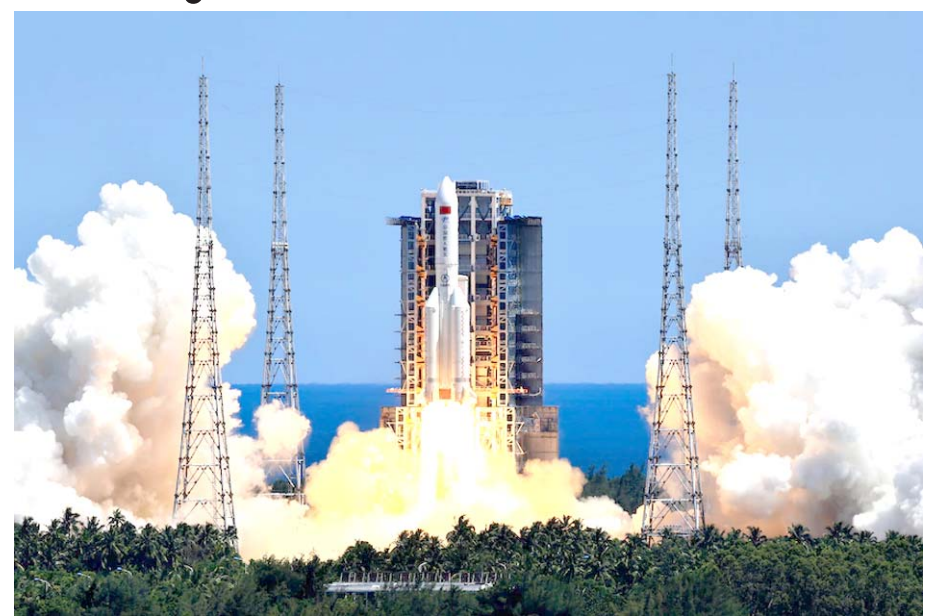
Berlin, July 02 : A coal-fired power plant that had been mothballed has become the first of its kind to be put back on to the network in Germany, as debate rages over how Europe's largest economy will cope without Russian gas. The facility in Lower Saxony, which is owned by the Czech energy company EGH, has received emergency permission to run until April in an attempt to boost energy production. The move has been described by Germany's economy minister, Robert Habeck, a leading Green, as a necessary evil, as he acknowledged it was a considerable setback to the country's attempts to tackle the climate crisis. Meanwhile, Germany's Greens ruled out lengthening the life of nuclear power plants due to be mothballed by the end of the year. Ricarda Lang, the head of the Greens, who are in a coalition government with the Social Democrats and the pro-business FDP, said such a move would not happen as long as her party was in government. She rejected calls from the FDP

finance minister, Christian Lindner, to keep open until about 2024 if necessary three nuclear power plants due to stop operation by the end of this year. Germany is heavily reliant on Russian gas, and supplies through its largest pipeline, Nord Stream 1 via the Baltic Sea, are currently at about 20% of expected levels, in what has been widely interpreted as a retaliatory move by Moscow over sanctions imposed as a result of its invasion of Ukraine. Politicians have warned of crisis conditions this winter and next as Germany tries to tackle the

energy shortfall. Restrictions have been put on the heating of public buildings including swimming pools and town halls, and businesses have been asked to allow employees to work at home as far as possible to avoid the heating of big office blocks. Industry and the public are being urged to curb energy consumption. Resuming the use of nuclear power plants, which the government of Angela Merkel said in 2011 Germany would turn its back on as a result of the Fukushima nuclear

accident, is seen as a very difficult option. It would involve committing to years of investment, and there is a shortfall in the necessary equipment, knowhow and human resources. Lang, in a wide-ranging interview with Die Zeit, said there was no future for nuclear power in Germany. "What Christian Lindner is proposing is nothing more than once again starting up the nuclear power industry," she said. "And that will not happen, on our watch at least." She complained about a "lack of seriousness" in the debate, which has been raging for weeks.

Kalimantan, Indonesia, according to a Malaysian news outlet. Jonathan McDowell, an astrophysicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, said the metal appeared to be the exact size of the Chinese rocket's core stage. "It looks like the end cap of a rocket stage propellant tank," he said. "There's no doubt in my mind that it's from the rocket ... it's in the right place at the right time and looks like it is from the right kind of rocket." The uncrewed Long March 5B rocket carried the second of three modules to complete the Tiangong space station. Earlier in the week, China said it would closely track the debris and that it posed little risk. But Aerospace Corp, a government-funded nonprofit research centre near Los Angeles, said allowing the rocket's entire core stage to return to Earth uncontrolled was reckless. On Saturday the Nasa administrator, Bill Nelson, also chided China for not sharing information on the rocket's descent, labelling it irresponsible and risky. "All



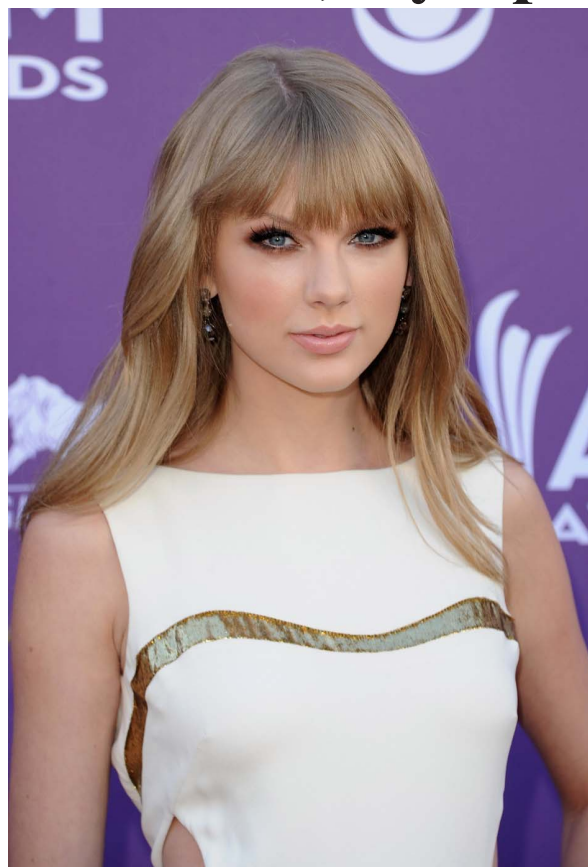
spacefaring nations should follow established best practices, and do their part to share this type of information in advance to allow reliable predictions of potential debris impact risk, especially for heavy-lift vehicles like the Long March 5B, which carry a significant risk of loss of life and property." The warning came two years after fragments of a Chinese Long March 5B damaged several

buildings in Ivory Coast. There were no injuries reported. On Sunday, local media reports said two families were evacuated from their homes in Sarawak, Malaysia due to radioactivity concerns after a piece of debris suspected to be from the Tiangong rocket was found nearby. The report showed a piece of metal wedged half a metre in the ground. Malaysia's space agency and atomic energy

licensing board were investigating the incident alongside local police. McDowell said it was difficult to tell from the quality of the photo whether the image was of debris from the rocket, but he was confident that several parts landed near the Indonesia and Malaysian border given there had been numerous local media reports of people finding suspicious metal objects. The discovery was made one day after people in Sarawak posted images of debris lighting up the night sky as it re-entered Earth's atmosphere. "At first we thought it was a shooting star," said Aizul Sidek, who captured footage with his smartphone in Kuching, Sarawak. Another resident told local media he was caught by surprise at about 12.40am by a thunderous noise and a tremor that shook his house.

Taylor Swift: claims about private jet use 'blatantly incorrect', says spokesperson

London, July 02 : A spokesperson for Taylor Swift has denied that the US pop star is responsible for "most or all" of the trips taken on her private jet after she was alleged to be the highest-use celebrity by sustainability marketing firm Yard, calling the claim "blatantly incorrect". Yard's survey found that Swift's plane has taken 170 flights between 1 January and 29 July 2022, clocking up 15.9 days in the air with an average flight time of 80 minutes and 139.36 miles per flight. The total flight emissions for 2022 were calculated at 8,293.54 tonnes - 1,184.8 times more than the average person's total annual emissions. "Taylor's jet is loaned out regularly to other individuals," the spokesperson told the Guardian, declining further comment. Yard compiled data from the Celebrity Jets Twitter account, which automatically tracks certain aircraft, to highlight "the damaging impact of private jet usage" after fans called out celebrities such as Drake, Travis Scott and Kylie Jenner for taking strikingly short flights at a time of profound climate crisis. In July, Jenner, who is in a relationship with Scott, posted a photo of their respective jets to Instagram with the caption: "you wanna take mine or yours?" The Celebrity Jets Twitter account found that Jenner's flight later that day lasted just 17 minutes. Drake attempted to defend his use of a vast private plane - a \$185m Boeing 767 that typically seats hundreds of people,



modified to his tastes - for a series of sub-20-minute flights by saying that the aircraft was being moved to a storage location and had no passengers on board. One fan responded: "OK but that's worse, you don't see how that's worse?" While Scott clocked in at No 10 in Yard's survey, neither Drake nor Jenner featured in the 10 worst offenders list. Swift was closely followed by boxer Floyd Mayweather, with emissions of 7,076.8 tonnes of CO2, and Jay-Z, with 6,981.3 tonnes. Former baseball player Alex Rodriguez ranked at No 4, country singer Blake Shelton at No 5, director Steven Spielberg at No 6,

Kim Kardashian at No 7, Mark Wahlberg at No 8, Oprah Winfrey at No 9 and Scott at No 10. Private jets emit more than 33m tonnes of greenhouse gases each year - more than the country of Denmark. Their slight passenger loads mean that they are five to 14 times more polluting than commercial planes per passenger, and 50 times more polluting than trains. Just 1% of the global population is responsible for half of the emissions associated with flying. The CelebJets Twitter and Instagram accounts are run by Jack Sweeney, a student coder at the University of Central Florida who has previously tracked the movements of

Russian oligarchs and tech mogul Elon Musk, who reportedly offered him \$5,000 to stop tracking his movements. "The amount of time and dedication I have put into it is cool," Sweeney told Bloomberg. "\$5k isn't enough to drop it." Yard digital sustainability director Chris Butterworth said: "It's easy to get lost in the dazzling lives of the rich and famous, but, unfortunately, they're a massive part of the CO2e problem we have with the aviation industry. Aviation is responsible for 2.4% of human-produced CO2e every year, and research shows a vast divide between the super-rich and the rest of us regarding flights, travel, and even general emissions." Yard stated that its research was "not conclusive to the biggest offenders, but the biggest offenders according to the data as presented on the Celebrity Jets Twitter page" and said it was not clear whether the planes' respective owners were on each flight.

Fee rise to see Komodo dragons triggers strike by Indonesian tourism workers

London, July 02 : Hundreds of Indonesian tourism workers have gone on strike over a hefty increase in ticket prices to see the country's Komodo dragons, a rise the government says is needed to preserve the habitat of the world's largest lizard. The fee to access two of the main islands of Komodo national park shot up 18 times overnight to 3.75m rupiah (£205) on Monday, a jump that local workers said would scare off tourists and

cause their incomes to dry up. Indonesia is home to about 3,300 rare Komodo dragons, which can grow up to 3 metres (10ft) in length and can kill large prey with a single venomous bite. "This has caused uncertainty among us," said Leo Embo, a tour guide who belonged to one of 24 local workers' associations striking on Tuesday. "We decided to go on strike even when we're suffering from a loss here ... this might as well be suicide." Kompas TV showed footage of a standoff between police and protesters.



People view participating works of the Show Garden competition, as part of the media preview of the Singapore Garden Festival in Singapore

AFFIDAVIT

My Name is WAHADUDUL HOQUE, But Wrongly inserted in my H S Final Examination Registration Certificate, Admit, Mark Sheet & Pass Certificate Vide Roll 0281 No-10166 as WADIDUL HOQUE in place of WAHADUDUL HOQUE. That's an affidavit before the Magistrate Darrang Mangaldai that WADIDUL HOQUE And WAHADUDUL HOQUE is the same and One Person and my Original and Current name is WAHADUDUL HOQUE.

WAHADUDUL HOQUE
S/O Mazibar Rahman
Vill - Raja Pukhuri
P O - Chamuakhat
P O Dhula
Dist - Darrang

Guest House

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

Name Correction

I, Qaisar Jahan, W/O kalim Ahmed Residing at H/No 5 Bishnujyoti path Sijubari Hati gaon PS Hatigaon Kamrup metro. That my actual and correct name is Qaisar Jahan, but my name has been wrongly recorded in my daughter's High School Leaving Certificate as Qaisar Jahan Khanam and while applying for my daughter's passport it was mentioned as Qaisar Jaha by mistake. That I swear and affirmed before the Notary Govt of Assam kamrup metro that Qaisar Jahan, Qaisar Jahan Khanam & Qaisar Jaha is one and same person having single identity.

Wearable fans help Japan's hot dogs beat the heat



Tokyo, July 02 : While experts have advised owners to skip walks or take their pets out very early in the morning or late at night during the recent record-breaking heatwave in Britain, Japan's high humidity levels are keeping temperatures over

25C through the night, according to public broadcaster NHK. Tokyo experienced its longest heatwave on record from late June, with temperatures up to 35C for nine straight days after the rainy season ended early. "There was almost no rainy season this year, so the hot days came early," said Uzawa, who teamed up with a veterinarian to make the jackets. Mami Kumamoto, who owns a miniature

poodle named Purin and a terrier called Moco, said she tried to keep her pets cool with packs of dry ice during walks. "But it's easier to walk my dogs with this fan," she told. The Cool Dog range, which is also suitable for cats, appears to be modelled on fan-fitted jackets that have become increasingly popular among Japanese construction workers and others who have to spend long periods outside. Demand is not expected to drop off any time soon. Temperatures rose again at

the weekend after the arrival of a high-pressure system over much of the country. Of 914 observation points, 725 recorded a maximum temperature of 30C or higher, the Mainichi Shimbun reported, adding that the mercury in Kushiro city in Japan's far north had reached 33.5C - the highest temperature there since records began in 1910. Although slightly less brutal weather is forecast for Thursday and Friday, temperatures are expected to rise again at the weekend, remaining in the mid-30s for much of next week.

No. DMA(P)167/2022/38

RFP FOR SELECTION OF FIRM/AGENCIES FOR SURVEY, ASSESSMENT, COLLECTION AND RECOVERY OF PROPERTY TAX FOR SILCHAR MB, DIBRUGARH MB AND NAGAON MB

Online Proposals are invited by Directorate of Municipal Administration, Assam from eligible firm/agencies for survey, assessment, collection and recovery of property tax for Silchar MB, Dibrugarh MB and Nagaon MB through the Assam Govt. e-procurement portal <http://assamtenders.gov.in>

Detailed Terms of Reference and other conditions may be seen and can only be downloaded from website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> The RFP document can be downloaded till **23/08/2022 up-to 15:00 Hrs.**

Online submission of RFP will be up-to **23/08/2022 at 15:30 Hrs.**

Sd/-
Director,
Municipal Administration, Assam
Janasanyog/C/7484/22
Dispur, Guwahati-781006.

No: TMCH/Miscellaneous Works/97/2015/885

RE-TENDER NOTICE

Sealed bids (Single envelope system) affixing court fee of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight & twenty five paise) only from the authorized Stockiest / Distributors or authorized dealers are invited for supply of the SUBMERSIBLE machine to Tezpur Medical College & Hospital, Tezpur. The list of the items along with detailed terms & conditions may be collected from the office of the Medical Superintendent, Tezpur Medical College Hospital, Tezpur during office hours on all working days from 02/08/2022 to 08/08/2022.

Prescribed tender documents containing terms and condition can be downloaded from the website www.tmcassam.org.

The tenders are to be submitted to the Office of the Medical Superintendent, Tezpur Medical College & Hospital, Tezpur during office hours. Last date & time of submission will be on **08/08/2022, 2 P.M.** Tenders will be opened on the same day at 2.00 P.M in presence of the intending tenders' or their authorized representatives.

Sd/-
Principal cum Chief Superintendent
Tezpur Medical College & Hospital, Tezpur.
Janasanyog/C/7524/22

60 Days Anti-Drug Campaign: Team Byatikram called on DGP



Assam Rising
Guwahati, August 2: Byatikram MASDO successfully completed the 60 Days Anti-Drug, Tobacco, and Liquor Awareness Campaign by calling a wonderful meeting with Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, Director General of Police, Assam. Dr. Saumen Bharatiya, President of Byatikram MASDO along with the team

members met DGP and presented a painting by Tulika Goswami and apprised him about the successful completion of the 60 days activities. Earlier in the morning, the Byatikram MASDO in association with Kamrup (M) District Yoga Association, Guwahati, Assam hosted a Yoga Orientation

Program at Deshbhakta Tarunram Phookan Indoor Stadium, Nehru Stadium marking the completion of the "60 Days Anti-Drug, Tobacco and Liquor Awareness Campaign". The program was an initiative to make people aware of the healing power of yoga to lead a happy and healthy lifestyle and also

to spread awareness about the prevention of substance abuse. Dr. Saumen Bharatiya, President of Byatikram MASDO thanked everyone and said, "We fully support the plan of the Government of Assam to build a drug-free Assam and the Byatikram family will always continue to do such activities and help build a drug-free Assam in the near future as well. During the meeting, the Director General of Police congratulated the entire team for the successful completion of the program and urged the organization to continue such programs in the coming days. Furthermore, the special Yoga Orientation program was attended by Eminent Actor Pranjal Saikia, President of Kamrup District (Metro) Yoga Association Munindra Patwari, Treasurer of Assam Yoga Association Prasenjit Ganguly, Prominent Sports

Journalist Kalyan Das, Vice President of All India Handball Association Amalendro Patwari, Yoga Expert Debojit Nath, Beautician Mala Mahanta, Yoga Guru Swapna Goswami of Vivekananda Kendra and students of various other yoga institutions. The program started with different yoga exercises preceded by a beautiful music therapy session addressed by Music Therapist Anubhuti Kakati Goswami and a song performance by Singer Dr. Jayashree Devi. Further, the students of Durlabh Yoga Kendra mesmerized the audience with an Artistic Yoga performance. Another yoga demonstration was shown by Urbi Tabbilder and Ryan Gupta from Kamrup District (Metro) Yoga Association. The program concluded with a phenomenal drama called 'Rupantar', directed by Rashmi Chiring Phukan followed by a special message on yoga & its benefits by Yoga Expert Debojit Nath.



CM's Institutional Plantation Programme inaugurated in ASACS

Assam Rising,
Guwahati, August 2: Plantation of saplings under the Chief Minister's Institutional Plantation Programme was inaugurated at the office premises of Assam State AIDS Control Society (ASACS) on August 2. The plantation programme was inaugurated by Minister for Health & FW, Assam Keshab Mahanta in the presence of Principal Secretary to Govt of Assam, Health & FW Deptt, Avinash Joshi, IAS, Project Director, ASACS,

Pomi Baruah, ACS, Additional Secretary to the Govt of Assam, Health & FW, Manas Nath, ACS, Joint Secretary to the Govt of Assam, Health & FW Deptt, JM Patgiri, ACS, and a host of other dignitaries. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said, "It is really a great initiative taken by the Chief Minister. Actually, we should not have waited for the CM's initiative and such a plantation drive should have been taken long back by every institution. Under the context of global warming, tree plan-

tation is the need of the hour." The Minister planted a mango sapling, Principal Secretary, Health & FW planted a litchi sapling and Project Director ASACS planted a bokul sapling. The Minister also planted saplings at the office premises of DME Office. The CM's Institutional Plantation Programme (July 17 to August 15, 2022) was an initiative taken by the Science, Technology and Climate Change Department and the Coordinating Agency is Assam Science, Technology and Environmental Council.

ARSC vows to make roads free of accidents

Assam Rising, Guwahati, August 2: A number of vital decisions were taken at the meeting of the State Road Safety Council (SRSC), Assam here on Monday to make the state roads safer. Chaired by Transport Minister, Parimal Suklabaidya, who is also the Chairman of SRSC, Assam, the three-hour long meeting held at the Assam Administrative Staff College took a number of important decisions to make roads of the state free of accidents and fatalities. Suklabaidya directed the senior officials of Transport and other line departments to take measures to check overspeeding of vehicles, as 70 percent of accidents are accounted for. The Minister instructed the Panchayat and Rural Development Department to conduct awareness drives amongst two and four wheelers at the Gaon Panchayat level in coordination with the respective DTOS. Suklabaidya advised the council to primarily focus on 'man to man' contact to make road safety awareness campaigns more effective. He asked the officials to put up road signages in Assamese

and other languages more widely along the roads for better understanding by motorists. In the same vein, he instructed the SRSC to design vehicles with road safety messages and audio visual systems so that they can act as mobile awareness vehicles. Suklabaidya asked the NHAI, NHIDCL and PWD(NH) authorities to repair the potholes to prevent road accidents. The Minister also reviewed the status of black spots in the National Highways with the officials of NHAI, NHIDCL and PWD(NH). He directed the NHAI to organize awareness camps on a regular basis. He also reviewed the status of Trauma Centres coming up soon across the state with the officials of the Health and Family Welfare Department. The Minister directed the Member Secretary of SRSC to monitor the proper functioning of interceptor vehicles and ensure that the vehicles cover the rural areas too.

He directed the Transport Department to work in sync with the Assam Police to ensure strict vigilance over wearing of helmets and checking overspeeding of vehicles. It was decided in the meeting that SRSC would allot interceptor vehicles to the Assam Police. The meeting decided to induct support staff in the District Road Safety Committees to ensure better coordination between the state level and district level committees. It further decided to allot breath analysers to the Excise Department and for deployment of personnel on roads to ensure strict checking and punitive action against 'Drink & Drive'. "We will be focusing more on the things that are essential on the roads to avert accidents. This includes following up with the Assam Police and other stakeholders for putting up signboards,

road signals, speed breakers, reflectors, cat eyes, dividers," said a Transport Department official. He added that with proper infrastructure and awareness among motorists, the rate of road accidents will certainly come down. The meeting was attended by Secretary of Transport Department cum Member Secretary of SRSC, Adil Khan, officials from PWD, H&FW, ASTC, APDCL, NIC, Excise, Assam Police, NHAI, NHIDCL and other related departments. The Transport Minister also held a meeting with IIT, Guwahati to discuss the proposed Road Safety Conclave to be jointly organized by the Transport Department and IIT, Guwahati. It may be mentioned that the Transport Department has collaborated with IIT, Guwahati and nominated the latter as its Knowledge Partner. IIT, Guwahati will facilitate the Transport Department in research works related to road data and inducing new technologies to avoid road mishaps.

Special gram shabha meeting held in Majuli Luitparia GP



Assam Rising
Majuli, August 2: A special Gaonshabha meeting was held in Luitparia Gaon Panchayat on Tuesday. The first program of the meeting was chaired by the President of Luitparia Gaon Panchayat Mrinalni Gam Milli. The objectives of the meeting were explained by the GPC of the panchayat Hemant Das at 11 am. The second program was done by

Majuli District Fisheries Officer Bimal Sharma. He briefly discussed the need to celebrate the Tiranga in every household as a citizen of 75 years of independent India. The third program was attended by Upper Majuli Zonal Development Officer Rohitashwar Saikia who spoke about Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. The fourth program was held at Majuli District

Fisheries Department Officer Bimal Sharma and Upper Majuli Zonal Development Officer Rohitashwar Saikia. The discussion said that real farmers have received fair price of paddy under the Prime Minister's Agricultural Welfare Scheme 70 per cent of the farmers have already sold their paddy at the paddy sales centers in Phulni and received financial assistance under the PM-Kisan scheme. He urged those who are deprived of this financial assistance to submit their Aadhaar card documents to the departmental authorities and get to work. The fifth program was conducted by District

Fisheries Officer Bimal Sharma. Shri Sharma spoke about how workers can get government insurance through e-shram cards. The sixth program included important discussions on election of Panchayat representatives for Panchayat Committees and list of PMGAY/AWAS PLUS regarding 'Amrit Sarovar'. The meeting was attended by councillor Prabin Milli, Ward members Amar Panging, Hemendra Taye, Social worker Bhaskar Pegu, Luitparia Regional TMPK Secretary Rahul Gam, MMK President Mahendra Payeng, Joint Secretary Jogen Milli and Reporter Pranjal Gare is present in the Meeting.

Sec 144 CrPC promulgated in Nagaon dist

Assam Rising,
Nagaon, August 2: Due to the flood water that inundated various areas of Kaziranga National Park, the administration of Kaliabor Subdivision promulgated 144 Cr PC across Nagaon district portion of the park with immediate effect today and also restricted the speed limit of vehicles on NH 37 road in the park. Besides, the administration also prohibited other activities like assembly of five or more per-

sons at a time, carrying firearms, lethal weapons, bows and arrows, parking of heavy vehicles in front of dhaba, blowing loud horns in and around the area of the park. In a notification issued on Saturday last here by Pabitra Kumar Das, additional district magistrate i/c Kaliabor Subdivision stated that the steps were taken only for safe movement and migration of the wild animals of the park and tiger reserve towards the higher

grounds adjoining Karbi Anglong hills by crossing the NH 37 road. It was said in the same notification that the strict prohibition order initiated by the administration would continue until further notification by the same. Meanwhile, in another notification issued by the same on Saturday last, following the directives of the Supreme Court, the administration of the subdivision also restricted all kinds of new constructions in the areas of all the 9 identified animal corridors of the park. It was stated in the notification that the activities like any kind of new constructions, parking and stoppage of heavy motor vehicle, cleaning

and washing of vehicles, use of high voltage or intensely bright electrical lights, playing music in high or loud volume in 7 animal corridors of the park respectively Bagori, Harmoti, Kanchanjuri, Hatidandi, Deosur, Chirang, Amguri and its additional areas under Kaliabor Subdivision were strictly prohibited by the administration as such activities can pollute the natural water resource and endanger or be detrimental to the flora and fauna of the park. All kinds of restrictions as well as prohibitions automatically have come into force with immediate effect and shall continue until further order, the notification added.

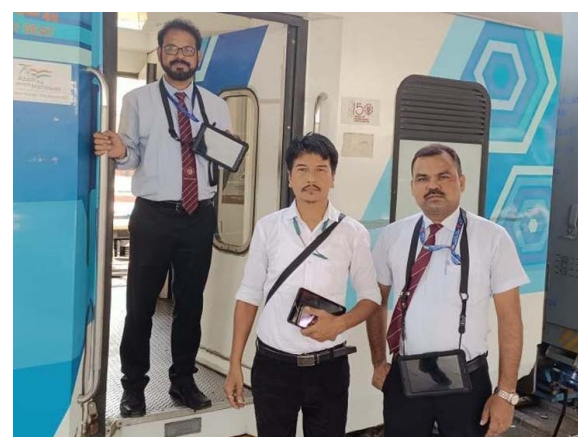
Lok Adalat to be held at Biswanath

Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, August 2: As per the directives of National Legal Services Authority of India and the Assam State Legal Services Authority, Biswanath district legal services authority is all set to organise Lok Adalat on August 13 here, stated a press release. During the period of Lok Adalat compoundable cases like criminal cases, civil cases, matrimonial disputes, motor accident cases (MACT), cheque bounce cases, revenue related cases etc. will be dealt quickly at free of cost, stated A. Sonowal, secretary of Biswanath district Legal Services Authority. In addition to this, cases

like bank transaction related cases, telephone and electricity bill related anomalies, traffic challan like issues will also be dealt with during the Lok Adalat period. Secretary A. Sonowal has made a humble request to all concerned to contact 6901281620 or mail dlabiswanath@gmail.com for their queries.

Digitalization : NFR initiates Hand Held Terminals

Assam Rising
Guwahati, August 2: As a part of the 'Digital India' initiative, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has introduced Hand Held Terminals (HHTs) in several trains to make onboard ticket checking easy, transparent and digitalized. N. F. Railway has provided a total of 185 nos. of HHTs to be implemented at several trains originating from five divisions of the zone. Out of 185 numbers, Katihar division was provided with 78 nos., Alipurduar division with 24 nos., Rangia division with 04 nos., Lumding division with 57 nos. & Tinsukia division lastly was provided with 22 nos. of HHTs that were to be introduced in originating trains of the divisions. Several trains like Guwahati-Naharlagun Vistadome originating from Naharlagun, Rajdhani Express originating from Dibrugarh, Saraghat Express originating from Guwahati, Capital Express originating from New Jalpaiguri, Capital Express originating from



Kamakhya etc. along with several other trains were introduced with this digital form. Infact, HHTs will be introduced to all the trains of N. F. Railway in a phased manner in the upcoming times. Till now nearly 8000 passengers were checked using this digital method on several trains of N. F. Railway where HHT was introduced. The introduction of HHTs enables the ticket checking staff on-board to verify the sta-

tus of the passengers list travelling with reservation of the entire train with ease. It also helps to verify the vacant berths and allot the same to passengers between identified destinations in a wholly transparent manner. Thus, HHT is a digital platform that helps with elimination of carrying the physical charts and doing manual entries by the duty staff on-board.

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No. GMDA/DEV/105/2019/3 Dated: 02-08-2022

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed proposals are invited for Consultancy services from reputed Architectural Consultant registered in Indian Institute of Architects/ Council of Architecture having experience in the relevant field of work for the following works:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Administrative Approval Amount
1.	Development of Sankardev Udyan & Tarun Ram Phukan Park including repairing of FOB connecting Sankardev Udyan & Tarun Ram Phukan Park.	₹415.00 Lakhs
2.	Development of Silpukhuri Park, Guwahati.	₹98.00 Lakhs

The proposals will be received upto **3.00 p.m. of 16-08-2022**. Details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on all working days during office hours on payment of Rs. 2000/- (Rupees Two Thousand) only.

Sd/- (Kausar J. Hilaly, ACS)
Chief Executive Officer
Guwahati Metropolitan Dev. Authority
Bhangagarh, Guwahati - 5

THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VII, ISSUE NO. 167 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 03, 2022

Polluting the Seas

Pollution is anything that is present or introduced into an environment which causes harm. In the sea there are many kinds of pollution such as rubbish, oil, chemicals and even sewage from toilets! In the last ten years the waters have borne the brunt of serious pollution accidents, but these are becoming less common as technologies develop and the affects become better understood. But, there is still an awful lot to learn about the effects of polluting marine environments. Often the pollution cannot be seen by the naked eye, and sometimes pollution will never disappear from the water. In many ways it is humans' own actions that lead to pollution and in some cases we can do something about it. For example, buying local products reduces the demand for food from overseas, reducing the amount of ships needed to carry this food, and in turn reducing the pollution they cause on the oceans and the waste they dispose of. Follow the links at the side to explore the factsheet and find out ways in which you can help and where to go for more information. Eight million metric tons: That's how much plastic we dump into the oceans each year. That's about 17.6 billion pounds - or the equivalent of nearly 57,000 blue whales - every single year. By 2050, ocean plastic will outweigh all of the ocean's fish. Ocean trash can be broken into smaller pieces - known as microplastic - by sun exposure and wave action, after which it can find its way into the food chain. When it eventually degrades (which takes 400 years for most plastic), the process releases chemicals that further contaminate the sea. More plastic in the ocean comes from China and Indonesia than anywhere else - together, they account for one-third of plastic pollution. In fact, 80 percent of plastic pollution comes from just 20 countries, including the United States.

Be a Citizen Journalist

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
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Guwahati, PIN 781003
E-mail Id : assamrising@gmail.com

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

NFT scams, toxic 'mines' and lost life savings: the cryptocurrency dream is fading fast

Cryptocurrencies, according to their most ardent supporters, are supposed to supplant nations' existing currencies and end central banks' control over the money supply. Instead, individuals will be able to trade with each other in a decentralised, digital financial ecosystem. This is a good thing, they promise, because unlike states and their central banks, technology is incorruptible. Crypto-evangelists imagine technology as a replacement for social and political institutions. But technology never replaces social and political behaviour; it merely alters the rules and norms we follow. To see this in action, one need only look at the plummeting value of Terra Luna, a crypto token that crashed by 98% in a day, causing some investors to lose their life savings; the plunging value of Bitcoin and Ethereum; or the countless scam victims whose non-fungible tokens (NFTs) have been stolen. NFTs use the same blockchain technology as cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin, to trade algorithmically generated illustrations that riff on a theme. On offer are cartoon Bored Apes, Lazy Lions and "CryptoDickButts". Although NFTs are aesthetically uninspiring, they can sell for as much as \$91.8m - and as they have grown in value, scams involving stolen NFTs have abounded. Just last month the Bored Ape Yacht Club's Instagram account was hacked, and the perpetrators stole about \$3m worth of NFTs by directing followers to a fraudulent site. When a scammer steals a CryptoDickButt, all the ecstatic

manifestos about the decentralised power of the blockchain disappear, as scam victims plead with the handful of crypto exchanges to block the sale of their stolen NFT. The underlying technology and its tokens might be decentralised (and even that claim is questionable, given that cryptomarkets are wildly concentrated in the hands of a few hundred people), but

David A Banks

where you can actually buy, use and sell these things is still limited to a few services and exchanges. This forces crypto fans to recognise a hard truth: currencies and contracts are only as valuable or enforceable as the people and institutions that recognise their legitimacy. Blockchain technology does not change this fact whatsoever. In turn, states and institutions have begun to treat crypto as a potentially destabilising geopolitical force, capping and taxing the ravenous amounts of energy that crypto mines consume. The crypto mining industry already consumes 0.55% of global energy production - about as much as a small country. Some have gone so far as to put the kibosh on blockchain technology altogether. China effectively banned the mining and use of cryptocurrencies in late 2021; prior to that, the country was far and away the largest bitcoin miner by volume, accounting for as much as 75% of global volume in September 2019. Its reasons for banning crypto are likely a combination of curbing the power consumption of crypto mines, protecting citizens from scams and controlling the flow of

Groundwater resources are the lifeline of Indian agriculture and key to meeting the drinking water needs of a 1.35 billion strong population. It is a hidden treasure under our feet that can't be seen but is of utmost importance in our lives. India is the largest extractor of groundwater resources. With increasing population and to meet the growing demands of water, groundwater extraction over the years has adversely affected the water regime in many parts of the country. This has led to over-exploitation in several regions resulting in concomitant issues such as falling water tables. The critical state of groundwater resources in several regions is further exacerbated by rising anthropogenic contamination. However, on the flip side, there are several regions with under-exploitation of groundwater resources and scope for further development. This makes groundwater management a unique challenge that requires evidence-based interventions.

Accordingly, the working group for the XII plan on 'Sustainable Ground Water Management' highlighted the need for a comprehensive mapping of India's aquifers or groundwater bearing horizons that would form the cornerstone of developing any groundwater management programme. Also, scientific planning is undertaken for development of ground water under different

hydrogeological situations and to evolve effective management practices with involvement of community for better ground water governance. Consequently, the Ministry of Water Resources (Present Jal Shakti ministry) launched the National Aquifer Mapping and Management programme (NAQUIM) in 2012. NAQUIM is the world's largest programme for aquifer management, to support the effective management of groundwater resources in the country. It is focused on the scientific delineation of aquifers, mapping them, and multidisciplinary studies to quantify and evaluate issues to develop a viable water management strategy. Aquifer mapping will enable robust groundwater management plans at the appropriate scale, and also devise and implement those plans for this common-pool resource.

NAQUIM is a pioneer programme for the scientific management of aquifer, where a large amount of data is being collected and analyzed. The 3-D aquifer models generated based on NAQUIM studies provides new information for more accurate assessment and management of groundwater resources. Aquifer maps and management plans developed under this programme are backed by rigorous field surveys by the professional hydrogeologists of the Central Ground Water Board. Apart from this, variegated fields of geological, geophysical, hydrological and multiple water quality surveys are followed for preparation of aquifer maps. The concept of NAQUIM is not merely mapping, but reaching

the goal - that of ground water management through community participation. The management plans are subject to a three-tier review including a review by a National Level Expert Committee (NLEC) before finalization. Potential areas for artificial recharge, suitable structures that can be constructed for harvesting water are indicated in the plans. Out of the total geographical area of nearly 33 lakh km² of the entire country, an area of around 25 lakh km² has been identified to be covered under the NAQUIM programme in

Subodh Yadav

phases. More than 88% of the mappable area has already been covered under the aquifer mapping programme and the remaining area will be covered by March 2023. The programme provides the foundation for our community to scientifically manage and use our precious groundwater resources responsibly. To facilitate effective dissemination of NAQUIM outputs, these outputs are being regularly shared with the state Government at various levels. Further, to improve outreach, Public Interaction Programmes (PIP) are being organized in different parts in which direct stakeholders participate. Similarly, under the aegis of Rajiv Gandhi National Ground Water Training

and Research Institute, Raipur, block level (tier III) training is also organized in which groundwater issues and water conservation-related aspects are imparted to direct groundwater users.

The studies completed so far have provided several new insights into groundwater scenarios and management alternatives. Evidence-based management interventions including supply and demand-side measures are recommended for containing over-exploitation in stressed aquifers. Alternative contaminant-safe aquifers have been delineated in many areas, where ground water contaminations have been reported. The studies show that large aquifer systems can be recharged in an integrated manner improving groundwater availability for irrigation over extensive areas. While recharge augmentations have so far been the major tool of groundwater management in the country, NAQUIM studies have brought out that demand-side management which has a more pronounced effect on improving groundwater scenario in comparison to supply-side interventions.

The scientific outputs of NAQUIM help in clear understanding of the occurrence of groundwater, how the water bearing formations are extending horizontally and vertically beneath the surface, quantification of water bearing capac-

ity of different rocks and understanding of quality of groundwater in different horizons. This detailed understanding of the precious natural resource that exists beneath the surface and is hidden from our eyes will help the administrators for better planning in their districts and states. Currently, the Ministry of Jal Shakti is planning to take up NAQUIM studies on a finer scale to handle specific localized issues. These studies will focus on the critical areas facing groundwater issues and accordingly aim to provide pin-pointed solutions for the problems. Areas to be covered under this new phase of NAQUIM will be prioritized based on the extent of groundwater stress, groundwater contamination, and other critical issues.

In the long run and considering its noteworthy significance, NAQUIM will help in achieving drinking water security, improved irrigation facility and sustainability in water resources development in large parts of rural India, and many parts of urban India as well. This way NAQUIM Programme aims to revolutionise the entire groundwater scenario of the country and will help in achieving sustainable management of the precious groundwater resources by bringing forth an accurate and comprehensive micro-level picture of groundwater in India.

-Subodh Yadav, IAS,
Joint Secretary, DoWR, RD
& GR Jal Shakti Ministry, GoI

Har Ghar Tiranga is a good idea, but not every Indian has the means to follow Flag Code

In the 75th year of India's Independence, the Indian citizen has formally and finally been entrusted with the individual responsibility to honour and preserve the dignity of the National Flag. Though the right to fly the flag was confirmed by the Supreme Court in 2002, two recent amendments to the Flag Code

have expanded its scope in terms of time and availability. Earlier, it was only allowed to be hoisted between sunrise and sunset and had to be made of khadi. Now, the flag can be flown at any time and can be machine made of cotton, polyester, wool or silk. The Narendra Modi government's moves are dovetailed into the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign that is part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. It is aimed at encouraging people to hoist the National Flag at their residences/homes to mark the 75th year of India's Independence. The idea is to invoke heightened feelings of patriotism and promote

greater awareness of the National Flag. Media reports indicate that the Union government is targeting a mass display in 20 crore houses across the country. Flags are being sold from 1.6 lakh post offices. Other flag makers like Khadi units, self-help groups and entities in the small and medium sectors will also be selling them. In fact, a list of vendors is available on the website of the campaign with contact names and mobile numbers. The attempted scale of mobilisation for the period between 13 and 15 August 2022 is notable. But so is the conceptual shift from the collective to the individual platform. Hitherto, on special occasions, as part of a public function, Indians would collectively assemble around the Tricolour, partake in ceremonial procedures and kindle within themselves the spirit of patriotism. They will still continue to do so. But with the amendments to the Flag Code, some Indian homes would fly the flag perpetually and could stand out as being in the category of 'Flag Houses'. However, it would not be surprising if the initial enthusiasm is not dampened by the logistics and the cost involved in maintaining the standards expected by the Flag Code, which categorically states that a damaged and dishevelled flag should not be displayed and it should occupy a place of honour and should be distinctly placed. Violations can attract the provisions of The Prevention of Insults to the National Honour Act 1971 and are punishable by up to three years of rigorous imprisonment. It would appear that only the well-to-do would be capable of fulfilling the conditions laid down. For starters, the



white strip that signifies truth and peace is easily stained not only by the vagaries of

Lt General Prakash Menon

weather and nature but also by the high levels of pollution that are pervasive in most parts of India. Periodical, if not frequent, replacements will be required that can only be afforded by a few. Also, the vast majority of Indians live in flats/huts/hovels/shacks that cannot satisfy the condition of the flag occupying a place of honour and being distinctly placed. The push for individuals to fly the flag could turn out so that it symbolises inequality and further deepens it. For a flag meant to unite people under a common cause, it would be shameful if it serves to highlight inequality. It is not that economic and social elites should not exist in Indian society. But their circumstances, providing them with the capacity to fly the distinctly placed flag in their upper-class houses, cannot make for a level display of patriotism. This was highly avoidable in an India that supposedly focuses its prime energy and resources to pull millions of people out of poverty, ill health and illiteracy. The challenge is magnified as the efforts have to be directed while being sensitive to climate change. Now that machine-made polyester flags are permitted, it is likely to become more popular due to their price competitiveness and ease of manufacture. But it is worth remembering that the process of making a T-shirt from polyester emits more

than twice as much carbon as making it from cotton. If the polyester flag industry becomes

India's commitment to reducing carbon emissions in the fight against climate change could suffer a setback. Since the call for flying flags in houses has the Prime Minister's full backing, Indian homes could be expected to be awash with flags of all sizes between 13 and 15 August. What happens to most of those 20 crore flags after they have withered is another aspect that needs to be thought through. According to the Flag Code, the flag shall not be cast aside or disrespect-

fully disposed of but destroyed as a whole in private, preferably by burning or any other method consistent with the dignity of the Flag. The majority of the people who will have to dispose of their flags sooner than later would be challenged to do it in private either by burning it or through some other method. If the social norms that largely prevail in most parts of our society are an indicator, one can expect that disposed of flags could possibly find their way surreptitiously into the garbage disposal system. Some would find ingenious utility inside houses with the strong conviction that the government does not have any reach therein to ascertain the levels of transgression. The scale of the proliferation of the National Flag would make it virtually impossible for law and order agencies to deal with transgressions. On the other hand, false allegations can be easily levied and evidence planted to harass political rivals. Also, people not flying the flag may well be labelled 'anti-national' by their political opponents. Officially, of course, the Indian citizens have only been 'encouraged' to fly the Tricolour.

Letter to the Editor

Beware of Fake Doctors

Dear editor,

There have been several doctors getting qualifying Degrees, without appearing for the Exams. There is a Gang arranging people appearing for exams impersonating as the candidate. Lacs of rupees are collected for such an arrangement. 5 lac is paid for those appearing for exams impersonating as a candidate. A kingpin of such a scam was arrested in Delhi while CBI was investigating. (vide Afternoon Voice) The General Public should beware of such fake doctors. Even in Kolkata, the CID department started investigating. Many a (few hundreds) fake doctors have been arrested. One of them, Subhendu Bhattacharya, was found to be awarded by President of India, Pranab Mukherji. (shocking news vide- NDTV news). Government should release the list of such fake doctors and seal their clinics and remove them from service in Hospitals to save the public. The Doctor's profession is a Noble one. But people are cheating Public acting as doctors. All those doing such a scam should be severely punished including those appearing for exams and the invigilators allowing them to appear in place of others.

KL Rao

Inside RimpuBagan, the 'brothel' that led to BJP leader's arrest

Shillong, July 02 : Meghalaya was rocked on July 22 following a raid on a farmhouse owned by Meghalaya BJP Vice President Bernard Marak. Over the past few days, several people have tried to narrate the events leading to the dramatic raid, and the subsequent 'expose' has turned this issue into an all-out political war between allies. But amid allegations and counter-allegations, the issue at the heart of it all - a farmhouse named RimpuBagan - seems to have taken a backseat. At the time of filing this report, Marak had been arrested in Hapur, Uttar Pradesh and on his way to being brought back to Tura. What actually happened at the farmhouse? What are the locals saying, and is this simply a case of political vendetta as claimed by the BJP or is there something far sinister taking place? The first thing that becomes obvious when you visit RimpuBagan is that it is in the middle of a jungle in Edenbari, located about 8 km from Tura town. Interestingly, 'Rimpu' is Bernard's nickname, but the place's history is far more interesting. The location-deep inside a forest with only a narrow dirt road leading to the farmhouse - was in part because it was once a designated camp of the faction of the now-disbanded Achik National Volunteer Council (ANVC-B), which was active between 1998 and 2012, primarily in the Garo Hills. As you ap-



proach the farmhouse, on first impression it looks like a simple, single-storey building. However, go a little closer, and you realise that the farmhouse, located on a hillslope, has two floors 'below'. Curiously, considering this was a 'farmhouse' belonging to a powerful local leader, there was no entrance and no reception. Maybe this was the fallout of the raid, but we could not confirm the same. The farmhouse's architecture gains significance because it was mentioned by BJP president Ernest Mawrie in his statement issued right after the raid on Saturday. He described it as a three-storey building with the ground floor being used as a banquet hall which is rented out for the stated purpose. The first floor comprises 30 rooms which are used for homestay. The second floor is used as a hostel for underprivileged children from different areas of Garo Hills. However, when

EastMojo visited the farmhouse, we found that the top floor consists of five small rooms, all lined in a row, with an attached toilet. The stairs leading down to the second floor open to an empty hall. Across the hall, a narrow passage leads to other, smaller rooms. The ground floor also has a hall with rooms. This is where five minors-four boys and one girl-were rescued, according to the police. Any (names changed to protect their identity) said that they have always known RimpuBagan as a hostel and a guesthouse. "We have never been there, but from what we heard, it is a farmhouse and people go there during weekends to celebrate birthdays and other occasions," he added. He had good things to say about Marak, stating that Marak is a good man. Andy also narrated that his sister's son was picked from RimpuBagan during the raid and later released on bail. The farmhouse it-

self looked exactly like a place raided by police: pieces of broken wood scattered all over, doors broken, and a passage leading to two dingy rooms which looked more like detention centres than rooms for students. None of these two rooms had a window or any source of natural light and ventilation. We must point out that extensive conversations with locals, school officials, families and even children confirmed Marak's claims that he was funding the education of these underprivileged chil-

dren. However, that said, the living arrangements left a lot to be desired. There was no kitchen or utensils. How then, were the children fed and who fed them? Also, why were the children kept in such inhumane conditions when space was clearly not an issue? The police have been at the centre of this story, and for good reason: after all, it is the police who claimed that the aforementioned farmhouse was a 'brothel'. In a conversation with EastMojo on July 26, West Garo Hills Superintendent of Police (SP) Vivekanand Singh Rathore said since most of the rooms from where the minors were rescued were locked, the police broke the door of one of the rooms 'out of curiosity'. "In that room, we found female clothing, so we decided to break open every room and check. It was in the second room that we found several bottles of liquor. In the third room, knives were recovered along with crossbows and arrows, which were common weapons during the militancy days," said the SP.

Dental college block, modular OT inaugurated at RIMS



Imphal, July 02 : The Governor of Manipur La Ganesan inaugurated the Dental College Block at the new campus and new modular operation theatre at the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Imphal on Monday. Ganesan also interacted with the faculty members and representatives of non-teaching staffs of RIMS and assured them of addressing their issues. Speaking at the inaugural function at Jubilee Hall, he said that RIMS has become the pride of the Northeast region and it is the only medical college in the entire Northeast to continuously figure amongst the top 50 medical institutions of India for the last four years in as per the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking. "The doctors, nurses and all staff members of RIMS worked very hard during the COVID-19 pandemic and saved hundreds of life in Manipur," he said. Ganesan further said that dental education occupies a place of pride in the field of medical studies. "The basic aim of the dental colleges is to provide health-oriented courses that emphasise the prevention of oral disease. As dentistry offers a satisfying, rewarding, and lucrative career, it has become the subject of choice for aspiring professionals of tomorrow," he said. The Governor stated that in the past decade many new dental colleges have been established and still there is immense scope for dental surgeons in view of the high incidence of dental problems. There is one dentist in a population of approximately 26,000 in urban areas and one in a population of 3 lakh in rural areas, he added. India has more than 250 dental institutions, producing 15,000 to 20,000 Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) graduates every year. The mission of these institutes is to educate and impart knowledge to its students, train them at clinics and thereby render good service and care to the patients. He also exuded confidence that the Dental College in RIMS would provide quality treatment to patients. Ganesan also thanked the faculty members and urged them to continue their efforts to make RIMS the best institute in the country. Appealing to the gathering, particularly to the youngsters, he urged them to work as responsible citizens for a better future of the nation. He also asked them to inculcate a sense of patriotism in all aspects of life. "As a part of 'AzadiKaAmritMohatsav', let us hoist our National Flag at our residences and work places, and sing the National Song to show our respect to the freedom fighters for their sacrifices they have rendered for our motherland," he added. RIMS Director, Professor A Santa Singh spoke on the series of development in infrastructure and academic aspect of the institute. Among those who were present at the occasion were Medical Superintendent, RIMS, Principal, Dental College, faculty members and students.



Manipur to introduce Landslide Early Warning System

Imphal, July 02 : On the third day of the second session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly, relief and disaster management minister AwangbowNewmai informed the House that the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has initiated the Research & Development Activities and ground work for developing regional Landslide Early Warning System (LEWS), which will include the entire North Eastern Region. He added that the evaluation and calibration of the model is still in process and will be made operational after successful ground evaluation w.e.f 2025. This was in response to a question raised by MLA Surjakumar Okram. Reporting on the recent massive landslide at Marangching in Noney district, Awangbow informed the Assembly that the total number of fatalities were 58 as on 23rd July, 2022. Three are reported missing while 18 were injured. Forest Minister ThBiswajit Singh replying

to the question raised by MLA Chinlunthang informed that there are 37 reserved forests and 23 protected forests in all districts of Manipur. Cheklaphai covering an area of about 52.84 Sq.Km was declared as Reserved Forest by Manipur State Darbar Resolution No.2 dated 12.12.1945 before the Indian Forest Act, 1927 was enacted in Manipur, the minister added. Leader of the House, N Biren Singh said that steps have been taken up by the state government to curb attacks on non-Manipuris. In the last five years (2017 to July 2022), 20 non-Manipuris have been killed in separate incidents. The CM informed the house that various preventive measures have been taken up by the state government. A total of 14 FIR cases have been registered and investigations are going on whereas one accused has been arrested and remanded into judicial custody. He further informed that the district police have been given in-

structions to remain alert and curb of attacks on non-Manipuris by way of collection of intelligence, regular surprise frisking/checking, identification of suspects, and regular patrolling of the residential areas where non-Manipuris reside. Deployment of police personnel round the clock at the worksites where non-locals are employed as well as reside has been carried out. He added that surprise search and verification drives are carried out at random places regularly based on inputs and suspicious activities, and frequent patrolling in and around vulnerable pockets are carried out. Interaction with non-local by officers is done at regular intervals. Local landlords and employers have been asked to be alert about potential threats and to extend cooperation to non-locals. A beat system is being implemented and monitoring of vulnerable areas where significant populations of non-locals reside, is being carried out round the clock.

Mizoram is running out of money, massive crisis looms



Aizawl, July 02 : Amid rising COVID-19 cases coupled with swine fever outbreak and influx crisis, Mizoram is on the verge of facing a 2013-like situation as the state is reeling under a stiff financial crunch, officials said on Thursday. The current financial crunch has been largely attributed to the plunge in post devolution revenue deficit grants, share of taxes and the Centre's diktat to disburse all funds under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), the officials said. Mizoram was in over-draft on more than four occasions in 2013 under the erstwhile Congress government. The northeastern state has been registering a spike in COVID-19 cases for about a month and the state's tally reached 2,32,225 on Thursday as 145 more people have tested positive for the infection in the last

24 hours. The outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) continues to ravage the state, killing more than 42,600 pigs and piglets since March last year. The tiny state is also currently housing over 30,000 refugees from Myanmar. Owing to disbursement of funds worth around Rs 600 crore under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) from the state finance department to concerned departments recently, the state's treasuries, though not officially closed, have stopped disbursing money, a senior official in the treasuries said. He said that the Aizawl South Treasury, which disbursed the maximum amount of money on normal days, has stopped payment from Monday and the Aizawl North Treasury from July 21. He said that payment of salaries to government employees might be delayed due to

financial constraints. Another official hoped that salaries for Group C and D employees could be met from interest payment of state investment parked in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) even though salaries to other employees are delayed. Contractual and provisional employees have not been paid for June till Thursday. Earlier, state principal secretary for finance Vanlalchhuanga had told reporters that the state government would face serious fiscal problems following the Centre's directive to the state governments to release all the funds under CSS to concerned departments. He had said that the CSS funds in the past were usually parked in the state account with RBI and a part of them had been frequently loaned for covering shortage in revenue expenditure. The Centre had directed all states to release all the CSS funds within 21 days of receipt. Meanwhile, state taxation minister Lalchamlana has claimed that a drop in the state's share of taxes and post devolution revenue deficit grants from the Centre triggered a financial crunch in the state.

Two minors rescued from Kamengriver



Itanagar, July 02 : In a daring operation, two minors stuck on a rock for hours in the middle of the Kamengriver in the PachaMyorang area of Seppa were successfully rescued by the rescue operation team on Sunday evening. A

video of two boys stranded on the rock and Kameng River water increasing alarmingly was being circulated on district WhatsApp forum, informing boys were stranded for hours and unable to swim across. The residents alerted the deputy commissioner and the police seeking immediate rescue. Deputy Commissioner, Seppa, Abhishek Pravalim had rushed to the spot along

with local residents and the police. Later an inflated country rafting boat with life jackets were brought from East Kameng Social Welfare Cultural Organisation Chairman Bharat Sonam resident by the team led by Junior Engineer PHED Seppa, Sangtung Yangfo. The rescue operation ended around 7 pm. Later DC Seppa took both boys to the hospital for medical assistance and later handed over the boys to their family members.

BJP stages protest against AdhirRanjanChowdhury's remark

Itanagar, July 02 : The Arunachal Pradesh BJP on Friday staged a demonstration in front of its party headquarters here against Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury over his "Rashtrapatni" remark. Chowdhury has drawn considerable flak from the ruling BJP after he was recently heard referring to President

Droupadi Murmu as "Rashtrapatni" in a video clip. Accepting his mistake and terming it as slip of the tongue, Chowdhury had on Thursday said that he would apologise to the President, but not to the BJP. Speaking to reporters on the day, state BJP spokesperson and former minister Dr Mohesh Chai said Chowdhury's remark is an



insult not only to the First Citizen of India, but also to all women and the tribal community of the country. "We

strongly condemn the remark and demand that the Congress party should apologize to the whole country for this intentional derogatory remark against the President of India," Dr Chai said. The BJP workers later also burnt the effigies of Con-

gress president Sonia Gandhi, former president Rahul Gandhi and Chowdhury. JP state vice-presidents Nani Lajie, TaginSiga, Y T Burang and JuntySingpho, state secretaries Joram Tat and TaringTiri, ST Morcha president HiniunTacho and others party leaders were also present on the occasion.



Contd. From Page 1

Monkeypox virus outbreak: 8 cases

Health Minister Mansukh Madaviya said on Tuesday. Replying to queries in Rajya Sabha during Question Hour, he informed the members about the various steps being taken to prevent the spread of the disease, and to develop testing kits and vaccines. To date eight cases of the disease have been detected in India, out of which five have foreign travel history, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare said. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has successfully isolated the monkeypox virus and an expression of interest has been floated for research institutions, vaccine and diagnostic kits manufacturers in India to take the virus strain for further research to develop a vaccine in the country, he added. The minister was replying to a supplementary question. In a written reply to a question on measures and preventive action initiated by the government, the minister said, "A national task force on monkeypox disease has been constituted to monitor the development of diagnostics and vaccines for the management of monkeypox disease." Airport and port health officers have been instructed to remain vigilant and undertake rigorous health screening of incoming international passengers. The minister said the National Institute of Virology, Pune under ICMR has been designated as a referral laboratory for testing suspected cases. In addition, 15 other ICMR-VRDL (Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory) network laboratories have been optimised to undertake diagnostic testing for monkeypox disease. He said central teams have been deployed, on the detection of confirmed cases, to the affected districts to assist in control and containment efforts by state authorities.

18 ACS Officers In Assam

for the Select List of 2020, on probation until further orders and to allocate them to the Assam-Meghalaya Cadre, under Rule 5(1) of the Indian Administrative Service (Cadre) Rules, 1954. "The officers who were promoted are Riju Gogoi, Tonmoy Pratim Borghain, Syed Isiaqur Rahman, Jadav Saikia, Bhaskar Pegu, Mukul Kumar Saikia, Deba Prasad Misra, Dr. Bojioya Choudhury, Gautam Talukdar, Devasish Sharmah, Juri Doley, Pushpanjali Das, Prakash Ranjan Gharphalia, Indira Kalita, Swapna Dutta, Munindra Sarma, Khanindra Choudhury and Bhaskar Phukan." The above appointments are subject to the outcome of the WP (C) No. 367/2022 filed by Shri Prabir Chandra Kakati Vs The State of Assam and Ors. before the Hon'ble Gauhati High Court," the order further added.

ED attaches 67 windmills of Chennai

the bank funds as unsecured loans from their associate shell companies, and the same funds were then subsequently infused into the main Group Companies as part of the Promoters contribution to enhance the DP limits. It was also revealed during investigations that Surana Group has companies in Cayman Island as well as the British Virgin Islands in the name of dummy directors and siphoned off money to park in those companies. For the said purpose, they established four companies in Singapore and exported goods to them and the money received from them was written off in the book of accounts in India. Further, some of the diverted funds were used to purchase movable as well as immovable properties in the name of various unnamed companies. These actions of the officials of the Surana Group led to the accounts becoming irregular, which ultimately led to accounts becoming Non-Performing Assets, leading to an amount of Rs 3986 Crore as the Principal Outstanding amount to the banks. Based on the investigation conducted, Shri Dinesh Chand Surana, MD of M/s Surana Industries Limited & M/s Surana Power Ltd, Shri Vijay Raj Surana, MD of M/s Surana Corporation Limited and two dummy directors of shell companies viz. Shri P Anand and Shri I Prabhakaran, were arrested on 12 July. The Hon'ble Principal Session Judge at Chennai remanded them Judicial Custody. During the course of the investigation, it was revealed that 67 windmills of Surana Group which were being auctioned by banks to recover their dues, were again purchased in the name of the Benami company. Based on the investigation conducted, 67 windmills with a land value of Rs 51.69 Crore and various immovable properties valued at Rs 61.63 Crore of Shri Ram Lal Jain, who amalgamated the Proceeds of Crime into his regular business and totally valued at Rs 113.32 Crore were provisionally attached under the provisions of PMLA.

CM Dr. Sarma takes review

also asked the Transport Department to take steps for the creation of new posts in the department to take contactless services of the department to a new level. Chief Minister Dr. Sarma also congratulated the Transport Department for increasing its revenue generation through its different services and asked it to sustain it to achieve the revenue target for the current year. Transport Minister Parimal Suklabaidya, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Samir Kumar Sinha, Commissioner and Secretary to Transport Department Adil Khan and other senior officers of government were present during the meeting.

Auction process of 15 cattle heads seized in Srirampur

Assam Rising, Gossaigaon, August 2: On the direction of Sub-divisional Judicial Court, Gossaigaon an auction event for the seized cattle heads was carried out at the premises of SD Livestock and Centre House at Srirampur in Kokrajhar district today. The auction process for the seized cattle heads was organized under the aegis of Sub-divisional administration. It is noteworthy to mention that on 12 April the police personnel successfully seized 15 cattle heads without valid documents while entering Assam. In this regard a case was also lodged vide case no. 138/2022. After thorough investigation of the entire issue the Gossaigaon Sub-divisional Judicial court directed the Divisional Administration to sell the seized 15 cattle heads through an auction process. In the tender programme, all aspects were inspected by Executive Magistrate of Gossaigaon subdivision - Ahmedullah Thakuria, Gossaigaon subdivision police officer Nabanita Sharma, Gossaigaon Police station O/c, Amar Jyoti Bailung, Animal Health Officer of Gossaigaon subdivision Munindra Talukdar, Saraibil police station I/c, Shailendra Kalita etc. The entire auction process was conducted smoothly by Subdivision Veterinary Health officer Munindra Talukdar. Baktiar Hossain, son of Osman Ali Sheikh of Matia Para village No. 1 in Gossaigaon sub-division, managed to get the seized 15 cows at the auction at the highest price of Rs 1,77,770.

AASAA protest dharna programme in Margherita

Assam Rising, Margherita, August 2: A protest dharna programme was implemented in Margherita in digboi, pengeri, bordumsa and Philobari regional committee of All Adivasi Students Association of Assam. AASAA Digboi, Pengeri, Borduma and Philobari regional committee jointly implemented a one hour dharna programme in front of the Margherita Sub Divisional Office on the call of the Central Committee of AASAA and the Committee of AASAA Tinsukia district. The dharna programme was implemented in the areas of tribalism, land rights and allotment, daily wage hike for tea workers, upgradation of basic education standards science in tea garden areas in accordresdum, stopping eviction of tea gardens in Assam etc. submitted a memorandum to Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sharma through Margherita SDO for implementation of their demand. The government does not fulfill AASAA demand as soon as movement has been raised in the coming days.

**Free medical camp held at Kato Moko Basti**

Adult and 06 Female child. All were given free medical assistance with medicines and free blood sugar check up.

Assam CM holds review meeting with Excise Dept top brass

Assam Rising, Guwahati, August 2: Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday chaired a review meeting on ranges of issues with senior officials of the Department of Excise. The Chief Minister directed the officials concerned to set up temporary check-points along Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border in a bid to check illegal entry of



liquor made in the neighbouring state. The Chief Minister also asked the senior officials to fill-up vacancies in grade-3 and grade-4 categories, so that the department functions with full capacity and efficiency. Dr. Sarma urged the officials present to carry out their official functions with transparency and honesty. He further assured them of all assistance from the government in mitigating their genuine grievances related to work and duties. Excise Minister Parimal Shuklabaidya, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Samir Kumar Sinha, along with a host of other senior officials, was present at the meeting.

US takes out al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri in 'successful' Afghanistan counterterrorism operation

Kabul, July 02 : President Biden announced Monday that the U.S. government killed the leader of al Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahri in a "successful" counterterrorism operation in Afghanistan that removes the terrorist from the battlefield "once and for all," and degrades the terror network's ability to operate. The United States government, on July 30 at 9:48 p.m. ET, and 6:18 a.m. Kabul time, undertook a "precision counterterrorism operation," killing Zawahri, who served as Usama bin Laden's deputy during the 9/11 attacks, and as his successor in 2011, following bin Laden's death. Biden, in an address to the American people, Monday night said "justice has been delivered," and warned those that seek to do harm to the United States. Biden explained that Zawahri "coordinated al Qaeda's branches all around the world" since bin Laden's death in 2011, including "setting priorities for providing operational guidance that call for and inspire attacks against U.S. targets." Biden said Zawahri made videos, including in recent weeks, calling for his followers "to attack the United States and our allies." "Now, justice has been delivered and this terrorist leader is no more," Biden said. "People around the world no longer need to fear the vicious and determined killer." "The United States continues to demonstrate our resolve and our capacity to defend the American people against those who seek to do us harm," the president continued. "We make it clear again tonight that, no matter how long it takes, no matter where you hide, if you are a threat to our people, the United States will find you and take you out." The president explained that he "authorized a precision strike that would remove him from the battlefield once and for all." "I'm sharing this news with the American people now, after confirming the mission's total success through the painstaking work of our counterterrorism community and key allies and partners," Biden said, adding that his administration has kept congressional leaders informed as well. A senior administration official said Monday that there were no civilian casualties as a result of the operation. The president, speaking to his decision to withdraw U.S. military assets from Afghanistan last August, said that he decided that "the United States no longer needed thousands of boots on the ground in Afghanistan to protect America from terrorists who seek to do us harm." "And I made a promise to the American people that we continue to conduct effective counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan and beyond," Biden said. "We've done just that." Biden said that the killing of Zawahri helps to "never again allow Afghanistan to become a terrorist safe haven because he is gone." "We're going to make sure that nothing else happens—you know, it can't be a launching pad against the United States," Biden said of Afghanistan. "We're going to see to it that won't happen. This operation is a clear demonstration that we will, we can, and will always make good on that solemn pledge." Officials said Monday that Zawahri "continued to pose an active threat to U.S. persons, interests, and national security," and explained that the U.S. government has "multiple intelligence sources via multiple methods that had enabled us to confirm that this was Zawahri, and that we were successful in achieving our objective." "The Al Zawahri family exercised longstanding terrorist tradecraft that we assessed was designed to prevent anyone from following them to Zawahri," the official explained, noting that the government identified Zawahri's wife, daughter and her children at a safe house in Kabul this year. In early April, Biden administration officials, including White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, were briefed on that intelligence, which was later shared with the president. Zawahri was located in a safe house, which U.S. government officials investigated the construction of so that they could "confidently conduct an operation to kill" him, without threatening the structural integrity of the building, while minimizing the risk to civilians and the Zawahri family. The official explained that "only a very small and select group of officials at key agencies were brought into the process and the deliberations at the early stage" and briefed on the developing intelligence. "The president convened over the course of the last few weeks several meetings with his key advisers and cabinet members to carefully scrutinize the intelligence and evaluate the best course of action for targeting Zawahri," the official explained, noting that he received updated on the developments of the targets throughout May and June. On July 1, Biden was briefed on a proposed operation in the White House Situation Room by key members of his Cabinet—including CIA Director William Burns, Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines and National Counterterrorism Center Director Christine Abizaid, as well as other national security officials. "The president was, as always, deeply engaged in the briefing and immersed in the intelligence. He asked detailed questions about what we knew and how we knew," the official explained, noting that the president sought explanations of "lighting, of weather, of construction materials and of other factors that could influence the success of this operation and reduce the risk of civilian casualties." "He was particularly focused on ensuring that every step had been taken to ensure the operation would minimize that risk and he wanted to understand the basis upon which we had confidence in our assessment," the official continued. Biden then directed the intelligence community to prepare a series of impact analyses that he could fully understand, and directed that the U.S. government be "prepared to manage the ramifications of the strike in the region and beyond." Biden and officials met multiple times in person in the White House Situation Room over the course of June and July to "pressure test" the intelligence. The official explained that interagency lawyers examined the intelligence reporting as well to confirm "the legal basis for the operation." "They confirmed that Zawahri was a lawful target based on his continuing leadership role in al Qaeda and his participation and operational support for al Qaeda attacks," the official said. President Biden authorized the air strike on July 25 at the conclusion of a meeting with officials. The official said the president asked for "each participants' view," and said "all strongly recommended approval of this target." "At the conclusion of the meeting, the president authorized a precise, tailored air strike on the condition that a strike minimize, to the greatest extent possible, the risk of civilian casualties," the official explained, noting that meant the government could conduct a strike "once an opportunity was available." "On July 30, the strike was carried out by unmanned aerial vehicles. Two hellfire missiles were fired at Zawahri, and he was killed."

Plantation at Biswanath under CMIPP

Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, August 2 : Under the umbrella scheme of Chief Minister's Institutional Plantation Programme (CMIPP), a day-long programme was carried out inside the office premises of Agriculture, Biswanath on Sunday. Nearly 50 local breeds of saplings including Debadaru, Neem, Sewali, Musenda, Kanchan etc were planted. Notably, the CMIPP was formally launched at Biswanath on July 18. Dipak Barhoi, the agriculture officer of Biswanath felicitated farmers of Biswanath including Punya Prasad Khaund, Moon Kalita, Dipankar Bora, Dipam Bora in the beginning of the programme. Agriculture officer Barhoi briefed about the importance and significance of Shyamalee Chauhad scheme and appealed to the people to put their hands together in making the project a success. The programme was attended by Pradip Talukdar, Layanmoy Borthakur, officials from the agriculture department. Nodal officer Manash Pratim Das conducted the proceedings of the inaugural session.

11th Foundation Day of Pragati Edutech celebrated

Assam Rising, Guwahati, August 2: Pragati Edutech celebrated its 11th Foundation Day on August 2. Pragati Edutech has shown its kindness and care for the society by



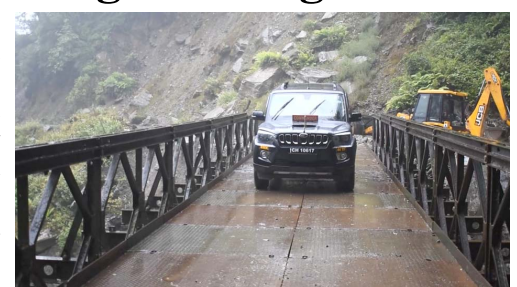
spending a day with the residents of Amar Ghar (An old aged home), Patharquary. The staff and the students of Pragati celebrated the day amongst the residents with a lot of fun-filled activities, singing, dancing etc. They enjoyed the lunch served and small gift hampers were presented to each of the residents. It was a day truly well spent. By being amongst the residents of the Amar Ghar the students of Pragati Edutech have learnt the importance of taking care of the senior citizens and respecting and making them feel important in our society. The students and the staff celebrated this day by actively taking part in debate, extempore speech, skit and cultural program held in the college premises. The theme for this year's foundation day is 'The Power of being educated and skilled'.

Homeguard held with illegal liquor at Nagaon

Assam Rising, Nagaon, August 2: Based on a tip off, Nagaon town police led by SI Abhoyjyoti Rabha busted a racket of illegal foreign liquor at Haiborgaon Bishnu Nagar area on August 1. Police seized a huge number of bottles of illegal foreign liquor being stored at the house of one Ranjit Das, sources said, adding that police immediately arrested Ranjit Das and Ranjit Bora in connection with the illegal trading of foreign liquor. It is pertinent to mention here that Ranjit Das is a home guard personnel working in Nagaon DEF for a long long time and is also a leader of home guard association.

Baily Bridge launched at Yarlung Lamang

Assam Rising, Aalo, August 2: Border Road Organization (BRO) worked day and Night in challenging weather conditions to launch a Bailey Bridge on Yarlung Lamang road on July 30. 44 BRTF Executed this launch



of the bridge in a very professional way to facilitate the smooth movement of the commuters on this road. BRO is working for the development of road infrastructure in the border areas in difficult terrain and with lots of challenges.

Alumni meet : LTK College

Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, August 2: A meet of the LTK College alumni association was held on Sunday in the college. The meet was presided over by the retired vice-principal of the college and the president of the alumni association Dr. Ramesh Kumar Kakati. The meet was inaugurated by the president of the college governing body Dr. Amiya Rajbongshi. The welcome address was delivered by the Principal of the college Dr. Bubul Kumar Saikia. Retired vice-principal of the college Baharul Islam, present vice-principal Bidyut Chutiya and NAAC co-ordinator of the college Biju Kumar Sonowal lectured in the meet as the eminent guests. In the meet, where about 150 alumni were present, alumnus Subhash Saikia recited poems and Promod Nath performed flute. The meet was anchored by Prof. Prafulla Nath who also offered vote of thanks. A new 31-member executive committee was formed in the meeting with Dr. Prashanta Phukan, associate professor of Lakhimpur Central College as the president, Hemkanta Borah, associate professor of Nowboicha College as the executive president and Prafulla Nath, associate professor of LTK College as the secretary. Principal Dr. Bubul Kumar Saikia also thanked and expressed gratitude to all who were present in the event.



Bill Russell, NBA superstar and civil rights activist, dies aged 88

London, July 02 : Bill Russell, the NBA great who anchored a Boston Celtics dynasty that won 11 championships in 13 years - the last two as the first Black head coach in any major US sport - and marched for civil rights with Martin Luther King Jr, died Sunday. He was 88. His family posted the news on social media, saying Russell died with his wife, Jeannine, by his side. The statement did not give the cause of death. "Bill's wife, Jeannine, and his many friends and family thank you for keeping Bill in your prayers. Perhaps you'll relive one or two of the golden moments he gave us, or recall his trademark laugh as he delighted in explaining the real story behind how those moments unfolded," the family statement said. "And we hope each of us can find a new way to act or speak up with Bill's uncompromising, dignified and always constructive commitment to principle. That would be one last, and lasting, win for our beloved #6." NBA commissioner Adam Silver said in a statement that Russell was "the greatest champion in all of team sports". "Bill stood for something much



bigger than sports: the values of equality, respect and inclusion that he stamped into the DNA of our league. At the height of his athletic career, Bill advocated vigorously for civil rights and social justice, a legacy he passed down to generations of NBA players who followed in his footsteps," Silver said. "Through the taunts, threats and unthinkable adversity, Bill rose above it all and remained true to his belief that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity. A Hall of Famer, five-time Most Valuable Player and 12-time All-Star, Russell in 1980 was voted the greatest player in the NBA history by basketball writers. He remains the sport's most prolific winner and an archetype of selflessness who won with de-

fense and rebounding while leaving the scoring to others. Often, that meant Wilt Chamberlain, the only player of the era who was a worthy rival for Russell. The native of Louisiana also left a lasting mark as a Black athlete in a city - and country - where race is often a flash point. He was at the March on Washington in 1963, when Martin Luther King Jr gave his 'I Have a Dream' speech, and he backed Muhammad Ali when the

boxer was pilloried for refusing induction into the military draft. In 2011, US president Barack Obama awarded Russell the Medal of Freedom alongside Congressman John Lewis, billionaire investor Warren Buffett, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and baseball great Stan Musial. "Bill Russell, the man, is someone who stood up for the rights and dignity of all men," Obama said at the ceremony. "He marched with King; he stood by Ali. When a restaurant refused to serve the Black Celtics, he refused to play in the scheduled game. He endured insults and vandalism, but he kept on focusing on making the teammates who he loved better players and made possible the success of so many who would follow." Russell said that when he was growing up in the segregated South and later California his par-

ents instilled in him the calm confidence that allowed him to brush off racist taunts. "Years later, people asked me what I had to go through," Russell said in 2008. "Unfortunately, or fortunately, I've never been through anything. From my first moment of being alive was the notion that my mother and father loved me." It was Russell's mother who would tell him to disregard comments from those who might see him playing in the yard. "Whatever they say, good or bad, they don't know you," he recalled her saying. "They're wrestling with their own demons." But it was Jackie Robinson who gave Russell a road map for dealing with racism in his sport. "Jackie was a hero to us. He always conducted himself as a man. He showed me the way to be a man in professional sports."



Kyle Chalmers silences critics but focus on swimmer's personal life has been absurd

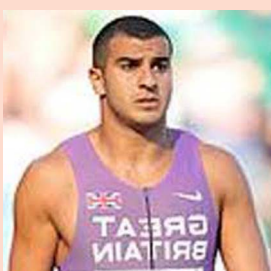
London, July 02 : Winning is a powerful tonic. The fissures within many a sporting team have been healed by victory; frustration, fatigue and past failures all soothed by the balm of success. When Kyle Chalmers stormed to the 100m freestyle gold medal at the Commonwealth Games on Monday night, his triumph offered relief and vindication. As he brought a finger to his lips in a pre-meditated gesture, it was clear that Chalmers wanted to silence his critics. If only it was so simple. Chalmers' gold medal - his first individual success in the frenetic 100m freestyle since becoming Olympic champion as an unheralded teenager in 2016 - offers a potent riposte after the media storm of recent days. Taking to Instagram after the win, he posted: "A million things I could say, but this photo sums them all up and says it perfectly." But the fall-out from this saga may only just be beginning. Clouds began to form in May, when Chalmers beat Cody Simpson - the swimmer turned pop star turned

swimmer again, who now dates Emma McKeon after her split from Chalmers last year - in the 100m butterfly at the national championships, a selection event for the world championships and Commonwealth Games. Chalmers had considered missing the world titles, which would have allowed Simpson to take his spot, but ultimately elected to contest both international meets. Chalmers qualified faster, so this was very much his prerogative. But some sections of the media, led by News Corp titles, manufactured a "love triangle" and implied that Chalmers was the villain. Chalmers was set to "destroy" Simpson's dreams; his decision was "brutal". The coverage had a negative effect on Chalmers, who went to ground and issued a statement decrying the "massive toll" the furore was having on him. In Birmingham, it went from bad to worse. The degree of celebration between Chalmers and McKeon after the pair won gold together in a mixed relay was dissected, and there was a suggestion

the freestyle specialist had snubbed his ex. When Chalmers went on the attack, criticising the media for focusing on his personal life rather than his swimming, sections of the press doubled down. Viewed from a distance, the saga has been absurd. There is no public interest in invasive coverage of the private lives of these swimmers. And it is having all too real consequences. Chalmers has spoken openly about the impact of the drama on his mental health, saying his wellbeing was at "rock bottom". At one point he decried the ongoing controversy as the "hardest 12 hours in my sporting career". He has spoken of his mother crying on FaceTime from the other side of the world; his father broke down on radio, telling Mix 102.3 "it's a form of bullying and harassment, these people get away with it, they destroy people's lives". At its best, sports media can relay the joy of elite competition to the community and shine a light on corruption and abuse within powerful institutions. Sports journalists should never be afraid to ask tough questions. If this saga involved Chalmers disliking questions about poor performances, say, or misconduct within the camp (something hardly foreign to Swimming Australia), there would be no sympathy. Those are questions journalists are entitled to ask - even if the recipient may not like hearing them. But this is not that. There has been an element of goading in the way Chalmers has been interrogated about his personal life, regardless of the impact this is having on his mental health. It may be an enticing narrative to paint the macho, tattooed swimmer as the bad guy - and it no doubt gets plenty of online traffic - but it is actively undermining at least one athlete's wellbeing.

Adam Gemili splits with under-investigation coach Rana Reider

London, July 02 : Adam Gemili has split from Rana Reider after the intense media scrutiny surrounding his under-investigation American coach. The decision comes days before Gemili is due to run in the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, where he is among the leading contenders in the 200m and as part of England's 4x100m relay team. It is understood that while the pair parted on good terms, the British sprinter had grown exasperated by the media focus on Reider, who is under investigation by the US Center for SafeSport over multiple sexual misconduct allegations. Reider denies any wrongdoing through his lawyer, Ryan Stevens, who says the allegations against his client are "unvetted" and "unproven". A fortnight ago, Gemili said it had contributed to his failure to qualify in the 200m heats at the World Championships in Eugene. "There has been a lot of bad press around my set-up and me and it's been relentless, every week there's been something and it's just taken its toll," he said. However, he maintained he would stay loyal to his coach until an investigation by the Center for SafeSport had concluded. That dynamic has now shifted, with Gemili deciding to leave the Tumbleweed Track Club in Florida, where Reider trains many of the world's top sprinters, including the Olympic 200m champion, Andre De Grasse, and the world 100m silver and bronze medallists Marvin Bracy and Trayvon Bromell. Gemili's decision comes after Reider has continued to make headlines off the track. In Eugene, he was denied accreditation by World Athletics and was then cautioned by police for gaining unauthorised access to the warm-up area. Last week, it was reported the Commonwealth Games had decided not to grant Reider an accreditation to coach in Birmingham. Gemili had initially stuck by Reider after the Guardian revealed in November that he was being investigated by SafeSport, a decision that led to UK Athletics stripping him of his funding.



whether he sought guidance on whom he may or may not be able to pick, Donald said: "There's a legal situation going on. I don't think that situation's going to get resolved any time soon. So until that does, I can't really comment on it because there's no real answer." Given the opportunity to be a Ryder Cup captain is one of the greatest honours I can have in my golfing career. I'm extremely excited about this opportunity and I plan to make the most of it. "Guy Kinnings, Europe's Ryder Cup director, suggested LIV golfers may well remain in the qualifying process but subject to a court ruling. He said: "Then the points will run but I suspect they will be, much as they are with the PGA of America, listing players that are mentioned but subject to eligibility." Donald won all four Ryder Cup events he featured in as a player. He has also served as a European vice captain twice. He insisted there is no bad blood whatsoever between him and Stenson after the Swede's pivot to LIV. "We

Ryder Cup captain Luke Donald still in dark over Europe's LIV players

London, July 02 : The messy backdrop to the Ryder Cup scene has been further demonstrated by the inability of Luke Donald, the newly appointed European captain, to clarify whether LIV rebels will be allowed to feature in Rome next September. The Englishman, 44, was installed by Ryder Cup Europe after Henrik Stenson was in effect sacked from the role for being coaxed by the Saudi Arabian-backed LIV tour. Stenson's victory at Bedminster on Sunday raised the prospect that he could feature again for Europe against the US as a player. Sergio Garcia has said he will hold off from resigning from the DP World Tour, formerly the European Tour, until the Ryder Cup situation is clarified. Key to that is a legal battle over whether LIV golfers can retain European status; until that is resolved, Donald finds himself in an invidious position. The former world No 1's unveiling was duly dominated by LIV themes. "Obviously part of being a captain is to create a strong 12-man unified team and I'll be working on that over the next 14 months," Donald said. "I'm not here really to talk about LIV and whether they will be eligible or not. That's to be seen and kind of a hypothetical question. But over the next few months hopefully we'll have some clarity on that situation and we can start making some decisions about that when it becomes more clear." Pressed on



have spoken," Donald said. "Everything is totally fine between us. We're friends. Next time I see him I'll congratulate him [on the LIV victory]. He obviously played great and fair play to him." I have signed a contract and I intend to see that through. I'm giving you my word that I will be here for the next 14 months. I'm excited about this opportunity, I really am. The Ryder Cup means so much to me and I'm not going to take this lightly." Donald confirmed Thomas Bjørn and Edoardo Molinari, who had been named as vice-captains by Stenson, will continue in their positions.

Gueye poised to rejoin Everton from PSG as Aaron Ramsey signs for Nice

Frankfurt, July 02 : Idrissa Gana Gueye is close to rejoining Everton from Paris Saint-Germain. The midfielder has travelled to Merseyside for a medical in anticipation of completing the deal as the clubs negotiate the final details. Gueye was at Everton from 2016 to 2019 before joining PSG, for whom he started 18 Ligue 1 games and five Champions League matches last season. The 32-year-old would become Frank Lampard's fourth summer signing, after Dwight McNeil, Ruben Vinagre and James Tarkowski. Aaron Ramsey has joined Nice on a free



transfer, following his release from Juventus. The Welshman struggled in Turin since his move from Arsenal in 2019 and joined Rangers on loan last season, and had a decisive penalty saved in the Europa League final shootout against Eintracht Frankfurt. Ramsey's contract was terminated last week and the 31-year-old will play in Ligue 1 next year with Nice hoping to improve on their fifth-placed finish last season. The Arsenal goalkeeper Bernd Leno is poised to join Fulham after the clubs reached an agreement on an £8m deal and personal terms were settled. Leno has fallen behind Aaron Ramsdale at Arsenal, who are ready to sell Lucas Torreira to Galatasaray but are waiting for the midfielder to agree terms. Arsenal have also reached an agreement for the forward Folarin Balogun to join Reims on loan.





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Leah Williamson typifies how these Lionesses understand their platform

London, July 2 : No one with the remotest shred of credibility can now dredge up the tired old suggestion that people simply aren't interested in watching women's football. Not after Sunday. After all sorts of attendance records tumbled and 87,000 turned up at Wembley to see England crowned European champions we have finally reached the point so many players, coaches and administrators have worked so hard to achieve for so many years. was overjoyed on Sunday but I also found the experience of being at Wembley surreal. I played in the 2009 final in Finland when England lost 6-2 against Germany and the difference between then and now is like night and day. Back then my England teammates and I routinely got told to "get back in the kitchen" when we returned from tournaments and, in truth, the 2009 final was so low key it didn't feel that much different to any other match. There were only about four journalists from England out in Helsinki so, during my work for the BBC at Euro 2022 it's been incredible to see packed press boxes. That sea change explains why I felt emotional watching my former fellow Lioness Jill Scott come on as a substitute in the final on Sunday. At 35 Jill, who also played in the 2009 final, connects that era to the present day and has been a shining light for women's football. Jill's superpower is supreme emotional intelligence and she embodies the sense of responsibility for developing the women's game shared by all England players, past and present. It's a powerful



collective mindset but we should remember Hope Powell's trailblazing role in forging it. The Lionesses' manager back in 2009, Hope, who in many ways was way ahead of her time, spent years fighting to improve the lot of women players in England and did so much to lay the foundations and create the structure which enabled Sarina Wiegman's team to win Euro 2022. Hope, remember, was working in a society which did not always readily support and respect women, let alone female footballers. Since then changing attitudes and the Me Too movement have helped to shift the narrative but England's impressive captain, Leah Williamson, was right to say that she hoped the tournament's success could help to increase wider gender equality. She knows she's on a big stage now and is embracing the possibilities that platform creates for women in all sorts of roles. Leah recognises the ability of women's football to have

an impact on society and typifies the way England players of different generations stand shoulder to shoulder in understanding they can use their platform to improve things for future generations. Back in 2009 the English women's game was still some way from turning professional. That part-time status explains why I spent a sizeable portion of my playing career with clubs in Sweden and the US. My American experience, especially, proved a personal watershed. It opened my eyes to the reality that, in the English game, we were so grateful for getting the bare minimum and were so used to begging for the most basic things. The England coach Hope Powell, with Alex Scott, after losing the Euro 2009 final against Germany - but Powell should be celebrated as a trailblazer. Women footballers in America have long been willing to shout and scream for recognition, to take collective action to fight for the right to equal pay. Living in the US I learned how

important it was to have a voice and use it in order to keep striving for progress. That can take a lot of energy so it explains why so many people felt so proud when England finally lifted that trophy. Tony Leighton should be among them. The retired journalist, until recently a regular contributor to the Guardian, has done so much for women's football in England. He was covering the game when virtually no one else was and, crucially, had the journalistic skill to not merely tell our stories but bring them to life. Tony recognised the quality and potential of the women's game when it felt like the rest of the world wasn't ready for it. He challenged norms and was relentless in pushing editors to offer the space needed to cover it. Female players of my generation

have a lot for which to thank him. Back in 2009 English players had the ability but lacked the exposure to regular, highly competitive games necessary to acquire vital experience of in game management and understanding of wider tactical nuance. At that time Germany and the US were so far ahead of everyone else that it is no surprise that the former won eight European championships between 1989 and 2013. Now that not merely England but teams across the rest of the world have caught up, the resultant parity between nations means it is almost impossible to imagine one team being so dominant for so long again in future European Championship and World Cup tournaments. Indeed the lineup for the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand next summer is so strong, and the technical standard so high, that several teams will believe they can win it. Such intense competition should help to maximise the game's commercial development, with battles for, among other things, television rights in turn providing the finance needed to help domestic clubs to achieve the degree of inclusivity and diversity English women's football still desperately requires. Leah Williamson and her wonderful teammates have finally ensured women's football has a strong voice; our responsibility now is to ensure we keep using it properly.

Wimbledon, July 2: For much of the past few months, as Emma Raducanu travelled the world without a permanent coach and assured all who asked that she could succeed while in full control of her destiny, her decisions were the subject of intense, constant attention. She may have now addressed those concerns, but there will be no end to the inspection of her choices. This week Raducanu enlisted the coaching talents of the former top-20 ATP player Dmitry Tursunov on a trial period before the North American hard court swing and her US Open title defence. The hiring of Tursunov has led to significant criticism of her decision to work alongside a Russian as the invasion of Ukraine continues. It is another instance of the extreme scrutiny that has surrounded Raducanu's every move since her US Open victory. If she is to stand a chance of following up her breakthrough and sustaining a successful career, she will need to block it all out. Raducanu counts politicians among those monitoring her. Chris Bryant, a Labour MP, told the Telegraph: "The Kremlin will portray this as a PR coup



and an indication that the UK doesn't really care about the war in Ukraine, so it'll be a real shame if Emma goes ahead with this." Three weeks ago, despite Wimbledon's efforts to ban Russian and Belarusian players from competing at their event, a decision that has led to significant fines from the WTA and legal appeals in response, the tournament ended with a Russian-born player who resides in Moscow winning the women's singles title. Even though Elena Rybakina's success while representing Kazakhstan is a damning indictment of the Russian tennis system that failed her, Wimbledon found itself at the mercy of the Russian propaganda it had strived to avoid. "Well done Rybakina. We have won the Wimbledon tournament," said Shamil Tarpišev, the disgraced president of the Russian Tennis Federation. It should have been a lesson for all. There are few things that Russia's propaganda cannot twist to suit its narrative. In this case, a private citizen

hiring the private services of an independent contractor who is Russian, with the simple hopes of improving her career, should not be grounds for such outrage or controversy. What is clear is that Raducanu has endured a brutal first full season on the WTA tour, with a series of injuries including a side strain that scuppered most of her grass-court season. She has won nine and lost 12 matches this year, and now faces the pressure and difficulty of a grand slam defence. As she heads to the US, Raducanu has chosen a coach with a proven record for a trial. Tursunov has enjoyed notable success in his short time coaching. In his first high-profile pairing, with Aryna Sabalenka in 2018, he guided the Belarusian from a world ranking of 45th to ninth before they split at the end of the following year. Last season Tursunov pulled off an even more impressive feat with Anett Kontaveit of Estonia, taking her from 29th to a career high of second at the time of their split after the French Open last month.

Sachin Tendulkar's beautiful words on India women's Lawn Bowls team's first-ever CWG medal



New Delhi, July 2 : A day after India women's Lawn Bowls team's achievement, legendary Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar too acknowledged the feat and said that the four women should be lauded for pursuing a sport that is lesser-known as it has its own challenges. Team India emerged victorious in the semi-finals of the Women's Fours event in Commonwealth Games 2022 going on in Birmingham to secure a silver medal, the first-ever by country in the sport at this mega event. Lovely Choubey (lead), Pinki (second), Nayanmoni Saikia (third) and Rupa Rani

win in the semis. They will play the final vs South Africa at 4.30 pm IST on Tuesday (August 2) and will be aiming to change the colour of the medal to gold. The fact that this is India's first-ever medal confirms the country is not very good in the sport when it comes to mega events. And then to beat New Zealand who had 40 medals and is among the most successful teams in the world in the sport, tells you how big this achievement is. This quartet is getting all the praise today but together they have seen worst days when they didn't used to have money to travel and would spend

their own money to take part in the event. When they pulled off an upset win over New Zealand, their reactions and celebrations said it all. It reflected on their hard work, patience and perseverance over the years. A day after their historic achievement, legendary Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar too acknowledged the feat and said that the four women should be lauded for pursuing a sport that is lesser-known as it has its own challenges. Taking to Twitter, Sachin wrote: "To pursue a lesser-known sport has its own challenges. It's a proud moment for India that our women's team has made it to the finals of the Women's fours #LawnBowl event. Best wishes for the finals & keep inspiring India to become a Sport Playing Nation." The Lawn Bowls team will take on South Africa in the final on Tuesday (August) at 4.30 pm IST.

Twickenham, August 02 :

For a few precious seconds before the start it felt as if Marcus Smith had Twickenham all to himself. Alone on the halfway line, with England lined up behind him, Australia spread out in front, he bounced the ball up and down while the referee paced around and counted down the last few seconds before kick-off. Smith looked pretty sure of himself down there under the bright lights, the hardest 80 minutes he has ever played stretching out ahead of him. If he had noticed the 82,000 fans gathered around, hanging on his next step, one would never have guessed it from watching him. He radiates self-confidence. And then Smith made that first kick and it became clear that, even though he was wearing 10, he was not really playing fly-half, not the way he does for Harlequins anyway. When Dave Rennie was asked earlier in the week about Eddie Jones' decision to pick Manu Tuilagi on the wing, he said anyone watching should ignore the number on Tuilagi's back, because he expected him to swap



into the centre. It turns out that the same went for Smith and Owen Farrell, too. Often as not it was Farrell who was in at first receiver while Smith flitted around behind him. It is all part of Jones' grand plan. He says he wants his backs to be able to mix and match positions. He calls it his "ensemble attack". And it doesn't half make the game complicated. The one constant is that they all work around Farrell. It is his team, and he is the man who dictates how they play. It looked good when it worked. But it did make it feel a little as if Smith was the kid who has been brought a new car for his birthday but has not yet been

trusted with the keys to go with it. Instead he gets to ride in the passenger seat and watch someone who knows better teach him how to handle it. England have the makings of a fine partnership here, and an attack that could carry them through the next World Cup, but it is going to take a while for them both to grow into it. Jones compared the pair of them to a couple of batsmen opening the innings together for the first time. He says they will get better every time they play together. Which is progress. Last time a gifted fly-half broke up Farrell's lifelong

partnership with George Ford he did not get much of a chance. That was when Jones picked Danny Cipriani on the tour to South Africa in 2018. If they were batting together they might have tried to run each other out. There is an infamous bit of footage from the third Test of that series that shows Farrell saying "what are you doing?" as Cipriani kicked a raking cross-field kick to Jonny May on the far wing. Cipriani never played again. In the opening quarter the new partnership looked good. In those moments one could see how it was supposed to work. Smith's attacking threat seemed to free up Farrell to get on with the simple things he does so well, while he kept one eye on the state of the game, and the shape of the play. When Farrell is playing alongside Ford it sometimes feels as if England are an orchestra with two conductors, but now that job was Farrell's alone, while Smith got on with the virtuosic work. There was not as much of that as Smith's admirers would have liked. But what there was told

plenty about how good he is. Like that first try, which Jones described as one of the best England have ever scored. Freddie Steward finished it but Smith's fingerprints were all over the build-up. He started the attack with an up-and-under. Andrew Kellaway spilled the catch and from the following scrum, Smith fed Farrell, then looped around his back before Farrell passed the ball back to him. Then Smith stepped Len Ikitau, made a half-break. England surged forward. A little grunt work up front and Farrell, in at first receiver again, fed Smith. He offered a little shimmer of a dummy to the defender standing in front of him, just enough to help open up the split-second gap that Steward raced through as Smith slipped the ball on to him. By now Australia were starting to line Smith up. Next time he tried to run that loop-move with Farrell, Hunter Paisami came charging out of the line and knocked him flat on his back. Paisami ended up doing more damage to himself than he did to Smith, who bounced straight back up from it. Moments later Michael Hooper came for him too. This time Smith saw him coming and deftly sidestepped his way out of trouble, although the pass he threw afterwards missed its mark. The kid is plenty tough enough for Test rugby. He even ended up topping England's tackle count. In the end it was Farrell who went off injured and Smith was left to run the game his way for the last 15 minutes. He did not crash it. In fact England won that little stretch 10-0. Jones will have taken note.

Tiger Woods spurned offer in \$800m range to join LIV Golf, Greg Norman says

London, July 2 : Tiger Woods turned down an offer that Greg Norman says was in the region of \$700m to \$800m to take part in the Saudi-funded LIV Golf series. During an appearance on Fox News with Tucker Carlson that aired Monday night,

Norman confirmed what he told the Washington Post in a story two months ago. Norman told the Post in June the offer was "mind-blowingly enormous; we're talking about high nine digits." Woods has been opposed to LIV Golf since late last year, and he delivered

his strongest comments at the British Open when he said players who took the money funded by the Saudi Arabian sovereign wealth fund had "turned their back" on the PGA Tour that made them famous. "That number was out there before I became CEO. So that number

has been out there, yes," Norman said in the Fox News interview, which took place Sunday at Trump National in Bedminster, New Jersey, where the third LIV Golf Invitational was held. "And, look, Tiger is a needle-mover and of course you have to look at the best of the best," Norman said. "So

they had originally approached Tiger before I became CEO. So, yes, that number was somewhere in that neighborhood." Various reports out of the United Kingdom have said Phil Mickelson received a \$200m signing bonus, while Dustin Johnson received \$150m. The 48-man fields,

which play 54 holes with no cut, offer \$25m in prize money at each event. Norman announced a 14-tournament schedule for next year. LIV Golf currently has only one player - Johnson at No 18 - from the top 20 in the world.