



- Ukraine reports striking Russian ammunition depot in south
- US warns it will defend ally if China breaks sea ruling
- Short-cut politics can result in short-circuit of nation: Modi
- Shiv Sena to support Murmu: Uddhav Thackeray

Japanese say final goodbye to assassinated former leader Abe



TOKYO, July 12 (AP): Japanese bid their final goodbye to former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Tuesday as a family funeral was held at a temple days after his assassination shocked the nation.

Abe, the country's longest-serving Prime Minister, remained influential even after stepping down two years ago for health reasons. He was gunned down on Friday during a campaign speech in the western city of Nara.

Hundreds of people, some in formal dark suits, filled sidewalks outside Zojoji temple in downtown Tokyo to bid farewell to Abe, whose nationalistic views drove the governing party's conservative policies. Mourners took photos and some called out "Abe san!" as a motorcade with the hearse carrying his body accompanied by his widow, Akie Abe, slowly drove by the packed crowd. About 1,000 people, including her, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and senior party leaders (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

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Govt to hold consultations to end Bhutan water menace

CM visits flood, erosion hit areas of Chirang and Bongaigaon dists

HT Bureau

KOKRAJHAR/GUWAHATI, July 12: Chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Tuesday that the State Government would hold consultations with experts to find a solution to the problem of flood and erosion caused by waters gushing in from Bhutan to the adjoining areas.

Sarma underlined that a study was needed on how the water flowing in from Bhutan could be channelised so that erosion along the river banks was controlled.

The Water Resources department has already been asked to prepare a project and long-term measures would be taken based on it, he told reporters after visiting an erosion site at Laokhriguri in Chirang district.

"As Assam is situated on the foothills of Bhutan, floods and erosion caused by water gushing in from the upper reaches will be a recurring problem for us," Sarma said. "We have to talk to experts and find a solution."

He highlighted that embankments could hold water only to a limit, adding that the problems get compounded when it rains in



Bhutan as well as in Assam. Sarma reviewed the facilities at Laokhriguri relief camp. He went to Bongaigaon district also to review the relief and rehabilitation measures for the flood-affected people. "Visited Tinkonia Part 1 (Gobindapur) (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

2.92 lakh people in seven districts still reeling under flood

GUWAHATI, July 12 (PTI): The flood condition in Assam improved significantly on Tuesday although over 2.92 lakh people are still reeling due to the deluge in seven districts, an official bulletin said. According to the daily flood report of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) no river is flowing above their danger marks in Assam as of now and no incident of drowning was reported during the day.

The toll in this year's flood and landslides stood at 192 across the state. ASDMA said around 2,92,200 people are still affected by the flood in Cachar, Chirang, Hailakandi, Morigaon, Nagaon, Sivasagar and Tamulpur districts. Cachar is the worst (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

Sri Lankans on edge ahead of President Rajapaksa's promised resignation today



COLOMBO, July 12 (PTI): Sri Lankans were on the edge on Tuesday as they waited whether embattled Gotabaya Rajapaksa will honour his offer to resign as President, amid reports that key members of the erstwhile powerful ruling family were attempting to

flee in the face of massive public anger against them for mishandling the economy that has bankrupt the country.

Rajapaksa, whose whereabouts are not known since Friday, was blocked from departing Sri Lanka on Monday after refusing to join a

public queue at the Colombo airport in order to have his passport checked by immigration, CNN reported, citing a high-ranking military source.

It said Rajapaksa's aides arrived at the airport with 15 passports belonging to the president and members of his family - including First Lady Ioma Rajapaksa - who had booked seats on a Sri Lankan Airlines flight leaving for Dubai at 6:25 p.m. local time on Monday, according to the military source.

Immigration officers declined to process the passports given to them by presidential aides, as Rajapaksa and his family were not physically present for cross checks and, eventually, the flight departed without the president and his family on board, (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

DTO Gautam Das served 'show-cause' notice

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, July 12: Transport department commissioner and secretary to the Government of Assam Adil Khan on Tuesday served a show-cause notice to Kamrup metro district transport officer (DTO) Gautam Das for his gross failure in tackling irregularities prevailing in the DTO's office premises.

Notably, commissioner Khan on Tuesday made a sudden visit to the Kamrup metro DTO office, located at the city's Betkuchi area along NH 37. During his visit, only 21 out of 42 employees were said to be present.

The show-cause notice served to DTO Das said, "When subordinate officers or staff are found to be absent without authorisation, you have not (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

State Govt transfers 17 bureaucrats

GUWAHATI, July 12 (PTI): The Assam Government on Tuesday transferred 17 senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and state civil service officers.

As per an order issued by the Personnel Department joint secretary Syed Md Zahid Chistic, additional chief secretary (Agriculture) Ashish Kumar Bhutani has been given additional charge of chairman of Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services (ARIAS). He was also holding the post of project director of ARIAS Society.

Commissioner and secretary (PHE), Swachh Bharat Mission MD, Neer Nirmal Pariyojana and Jal Jeevan Mission MD, Akash Deep, has been transferred to the Environment and Forest Department as commissioner and secretary.

Om Prakash, commissioner and secretary of Agriculture and Environment and Forest departments, will replace Sarba Siksha Abhiyan mission director Roshni Aparanji Korati, who will now be the Agriculture secretary and project director of ARIAS Society.

Barpeta deputy commissioner (DC) Tej Prasad Bhusal was transferred to Home and Political Department as additional secretary and Goalpara DC Meenakshi Das Nath as Cultural Affairs director with additional charge of director of Dr Bhupen Hazarika Regional Govt Film and Television Institute (DBHRGFTI).

Debabjit Khanikar, Cultural Affairs director and DBHRGFTI director, will be the new Tourism joint secretary. Cachar DC J Keerthi, (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

Three more JE deaths, 17 new cases in Assam

GUWAHATI, July 12 (PTI): Three more persons died of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) in Assam on Tuesday, taking the toll to 13 this month, according to officials.

The state reported 17 more cases during the day, taking the tally to 115 this month. The three deaths due to JE included two from Jorhat and one from Golaghat. The fresh cases include six from Jorhat, three from Sivasagar, two each from Nagaon, Dhemaji and Sonitpur along with one each from Dhubri and Kamrup (Metro), officials said. The state had reported two deaths and 12 new JE cases on Monday. Principal secretary (Health) Avinash Joshi has directed all districts to form a District Rapid Response team on Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and JE by July 16 under the guidance of their respective deputy commissioners.

The Standard Operating Procedures and guidelines communicated by the National Health Mission, Assam are to be followed by all the districts for AES/JE case detection, management and referral, he said.

Chairman appointed

HT Correspondent

BAKALIA, July 12: Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) has appointed Bipul Bora as chairman of Block Level Coordination Committee (BLCC) of Langsompi Development Block. The appointment letter was handed to Bora by the president of Langpher Mandal Committee, Dorsing Rongpi in a meeting held at BJP Langpher Mandal Committee office. On getting the appointment letter Bora received felicitation from party members. Vice-chairman of Bakaliaghat Town Committee, Anita Saikia and several leaders of the party felicitated Bora.

Congress workers, supporters join BJP en masse in KA



HT Bureau
DIPHU, July 12: Several party workers and supporters of Congress have joined the BJP in a mass joining programme held at BJP-East Karbi Anglong District Committee office here at ARIC 1st Gate-Diphu Manja Road on Tuesday.

Congress leaders and workers of Howraghat Block Congress Committee, supporters of United Democratic Front of Surupathar and All Party Hills Leaders Conference (APHLC) workers of Lumbajong have joined the BJP. Among them was Sarjeng Engti, son of former HAD minister and Congress leader Kharsing Engti. Sarjeng Engti was the Congress candidate from Karkhanti Member of Autonomous Council (MAC) constituency in the last concluded Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) election. Others include the general secretary of Howraghat Block Congress Committee, Ronjong Borah and Secretary, Uttam Hazarika; former president of Howraghat Mandal Congress Committee, Borsing Engti and Lumbajong APHLC leader Johnson Teron.

Welcoming the party leaders and workers of the Opposition, the president of BJP-EKADC, Dhansing Teron urged them to work together in the interest of the party.

Chief executive member (CEM) of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), Tuliram Ronghang said, "BJP party do (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

Cong has no moral right to criticise the State Govt: BJP

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, July 12: The Assam Pradesh BJP on Tuesday said that the Congress party has no moral right to criticise the BJP-led State Government. The Pradesh BJP asserted that contrary to the Opposition parties' baseless criticism, the State Government is committed to combating crimes with an iron hand.

In a press communiqué issued to press persons on Tuesday, Pradesh BJP spokesperson Kalyan Gogoi said, "Assam Pradesh congress committee president Bhupen Borah can forget but people of Assam will never forget how anarchy and mayhem prevailed during Congress regime with killings, rape, theft, burglary, encroachment of land belonging to indigenous people, giving

safeguard to criminals, rampant corruption and syndicate raj. As such, Congress has no moral right to criticise the BJP led Government."

Pradesh BJP spokesperson Gogoi reiterated that the present regime is committed to the people of Assam for making society free from crime and criminals. "People of this State have witnessed how the present Government is working relentlessly towards eradicating the drugs menace, rape and other forms of violence from the society, besides showing empathy and concern for the common man," he said.

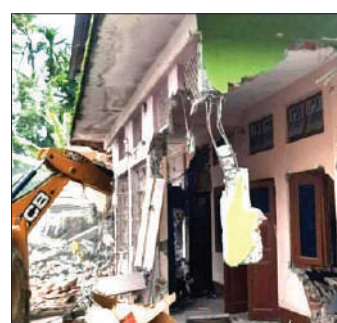
The spokesperson also said that under the dynamic leadership of Assam chief minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, the State is marching ahead on (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

House of prime accused in abetment-to-suicide case demolished

DIBRUGARH, July 12 (PTI): The double-storied residence of the prime accused, who allegedly abetted the suicide of an animal rights activist in Assam's Dibrugarh, was demolished on Tuesday, police said.

The suicide has led to widespread outrage, with chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma meeting the family and apologising to them for the police failing to take action when the deceased's father had filed several complaints of harassment by the accused.

The Dibrugarh police and the civic administration have launched the demolition drive of Baidullah Khan's house at Ghoramara area, a day after special DGP (Law and Order) G P Singh visited the family of Vineet Bagaria.



A notice was issued and pasted at Khan's residence last Friday, stating that the building was illegally constructed and violated all norms.

Bagaria, 32, had allegedly hanged himself last Thursday after recording a video, blaming four people for mentally and physically

harassing him and his family members.

Khan and another accused, Nishant Sharma, were arrested a day later from the Lumding railway station.

The family had rented out a shop to a person, who had allegedly sublet it to Khan. The accused owned a motorbike showroom and opened a spare parts shop on the premises.

Bagaria asked Khan to leave, but the latter refused and allegedly threatened the family.

Bagaria is the co-founder of Animal Welfare People and his father, Kailash Bagaria, is an Aam Aadmi Party member and a chartered accountant.

The special DGP said police would not (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

'India is aware of the maritime activity in the seas and oceans south of it' Unilateral attempts to change LAC won't be countenanced: EAM Jaishankar

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, July 12 (PTI): External Affairs minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday took a strong position on the Sino-India border row and asserted any unilateral attempts to change the Line of Actual Control (LAC) will not be 'countenanced' by India, and insisted that the ongoing problem was a fallout of the neighbour occupying strategic areas in 1962.

The Union minister's response came while answering a query seeking India's official position with regard to former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi's tweet claiming there was "increasing Chinese infiltration" into Indian territory.

He also said India was globally viewed as a compassionate nation, when asked if its image has changed to intolerant.

"As to what has happened in the last two years, we have been very clear and very effective in ensuring that no attempt to change the status quo unilaterally on the Line of Actual Control will be countenanced by us," Jaishankar



said at a "Meet the Press" event here.

He added efforts were on to resolve the boundary issues between the two countries through discussions involving their military commanders and diplomats.

Jaishankar said the border issues with the eastern neighbour were largely due to the Chinese occupying large parts of India, including

Ladakh in 1962 - during Congress rule.

Taking a dig at Gandhi, he said, "I did not see anything particularly new in what his tweet said, because you all know that a large part of the problem we have on the boundary is because in 1962, the Chinese came and occupied large areas, including Ladakh."

"Many of these are strategic areas which obviously create challenges for our border forces," Jaishankar added.

The minister said that at the moment discussions were going on between the two sides involving military commanders and also diplomats.

"These (discussions) relate to friction points where we are very very closely deployed vis-a-vis each other and the focus is to see whether disengagement at these friction points was possible. In the last year there has been very substantial disengagement. There are still some issues...there are (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

NFR completes restoration work in Dima Hasao



HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, July 12: The overall situation in the Dima Hasao district has become normal to some extent after the heavy damage caused due to the landslide. Despite rainfall acting as a barrier in the work process, NF Railway completed restoration of the hill section within the targeted time frame, an official statement said on Wednesday. Full fledged rail connectivity will resume soon to and from the southern part of the Northeast starting with freight services. Railway has (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

Adani Data Networks, Jio, Airtel, Vodafone Idea to bid for spectrum

NEW DELHI, July 12 (PTI): Billionaire Gautam Adani-led Adani Data Networks, Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea have applied to participate in the upcoming 5G auction, according to a list issued by the Department of Telecom on Tuesday.

The spectrum auction, scheduled to start on July 26, may see aggressive bids for some frequency bands, with the entry of Adani Data Networks and established players Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel looking to strengthen their hold in the industry.

"...applications have been received from the...applicants for participation in the 2022 Auction for rights to use Spectrum in 600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300 MHz and 26 GHz Bands," the Department of Telecom (DoT) said.

Applicants have time till July 19 to withdraw their applications. Adani Group on Saturday said it is in the race to acquire spectrum, which it said will be used to create a private network to support its businesses from airports to power as well as data centres.

A total of 72,097.85 MHz of spectrum worth at least Rs 4.3 lakh crore will be put on the block during the auction, set to commence on July 26, 2022.

The auction will be held for spectrum in various low (600



MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz), mid (3300 MHz) and high (26 GHz) frequency bands.

On Monday, BofA Securities in a note on the Adani Group's plans to bid in 5G auctions said: "We consider this news flow negative for incumbent telcos as it increases competition in upcoming auction bidding as well as in the long-term opportunity to target the enterprise space".

Brokerage CLSA wondered why would Adani bid in auction versus awaiting a direct spectrum assignment.

"The question is why would Adanis bid in auction versus awaiting a direct spectrum assignment? Adani's entry will create uncertainty over spectrum pricing in the 5G auctions, which was expected

to see bidding competition primarily between Bharti Airtel and RJio," it said in a report. Goldman Sachs said that while the group has stated it does not intend to be in the consumer mobility space, "we believe if the Adani Group does end up buying spectrum in the upcoming auction, it could potentially increase competition in enterprise 5G, in addition to opening the doors for the Adani Group to expand into consumer mobile services over time".

Globally, 5G services have been launched in three bands -- 700MHz (coverage), 3.5GHz (5G coverage and capacity) and 26GHz (capacity and low latency).

"However, with Adani group ruling out offering consumer mobility services, we believe that its participation in 5G spectrum auc-

tions will be limited to 3.5 GHz and 26 GHz bands for provision of private enterprise 5G network services," said Credit Suisse.

The group's foray to provide standalone 5G enterprise network solutions was a tad "unclear" given that globally, 5G enterprise use cases are still under pilot stages, it added. Credit Suisse also questioned the rationale behind bidding for 5G spectrum in auctions when the Centre has already allowed private enterprises to set up a captive non-public network by acquiring spectrum from the government for a nominal cost and without any licence fees.

"Whereas acquiring a 100 MHz block on a pan-India basis in 3.5 GHz band is likely to cost ₹ 317 billion (₹ 31,700 crore) and 500 MHz in 26 GHz band is likely to cost another ₹ 35 billion (₹ 3,500 crore). Of course, these come with comfortable payment terms," it said.

Credit Suisse felt that the possibility of Adani Group foraying into consumer mobility in the future is "non-zero".

"While the Adani group has expressly denied intentions of entering the consumer mobility business, we believe that market participants may still view this as a low, distant possibility given the sector's history. However, it would require a meaningfully higher capital commitment..." it added.

Indian Idol audition held at Guwahati

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, July 12: The auditions of the much-awaited singing reality show, Indian Idol was held at Don Bosco Institute of Management Joypur, Kharghuli. Over 500 enthusiasts turned up for the auditions, as Indian Idol has been a revolutionary show that identifies raw talents, providing them with a national platform and making them stars. The show that premiered in 2004 has given the nation many wondrous voices like Salman Ali (winner of Season 10), Sunny Hindustani (winner of Season 11), and the most recent winner of season 12, Pawandeep Rajan.

Neeraj Dhawan, Country manager, Experian India, commented, "India is moving towards building a strong digital ecosystem where consumers can use digital solutions and services to manage their finances effectively. Businesses need to consider meeting the ever-changing demands of consumers while embracing technology and innovation at scale. A friction-free and secure digital experience will go a long way toward gaining consumer trust and loyalty. As an industry leader, Experian is committed to providing business solutions that are secure, easily scalable to meet emerging needs, enabling businesses to make fast and efficient decisions supporting their own business goals."

91% of Indian consumers prefer online payments: Experian report

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, July 12: The use of digital payments such as mobile wallets has increased significantly in India. According to the latest Experian Global Insights Report, digital payments have now overtaken credit cards with 91% of Indians preferring online payment methods for financial transactions. While the shift to online transactions is encouraging, it has also highlighted the need for stringent digital security measures. 45% of Indian consumers who were surveyed have expressed concerns regarding fraud and identity theft. Furthermore, 80% of consumers expect businesses to take necessary precautions to protect their information from fraudsters.

Experian surveyed 6000 consumers and 2000 businesses across 20 countries, including India, the United Kingdom, the United States, and other APAC markets on information related to consumer and business economic outlooks, financial well-being, online behavior, and more. This report is the latest study in a series exploring the significant shifts in consumer digital preferences and business strategy over the past seven

Most Indian businesses now investing in risk management capabilities: Report

NEW DELHI, July 12 (IANS): In the current turbulent business environment, nearly eight in 10 business executives in India say that keeping up with the speed of digital and other transformations is a significant risk management challenge, a new report said on Tuesday.

Six in 10 executives also feel the need to actively seek external insights to assess and monitor risks in the increasingly disruptive business environment, according to the report by global consulting firm PwC.

While 88 per cent of business leaders are increasing their spending on technology and digital capabilities in the risk function workforce in the country, 64 per cent of business executives report that their risk function is actively seeking external insights to assess and monitor risks.

"In an environment where change is constant, risk management capabilities provide the greatest value to board members and business leaders when they are embedded within the organisation's strategic planning and decision-making processes," said Sivarama Krishnan, partner and risk consulting leader, PwC India. The changing work environment brought on by the pandemic continues to disrupt talent and labour markets. Supply shortages, sanctions and rising raw material costs are heightening risks within supply chains as organisations deal with upstream supply chain risks related to subcontractors and other fourth parties that further complicate risks.

Many executives find the need to revise and adapt their strategies and operating models at a rapid pace, mentioned the report.

"Investment in risk processes, frameworks and enabling systems is needed to help an organisation deploy a standardised and consistent approach to risk management," the findings showed.

When organisations embrace risk management capabilities as a strategic organisational capability, they are five times more likely to be very confident in delivering stakeholder confidence, a growth-minded risk culture, increased resilience, and business outcomes, the report noted.

RBI approves appointment of Meena Hemchandra as part-time chairman of Karur Vysya Bank



NEW DELHI, July 12 (PTI): Private sector lender Karur Vysya Bank on Tuesday said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of former RBI executive Meena Hemchandra as part-time chairman of the bank for three years.

In May, the bank had recommended Hemchandra's candidature for the position of non-executive independent (part-time) chairperson of the bank to the RBI for approval.

"We wish to inform...Reserve Bank of India vide their letter dated July 11, 2022, accorded their approval for the appoint-

ment of Meena Hemchandra as part-time chairman of the bank," Karur Vysya Bank said in a regulatory filing.

Term of Hemchandra (64) is approved for a period of 3 years with effect from the date of taking charge, it added.

She is a career banker with over 35 years of banking experience in various departments of the RBI.

Hemchandra was the executive director of RBI from June 2015 to November 2017.

Shares of Karur Vysya Bank traded at ₹ 47.40 apiece on BSE, down by 0.63 per cent from the previous close.

RBI aiming to de-dollarise global trade and Indian economy

NEW DELHI, July 12 (IANS): The RBI is aiming to de-dollarise global trade and the Indian economy, Motilal Oswal Financial Services said in a report.

In another move aimed at supporting the currency, the RBI allowed international trade settlement in INR on Monday.

"In order to promote growth of global trade with emphasis on exports from India and to support the increasing interest of the global trading community in INR, it has been decided to put in place an additional arrangement for invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports and imports in INR," the press release issued by the RBI stated.

While this seems like a welcome initia-



tive, we believe that it is a long drawn process and is likely to play out fully over decades.

Kake Di Hatti opens shop in Guwahati

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, July 12: One of the leading Indian restaurant brands 'Kake Di Hatti', opened its first franchise in Guwahati. The restaurant was inaugurated at Kumarpara Pachali in Guwahati by the Deputy Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly Numal Momin in presence of Ex MLA Kamalpur & chairman of Assam State Housing Board Dr. Jadab Ch. Deka, owner of Kake Di Hatti Gurdeep Singh along with other dignitaries.

Founder partners of the franchise, Ishika Sharma, Pooja Goenka, and Sandhya Sharma, said, "Kake Di Hatti is a complete North Indian food hub, where customers also get to taste Punjabi tadka. We are also famous as the King of Naan, where naans up to 28 inches are served. This restaurant also has outlets exclusively for Banarasi Paan."

The new non-official members include Tata Consultancy Services chief executive officer and managing director Rajesh Gopinathan, KKR India chairman Sanjay Nayar, Laghu Udyog Bharati executive member Om Prakash Mittal.

India Cellular and Electronics Association chairman Pankaj Mahindroo, GCMMF (Amul) managing director RS Sodhi, and Arun Mandal, chief executive offi-

Govt appoints 29 members in Board of Trade

NEW DELHI, July 12 (PTI): The government has nominated 29 non-official members from large and small enterprises and different sectors in the Board of Trade, chaired by the Commerce and Industry minister.

The board, which includes participants from states, union territories, senior officials from public and private sectors, provides a platform to discuss ways on boosting manufacturing and exports.

In 2019, the government had merged the Council of Trade Development and Promotion with the Board of Trade to bring greater coherence in the consultation process with all stakeholders for promoting exports and imports, according to a notification of the Commerce ministry.

The new non-official members include Tata Consultancy Services chief executive officer and managing director Rajesh Gopinathan, KKR India chairman Sanjay Nayar, Laghu Udyog Bharati executive member Om Prakash Mittal.

India Cellular and Electronics Association chairman Pankaj Mahindroo, GCMMF (Amul) managing director RS Sodhi, and Arun Mandal, chief executive offi-

cer, Bidhannagar Pineapple Development Trust, West Bengal, are some of the other non-official members, it said.

The members are entrusted with the task of providing a platform to state governments and UTs for articulating state-oriented perspectives on trade policy; to act as facilitator in implementation of District Export Hub events including sensitisation workshops, identification and promotion of identified products.

They would also help states develop and pursue export strategies in line with national Foreign Trade Policy; facilitate a mechanism for discussion on operationalisation of the trade infrastructure; and review policy instruments and procedure for imports and exports and suggest steps to rationalise use, it added.

The official members include secretaries of different departments like revenue, commerce, health and agriculture besides NITI Aayog CEO, Deputy Governor of RBI, and CBIC (Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs) chairman. Further, it also has representatives of industry chambers as ex-officio members.

Banks gross NPA at 5.9 per cent, a 6-year low: CARE Ratings

CHENNAI, July 12 (IANS):

Even though the gross non-performing assets (GNPA) of scheduled commercial banks in India has hit a six year low of 5.9 per cent in FY22, it can improve further, said CARE Ratings in a report.

According to the credit rating agency, the GNPA of Indian banks at the end of FY22 was at 5.9 per cent and the overall provision coverage ratio (PCR) went up to 70.9 per cent.

"As the Indian economy has navigated the pandemic-induced shocks, the bank credit growth by scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) improved post-August 2021 to reach 13.1 per cent in early June 2022, a rate last recorded in March 2019," the report said.

Apart from retail, the major driver of this growth has been the wholesale credit, which reported double digit growth after witnessing a significant slowdown last year.



According to CARE Ratings, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Financial Stability Report released on June 30 presents a rather satisfactory picture of the Indian banking system and the GNPA ratio is one of the most important indicators to check the health of the banking system.

The GNPA ratio of SCBs had been on a downward trajectory since March 2019, owing to recoveries and higher write-offs by multiple banks and a one-time restructuring (OTR) scheme an-

nounced by RBI.

As per the stress tests conducted by RBI, the SCBs GNPA ratio could improve from 5.9 per cent in March 2022 to 5.3 per cent by March 2023 under the baseline scenario driven by higher bank credit growth and a declining trend in the stock of GNPA.

"However, the GNPA ratio may rise under the medium/severe stress scenarios, the GNPA ratio may rise to 6.2 per cent/ 8.3 per cent, respectively," CARE Ratings said.

GIC Re's revenue from obligatory cession threatened

CHENNAI, July 12 (IANS): The General Insurance Corporation of India's (GIC Re) assured premium income under firing line all these years is now under threat.

Following the meeting of the CEOs of general insurance companies with Debasish Panda, chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), the latter has set up a task force to look into various aspects of reinsurance.

However, the main issue of the nine-member task force chaired by Bhargav Dasgupta, managing director and chief executive officer, ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd will be the obligatory cession to GIC Re - commissions on reinsurance business do not reflect industry cost structure and profit commission methodology.

The IRDAI chairman Panda had met the CEOs of life, general and reinsurance companies at Hyderabad on June 30 and July 1.

Discussions were held on the issues/concerns related to reinsurance support to further increase in insurance penetration in India. At the meeting primary insurers voiced their views against the placing four per cent of their reinsurance business compulsorily with GIC Re.

At the non-life insurance CEO-IRDAI chairman meeting it became clear that no insurer wants this four per cent obligatory cession to continue.

"The companies (non-life insur-



ers) get less than 50 per cent of their actual expenses of getting the business reimbursed by GIC Re. It became apparent that 'carrying' GIC Re's inefficiency is no longer defensible," a top official of a private non-life insurer told IANS. The main source of business for GIC Re are from two streams -- obligatory cession of four per cent by the primary insurers and the remaining 96 per cent market business.

Kamesh Goyal, and Prem Watsa (founder and chairman of FairFax Financial Holdings, Canada) the promoters of Go Digit General Insurance Company Ltd are venturing into the life and reinsurance segment. It is learnt that Go Digit Life Insurance has been issued with R1

application form and Go Digit Reinsurance with R2 application form. In 2019, the IRDAI cancelled the licence issued to the country's first private reinsurer ITI Reinsurance as it did not commence business within the stipulated time.

Without having a proper credit rating (IRDAI stipulated a three-year credit rating for a new company!) and due to the first preference for state-owned GIC Re in all businesses, ITI Re could not secure any business.

Be that as it may, the IRDAI has also set up a seven member task force for the life insurance sector's reinsurance chaired by Naveen Tahilyani, CEO and MD, Tata AIA Life Insurance.

On an average, 93 per cent of total foreign exchange reserves constitute FCA. The latter is maintained with the RBI as a multi-currency portfolio comprising major currencies (such as the US dollar, Euro, Pound sterling, and the Japanese yen), and is valued in USD terms.

This move can also help reduce the effectiveness of US sanctions recently imposed on Russia on account of its invasion of Ukraine, or sanctions imposed even otherwise. If the INR has to play an international role, it needs to be more freely determined.

Ola unveils lithium-ion cell built in-house

BENGALURU, July 12 (PTI): Electric vehicles company Ola has unveiled a lithium-ion cell, NMC 2170, built in-house.

Ola said in a statement on Tuesday it will begin the mass production of its cell from its upcoming Gigafactory by 2023.

"The use of specific chemistry & materials enables the cell to pack more energy in a given space and also improves the overall life cycle of the cell," it said. "The cell has been developed keeping the indigenous conditions at the core."

Founder and CEO, Ola Electric, Bhavish Aggarwal noted that a cell is the heart of the EV revolution.

"Ola is building the world's most advanced cell research centre that will enable us to scale and innovate faster, and build the most advanced and affordable EV products in the world with speed," Aggarwal said.

"Our first indigenously made Lion cell is also the first of many in our cell technology roadmap. Having a robust local EV ecosystem is important for India to become a global EV hub," he added.

The company said it is committed to invest in core R&D to create indigenous advanced cell technologies, strengthen manufacturing capabilities and create an integrated Ola Electric Vehicles hub.

LOST AND FOUND

I Arpona Nath daughter of Monoranjan Nath (Father) and Bhabani Nath (Mother) have lost my HSLC Marksheet bearing Roll B07-574 No. 3558 of session 2007 . Anyone find please returned to my following address :

Arpona Nath
C/O- Sajay Nath
VIII- Sikaripather near
PWD IBP.O+
P.S - Bakaliaghat
Phone no.
7896298829

Cachar admin introduces yoga sessions, recreational program for inmates in Silchar

HT Correspondent

SILCHAR, July 12: In a significant initiative, on Tuesday, Cachar administration organised a yoga session for inmates in relief camps at Govt. Girls HS School, Silchar where 'apada mitra volunteers' demonstrated different yoga postures to the inmates for their mental and physical health.

Sanitisation process was also carried out in different relief camps on the day with the help of Silchar Municipality Board along with 'apada mitra volunteers' of Silchar Sadar in addition to that, recreational activities were also arranged for the flood affected people sheltered at different relief camps. Cleaning of garbage and



sanitisation was also carried out in Radha Madhab Road, Ashram

Road and other parts of Silchar municipal areas where Silchar legislator Dipayan Chakrabarty inspected the work of garbage removal.

Meanwhile, a total of 78 villages have been affected till 4 pm on July 12, out of which a total of 168129 people have been affected out of which 48234 people in Katigorah, 1188010 in silchar and 1085 people are in Lakhipur revenue circle.

Reportedly, a total of 17,075 people took shelter in 53 relief camps in the district, of which 1,572 are in 20 relief camps in Katigorah, 15,443 in 32 relief camps in Silchar and 60 inmates in 1 relief camp in Lakhipur.

Special DGP GP Singh too apologises to Vineet Bagaria family

Dibrugarh OC transferred, chargesheet to be filed within 60 days

HT Correspondent

DIBRUGARH, July 12: After chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assam Police special DGP (Law & Order) G.P. Singh on Monday tendered apology to the family of animal activist Vineet Bagaria, who reportedly committed suicide under mysterious circumstances. Singh visited the residence of Bagaria in Dibrugarh. Talking to the media later, the special DGP said, "We will not allow 'Baahubali culture' to continue in the state. We have issued several instructions in the last 2 days to every police station to take action against such criminals, muscle man, Baahubali who violate the law."

"We have discussed the progress of the investigation in the recent incident of Dibrugarh and a direction has been issued to nab the two remaining accused and their associates in connection with this case. We are issuing a 'look out' circular against them so that they cannot escape," Singh said. The senior cop instructed Dibrugarh police to submit the chargesheet of this case within 60 days. "Prima facie, there is no explanation by the officer in-charge of Dibrugarh police station for his negligence. He has been immediately transferred and the new officer will join tomorrow. The mandate to the new OC is clear, to take strongest possible action against the 'muscle man'," he added.

NIRDPR NERC organises training on Social Audit of Rural Development Schemes



HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, July 12: The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, North Eastern Regional Centre (Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India), Guwahati (NIRD&PR - NERC), Assam organised a two-day trainers training on Social Audit of Rural Development Schemes for all the eight states of north-east region of India on Monday and Tuesday.

The main objective of the training was to create a pool of skilled trainers expected by the department of Rural Development to carry out the social audit process of the development sector effectively in north-eastern region of India.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr R Murugesan, director, NIRDPR - North Eastern Regional Centre, Guwahati in presence of Dr Ratna Bhuyan and Dr T Vijaya Kumar, course directors on July 4.

Dr Ratna Bhuyan, assistant professor and program coordinator, NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati, while welcoming the participants to the training said that this is the programme mandated by ministry of Rural Development, Government of India to NIRDPR to build the capacities of the north-eastern states' Rural Development department with a pool of trainers trained on the process of social audit. She further emphasised that social audit is based on the principle of local governance and carried out with the consent and understanding of all stakeholders.

Dr R Murugesan, director, NIRDPR - NERC, Guwahati while delivering opening remarks quoted that the social audit training is very important for effective delivery of rural development programmes. Training of trainers in eight states of the north east region on social issues will have impact on governance and will create access to marginalised poor sections of the society in local planning, collective decision making and accountability.

While setting the context for the programme, Dr T Vijayakumar, associate professor and program co-coordinator, NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati emphasised that social audit is a tool to measure, evaluate and identify the gaps in service delivery. Social audit is being adopted organically by all states of India for promotion of participative governance in the rural development sector. Citizens can use this as a monitoring tool and gauge effectiveness of the development schemes. The social audit training will strengthen 'Jan Sunwai' and will allow the organisation to evaluate the sustainable rollout of a scheme. Training of trainers' programmes will create a pool of resource persons to carry out the process of social audit and empower the citizens of the region to participate effectively in the development process. Meghalaya is the first state from north-eastern region to legislate the process of social audit.

NIRDPR has designed the training module of this training with a special focus on the RD schemes such as MGNREGA, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin, National Social Assistance Programmes and Fifteenth Finance Commission grants from the ministry of Panchayati Raj and total 34 participants from eight states of north-eastern region are attending the training.

RNPC extends gratitude to Tuliram

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, July 12: The Rengma Naga Peoples' Council (RNPC) on behalf of the Rengma Naga community in Karbi Anglong would like to convey heartfelt gratitude to Dr Tuliram Ronghang, chief executive member and his team of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), Assam for considering Pheniga Rengma as a nominated MAC to the KAAC. The Rengma Naga tribe had been deprived of the representation of nominated MAC to KAAC for more than thirty years. However, under the dynamic leadership and with the wisdom of Dr Tuliram Ronghang, CEM, KAAC, the Rengma Naga tribe is getting to avail the constitutional provision in the term 2022- 2026.

It is our humble prayer that Karbi Anglong scale greater heights under the leadership of Dr Tuliram Ronghang and his team.

Assam's health centre receives 'Quality Certification'

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, July 12: The ministry of health and family welfare, government of India, has certified "Quality Certification" under national quality assurance standards program to Hajipara Health and Wellness Centre located in the Barpeta district's Bhawanipur block. Established in 1993, the Hajipara Health and Wellness Centre was assessed for the seven service packages in the state of Assam and subsequently underwent external assessment on May 4, last. During the assessment, it scored 89 per cent and met all six criteria required for the national quality certification.

The Hajipara health and wellness centre has a strength of five ASHAs, eight Anganwadi workers and caters to a population of 6,466 in the area. Presently, services available include - pregnancy care and child birth, neonatal and infant health care services, childhood and adolescent health care services and others. Notably, in accordance with the national quality assurance standards, the Hajipara health and wellness centre has also started providing tele-consultation services keeping in mind the specific requirements for public health facilities as well as global best practices.

Free medical check-up conducted

HT Correspondent

HAMREN, July 12: Free medical check-up was conducted jointly by Karbi Students Association, Dongkamukam head branch, Labour Union Legal Forum, Dongkamukam; Dongkamukam Youth Association; West Karbi Anglong Chamber of Commerce, Hamren Charity NGO at Amren Amam Tephlong village on Tuesday. The free medical check-up camp was organised at Amam Tephlong as the area is underdeveloped and lacks proper roads.

Farmers training cum awareness programme on Sali paddy held at Nagaon

HT Correspondent

NAGAON, July 12: District Agriculture department under Assam Project on Agri-business and Rural Transmission, organised a two-day farmers awareness cum training programme on systematic as well as scientific farming of Sali paddy among progressive farmers in the district at the office campus of district agriculture officer since Monday last and the programme concluded on Tuesday. District agriculture officer Tarun Hazarika inaugurated the programme. Over 70 progressive farmers under 13 development blocks in the district participated in the training programme. In his inaugural speech, district agriculture officer Tarun Hazarika laid stress on applications of machineries in sowing seeds saplings, harvesting and processing of the crops and said that applying all those machineries and tools, farmers of the district could lessen their loads of work and doing so they could in-

crease the quantities of crops in less time. Scientist from International paddy research centre - Bipin Kumar, crops adviser to Assam Project on Agri-business and Rural Transmission - Dr Arunima Deva Chaudhary, sub divisional agriculture officer duo respectively Ranjan Kumar Deka and Premeswar Nath were present in the programme as the resource persons. During the training cum awareness programme, all the resource persons digitally screened how Sali paddy could be cultivated by applying all systematic as well as scientific ways during the season and also highlighted how farmers of the district could increase the quantities by lessening their workload, a release added. Besides, during the programme, the officials of the concerned department also appealed to the farmers of the flood hit areas to insure their Sali paddy crops with a minimum premium worth of ₹100 for one hectare of land on or before July 31 next, the release added further.

Six disbanded organisations slam governing bodies

HT Bureau

DIPHU, July 12: The disbanded six armed organisations that had signed a tripartite peace agreement with the State and Central Government in 2021, has blamed the Government of India, Government of Assam and Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) for showing lackadaisical attitude towards the implementation of Clauses and Sub-clauses of the agreement.

The disbanded six armed organisations, namely Karbi Longri NC Hills Liberation Front (KLNLF), United People's Liberation Army (UPLA), People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri (PDCK), Karbi People's Liberation Tigers (KPLT) - Run Rongpi, KPLT - Mensing Kramsra and KPLT - Donri Kramsra, under the banner of Karbi Ex-Revolutionary United Forum (KERUF) in a press conference held at District Press Club of Karbi Anglong here on Tuesday, the former leader of PDCK Kongkat Teron said, "On September 5, 2021 the six armed organisations have signed a MoS agreement with the State and Central Government for peace and development in the twin hill districts of Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong. While signing the peace accord both the State and Central Governments have given their moral responsibility to implement the Clauses and Sub-clauses in letter and spirit."

He further said in order to have the peace agreement with the six armed organisations the Union



Home minister, Amit Shah and chief minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma have come to Karbi Anglong.

"In the post MoS agreement the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has himself come to Loringtheipi in Karbi Anglong to lay the foundation stones of various institutions and development schemes, which is part of MoS implementation. But regrettably, it is seen now that the State and Central Governments and KAAC are showing apathy in the implementation of the Clauses and Sub-clauses of the MoS," Teron said.

Teron also said the State and Central Governments and KAAC authority has failed to provide political rehabilitation and political

will to these six armed organisations.

The former chairman of disbanded KLNLF, P Dilli urging the State and Central government and KAAC asked to speed up the immediate implementation of the MoS.

He said all the clauses mentioned in the MoS agreement like clauses 2.2, 2.3, 3.5, 3.6, 4.4, 4.5 and 5.2 should be implemented at the earliest. Not only the Central government, but the State government and KAAC authority should also take full responsibility for implementing the MoS. The former insurgent leaders will be visiting New Delhi to meet Union Home minister Amit Shah and other Central ministers, Dilli said.

5 students of Aakash BYJU'S from Guwahati score above 95 percentile in first session of JEE Mains 2022

Roctotpal Sandilya secures highest with 99.01 percentile

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, July 12: 5 students of Aakash BYJU'S in Guwahati have made the institute and the city proud by scoring an impressive 95 percentile and above in the first session of the JEE Mains 2022 Examination. The results were announced by the National Testing Agency. This was the first out of the two Joint Entrance Exams for engineering scheduled to be held this year. The top scorers are Roctotpal Sandilya with 99.01, Subrata Goswami 98.98, Keerthartha Das 98.29, Priyanka Kalita 96.63 and Nandeesh Bhatrai 96.48.

The students joined Aakash BYJU'S in a two-year classroom programme to crack IIT JEE, considered the world's toughest entrance exam. They attributed their entry into the elite list of top percentiles in JEE to their efforts in

understanding the concepts, and their strict adherence to their learning schedule.

Congratulating the students, Aakash Chaudhry, managing director, Aakash BYJU'S, said, "We congratulate all the students for their exemplary feat. Around 9 lakh students registered for the first session of JEE Main 2022 from across the country. Their top percentile score speaks volumes of their hard work and dedication as well as the support of their parents. We wish them all the best with their future endeavours."

He added that during the pandemic-hit academic years, Aakash BYJU'S walked the extra mile to turn students into top percentile scorers in JEE. "We stepped up our digital presence to be always available for our students. We made study materials, and question

banks accessible online. We conducted several virtual motivational sessions and seminars on exam preparation and time management skills. It is heartening to see our efforts paying off, as evident from the score sheets of our students, many of whom are well on their way to get admission in a top IIT or NIT or a Central government's engineering college to pursue higher studies of their choice."

JEE (Main) is conducted in two sessions to give multiple opportunities for students to improve their scores. While JEE Advanced is only for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), JEE Main is for admission to several National Institute of Technologies (NITs) and other centre-aided engineering colleges in India. Students must appear for JEE Main to sit for JEE Advanced.

Suklabaidya makes surprise visit to ferry ghats in Guwahati



HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, July 12: Transport minister, Parimal Suklabaidya paid a surprise visit to ferry ghats here on Monday.

After assuming office of the Transport department, Suklabaidya made a surprise visit to Guwahati-North Guwahati, Guwahati Madhyam Khand and Guwahati

Rajaduar Ghats in Fancy Bazar area of the city to take stock of the services there.

The minister inspected the terminal facilities at the ferry ghats and also interacted with the staff deployed there. He also inspected the ropax and motor vessels and interacted with the passengers to get first-hand information on issues faced by them.

Suklabaidya directed the deputy director, and executive engineers, IWT to ensure that all passengers are equipped with life jackets while travelling and to maintain cleanliness at the terminals.

Later, the minister visited the Directorate Office of Inland Water Transport in Ulubari and inspected the facilities there.

Aaranyak holds interaction with media in Goalpara on human-wildlife interface

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, July 12: In a situation of raging human-wildlife (wild elephant) interface in Goalpara district media personnel have an important role to play in creating a coordinated atmosphere amongst different stakeholders including the masses to mitigate the conflict.

In an interactive workshop on 'Biodiversity Conservation and Human Wildlife Coexistence' with media under the aegis of Goalpara District Journalist Association and Aaranyak, resource persons from Aaranyak flagged the responsibility entrusted on the media to highlight the human-wildlife interface with special reference to human-elephant frequent interface prevalent in Goalpara district.

A reputed elephant conservation expert from Aaranyak, Dr Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar sensitised the attending media personnel on the bigger picture of threat faced by



wild elephants for various factors and plausible ways to mitigate it with coordinated action amongst masses, forest department, NGOs and support from media.

Jayanta Pathak, the manager of Environment Education and Capacity Building Division (EECBD) of Aaranyak, addressing the interaction focused on the extra mile the media personnel need to

traverse to keep the issues concerning biodiversity conservation and the trend and challenges of environmental journalism as on date. Pathak urged the media personnel to put up sustained efforts in covering issues related to conservation of biodiversity and protection of wildlife habitats.

Senior journalist Bijay Sankar Bora while addressing the work-

shop pointed out that journalists have a very limited but important role of catalyst in creating synergy among various stakeholders to facilitate sustained efforts for biodiversity conservation.

He said that since it was the masses in the grassroots that can call a huge say in achieving conservation goals, the media as a mass communicator must inform and educate various aspects, dimensions of biodiversity that sustains life and livelihood.

The media personnel raised various queries on challenges and issues they face in covering aspects related to biodiversity conservation and human-wildlife conflict. They made an important suggestion of holding such a sensitisation workshop among villagers who have to bear the brunt of conflict with wildlife, especially the alarming human-elephant interface in Goalpara district.

Series of lectures held at Nagaon Dhing College

HT Correspondent

NAGAON, July 12: With a view to aware students as well as the faculty members about innovation ecosystem at the regional and national level, the Institution of Innovative Cell, Dhing College organized a series of lectures on June 25 and July 8 last.

Dr Biman Hazarika, principal of the college applauded the efforts of the IIC of the college for organising the series of lectures saying there is a need to bring students into startup culture and to provide them a platform through which they can convert their respective ideas into innovation.

The theme of the first lecture was on startup where Kolkata based interior designer Ankita Dutta (alumnus, Dhing College), professional ramp model, ramp walk trainer and owner of Kolkata wallpaper and interior, Dr Dhruvajyoti Sarma, associate professor and founder, Daffodil Nursery and Daffodil College of Horticulture, were present in the programme as resource persons.

In the second lecture held on July 8 last, Joon Rajkhuwa, a noted businessman and Satyen M Mahanta graced the occasion as resource persons. Over 70 participants took part in the series of lectures held on online mode through google meet and moderated by Kankana Sarma, department of Political Science.

Rajkhuwa, a leading businessman and an active civil society member of Nagaon shared his professional experiences in a number of businesses over the last 30 years, urging the young entrepreneurs to be innovative in the new economy, a release added.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

'Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.'
— Helen Keller

Abe understood the importance of India

It is symptomatic of the ultra-nationalistic indoctrination of China under Xi that news of the attack on former Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, was greeted with celebrations on their internet social media. Shinzo Abe had reversed two of Japan's self-inflicted restraints or flagellation. Shinzo Abe had visited the Yakusuni Temple and he was instrumental in changing the pacifist constitution of Japan that permitted the Japanese military to again venture out of the country. It was Shinzo Abe who had first visited the Yakusuni Temple in Tokyo where the ashes of former Japanese soldiers fighting in the Second World War had been kept. Until then, for the Japanese Prime Minister, the Temple was out of bounds. It was similar to the pacific constitutional set-up of the country which even prevented a permanent military setup. This was slowly overcome and Japan came to have its military. But the military was kept confined with the country and could not venture out under any circumstances. These were the leftover guilt consciousness from Japan's role during the Second World War. It was remorse on national consciousness and a feeling of war guilt. However, Japan was defeated and hence the guilt consciousness was imposed upon it.

Justice Radha Binod Pal, who was invited to seat on the tribunal which was trying the Emperor Hirohito of Japan as a war criminal, in parallel to the Nuremberg trials in Europe, was faced with the choice of maintaining his integrity as a judge and following the majority of Western judges in indicting the Japanese Emperor. Justice Pal followed his conscience and refused to sign on the dotted lines of the criminal verdict. Instead, he pointed out that Japan had followed the same course of action that the victories Allied Powers had. The difference was only between the victors and the vanquished. There were pressures on Justice Pal, in fact, immense pressures from the then supreme authorities, the Americans, to do otherwise. Various incentives were dangled. However, the Indian judge refused to budge. This had endeared Justice Pal to the Japanese.

India and Japan were both democracies in Asia and they should form a coalition for democratic forces. In 2006, it was not that fashionable to talk of an India-Japan formation, coming close from the nuclear tests in 1998 under the first Vajpayee Government. Japan had reacted furiously to India's nuclear tests which marked the country's emergence as a nuclear power. Japan has experienced the devastation of a nuclear bomb that had developed an ingrained Opposition to all things nuclear. It is a measure of the transition from that position that Japan today embraces a nuclear doctrine for self-preservation, which translates, "It has come to accept that some form of nuclear capability for the country was the preferred course in the immediate future." And Abe had a significant role in that transition by breaking some taboos in force from the end of the Second War. In this context, the QUAD formation among India, Japan, Australia, and the United States has a demonstrative relevance in Asian affairs. The Quad came out directly of Abe's Arc of Democracies. In many ways, India could not have gotten a better friend than Shinzo Abe in 2006 when he had just begun his initiatives with south Asia.

Guru had supreme position in the society

Guru Govind Dou Khade, Kake Lagoo Paay;
Balihari Guru Aap Ne, Govind Diyo Batay.
Yah Tan Vish Ki Bel Ri, Guru Amrit Ki Khan;
Shish Diyo Jo Guru Mile, To Bhi Sasta Jaan.
Sab Dharati Kagaj Karu, Lekhani Sab Vanray;
Saat Samudra Masi Karu, Guru Gun Likha Na Jaay.

This Doha (verse) of Sadguru Kabir describes greatness of a Guru, who is necessary in the life of a human being and the important pillars of society. They are friends, philosophers and guides who teach, philosophise and enrich students. From academic knowledge to moral ethical or social, the Gurus are treasure trove. A Guru's contribution to the world is priceless and irreplaceable. Gurus are known to form the minds of the youth; they bestow good qualities on their students and make them responsible citizens. It is a profession and mission taught by saint.

The Vedic Mantra "Gurur Brahma Gurur Vishnu, Gurur Devo Maheshvarah; Gurur Sakshat Param Brahma, Tasmai Gururve Namah" explains that Guru himself is the Tridev i.e. Brahma-Vishnu-Mahesh and is verily the supreme Power or Absolute truth. It signifies the unchallenged position of Guru, who helps us in solving all troubles that we encounter in the path of learning & wisdom in our life.

Guru is composed of two Sanskrit words "Gu", meaning darkness and "Ru", meaning light. Thus, Guru means the one who brings from darkness to light. The word Guru itself resembles the message "Asto Maa Sadgamay, Tamo Maa Jyotirgamay, Mrityor Maa Amritgamay" (i.e. lead us from ignorance to truth, from darkness to light and from death to deathlessness). A guru is one, who has imminence knowledge, wisdom and command over a subject and makes use of it to guide his disciples. Guru are the building block of society, who help to become a person better human being. Actually, the word "Guru" is untranslatable and 'Teacher', 'Master', 'tutor' or other equivalents give only a partial meaning. Parents as well as all those persons, who are responsible for the career building of the disciples, are their "Guru".

In Indian culture and civilization, the concept of Guru is found in the earliest Vedic texts. The Guru and Gurukul were the established tradition in ancient Bharatvarsha. Guru had highest position in King's Rajdarbar and society. Archeological and epigraphical evidence certify the existence of numerous Gurukuls, where Shishyas were equipped not only with bookish knowledge but also had an all-round development. Philosophy, grammar, farming, animal husbandry, farming, weapon training, music, painting and other essential life skills in human life were part of the study.

The Guru-Shishya Parampara were also part & parcel in other sects like Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism, which originated from Sanatan Dharma. Sikh is the transformed form of Sanskrit word Shishya and Sikhism is completely based on Guru tradition. Thus Guru tradition based learning were the backbone of enriched Indian society and India was the hub of knowledge and culture. Nalanda Vishwavidyalaya,



Vikramshila Vishwavidyalaya, Udantpuri Vishwavidyalaya, Takshshila Vishwavidyalaya, Kashi Vidyapeeth etc. are some such evidences, where learners from all over the world illuminated their mind and body.

DEGREE OF THOUGHT

By: Er. Prabhat Kishore

Undoubtedly, Guru is the one who shapes the nation inside his/her classroom. After cessation of Gurukul system and adoption of Macaulay education system, the goal and meaning of education has completely transformed. The teacher/tutor's duty has narrowed down to just teach the students certain subjects in classroom and now they have nothing to do with their all-round development. Gradually the teachers lost their dignity in the society.

After governmentisation of schools, the teacher no longer remains a Guru, but became a salaried employee. The government used them in various jobs, other than teaching. They are the soft targets for engagement in various non-teaching works like elections, human census, animal census, pulse polio works, ration card verification & many more.

The entry of politics and unionism among teachers has also badly hampered the education system. Several factions of teachers' organization have evolved only to establish leadership, which time & again organise strikes for their demands. The ultimate sufferers are the learners, for whom the schools have been established and teachers have been appointed.

The two-fold system of education i.e. Government and Private has bifurcated the education scenario in

two distinct identities. Policy makers, themselves do not accept the government schools and send their wards to private schools. Even teachers, working in government school, have no faith on their own school and they prefer to admit their wards in private schools. Generally, government schools are now meant for poor and downtrodden classes, who have no better option. Even after 75 years of independence, the education system has not been transformed as job-oriented and the graduates find themselves empty handed after passing out. The mindset of teachers has totally been transformed. Due to downgrading from "Guru" to "teacher", the country's foundation is at stake.

It is heartbreaking that the major section of present-day teachers is apathetic towards the high-valued job of learner's career building through teaching. Education has become a profitable business, and teachers have become its marketing managers. Although the enriched growth of science and education has made us capable to reach on moon and mars, but unfortunately the human values have been lost.

The need of the hour is to relook prevailing education system in India. We must shift our strategy from present education system, which are producing graduates having only bookish knowledge, to Gurukul system, where all-round development of the dispel was the main objective. By adopting the Guru Parampara, the country will once again become a Vishwa Guru. (The author is a technocrat & academician.)

Hate-mongering in the name of freedom of speech

By: M. R. Lahu

Post Udaipur-Amravati killings, India witnessed a studied silence among its celebrated intellectuals who seem to have taken an intellectual asylum in their own dens of hypocrisy, who otherwise, were known to be the upright tongues screaming louder for the preservation of the country's democratic values. The violence that flashed across the country after the brutal bloodshed of the shopkeepers subsided to the level of insignificance. We should be happy that we have plenty of issues pouring in on a daily basis that anything including the madness of men in the name of beliefs gets easily evaporated and as a society, we spin back to the same organic self of insensibility and insanity. Prime time shows on TV channels hunt for new topics and spokespersons, having learned lessons from the Nupur Sharma episode seem to have been putting a brave face of maturity and acceptance. The media slugfest and the subsequent bloodshed had taken India further to a realm of understanding - a realisation, that as a country we have ripped ourselves off the democratic principles that we have been chest-thumping since independence. Nobody thought that the quantum of filth that we have accumulated would amount to the level of arrogance and hatred barricading all the possibilities of cordiality. What next?

Things seemed to be rolling back to normal but then landed the fiery Mahua Moitra, the Trinamool Congress MP from West Bengal with her most denigrating remark on Goddess Kaali. For her, Kaali is a meat-eating and alcohol accepting goddess. And she said she had the complete right to exercise her imagination to whichever god or goddess she worshipped. Except BJP no political party was seen with hammer and tongs against Moitra. People often stoop into idiotic terrains of intellectual incarceration and get vocal about the stupidity that they market as intellectual audacity. The irony of India's present political discourse is that exercising your right to imagine, interpret and ignobly indoctrinate religious ideas for gaining political mileage is legitimised. Most of such attempts go unquestioned if you shoot your arrows from the quiver of a liberal bandwagon and of course it should be directed to a still insensitive majority and what you gain in return is a victimhood ornamented with sympathy. Vituperation on anything except a minority sentiment is legitimized and nobody, not even the judiciary will hold you responsible for it. This never comes under hate speech and you are free to challenge and spit more venom with complete security guaranteed.

West Bengal's history without pages dedicated to Ramakrishna Paramahansa



and Swami Vivekananda remains incomplete. It was goddess Kaali by worshipping whom, an illiterate Brahmin in Ramakrishna could elevate himself to the greatness of a Paramahansa. There have never been questions put against his holy gesticulations. His greatness unfolded to its complete glory when he transformed an ordinary boy into a spiritual giant who later came to be known as Swami Vivekananda. Both had in-depth devotion for the divinity in the form of a ferocious, terrifying but adorable feminine energy manifested in Kaali. Bengal owes much to its spiritual heritage that it inherited from the penance of these spiritual gurus and calumniating the feminine energy in Kaali as a meat-eater is nothing but slitting the very idea of spiritual inheritance that the state of Bengal nourished for ages. Moitra's argument of vehemence in the name of spiritual intelligence and liberty was accentuated by Shashi Tharoor. For him, it was a well-known case for all the Hindus that the black goddess with blood dripping tongue and skull garland around her neck was a meat-eater. Same was the case with Nupur Sharma. Everybody in the media discourse and the Islamic religious fraternity knew that whatever she spoke in defence of her views were well codified in Islamic scriptures and what she did was to reproduce the textual content when she was repeatedly perforated by the man sitting at the opposite side. But outcries for her head are still heard from across the country. Things did not stop there. The entire Muslim world began to put pressure on India against the remarks of a single lady and we witnessed what followed next. The ruling party successfully isolated a person for defending her beliefs when provoked.

Evidently, there are two forces incessantly working to split the society. Religion and politics have so far been able to set narratives in this direction and Moitra was one among those politicians who enjoyed the support of the left-liberal coercive mindset which often found inadequacies with the majority. Terming the saffron upsurge by the BJP as a

monolithic patriarchal brahminical enterprise, Moitra went on affirming that she would hate to live in an ecosystem that the BJP is creating throughout the country. When she spoke her demeaning words to an audience in a media conclave, she willfully erred with an ease of conviction that nothing of that sort compared to the effect in the case of Nupur Sharma would happen. The country has already stooped to a new low after the beheading of the Udaipur tailor and efforts to throw acid on the wounds of a particular community is the plan of politicians and Moitra took the lead this time.

Who spreads hatred in a society that has already gone to the brim of an ideological collapse? Today, an existential threat to a civilization that survived in amity for generations despite being diverse is a reality. Narratives to set the stage of harmony ablaze began long ago. The idea of a potential "Hindu Terror" was an attempt to create lab rats of radicalization to draw parallels to Islamic jihad. "Islamophobia" has been the recent trendsetting narrative catching headlines. Hatred, disseminated in a thousand ways, is reaping a great harvest. Not only political, but academic forums from inside the country and abroad are also actively growing claws to throttle the idea of a living system that survived centuries of invasion and horror. "Dismantling Hindutva" was one such effort to malign the system of plurality living in unison in India and paint it as an outrageous cohort and thus finding reasons to thwart it from growing further. Imagine, what would be the outcome, if the government with Modi at the centre, tried to push reforms to curb radicalization with full force. Reactions from the South Asian countries should be a reminder for India when it plans to cement the holes of religious militancy and we should not be forgetful of our past in the landscape of the Indian subcontinent. Hinduism is an open book that anybody could read from whichever page he feels to begin with. Interpretations can be drawn in various ways and it gives the freedom to deduce its principles. This liberty often turns out to be an argumentative overreach by many people and narratives to humiliate the essential practices of Hinduism get justified as an act of liberal interpretation. Moitra was loudmouthed about this freedom and she said that she had been exercising it in the media conclave, deliberately denying the effect of insult that she was further exacerbating on the blisters that Udaipur and Amravati killings caused. In a democracy, freedom of speech cannot be a burdensome exercise on one community, when others are authorised to weaponize their beliefs as a shield of self defence. (The author is a freelance journalist/social worker & can be reached at mr-lahu30@gmail.com)

China's nine-year old BRI finally finds a challenger

By: Nantoo Banerjee

The European Commission's decision just ahead of last month's G7 Leaders' Summit in Germany to mobilise Euro 300 billion (US\$340 billion) by 2027 to invest in public and private infrastructure around the world is most welcome though it came several years after a similar initiative by China. With US President Joe Biden committing another \$200 billion in aid of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) programme as the global gateway in the next five years, the total fund mobilisation will be in excess of half-a-trillion dollars.

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), steered by President Xi Jinping in 2013, claimed to have invested \$139.8 billion by 2020. Officially, BRI aimed to develop land and sea infrastructure to more easily connect China with Asia, Europe and Africa. And, China has been quite successful in attracting many partner countries, mostly poor and underdeveloped, to execute the programme. Clearly, G7 leaders are concerned about China's use of BRI to influence financially weak countries across the world. The joint EU-US initiative may turn out to be a counter offensive to China's rapid economic and strategic power play across the world.

The PGII programme launched jointly by the EC and US will involve other like-minded countries as partners to mobilise additional capital. Unlike BRI, PGII will rope in multilateral development banks, development finance institutions, sovereign wealth funds, and more for the purpose. PGII is designed to offer low- and middle-income countries - the same as targeted by China - a comprehensive, transparent, values-driven financing choice for infrastructure development to advance climate and energy security, digital connectivity, health and health security, and gender equality and equity priorities.

It will work toward such infrastructure financing and infrastructure development activities that are sustainable, clean, resilient, inclusive, and transparent, adhering to high standards. A US policy statement asserts that infrastructure is critical to driving a society's productivity and prosperity. Properly executed, infrastructure connects workers to good jobs; allows businesses to grow and thrive; facilitates the delivery of vital services; creates opportunities for all segments of society, including underserved communities; moves goods to markets; enables rapid information-sharing and communication; protects societies from the effects of climate change and public health crises or other emergencies; and supports global connection among nations.

Understandably, PGII's global gateway

plan makes no mention of China's BRI by name. EU boss Ursula von der Leyen merely called it a "roadmap for major investment in infrastructure development around the world." The fund will not come from EU or its member state coffers. European financial institutions and national development finance institutions will support the project, a commission document said. There will be substantial private sector participation in support of the programme. PGII pledges to promote project executions in a timely fashion in consultation and partnership with host countries and local stakeholders to meet



their priority needs and opportunities, balancing both short- and longer-term priorities. Under a US government memorandum, it plans to boost the competitiveness of America by supporting businesses, including small- and medium-sized enterprises in overseas infrastructure and technology development, thereby creating jobs and economic growth. The US has sought to align with G7 and other like-minded partners to coordinate the respective approaches, investment criteria, expertise, and resources on infrastructure to advance a common vision and better meet the needs of low- and middle-income countries and regions. It may be true that the PGII agenda partly copies China's BRI, earlier known as One Belt, One Road (OBOR) programme. BRI is one of President Xi's most ambitious foreign and economic initiatives. BRI has substantially impacted the growth of exporting projects and employment of funds to the outside world by Western economies and Japan. BRI aims to strengthen Beijing's economic leadership through a vast programme of infrastructure building throughout China's neighbouring regions and other parts of the world to grow China's industry and exports.

The initiative has a big domestic focus. BRI has helped China use the platform to deploy outside its chronic excess capacity. Maybe, it is more about migrating factory surpluses than dumping excess products. The initiative has also helped export China's technological and engineering standards. For China's key policymakers, it is crucial to upgrade the country's industry. Beijing hopes that its transnational

infrastructure building programme will substantially spur economic growth in China's underdeveloped hinterland and rustbelt. In a way, China has been successful in its objective although many BRI partners now see it as a debt trap.

Publicly, China pretends to be nonchalant and does not seem to display anxiety over the joint EU-US project, the global gateway or PGII. Lately, China's response to PGII was best explained by its foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian at a press conference, citing a World Bank forecast that "if all BRI transport infrastructure projects are carried out, by 2030, the BRI will generate \$1.6 trillion of revenues for the world each year, or 1.3 percent of global GDP". More than 60 countries have joined BRI agreements with China, with infrastructure projects under the initiative being planned or under construction in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America. Yet, the fact remains that instead of giving any aid or grants, China mainly offers huge loans at commercial interest rates that receiving countries need to pay within a fixed number of years. Thus, China has been accused of debt-trapping by extending "predatory loans" that force countries to cede key assets to China. BRI also helped China acquire, partly or substantially, strategic assets such as sea and river ports and military bases in host countries.

Of late, BRI seems to be slowing down as annual Chinese lending to countries under the initiative dropped from its peak of \$125 billion in 2015 to around \$50 to \$55 billion in 2021. Several partner countries have renegotiated their loans with China, especially after they were thrown into economic crises. Some of these countries are also involving other global players in their infrastructure projects to protect their economic and political independence. This may not be good news for China which is saddled with excess manufacturing and industrial capacity and uses BRI for their deployment abroad. Industries such as construction, steel, and cement have been facing a glut in China. BRI has been helping their exports to partner countries.

However, the PGII's policy objectives seem to be more clear. Its participation is expected to benefit receiving countries hopefully without throwing them into any major debt trap as BRI has caused to several participating countries. For the EU-US global gateway to be successful, it must treat project receivers as truly respectable sovereign partner countries and help create good assets for them which will, in due course, far outweigh their financial liabilities. There should be no place for suspicion behind the partnership bonds. (IPA Service)

Female pattern baldness: Treatment and genetics

By: MaryAnn De Pietro

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It is normal for women to shed some hair each day, but when bald patches or thinning occurs, it may be due to female pattern baldness.

Shedding about 50 to 100 hairs a day is considered normal, but new growth will typically replace these hairs. If someone has female pattern baldness, however, the lost hair is not renewed.

In this article, we look at the causes and risk factors for female pattern baldness, as well as treatment and prevention.

What is female pattern baldness?

Female pattern baldness is a type of hair loss that affects women. The medical name for the condition is androgenetic alopecia.

Although both men and women may experience hair loss, it is not as widespread in women as in men and appears differently.

Men who have hair loss tend to develop a receding hairline and bald spots. Women with female pattern baldness usually experience general hair thinning, which affects the volume of their hair.

In women, the first signs of female pattern baldness may be a widening part or a feeling that the hair does not feel as thick as usual. Although the scalp may be visible, the hairline usually does not recede.

Hair loss is less frequent in women than in men, but it still occurs often. Female pattern baldness increases with age, and fewer than 50 percent of women have a full head of hair for their entire life.

Female pattern baldness and the genetic link

Genetics appears to be a significant factor in developing female pattern baldness, which means it runs in families. Women can inherit the gene for pattern baldness from either parent.

Female pattern baldness tends to be more common as a woman ages and reaches midlife, although it can begin earlier.

It often develops after menopause, so hormonal changes may also be a contributing factor.

Other causes of hair loss

Female pattern baldness is largely thought to occur due to genetics. However, it may also develop due to an underlying condition that affects the production of the hormone androgen.

Androgen is a hormone that plays a role in pattern baldness. Tumors of the pituitary gland or ovary, which secrete androgen, may also lead to hair loss.

Other causes of hair loss in women include:

- Autoimmune disease: Alopecia areata is a rare autoimmune disorder that causes the immune system to attack the hair follicles leading to hair loss.

- Medication: Certain medications, such as those that are used to treat cancer, can cause hair loss as a side effect. However, hair usually regrows once a person has stopped taking the medication.

- Illness: Hair loss can develop after a significant illness, such as a severe infection, high fever, or surgery.

- Traction alopecia: This is hair loss that occurs when a person frequently wears hairstyles that pull the hair too tightly.

Treatment

The type of treatment recommended will depend on the extent of the hair loss, in addition to other factors.

Treatment for female pattern baldness



can help prevent future hair loss and may result in regrowth of some hair. In most cases, long-term treatment is needed to prevent hair loss from recurring.

Treatment options include:

Minoxidil

Minoxidil is a topical medication that is used to treat hair loss in both men and women. The medication is applied to the scalp every day and may stimulate hair growth, as well as prevent further hair thinning. Minoxidil can take 6 months to a year to produce visible results and does not work for everyone. Side effects can include dryness, redness, and itching. Hair loss may return after a person stops

using the product.

One well-known brand of Minoxidil is Rogaine, which is available to buy in many pharmacies and online.

Oral medication

One of the most common oral medications used to treat female pattern baldness is spironolactone, which is a diuretic. Diuretics remove excess water from the body. The medication may also block the production of androgen, which may prevent hair loss and help hair regrow. Spironolactone can cause side effects, such as dry mouth, nausea, and dizziness. Women who are pregnant should not take spironolactone due to a possibility

that it might cause congenital disabilities.

Hair transplant

Some women may choose to have a hair transplant. Various techniques may be used to perform hair transplantation.

Usually, hair loss affects only some areas of the scalp. During a hair transplant, a doctor removes hair from an area with healthy hair growth and transplants it to another spot where the hair is missing. The area from which the doctor transplants the hair usually remains unaffected by hair loss. The doctor performs the procedure while a person is awake, and it takes several hours. A person will be given a local anesthetic to prevent pain.

Laser treatment

Some people may wish to try at-home laser treatment for hair loss. These devices work by emitting low levels of laser light to stimulate hair regrowth.

According to some research, low-level laser light therapy can stimulate hair growth in women and men. However, additional studies are needed to determine the effectiveness of this type of treatment, as it is possible that laser treatment companies may have partially funded this research.

Prevention

As female pattern baldness may be genetic, it is not always preventable. However, there are steps a woman can take to keep hair as healthy as possible to prevent breakage and damage.

Consider the following hair care tips:

- Limit treatments that can lead to hair damage, such as perming, straightening, and hair extensions.

- Eat a diet rich in protein, essential vitamins, and iron.

- Protect the hair from sun damage by wearing a hat.

- Avoid brushing the hair when it is wet and fragile. Use a comb or the fingers instead.

Outlook

Female pattern baldness can be distressing and affect a person's self-confidence and self-image. Women who experience excessive hair loss should talk with their doctor or dermatologist, who can help determine the cause and best treatment option.

Early diagnosis can help a person develop a treatment plan that prevents further hair loss. Treatments are available that may help restore hair growth. The effectiveness may vary depending on the treatment selected and the amount of hair loss. (Courtesy: Medical News Today)

Monsoon nail trends Saudi Arabia scores over South Asia in female employment

By: Shahnaz Husain

It is that time of the year again when there is a nonstop downpour, breezy winds and splashy water everywhere. It is a common perception that monsoon has a gloomy face.

Nails take the most hit during the rainy season. The season of monsoon calls for special care of nails to avoid damage due to red, swollen and itchy skin around them. The skin becomes sweaty or infected due to overexposure to water as a result of it both fingernails and toenails get affected by the rains.

The season of monsoon calls for special care of nails to avoid infection and chipping. The monsoon can lead to rough, brittle and discoloured nails.

Since we are all homebound since last over five months, trying out new nail colours and designs are something that just makes you feel groomed and uplifted in this gloomy and subdued atmosphere.

Well-kept nails are a part of our presentation and looks. Be it any occasion, we all know how essential it is to maintain them.

Painting your nails is like therapy. When your nails are groomed, you automatically get a dose of colour therapy that is just great for your mood.

Try to keep your nails dry with extra care especially your toes. You may opt for open shoes/sandals/chappal as if you are wearing closed footwear all the days long then fungus/bacteria may thrive in your feet due to moist and damp environment which can result in dead skin cells and bacteria ultimately affecting your toes.

Avoid wearing leather, plastic or canvas shoes. Do not wear the same shoes every day. It is better to have an alternate pair of shoes. Wash your footwear regularly. Desist from sitting in wet footwear and socks all through the day. Try to wear waterproof footwear to allow air circulation. Your nail health is important during the rainy season. Refrain from growing your toenails long. Wash and clean dirt from under the nails as also the edges. Cut your toe nails short to avoid any chances of accumulating dirt and other infections. Try to spray deodorants/talcum/anti-fungal powder in between toe nails

regularly at least once in a day to prevent infection.

During the hot and humid season, we go for light, serene, pastel colours for our clothes. The same goes for the nails too. We can select colours that are icy, "cool" and trendy. The way to protect the nails and keep them looking good is to give them regular care. There is no point wearing a glamorous outfit if the feet and toe nails show neglect and lack of care. Chipped nails and chipped nail polish can really spoil the entire effect.

You need to be very careful while picking a nail polish. While wearing nail polish does not harm your healthy nails but

Typical nail polish are filled with toxic chemicals such as Paraben, diethyl phthalates, dibutyl phthalate which cause nail brittleness, dryness, and thinning and are bad for the skin surrounding it. Always prefer water-based polishes, which don't last as long but are the safest option out there.

Try your level best to choose natural and chemical-free nail paints that are eco-friendly and cruelty-free. Avoid eating with hands that have paint on its nails as bits of the nail paint can chip and fall into the food, which will eventually go inside your body and cause harm.

Pick a nail colour remover that contains vitamin A, C and E to treat conditions that adversely affect nails and cuticles. The cuticle (skin surrounding the nail) should be kept soft and smooth. Otherwise, it sticks to the nail and gets dragged as the nail grows.

Protection of nails is so important, especially during the Monsoons, when fungal infection can set in. Detergents can also lead to itchy and rashy conditions. Wear rubber gloves for your washing chores like cleaning with harsh chemicals, gardening, or doing anything that involves hot, soapy water dirtying your hand, always wear rubber, vinyl, nitrile, or plastic gloves - some of which have a cotton liner. It not only protects your polish but keeps anything harsh or drying in your cleaning solutions off your hand.

Massage a cream after your washing tasks, working it into the skin. This takes only a few minutes. Massage cream on the nails and the skin around the nails.

Choose from a range of hand creams, cuticle oil/creams/oils to moisturize them regularly to make them strong, shiny and healthy. I will recommend putting coconut oil around the cuticles daily to moisturize your nails for strong, long, healthy nails

Regular handwashing or use of hand sanitizer can dry out the skin and nail bed quickly, so try to moisturize after every wash, if possible. Coconut oil is excellent for rubbing into your nails and cuticles.

It is advised to wash the hands with lukewarm water to help keep the hands and nails soft and smooth.

Keep a travel-size hand cream enriched with fruit extracts or cuticle oil bottle at every sink in your home.

Apply warm almond oil, soften cuticles and push them back gently with a cotton bud. Use a cotton bud to clean beneath the nails too. Avoid cutting cuticles and using metal instruments. Apply almond oil or olive oil on the nails and hands. Apply nail varnish, using smooth strokes, from the base of the nails to the tip. First apply one coat of colour on all the nails. Wait for it to dry and then apply the second coat of colour.

As far as nail colours are concerned, pink is ideal for hot and humid weather. Shimmer is very much in, so go for silver shimmer for the day and gold for the night. Lately dark colours have been in, like bright blue or green, but I feel that subtle colours are more suitable for monsoon hot weather. You can also go for icy colours like pink or mauve. Or, go for shades of brown, like coffee, bronze, copper, or sea shell and then add on glitter.

Classic Blue is the colour of 2022, so is also be for the nails. For a gala evening, go for gold or silver varnish, or try one of those colours with glittering stars. These come in many different colours, with gold or silver stars. As part of nail design, nail varnish can be applied in unusual colours like green, blue or purple. Or, use different colours for each nail. Nail art has become a specialized field nowadays. In the past, simple ways of nail art were followed, but now it is a highly creative field. (The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India)

Saudi Arabia scores over South Asia in female employment

By: P. K. Balachandran

In South Asia, which is a fast growing area, women continue to be left out of the region's economic successes. The female labour force participation rate is only 23.6% while it is 80% for males.

But strangely enough, in Saudi Arabia, where, in popular imagination, women are confined to their homes and not allowed to go out without a male escort, female participation in the labour force has increased dramatically.

In a paper published in www.brookings.edu dated April 21, 2021, Sofia Gomez Tamayo says that Saudi Arabia, which had one of the lowest female labor force participation rates in the world, has changed beyond recognition in a short time.

"As recently as 2018, the share of Saudi women who had a job or were actively looking for one, was 19.7%. But in 2020, it was 33%. In other words, the share of Saudi women in the labor market expanded by an incredible 64% in just two years," she says.

Interestingly, the largest increases (20%) happened among women in the age group 40-54. Middle aged women had stormed into the labor market and not the youth. And among the women, those with secondary education, rather than lower or higher education, were the gainers in the job boom and the gain was comparatively huge (9 to 25%). Middle skilled women have also been more successful in getting jobs than low skilled and highly skilled ones.

The employment rate of Saudi women, or the share of those women in the labor force who actually have a job, had steadily increased from 68 to 76% between 2018 and 2020. And the female unemployment rate has decreased, from 32 to 24%.

And interestingly, the female labor force is more in the private sector than in the public sector. Between 2019 and 2020, public sector employment of Saudi women increased by only 5% while in the other sectors the increase was more than 10%.

Laws liberating women made this revolutionary change possible, Tamayo points out. Between 2015 and 2020, Saudi Arabia lifted all restrictions on women's employment. It introduced paid paternity leave. Equal pay was mandated for equal work.

A law against domestic violence was introduced. Women were allowed to obtain a driver's license and move about freely. Sexual harassment in employment was banned with penalties under criminal law. Saudi Arabia gave females easier access to credit prohibiting gender-based discrimination. It also began allowing women to be head of a household.

The legal obligation for a married woman to



obey her husband was removed. Government removed restrictions on women obtaining a passport and traveling abroad. New amendments equalized a woman's right to choose where to live and to leave the marital home. Dismissal of pregnant workers was prohibited. The retirement age for both men and women was made the same-60.

"Saudi Arabia was, in fact, a top performer in the World Bank's Women, Business and the Law Report 2021," Tamayo points out. Prince Salman's plan to increase female labor participation rate to 30% before 2030 had been achieved ten years ahead of the target.

Writing in the Middle East Institute's website in 2021, Meshal Alkhowaiter notes that while the participation of females in the labor force increased, that of men decreased from 94.6% to 92.9%. Alkhowaiter acknowledges the role of legal changes in increasing females in the labor force, but points out that the tax on foreign workers and their dependents also helped clear the path for women.

In 2017, the government slapped a monthly US\$ 26 tax on every dependent sponsored by a foreign worker. In a year, the tax on foreign dependents went up to US\$ 53 per month. Additionally, firms employing more foreign workers than nationals were required to pay a monthly tax of US\$106 per foreign worker.

By 2020, foreign workers were required to pay approximately US\$ 107 for their dependents, while firms were taxed monthly at US\$ 213 per worker if their workforce had more expats than nationals. This policy made it more

expensive for firms to hire non-Saudis. It increased the cost of hiring a foreign worker by 53.2%.

"Since the introduction of the tax on foreign labor on July 1, 2017, the number of foreign workers in Saudi Arabia's private sector has declined by 1,857,000, according to the Q4 2020 Labor Force Survey (LFS) data from GASTAT. Over the same period, there was an increase of 24,000 Saudi men and 113,500 Saudi women in the workforce.

In other words, approximately 1 Saudi worker joined the workforce for every 20 foreign workers who left the private sector since July 2017," Tamayo points out.

However, the type of foreign workers who left Saudi Arabia's labor force is not randomly distributed across the population of foreign workers. For example, 97.1% of foreign workers who left the country between 2017 and 2020 were in the construction sector and 92% of them were men. But the vacancies were not adequately filled by locals, male or female. "There are 123,000 fewer Saudi males and 34,000 fewer Saudi females employed in the sector today, compared to when the tax on foreign workers was implemented," Alkhowaiter says.

However, an economic sector where nationals may have gained jobs, due to the exit of foreign labor, is retail/trade. "This sector now employs around 600,700 fewer foreign employees than it did in 2017. At the same time, around 6,000 Saudi men and as many as 27,500 Saudi women have gained employment in the sector." (Courtesy: The Citizen)

Cooking with 'dirty' fuels affects women's mental health

By: Matthew Shupler, Dan Pope & Elisa Puzzolo

About 2.6 billion people — nearly half of the global population, most of them in Africa, Asia and central and south America — rely on biomass fuels, like wood and charcoal, or kerosene to cook meals, heat and light their homes. In sub-Saharan Africa, about 85 percent of the population (around 900 million people) rely on biomass or kerosene for cooking.

These fuels are often cheaper and more accessible than clean and modern energy sources like electricity and gas in low- and middle-income countries. However, they come at a high cost to human health. Burning biomass for cooking creates high levels of household air pollution that people living in the household inevitably inhale. This contributes to more than two million premature deaths each year, mainly from respiratory and cardiovascular diseases such as lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and heart

disease, as well as pneumonia in children.

In high-income countries, the inability to afford clean household energy has worsened people's mental health, too. A recent study in the United Kingdom found that individuals who couldn't afford to heat their homes had poorer mental health than those who could. This manifested in lower levels of life satisfaction.

However, there's been little research into the effect that a lack of access to clean energy for cooking has on mental health in low- and middle-income countries. To address that knowledge gap, we surveyed more than 1,100 women who were their households' main cook and lived in urbanising communities in Kenya, Cameroon and Ghana. We surmised that women's mental health may be more likely to suffer from using biomass fuels than men's as they are traditionally in charge of preparing and cooking food in these countries.

The study revealed that women cooking primarily with charcoal and wood had approximately

50% higher odds of likely depression than those cooking with gas. We also found that women who had sustained two or more cooking-related burns during the previous year had approximately 150% higher chances of possible depression as those not burned. Women whose homes did not have electricity for lighting also had 40% higher odds of being depressed than those with electric lighting. Finally, we found that a longer time spent cooking each week was associated with lower mental well-being. These findings suggest that enabling households to cook and light their homes with modern fuels may have a positive impact on their mental health.

Women's experiences

There are several reasons that a lack of access to clean energy may worsen women's mental health. These include a loss of productivity, fewer job opportunities and less food security than those with access to clean energy. Time is also lost because women often have to travel long distances to gather firewood. Also, cooking with biomass

fuels takes much longer than it would with clean energy sources. We instead asked participants about specific aspects of their quality of life that they may be more willing to answer, using a survey instrument called the Short-Form 36. For example, we asked participants: "During the past four weeks, to what extent has your physical health or emotional problems interfered with your normal social activities with family, friends, neighbours, or groups?" and "During the past four weeks, have you accomplished less than you would like as a result of any emotional problems (such as feeling depressed or anxious)?"

One woman from Kenya shared that cooking with gas has "saved (her) time in the morning" so that she is "able to prepare (her) child for school and get to work on time". Another Kenyan woman stated that cooking with gas "has made (her) save some money which (she) directs to the education of (her) children", and that her "health is in good condition not as before when (she) used charcoal".

Motivating change

While more research is needed to examine whether mental health improves over time when families are provided with gas or electric cooking stoves, our emerging research findings look promising. We found that providing women in Nairobi, Kenya with stoves fuelled with bottled gas reduced their stress levels, improved their diets and provided them with more time to take on new employment. Our hope is that these studies will provide further motivation to speed up the clean household energy transition in low- and middle-income countries. Worldwide use of "clean" cooking fuels by 2030 is one of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. It has also been recognised by the International Panel on Climate Change as an essential target for mitigating climate change, specifically by helping to reduce global temperature rise. As our research shows, there may be an important, additional mental health benefit if this crucial goal is met. (Courtesy: Down To Earth)

Ukraine reports striking Russian ammunition depot in south Russian shelling over the past 24 hours killed at least 16 Ukrainian civilians & wounded 48 more

KYIV, July 12 (AP) — Ukrainian authorities said on Tuesday that their forces targeted a Russian ammunition depot in southern Ukraine overnight, resulting in a massive explosion captured on social media.

The Ukrainian military's southern command said a rocket strike targeted the depot in Russian-held Nova Kakhovka, about 35 miles (55 kilometers) east of the Black Sea port city of Kherson, which is also occupied by Russian forces.

The precision of the strike suggested Ukrainian forces used U.S.-supplied multiple-launch High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, to hit the area. Ukraine indicated in recent days that it might launch a counteroffensive to reclaim territory in the country's south as Russia devotes resources to capturing all of the eastern Donbas region.

Russia's Tass news agency offered a different account of the blast in Nova Kakhovka, saying a mineral fertilizer storage facility exploded, and that a market, hospital and houses were damaged in

the strike. Some of the ingredients in fertilizer can be used for ammunition. A satellite photo taken on Tuesday and analyzed by The Associated Press showed significant damage. A massive crater stood precisely where a large warehouse-like structure once stood in the city.

Ukraine now has eight of the HIMARS systems, a truck-mounted missile launcher with high accuracy, and Washington has promised to send another four.

Elsewhere in Ukraine, Russian shelling over the past 24 hours killed at least 16 civilians and wounded 48 more, Ukraine's presidential office said in its Tuesday morning update. Cities and towns in five southeast regions came under Russian fire, the office said.

Nine civilians were killed and two more wounded in Donetsk province, which makes up half of the Donbas. Russian rocket attacks targeted the cities of Sloviansk and Toretsk, where a kindergarten was hit, the presidential office said.



The British military said on Tuesday that Russia was continuing to make "small, incremental gains" in Donetsk, where heavy fighting led the province's governor last week to urge its 350,000 remaining residents to move to safer places in western Ukraine.

Yet many in the Donbas, a fertile industrial region in eastern Ukraine made of the Donetsk and Luhansk provinces, refuse — or

been rescued from the building in Chasiv Yar.

In Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, and its surrounding region, Russian strikes hit residential buildings, killing four civilians and wounding nine, Ukrainian officials said.

"The Russians continue their tactics of intimidating the peaceful population of the Kharkiv region," Kharkiv Gov. Oleh Syniuhobov wrote on Tuesday on Telegram.

Ukrainian authorities also said that Russian fire struck the southern city of Mykolaiv on Tuesday morning, hitting residential buildings. Twelve people were wounded as the result of the Russian shelling, with some of the rockets hitting two medical facilities, regional governor Vitaliy Kim said on Telegram.

Air raid sirens sounded on Tuesday in the western city of Lviv — the first daytime sirens there in over a week — and in other areas of Ukraine as Russian forces continued to make advances. In eastern Luhansk,

"fighting continues near the villages" on the administrative border with neighbouring Donetsk, Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai told the Associated Press on Tuesday.

"The Russian army burns down everything in its way. The artillery barrage doesn't stop and sometimes continues for four to six hours on end," Haidai said.

The British Defense Ministry's intelligence briefing said Russia had seized the Ukrainian town of Hryhorivka and continued to push toward the Donetsk province cities of Kramatorsk and Sloviansk.

"Russian forces are likely maintaining military pressure on Ukrainian forces whilst regrouping and reconstituting for further offensives in the near future," the intelligence briefing said.

However, Russia may be relying more heavily on private military contractors, like the Wagner Group, to avoid a general mobilization, the British ministry said. Western officials have accused Wagner of using mercenaries to fight in Africa and elsewhere.

UK's new PM to be announced on Sept 5, says Tory lawmaker

LONDON, July 12 (IANS) — The new UK Prime Minister replacing incumbent Boris Johnson will be announced on September 5, said Graham Brady, Chairman of the Conservative Party's backbench 1922 Committee.

Brady on Monday added that the 1922 Committee, which runs the Tory leadership contest, has decided that the candidates will have to get the backing of 20 members of Parliament (MPs) when nominations open and close on Tuesday. The threshold is markedly higher than the required backing of eight MPs seen in the party's usual rules.

The first round of voting among Tory MPs will be held on Wednesday, he said, adding that the contenders will need to receive 30 votes to enter the second ballot which is to be held on Thursday, Xinhua news agency reported.

The number of contenders will be whittled down to two before MPs break up for the summer recess on July 21, he said.

The final two contenders will then go through a postal ballot of all the Conservative members, numbering around 200,000, over the summer and the winner will become the new Tory leader and UK's next Prime Minister.

"I am very keen we get this concluded as smoothly, cleanly and rapidly as possible," said Brady, calling it a "perfectly reasonable" timetable that would allow the postal ballot to take place around the country over the summer.

"We do not make sure there is a decent amount of time before the result is announced on September 5," he added.

So far, 11 candidates have launched their bids to become the Conservative Party's next leader, with International Trade Minister Penny Mordaunt, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, former Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak, and former Health Secretary Sajid Javid among the frontrunners. Most of the contenders have vowed to cut taxes, ranging from corporation tax to income tax, as the cost-of-living crisis continues to bite.

US warns it will defend ally if China breaks sea ruling

MANILA, July 12 (AP) — US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called on China to comply with a 2016 arbitration ruling that invalidated Beijing's vast territorial claims in the South China Sea and warned that Washington is obligated to defend treaty ally Philippines if its forces, vessels or aircraft come under attack in the disputed waters.

Blinken's statement, issued by the US Embassy in Manila on Tuesday, was released on the sixth anniversary of the 2016 decision by an arbitration tribunal set up in The Hague under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea after the Philippine government complained in 2013 about China's increasingly aggressive actions in the disputed waters.

China did not participate in the arbitration, rejected its ruling as a sham and continues to defy it, bringing it into territorial spats with the Philippines and other Southeast Asian claimant states in recent years.

"We call again on the PRC to abide by its obligations under international law and cease its provocative behaviour," Blinken said, using the acronym for China's formal name, the People's Republic of China.

"We also reaffirm that an armed attack on Philippine armed forces, public vessels, or aircraft in the South China Sea would invoke U.S. mutual defense commitments" under the 1951 U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty, Blinken said.

There was no immediate reaction from Beijing. But Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told a news conference in Malaysia's administrative capital of Putrajaya that China is speeding up talks with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which includes the Philippines and three other claimant states, to come up with a nonaggression pact called a "code of conduct" to turn the South China Sea "into a sea of peace and cooperation."

"We will oppose bloc confrontation and Cold War mentality," Wang told journalists after meeting his counterpart in Malaysia, the last stop in his five-nation swing through Southeast Asia. He did not take any questions.

In addition to China and the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have had overlapping claims in the busy waterway, where an estimated USD 5 trillion in goods passes each year and which is believed to be rich in undersea gas and oil deposits.

The potential flashpoint has become a key front of U.S.-China rivalry.

Washington lays no claim to the disputed waters but has deployed Navy ships and Air Force jets to patrol the waterway for decades and says freedom of navigation and overflight is in the U.S. national interest. That has provoked angry reactions from China, which has accused the U.S. of meddling in a purely Asian dispute and warned it to stay away.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo said Tuesday that the arbitration ruling will be a pillar of his new government's policy and actions in the disputed region and rejected attempts to undermine the "indisputable" decision.

"These findings are no longer within the reach of denial and rebuttal and are conclusive as they are indisputable. The award is final," Manalo said in a statement.

"We firmly reject attempts to undermine it... even erase it from law, history and our collective memories," said Manalo, who did not directly name China.

New Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. took office June 30 after a landslide electoral victory.

Marcos Jr.'s predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, put the arbitration ruling on the backburner for years after taking office in 2016 and nurtured cozy ties with Chinese President Xi Jinping while criticizing U.S. security policies.



Putin set to visit Iran next week

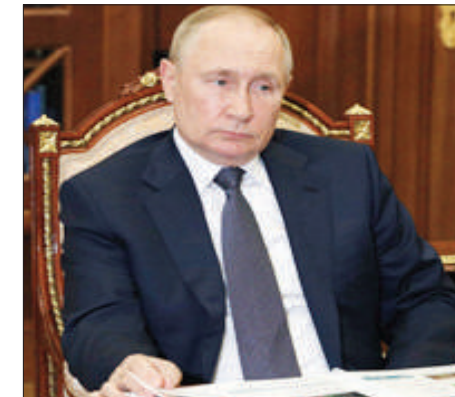
MOSCOW, July 12 (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit Iran next week, the Kremlin said on Tuesday, a day after the US warned that Tehran could provide Moscow with drones for its action in Ukraine.

During a trip to Tehran on next Tuesday, Putin will attend a trilateral meeting with the leaders of Iran and Turkey, the so-called Astana format of meetings for Syria-related talks, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Putin's visit to Iran will follow US President Joe Biden's trip to Israel and Saudi Arabia this week, where Iran's nuclear programme and malign activities in the region will be a key subject of discussion.

Peskov told reporters that on the visit to Tehran, Putin will also have a separate meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

In March, Erdogan helped mediate talks between Russian and Ukrainian representatives in Istanbul, Turkey. Peskov said there was no discussion about a new round of such negotiations. The White House said Monday that it believes that Russia is turning to Iran to provide it with "hundreds" of drones, including those capable of carrying weapons, for use in



US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said it was unclear whether Iran had already provided any of the vehicles to Russia, but said the US has "information" that indicates Iran is preparing to train Russian forces to use them as soon as this month. "Our information indicates that the Iranian government is preparing to provide Russia with up to several hundred UAVs, including weapons-capable UAVs on an expedited timeline," Sullivan told reporters Monday, referring to drones by the acronym for unmanned aerial vehicles.

Iranian Foreign Minister Spokesman Nasser Kanaani did not deny the US claim in comments on Tuesday.

"Iran's cooperation with Russia in some sophisticated technologies dates to before the Russia-Ukraine war," he said. "There has not been any special development in this regard recently." Iran long has worked on the development of drones, including so-called loitering munitions, the "kamikaze" drones like the Switchblade that the US has delivered to Ukraine.

The US decision to publicly reveal that the two countries' chief regional rival was helping to rearm Russia comes as both Israel and Saudi Arabia have resisted joining global efforts to punish Russia for its action in Ukraine due to their domestic interests. In Tehran, Mohammadreza Pourebrahimi, the head of the Iranian Parliament's economic committee, told state-run news agency IRNA that Putin's trip would seek to improve economic relations between the two sanctions-hit nations.

January 6 panel probes Trump's 'siren call' to extremists

WASHINGTON, July 12 (AP) — The January 6 committee is preparing to highlight the way violent far-right extremists answered Donald Trump's "siren call" to come to Washington for a big rally, as some now face rare sedition charges over the deadly US Capitol attack and effort to overturn the 2020 presidential election.

The panel investigating the January 6, 2021, Capitol siege is set to convene on Tuesday for a public hearing probing what it calls the final phase of Trump's multi-pronged effort to halt Joe Biden's victory. As dozens of lawsuits and false claims of voter fraud fizzled, Trump tweeted the rally invitation, a pivotal moment, the committee said. The far-right Proud Boys, Oath Keepers and others now facing criminal charges readily answered.

"We will lay out the body of evidence that we have that talks about how the president's tweet on the

hours of December 19th of Be there, be wild," was a siren call to these folks," said one panel member, Rep. Stephanie Murphy, D-Fla., over the weekend on "Meet the Press." In fact, Trump tweeted, "Be there, will be wild!" This is the seventh hearing in a series that has presented numerous blockbuster revelations from the January 6 committee. Over the past month, the panel has created a stark narrative of a defeated Trump "detached from reality," clinging to his false claims of voter fraud and working feverishly to reverse his election defeat. It all culminated with the deadly attack on the Capitol, the committee said.

What the committee intends to probe Tuesday is whether the extremist groups, including the Proud Boys, Oath Keepers and QAnon adherents who had rallied for Trump before, coordinated with White House allies for January 6. The Oath Keepers have denied there



was any plan to storm the Capitol. The panel is also expected to highlight new testimony from Pat Cipollone, the former White House counsel, who "was aware of every major move" Trump was making, said Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., who will lead the session.

It's the only hearing set for this week, as new details emerge. An expected prime-time hearing Thursday has been shelved for now.

This week's session comes after former White House aide Cassidy Hutchinson provided stunning accounts under oath of an angry Trump who knowingly sent armed supporters to the Capitol on January 6 and then refused to quickly call them off as violence erupted, siding with the rioters as they searched menacingly for Vice President Mike Pence. Trump has said Cassidy's account is not true. But Cipollone at Friday's private session did not contradict earlier testimony. Raskin said the panel planned to use "a lot" of Cipollone's testimony.

The panel is expected to highlight a meeting on December 18, 2020, at the White House in which former Trump lawyers Rudy Giuliani and Sidney Powell, one-time Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn and others floated ideas for overturning the election results, Raskin told CBS over the weekend.

Sri Lanka crisis: Ex-Fin min Basil Rajapaksa stopped from leaving country

COLOMBO, July 12 (PTI) — Basil Rajapaksa, Sri Lanka's former finance minister and younger brother of embattled President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, was turned back at Colombo airport on Tuesday as he attempted to leave the country through the VIP terminal, an immigration officer said, amid mounting anger against the powerful family for mishandling the worst economic crisis.

Basil Rajapaksa, 71, tried to leave the crisis-hit island nation, a day before Speaker of Parliament Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena is expected to publicly announce President Rajapaksa's resignation to the nation.

President Rajapaksa signed on Monday his resignation letter, dated for July 13, and it was later handed over to a senior government official who will give it to the Parliament Speaker.

Basil, a US passport holder, resigned as finance minister in early April as street protests intensified against shortages of fuel, food and other necessities and quit his seat in parliament in June.

The Sri Lanka Immigration and Emigration Officers Association said its members declined to serve Basil at

the VIP terminal of Colombo airport. "Due to the crisis situation in the country, it has been decided to withdraw from activities at the Silk Route/CIP passenger clearance activities until further notice," the trade union said in a statement, according to Economy Next website.

"We decided to withdraw from serving the silk route passenger clearance terminal from mid night yesterday," said K.A.S. Kanugala, the chairman of the association.

He said the corrupt people were trying to leave the country using the service.

The immigration officials objected to serve him at the VIP clearance line and even the passengers of the Emirates flight to Dubai had objected to his leaving.

Basil is being widely held responsible for the country's worst economic crisis which has heaped misery on the people.

The political uncertainty prevails in Sri Lanka where the distribution of cooking gas has resumed alongside the delivery of fuel to retailers by the Indian Oil Company after a stoppage on Sunday. Long queues are still seen at fuel pumps.



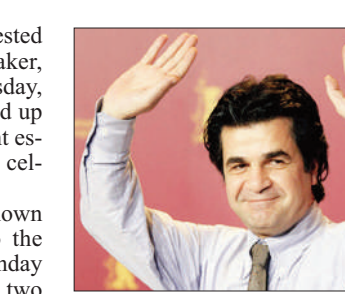
Iran arrests 3rd outspoken filmmaker in escalating crackdown

DUBAI, July 12 (AP) — Iran has arrested an internationally renowned filmmaker, several newspapers reported on Tuesday, the third Iranian director to be locked up in less than a week as the government escalates a crackdown on the country's celebrated cinema industry.

Jafar Panahi, one of Iran's best-known dissident filmmakers, had gone to the prosecutor's office in Tehran on Monday evening to check on the cases of his two colleagues detained last week, when security forces scooped him up as well, the reports said. A colleague of Panahi, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of fear of reprisals, told The Associated Press that authorities sent Panahi to Iran's notorious Evin Prison to serve out a prison term dating back years ago.

In 2011, Panahi received a six-year prison sentence on charges of creating anti-government propaganda and was banned from filmmaking for 20 years. He was also barred from leaving the country.

However, the sentence was never really enforced and Panahi continued to make



violation of freedom of expression and freedom of the arts," the festival directors said.

His arrest came after the arrest of two other Iranian filmmakers, Mohamad Rasoulof and Mostafa al-Ahmad.

Authorities accused Rasoulof and al-Ahmad of undermining the nation's security by voicing opposition on social media to the government's violent crackdown on unrest in the country's southwest.

Following the catastrophic collapse of the Metropal Building that killed at least 41 people in May, protests erupted over allegations of government negligence and deeply rooted corruption.

Police responded with a heavy hand, clubbing protesters and firing tear gas, according to footage widely circulating online.

Rasoulof won the Berlin Film Festival's top prize in 2020 for his film "There Is No Evil" that explores four stories loosely connected to the themes of the death penalty in Iran and personal freedoms under tyranny.

No. EE/MSL-11/NIT/2017-18/1403 Date : - 11/07/2022

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tenders affixing a non-refundable Court fee Stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight & paise twenty five only. With a validity period of 180 (one hundred eighty) days, which will subsequently to be converted and drawn up in the printed F-2 form are invited from the registered Contractors of Class-III and above category under PWD (Building Department Assam and Bodoland Territorial Council) according to their eligibility for submitting tenders for the work as stated below. The tenders will be received by the undersigned up to 2.00PM on 21/07/2022 and will be opened on the same date & place at 2.15 PM.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate Tender Value	(Earnest Money Deposit)	Cost of Tender Paper	Time of Completion of work
1	Repairing & Renovation of Kalaguru Bhisnu Rabha High School at Adalbari, Dist Baksa for the year 2021-22.	Rs. 7,00,000.00	(2% for Gen) & (1% for Reserved Category)	Rs. 300.00	2 (two) Month from the date of issue of F.W.O.

Details NIT may be seen in all working days in the office of the undersigned. Tender paper will be issued to the contractor or their authorized agent up to 4.30 PM on all working days on 18/07/2022 in the office of the undersigned on submission an application with payment in the form of Bank Draft duly pledged to the undersigned. The Contractors has to submit 2% in case of General and 1% in case of Reserved category as earnest money in the form of FDR/CDR/BC under any Nationalised Bank duly pledged in favour of the undersigned at the time of submission of Tender paper. The Contractor should submit attested copy of Registration Certificate for the year 2021-22, PAN Card, latest clearance certificate of Income Tax and Sales Tax, GST along with the tenders. In case the office remain closed on day of the tender receiving/opening the same will be received/opened on the next working day.

N. B. :-

1. Date of receiving application for Tender documents : - 16/07/2022.
2. Date of issue of Tender Paper : - 18/07/2022 (up to 4.30 PM)
3. Date of receiving of Tender Paper : 21/07/2022 (up to 2.00 PM)
4. Date of opening of Tender Paper : 21/07/2022 (at 2.15 PM)
5. Place of opening Tender Paper : - Office of the E.E, PWD Mushalpur (R&B) Division, Mushalpur.

Sd/-(A. K. Deb)
Executive Engineer,
Mushalpur PWD (R&B) Division,
Mushalpur

IPR(BTC)-182/2022

Shiv Sena to support Murmu: Uddhav Thackeray



MUMBAI, July 12 (PTI): The Shiv Sena will support National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu, party chief Uddhav Thackeray said on Tuesday.

He said the Sena is announcing support for Murmu without any pressure while acknowledging that this is the first occasion wherein a tribal woman is getting the opportunity to become the President.

"Nobody pressured me in the meeting of Sena MPs," Thackeray said, referring to the meeting of Sena MPs held at his residence in Mumbai a day earlier.

After getting the support of some regional parties like BJD, YSR-CP, BSP, AIADMK, TDP, JDS, Shiromani Akali Dal and now Shiv Sena, the vote share of NDA nominee Droupadi Murmu has already crossed 60 per cent. It was around 50 per cent at the time of her nomination.

In the meeting held on Monday, most MPs of Sena had urged Thackeray to back Murmu's candidature.

"I am clarifying my stand. Tribal leaders of my party told me that this is the first time that a woman from the tribal community is getting the chance to become the president. Respecting their views, we have decided to back Droupadi Murmu's candidature," he said.

"Actually, going by the present political atmosphere, I should not have backed her. But we are not narrow-minded," he said.

Thackeray said several party leaders, especially from the tribal community like MLC Aamshya Padvi,

former MLA Nirmala Gavit, and Eklavya Sanghata's Shivajirao Dhavale had urged him to back Murmu.

The Sena chief said he got representations from Nomadic Tribes and Scheduled Tribes communities to back Murmu.

"I am again saying there is no pressure on me to back Droupadi Murmu. Going by the present political atmosphere, I should not have backed her (Murmu) because she is a candidate of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). But we are not narrow-minded," Thackeray said.

He recalled that the Sena had backed United Progressive Alliance's (UPA's) nominees Pratibha Patil and Pranab Mukherjee in the Presidential polls held in 2007 and 2012, respectively, even though the Sena was a constituent of the BJP-led NDA at that time.

"Even at that time, the Shiv Sena had thought beyond politics and did what is good for the country," Thackeray said.

The Shiv Sena has 19 MPs in Lok Sabha, including 18 from Maharashtra. It has three MPs in Rajya Sabha.

On the home turf of Maharashtra, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena is left with 15 MLAs, after 40 legislators sided with the Eknath Shinde faction.

A delegation of Shiv Sena is likely to meet Murmu to convey the party's support to her, a party functionary said. Polls to elect the next President will be held on July 18. The race for the Rashtrapati Bhavan will be between Murmu and Opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha.

Short-cut politics can result in short-circuit of nation: Modi

PM urges people to refrain from politics based on populist measures

DEOGHAR, July 12 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday cautioned against 'short-cut politics' based on populist measures, which he said can lead to 'short-circuit' of a nation.

Addressing a rally of the BJP here after inaugurating and laying foundation stones of projects worth over Rs 16,800 crore, the PM said there is no alternative for hard work and those who indulge in 'short-cut politics' would not have got such projects done.

Modi also said India is a land of faith and spirituality, and pilgrimages shaped "us as a better society and country", as he spoke at the public meeting, held ahead of the auspicious 'Shravani Mela'.

"The Government is making investments to provide modern infrastructure at the places associated with faith, spirituality and historical importance," he said, referring to Ayodhya, Kashi Vishwanath and Baba Baidyanath temple here.



Urging people to refrain from politics based on populist measures, Modi said it is a challenge before the country.

"The country faces a major challenge of

short-cut politics, but it is a big truth that the country whose politics is based on it can have short-circuit... It can destroy a country," Modi said.

"It is very easy to get votes from people by taking populist measures, adopting short-cut politics without thinking about far-reaching consequences," the PM said.

Underlining that countrymen have to take India to newer heights as it approaches 100 years of Independence, Modi said it can be achieved by hard work alone.

He said those who practice "short-cut politics" would not work hard to build model airports, new highways and medical colleges in various districts.

Discussing the projects unveiled by him, Modi said his Government at the Centre ensures that it inaugurates those projects for which foundation stones are laid by it.

This is the BJP's model of governance, he asserted.

Earlier, projects were announced by one dispensation, foundation stones were laid by successive Governments, and finally those saw light of the day after several regimes.

VISA SCAM : Probe reveals involvement of Karti Chidambaram, ED tells HC



NEW DELHI, July 12 (PTI): The Enforcement Directorate has opposed the anticipatory bail plea by Congress MP Karti P Chidambaram in the alleged Chinese visas scam, saying that the investigation so far has revealed his involvement in the present offence which endangers national security for financial gains.

In its July 11 status report, the agency stated that success in an interrogation would elude if the accused knows that he is protected and the grant of anticipatory bail in economic offences would definitely hamper an effective investigation.

The agency informed that the investigation is still in its preliminary stages and shall be prejudiced if details are disclosed at this stage as Karti is a sitting member of Parliament and highly influential and urged that the status of the probe be perused from the case record.

"The present offence of endangering national security for financial gains to the detriment of the general public of the country is severe Economic offence having a detrimental impact on the economy and the society," ED said adding that Karti is a flight risk and allegedly has criminal antecedents.

"The investigation conducted so far reveals the involvement of the applicant. The investigation is at a preliminary and crucial stage and the findings

of the investigation if presented in open court may prejudice the investigation by the department. It is, therefore, requested that the current status of the investigation may be perused by the court from the case record," said the status report.

"The investigation being conducted by the department is still in its preliminary stages and if the same is disclosed at this stage, the investigation by the department shall be prejudiced, the Applicant being a sitting member of Parliament and a highly influential individual," it added.

ED has registered the money laundering case against Karti and others in the alleged scam about the issuance of a visa to 263 Chinese nationals in 2011 when his father P Chidambaram was the home minister.

Justice Poonam A Bamba, on Tuesday, listed Karti's anticipatory bail plea for hearing on August 18 after the counsel for Enforcement Directorate (ED) informed that Additional Solicitor General SV Raju was not available.

The investigating agency orally said that its earlier assurance concerning no coercive action against Karti would extend till the next date.

On June 12, ED had orally assured the high court that no coercive action would be taken against him till July 12.

Karti, represented by lawyer Arshdeep Singh, had approached the high court after his anticipatory bail plea and that of two others was dismissed by the trial court on June 3 on the ground that the offence was of a very serious nature.

In the status report, ED also said that the ECIR (Enforcement Case Information Report) in the case cannot be given to Karti as it is an internal document and there is no requirement in law to provide the same and that the apprehension of arrest is unfounded at this stage.

It further stated that Karti is a flight risk and has criminal antecedents as around four criminal cases are pending against him, which are being investigated by both CBI and ED.

"The apprehension of the arrest of the Applicant is unfounded as, as also stated by the Applicant

that the ECIR was recorded only in 25.05.2022 and investigation by the Respondent is still at a very preliminary stage. Further, the mere fact that the Applicant's role was not detailed in the FIR does not mean that the Applicant is not guilty of the offence of Money Laundering. The offence of Money Laundering is a long drawn out and complicated process involving various stages," the report said.

"Success in such interrogation would elude if the accused knows that he is protected by the order of the court. Grant of anticipatory bail, particularly in economic offences would definitely hamper the effective investigation," it further argued.

ED also emphasised that "in recent times several high profile individuals having deep roots and respect in the society have left the country /to evade the process of law in India".

The agency added that the offence of money laundering is still ongoing and Karti can influence witnesses and tamper with evidence.

"The Applicant has been and continues to be a Member of Parliament from Tamil Nadu. The Applicant's father has been a Union Minister for around ten years including having charge of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the nodal ministry for the CBI, and also the Ministry of Finance, the nodal ministry for the present Agency, which itself gives rise to the apprehension of the likelihood of influencing of witnesses and tampering of evidence," the status report said.

ED also denied the allegation of political vendetta and mala fide, calling them "totally bald averments".

ED has earlier said that the actual magnitude or volume of the processed or laundered amount of money in the case was yet to be established during the investigation and the bribe amount of Rs 50 lakh in the CBI case cannot be taken or considered as the basis of the present case.

The agency has registered its case under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) taking cognisance of a recent first information report by the CBI in the same case.

Udaipur tailor's murder: Three sent to police, four to judicial custody



JAIPUR, July 12 (PTI): An NIA court here on Tuesday sent three of the accused in Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal's murder case to police custody till July 16 while the other four were remanded in judicial custody till August 1.

All of them were produced in the court separately. The court had earlier remanded the accused into the National Investigation Agency (NIA) custody until July 12, Special Public Prosecutor T P Sharma said.

The court sent three of them—Riaz Akhtri, Ghouse Mohammad and Farhad Mohammad Sheikh—to police custody till July 16, Sharma said. The four others, identified as Mohammad Mohsin, Wasim Ali, Asif and Mohsin were sent to judicial custody till August 1, he added.

Kanhaiya Lal was killed by cleaver-wielding Riaz Akhtri and Ghouse Mohammad at his shop on June 28 in the Udaipur's Dhan Mandi police station area over a controversial post on social media.

The accused had posted a grisly video of the crime online. Both Akhtri and Mohammad were nabbed in Rajasamand hours after the crime. Two days later, Mohsin and Asif were arrested. They were allegedly involved in the conspiracy of the killing and had conducted a ruse of Kanhaiya's shop.

Khali accused of slapping toll plaza employee in Ludhiana



CHANDIGARH, July 12 (PTI): Dalip Singh Rana, better known as The Great Khali, has been accused of slapping a toll worker in Ludhiana, a charge rejected by the former WWE wrestler who claimed that the toll plaza employees misbehaved with him. In a purported video of the incident, which took place on Monday, Rana can be heard arguing with some of the employees of the Ladhawal toll plaza. However, the clip does not show the former WWE superstar slapping anyone. Rana was on his way to Karnal, Haryana from Jalandhar, Punjab when the incident occurred, police said, adding that no complaint was lodged by either of the two sides.

After the video went viral on social media, Rana on Tuesday accused the toll plaza employees of misbehaving with him. "Yesterday, toll plaza employees misbehaved with me and asked me to get down from the vehicle for getting a picture clicked with all of them and only then would they allow the vehicle to go," said Rana. Rana demanded that the contractor of the toll plaza must take action against the erring employees so that they do not misbehave with any other celebrity. Rana also accused the employees of Ladhawal toll plaza of 'blackmailing' him. In the video, a toll plaza employee could be heard asking the former wrestler why he slapped his colleague when an identity proof was sought from him. "You were asked to show your ID card, show the ID card, the toll employee tells Rana to which he replies, 'You are blackmailing me.' The employee then says, we are not blackmailing you. Why did you slap him? Show the ID card if you have it."

CUET: 98% candidates will get exam centre in their chosen city, says UGC chairman

NEW DELHI, July 12 (PTI): At least 98 per cent candidates appearing for the CUET will be allotted the exam centres in the city of their choice, UGC chairman Jagadeesh Kumar said on Tuesday.

The comments by the University Grants Commission Chief came against the backdrop of grievances raised by the candidates about the admit cards being released late for the exam. "The admit cards have been released four days prior to the examination due to security reasons and in order to avoid any malpractice in the exam. Students should not get worried," Kumar told PTI.

"At least 98 per cent candidates will get the centre in city of their choice. Those who do not find the allotted centre feasible can reach out to NTA which will entertain their requests," he said.

The Common University Entrance Test, or CUET-UG, will be conducted from July 15 to August 10, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced last week.

Over 11 lakh candidates have registered for the first edition of CUET. The NTA released the admit cards for CUET UG on Monday.

"Over 14 lakh candidates have registered for the exam which will be conducted across 500 cities. It is a mammoth task and NTA is a professional exam conducting body. The students should not get worried," Kumar said.

Kumar had in March announced that CUET scores, and not Class 12 marks, would be mandatory for admission to 45 central universities and that the central universities can fix their minimum eligibility criteria.

He also clarified that students from state boards will not be at a disadvantage in the new system and the exam will not give a push to the coaching culture.

A total of 44 Central Universities, 12 state universities, 11 deemed universities, and 19 private universities have applied for participating in the first edition of CUET for UG admissions in the 2022-23 academic session.

Alt News co-founder Mohd Zubair's interim bail extended by SC in UP case



NEW DELHI, July 12 (PTI): The Supreme Court on Tuesday extended till further orders the interim bail of Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair in a case lodged against him in Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh for allegedly outraging religious sentiments.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna was told by Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the State government, that it wants to file a counter affidavit to Zubair's plea seeking quashing of the FIR lodged in the case.

Raju said that since Zubair has already been granted bail in the matter, there should not be any objection from his side for grant of time to file the affidavit.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for Zubair, said he has already been granted interim bail by the vacation bench of this court and they would also like to file their reply to the counter affidavit to be filed by the State Government.

The bench then listed the plea for final hearing on September 7 and asked the Uttar Pradesh Government to file its response in four weeks.

It said that rejoinder, if any needs to be filed by Zubair's side, then it should be filed in two weeks thereafter.

On July 8, a vacation bench of the

top court had granted five-day interim bail to Zubair in the case.

Zubair is in judicial custody as per the order of a Delhi court in another case.

Earlier, the top court had barred Zubair from posting anything on Twitter and said he shall not tamper with any evidence, electronic or otherwise.

It had also clarified that its interim bail order is with respect to the First Information Report (FIR) lodged in Sitapur and has nothing to do with a separate case registered against the journalist in Delhi.

The FIR was lodged against Zubair in Uttar Pradesh under Indian Penal Code section 295A (deliberate and malicious act intended to outrage religious feelings) and section 67 of the IT Act here on a complaint by Hindu Sher Sena Sitapur district president Bhagwan Sharan on June 1.

Zubair was arrested by the Delhi Police on June 27 for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through one of his tweets.

Seeking bail from the top court, Zubair, in his plea, has submitted that there is a "new" police strategy afoot in hate speech cases and communal crimes where FIRs are registered against criminals as well as those monitoring and protesting such crimes.

Uttarakhand becomes first state to implement NEP at pre-primary level

CM Pushkar Singh Dhama inaugurates 'Bal Vatikas' at Anganwadi Kendras across the state

DEHRADUN, July 12 (PTI): Uttarakhand on Tuesday became the first state in the country to initiate process of implementing the Centre's New Education Policy, with chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama inaugurating 'Bal Vatikas' at anganwadi kendras across the state to strengthen the pre-primary education system.

The 'Bal Vatikas' will function at 4,457 anganwadi kendras in the state and will be equivalent to the nursery classes at a private school.

Speaking on the occasion, Dhama said the implementation of the New Education Policy (NEP) marks the beginning of culture-based education in the country focusing on the overall personality development of students.

"The NEP will lay the founda-



tion of a strong and bright future of youngsters," he said.

Dhama, who also laid the foundation stone of a NCERT building

"No project will be left hanging. We will ensure that every project whose foundation stone is being laid sees the light of day," he said.

The chief minister also spoke of the priority accorded by his government to starting the process of drafting a Uniform Civil Code (UCC), a promise made by him ahead of the state assembly polls held earlier this year.

"After giving a go-ahead to the proposal at our very first cabinet meeting, we have already constituted a committee headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai to prepare a draft of the UCC which will be implemented after taking all stakeholders into confidence," he said.

He said all efforts of his government are directed towards making

Uttarakhand a leading state by 2025 when it will be celebrating the silver jubilee of its formation.

All departments have been asked to make at least two exemplary achievements by that year which are not just good for the state but set an example for other states to follow, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Education minister Dhan Singh Rawat said the NEP replaces the Macaulay system of education which was followed in the country for decades.

"It offers children an opportunity to pursue choice-based education. They can now study the subjects of their choice in the language they are conversant with," Rawat said.

"By 2030, the New Education Policy will be fully implemented in Uttarakhand," he said.

Opposition slams 'ferocious' makeover to national emblem, BJP hits back

The new statue is an adaptation of an ancient sculpture 'Lion Capital of Ashoka' at Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh, dating back to 250 BC

NEW DELHI, July 12 (PTI): A fresh row erupted on Tuesday over the national emblem atop the new Parliament building, with the opposition accusing the Government of giving a 'ferocious' look to the sculpture and insulting the symbol, while the BJP dismissed it as yet another 'conspiracy' to target Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Modi had on Monday unveiled the cast of the national emblem on top of the new Parliament building in the presence of Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha deputy chairman Harivansh. The Opposition had hit out at Modi accusing him of flouting constitutional norms by performing Hindu rituals and not inviting Opposition leaders for the event.

"To completely change the character and nature of the lions on Ashoka's pillar at Sarnath is nothing but a brazen insult to India's National Symbol," AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh said. The new statue is an adaptation of an ancient sculpture 'Lion Capital of Ashoka' at Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh, dating back to 250 BC. "Truth be told, transition from Satyameva Jayate to Sanghimeva Jayate has long been completed in spirit," Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra said.

Hitting back at the opposition, BJP chief spokesperson Anil Baluni said the real reason behind the opposition's allegation was its frustration over India creating its own Parliament building under Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government, replacing the one created by the British over 150 years back.

"Opposition parties want to target Modi for one reason or another. It is just a conspiracy to



vitate the atmosphere by misleading people," he said. Urban Affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the bronze cast of the national emblem atop the new parliament building was a 'scaled up' version of the original Sarnath emblem.

"If the Sarnath emblem was to be scaled up or the emblem on the new Parliament building is reduced to that size there would not be any difference," said Puri.

"The original Sarnath Emblem is 1.6 mtr high whereas the emblem on the top of the New Parliament Building is huge at 6.5 mtrs height," he said. Historian S Irfan Habib also objected to the national emblem unveiled atop the new Parliament building.

"Meddling with our national emblem was to-

tally unnecessary and avoidable. Why should our lions look ferocious and full of angst? These are Ashoka's lions adapted by independent India in 1950," Habib said. "From Gandhi to Godse; From our national emblem with lions sitting majestically & peacefully; to the new national emblem unveiled for the top of the new Parliament building under construction at Central Vista; Angry lions with bared fangs. This is Modi's new India," senior lawyer and activist Prashant Bhusan said. "There is just no change. The opposition is comparing 2D images in print to an imposing 3D structure. They have lost it," Amit Malviya, in-charge of BJP's National Information & Technology department said. Opposition members and activists among others on Tuesday accused the government of distorting the national emblem by replacing the "graceful and regally confident" Ashokan lions with those having menacing and aggressive posture and sought immediate change.

"Narendra Modi Ji, please observe the face of the Lion, whether it is representing the statue of Great Sarnath or a distorted version of GIR lion. Please check it and if it needs, mend the same, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, said on Twitter.

"Insult to our national symbol, the majestic Ashokan Lions. Original is on the left, graceful, regally confident. The one on the right is Modi's version, put above the new Parliament building - snarling, unnecessarily aggressive and disproportionate. Shame! Change it immediately," Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha member Jawahar Sircar said on Twitter sharing two different images of the national emblem.

India to have new envoys in Bangladesh, UK, Japan, Canada, South Korea

NEW DELHI, July 12 (PTI): Seasoned diplomat Pranay Verma is set to be appointed as India's new high commissioner to Bangladesh, considered an important posting in view of fast expanding bilateral ties. Verma, a 1994-batch Indian Foreign Service officer and currently serving as India's envoy to Vietnam, will succeed incumbent Vikram Doraiswami in Dhaka, people familiar with the development said on Tuesday. Doraiswami is set to assume charge as Indian high commissioner to the UK. The overall ties between India and Bangladesh witnessed a major expansion during his tenure that began in October 2020. High commissioner to the UK Gaitri Issar Kumar retired from service on June 30.

The people cited above said Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Sibi George is likely to be appointed as the new envoy to Japan, considered another key position as cooperation between the two countries has assumed greater significance in the last few years.

Battle in AIADMK shifts to EC, banks

CHENNAI, July 12 (PTI): The fight between ousted AIADMK leader O Panneerselvam and party interim head Edappadi K Palaniswami is now with the Election Commission and banks, with both sides determined to establish their rights.

While interim general secretary Palaniswami has apprised the EC about the July 11 General Council meeting and the changes effected, Panneerselvam has written to the poll panel arguing that the proceedings and its decisions were null and void.

Palaniswami was elevated to his present position of interim chief and Panneerselvam and two of his supporters were expelled in the party's highest decision-making body on Monday.

Besides urging the Tamil Nadu Assembly Secretariat to not accept or effect any changes in the AIADMK's legislative party's current composition, Panneerselvam has also written to banks. In the Assembly, Palaniswami is the leader of Opposition and Panneerselvam is the deputy leader.

Panneerselvam has informed banks that he is the AIADMK's 'coordinator and treasurer' and that no transactions could be made without his authorisation, party sources said. The party has various accounts including Fixed Deposits with at least 2 banks.

Palaniswami has written to banks that party veteran and former Minister, Dindigul C Srinivasan is the new AIADMK treasurer. Srinivasan is also the party's organising secretary and Dindigul (West) district secretary.

Panneerselvam loyalist Vaithilingam told reporters: "Coordinator O Panneerselvam and Joint Coordinator K Palaniswami were elected by primary party members through a single vote as per norms and this cannot be nullified

by the General Council. Their tenure is for 5 years. Not a single resolution passed in the (July 11) General Council is valid."

Vaithilingam said Panneerselvam continued to be the party's 'coordinator' and 'treasurer' and this is the official position as per records with the EC as well, he said adding a letter has been sent to authorities underscoring this aspect. Authorities have been urged not to accept the submissions of Palaniswami group.

Rejecting claims of Palaniswami supporters that it was Panneerselvam's loyalists who resorted to violence, Vaithilingam said EPS followers were 'camping' for 5 days in the locality and violence was unleashed only by them. Palaniswami camp asserted that they would legally file issues that crop up.

V K Sasikala, confidante of late AIADMK supremo J Jayalalitha, who is also trying to wrest control of the party said the current happenings in the party is a big mockery.

In the party history, its bylaws have not been amended so often, that too within a year, she said.

"Whatever they are doing will not be legally valid. I would like to tell you that there will be a good solution soon," she told her supporters in an event that saw the merger of her brother V Divakaran-led outfit with the team led by her. She said her only ambition is to 'unify' everyone and leading the party towards victory. Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam is a separate outfit led by TTV Dhinakaran, who is nephew of Sasikala and Divarakan.

In December 2021, the AIADMK tweaked bylaws to strengthen the dual leadership structure and on July 11, it scrapped it and anointed Palaniswami as interim chief.

Centre gets 5.59 lakh public grievances till June 25 this year

Department of Financial Services tops list

NEW DELHI, July 12 (PTI): The Centre received 5.59 lakh public grievances against various Government departments in the first half of this year, with the Department of Financial Services (DFS) getting most of such complaints, according to an official report.

Of the total of 5,59,094 complaints received on the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) - an online mechanism between January 1 and June 25, as many as 5,32,662 were disposed of, it stated.

"Department of Financial Services (Banking Division), Ministry of Labour and Employment, Central Board of Direct Taxes, Ministry of Railways are the top ministries which receive(d) the maximum number of grievances.

"The Ministry of Cooperation also features in the list of maximum grievances receiving ministries," said the report of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

The DFS (Banking division) received 86,478 complaints, the Ministry of Labour and Employment got 62,214, Central Board of Direct Taxes (Income Tax) 26,425, Ministry of Railways (Railways Board) 26,235 while 25,397 grievances were raised against the Department of Posts, it said. As many as 24,480 complaints were received against the Department of Telecommunications, 20,751 by the Ministry of Home Affairs, 17,232 by the Cooperation Ministry, and 16,652 by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) and 16,354 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, according to the report.

Contd. from Page 1...

Unilateral attempts to change

ongoing discussions. I have myself raised the issue with the Chinese Foreign minister when I met him in Bali (G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting)," Jaishankar said. "So, I think we have been very clear and very open about it. So, I really don't know what the confusion is," he added.

Gandhi in his tweet had alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was afraid of China, hides the truth from the public, just protects his own image, lowers the morale of the Army and plays with the security of the country. On whether the China-Pakistan maritime exercises - Sea Guardians pose a threat to the Indian maritime security, the minister said security was always given a priority and was at the top of the country's foreign policy.

"So, whenever we feel the country's security interests are in some way affected, we will do whatever we feel is necessary, whatever we feel is possible to ensure our security." "We have demonstrated that in different situations. In some respects, you saw that in Uri and Balakot. You have also seen that even on the LAC with China where even in the middle of Covid-19 in 2020, we actually sent an enormous number of troops up there to effectively defend the LAC," he said.

2.92 lakh people in seven districts

hit with over 1.68 lakh people suffering, followed by Morigaon where more than 1.13 lakh persons are affected and Nagaon with around 7,450 people. Till Monday over 3.79 lakh people were affected in the deluge across 10 districts in the state. At present, 642 villages are under water and 1,514.92 hectares of crop areas have been damaged across Assam, ASDMA said.

Further said authorities are running 83 relief camps and distribution centers in five districts, where 19,237 people, including 5,004 children, are taking shelter. The authorities have distributed 375.68 quintals of rice, dal and salt, 1,649.16 litres of mustard oil and other flood relief items during the last 24 hours. Massive erosions have been witnessed in Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Kamrup, Morigaon, Nalbari, Tamulpur, Tinsukia and Udalguri districts. Embankments, roads, bridges and other infrastructure have been damaged by flood waters in Barpeta, Kamrup, Nagaon, Dibrugarh, Nalbari, Udalguri and Karimganj. A total of 73,657 domestic animals and poultry have been affected in the deluge in Morigaon and Nagaon districts, ASDMA said.

Govt to hold consultations

under Srijangram Revenue Circle in Bongaigaon to inspect the erosion-hit area & interacted with affected people," he tweeted later. Sarma said he reviewed relief and rehabilitation measures undertaken by district administration at the Malegarh Higher Secondary School campus. The chief minister said Rs 3,800 each has been provided to 4,000 flood-hit families and other assistance to over 3 lakh affected people in Bongaigaon district. "We'll also provide financial assistance for damage caused to houses and study materials of students during the flood," he added.

Japanese say final goodbye

as well as foreign officials, attended the funeral at the temple. At the ceremony, Akie Abe said her husband's death still seems unreal. "I believe there were many things he left unfinished as a politician. But he had planted many seeds and I'm sure they will sprout," she was quoted by Japan's NHK television.

Abe's long-time ally and mentor, Finance minister Taro Aso, said the two former Prime Ministers were "bonded together as they thought about Japan's national interest together". Aso described Abe as "the most talented politician in postwar Japan who raised Japan's international profile". Aso, 81, said he was supposed to be the one to ask Abe to make a condolence speech for him.

The hearse travelled through Tokyo's main political district, Nagata-cho, where Abe spent more than three decades after being first elected to parliament in 1991. It then drove slowly by the governing party headquarters, where senior lawmakers in dark suits stood outside and prayed, before heading to the prime minister's office, where Abe served a total of nearly a decade.

Kishida and Cabinet members pressed their hands before their chests as they prayed and bowed toward the hearse heading to a crematorium. On Sunday, two days after Abe's killing, his Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner won a landslide victory in elections for the upper house, the less powerful of parliament's two chambers. That could allow Kishida to govern uninterrupted until a scheduled election in 2025. But Abe's death also opens up a period of uncertainty for his party. Experts say a power struggle within Abe's party faction is certain and could affect Kishida's grip on power.

State Govt transfers

who has been in limelight in recent times during the massive unprecedented flood in Silchar, has been shunted out of the district and asked to take charge of Kamrup district with additional charge of CEO of Guwahati Biotech Park and Assam Biotechnology Council. Hailakandi's DC Rohan Kumar Jha will be the new Cachar DC, while Nagaon DC Hivare Nisarg Gautam will move to Hailakandi.

The Kamrup DC Kailash Karthik N, has been transferred to Public Health Engineering department as additional secretary, while Revenue and Disaster Management joint secretary P Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy will be new Chirang DC. Baksa DC Aayush Garg will be the Barpeta DC and Chirang DC Narendra Kumar Shah will be Nagaon DC. Gossaigaon additional DC Masanda Magdalin Pertin will be the new Baksa DC, while South Salmara Mankachar ADC Laxmi Kutum will officiate as the DC of the district till the return of Pallavi Sarkar from leave, the order stated.

Cong has no moral right to

the path of development. Gogoi also claimed that it was during Congress rule when crime reached its peak. Recently, while talking to the press persons in Guwahati, APCC president Bhupen Borah alleged that Assam chief minister Dr Sharma has miserably been failing to tackle the increasing trend of criminal activities in the state.

NFR completes restoration

put all its efforts in restoring the damaged line and re-starting the train services. The Railway Ministry had sanctioned Rs 180 crore for the restoration of snapped railway lines to flood-ravaged Dima Hasao district. The amount was sanctioned following a discussion between the Union Railway minister, Ashwini Vaishnav, and Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

DTO Gautam Das served

taken any steps to assure their punctuality. Visitors experience inconvenience as a result and services that must be delivered on time are delayed." The notice further said, "You have failed to make service delivery transparent and accountable in your office resulting in the general public gathering in your office to get their work done even though the majority of services are now online or contactless." DTO Das is asked to reply within the next ten days.

Sri Lankans on edge ahead

the source added. Earlier, Rajapaksa's younger brother and ex-finance minister Basil Rajapaksa tried to leave Sri Lanka but was stopped by immigration officials at the airport. Basil, the 71-year-old leader who is being widely held responsible for the country's worst economic crisis which has heaped misery on the people, tried to leave the country on Monday night through the VIP terminal of Colombo airport.

The Sri Lanka Immigration and Emigration Officers Association said the immigration officials objected to serving him at the VIP clearance line and even the passengers of the Emirates flight to Dubai had objected to his leaving. Basil, a US passport holder, resigned as finance minister in early April as street protests intensified against shortages of fuel, food and other necessities and quit his seat in parliament in June.

House of prime accused

allow 'Baahubali' (muscle power) culture in part of the state. The progress of the investigation is being closely monitored and a lookout notice has been issued to nab the two absconding accused and their associates at the earliest, Singh said. "We have sent several directives in the last two days to every police station to take action against criminals and musclemen who violate the law," he said. Steps are being taken to bring all cases against the accused during the last two years so that the case diary can be strengthened and a strong charge sheet submitted, the officer said. The Dibrugarh police have been directed to submit the charge sheet of this case within 60 days, he said, adding that the Dibrugarh police inspector had been transferred for negligence.

Congress workers

not play the politics of 'Go Back' and 'Murdabad' as the Opposition party does. But the party plays the politics of development for the people." He said in the last five years Karbi Anglong has witnessed peace and development. The armed organisations have signed peace agreements for peace and development. As the people have voted the BJP to power again and it is the responsibility of 'Team Karbi Anglong' with all 26 elected MACs to work towards the welfare and development of the people.

Without naming the party the CEM said the ruling party have been receiving threats from a few leaders of a certain political party, but 'Team Karbi Anglong' is not going to pay heed to it. The newly joined Congress leader Sarjeng Engti said, "Yes I was the official Congress candidate from Korhanti MAC constituency in the KAAC election. I am not frustrated about my losing the election and I took the decision of joining the BJP as I observed that Congress has given up on strengthening the party. They are only interested in a lobby game. With such lobby game, the grassroots level workers cannot do anything."

From Howraghat and Socheng Denta MAC constituencies 144 party workers have joined BJP Engti said. MP Horensingh Bey said the president of APHLC, JI Kathar hate the Karbi traditional beliefs of the Karbis (Hoghar). MP Bey said, "JI Kathar speaks ill of Karbi traditional beliefs. He says the Karbi Hogharis worship demons. How can Karbis worship demons? JI Kathar is playing politics on the beliefs of the Karbis. If he has ill feelings for Karbi Hogharis, then has the same feeling for other religions as well."

Bey also said that if JI Kathar is so against the Bongo Sena or Bengali Sena, which JI Kathar often mention, then first he should question the identity of his wife, who is a non-Karbi. If JI Kathar and his party say that the voter list of KAAC is incorrect, then they should not have contested the election.

Party sources said a total of 292 party workers and supporters from the Opposition Congress, APHLC and UDFS have joined the BJP.

No.SLRC-G-III/6/Advisement/2022/22,
NOTICE
In continuation to the earlier advertisement No.SLRC-G-III/Advisement/2022/1/3, dated 25th March, 2022 and in pursuance to the communications received from Elementary Education Department, Secondary Education Department and Higher Education (Technical) Department, it is notified for those candidates who applied/appeared in written test against advertisement issued by office of the Directorate of Secondary Education, Directorate of Elementary Education and Directorate of Higher (Technical) Education, Assam, but the process of recruitment was cancelled shall now be eligible to appear in the written examination under the Commission with completion of required formalities. All such candidates are requested to visit the website of SEBA (w .sebne.o) for details from 15/07/2022 to 25/07/2022.
Sd/-
Secretary, State Level Recruitment
Commission, for Class-III Posts
AASC, Khanapara
Janasanyog/D/7433/22 Guwahati-781022.

MISSING PERSON

Miss Mamta Khatun- 19 yrs
The above is a photograph of a girl namely —Miss Mamta Khatun — 19 yrs, D/O-Musstt. Nurjahan Begum of Vill- Bijulijarani, PS- Behali, Dist- Biswanath (Assam) who has been missing since 29/06/2022 from Bijulijarani as reported by the complainant at Bogang OP.
On receipt of the information, a missing entry vide Bogang Out Post GDE No. 67 dated. 04/07/2022 was made and investigated into for tracing out the missing girl.
The descriptive roll of the missing girl is as follows:-
1) Height - 5'3"(Approximate)
2) Complexion - Swarthy
3) Hair - Short.
4) Age - 19 yrs
5) Wearing - Black T-Shirt and white long pant.
6) Body Built - Medium.
7) Weight - 45 kg (Approximate)
8) Language known - Assamese/ Adibashi/ Bengali.
9) Identification mark - No.
10) Any contact No of the victim - No.
11) Any Suspect - No.
12) Contact No. - Biswanath
PCR- 8135837614 / 6026900206
All efforts may kindly be taken to trace out the above girl with intimation to the undersigned.
Sd/-
Superintendent of Police
Biswanath, Assam
Janasanyog/D/7386/22

JAMEELA JAMIL REACTS TO 'SHE-HULK' CHARACTER PHOTO CRITICISM

LONDON, July 11 (IANS): Actress Jameela Jamil was criticised on Twitter for looking dishevelled in a production photo from the upcoming series 'She-Hulk: Attorney at Law' where she portrays the super villain Titania. She agrees "the shade" is warranted.

"Omg this photo.???? Guys I accept every ounce of shade here, but in defence of my excellent hair stylist, this is just my hair after a 14 hour stunt day in Atlanta heat. Just after being upside down. She did a *great* job on the show I promise," reports mirror.co.uk.

She added in a second reply being a good sport, "I dutifully accept the crowd attack."

Jamil elaborated further on her feeling in various replies on the social media app, including one where she promises a fan it will all make sense soon. "You'll get it when the show comes out. It fits the character." She-Hulk: Attorney at Law is a Disney+ comedy series following the titular character (played by Tatiana Maslany), as she navigates the complicated life of a single, 30-something attorney who also happens to be a green 6-foot-7-inch superpowered hulk.



CHRIS EVANS backs Anthony Mackie as CAPTAIN AMERICA amid talk about his return



LOS ANGELES, July 11 (IANS): Hollywood star Chris Evans who is famous for his portrayal of Steve Rogers also known as the Cap in Marvel Cinematic Universe, has shown his support for Anthony Mackie amid speculations about his return in the fourth 'Captain America' movie.

The Hollywood Reporter tweeted about Julius Onah being tapped to direct 'Captain America 4'.

In one of its tweets, the site posed a question if Evans would reprise his role as the titular superhero in the upcoming movie.

"It is unclear if Chris Evans would reprise his role as the first #CaptainAmerica (though if the question of who is entitled to carry the shield continues, all bets are off)," read the tweet, which prompted a response from Evans himself. "Sam Wilson is Captain America," the 41-year-old star simply wrote.

Evans made his first appearance as Steve Rogers a.k.a. Captain America in 2011's 'Captain America: The First Avenger'.

He continued to portray the character in two other 'Captain America' movies and 'The Avengers' films.

In 'Avengers: Endgame', Evans' Steve Rogers appears to pass the torch to Sam Wilson or Falcon (Mackie) as he hands over his Captain America shield to the veteran United States Air Force Pararescue man.

However, Sam didn't immediately embrace his new alter ego on Disney+'s series 'The Falcon and the Winter Soldier', on which he starred alongside Sebastian Stan.

After much self-doubt due to him questioning how "a black man (can) represent a country that does not represent him," Sam finally takes up the shield and embraces his new alter ego in the last episode of the series.

MUSIC OF UPCOMING WEB SERIES 'DR ARORA' AN ODE TO MUSICAL ETHOS OF 1990s



MUMBAI, July 11 (IANS): The creator of the upcoming web series 'Dr Arora' says as the show is set in the 90s era, the music album is an ode to the era that perfectly set the tone of the narrative.

The album is comprised of multiple songs written by poet and lyricist Irshad Kamil, composed by classical musician Niladri Kumar and music director Sunny MR. One folk song has been composed and performed by Narottam

Bain. Talking about the album, Sunny MR said, "The show is set in the 90s, one of the golden eras of Hindi film music. My songs are an ode to that decade and its musical ethos."

Adding to that Irshad said, "Penning the lyrics for 'Dr. Arora' has been a delight not only because of the wonderfully talented people involved but also because of the old-world charm the show possesses. Coming together with Imtiaz again for the show is thrilling as usual. I hope the songs strike the right chord with the audience."

Niladri said, "Music weaves its own story and has always been integral to a film. I am happy to see it take prominence now in web series too. 'Dr. Arora' is a very refreshing script and I'm delighted to be a part of it. The two songs that I have composed for the show have different flavours."

He added, "Mehram' sung by Arijit Singh is one of those special melodies that also defies the known grammar of song structures and 'Khaalipan' sung by Abhay Jodhpurkar and Meenal has a blend of traditional film music and contemporary modern elements. Working with Imtiaz and Irshad is something I enjoy and I hope our previous collaborations these songs also resonate with the listeners."

The background score of the show has been composed by Anand Bhaskar and Ajay Jayanthi and its title track by Ishaan Chhabra. The story of the show 'Dr. Arora - Gupt Rog Visheshagya' is a light-hearted dramedy that chronicles the life and times of a sex consultant and his various patients. Set in Central India, the show features Kumud Mishra in the title role.

Rajat Kapoor reveals 800 people crowdfunded his upcoming directorial 'Rk/Rkay'

MUMBAI, July 11 (IANS): The upcoming quirky behind-the-scenes drama, 'Rk/Rkay' came into being courtesy the crowdfunding, as shared by the film's director and actor Rajat Kapoor. For Rajat, the film wasn't an easy path to travel but given his determination, he adopted the idea of crowdfunding to materialise his labour of love.

While speaking about his journey of collecting funds for the film, he shared "It's always difficult to find funding for Indie films. So this time, I started out with the idea of crowdfunding and started reaching out to people. I put in some money of mine, and halfway through the crowdfunding process, Priyam Srivastava and Harshita Karkare stepped in as co-producers. Their faith in the film was amazing, and the film could get made, only because they joined hands."



Aamir-starrer 'Laal Singh Chaddha' is a story spanning over 5 decades



CHENNAI, July 11 (IANS): Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan's upcoming film 'Laal Singh Chaddha' is a story of 5 decades that promises to travel through important events of Indian culture, multiple picturesque locations, and sudden emotional turmoil.

The story also features the growing love story of Laal Singh Chadda and Karnajit Kaur, played by Aamir Khan and Kareena Kapoor. Their story starts from their childhood and continues until their 50s.

The film is a story of a child who finds joy in running. His passion for running takes him to one of the most impressive places in life and helps him find his true self. His story revolves around important Indian historical events where Laal Singh Chaddha can be seen joining the army, falling in love, running for miles, running for a college team, getting awarded by the President, and a lot more. Eventually, in life, Laal Singh Chaddha becomes a successful businessman.

The major credit for Laal Singh Chaddha's success goes to his mother who refuses to give up on her son and loves him to the core. 'Laal Singh Chaddha', produced by Aamir Khan Productions, Kiran Rao, and Viacom18 Studios, also stars Kareena Kapoor Khan, Mona Singh, and Chaitanya Akkineni.

It is an official remake of iconic Hollywood film 'Forrest Gump'. The film will be released on 11 August, 2022.

Where's Bollywood? 'Thor: Love and Thunder' nets ₹ 64.80 cr in first 4 days

MUMBAI, July 11 (IANS): Even as Bollywood still struggles at the box office, Hollywood and South Indian tentpoles continue to soar to unprecedented heights.

The recently released superhero film 'Thor: Love and Thunder', led by a shirtless Chris Hemsworth and Christian Bale thrown in for good measure, netted Rs 64.80 crore domestically (Rs 83.61 crore minus GST) in the first four days of its theatrical run, according to trade sources.

Considering that the much-hyped Akshay Kumar-starrer 'Samrat Prithviraj', to quote figures from the Internet Movie Database (IMDb),

was able to gross Rs 82.3 crore during its entire theatrical run, despite being made tax-free in three major states, the movie-going public in India clearly like their superheroes to be winners.

Independent film trade analyst Sumit Kadel, commenting on the figures, said 'Thor' has seen fifth-highest opening weekend ever for a Hollywood film in India.

"From Bollywood, only the Karthik Aaryan-starrer 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' managed to net Rs 65 crore in its opening weekend", he said. He cited the powerful cast of 'Thor' and the brand value of Marvel Studios for pulling in the crowds.

Even the sleeper hit, 'The Kashmir Files', had a lukewarm opening weekend, but picked up because of the positive word-of-mouth. 'The Kashmir Files', 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' and 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' are the only Hindi films in the IMDb Top 10.

The Indian box-office numbers for 'Thor', incidentally, mirrored those of the United States, where the film raked in \$143 million in its opening weekend, making it the third most profitable release after 'Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness' (\$187.4 million) and 'Jurassic World Dominion' (\$145 million).

Will 'Thor' be able to sustain its opening surge? It is likely to see a drop in collections, but it will still cross the safe zone of Rs 100 crore. That will be significantly behind the Rs 217.52 crore made by 'Spider-Man: No Way Home', but closer to Rs 127.31 crore garnered by 'Dr Strange in the Multiverse of Madness' -- both films are Marvel releases, incidentally.

So, how are Bollywood's forthcoming big releases likely to fare in this market? According to Kadel, 'Shamsher' may bring some respite, given that it's an 'event film' and the buzz around its music can ensure a good opening.



Djokovic tops Kyrgios for 7th Wimbledon, 21st Slam trophy

WIMBLEDON, July 11 (AP): Novak Djokovic waited. He waited for Nick Kyrgios to lose focus and lose his way. Waited to find the proper read on his foe's big serves. Waited until his own level rose to the occasion.

Djokovic is not bothered by a deficit — in a game, a set, a match. He does not mind problem-solving. And at Wimbledon, for quite some time now, he does not get defeated.

Djokovic used his steady brilliance to beat the ace-delivering, trick-shot-hitting, constantly chattering Kyrgios 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (3) on Sunday for a fourth consecutive championship at the All England Club, seventh overall there, and 21st from all Grand Slam tournaments.

"It's weird. I felt like he didn't do anything amazing today," said the unseeded Kyrgios, offering an assessment with which some might not concur, given that Djokovic accumulated 31 winners and merely eight unforced errors over the last two sets, while facing zero break points in that span.

"But he was just so composed. That's what I was just thinking to myself. In big moments, it just felt like he was never rattled. I feel like that's his greatest strength: He just never looks rattled," said Kyrgios, about whom those words likely have not been uttered. "He just looks completely within himself the whole time. Didn't look like he was playing overaggressive, even though it felt like he was playing big." Among men, only Roger Federer owns more Wimbledon titles than Djokovic,

with eight, and only Rafael Nadal owns more major trophies, with 22.

"The more you win, it's logical the more confident, the more comfortable you feel out there every next time you step out on the court," said the top-seeded Djokovic, who was pleased to hear some spectators at Centre Court chanting his nickname, "No-le! No-le!" as he served out the final point of a tremendously well-played tiebreaker.

As of now, Djokovic will not be able to try to pull even with Nadal by winning the U.S. Open, which begins in late August: The 35-year-old Serbian can't enter the United States because he decided not to get any shots against Covid-19, the same reason Djokovic missed the Australian Open in January.

"I'm not vaccinated," Djokovic said Sunday, "and I'm not planning to get vaccinated."

Aside from his experience — 32 Grand Slam final appearances versus one for the unseeded Kyrgios — his skill and his clutch gene shined in the concluding tiebreaker, and all of those qualities were present for two particularly pivotal games that helped swing the match.

"Key moments," Djokovic called them.

They were games in which Djokovic steeled himself, and Kyrgios blinked. And games that Kyrgios would not let go as he began engaging in running monologues, shouting at himself or his entourage (which does not include a



full-time coach), earning a warning for cursing, finding reason to disagree with the chair umpire he fist-bumped before the match, and chucking a water bottle.

With Djokovic serving for the second set at 5-3, Kyrgios got to love-40 — a trio of break points. But Kyrgios played a couple of casual returns, and Djokovic eventually held. When that set ended, Kyrgios waved dismissively toward his box, sat down and dropped his racket to the turf, then groused to no one in particular: "It was love-40! Can it get any bigger or what?! Is that big enough for you?!"

Djokovic noticed.

"He knew on this stage, when Nick starts to talk, he's going to be vulnerable," said Djokovic's coach, 2001 Wim-

bledon champion Goran Ivanisevic. "That happened." In the third set, with Kyrgios serving at 4-all, 40-love, he again let a seemingly sealed game get away, with Djokovic breaking there.

"It was a huge momentum shift," Djokovic said, "because up to that point we were quite even."

Kyrgios was almost perfect in the first set, with 11 winners before he made a second unforced error. The 40th-ranked Kyrgios, a 27-year-old from Australia, never had been past the quarterfinals in 29 previous Grand Slam appearances — and the last time he made it even that far was 7 1/2 years ago.

His talent is unmistakable. But over the years, Kyrgios has drawn more notice for his preference for style over sub-

stance on court, his tempestuousness that has earned him ejections and suspensions and his taste for the nightlife.

During the past two weeks alone, Kyrgios racked up USD 14,000 in fines — one for spitting at a heckling spectator after a first-round victory, another for cursing during a wildly contentious win against No. 4 seed Stefanos Tsitsipas in the third round — and caught flack for wearing a red hat and sneakers before or after matches at a place where all-white clothing is mandated. Word also emerged that he is due in court next month in Australia to face an assault allegation.

On Sunday, Kyrgios tried shots between his legs, hit some with his back to the net, pounded serves at up to 136 mph and produced 30 aces. He used an underarm serve, then faked one later.

For all of the significant records and other factoids logged in the 560-page Wimbledon Compendium — including categories such as "ambidextrous players" or "runners-up who wore glasses in a final" — no mention is made of "underarm serves in a gentleman's final," but it seems safe to say that was a first.

Perhaps, in some ways, it would have been fitting for such a unique player to emerge as the champion at such a unique Wimbledon.

All players representing Russia or Belarus were barred by the All England Club because of the war in Ukraine; among those banned was No. 1-ranked Daniil Medvedev, the reigning U.S.

Open champion. In response, the WTA and ATP tours took the unprecedented step of revoking all ranking points from Wimbledon (Djokovic, for example, earned zero points for his title and will slide to No. 7 on Monday).

A woman who was born in Russia but has represented Kazakhstan for four years, Elena Rybakina, won the women's trophy Saturday with a 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 victory over Ons Jabeur. There's more: Federer missed the tournament for the first time since the late 1990s, The No. 2 man in the rankings, Alexander Zverev, sat out injured. Three of the top 20 seeded men, including 2021 runner-up Matteo Berrettini, pulled out of Wimbledon after testing positive for Covid-19. And Nadal withdrew with a torn abdominal muscle before he was supposed to face Kyrgios in the semifinals.

On Sunday, it was Djokovic holding the trophy, as he has so often. He trailed in the final, just as he had in the quarterfinals (when he was two sets down) and the semifinals. Just as he had in last year's French Open and Wimbledon finals. Just as he had in the 2019 final at the All England Club, facing two championship points against Federer.

Each time, he waited for the opportunity to seize control. Each time, he won. "So the run keeps going," Djokovic said after his unbeaten streak at Wimbledon reached 28 victories. "I feel very connected with this court and with this tournament, without a doubt."

England batter Bairstow bags ICC Men's Player of the Month Award for June 2022

DUBAI, July 11 (IANS): England's in-form batter Jonny Bairstow on Monday bagged the ICC Men's Player of the Month for June 2022. Bairstow bags this award for the first time, getting the better of his teammate Joe Root and all-rounder Daryl Mitchell of New Zealand.

Bairstow was crowned following a month of memorable performances in his side's 3-0 ICC World Test Championship (WTC) series victory against reigning champions New Zealand.

Despite a quiet start at Lord's, Bairstow produced an exhibition of explosive hitting in his second innings knock of 136 to steal victory against the odds in the second Test at Trent Bridge, smashing the second fastest century ever registered by an English batter in the longest format of the game.



His exploits extended to the final match of the series at Headingley, sealing the whitewash in equally explosive fashion with scores of 162 and 71 not out, which has since launched him up

summer with four excellent wins against high-class opposition in New Zealand and India.

"We are enjoying our cricket as a team and playing with clarity and positivity. Even though I have scored four centuries in this period, I would like to acknowledge my teammates who have been excellent in every department and playing with immense confidence," said Bairstow.

Bairstow's remarkable run continued into July, where twin centuries of 106 and 114 not out in his side's victory in the rescheduled fifth Test against India at Edgbaston saw them reach home in a record-breaking run chase of 378.

Bairstow's continued dominance already lines him up as a potential contender for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award

for July 2022.

"Jonny played the pivotal role of the aggressor, and was instrumental in winning the series for England with his counterattacking knock which changed the complex of the series against the World Test Champions. These kinds of players are special in Test cricket, and in my opinion he fully deserves this recognition," said Farveez Maharoof, former Sri Lanka pacer and ICC Player of the Month voting panel member.

Bairstow is currently the leading run-scorer in Test cricket this year, making 994 runs in eight matches at an average of 76.46, including six centuries and a fifty. He will be next seen in action with the ODIs against India starting from Tuesday at The Oval, after being rested from recently-concluded T20I series.

England is injecting life into Test cricket: Justin Langer



MELBOURNE, July 11 (IANS): Former Australia men's cricket team head coach Justin Langer has complimented England for its back-to-back four Test victories, saying the side coached by Brendon McCullum is "injecting life into Test cricket".

The former Australia opener, who was reportedly in contention for the England Test coaching job before New Zealander McCullum was picked by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) for the role, added that the way England are playing is "brilliant".

Since McCullum took charge of the Test side, England have looked a completely different outfit, defeating New Zealand 3-0 at home with successful chases of 277, 299 and 296. In July, they took it a notch higher, chasing down a mammoth 378, their highest-ever chase in the format, to win the rescheduled fifth Test against India at Edgbaston, raising the decibel level of 'Bazball' higher than ever.

"It's awesome (England's run) and that's why we love Test cricket so much," Langer told SEN WA's Gilly and Goss on Monday.

Under Langer, Australia had thrashed the then Joe Root-led England 4-0 in the Ashes series. England then went on to lose the away Test series in the Caribbean. But under new coach McCullum and skipper Ben Stokes, there has been a turnaround in the Test side, and Langer says it makes for great viewing.

"The way England are playing is brilliant. It's great to watch. Anything to keep injecting life into Test cricket. We're going to see a great Test match in Galle (Australia vs Sri Lanka) in the next two days."

"Test cricket is magic, it's one of the great things about playing the game," added Langer.

"Anything we can do to keep propping up the game of Test cricket can only be a good thing."

England will now host South Africa in a three-Test series starting at Lord's on August 17.

India bow out of women's hockey World Cup with loss to Spain



TERRASSA (SPAIN), July 11 (IANS): India's hopes of making it to the quarterfinals of the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2022 were dashed late on Sunday with Spain beating them 1-0 on home turf in the do-or-die crossover match here.

It was Marta Segu (57th minute) who scored the lone goal of the match.

With a place in the last-eight at stake, both teams got off to a nervy start. It took them a while to settle down and build on a good structure. It was not until a little over eight minutes into play that India earned the first penalty corner of the match through Neha, who skilfully tackled the Spanish defender inside the circle.

India, however, could not make much of the opportunity with the hosts defending doggedly. They further built on a speedy counter attack creating a brilliant shot on goal but Beatriz Perez was slightly off target. The following minutes saw Spain being awarded back-to-back penalty corners but they could not beat India's defence.

The second quarter witnessed both teams trade PCs but the goalkeepers were on top of their game. Savita made three brilliant saves off a PC which Spain won early in the second quarter. Even though their attackers picked up the rebound and took fierce shots on goal, Savita stood like a wall to maintain a clean slate for India. The Spanish goalie Melanie Garcia came up with her 'A game' too when India won two PCs in this quarter.

While Monika's attempt was

well-defended by their rushers, Gurjit Kaur's drag-flick, which was on target, was brilliantly padded away by Garcia.

With the scoreboard reading 0-0, the match continued to remain tense in the third quarter. While India showed the right intent, and dominated the ball possession, they were simply not able to break the deadlock. Spain, meanwhile, came up with some good circle penetrations but their strikers were not on target.

The final quarter was action-packed with Spain getting off the mark with a good attack but Savita yet again defended well. The Indian forward line, on the other hand, worked a stupendous attack with Salima and Lalremsiami in the circle but missed the target by a whisker. With about seven minutes of play remaining, Spain skipper Oliva Georgina became the cynosure of her team's attack, taking some potential shots on goal but was not successful in beating India's experienced defenders.

Just when it looked like the match would go into the shootout, Spain found a breakthrough in the 57th minute. It was Clara Ycart who drove into India's circle and took a shot on goal, but Savita blocked it away. However, Marta Segu was perfectly positioned in front of the goal-mouth to pick up the rebound and put it past India's goalkeeper. Though India fought hard in the dying seconds of the match, Spain defended the goal which drew curtains on India's medal hopes at the World Cup. India will take on Canada in the 9th to 16th placing match on July 12.

In the ODI format, you have to have five proper bowlers: Tamim Iqbal

GEORGETOWN (GUYANA), July 11 (IANS): Bangladesh finally registered a win on their tour of West Indies when they defeated the hosts by six wickets in a match reduced to 41 overs per side due to wet outfield. After taking a 1-0 lead in the three-match series, captain Tamim Iqbal stated that he would continue to play with five proper bowlers in the 50-over format.

"There were a lot of debates whether we should play one extra batsman or one extra bowler. If we play one extra batsman, it would have been a safe call but you have to take chances in international cricket. We have to go with either one batsman or one bowler. For me, in the ODI format, you have to have five proper bowlers and I hope all the batsmen take responsibility and finish the game," Tamim was quoted as saying by Cricbuzz after the match.

"In international cricket, if you take the easy option, there are times when it will not be successful and you have to take chances. Today, it could have been a different thing altogether (if we had lost) and you could have asked me why we played with one less batsman. But all went well," added Tamim. In Bangladesh's successful chase of 150, veteran batter Mahmudullah top-scored and applied finishing touches with an unbeaten 41. Tamim was pleased with Mahmudullah getting some runs under his belt and pointed out that getting scores of 25 or 30 can be valuable for Bangladesh in future.

"As far as Riyad's (Mahmudullah) batting is concerned, where he bats... if you take away today's innings, then lots of those 25 or 30 runs that he scores become very important. Whenever there are one or two failures and we go to statistics and see it is 25, 28 or 30 runs, but there are times when those 25 or 28 runs are very valuable.

There is rest for being out of form; this is no way for progress: Venkatesh Prasad

NEW DELHI, July 11 (IANS): Former India pacer Venkatesh Prasad hinted at slamming the Indian team management for continuing to feature talismanic batter Virat Kohli despite the Delhi batter's prolonged lean patch with the bat.

Since November 2019, Kohli hasn't scored a century in international cricket and is currently going through a rough patch for form across all formats of the game. Now, through his official Twitter account, Prasad pointed out that all the big guys were dropped from the side during his time with the Indian team when they were out of form.

Kohli will be next seen for India during the three-match ODI series against England, with the first game to be played at The

Oval on Tuesday. After the completion of ODI series, Kohli has been rested from the ODIs against West Indies with speculation rife that he could also be rested from the five-match T20I series against the West Indies.

"There was a time when you were out of form, you would be dropped irrespective of reputation. Sourav, Schwab, Yuvraj, Zaheer, Bhajji all have been dropped when not in form. They have gone back to domestic cricket, scored runs and staged a comeback," wrote Prasad.

"The yardsticks seem to have Changed drastically now, where there is rest for being out of form. This is no way for

progress. There is so much talent in the country and cannot play on reputation. One of India's

greatest match-winners, Anil Kumble sat out on so many occasions, needing action's for the greater good," added Prasad, who played 33 Tests and 161 ODIs for India.

In the two T20Is he featured against England at Edgbaston and Trent Bridge, Kohli scored just one and 11 against England in the three-match series won 2-1 by India.

Former India opener Virender Swagat also took an indirect swipe at the team management for persisting with Kohli in the playing eleven.

"India has so many batsmen who can get going from the start, some of them are unfortunately sitting out. Need to find a way to play the best available players in current form in T-20 cricket," said Swagat on his official Twitter account.

After the first ODI at The Oval on Tuesday, Lord's will host the second game on Thursday and Old Trafford in Manchester scheduled to stage the final 50-over match of the series on Sunday.

England v India: Rohit Sharma-led side looks to continue fireworks from T20Is to ODIs

LONDON, July 11 (IANS): Though India and England are on the road to prepare for the Men's T20 World Cup in Australia in October-November, there is also an ODI World Cup to be hosted by the visitors in the same time period next year.

If India's long-term planning for the ODI World Cup needed an initial push, then the upcoming three-match series against the World Champions in this format of the game, starting from The Oval on Tuesday, is the perfect way for them to kickstart it.

For now, it is India, with their new, aggressive approach of batting in T20Is and fetching them 2-1 win over England, who come in as the favourites in the ODI series. This year, India have had a mixed bag in ODIs - lost 3-0 to South Africa in January before defeating West Indies by the same margin at home.

With the addition of ace opener Shikhar Dhawan, one can think of India to be stronger in the batting department despite Virat Kohli's form facing intense scrutiny apart from the bowling department hav-



ing a sorted look. "All matches are important for us. We can't play thinking ODIs are not a priority, but we have to keep in mind the workload of each player. We will make changes but our ultimate goal is to win matches."

"We will not leave that thought process behind. For us, the aim is to understand white-ball cricket, how to play (as) new guys are playing. 50 over is an extension of T20 (cricket). Maybe you take less risk in ODIs as compared to T20 cricket but you have to take it," asserted India skipper Rohit Sharma on the importance of ODIs in a

Men's T20 World Cup year.

England, on the other hand, will be playing in the format for the first time since the retirement of their 2019 World Cup winning skipper Eoin Morgan. After defeating the Netherlands 3-0, England suffered a setback by conceding the T20I series to India.

Newly-appointed skipper Jos Buttler and Jason Roy were amassing big runs against the Netherlands in ODIs. But the duo were unable to carry on the same approach against India in T20Is, falling early and cheaply and would be itching to bounce back

in ODIs.

The hosts will also be boosted by the return of their star players Ben Stokes, Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow after playing huge roles in England winning four out of four Tests this summer. As the recently-concluded T20I series showed, one can expect a neck-to-neck battle between the two teams, with small margins determining who will emerge victorious in the ODI series.

Squads: England: Jos Buttler (Captain), Moeen Ali, Jonny Bairstow, Joe Root, Ben Stokes, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Sam Curran, Liam Livingstone, Craig Overton, Matthew Parkinson, Jason Roy, Phil Salt, Reece Topley and David Willey

India: Rohit Sharma (Captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Ishan Kishan, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant (wicketkeeper), Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj and Arshdeep Singh.

Ronaldo 'not for sale', Man United manager Ten Hag says

BANGKOK, July 11 (AP/IANS): Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag has emphasised that star forward Cristiano Ronaldo is in his plans for the season ahead and the 37-year-old Portuguese is not for sale.

The striker missed the flight to Thailand and is currently training on his own at the Portuguese national team's training base after being given additional time off due to a 'family issue'.

Ronaldo is reported to be asking to leave Old Trafford after just a year of his second spell there because he wants to play Champions League football next season. Although official Manchester United sources say he is still under contract, the club is thought to be willing to listen to offers, with any money from a sale used for squad rebuilding.

"We are planning with Ronaldo for this season -- that's it. I'm looking forward to working with him. Ronaldo will not be part of United's pre-season tour of Thailand and



Australia due to "personal issues", ten Hag was quoted as saying by Skysports on Monday.

Asked if Ronaldo wants to leave, ten Hag replied, "He hasn't told me this. I have read, but as I say, Cristiano is not for sale, he's in our plans and we want to get success together. I spoke with him before this issue came up. I had a conversation with him and had a really good talk."

The 37-year-old forward returned to Old Trafford last summer in a shock switch from Juventus and still has a season remaining on his deal.

Manchester United will play against Liverpool in their first friendly of the pre-season in Bangkok on July 12, before flying to Melbourne, where they take on Melbourne Victory and Crystal Palace. The side coached by ten Hag will finish their visit to Australia with a game against Aston Villa in Perth on July 23, before returning to the UK via Oslo (Norway) where they take on Atletico Madrid on July 30.

Joel Chianese extends stay at Hyderabad FC till the end of 2022-23 season

HYDERABAD, July 11 (IANS): Versatile Australian attacker Joel Chianese has signed a new contract with Indian Super League (ISL) Champions Hyderabad FC to extend his stay with HFC into the third season, the club announced on Monday.

"I am very excited to be a part of the HFC family for another season. We've tasted success and now it's an exciting challenge to see if we can reproduce that again," said the 32-year-old after putting pen to paper on a deal that will keep him at the club till the end of the 2022-23 season.

Introduced to the Indian Super League in 2020 by Hyderabad FC, Chianese is now a Champion, having played a crucial role in the two seasons at the club under Manolo Marquez.

An ever-reliable player in the squad, Chianese is a trusted overseas option for Manolo, and it is this trust that made it easy for the Australian to extend his stay in Yellow and Black.

"I think Manolo has a way of getting the best out of the Indian players but also managing the foreign group very well. He's very approachable and that goes a long way to creating a good relationship," Chianese said, speaking about his bond with the boss.

He already has 31 appearances for the club, where he has registered seven goals and four assists, most of which helped HFC win some crucial points, including the successful 2021-22 campaign, Hyderabad FC informed in a release on Monday.

Chianese is also a cheerful presence on and off the field and it is no surprise that his No 7 jersey is one of the most popular among the HFC faithful. He is a fan favourite already and he hopes that the Gachibowli Stadium will be loud and noisy next season.

"We really can't wait to play in front of you all at our home stadium. We have felt the support from afar the last 2 seasons held in the bio-bubble and now it's time to be loud," added Chianese.

Pogba completes return to Juventus from Man United

TURIN, July 11 (AP): Paul Pogba will be looking to resurrect his career and bring success back to Juventus after completing his return to the storied Italian club on Monday in a remarkable piece of business for the Bianconeri.

Six years after selling Pogba to Manchester United for a then-world record fee of around 105 million euros (\$116 million), Juventus has re-signed the France midfielder on a free transfer — again.

Pogba first joined Juventus in 2012, with the Italian club paying United only 800,000 pounds (around \$1 million) in related compensation for a player who was then just a precocious teenager.

Now 29, Pogba has signed a four-year deal back at Juventus, reportedly turning down a higher salary at Paris Saint-Germain.

More than 1,000 fans welcomed Pogba back home when he arrived at the club's medical center on Saturday. They had begun gathering there since dawn and by the time their hero arrived there was a huge crowd, singing his



name along with chants such as "who cares about Lukaku, we have Paul Pogba" — in a dig at bitter rival Inter Milan, which resigned Romelu Lukaku from Chelsea last month.

Pogba was a fan favorite in his first spell at Juventus and helped the team win the Serie A title in each of his four seasons at the club. He also won two Italian Cup titles, and two Italian Super Cups, as well earning a Champions

League runner-up medal in 2015, before returning to United.

His second stint at United was underwhelming, however, especially after joining with so much fanfare amid a series of glitzy videos.

Pogba made 226 appearances, scoring 39 goals, in six injury-affected years. During that time, he won the World Cup with France in 2018 but his performances for United never quite matched those

for his national team, with United managers unable to find his best role.

He won two trophies — the League Cup and the Europa League — both in his first season back at United.

In his first spell, after joining the English team's academy at the age of 16, Pogba played only seven games — all as a substitute — for the senior team before it ended sourly when he allowed his contract to run down and join Juventus.

Almost exactly 10 years later, he has signed again for Juventus and again as a free agent.

Pogba will be reunited with coach Massimiliano Allegri, who was in charge for the Frenchman's last two seasons at Juventus.

Allegri returned last year — two years after being fired — to replace Andrea Pirlo. But Juventus finished the season in fourth for the second straight year.

Pogba is the second former United player Juventus has signed on a free transfer in recent days after midfielder Angel Di Maria penned a one-year deal on Friday following seven years at PSG.

Stokes, Root, Bairstow excited with return to ODIs against India, says Matthew Mott



LONDON, July 11 (IANS): England's white-ball head coach Matthew Mott revealed that Test skipper Ben Stokes and in-form batters Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow are excited to be reunited in a return to ODIs through the upcoming three-match series against India, starting from Tuesday.

Since the time Stokes took over as Test skipper from Root, England have won all of their four Tests till now, playing a new brand of attacking cricket in the longest format of the game.

A 3-0 sweep of New Zealand by chasing down 277, 299 and 296 was followed by a record 378-chase against India in the rescheduled fifth Test at Edgbaston to draw the five-match series 2-2, with Bairstow and Root being

heavy contributors with the bat. After a break from the T20I series, the trio will now feature in ODIs against India.

"Coming off the back of a win, it will be even better. We will be looking to them to bring that energy they've had in the Test series. They're absolutely excited to be back there. The comments are around 'I can't wait to be back in the coloured clothing'. That's great. They've had a great summer but they still want to keep building on that and get back around this group. We will welcome them back," said Mott to Sky Sports.

After losing the T20I series to India, England managed to survive a counter-attacking 117 from Suryakumar Yadav to win the final match at Trent Bridge by 17 runs. But what pleased Mott the

most was how England's bowlers held their nerve to stall India's chase of 216 in the back end of the match.

"I was really pleased with the way our bowlers held their nerves. It's exactly what we've been talking a lot about, executing under pressure, and I thought we stood up really well today. Everyone who has played here (Trent Bridge) knows that total was very gettable. At halfway, we felt like we'd done a pretty good job, but it was never out of their reach."

Mott admitted that there were tough times in the England camp after conceding the T20I series to India, but lauded Jos Buttler & Co. for ending the series with a win. "It has been a tough couple of days. This team isn't used to losing too often and I think India have played some great cricket."

"I'm really proud of the resilience to come back out, put our marker back out there with the bat -- I thought it was a good decision to take it on and bat first -- and everyone went out with really good intent and was quite brave. That's some of the things we took out of the last couple of games and it's nice to get a win."

South Africa all-rounder Marizanne Kapp named ICC Women's Player of the Month for June



DUBAI, July 11 (IANS): South Africa all-rounder Marizanne Kapp was named winner of the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for June 2022.

In securing this month's award, Marizanne overcame fellow nominees compatriot pacer Shabnim Ismail and England's Nat Sciver. She is also South Africa's first ICC Women's Player of the Month winner since now-retired opener Lizelle Lee was crowned in March 2021.

Marizanne won the award thanks to her solid and fierce resistance in the face of a hostile England bowling attack in the one-off Test match at Taunton which secured her side a valuable draw. In what was her first Test match since 2014, Marizanne came in with her side's backs against the wall at 45 for four and produced a batting masterclass.

She demonstrated her full repertoire of classy stroke-play on the way to scoring a national record of 150. Her resistance salvaged a respectable 284 for her team in the first innings, and while England set an imposing score in response, Marizanne once again starred for her team with a score of 43 not out before rain curtailed play on the final day.

"It really means a lot for me

to win the ICC Women's Player of the Month award, especially being up against two absolutely brilliant players in Shabnim Ismail and Nat Sciver. What made my first Test century so special was that, number one, our first Test match (in 2014) was an absolute nightmare.

"Then having to play another one after eight years where I had minimum preparation for the Test match because I was unwell and then finding my team in the position we were in at 45 for four, it is something that will stay with me throughout my career. It's definitely a highlight for me, especially with the wickets that fell at the other end and then having to bat with the tail as well, those partnerships are what also made it so special," said Marizanne.

Marizanne will now be seen in action when South Africa face England in the first of three women's ODIs at Northampton on Monday.

"Playing in just her second Test match, Kapp showed resilience and high levels of skill to keep South Africa in the fight. In a weakened South Africa team due to injury, Kapp showed why she is one of the best all-rounders in the world by taking responsibility with bat and ball," said Lydia Greenway, former England cricketer and member of the voting panel.

Erling Haaland welcomed by Man City fans, pledges goals, fun



MANCHESTER, July 11 (AP): Erling Haaland joined in the singing and chanting by Manchester City fans as the new signing was presented outside the stadium of the Premier League champions on Sunday.

It is a month since the Norway striker completed his move to City from Borussia Dortmund for 60 million euros (then \$63 million) to seal his return to England, the country of his birth.

Asked what he would bring to the Premier League, the 21-year-old Haaland said: "Hopefully some more quality with me as a striker. I want to have fun. When I have fun I score goals, I smile, I enjoy playing football, I smile a lot."

Haaland has scored 20 goals in 21 appearances for Norway and netted 86 goals in 89

games in 2 1/2 seasons with Dortmund. Before that, he was at Molde in Norway and then Salzburg in Austria, where he initially grabbed the attention of Europe's major clubs thanks to his performances in the Champions League.

His father, Alf-Inge, played for and briefly captained City in the Premier League from 2000-03 and Erling supported the team as a kid, often going to Maine Road — the club's former home — with his mother to watch his father play.

Asked who his idol was growing up, Haaland replied: "My dad, of course. But in City I have many jerseys at home from (Sergio) Aguero I have to say. So of course he did. From City, him."

Haaland inherits the No. 9 jersey vacated by City's all-time leading scorer, Aguero, who left last year for Barcelona only to be forced into retirement by a heart problem.

There is a new Argentine forward at City. Julian Alvarez has arrived from River Plate after being loaned back to the Buenos Aires club after signing a deal with City in January.

The 22-year-old Alvarez was also presented to fans outside the Etihad Stadium.

"I came here to create my own history, create my own path and help the City reach the top and continue the success it has been having," he said.

For Pakistan to go the distance in T20 World Cup, Babar Azam will be the key: Waqar Younis

LAHORE, July 11 (IANS): Pakistan skipper Babar Azam will have to play the pivotal role if they are to win the upcoming edition of the ICC T20 World Cup in Australia in October-November this year, feels legendary pace bowler from the country Waqar Younis.

The legendary 50-year-old cricketer, who has a total of 789 wickets in Tests and ODIs, also opined that Pakistan have a really good chance of going the distance after bowing out in the semifinal stage in the previous edition of the showpiece tournament in the UAE last year. Pakistan are currently ranked third on the ICC Men's T20I Team Rankings and will travel to Australia full of confidence after some good results in the shortest format of the game over the last 12 months.

The team has two of the best T20 batters in the world in Babar Azam and right-hander Mohammad Rizwan, and Younis feels that with such great performers in the side, it bodes well for a strong showing in the World Cup.

"We stand a really good chance of doing well at this World Cup," Waqar

told ICC Digital in Melbourne. "The pitches in Australia are generally very good batting pitches and Pakistan do have good batters who can really play well in these conditions. Babar is definitely going to be the key batter at the top of the order," said Younis, known for his toe-crushing yorkers.

"I think he (Babar) will have the impact that he has always had and then of course Rizwan is playing very well and the bowling attack they have got is one of the best in the world." Shaheen Shah Afridi, injuries notwithstanding, will continue to lead the bowling unit with proven performers such as right-armers Haris Rauf and the spin duo of Shadab Khan and Mohammad Nawaz.

"We have tried about six or seven fast bowlers in the last year or so and they are all going really well," said Waqar. "I feel that Haris Rauf and Shaheen (Afridi) will be pivotal, but let's not forget Hasan Ali either as he has been bowling very decently. Pakistan's fast bowling attack is very good and they can mix it up with Shadab and Nawaz as they are good spinners also."

Kyrgios a genius; best server in the game by far: Djokovic's coach Ivanisevic

LONDON, July 11 (IANS): Former Wimbledon champion and member of Novak Djokovic's coaching staff, Goran Ivanisevic, called Nick Kyrgios "a genius" after the Australian stretched his charge to a gruelling four sets in the grass-court major final here on Sunday.

Djokovic produced a tennis master-class to defeat Kyrgios 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6(3) for his seventh Wimbledon title, and fourth consecutive crown at the grass-court major. It was Djokovic's 21st Grand Slam title and brought him within one title of Spanish stalwart Rafael Nadal's men's singles record.

Ivanisevic, the 2001 Wimbledon champion, was ecstatic following Djokovic's win.

"For me he was a favourite here. Before the tournament he really played some unbelievable tennis. But you still need to win the tournament, so it was not easy," atp-tour.com quoted Ivanisevic as saying.

"But (a) Grand Slam is a Grand Slam. He (Novak) has 21. He really deserves it.



He really deserves it."

At the same time, the Croatian was highly appreciative of first-time major finalist Kyrgios, who pushed Djokovic to a fourth-set tie-break.

"You cannot prepare (for a) match against Nick Kyrgios. Nick Kyrgios is a genius, tennis genius. He doesn't know what he's going to play next in the point," Ivanisevic said.

"We just concentrate (on) what Novak has to do, the things he has to do, the things he has to be careful (of). When somebody (is) serving like Nick Kyrgios -- for me (he) is the best server in the game by far. Unbelievable tennis player. (He) is very unpredictable."

Kyrgios slammed 30 aces and 62 total winners in the three-hour, one-minute final.

"It's impossible to make tactics. (There are) no tactics," Ivanisevic said. "Fifteen minutes, best returner in the world, he does not touch his serve. You get the chance, then he breaks him."