

Unrest in Manipur: Militants Talks on portfolios on; Sonowal among contenders attack police outpost, houses Modi set to equal Nehru's feat today • Leaders of seven neighbourhood countries to attend swearing-in ceremony PTI. A commando contingent of

NEW DELHI, June 8: Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi is set to take oath on Sunday for a third straight term, equalling the feat of first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, amid hectic parleys involving BJP leadership and allies over the share of berths of different constituents of the National Democratic Alliance in the new government

Senior BJP leaders such as Union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh besides party president J P Nadda have been consulting the allies, including Telugu Desam Party's N Chandrababu Naidu, JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar and Shiv Sena's Eknath Shinde, to finalise their share of representation in the government.

There is a view that heavyweight portfolios like home, finance, defence and external affairs besides education and culture, two a certainty in the new Cabinet, forministries with strong ideological mer chief ministers who have won

hues, will be kept by the BJP, while the Lok Sabha polls like Shivraj its allies can get anywhere between Singh Chouhan, Basavaraj Bomfive to eight cabinet berths. mai, Manohar Lal Khattar and Sar-While leaders like Shah and bananda Sonowal are strong

Singh are seen within the party as contenders for joining the govern-

ment. Ram Mohan Naidu of the TDP, Lalan Singh, Sanjay Jha and Ram Nath Thakur of the JD(U), and Chirag Paswan of the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) are among the allies who may be a part of the new government, the sources said, adding that either Singh or Jha will be accommodated from the JD(U) quota.

Maharashtra, where the BJP-Shiv Sena-NCP alliance has fared poorly, and Bihar, where the opposition has shown signs of revival, may be in the focus during the government-formation exercise.

Assembly polls are due in the western state in October, while polls will be held in Bihar next year. Impending changes within the BJP's organisation will also be on the mind of its brain trust in finalising the names of ministers from the (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)



IMPHAL, June 8: Suspected militants torched a police outpost and set several houses on fire in Manipur's Jiribam district on Saturday, officials said.

The militants torched the Jiri police outpost located in Chotobekra area on the banks of the Barak river at around 12.30 am, they said. The gunmen suspected to be hill-based

APHLC president Kathar confident

Manipur Police was airlifted to Jiribam on Saturday morning from Imphal to assist in the security operations against the militants, police said.

Meanwhile, newly elected Congress MP from the Inner Manipur Lok Sabha seat Angomcha Bimol Akoijam has urged the state government to protect the lives and properties of the people of Jiribam district. Akoijam told reporters at a press conference here that, "I have talked with district officials of Jiribam. They said some reinforcements have reached. While those in the town are being provided security, those in peripheral areas are not being provided security."

Nearly 239 people, mostly women and children have been evacuated from their villages in the Jiribam district and are taking shelter at the sports complex in Jiri town after (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

HTBRIEFS Heroin seized

BOKAJAN: The police in Karbi Anglong seized 74 identical plastic cases containing heroin on the evening of June 07 in Lahorijan under Dillai police station. The police intercepted a Tata Nexon car, MN 01 AX 1752 at Lahorijan patrol post on Assam Nagaland border and during thorough checking heroin in 74 plastic cases weighing 845.57 was found. The heroin has an estimated market value of D 8 crore. Three identified as Md Razak Ahamed (42), Sayed Wahidur Rahaman (28) and Razak Ahamed were apprehended in this connection. All are residents of East Manipur. Bokajan SDPO, Rustom Raj Brahma led the operation

Two drown

JORHAT: Two boys drowned in a pond at Kankhowa village tunder Titabar subdivision of the district, today. The boys identified as Mintu Gogoi (9) and Pranju Baruah (9) fell into the pond belonging to Lakhi Gogoi, and

6 slain Naxalites carried total bounty of ₹ 38 lakh, say cops

Chhattisgarh encounter

JAGDALPUR, June 8: Six Naxalites killed in an encounter with security forces in Narayanpur in Chhattisgarh were dreaded members of the outlawed movement and carried a cumulative reward of Rs 38 lakh on their heads, police officials said on Saturday. The encounter took place near

Gobel and Thulthuli villages under Orcha police station limits on Friday. While police had earlier said seven Naxalites were killed, they later revised the toll to six, including three women. The dead ultras belong to military company number 6 of the PLGA and east Bastar division formations of the proscribed Communist Party of India (Maoist), a police official said. "The operation involving sepa-

rate teams of security personnel was launched late night on June 6 in the on the border of Narayanpur, Kondagaon, Dantewada and Bastar districts based on inputs about the presence of Maoists of PLGA military company no. 6 and east Bastar division formations," Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P said in a press conference here. Personnel belonging to the po-

lice's District Reserve Guard from four districts, the 45th battalion of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and 95th battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPD) were involved in the operation, he said. "At around 3 pm on Friday, Maoists opened fire on security personnel (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)



HT Bureau

DIPHU, June 8: The president of the All Party Hills Leaders Conference (APHLC), JI Kathar, expressed confidence on Saturday that the party can win in the Assembly election

APHLC, an unregistered regional political party, held a review meet-

Narendra Modi becoming PM for third time LS poll result personal, moral

ing at Diphu Club to assess the outcome of the concluded Lok Sabha election. JI Kathar contested the parliamentary seat from the 6 Diphu (ST) Parliamentary Constituency in Assam, the result of which was declared on June 4

After the meeting, Kathar held a

"First of all, I thank all the voters of Karbi Anglong, West Karbi Anglong, and Dima Hasao. I personally thank the vegetable vendors selling vegetables in Diphu market, autorickshaw drivers, truck drivers, laborers, and the poor sections of society, who have immensely supported the APHLC. In 2019, we had secured just 39,583 votes, but now because of your love and support, we have improved significantly in our vote share. We have secured 187,017 votes. We have become a tough contestant against the BJP."

militants also launched multiple at-

tacks taking advantage of the dark-

ness at Lamtai khunou. Modhupur

area of the district located nearly

220 km from the state capital Im-

phal. Several houses have been

burnt, mostly in the outlying areas

of Jiribam district though the exact

number cannot be confirmed, a dis-

trict official based in Jiribam told

Notably, the party has won in 10 Member of Autonomous Council (MAC) constituencies in Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong and two MAC seats in Dima Hasao. The surprising part is that the APHLC

making body also said it took note

of the party's disappointing per-

formance in some states and called

for urgent steps to address the

"This meeting of the CWC con-

gratulates the people of our coun-

try for voting so powerfully to

preserve our democracy, protect

the republic's Constitution and en-

hance social and economic justice.

They have decisively rejected both

the substance and style of gover-

nance over the past decade," one of

the resolutions adopted during the

just a political loss but a personal

minister who sought the mandate

in his name and ran a campaign an-

chored in lies, hate, prejudice, di-

visiveness and extreme bigotry.

The verdict (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

"The verdict of the people is not

has won in Singhason MAC conpress conference where he said, stituency, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

shortcomings.

meeting said.

Parents arrive to meet Amritpal in jail after his IS win HT Correspondent

DIBRUGARH, June 8: Days after the jailed leader of Waris Punjab De, Amritpal Singh, achieved a stunning victory in the Lok Sabha polls, his parents, Tarsem Singh and Balwinder Kaur, arrived at Dibrugarh Central Jail from Punjab to meet their son.

Balwinder Kaur, his mother, distributed sweets brought from Punjab to the guards and jail staff to celebrate her son's Lok Sabha victory. She also brought a new set of clothes and shoes for Amritpal Singh, intended for him to wear at the upcoming oath-taking ceremony in Parliament as an MP.

Singh, imprisoned in the highsecurity Dibrugarh Central Jail since April 23, 2023, under the National Security Act (NSA), surprised everyone by winning the Khadoor Sahib Lok Sabha seat in Punjab by a huge margin of 1,97,120 votes.

Contesting as an Independent

drowned, as per sources. The duo were immediately rushed to Titabar subdivision civil hospital but were declared to be dead.

Foreign cigarettes

GUWAHATI: In a notable bust, Dholai Police in Assam's Cachar district on Saturday seized 50 cartoons of foreign made cigarette and apprehended two persons in connection with the matter. The truck carrying the amount of cigarettes was confiscated during a routine check at the Lailapur checkpoint on the Assam-Mizoram border. "Acting on a tip-off, Cachar Police intercepted a vehicle Reg. No. UP78DN3901 at Lailapur & seized 50 Cartoons foreign made Cigarette & 2 persons are apprehended. Legal action is being initiated," the police wrote on micro-blogging site X. The seizure took place on Saturday when the truck was flagged for a standard inspection and upon a thorough search, the police found the concealed cigarettes.

AYODHYA, June 8: There are 543 Lok Sabha seats, in some the BJP won and in some it lost but Narendra Modi is set to become the prime minister for a third time with Lord Ram's blessings, Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Saturday.

Sarma during his visit here in Uttar Pradesh, along with 11 newly elected MPs from his state, offered prayers at the Ram temple. He was received by state minister Satish Sharma and Ayodhya Mayor Girish Pati Tripathi at the airport. When asked by reporters about the BJP's defeat in the Faizabad Lok Sabha seat, which has Ayodhya as one of its assembly segment, Sarma said, "There are 543 seats in the country, at some places we will lost, at some we won, there is no issue in that. Modi ji has already become the prime minister."

"Modi ji is going to become the prime minister of the country for the third time, he has got the bless-

with Lord Ram's blessings: Assam CM



ings of Lord Ram. Before this, only Jawaharlal Nehru had become prime minister thrice in independent India...," he said.

The chief minister said, "Narendra Modi is going to become the prime minister for the fourth time

also. I will pray to Ram Lalla to make Modi ji the prime minister for the a fourth time.

On a question about the development of Ayodhya, Sarma said it is clear how good the city is just by seeing the airport. (PTI)

defeat of PM who sought mandate in his name: CWC

NEW DELHI, June 8: Lauding the party's performance in the Lok Sabha polls, the Congress Working Committee on Saturday said the result was not just a political loss but a personal and moral defeat of the prime minister who sought a mandate in his name.

People decisively rejected the type of governance witnessed over the past decade, it said.

Two resolutions were adopted at the crucial Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting, with one unanimously requesting Rahul Gandhi to accept the position of Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

In the second resolution adopted at the meeting during which the top and moral defeat for the prime leadership assessed the Lok Sabha polls outcome, the CWC said the verdict was clearly against the undermining of democracy and democratic institutions since 2014.

candidate, he secured 4,04,430 votes, while his nearest rival, Congress's Kulbir Singh Zira, bagged 2.07,310 votes. Speaking to reporters outside the The Congress' top decision-

jail, Amritpal Singh's father, Tarsem Singh, said, "We are meeting him for the first time since his win. We are happy to share the good news as his parents. He will be pleased that we have come to see him. Everyone back home loves Amritpal, from children to elderly persons. Due to their love and support, he managed to win the Lok Sabha seat by a significant margin." "I have brought sweets for everyone to celebrate my son's victory. I have also brought a new set of clothes and shoes for Amritpal so that he can wear them during the oath-taking ceremony," Kaur added.

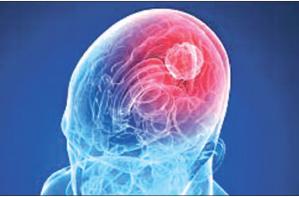
According to legal experts, legally, Singh is barred from attending Lok Sabha proceedings since he is in jail, yet he has the constitutional right to be sworn in as a Member of Parliament. Being sworn in (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Normalisation of our ties with China 'By educating ourselves about the symptoms and seeking timely medical advice' Awareness, early detection key to must be based on mutual respect: India battling brain tumours: Experts **NEW DELHI, June 8:** India on Saturday thanked China for con-

NEW DELHI, June 8: On the Brain Tumour Day, experts emphasised that awareness and early detection is crucial in the treatment of brain tumours. Early intervention not only increases the chances of successful treatment but also helps patients maintain a better quality of life, they said.

The GLOBOCAN 2020 data estimates 2,51,329 deaths due to brain and central nervous system tumours in India, Dr Manish Vaish, senior director of neurosurgery at Max Super Speciality Hospital, Vaishali said.

Dr Vaish said brain tumours can be sneaky and early signs often feel like everyday issues one might brush off. New or worsening headaches, especially those worse in the morning and accompanied by nausea, could be a red flag, he said. "Difficulty in concentrating,



struggling to speak clearly or not understanding others might signal a problem. Watch for personality changes, weakness on one side of the body, or blurry vision.

"Even slight dizziness or balance issues shouldn't be ignored. If you

brighter future. The sooner one identifies the tumour, more treatment options become available, he added. He said with early diagnosis, surgery can be more precise and can minimise side effects. Additionally, radiation and medication are often more effective when the tumour is smaller. While treatment can cause fatigue, weakness or thinking changes, rehabilitation and support experience any of these symptoms groups are there to help a patient persistently, don't hesitate to see a manage them, he said. doctor," he said. Early detection of "You might need to adjust to your a brain tumour is crucial for a better daily routine or work, but open

chance of successful treatment. communication with the loved ones "Remember, a little awareness can make a big difference," he said.

Dr Yashpal Singh Bundela, senior consultant at Sushrut Brain and Spine, New Delhi, stated that a brain tumour diagnosis can be scary, but early detection is key to a sensitivity"

Ministry on X.

congratulating PM @narendramodi on his election victory. Will continue to pursue efforts towards normalisation of India-China ties based on mutual respect,

gratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his election victory and said it would continue to make efforts for normalisation of the bilateral ties based on "mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual

The comments by External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal came as relations between India and China remained frosty in view of the lingering border row along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. Jaiswal was replying to a congratulatory message to Modi posted by the Chinese Foreign

"Thank you @MFA_China for



mutual interest and mutual sensitivity." Jaiswal said on X. India has been consistently

maintaining that peace and tranquillity along the LAC were key for normalisation of overall ties. On June 5, the spokesperson of the Chinese foreign ministry said: "Congratulations to Prime Minister @narendramodi, BJP and the National Democratic Alliance on the

election victory. We look forward to a healthy & stable China-India relationship.'

Leaders of four out of five P-5 countries have congratulated Modi on winning a third term. However, there is no congratulatory message yet from Chinese President Xi Jinping. The permanent members of the UN Security Council, Russia, the United (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

and employers can ease the process. Remember, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

BUSINESS

Maharashtra, Karnataka, Delhi top UK's investment flows from India: Report

LONDON, June 8: Maharashtra followed by Karnataka and Delhi are the top three states of India bringing in foreign direct investment (FDI) into the UK, according to a new joint report produced by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the High Commission of India in the UK.

"Indian Assets: Charting the Journeys of Indian Companies in the UK", launched in London earlier this week, revealed that companies headquartered in Maharashtra brought in the highest amount of FDI into the UK at 20 per cent in 2023, followed by Karnataka (12 per cent) and Delhi (8.6 per cent).

Completing the top 10 tallies are the states of Gujarat (7.1 per cent), Tamil Nadu (6.7 per cent), Telangana (6.5 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (5.9 per cent), Haryana (4.5 per cent), West Bengal (3.14 per cent) and Kerala (3.05 per cent) -- making up 78 per cent of the total FDI from India into the UK.

As India and the UK continue to evolve and navigate the complexities of a rapidly changing global landscape, I believe that our businesses reimagining the India-UK corridor will realise our shared vi-

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sion and aspiration for a secure and sustainable future prosperity, said Vikram Doraiswami, the Indian High Commissioner to the UK, who launched the report in London. The analysis finds the leading sector bringing in FDI from India in terms of the number of companies and employees is IT and software, highlighting the achievements of Indian companies in the UK across sectors such as automotive, electric car batteries, diagnostics and healthcare, and technology. It also spotlights the positive im-

heritage British brands and how the value of these legacy brands is retained and protected when acquired by Indian companies.

Today, Indian companies with operations in the UK have integrated themselves into the British economy, making their mark in industries in almost all leading sectors. Their ability to adapt, innovate, and forge meaningful partnerships has not only propelled their growth but has also enriched the economy of the UK and its re-

gions, promoting job creation, driving investment, and fostering a

said CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee

Among some of the other findings of the report, new Indian students cumulatively contributed an estimated GBP 4.3 billion to UK universities against the backdrop of a 5 per cent increase in UK student visas last year. It also showcases the robust relationship that Indian companies have across different UK regions, with the West Midlands, London and the northwest being the top recipients of Indian FDI in the UK across the fields of automotive, software and IT services and energy.

According to the latest official data from the UK's Department of Business and Trade, total trade in goods and services (exports plus imports) between the UK and India was GBP 39.0 billion in the four quarters to the end of O4 2023, an increase of 4.8 per cent or GBP 1.8 billion in current prices from the four quarters to the end of Q4 2022.

India was the UK's 12th-largest trading partner and the secondlargest source market for the UK, bringing in 118 new projects and creating 8,384 jobs. (PTI)

Nepal Parl approves ratification for Framework Agreement related to International Solar Alliance

KATHMANDU, June 8: Nepal's House of Representatives has passed a proposal seeking ratification of a framework agreement related to the membership of the International Solar Alliance that will help the Himalayan nation increase usage of solar power in its effort to combat the impact due to changing climate.

The House of Representatives (HoR), or the Lower House on Thursday endorsed the proposal tabled by Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Shakti Bahadur Basnet through a majority vote.

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was conceived as a joint effort by India and France to mobilise efforts against climate change through the deployment of solar energy solutions and announced on the sidelines of the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at Paris in 2015.

With the amendment of its Framework Agreement in 2020, all member states of the United Nations are eligible to join the ISA. At present, 119 countries, including Nepal, are signatories to the ISA Framework Agreement, of which 98 countries have submitted the necessary instruments of ratification to become full members of the ISA.

Responding to queries raised by lawmakers from various political parties, Basnet said that room for rate cuts in the coming months. (PTI) the agreement was tabled in keeping with the na- mate change." (PTI)



tional interest of the country as clean energy is essential for minimising the impacts of climate change. "The installation of solar energy will be important for Nepal's development," he pointed out and informed the House that the government has already moved the process for the generation of 1,000 MW through solar power in the next couple of years.

A competitive bidding for Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) has already started for the same and bidding for PPA of 800 MW has already opened, he added. Rajendra Khatrichhetri, a lawmaker belonging to opposition Nepali Congress, welcomed the government's move as he said, "This is a good proposal as it will provide cheap and affordable energy to the general public and also helps to minimise the impacts of cli-

BlueStone's technological integration fuels omnichannel growth

Contd. from Page 1...

Talks on portfolios on; Sonowal

party. Nadda's term was extended due to the Lok Sabha polls, and organisational imperatives will be an important consideration for the party as the poll results have sent signals that all may not be well within its vast machinery. This opens the possibility of some seasoned hand being sent to the party and Nadda being given a berth in the government, the sources said.

The BJP is keen to send out a message of continuity and ward off any impression of political vulnerability following its surprising below-par show in the Lok Sabha polls as its seat tally fell to 240 from 303, considerably short of the majority mark of 272. New Delhi on Saturday announced that leaders of seven countries from its neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region including Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend the swearing-in ceremony of Modi. Hasina and Vice-President of Seychelles Ahmed Afif have already arrived in Delhi. Besides Hasina and Afif, the other leaders attending the ceremony are Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). (PTI)

Unrest in Manipur: Militants

violence broke out following the killing of a man allegedly by militants, officials said Saturday. On June 6, the Jiribam district administration had clamped an indefinite curfew in the district following the killing of a 59year-old man belonging to one community allegedly by militants belonging to another community.

The killing triggered fresh ethnic flare-up in the district which had remained unaffected by the violence. Jiribam, which has a diverse ethnic composition comprising Meiteis, Muslims, Nagas, Kukis and non-Manipuris, had so far remained unaffected by the ethnic strife which has been raging in Manipur since May last year. The ethnic conflict between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and hills-based Kukis has led to the deaths of over 200 people and rendered thousands of people homeless. (PTI)

6 slain Naxalites carried

in the forest near Bhatbeda-Battekal and Chhotetondebeda villages. The intermittent cross firing between separate teams of security personnel and Naxalites lasted for a long time following which Maoists escaped into the dense forest taking cover of a hill," the IG said.

During the search of the site, bodies of six Naxalites clad in 'uniform' were recovered from different places along with two .303 rifles, one .315 bore rifle, 10 BGL (barrel grenade launcher) shells, one SLR magazine, a cooker bomb, five bags and a huge cache of explosives, medicines as well as items of daily use, Sundarraj said. Blood stains were found at several places in the area, which show some other Naxalites were either killed or injured in the encounter, he added. Four of the six slain ultras were identified as Masiya alias Mesiya Mandavi (32), sniper team commander and platoon no. 2 section 'A' commander, Ramesh Korram (29), deputy commander, Sanni alias Sundari, party member and Sajanti Poyam, who was member in PLGA company no. 6 under east Bastar division of Maoists, the IG said. "These four were carrying a reward of ₹8 lakh each on their heads. The remaining two were identified as Jailal Salaam, who was active as Bayanar area committee member and carried a reward of ₹ 5 lakh on his head, and Janani alias Janni (28) with a bounty of ₹ 1 lakh on his head,' he said. IG Sundarraj said assistant sub inspector Kachru Ram Korram (45), constables Manglu Ram Kumeti (47) and Bharat Singh Dharal (23) sustained injuries in the encounter and were airlifted to Raipur for advanced treatment and their condition was stated to be out of danger. "This operation is so far the biggest attack by security forces on company no. 6, which is considered a pillar of Naxalites' attacking force, Bayanar area committee and Aamdai area committee of the Maoists. It has created an atmosphere of fear among the Naxalites in east Bastar division, which is considered their strong formation," Sundarraj said. Following the operation, the Naxalite leadership active in the border areas of Narayanpur, Kondagaon, Dantewada and Bastar district are reportedly blaming the villagers and their lower cadres, he added.

The main objective is to protect people living in remote forests and difficult geographical conditions in Bastar division from Maoist ideology so that development and peace can be established in the region, Bastar and Dantewada Superintendents of Police Shalabh Sinha and Gaurav Rai said in the press conference. The two SPs appealed to ultras to abandon violence and join the mainstream. So far this year, 123 Naxalites have been killed and 136 firearms recovered in 71 encounters in Bastar division, comprising Kanker, Kondagaon, Narayanpur, Bastar, Bijapur, Dantewada and Sukma districts, police said. During the same period, 339 Naxalites have surrendered in the division, they said. (PTI)

APHLC president Kathar confident

which is the MAC constituency of BJP MP Amarsing Tisso, and Tisso is still the MAC of Singhason and executive member (EM) of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council. It is also observed that the APHLC has made a considerable improvement compared to the previous 2019 Lok Sabha election. The party came third after Congress candidate Biren Singh Engti in the 2019 election, but in this 2024 election, the party has become the closest contender against BJP, leaving Congress and another regional party, ASDC, far behind.

In the 2019 election, APHLC secured a total of 39,583 votes, whereas the winner, BJP's Horensing Bey, secured 381,316 votes. In this 2024 election, APHLC-backed independent candidate JI Kathar secured 187,017 votes, while the winner, BJP's Amarsing Tisso, secured 334,620 votes. On the other hand, Congress secured 124,019 votes, ASDC secured just 9,633, and Gana Suraksha Party's John Barnard Sangma secured 11,279 votes. Compared to 2019, APHLC has seen a significant increase of 147,434 votes, while for the BJP, it has decreased by 46,696 votes. "Our own party (regional party) needs to win for the protection of our land, tribe, culture, language, and identity. If our own party cannot win, we cannot protect them," Kathar added. Kathar further said that several voters could not cast their votes as they could not find their names on the voters' list at the polling booth.

Kathar claimed that he won in 10 MAC constituencies in Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong and two in Dima Hasao, namely Umrangso and Garampani in Dima Hasao. MAC constituencies that Kathar won include Singhason, Hamren, Socheng, Socheng Dhenta, Lumbajong, Surupathar, Nilip, Duarbagori, and Korkhanti. It may be mentioned that Singhason is represented by the BJP MP-elect Amarsing Tisso, from where he had won the MAC election in 2023

LS poll result personal, moral

welcome RBI's upward revision of growth estimate NEW DELHI, June 8: The Reserve Bank's decision to hold interest rate was along ex-

pected lines, bankers said on Friday, welcoming the RBI's upward revision of the growth estimate. Indian Banks' Association chairman M V Rao, who also heads state-run Central Bank of India, said the policy moves, including the status quo on repo rate and also the stance were on expected lines.

Moreover, the upward revision in FY25 GDP growth estimate to 7.2 per cent reposes confidence of the central bank in the growth prospects of the economy, he said. SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara said the growth estimate revision reaffirmed India's continued robust said, welcoming the regulatory measures.

managing director and chief executive S L Jain said policy review shows RBI's careful approach to balancing economic growth while keeping inflation under control. Among foreign lenders, Standard Chartered's Zarin Daruwala said the central bank's focus on inflation may create

growth post pandemic. "Domestic growth inflation outlook has moved favourably with inflation moving below 4 per cent in Q2," he The proposed digital payments intelligence platform will harness advanced technologies to mitigate fraud risks, he said, adding that the measures to augment digital payments architecture are pro-customer measures. Indian Bank's



Catalogue No.: CATER-LMG-02-24; Auction Start Date & Time (A Lots): 11:30 hrs. on 21-06-2024; Auction Close Date & Time: 15:50 hrs.

E-auction for various "Catering Stall Assets" at stations over Lumding

E-AUCTION FOR "CATERING STALL ASSETS" OVER LUMDING DIVISIO

Division for a period of 05 (five) years. Details are as under. Auction

| Seq No. | Lot No./Category | Stations |
|---------------|--|---|
| AA/1 | Catg-LMG-HKD-GMU-16-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU) | Hailakandi |
| AA/2 | Catg-LMG-DMR-GMU-19-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU) | Dharmanagar |
| AA/3 | Catg-LMG-NHLG-GMU-12-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU) | New Haflong |
| AA/4 | Catg-LMG-KWM-GMU-21-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU) | Kampur |
| AA/5 | Catg-LMG-NHLG-GMU-10-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU) | New Haflong |
| AA/6 | Catg-LMG-NHLG-GMU-11-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU) | New Haflong |
| AA/7 | Catg-LMG-JID-GMU-9-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU) | Jagiroad |
| AB/1 | Catg-LMG-HKD-SMU-91-23-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU) | Hailakandi |
| AB/2 | Catg-LMG-HKD-SMU-90-23-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU) | Hailakandi |
| AB/3 | Catg-LMG-DMR-SMU-93-23-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU) | Dharmanagar |
| AB/4 | Catg-LMG-KWM-SMU-62-23-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU) | Kampur |
| AB/5 | Catg-LMG-NHLG-SMU-82-23-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU) | New Haflong |
| AB/6 | Catg-LMG-LKA-SMU-59-23-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU) | Lanka |
| AB/7 | Catg-LMG-GHY-SMU-126-23-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU) | Guwahati |
| AB/8 | Catg-LMG-LMG-SMU-41-23-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU) | Lumding |
| AB/9 | Catg-LMG-SZR-SMU-42-23-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU) | Sarupathar |
| AB/10 | Catg-LMG-LKA-SMU-55-23-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU) | Lanka |
| AB/11 | Catg-LMG-JID-SMU-78-23-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU) | Jagiroad |
| AB/12 | Catg-LMG-LKA-SMU-60-23-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU) | Lanka |
| AB/13 | Catg-LMG-AGTL-SMU-40-23-2 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU) | Agartala |
| AB/14 | Catg-LMG-KUGT-SMU-97-24-2 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU) | Kumarghat |
| AB/15 | Catg-LMG-LMG-SMU-35-23-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU) | Lumding |
| AB/16 | Catg-LMG-JID-SMU-75-23-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU) | Jagiroad |
| AB/17 | Catg-LMG-DMR-SMU-95-23-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU) | Dharmanagar |
| Th website | e press notification has already been uple on 06-06-2024 through e-Auction portal with NORTHEAST FRONTIE SERVING CUSTOMERS WI | ww.ireps.gov.in Sr. DCM / Lumdin R RAILWA |

NEW DELHI, June 8: Buying jewellery has traditionally been a 'handson' experience. Not any more though. In keeping with changing times, Blue-Stone, a leading name in the direct-toconsumer jewellery segment, is using analytics and AI to strike a balance between online and offline platforms for an integrated experience, says CEO Gaurav Singh Kushwaha. Launched in 2011, the jewellery

brand offers a line-up of contemporary lifestyle diamond, gold, silver, platinum, gemstone and pearl fine jewellery tailored to various occasions, and across price points. Backed by funding from marquee investors such as top global VC firm Accel, Nikhil Kamath, InfoEdge Ventures, Kalaari Capital and Hero Enterprises, it does so through its app and website while also providing offline experiences at stores.

"We feel it is essential to strike a balance between the online and offline channels, ensuring that each complements the other effectively," Kushwaha, who is also chairperson of the company, told PTI. Technology capabilities are at the

heart of the omnichannel approach for the digitally-native company. Data insights predictive analytics and AI play a crucial role in facilitating agility in operations, enhancing efficiency and ensuring customer satisfaction, according to Kushwaha. *Excerpts from the interview*

BlueStone has been a pioneer in the omnichannel approach to jewellery retail. Can you share the journey and piv-

otal moments that have led to its current success? BlueStone's journey toward becoming an omnichannel jewellery brand is marked by innovation and an endeavour to enhance customer experience.

Initially, establishing BlueStone as an online brand, we commenced our journey by leveraging digital platforms

NAME CHANGE

I have change my father name from Mojibur Rahman to Md. Majibur Rahman by swearing a notarial affidavit at Morigaon. From today onwards he will be known as Md. Majibur Rahman for all purposes.

to showcase jewellery products to consumers. Through continuous innovation, we developed techniques that not only elevate the overall product through 3D rendering and customisation options available to customers but also streamline our production process We are among the few jewellery brands with a pan-India presence of 180-plus stores across 70-plus cities in states and union territories in India as of March 31, 2024.

We are a digital-first direct-to-consumer (DTC) brand with our demand primarily being aggregated online. We focus on ensuring a seamless omnichannel experience for customers by offering contemporary lifestyle diamond, gold, silver, platinum, gemstone, pearl and fine jewellery across various price points and designs under our flagship brand, BlueStone.

The BlueStone brand was launched in 2011 and has grown to become one of the leading brands in the DTC jewellery segment. As a design-led brand, we offer a variety of designs tailored to various occasions and customer preferences. We focus on unique designs and modern styles to cater to customers who tend to discover brands through social media or online channels.

In today's retail landscape, how does BlueStone balance its online and offline channels, and what technological integrations are you implementing to enhance efficiency and customer satisfaction?

In today's modern retail landscape, BlueStone places significant emphasis on maintaining a balance between its online and offline channels since both channels hold immense importance for customers. Understanding that today's consumers frequently utilise both online and offline platforms in their shopping journey, we prioritise delivering an integrated experience across both channels.

Central to achieving this experience is our technological infrastructure, which forms the backbone of our operations. We have invested in building and refining our tech innovations inhouse, allowing us to maintain greater control over the development and implementation of solutions tailored to our consumer's specific needs.

This approach not only fosters agility and adaptability in our operations but also enables us to continuously enhance efficiency and improve customer satisfaction. (PTI)

of the people is clearly against the undermining of democracy and democratic institutions that has taken place since 2014," it said. The CWC also thanked the country's people for placing the Congress firmly on the revival path. "... leaders and workers persevered. People across the country have infused new life into the Congress for which it is truly grateful," it said. The resolution also said the party fought a "superb" campaign, the heart of which was a "vigorous defence of our republic's Constitution" and the provisions for reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.

"We provided a clear alternative political, economic and social vision. The campaign had a distinctive propoor focus and highlighted the urgent need for a nationwide socio-economic caste census to deepen social justice and empowerment and for addressing the demands of youth and farmers immediately," it said.

Noting that the CWC would be remiss if it did not acknowledge four stalwarts who spearheaded the party's campaign, it said, "The sheer energy and determination of Congress president Mallikariun Kharge was an inspiration to everyone in the party. He was bold and fearless both in Parliament and outside.

Commanding such wide respect, he led from the front and shaped the party's campaign in the most effective manner, it said. "The chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party Sonia Gandhi was always available for guidance, advice and support and her interventions at key moments of the campaign made a big difference," the resolution said. "The campaign across the country but particularly in Uttar Pradesh, of AICC (All India Congress Committee) General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was nothing short of brilliant. She exposed the BJP relentlessly in a most telling manner and communicated the Congress' own key messages very powerfully," it added. Lauding Rahul Gandhi's role, the CWC said the former party chief has to be singled out largely because of the Bharat Jodo Yatra and the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra. These yatras that reflected his own thinking and personality were historic "turning points in our nation's politics and instilled hope and confidence in our workers and voters", it said.

"Rahul Gandhi's election campaign was single-minded, sharp and pointed and, more than any other individual, it was he who made the protection of our republic's Constitution the central issue in the 2024 elections. The Paanch Nyay-Pachees Guarantee programme which resonated so very powerfully in the election campaign was the outcome of Rahul ji's yatras," the resolution said. The CWC also recognised the "brave fight" put up by the candidates who lost and, while sharing their disappointment, extended good wishes to them.

The CWC thanks the INDIA parties for fighting so well in different states. INDIA parties in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra especially performed exceedingly well. The 18th Lok Sabha will be influenced hugely by the INDIA parties," the resolution said.

"The CWC would be failing in its duty if it did not take note of the disappointing performance of the Congress in some states in the midst of its overall revival and rejuvenation. Urgent steps should and will be taken to address the shortcomings in the states where the party had every reason to hope for a better result but where that expectation was not fulfilled," it added. Expressing happiness at the Congress' electoral turnaround and acknowledging the challenges that remain, the CWC said, "We have recovered and revived no doubt but we still have a long way to go to occupy the pre-eminent position the party once held in the nation's political life. The people of India have spoken -- the Congress has been given another chance. It is now up to us to build on it. We must and we will. That is the solemn resolve of this meeting of the CWC." (PTI)

Parents arrive to meet Amritpal

after winning elections is a constitutional right. However, if the winning candidate is in jail, they must request the authorities to be taken to Parliament for the oath-taking ceremony. Once they have taken the oath, they must return to jail. Notably, besides Amritpal Singh, nine of his close aides are lodged in Dibrugarh jail after their arrests in Punjab under the National Security Act.

Awareness, early detection

many people thrive after an early brain tumour diagnosis. By focusing on healthy habits, emotional well-being and staying connected, you can continue to live a fulfilling life," Dr Bundela said. Brain Tumour Day serves as a critical reminder of the importance of awareness, early detection and support for those affected by brain tumour.

"By educating ourselves about the symptoms and seeking timely medical advice, we can improve outcomes and offer hope to many," Dr Vaish said. "Let us use this day to advocate for better healthcare access, support research initiatives and extend our solidarity to those battling brain tumours. Together, we can make a significant difference in the fight against this devastating disease," he said. (PTI)

Normalisation of our ties

Kingdom, the United States, China and France are known as P5 nations. The Indian and Chinese militaries have been locked in a standoff since May 2020 and a full resolution of the border row has not yet been achieved though the two sides have disengaged from a number of friction points. (PTI)

Region

THE HILLS TIMES 3

Minority voters helped Gogoi to win, claims Kurmi Gaurav Gogoi shifts to Jorhat after Kaliabor development stalls: Rupjyoti Kurmi

HT Bureau GUWAHATI, June 8: Assam BJP MLA Rupjyoti Kurmi on Saturday claimed that Gaurav Gogoi was shifted to Jorhat Lok Sabha seat as he did nothing for the development of his old constituency Kaliabor.

Kurmi said that Gogoi was set to lose from the Jorhat Lok Sabha seat, however, minority voters helped him to win the constituency.

"Gaurav Gogoi failed to attract development in his old Kaliabor constituency despite being an MP there for 10 years. He was forced to shift the seat as the people of Kaliabor would have rejected him," Kurmi said.

In the last year's delimitation exercise, Kaliabor Lok Sabha constituency was scrapped and a new Lok Sabha seat Kaziranga was formed. However, Gogoi

chose to fight from Jorhat instead of Kaziranga parliamentary constituency

<u>HT Bureau</u>

the city's transport department has made almost all

services available contactlessly, which has saved time

ignoranc express their inability to receive online serv-

ices. There are also many people who are unable to

pay their taxes due to their busy schedules. Therefore,

a team of Transport Assistant Officers will go on the

spot with the presence and cooperation of the coun-

cilors of 60 wards of all the constituencies of Kamrup

Metropolitan District to resolve the problems of vehi-

However, many individuals still due to technical

and financial relief for vehicle owners.

sources said on Saturday.

The BJP legislator also alleged that the people of Jorhat will understand the anti-people politics

of Gogoi in the coming days. "Jorhat parliamentary constituency has around 1.5 lakh mi-

nority votes and Gaurav Gogoi could win this seat because of Muslim voters. I earlier mentioned that he cannot win in Jorhat, but in democracy we have to accept people's mandate," Kurmi said.

He further mentioned that chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma would do an overall review of the voting pattern and further steps will be taken targeting the next assembly polls which is due in Assam in 2026.

For the unversed, Kurmi won the Mariani assembly seat consecutively for three times until 2021. However, after the state polls, he switched sides and joined the BJP. Later he fought by-elections in Mariani on a BJP's ticket and won the polls to become an MLA.

Transport dept special service programme from June 10 2 dead in road accident

HT Correspondent JORHAT, June 8: Two students

of CKB College, Teok in Jorhat district have been killed in a road accident in neighbouring Mokokchung district in Nagaland. According to sources, the deceased have been identified as Dwipjyoti Gogoi of Tamulisiga Chapori Gaon in Teok and Akash

Gowala of Jhanji Garmur Brahman Gaon in Sivasagar district. The source said that the duo had reportedly gone on a two wheeler to Changki in Mokokchung district along the inter-state border along with three other boys from here to

enjoy the scenic locale. The two had reportedly fallen from the hillside into a gorge below at Changki and died.

The source said that the family of Gogoi had been informed by Nagaland police late on Friday night, after which family members went to claim the body.

cle owners.

GUWAHATI, May 8: The Kamrup Metropolitan The special duty officer of transport department District Transport Officer's Office (KMTDO) is said that emphasis will be placed on permanent and preparing to solve various traffic problems on the spot quick solution of traffic problems even if temporary in collaboration with the councils of 60 wards of five camps are set up in some wards if necessary. During constituencies namely Dispur, Dimoria, New Guwathe public service programme, all possible issues such hati, Guwahati Central and Jalukbari from June 10, as insurance, fitness, permits, pollution and arrears will be arranged for all possible issues if various in-For the first time in India, chief minister Himanta dustries, construction companies etc. inform their in-Biswa Sharma has launched a special public service conveniences directly by phone. Similarly, a specially program from June 10 to assist vehicle owners who prepared team of employees at the District Transport Officer's office in Betkuchi will immediately dispose are unable to avail more than half a hundred contactless services online from their homes. Transport deof the objections of the vehicle owners. Interested peopartment deputy commissioner Gautam Das said that can contact 9577992153, 8011333013,

8822755738,9127206803 from 10.30 am to 4 pm. "The councilors of 60 wards have been urged to take the initiative to solve the problems of the owners of various private and commercial vehicles in their areas and make the exceptional public service programme of the transport department a reality. One of the objectives of the public service programme is to bring the relationship between the transport department closer to the vehicle users and make Assam an accident free state with the cooperation of all," a release stated.

AASU meeting held in Biswanath

HT Correspondent BISWANATH CHARIALI, June 8: A session of Biswanath chapter of the All Assam Students' Union was held at Rupjyoti Kala Parishad here on Saturday.

The day-long programme began with hoisting of the institutional flag by Bhaskar Samuwa, president in-charge of Biswanath AASU followed by swahid tarpan offered by Dipjyoti Hazarika, general secretary in-charge of Biswanath AASU in the morning on Satur-

day The session was inaugurated by Dhrubajyoti

NABARD inaugurates millet food processing project in Dibrugarh

HT Correspondent DIBRUGARH, June

MORIGAON, June 8: The Na-NABARD inaugurated a millet tional Programme for Control for food processing project in Moran Blindness and Visual Impairment in Dibrugarh district on Saturday. (NPCB & VI) has formally felici-This initiative included a 15-day tated ophthalmic assistant Moni training camp on millet food Kr. Deka of the Bhurbandha Mapreparation, organized by Oum, a

lence, resulting in serious injuries to several persons in the area.

Tourism minister Jayanta Mallah

Baruah takes stock of land dispute

The injured persons were imme-Baruah on Saturday visited the diately rushed to the Kokraihar Rup Nath Brahma Civil Hospital for treatment. The injured have been identified as Paresh Barman (54), Nipen Barman (55), Biswajit Das (34), Sukuni Burman (42), Nabakanta Barman (28), Sushanta

Barman (22), Parmeshwar Barman (19), Mintu Das (37), Minati Bar-Remarkably, a land dispute turned violent at the Namapara vilman (30), Dineshwari Barman (45) and Bablu Barman (37). lage in Kokrajhar district on Friday, in which 11 people were seriously Baruah was also accompanied by

injured. The altercation erupted the executive members of BTR, over land, sparking a scuffle that Ranjit Basumatary, Arip Kumar, and senior police officials.

The conflict, which stemmed Later, the minister visited the infrom claims over a piece of land by jured persons who are going under many people, escalated into viotreatment at the hospital

Ophthalmic assistant Moni Kr Deka felicitated

HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, June 8: State

tourism minister, Jayanta Mallah

Namapara village under Fakira-

gram Police Station in Kokrajhar

district to assess the situation fol-

lowing a violent land dispute at the

The minister also interacted with

the villagers during his visit.

left several wounded

village.

SWASTHYA MA

Training College in Khanapara in Guwahati recently.

Mission director of NHM, Assam MS Lakshmi Priya felicitated Deka during the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Deka said, "I feel happy to have been ho-

Interacting with the media, Baruah said, "The state government and government of the Bodoland Territorial Region have assessed the situation and necessary initiatives will be taken to restore peace and tranquillity in the village where the violence over a land dispute occurred.

He has termed the incident unfortunate for the residents of the village. He said that indigenous peoples would be protected and strict action would be initiated against the culprits.

"The guilty will not be spared and the police have already begun investigations into the matter,' Baruah said. Meanwhile, the police have so far arrested several persons who were involved in the incident.

100 students shine in NEET, 45 students to opt for medical education

HT Correspondent

NAGAON, June 8: Over 100 students from Daswani Classes, a premier coaching institute for all India level ZEE as well as NEET in Nagaon, successfully cracked the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2024, the results of which were declared recently.

Pranjal Kr Borah, head of the institute said that over 100 students appeared for NEET this time, out of which 20 students cleared the examination with flying colours. As per his information, over 45 students of the institute will get the privilege to study medical science in government medical colleges across the nation.

Among the successful students. Mayuri Sarma (675), Siddhartha Sankar Bora (647), Shariful Islam (635), Rishi Bora (634), Arian Sarma (613), Uddipta Kashyap Saikia (607), Rahul Kumar Das





Bora, publicity secretary of AASU.

Dipjyoti Hazarika explained the objectives of the session. Assistant general secretary Nitul Bora and games secretary Simanta Neog graced the session as observers. A series of organisational resolutions to strengthen the students' union were adopted in the meeting.

The session was also addressed by Bikram Bikash Bora, central executive member. The session was attended by representatives from nine regional committees under Biswanath AASU. At the end of the meeting Md Ajmat Sheikh and Bhubaneswar Tanti were given the charge of president and secretary of Biswanath AASU. Bhaskar Samuwa who has served as the Biswanath AASU for 15 years holding various portfolios was given a farewell. All the proceedings of the session were carried out by Md Ajmat Sheikh, advisor to Biswanath AASU

prominent voluntary organization in the district, with financial assistance from NABARD.

The training camp aims to train 90 women from local self-help groups in preparing various milletbased food items, such as biscuits, cakes, and pizzas.

This initiative was explained in detail by Sanjeev Handique, secretary of OUM NGO, Dibrugarh. The meeting was attended by director of NABARD, Pranoy Bor-

doloi, Pranabjyoti Panging, head of the Khowang development block of Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission, and director of Agriculture Technology Management Department of Dibrugarh, Prabhat Gogoi

hatma Gandhi Model Hospital for relentlessly providing selfless services to the patients, who have been suffering from various eyes diseases since long.

Deka was felicitated during a function of the Swasthya Manthan National Health Mission (NHM) at the Administrative

noured for my work. I have been relentlessly providing dedicated services to the patients, who are economically poor. I did not ever think of receiving any award. It was a blessing from God."

The programme was also attended by the joint director of (leprosy) Assam, Dulal Medhi.

(590), Mujamil Haque (588), Rabik Hussain (584), Kishan Ray (579), Sehnaz Begum (574), Priyanka Talukdar (568), Al Joheb Fahmid (566), Riyan Al Islam (564) and other ten meritorious students secured good marks to get admission in all India level medical college and hospital ..

Student injured in Demow

HT Correspondent

DEMOW, June 8: A student has been seriously injured in a road accident in Demow Maskara in Sivasagar district.

The road accident took place on the national highway - 37 in Demow Maskara on Friday where the student sustained serious injuries.

The victim has been identified as Rahul Chaura. Soon after the accident, locals rushed the victim to the Demow Model Hospital, where he was provided with primary treatment. Chaura was referred to Dibrugarh for better treatment. However, he died after being admitted to a hospital in Dibrugarh.

Experts stress on importance of adoption, securing children's lives HT Correspondent

MANGALDAI, June 8: Additional district commissioner of Darrang on

Friday emphasised the importance of supporting government resources to save fetuses born of unintended pregnancies.

The district commissioner said this during an adoption ceremony held at the government specialised adoption agency and orphanage home, Aai.

More and more fetuses' lives may be saved in such circumstances if individuals are made aware of the resources provided by the government to secure the child's future through foster care, legal adoption, etc. under non institutional care (NIC). The additional district commissioner referred to adoption as a process in which a child's future is well-protected under the guidance of parents and a childless couple can also adopt a child. He also praised the initiative of NGO, Crystal Vision in carrying forward the adoption process in the district in a very noble manner over the last six years.

Earlier, he ceremonially handed over a six-month old female child of 'Aai' to a couple from Golaghat district. Budhin Hazarika, chairman, of the district child welfare committee, Darrang, senior paediatrician of Mangaldai Civil Hospital, Gautam Kr Bora and Mayukh Goswami, president of Crystal Vision also spoke on the occasion. A total of 14 children of 'Aai' so far have been adopted by parents from across the country and one from Italy.

Students' union warns against encroachment of beels, bazaars

HT Correspondent

SIVASAGAR, June 8: The Sivasagar SC Students Union has warned the government against encroachment of beels and bazaars in SC-dominated areas as it would deprive the community of their vital sustenance.

Parashjyoti Das, general secretary of the Sivasagar SC Students Union said that a conspiracy is afloat to deprive the scheduled caste community of their traditional rights over beels (swamps, water bodies used as fisheries) and weekly bazaars in areas inhabited predominantly by them.

Das alleged that the Mising Autonomous Council has been trying to put pressure on the government to transfer the rights to the council. He alleged that the Mising Autonomous Council requisitioned beels and bazaars in SC-dominated areas earlier also.

People paid rich tributes to Baruah, highlighted his unsurpassable contributions in enriching Assamese literature and culture

Historic Poki reverberates with Parbati Prasad Baruah's compositions on death anniversary

HT Correspondent

TEZPUR, June 8: The historical Poki, also known as the Jyoti Bharati Museum could be heard reverberating with the melodious compositions of noted poet, lyricist and dramatist, Parbati Prasad Baruah on his 60th death anniversary.

Jonaki Baat, a cultural organisation in collaboration with Jyoti Bharati under the state directorate of cultural affairs observed the noted poet's death anniversary by organising a cultural programme at Poki on Friday, which included renditions of Baruah's songs, dance performances and thought provoking lectures.

The Jyoti Bharati Museum is the ancestral home of Assamese cultural icon Rupkonwar Jyoti Prasad Agarwala.

Attending the programme as chief guest Tezpur MLA, Prithviraj Rabha lighted a lantern at the portrait of the great artist and paid rich tributes to him. He also remembered the unmatched contributions made by the great artist in the field of Assamese literature and culture.

In his speech MLA Rabha highly lauded the incessant efforts of Jonaki Baat to preserve and promote the creations of Parbati Prasad Barua and the cultural doyens of the state. He remem-



bered that his father Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha had once taken part in the programme Jonaki Mel initiated by the great artist Parbati Prasad.

The Jonaki Mel is also a unique constituent of the poet's legacy. In 1929, while at Sarusorai Tea Estate situated near Jorhat, Parvati Prasad had held the first Jonaki Mel (a moonlight musical soiree) at the tea garden bungalow. It was a gathering of likeminded souls, which he called Saradi Sandhiyar Jonaki Mel. Whoever came to the Jonaki Mel could come on to the stage and perform. These moonlight soiréés were

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held in course of time at his home in Sonari Sonali Paam at Shillong and Guwahati and found a place in the annals of the cultural history of the state. In the present day the Jonaki Mel epitomises Prasad's creative

Noted lyricist and president of Ban Theatre, Bankim Sarma attended the programme as keynote speaker. Elaborating the contributions of the great artist he said that different aspects of rural life were reflected in every song of Parbati Prasad. Taking part in the programme as distinguished guest, former principal secretary of

Asam Sahitya Sabha, Jadab Chandra Sarma and Anjali Agarwala, daughter-inlaw of Rupkonwar Jyoti Prasad Agarwala also discussed the aspects of enriched creations of Parbati Prasad Barua and said that his songs are real testament of rural Assamese life and lore.

Pranati Barua, president of Jonaki Baat described the objectives of the programme giving a brief sketch of their journey to preserve and promote the worthy creations of Parbati Prasad Barua while district cultural development officer and officer-in-charge of Jyoti Bharati Sourav, Pani Phookan delivered the welcome address at the outset and hosted the entire programme.

Noted artist Durgamayee Bora, Ranjan Dutta of Jorhat, Alekhya Chakraborty and Indrani Gogoi of Guwahati, Suruj Patgiri, Jayamani Bharali and Pranati Barua of Sibsagar, Alimpon Chaudhury, Jonmoni Bora, Pranab Chandra Lahkar, Beauty Bora, Dibyangshi Kalita, Binapani Devi, Bhabana Saikia of Tezpur, Dipa Das Hazarika of Lakhimpur entertained everyone present through their rendition of the evergreen songs of Parbati Prasad Barua. Participants also staged dances based on the songs of the poet, which directed by artist Prerana Baishya of Tezpur.

spirit.

Editor's pick

Coalition government and diplomacy

By: Kumardeep Banerjee

ndia has voted and the verdict is out. It has brought back the era of coalition governments, the pressures of alliance partners weighing in on key policy matters, back to India's polity after a decade. The era of robust, single-source decisions is most likely over and may not return for a decade. The voter's verdict will have long-reaching impact on India's foreign policy and diplomatic trajectory for a long time to come.

The relations with the US which were nurtured by the Modi Government in the past decade and which have reached a certain stable platform are unlikely to be disturbed. The technology partnership added to the existing trade partnership, has bipartisan support in Washington. This means in the eventuality of Trump returning to in the US, towards the year's end, it won't be a spoiler in India US bilateral relationship. India and the US have in the past, shown enough maturity in discussing sensitive issues, such as the alleged hit plan on India-designated terrorist G S Pannun, behind closed doors.

Most US businesses operating in India may be relieved, with a coalition verdict, as it could, take away many concerns (expressed by their US-based colleagues behind closed doors) regarding the overreach by a PM, with a brute majority. They may be relieved to find several pockets of influence, with more alliance partners coming in the Government, weighing on crucial policy decisions. The US and global capital would feel safe in India as a market, as long as it is business as usual, no surprise protectionist regulations and there is a growth market.

In a coalition government, with several checks and balances, the scope for unilateral decisions, is less likely. Also, as many experts mentioned to this author, the US would be happy to have a peaceful democratic ally in Asia, to counter an aggressive China in the Indo-Pacific. Joint exercises, with Indian defence forces, sharing of crucial intelligence of strategic importance (even though India is not part of the five eyes network), sharing and empowering India on semiconductors, close co-creation of standards and regulations on critical and emerging technologies such as AI are not likely to be impacted. India and the US on plurilateral platforms such as QUAD, the I2U2 and on wider UN etc would not be impacted.

However, pompous, state visits and hosting each other's leaders on a grand scale (reference Trump in 2019 and Indian PM state visit to the US in 2023) could move to more sober, away from the camera, diplomatic conversations. Despite an occasional criticism of India, by mainly US think tanks and policy experts, primarily on human rights, polarising speeches, freedom of speech and religion in India etc, there is bipartisan support for India and deep relations between the two nations and it is not likely to change. If the India-US civil nuclear deal proved to be the cause of a weak coalition government (due to the withdrawal of support by a crucial ally from the UPA government 1.0), there exist no such threats to the bilateral relationship currently. Even with a coalition Indian government at the centre. Washington and New Delhi have successfully managed to educate their senior lawmakers/politicians/think tanks/experts on either side of the aisle, regarding the strategic importance of the relationship.

President Biden, even though faces occasional criticism from his party colleagues or pressure groups, regarding being a bit too lenient approach towards India on several issues, he understands the relevance of this relationship in the current context. There is likely to be a new Indian ambassador to the US (the former ambassador post-retirement unsuccessfully contested elections in 2024) in the next few months. The Indian ambassador to the US does most of the heavy lifting on building consensus across the aisle on several mutual bilateral issues. The choice of the next ambassador would be a space to watch out for. (Courtesy: The Pioneer)

A resilient Opposition ready to counter Modi led NDA

his time it is not Modi government, nor is it going to be a BJP government. It is NDA government which means a coalition government and after being chosen Modi himself repeatedly spoke of NDA and praised the longevity of the Coalition. The huge debacle of BJP is described by Modi as 'Mahavijay' for the coalition.

Now every mind is having doubts about the success of coalition this time when BJP has to depend on two very unreliable partners like Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar who are already waiting with a long list of demands though in public they say that their support is unconditional. The first time that Independent India saw parties stitching up a coalition government at the Centre in 1977, right after the Emergency. Eleven parties, including the Bharatiya Jana Sangh - predecessor of the BJP came together to form the Janata

government. How Vajpayee managed Mamata Banerjee in his cabinet is a text-book example of coalition management. In 73 years of India's electoral history, beginning 1951 when the first elections were held, the country has 32 years of coalition government. In contrast, it has seen 31 years of majoritarian government, including 10 years under

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Modi Government or BJP Government are now a matter of the past. Now NDA government is poised to be in power with Narendra Modi to lead a coalition government. Modi said that in the last ten years till today Congress has not been able to cross the limit of 100 seats. Rahul Gandhi's pada yatra yielded dividends. He looks more mature and he in spite of his historic win from two seats from UP and Karnataka is not in a position to get projected as

Prime Minister. The 73-year-old Narendra Modi now reliant on the NDA's smaller parties is set to be India's Prime Minister for a third time, after a huge debacle in the 2024 Lok Sabha election results which saw his majority slashed by a resurgent opposition. His

party fell short of the 272 needed to form the government. Modi is likely to be sworn in for a recordequaling third term. Modi and his Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 240 seats following the weeks-long, sevenstage election, making them the largest party in the Lok Sabha, but it is a significantly reduced number for the prime minister: in 2019, the BJP won 303 seats, and Modi had said he was aiming for 370 seats this time round.

Instead, they are now forced to rely on NDA partners to form the government. It is true that the NDA MPs "unanimously" chose Modi as their leader. It is the first time Modi will govern in coalition without his party having an outright majority, and it is unclear what the next five years will look like

But one thing

is clear that

this new 'Modification' will bring more democracy and a healthy parliament, already Modi is seen bowing to the Constitution and speaking of tolerance and good governance with

verse opinion. According to the Congress, This is a mandate in defence of the Constitution of India and against price rise, unemployment, and crony capitalism and also to save democracy," Indian election is the largest the world has ever seen.

More 66% of the country's eligible voters from the billion people who had registered to vote in total – about one in eight of the global population participated in the election. Voting was staggered over seven rounds between 19 April and 1 June for security and logistical reasons. Much of the election took place in extreme and deadly heat as temperatures in parts of India soared to nearly 50C. But voters responded to the EVM.

Earlier the Opposition criticized the impartiality of the EVM and they even pursued the issue to the Supreme Court. Finally it is proved that the Election has been free and fair leaving aside a few sporadic incidents of violence in Bengal and other states.

Nehru was India's first and longest-serving Prime Minister, who led the country from 1947 until he died in 1964 serving

three terms at a stretch. He was instrumental in modern India's development, having started several major initiatives that included big businesses, dams, and the growth of science education. Indira Gandhi was an Indian politician who served as the third Prime Minister of India from 1966 to 1977 and again from 1980 until her assassination in 1984. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was an Indian politician and poet who served three terms as the 10th Prime Minister of India, first for a term of 13 days in 1996, then for a period of 13 months from 1998 to 1999, followed by a full term from 1999 Narendra Modi, who got re-elected as prime minister of India for the third consec-

Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee first time in 2014.

> The country which felt suffocated under the ruthless domination of Modi government and after the 2024 Lok Sabha Election the opposition has proved to be tremendously resilient and shown courage of conviction. But the million dollar question is if the Opposition is still united enough to counter the NDA government. It is an open secret that TMC does not want Rahul Gandhi to be the Prime Minister Abhishek Banerjee even after the INDIA bloc meeting after the election results tried to create a non-Congress coalition within the coalition by individually meeting leaders like Akhilesh Yadav, Raghav Chadda and Uddhav Thakre.

Rahul wanted to win. The country wanted him to win. But Rahul Gandhi failed to win. The opposition won a total of 232 seats out of 543. Though Congress doubled its strength from the last election it is still falling far short to pitch the demand for the formation of government. They are now waiting for the right moment which they feel will come in near future. Ashoke Baghel said that the Na Na Na government will fall in the next six months and interim poll will be held.

Modi explained NDA as New India, Developed India and aspirational India which the Opposition mocked as Nitish -Naidu India Alliance. It is true that Op-

position is more resilient and confident in the Lok Sabha and this will strengthen Indian Democracy. But the big question is whether Rahul will be getting a chance for the post of Opposition leader. This is the big problem for the opposition which is not united till today.

Most of these parties are alleged to be corrupted and legal charges are there against many of their main leaders. Some are surprised why TMC get the landslide victory in West Bengal. One basic reason is the Lakshmi Bhandar for the women and the Muslim minority depended more on TMC for their security as Modi's campaign beginning with Jai Sri Ram slogan affected his credibility as a Hindu moshiha. There are other issues like the office for the 100 Days Abash Yojana fund unreleased by the Centre and TMC from their own fund provided money to the bank account of the

> poor In UP also the Dalit votes and Muslim votes slashed the Modi Guarantee. In Faisabad District where the Ram Temple was built, BJP candidate was defeated. Jai Sri Ram Slogan is now forgotten by Modi. He is now shouting Jai Jagannath more than Jai Sri Ram. He is now the leader of NDA, NDA leader of the Sansad and the leader for the PM post. That implies Modi and his BJP will have to continue with an uncertainty and cannot take any decision so easily or pass a bill too without consulting the coalition partners who are nearly opposite to their political philosophy on various issues.

Already there is a big question raised for reviewing Agnipath and Agniveer projects. The demand for giving special status for AP and Bihar has been lodged. Other states will not sit silent when Modi himself said that he will remember his liability as a leader to all states of Bharat and the Constitution. Everyone is now shouting Modi Modi even after the much hyped Modi or BJP govt is going to be replaced by NDA government. Still there is an uncertainty.

Farmer leader Charan Singh then became the Prime Minister with the support of Indira Gandhi's Congress. However, Indira pulled the rug from under Charan Singh's feet just after 23 days. *bhattacharjr@vcu.edu*)

Such is the risk of running a coalition government. Indira Gandhi returned to power in 1980, and remained India's Prime Minister till her assassination in 1983.

The historic mandate under Rajiv Gandhi that the Congress received would be the pinnacle for the Congress. The party's seats just went downhill from there. Earlier Lok Sabha election saw BJP winning 315 seats. But this time, the NDA has returned to power for a historic third straight term at the Centre, but the BJP itself has fallen short of the majority mark of 272. For a decade Narendra Modi has driven India's economy with brute force, making it the fastest growing among the major economies and well on its way to become the world's third largest. This has happened on the back of reforms as well as policy dynamism.

Make in India, Modi's showpiece project, seemed out of reach when he launched it in 2014. In India, coalitions have come up before or after elections. The pre-poll coalition is considered advantageous as it provides a common platform for all parties to woo the electorate on the basis of a joint manifesto. A post-election union is intended to enable constituents to share political power and run the government.

Here both NDA and INDIA blocs are pre- poll coalitions though TMC fought the poll all alone and till today they are trying to avoid Congress for emerging as the real Congress from which they are born. These kind of attempts will make the Opposition fractured and NDA will get a mileage.

Since 1991, when India was forced to open up its economy and give up on the planned economy model, all governments were coalitions of the sort where even the lead party was quite far from the majority mark of 272. This obvious weakness of the leading party - be it the Congress or the BJP or the so-called third front - meant that India always had "a strong consensus for weak reforms." (The author is an affiliate faculty Virginia Commonwealth University Richmond USA. He can be reached

Kangana's slap, a sign of bloody times

disgusting way of ex- there. The cheap and vulgar about someone or the other under section 323 of the IPC,

pressing ideological statements of many leaders every day. If the jawans of the if someone hurts or harms

Six key factors behind BJP's defeat in Ayodhya

Talking Points



respect to all religion and di-



By: Narvijay Yadav

he unraveling of the Bharatiya Janata Party's significant defeat in Uttar Pradesh reveals a multi-faceted narrative. Particularly striking was the party's loss in Ayodhya, the site where a monumental Ram temple had been erected after years of fervent dedication. Initially confounding, the reasons behind this setback are gradually emerging, shedding light on the complex dynamics at play.

In the aftermath, the BJP has commenced a thorough examination of the defeat, diligently seeking out potential factors and individuals perceived as disloyal. Personally witnessing the pulse of Avodhva mere days before the polls, I found myself immersed in its essence, from the tranquil banks of the Saryu River to the majestic presence of the Ram temple. Notably, the district administration orchestrated a commendable campaign to galvanize voter participation, setting noteworthy precedents under the leadership of the District Magistrate, whom I felicitated with a record certificate.

During my visit, interactions with the local populace unveiled a palpable discontent towards the BJP, simmering beneath the surface for quite some time. The electorate, harboring pent-up frustrations, awaited the opportune moment to voice their grievances, culminating in a resounding verdict that left observers astounded. Six primary factors have emerged as crucial in understanding the BJP's defeat in Ayodhya.

Foremost among them is the deep-seated resentment among those whose homes were demolished to make way for the wide, picturesque roads that now charm tourists. Despite compensation or alternative housing arrangements, the lingering sadness among these individuals is palpable, compounded by grievances over incomplete compensation packages and the encroachment of external

traders into their community. The second-factor centers on the overwhelming disillusionment with Lallu Singh, who had been representing this seat for the last two terms. Local sentiment was firmly against his reelection, with widespread anticipation of his inevitable defeat. However, despite mounting complaints from party workers, the leadership failed to heed the warning signs, mistakenly believing that the construction of the Ram temple, airport, and infrastructure projects would secure victory. Despite the ubiquitous presence of BJP flags, the ground reality painted a starkly different picture, with support for other parties gaining momentum. The third catalyst was a controversial statement by Lallu Singh, suggesting that the constitution could be amended with a landslide victory of 400 seats. This assertion was seized upon by the Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav, who skillfully turned it into a rallying cry, making constitutional integrity a focal point of the election discourse. Ultimately, this proved detrimental to Lallu's campaign, resulting in a resounding victory for the Samajwadi Party's Avdhesh Prasad, with a

margin of 54,500 votes. The fourth factor contributing to the BJP's defeat was the propagation of unrealistic promises by Rahul, including Congress' Guarantee to provide every woman with an annual payment of one lakh rupees and guaranteeing unemployed youths a monthly income and jobs. While falsehoods may lack substance, the relentless dissemination of these claims by the Samajwadi Party and Congress led to widespread confusion, particularly among rural voters who were more susceptible to such messaging. Additionally, these parties capitalized on fears regarding the potential elimination of reservations for minorities, and backward castes, a narrative that the BJP struggled to counter promptly and effectively.

The fifth element was internal discord and sabotage within the ranks of the BJP leadership, reflecting a lack of cohesion and effective management at the grassroots level. This disunity left the party vulnerable and ill-prepared to confront the strategic maneuvers employed by their adversaries.

A sixth and pivotal factor was the pervasive issue of unemployment in the state, exacerbated by the recurring incidents of competitive exam paper leaks. This systemic problem significantly impacted the youth demographic in Uttar Pradesh, providing opposition parties with fertile ground to exploit and garner support.

Consequently, not only in Avodhya but across Uttar Pradesh, disenfranchised and disillusioned voters, particularly those lacking formal education, were swayed by alternative candidates perceived as alternatives to the BJP. Reports from the Center for the Study of Developing Societies corroborate this trend, highlighting a shift in voting patterns, with the BJP gaining traction in urban areas while Congress is getting support from rural regions. (The author is a senior journalist and columnist. He can be reached at narvijayindia@gmail.com)

differences, especially when you are wearing a uniform. The shame and surprise is that this has been done by CISF security personnel who are there to protect the people. Is this a planned attack against Kangana at Chandigarh airport?

<u>By: Priyanka Saurabh</u>

The attack on the MP at Chandigarh airport is very unfortunate, especially by a security personnel who is responsible for security. There is a more civilized way to put forward your complaint." We often hear about such incidents in Indian politics and social life. Calling it a 'slap' reduces the seriousness of the violence and exposes the weakness of the victim of violence.

A slap does not kill anyone, it reveals their defenselessness more. There is an element of spontaneity in it instead of any plan. It can be said that the intention of the person slapping is just to express displeasure. Protest is justified in politics and the system (democracy or dictatorship) and this protest keeps coming in front of us in various forms. Slap or ink attack is not a new story in In-

dian politics. Earlier also our leaders have been facing the brunt of these attacks. Not only this, there have been incidents of shoes being thrown at many leaders. Democracy gives people the freedom to protest and people find new ways of protest. Sometimes eggs and tomatoes are thrown in protest, and sometimes shoes and slippers

"When Kangana spoke against the farmers' movement, a CISF constable attacked her today. How far is this justified? Those who are justifying this should understand that a protector does not have to become a predator. Your thinking and ideology should not come in the way of your duty. Dozens of leaders across the country have been speaking against the army.

If the feelings of a soldier come in the way of his duty

and celebrities on issues like Article 370, Ram Mandir are in front of everyone. If every security personnel start showing his emotions against such people during security, then there will be a big problem. I am not able to understand how people can justify this

act. Have people forgotten that the feelings of two such security personnel came the in way of theii

> duty, due to which Indira Gandhi was assassinated? Unless violence is condemned unconditionally, as long as some justification for it is sought and as long as it is considered right or wrong based on ideology, it will keep recurring.

If violence is made glamorous and consumable by the media, then it will be repeated again and again and will also lose its horror. That will be the most dangerous moment of

Sir/Ma'am

petition.

gations, suspected question paper leaks, and

the NTA's decision to grant grace marks for

time loss during the exam. Concerns focus on

the NTA's normalization formula following

reports of time loss, leading to unusually high

scores and questioning the fairness of com-

Additionally, a cheating scandal involves

individuals allegedly paying for passing

marks, casting doubt on result authenticity

and revealing corruption within the system.

security forces start reacting in this way to every leader's words, then what will happen to the system of the country? Is it right to do this while performing your duty? Is it right to promote this? Will no one else raise a hand on such a leader or public figure tomor-

during security, then such lead- democracy. Every leader of the 323 of the Indian Penal Code

ers will be dealt with right country keeps spewing venom (IPC). He further said that



Slapping cannot be justified, at the same time, such anger will have to be heard, and it should be heard.

Politicians should understand that if they adopt not only an insensitive but also a cruel attitude toward the feelings of the suffering public, then the public will express its

frustration in some form. Slapping someone is a crime. In such cases, the police register a case under section

someone with his own will, then he can be jailed for 1 year. Also, he can be fined ₹ 1,000 or punished with both. But if it comes to light that someone misbehaved and then this incident happened, then the court can change the punishment or dismiss the case itself.

Every leader of the country keeps spewing venom about someone or the other every day. If the security forces start reacting in this way to every leader's words, what will happen to the system of the country? Is it right to do this while performing their duty? They are part of such a security agency in the country where such anger cannot be given place. CISF looks after the security of all the airports and sensitive places like metros in the country. Those who legitimize anger are playing with fire. This type of extremism creates space for terrorism.

Perhaps this is the reason why a section is saying that such ideology needs to be crushed before it raises its head. There can be no doubt that the situation in Punjab is very delicate. The way separatism is spreading its tentacles in this state once again can take Punjab back to its bloody

POST BAG Resolve the NTA-NEET controversy An unusual pattern emerged in Haryana The NEET 2024 results have stirred controversy and skepticism due to cheating alle-

where students from the same center achieved identical marks and percentiles, raising suspicions of collusion or protocol breaches.

era anytime.

Urgent transparency from the NTA is necessary to address concerns and restore confidence in the NEET exam's integrity. Stringent measures are needed to protect the examination system's sanctity and ensure fairness for aspiring medical students.

> Dr. Vijaykumar H K Raichur, Karnataka hkvkmech1@gmail.com

one?

SUNDAY SPECIAL

THE HILLS TIMES 5

Kristna Saikia: From North East India to global stardom in Hollywood sci-fi series

By: Mowsam Hazarika

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024

ristna Saikia, a luminary from North East India, is making waves on the global stage as the lead in the upcoming Hollywood sci-fi series "The Empire of the 3 Inter Galactic Casts." Currently in pre-production for its first season, with plans extending into seasons two and three, this series is poised to be a major hit. Produced by Alfredo Lamadrid of Maslov Content Production, which operates across South America and America, and written by Daniel Lastra who is also the music composer of the series. The series will debut on a prominent OTT platform, promising to captivate audiences worldwide.

Kristna's selection as the lead in this intergalactic saga underscores her rising stardom and versatility as an actress. Her journey from the culturally rich regions of North East India to the epicenter of global entertainment is both inspiring and



groundbreaking. In addition to her Hollywood breakthrough, Kristna Saikia will be playing a significant role in the Australian sci-fi film "The Enemy is Coming" which will be directed by Mark Eder, with Tony Lynch as executive producer and writing by Mark Eder and Robert Luxford, this production by Legend Studio and Shmengi Pictures further showcases her international appeal and acting prowess.

Kristna's talent isn't confined to

the realm of science fiction. She is starring in the fantasy film "Lockhart 2," sharing the screen with an Emmy Award-winning producer and Hollywood actor David Lockhart from the US as a parallel lead actress. This project highlights her ability to transcend genres and captivate audiences with diverse storytelling Expanding her artistic repertoire, Kristna's is also involved in two

music videos currently under development, hinting at her multifaceted

talent and creative vision. She is a trained Latin Bachata Dancer. Moreover, her upcoming book presence on the global stage. "Roval Paradise" addresses the pro-Recently, Kristna Saikia was infound themes of bullying and

fairs and the Consulate of abuse, exploring their psychologi-Liberland, represented by Honorary cal and emotional impacts while offering empowering techniques for Consul His Excellency Nawab Syed Algazi of the Royal Family, for sig-Bevond her impressive artistic nificant business collaborations in endeavors, Kristna Saikia is a dis-Dubai, highlighting her growing intinguished Tarot Card reader and fluence and recognition in interna-Metaphysical healer, providing tional circles.

emotional healing and counseling Kristna Saikia's journey from the services to high-net-worth individvibrant landscapes of North East uals across the globe. Her expertise India to becoming a global sensain breaking negative patterns and tion in the entertainment industry is overcoming energetic blocks has a testament to her talent, dedication, earned her a dedicated following and multifaceted skills. As she continues to take on groundbreaking Adding to her accolades, Kristna roles and projects, she is set to leave serving as a Grand Jury member for an indelible mark on the world the second time at the prestigious stage. (The author is a Former Director, Assam Seed and Organic Lisa Award event, set to be held at the House of Lords in the UK Certification Agency & Former British Parliament on January 21, Joint Director of Agriculture 2024. This event, a summit for in-(Pulse), Department of Agriculvestors, leaders, diplomats, and enture. Assam)

spoiled brats. Rajneesh, trepreneurs from various countries, Pramod, Biju and Usman. further solidifies her influential They were very mischievous.

They took pleasure by teasing people and hurting animals. vited by the Ministry of Foreign Af-Every day, they would find new ways to annoy people. They had no shame or fear in their heart. They were arrogant and violent. So, people try to avoid and ignore them. Scolding or shouting at them were of no use. They have become habitual and resistant towards it. They become

happy when they could successfully irritate someone. During the day, they would

Assam's power couple driving environmental sustainability via EPR

By: Dipak Kurmi

n the realm of environmental conservation, an Assamese power couple, Sukalyan Talukdar and Rimlee Bayan, are leading the charge in the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) movement, a game-changing approach to waste management and sustainability. With their expertise honed through successful EPR implementations in the United States and Canada, they are now poised to bring their vision to their home state of Assam, offering a beacon of hope for a cleaner and more sustainable future.

EPR is a revolutionary concept that places the responsibility of managing products throughout their lifecycle on the producers themselves. By mandating that manufacturers bear the financial and operational burden of collecting, recycling, and disposing of their products at the end of their useful life, EPR incentivizes the creation of sustainable and recvclable designs, reducing waste generation and environmental impact.

Sukalyan Talukdar, an MBA graduate from IIT Kharagpur and a Mechanical Engineering graduate from NIT Silchar, with a Supply Chain Management Micro Masters from MIT Boston, has been instrumental in shaping the logistics and operations that underpin successful EPR

programs across several states in the US. His expertise in supply chain management and his passion for sustainability have been pivotal in architecting the intricate supply chain models that drive the

EPR movement. Alongside him is his wife, Rimlee Bayan, a business enthusiast who navigates the intricacies of EPR policies, ensuring their seamless integration into corporate frameworks. Together, they form a dynamic duo, embodying the spirit of innovation and environmental stewardship, setting an inspiring example for others to follow.

Their experience with EPR

programs in the US and Canada has enabled them to visualize the implementation of similar policies in their home state of Assam. By introducing EPR in Assam, they aim to mitigate the adverse effects

of plastic pollution, promote sustainable practices, and contribute meaningfully to the society and environment of their birthplace.

self-healing.

and widespread acclaim.

The implementation of EPR in Assam holds immense

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potential transforming the state's waste management scape. mandating producers take responsibility for their end-of-life management, EPR encourages sustainable design, waste landfills. serves natural resources. lowers house gas emissions

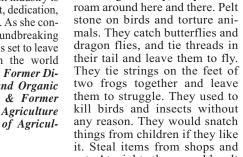
Moreover, the establishment of collection and recycling infrastructure under EPR will not only enhance waste management but also create new employment opportunities for the local population.

Assam, a state grappling with the severe impacts of global warming and experiencing scorching heat waves, can lead the way for other Indian states in aligning with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, or Clean India Mission, by becoming the first state to implement a comprehensive EPR program.

Through their unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability and their deep connection to their roots, Sukalyan and Rimlee are poised to make that a lasting impact on Assam. Their vision of a cleaner, greener, and more sustainproducts' able Assam, fueled by the principles of EPR, has the potential to set an example for other states to follow, fostering a nationwide movement towards a circular economy and a more sustainable future reduces for generations to come. sent to

As Assam embraces the EPR movement, it will not only witness a transformation in its waste management practices but also contribute to the global effort to combat climate change and preserve the planet for future generations.

With the expertise and dedication of this Assamese power couple at the forefront: Assam is poised to embark on a remarkable journey towards environmental stewardship and sustainable development. (The writer can be reached at dipakkurmiglpltd@gmail.com)



eat. At night, they would pelt stones on the tin roof of houses and run away. People come out shouting and screaming which gives them pleasure. Sometimes, they would ring the calling bell or knock on the door of people and run away.

By: Dr. Suman Bharali

n a city, there lived four

When they grew up, they got own mobile phones. Now they started disturbing random people using their phones. They would give miss calls to random numbers. Sometimes they would call and do pranks on random

people. After sometime, they started stalking girls and teasing them. No young girl can pass peacefully in front of them. They would pass some comments and chase them. So, girls start to walk fast to cross them as soon as possible

In a nearby locality there lived a young girl named Seema. She was a student of class tenth. Her father was an auto rickshaw driver who died in a tragic accident couple of years ago. After that she lived with her mother and vounger sister, Jumi,

Her mother had to work in a factory for livelihood. She had to work hard and over time to feed the family and pay for the education of the two girls. Seema was her hope and motivation to keep working and fighting the daily battles of life. She wished that one day Seema will get a good job and take care of them. Then the family will be

stable and her younger daughter will be taken care of well. For that she would not leave

any stone unturned to give are you calling repeatedly?" She Seema a good education. After school Seema would go to tuition daily. As her mother worked till late evening, so Seema walked alone to and fro the tuition center and her home. Seema also knew that her mother had great expectations from her and her family needs her to excel. So, she studied sincerely and worked hard. She wanted to give comfort to her mother and sister soon.

Seema could contact her in any of those numbers. Seema was happy and felt secure for the moment on getting a mobile phone. She could now call her nother anytime if she is in trou-

One day the boys saw Seema in a stationary shop nearby. She shopkeeper was wrote her phone number in a paper for recharging. When Seema went away the boys went to that shop and took her number from the shopkeeper.

That evening the boys sat together in a park and started giving miss calls in Seema's phone. At first she ignored thinking it might be by mistake. Then the boys gave miss calls alternately from their respective mobile phones.

Seema was annoyed and could not study, so she kept her mobile in silent mode. After dinner when she looked at her phone there was 153 missed calls. She could not understand what was going on. She was a bit anxious and kept her mobile on the table and went to bed.

Next day, she went to school. She didn't take her phone to the school. When she returned she saw there were again several missed calls. She kept the phone in silent mode and took it to tuition with her. When she was returning she saw the boys at a distance and quickly passed them without being noticed. She took a breath of relief that she could pass the lane without being noticed. Today she was not chased or teased.

But after some time, the miss calls started coming again. She kept her mobile in silent mode but she was tense. When her mother came home she asked Seema

"Why is she looking anxious? Is everything alright?'

Seema did not want to bother her mother. So she replied calmly.

"Nothing. Just thinking about a mathematics problem which I am unable to solve.'

"Try more. You can do it. Otherwise ask your teacher tomorrow. Don't take stress." Her mother replied as she changed her clothes

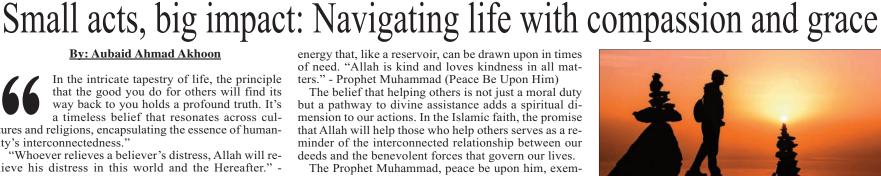
Though Seema kept her phone in silent mode, her mind was conscious about it. She was looking at it repeatedly. Every time the number of missed call increases. She got frustrated and went outside the house in an open space away from her mother.

She waited there for some time. This time when the call came she picked it up.

"Hello! Who are you? Why asked

In the intricate tapestry of life, the principle that the good you do for others will find its way back to you holds a profound truth. It's

energy that, like a reservoir, can be drawn upon in times of need. "Allah is kind and loves kindness in all matters." - Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) The belief that helping others is not just a moral duty but a pathway to divine assistance adds a spiritual di-



a timeless belief that resonates across cultures and religions, encapsulating the essence of humanity's interconnectedness."

By: Aubaid Ahmad Akhoon

'Whoever relieves a believer's distress, Allah will relieve his distress in this world and the Hereafter." Imam Nawawi

Acts of kindness, no matter how small, possess a remarkable ability to create a positive ripple effect. When you extend a helping hand or offer support to someone in need, you set in motion a chain of goodwill. This ripple, though unseen, travels through the intricate threads of existence, weaving connections that bind us all.

"The example of the believers in their affection, mercy, and compassion for each other is that of a body. When any limb aches, the whole body reacts with sleeplessness and fever." - Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him)

The essence of spreading kindness always lies not just in the anticipation of personal gain but in the acknowledgment of our shared humanity. Each act of compassion contributes to a collective reservoir of positive

Oh my dear ones

By: Mrigalekha Dutta

When my death crawls,

Instead bade me goodbye.

truth

side.

mind

Hawling its merciless feathers

Oh my dear ones, please don't cry,

I perhaps succumbed to the eternal

With a smile in my eyes and thou-

sands of dreams tugged within my

I Would clutch the end with a colossal

mension to our actions. In the Islamic faith, the promise that Allah will help those who help others serves as a reminder of the interconnected relationship between our deeds and the benevolent forces that govern our lives. The Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, exemplified the significance of kindness through his teachings and actions. His life serves as a beacon, guiding us to emulate compassion, empathy, and selflessness. By helping others, we align ourselves with the teachings of Islam and contribute to the betterment of society.

It's important to recognize that acts of kindness need not be grand gestures. Small, sincere efforts have the power to create significant impact. A kind word, a thoughtful gesture, or a helping hand extended in times of need can be the catalyst for positive change.

"In the heart of a believer, his humility, love, and kindness towards others is the true reflection of his faith." - Ibn Qayyim Al-Jawziyya

In a world often marked by challenges and uncertainties, the call to spread kindness always stands as a beacon of hope. It invites us to look beyond our differences

and extend a hand to our fellow human beings. By doing so, we not only make a difference in others' lives but also set in motion a cycle of positivity that enriches our own. As we navigate the complexities of life, let us engrain in our hearts the belief that kindness is never wasted. Whether acknowledged or not, the goodness we sow finds its way back to us, shaping a future where compassion reigns supreme. May we be agents of positive change, inspired by the timeless truth that by helping others, we pave the way for a world where kindness is abundant, and Allah's blessings are ever-present. (The author is a distinguished Educational Columnist, Motivational Speaker, and Associate Editor of the weekly educational publication 'Education Quill.' He can be reached at akhoon.aubaid@gmail.com)

POETRY

Seema had to walk pass the by lane where the wicked boys sit in the evening stalking the girls. When they saw Seema walking alone they started teasing her and chased her till the end of the lane. At first Seema was not effected and ignored their mischiefs. But, day after day their teasing kept increasing and she became conscious about it. They followed her up to her house one day. At night they pelted stone on her tin roof. But they did not understood the boys did that.

Every day when Seema reach that bye lane she would try to pass it as fast as she can, to get rid of the boys soon. Their comments disturbed her and she became frightened. She wanted to tell her mother about it. But when she looked at her mother she could not speak. Her mother was upset and tired. Seema didn't want to add more stress in her mother's life. So she hid the incidences.

But she was frightened and her mind was disturbed and she could not focus on her studies properly. So she wanted some security. She told her mother it will be good if both of them have a mobile phone.

Otherwise one didn't know about the other till they meet in the evening. Lot of events happen during the day. In case of emergency one can contact the other and inform if they have a phone.

Few days later, her mother bought a second hand mobile phone and gave it to Seema. She told Seema that it was for emergency.She told she didn't need one as there is a phone in the factory and some of her coworkers also had mobile phones.

'Wow! Finally you picked up the phone. You know us. Guess who am I?" replied a boy. It was Rajneesh one of the four boys. He kept the loud speaker of his mobile on so that all of them could listen to their conversation.

"I can't recognize. How did you get this number? I have not given it to anyone. Maybe you are dialing a wrong number." Seema spoke

"No, it's the right number we want to listen your sweet voice. Please keep speaking." Said Raneesh and all of them laughed together.

Seema was frightened. She replied in a shaking voice.

"Look I don't know you. Don't call on this number again. Kindly check the number prop-

erly." "We know who you are and we have called to talk with you. If you talk then you will also know us better." Pramod spoke bringing his mouth close to the phone. And they laughed again. Seema was trembling and her feet became numb. Somehow she replied, "I request you all please don't disturb me. I am unable to concentrate on my studies because of you. We have lot of trouble in our home. Please understand and leave me alone.'

"Don't worry sweetheart. We will solve all your problems.' Biju spoke coming forward.

'You give us what we want and we will give you everything you need." Usman added and they laughed together.

Seema cut the phone and ran inside her house. She was horrified. Her heart was beating fast. She fell on her bed and shut her eyes

Her hands and feet became cold. She could not understand what to do and whom to tell.

After sometime her mother called her to have dinner. She replied from her bed that she is feeling sleepy and will not take dinner. The mother kept her food on the table properly and asked her to have it when she want to eat. (...to be continued in the next edition)

Enemy Of Society

By: Khemu Parashar

Only the fortunate ones get the, sacrament of marriage, this is where our true love begins and is an unbreakable bond, to compare it is a great folly, no one else could be like this, if there is a third one, then the question of marriage ends, marriage takes the family's generations forward, there is a lot of activity in the house, the house is decorated with colours

This dowry has made marriage a problem, this demon is swallowing millions of families, bovcott it soon. this time listen to the call of the poor, end this demon, do this much favour to the poor ...

This is hope

By: Otteri Selva Kumar

Throughout the brain It has become clay ... Bones Chalk has become Muscles and Skin just it's painted Human Thought Switching It's decaying Cinema Culture Wave... Reactionary politics Delirium. Demolition of income Price rise anytime Cell phone nuisance Internet Cross stack Recovering from the effects of these The man is thinking .. This damn the world One day be better change Would be that's thinking Yes, this only for today tomorrows hope ... About you and me?

And yet be alive through the fragile ailes I strolled once. Oh my dear ones please don't cry, Instead, play the playlist I archived

for years Instead, make me engulfed with the love you shared And share the shoulders to carry me to my final rites!

WORLD

The state visit highlights the partnership on global security issues between the two allies

Macron is hosting Biden for a state visit as the two leaders try to move past trade tensions

PARIS, June 8: President Joe Biden is being feted by French President Emmanuel Macron with a state visit on Saturday as the two allies aim to show off their partnership on global security issues and move past trade tensions.

Biden and Macron attended ceremonies marking the 80th anniversary of D-Day on Thursday and met separately the following day President with Ukrainian Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Paris. The leaders both used those engagements used to underscore the urgent need to support Kyiv's fight against Russia's invasion.

But Macron and Biden have often chafed at the pace of support for Ukraine, especially as the United States, by far the largest contributor to Kyiv's defense, was forced to pause aid shipments for months while congressional Republicans held up an assistance package. The state visit began with a ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe, including a wreath-laying at France's tomb of the unknown soldier, and a military parade along the Champs-Élysées leading to the Élysée Palace, where the two will



hold official meetings and deliver public statements. Later, there is a state dinner at the palace for Biden and his wife. Jill

Biden hosted Macron in December 2022 at the White House for the first state visit of his presidency as the COVID-19 pandemic receded. Jill Biden flew back to Paris aboard a U.S. government plane after spending Friday in Delaware to support their son, Hunter Biden, who is standing trial on federal gun

charges

flagging.

As the president's trip draws to a close, the far right is likely to emerge as one of the biggest winners in Sunday's European Parliament election while Macron's pro-European Union movement is

A top French official said

Macron and Biden have a friendly and warm relationship and stressed that the U.S. president is spending five days in France, reflecting the

importance he attaches to the visit. The official spoke anonymously, in line with customary practices for Macron's office. The official said the U.S. presidential campaign was not a factor

in the discussion. Macron hosted then-President

Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee this year, for Bastille Day in 2017, and he came to Washington for a state visit in 2018 before their relationship soured. U.S. and French officials said Ukraine would be at the top of Saturday's agenda, but the centerpiece of the weekend event would be the strength of the alliance, fortified at Normandy 80 years ago, but with roots far deeper.

"It's probably a good thing for us to remember that we didn't win our independence either without some foreign help or foreign assistance, specifically from France," White House national security spokesman John Kirby said Friday.

Max Bergmann, a former U.S. State Department official who leads Europe research at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the U.S.-French relationship is strong despite occasional disagreements.

"There's always tension in Franco-American relations because the French try to do stuff." he said. "They're bold, they throw up proposals, and that leads to some friction when we push back."

For example, he said, France proposed putting Western trainers on the ground in Ukraine, leading to questions of whether this is "re-

boundaries and throws up ideas."

Kirby said the two leaders would have an announcement Saturday on deepening maritime law enforcement cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. They also were to discuss economic and climate challenges.

While praising the Biden administration's commitment to supporting Ukraine, Macron said earlier this year that Europe must become "capable of defending its interests, with its allies by our side whenever they are willing, and alone if necessary," arguing the continent should rely less on the U.S. for its own defense.

He also warned Western powers against showing any signs of weakness to Russia as he repeatedly said that sending Western troops into Ukraine to shore up its defense should not be ruled out.

The leaders were also set to discuss their efforts to bring about a cease-fire to the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, as the U.S. and Israel await Hamas' response to a Biden-promoted cease-fire proposal that would allow a surge of humanitarian assistance into the territory. (AP)

leave 27 dead, Moscow-backed officials say KYIV, June 8: Russia-installed officials in the partially occupied Ukrainian regions of Kherson and Luhansk say Ukrainian attacks left at least 27 people dead as Russia and Ukraine continued to exchange drone

Attacks in Russian-occupied Ukrainian regions

attacks overnight into Saturday. A Ukrainian attack Friday on the small town of Sadove in Ukraine's partially occupied Kherson region killed 22 and wounded 15 people, Moscow-backed governor Vladimir

Saldo said. Russian state news agency Tass cited Saldo as saying that Ukrainian forces first struck the town with a French-made guided bomb, then attacked again with a US-supplied HI-MARS missile.

He said Ukrainian forces had "deliberately made a repeat strike to create greater numbers of casualties" when "residents of nearby houses ran out to help the injured"

Further east, Leonid Pasechnik, the Russia-installed governor in Ukraine's partially occupied Luhansk region, said Saturday that two more bodies had been pulled from the rubble following Friday's Ukrainian missile attack on the regional capital, also called Luhansk, bringing the death toll to five. Pasechnik also said 60 people were wounded in the attack

Ukraine did not comment on either

The secretary-general annually

makes a global list of states and

militias that are menacing chil-

dren and threatening them. Par-

ties on the list have ranged from

the Kachin Independence Army

Russia during its war with

Now Israel is set to join them.

Antonio Guterres sends the list to

in Myanmar to - last year -

assault. Meanwhile, drone attacks between Russia and Ukraine persisted.

Ukraine launched a barrage of drones across Russian territory overnight Friday, Russia's Defence Ministry said Saturday. 25 drones were reportedly destroyed over Russia's southern Kuban and Astrakhan regions, the western Tula region, and the Moscow-annexed Crimean peninsula

On Saturday morning, officials said air defences for the first time shot down Ukrainian drones over the North Ossetia region in the North Caucasus, some 900 km from the frontline in Ukraine's partially occupied Zaporizhzhia region.

Russia's Ministry of Defence said that one drone had been destroyed, whereas regional Gov. Sergei Menyailo reported three downed drones over the region. Menvailo said that the target was a military airfield.

Ukrainian air defence overnight shot down nine out of 13 Russian drones over the central Poltava region, southeastern Zaporizhzhia and Dnipropetrovsk regions, and the Kharkiv region in the northeast, Ukraine's air force said Saturday.

Dnipropetrovsk regional Gov. Serhiy Lysak said the overnight drone attack damaged commercial and residential buildings. (AP)

UN will declare that both Israel

and Hamas are violating children's

Israel rescues 4 hostages kidnapped in a Hamas-led attack on October 7 JERUSALEM, June 8: Israel said on Saturday it rescued four hostages

who were kidnapped in a Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, in the largest such hostage recovery operation since the war with Hamas began in Gaza.

The army said it rescued Noa Argamani, 25; Almog Meir Jan, 21; Andrey Kozlov, 27; and Shlomi Ziv, 40, in a complex special daytime operation in Nuseirat. The hostages were rescued in two separate locations in the heart of Nuseirat, it said.

Hamas kidnapped some 250 hostages during its attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, which triggered the Israel-Hamas war. About half were released in a weeklong ceasefire in November. Israel says more than 130 hostages remain, with about a quarter of those believed dead, and divisions are deepening in the country over the best way to bring them home.

The rescue comes as international pressure mounts on Israel to limit civilian bloodshed in its war in Gaza, which reached its eighth month on Friday. Seeking a breakthrough in the apparently stalled cease-fire negotiations between IsPRAGUE, June 8: Voters in Slovakia, Italy and other European Union nations are casting their ballots Saturday on the third day of elections for the European Parliament, with populist and far-right parties looking to make gains across the 27-member bloc. In Slovakia, the election was overshadowed by an attempt to assassinate populist Prime Minister Robert Fico on May 15, sending shockwaves through the

nation of 5.4 million and reverberating throughout Europe. Analysts say the attack could

boost the chances of the premier's leftist Smer (Direction) party, the senior partner in the governing coalition, to win the vote. Fico, who took office last fall

after campaigning on a pro-Russian and anti-American platform, has been recovering from multiple wounds after being shot in the abdomen as he greeted supporters in the town of Handlova.

He recovered in time to address the nation in a prerecorded video, his first public statement since the attack, just hours before the start of the preelection silence period on Wednesday.

Although Fico didn't talk directly about the vote, he attacked the European Union, suggesting he was a



victim because of his views that differ sharply from the European mainstream.

Fico strongly opposes support for Ukraine in its war against Russia's full-scale invasion. He ended Slovakia's military aid for Ukraine after his coalition government was sworn in on October 25. He also opposes EU sanctions on Russia and wants to block Ukraine from joining

NATO Mainstream media, non-governmental organisations and the liberal opposition were also to blame for the assassination attempt, according to Fico, an allegation repeated by politicians in his governing coali-

tion Sona Szomolanyi, a political science professor at Comenius University in Bratislava, said the timing of Fico's message was "no coinci-

dence. "It only confirms that the ruling

coalition has been using the assassination (attempt) expediently and apparently effectively," Szomolanyi said. As a result, "a mobilisation of the supporters of Smer (at the election) can be expected," she said.

In Italy, citizens aged 18 and above are casting ballots over two days to fill 76 European parliamentary seats, starting Saturday.

Premier Giorgia Meloni is expected to be the big winner, reflecting her far-right Brothers of Italy's growth, mostly at the expense of her coalition partners, the populist, antimigrant League and the centre-right Forza Italia.

While the vote is not expected to affect the balance in the governing group. Capitalising on her popularity, Meloni is running as the preferential candidate, even though she has no intention of taking a European parliamentary seat.

Voters in Latvia, Malta, and the Czech Republic were also casting ballots Saturday. Final results will not be released until Sunday night, once every country has voted. The main voting day is Sunday, with cit-

izens in 20 European countries, including Germany, France and Poland, casting their ballots for the 720-seat European Parliament. Seats are allocated based on population, ranging from six in Malta or Luxembourg to 96 in Germany. In Slovakia, Fico's Smer party is in a close race against the main opposition Progressive Slovakia, a pro-Western liberal party.

Fico's government has made efforts to overhaul public broadcasting — a move critics said would give the government full control of public television and radio.

That, along with his plans to amend the penal code to eliminate a special anti-graft prosecutor, has led opponents to worry that he would lead Slovakia down a more autocratic path, following the direction of neighbouring Hungary under populist Prime Minister Viktor Orbán.

Thousands have repeatedly rallied in the capital and across Slovakia to protest Fico's policies.

Aneta Vilagi, an analyst from Comenius University, said that Smer's possible victory "will be inwhen terpreted by the coalition parties as United evidence that a majority of voters tions put Russstill agree with the direction they're ian forces on offering to the country." (AP)

rights in armed conflict **UNITED NATIONS, June 8 :** outrage, sending news organisa-The UN secretary-general will tions a video of Erdan berating tell the Security Council next the head of Guterres' office week that both Israel and Hamas who was supposedly on the other are violating children's rights and end of a phone call - and postleaving them exposed to danger ing it on X. in their war to eliminate each

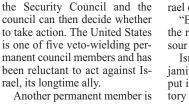
'Hamas will continue even more to use schools and hospitals because this shameful decision of the secretary-general will only give Hamas hope to survive and extend the war and extend the suffering," Erdan wrote in a statement. "Shame on him!"

The Palestinian UN ambassador said that adding Israel to the "list of 'shame,' will not bring back tens of thousands of our children who were killed by Israel over decades."

"But it is an important step in the right direction," Riyad Mansour wrote in a statement.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said "the UN put itself on the black list of history today" as the move height-

ened the long-running feud between Israel and the UN and even



Another permanent member is Russia and the Na-

4 00

coalition, the result could expand Meloni's influence in the European Union, as European Commission President Ursula von der Leven has not ruled out a coalition with her



Slovaks and others go to the polls in EU elections under the shadow of an assassination attempt

ally giving Ukraine a major, tangible benefit" or has the "potential to be escalatory and dangerous." Regarding Macron, Bergmann said, "he's the one that pushes the

rael and Hamas. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken will return to the Middle East next week. Israel's offensive has killed at least 36,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between fighters and civilians in its figures.

Saturday's operation is the largest recovery of alive hostages since the war erupted, bringing the total of rescued captives to seven.

Two men were rescued in February when troops stormed a heavily guarded apartment in a densely packed town and another hostage, a woman, was rescued in the aftermath of October's attack. Israeli troops have so far recovered at least 16 bodies of hostages from Gaza. according to the government.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is facing growing pressure to end the fighting in Gaza, with many Israelis urging him to embrace a deal announced last month by U.S. President Joe Biden, but far-right allies threatening to collapse his government if he does.

One of those rescued on Saturday, Argamani, has been one of the most widely recognized hostages since she was abducted from a music festival. (AP)

A man who reportedly assaulted the Danish prime minister to appear in a pre-trial custody hearing

COPENHAGEN (DENMARK), June 8: A man who reportedly assaulted the Danish Prime Minister in central Copenhagen will appear in a pre-trial custody hearing on Saturday, authorities said.

Police confirmed "there has been an incident" with Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen on Friday and that a 39-year-old man was arrested. They didn't provide further details and it wasn't clear if Frederiksen was hurt.

The man is expected to arrive at 1100 GMT at the Copenhagen District Court in Frederiksberg, a municipality enclave within the Danish capital.

The prime minister's office told the Danish state broadcaster DR on Friday that Frederiksen was "shocked" by what happened.

Two eyewitnesses, Anna Ravn and Marie Adrian, told the daily BT that they saw a man walking toward Frederiksen and then "pushing her hard on the shoulder so she was shoved aside." They stressed that the premier did not fall down.

Another witness, Kasper Jorgensen, told the Ekstra Bladet tabloid that a well-dressed man, who seemed part of Frederiksen's protection unit, and a police officer took down the alleged assailant. Soren Kjaeargaard who was working at a local bar

on Kultorvet Square where the incident happened



told the BT that he saw Frederiksen after the incident and she had no visible injuries to her face but walked away quickly.

Politicians in the Scandinavian country and abroad condemned the reported assault.

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said that "an attack on a democratically elected leader is also an attack on our democracy", while Charles Michel, president of the European Council, condemned on X what he called a "cowardly act of aggression". European Union parliamentary elections are cur-

rently underway in Denmark and the rest of the 27nation bloc and will conclude on Sunday.

Frederiksen has been campaigning with the Social Democrats' EU lead candidate, Christel Schaldemose. Media reports said the attack was not linked to a campaign event.

Violence against politicians has become a theme in the run-up to the EU elections.

In May, a candidate from Germany's centre-left Social Democrats was beaten and seriously injured while campaigning for a seat in the European Par-

In Slovakia, the election campaign was overshadowed by an attempt to assassinate populist Prime Minister Robert Fico on May 15, sending shockwaves through the nation of 5.4 million and reverberating throughout Europe.

Frederiksen, 46, is the leader of the Social Democratic Party and has been Denmark's prime minister since 2019.

She has steered Denmark through the global COVID-19 pandemic and a controversial 2020 decision to wipe out Denmark's entire captive mink population to minimize the risk of the small mammals retransmitting the virus.

Assaults on politicians in Denmark are rare.

On March 23, 2003, two activists threw red paint on then-Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen inside the parliament and were immediately arrested. Foreign Minister Per Stig Moller also suffered some splashes that day. (AP)

its blacklist last year for killing boys and girls and attacking schools and hospitals in Ukraine, the council

took no action

other.

Ukraine.

the routine mechanics of Israel's dealings with the world body are now

The normally equanimous secretary-general's spokesman broke from the good-natured tone of his noon briefing when asked to dis-

Dujarric said. "The partial release

of that recording on Twitter is

shocking and unacceptable and

seen in my 24 years serving this

Condemnation of the secre-

tary-general's decision appeared

to bring together Israel's increas-

ingly fractious leadership -

from the right-wing Netanyahu

and Erdan to the popular centrist

member of the War Cabinet,

organisation."

a global spotlight on the country's conduct of the war in Gaza and cuss the latest development. increase already high tensions in "The call was a courtesy afits relationship with the global forded to countries that are newly listed on the annex of the report,'

body. The preface of last year's UN report says it lists parties engaged in "the killing and maiming of frankly, something I've never children, rape and other forms of sexual violence perpetrated against children, attacks on schools, hospitals and protected

The inclusion of Israel this

month will likely just put more of

persons. The head of Guterres' office called Israel's UN ambassador, Gilad Erdan, on Friday to inform him that Israel would be in the report when it is sent to the council next week, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters on Fridav The militant Hamas and Pales-

Benny Gantz. Gantz cited Israel's first prime minister. David Ben-Gurion, as saying "it matter not what say the goyim (non-Jews), what is important is what do the Jews." (AP)

tinian Islamic Jihad groups also will be listed. Israel reacted with

Iran helicopter crash shows Tehran's reliance on an aging fleet as well as its challenges at home

DUBAI, June 8: By the time Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi boarded his window seat on a helicopter ferrying him, the foreign minister and six others, thick clouds already had begun forming around the mountaintops along the Azerbaijan-Iran border.

Despite the worsening weather, the helicopter lifted off for a trip about 145 kilometres southwest to a new oil pipeline near Tabriz. Within an hour, the Bell 212 helicopter had crashed into a cloud-covered mountainside. While the cause of the May 19 crash remains unknown, the sudden death of the hard-line protege of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei exposed the contradictions and challenges facing the country's Shiite theocracy.

The Iranian military investigators probing the crash have previously faced international criticism over their report on troops shooting down a Ukrainian airliner in 2020. The hourslong desperate rescue attempt after the helicopter crash saw Tehran even reach out to the United States for help, just

weeks after launching an unprecedented attack on Israel and as it enriches uranium closer than ever to weapons-grade levels. Even the type of helicopter that crashed links back to Iranian history, both before and after the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"Iran is a culture of dualities," said Farzin Nadimi, a senior fellow at the Washington Institute for Near-East Policy who studies Iran's military. "Some aspects, they seem so good and well-managed, well-oiled and very capable. ... In many levels, it's quite lacking.'

Iranian military investigators have released two statements on the crash, largely ruling out possibilities rather than offering a suspected cause. They've rejected the possibility of an onboard "explosion caused by sabotage" or a "cyberattack" targeting the Bell 212, a two-blade, twin-engine helicopter more widely known as the Huey for its use by the US military in the Vietnam War. "The recorded conversations between the

flight crew show that the last contact with the pilots up to the time of the incident and when they stopped responding lasted 69 seconds," the investigators said, according to the state-run IRNA news agency. "No emergency declaration was recorded during that time.

In conspiracy-minded Iran, some officials still insist foul play could have caused the crash. However, some other officials have begun to ask why the helicopter took off from the site of the new Giz Galasi Dam when the weather had started to turn.

Mostafa Mirsalim, a member of the country's Expediency Council, wrote on the social platform X that he had asked prosecutors to "address the mistakes that led to the loss of the president and his delegation," without elaborating.

Abbas Abdi, a prominent journalist, also wrote on X that the flight path taken by Raisi's helicopter suggested the pilot didn't follow a standard Iranian practice of shadowing main roads in rural areas. That can



both help navigation and provide a safe landing area in an emergency. Former Iranian Presidents Mahmoud Ahmadineiad and Abolhassan Banisadr both survived helicopter crashes while in office.

The helicopter involved in the crash, nearly 30 years old, came directly from a Bell manufacturing plant in Montreal, Canada, to the Iranian air force, according to data from the firm Cirium. It counts 12 Bell 212 aircraft registered in Iran that are still in service. Bell Textron Inc., based in

Fort Worth, Texas, said it "does not conduct any business in Iran or support their helicopter fleet, and we do not have knowledge about the active state of the helicopter involved in this accident."

But despite being decades old, the Bell 212 and its military counterpart the Huey still are flown around the world. In the United States, Hueys still fly as part of America's nuclear forces to support its silos and for some VIP missions, said Roger D. Connor, an aeronautics curator at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington. Over 440 still fly worldwide, according to Cirium.

"It's a simple aircraft to fly by medium helicopter standards. It doesn't typically have much automation which can have both positive and negative implications for operators," Connor said. "More automation means more opportunities for pilot confusion in certain circumstances, but also better capabilities in low-visibility conditions." Iran's use of the Bell 212 remains pervasive,

in part due to the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who struck deals to purchase hundreds of the helicopters and had plans to build a local variant. Nadimi said. Those already in the country at the time of the Islamic Revolution ended up being a key component of Iran's bloody war against Iraq in the 1980s.

But as Western sanctions dried up the supply of parts, fewer of the aircraft were airworthy, despite efforts to locally overhaul them. That saw Iran engage in covert means to secure parts, sparking several US criminal cases for those involved, who sought everything from safety equipment to full engines and night-vision goggles for the aircraft.Former Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif sought to blame sanctions for the crash. US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller responded by saying America was "not going to apologise for our sanctions regime at all as Iran has used aircraft to "transport equipment to support terrorism." (AP)

fraught with tensions.

liament.

NORTHEAST

THE HILLS TIMES 7

Newly displaced people were staying in villages more than 30 km from Jiribam town Manipur: More than 200 people move to relief camp in Jiribam district

IMPHAL, June 8: More than 200 people belonging to the Meitei community have been evacuated from their villages in Manipur's Jiribam district and moved to a newly set up relief camp after violence broke out following the killing of a man allegedly by militants, officials said Saturday.

The houses of the people staying in the relief camp at Jiri Sports Complex were burnt in the outlying villages of Lamtai khunou, Dibong Khunou, Nunkhal and Begra in the Jiribam district by suspected militants.

Most of the newly displaced people were staying in villages more than 30 km from Jiribam town, an official said, adding 'more security personnel have been rushed to the area."

The Manipur police have or-

Poor telecom

service causes

inconvenience

IMPHAL, June 8: Poor telecom

services in the Tamei area of

Tamenglong district have brought

about immense inconveniences to

Denizens of Tamei rued that

very poor phone/internet services

or non-functioning of the telecom

services in the area has disrupted

daily activities including transfer-

ing of money, form filling works etc., etc. Educational institutions

and other offices have also been hit hard by the malady. As such, the people of the area urged the concerned

authorities to restore the telecom services at the earliest. (NNN)

Five recruited by

banned outfits

rescued from Manipur

IMPHAL, June 8: The Assam Ri-

fles have rescued five youths from

Manipur's Tengnoupal district bor-

dering Myanmar, who were re-

cruited by the banned militant

outfits - People's Liberation Army

and Prepak (PRO), according to a

statement issued by the security

force on Saturday. The five youths

have been handed over to their re-

spective families during an event

held at Inspector General Assam Ri-

(S) headquarters

Mantripukhri in Imphal.

fles

said.

in

the people of the area.



dered state police commando personnel based in Imphal Valley to proceed to Jiribam on Saturday for duty with immediate effect.

Tension erupted in ethnic strifetorn Manipur's Jiribam district on Thursday evening after a 59-yearold man belonging to one commu-

nity was killed allegedly by militants belonging to another, police said

The man, identified as Soibam Saratkumar Singh, went missing after he had gone to his farm in the morning. Later, his body was found, with wounds made by a

sharp object, a police officer said. Following the incident, irate locals set fire to an abandoned

structure as retaliation, he said. Locals also staged a protest in front of Jiribam police station demanding that their licensed firearms taken from them in the wake of elections be returned to them after the completion of the polls

Jiribam, which has a diverse ethnic composition comprising Meiteis, Muslims, Nagas, Kukis and non-Manipuris, had so far remained unaffected by the ethnic strife which has been raging in Manipur since May last year.

The ethnic conflict between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and hills-based Kukis has led to the deaths of over 200 people and rendered thousands of people homeless. (PTI)

Jiribam SP transferred after attacks on police outposts



IMPHAL, June 8: The Manipur government on Saturday transferred Jiribam SP A Ghanashyam Sharma, following reports of arson and attacks on two police outposts in the district by suspected militants.

The Jiribam superintendent of police was assigned to the post of additional director of the Manipur Police Training College, according to an order issued by the department of personnel and administrative reforms.

M Pradip Singh, who was serving as the additional director of the police training college, will take

charge as the senior superintendent of police of Jiribam district. The transfer order was issued

hours after police outposts of Jiri Mukh and Choto Bekra and the Goakhal forest beat office were set on fire this morning, a senior officer said.

Suspected militants also torched more than 70 houses of people in Lamtai khunou, Dibong Khunou, Nunkhal and Begra villages, who vacated their residences and took shelter in a relief camp, he said.

A contingent of more than 70 personnel was airlifted from Imphal to Jiribam to assist security personnel in their operations against militants, the officer said. On Friday, around 239 Meitei

people, mostly women and chil-

dren, were evacuated from peripheral areas of Jiribam, and sent to shelters at Multi Sports Complex in the district.

Tension erupted in Jiribam in the ethnic strife-torn state on Thursday evening after a 59-year-old man was killed by suspected militants,

another officer said The man, identified as Soibam Saratkumar Singh, went missing after he had gone to his farm on June 6 and later, his body was found, with wounds made by a sharp object, he said.

Prohibitory orders were clamped there after locals set a few abandoned structures on fire following the recovery of the body of Singh. Locals had also staged a protest in front of the Jiribam Police Sta-

tion, demanding that their licenced firearms taken from them in the wake of elections be returned to them after the completion of the polls

Jiribam, which has a diverse ethnic composition comprising Meiteis, Muslims, Nagas, Kukis and non-Manipuris, had remained unaffected by the ethnic strife which has been raging in Manipur since May last year. The ethnic conflict between Imphal valley-based Meiteis and hills-based Kukis has led to the deaths of over 200 people and rendered thousands of people homeless. (PTI)

New govt formed by NDA will not be stable: MPCC

IMPHAL, June 8: The new government to be formed by the NDA will not be a stable one, according to Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) president K Meghachandra

Addressing a press conference here recently, he said that fighting for portfolios before the formation of the government is a clear sign of having an unstable government at the Centre

"The BJP-led NDA government will not last long. The unstable government will fall soon and those who come out from the NDA alliance will join the INDIA bloc", he added.

The MPCC chief claimed that the recent election results which gave a clear mandate to the Congress showed that the people of Manipur have no more faith in the BJP and its hate politics.

The Congress leader alleged that the BJP-led government in the state has failed on all fronts. The recent remark of BJP's ex-MP Dr RK Ranjan who was also the Union minister of state for external affairs and education has also admitted that the failure of the BIPled government in the state was the main reason behind people rejecting the BJP.

Meanwhile, Meghachandra informed that a meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) will be convened in New Delhi on June 8 and he himself, former chief minister O Ibobi Singh and two newly elected MPs from the state will attend the meeting

During the meeting, they will highlight the prevailing protracted crisis in the state to draw the attention of the AICC leaders to include it as a main agenda of the INDIA bloc and take the issue seriously at the national level. (NNN)

Arms and explosives recovered in Manipur

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, June 8: In a series of coordinated operations, Indian Army, in joint operation with Manipur police, conducted successful operations in Bishnupur and Imphal East districts of Manipur. Acting on specific information, the joint operations led to the recovery and seizure of significant quantities of arms, ammunition and explosive devices.

During the early hours, a combined team of Army and Bishnupur police launched an operation in the Phosenphai and Sangthong areas of Bishnupur District. During this operation, the team successfully recovered one Carbine Machine Gun, one .303 Rifle, one Pompi

(country-made mortar), five Grenades, one Rifle Grenade, two Mortar Bombs, an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), ammunition and other war-like stores. The cache included sophisticated weaponry and explosives, showcasing the extent of the threat neutralized by the operation. Simultaneously, in another joint operation conducted in the fringe areas of the Imphal East district. Utilizing the expertise of an Explosive Detection Dog of Army, the team uncovered a hidden arms cache in the area. The operation led to the recovery of one 9mm Carbine Machine Gun, one 2-inch Mortar, one Improvised Heavy Calibre 60mm Mortar, one Pompi Gun, ammunition and other war-like stores.

Passenger movement through Maitri Setu to start in September: Official

South Tripura district will start by September this year, partment secretary Kiran a senior government official

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina virtually inaugurated the Maitri setu on March 9, 2021. The bridge is built over the Feni river which flows between the Indian boundary in Tripura state and

Sabroom. Bangladesh. The 1.9 km long bridge joins Sabroom in

national highways is the top priority of the government; Gitte said the national highways have developed a lot during the past few years. "If trade and business do

not gain momentum, the objective of a facelift of national highways will be in vain. Therefore, we are laying stress on setting up industrial estates along national highways to assist the existing industrial estates," he said

He said the state has signed 14 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) amounting to ₹ 1,861.51

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL PADUM PUKHURI HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL PADUM PUKHURI, KARBI ANGLONG

ADVERTISMENT

Date: 08-06-2024

This is for general information to all concerned that the offline application in prescribed standard forms with self attested copies of all certificate are invited for eligible candidates for filling up of teaching staff post on purely temporary basis at PADUM PUKHURI HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, Padum Pukhuri, Karbi Anglong, Assam.

| SI. | Name of post | Subject(s) | No. of post | Minimum Educational | | | |
|-----|--------------|------------|-------------|---------------------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | |

AGARTALA, June 8: Passenger movement through Maitri Setu which connects India and Bangladesh in

take two or three months to introduce goods movement after passenger movement gets underway," Tripura's industries and commerce de-

Gitte said at a press conference on Friday. The goods movement through the bridge is seen as strategically important not only for the state but also for the entire northeast as Chittagong port of Bangladesh is just 80 km from Tripura's

> Gitte said Kamalasagar border haat in Tripura's Sepahijala district, which was

"The five youths were misguided and recruited for joining PLA and PREPAK (PRO)...the ongoing conflict between the Myanmar army and rebel forces heightened the peril they faced, prompting them to run away from their camps in search of safety," the statement said. (PTI)

with Ramgarh in India Bangladesh.

"The Maitri setu has already been inaugurated. The land port is almost ready... The movement of passengers operational through the bridge will commence in September. It will industrial estates along the

closed down due to the crore at the North-East Investment summit held in Covid pandemic, will be reopening shortly. At present, Delhi on March 6. Out of Srinagar border haat, located these, six entrepreneurs have in South Tripura district is already invested ₹ 29.85 crore for setting up of indus-Asserting that setting up of trial units in the northeastern state. (PTI)

Consultative meeting on substance abuse in Shillong

HIV prevalence in Meghalaya surpasses National average

HT Bureau GUWAHATI, June 8: A high level consultative meeting was convened at the State Convention Centre, Shillong, with the participation of Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs), Members of District Councils (MDCs), and representatives from 76 Dorbar Shnongs across the Greater Shillong Area on Friday. The gathering aimed to address the pressing issue of substance abuse in Meghalava.

The state social welfare department, in collaboration with the home (Police) department and the deputy commissioner of East Khasi Hills District, took this initiative which is a part of the Drug Reduction Elimination & Action Mission (DREAM) launched in June 2023- a targeted mission to build a "Drug Free Meghalaya" through a multifaceted coordinated strategy that leverages the combined efforts of the state and local communities to eliminate the incidence of substance use in the state.

Recognizing that drug use is a social problem that cannot be handled by a single entity, the primary objective of this consultative meeting was to foster a collaborative approach to tackle the problem of substance abuse. The meeting emphasized the necessity for distributed leadership and collective action at various levels. The focus was not only on regula-

tory measures but also on detook place where concerns veloping comprehensive stratefrom the dorbars were voiced,

gies to prevent young people and queries were raised. A nofrom initiating substance use. table recommendation came In line with this vision, comfrom M Kharkrang, retd IPS, headman of Durbar Shnong munities have been requested to set up additional rehabilita-Ratsanthia, regarding the need tion centers that will be supfor stricter enforcement measported under DREAM. ures as he draws from previous State social welfare minister experiences in combating illicit Paul Lyngdoh remarked that It liquor smuggling, emphasizing

sensitive support provisions.

has become evident through a the importance of collaboration between law enforcement series of meetings that there is a pressing need to revisit and agencies and the judiciary. Anreorganise the Village Defence other suggestion involved im-Parties (VDPs), especially conproving witness cooperation by sidering that the number of regfostering closer collaboration istered communities is only 11. between the police department The minister announced that and local communities which is within the next two weeks, furcritical to achieve successful ther meetings will be held with prosecution

various other stakeholders, in-Sampath Kumar, IAS, princluding faith institutions and cipal secretary & development schools focusing on providing commissioner, social welfare department, Government of Following Lyngdoh's re-Meghalaya, emphasised the marks, an interactive session importance of an empathetic

and sensitive approach to help individuals reintegrate back into society. He highlighted that many individuals struggling with substance abuse can recover with the right support and that it is crucial not to stigmatize them but to provide the necessary assistance for their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. As part of the lifecycle approach, he stressed that early childhood, particularly from zero to eight years, is a critical stage where investing time and guidance ensures that children do well later in life. Whereas, during adolescence, substantial support is required and focusing on youth and adulthood is as essential to tackling the root of substance abuse issues in the State.

During the meeting, it was also highlighted that communities will take the initiative to set up VDPs in their respective localities, with guidance and training provided by the DREAM Mission. There was a strong request for additional rehabilitation centers in communities, similar to the initiative undertaken by the Mawlai town dorbar, that will be supported by the DREAM Mission. The state government will introduce revised VDP rules to ensure more ownership and responsibility within the community, aimed at facilitating greater community involvement and empowerment.

| No. | | | Vacancy | Qualification |
|-----|------------------------------------|------------------------|----------|--|
| 1 | Subject teacher for Arts Stream | Education | 01 (One) | Post-Graduate from any recognized University with B. Ed. |
| 2 | Subject teacher for Arts Stream | Alternative English | 01 (One) | Post-Graduate from any recognized University with B. Ed. |
| 3 | Demonstrator | Zoology | 01 (One) | B. Sc. from any recognized University |
| 4 | Subject Teacher for Science Stream | Mathematics | 01 (One) | Post-Graduate from any recognized University with B. Ed. |

Terms and Conditions

- 1. Candidates should not be less than 21 years of age and not more than 40 years as on 01/01/2024 for General/OBC/MOBC and upto 45 years for ST/SC.
- The ST/SC/OBC/MOBC candidates need to submit their caste certificate along with their application form.
- 3. Incomplete application shall be rejected summarily.
- 4. Application must secure at least 60% marks in Master Degree for General/OBC/MOBC and 45% marks for ST/SC and first preference will be given to a local qualified candidate.
- 5. Application must reach to the office of the Principal, Padum Pukhuri Higher Secondary School on or before 20/06/2024.
- Candidate must have atleast 3 years teaching experience will be given preference.
- No TA/DA will be admissible for appearing in the test/interview. 7.
- 8. Date of interview is 23/06/2024 by 10:00 A.M.

N.B: copy for notice board at I/S office and school notice board.

Sd/-Principal Padum Pukhuri H.S. School Karbi Anglong Contact No. 9435452625 6000509924

NATION

Modi's swearing-in ceremony: Bangladesh PM Hasina, Seychelles VP Afif arrive in Delhi

Though the BJP could not get a majority on its own in the recent Lok Sabha polls, the party-led alliance secured 293 seats out of 543

NEW DELHI, June 8: India on Saturday announced that leaders of seven countries from its neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region including Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi on June 9.

Hasina and Vice-President of Seychelles Ahmed Afif have already arrived in Delhi.

Besides Hasina and Afif, the other leaders attending the ceremony are Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

"The visit of the leaders to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his third consecutive term is in keeping with the highest priority accorded by India to its 'Neighbourhood First' policy and 'SAGAR' vision," it said.

India has been cooperating with the countries of the Indian Ocean region under the broader policy framework of SAGAR or Security and Growth for all in the Region.



"The swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and slated to take place at 7:15 PM on the Council of Ministers following Sunday at Rashtrapati Bhavan. the General Elections 2024 is scheduled on June 9 2024. On the Delhi on Saturday, External Affairs occasion, leaders from India's Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on X: "This visit of neighbourhood and Indian Ocean region have been cordially invited one of our most valued partners as distinguished guests," the MEA will further strengthen Indiasaid. Bangladesh close and deep-rooted bonds of friendship.'

In addition to participating in the swearing-in ceremony, the leaders will attend a banquet hosted by of Afif to India. President Droupadi Murmu at momentum to India-Seychelles bi-Rashtrapati Bhavan, it said.

halfway mark in the 543-member

House, but the National Democratic

Alliance (NDA) together won 293

seats. The Congress has won 99 seats.

Ramesh said the drumbeat to find sil-

Congress general secretary Jairam

lateral ties," he said. The invitation by New Delhi to

Muizzu to attend the swearing-in ceremony assumed significance as it came amid frosty ties between India and the Maldives.

The ties between India and the Maldives came under severe strain since November last year when Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, took charge as Maldivian president.

Within hours of his oath, he had demanded the withdrawal of Indian military personnel from his country. The Indian military personnel were replaced by civilians earlier this month.

The leaders of regional grouping SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) countries attended Modi's first swearing ceremony when he took the reins as the prime minister after a massive electoral victory for BJP.

Leaders of the BIMSTEC countries attended Modi's swearing-in ceremony, in 2019 when he became prime minister for the second consecutive term

Though the BJP could not get a majority on its own in the recent Lok Sabha polls, the party-led alliance secured 293 seats out of 543. The majority mark in the lower house is 272. (PTI)



NEW DELHI, June 8: The Converdict of the people is not just a pogress Working Committee (CWC) on litical loss but a personal and moral Saturday unanimously urged Rahul defeat for the Prime Minister who Gandhi to take on the mantle of the sought the mandate in his name and Leader of Opposition in the Lok ran a campaign anchored in lies, hate, Sabha to which he told the party's top prejudice, divisiveness and extreme brass that he will take a decision on it bigotry," the resolution alleged. very soon". At a meeting of the The verdict of the people is clearly CWC, the party's highest decision-

CWC asks Rahul to take on

against the undermining of democmaking body, chaired by Congress racy and democratic institutions that has taken place since 2014, it said. chief Mallikarjun Kharge and attended by Sonia Gandhi, Rahul In his opening remarks at the meeting, Kharge asserted that while cele-Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, among others, the party's Lok Sabha brating its "revival", the party should polls showing was hailed but it was pause a little as it did not perform to also decided that separate committees its abilities and expectations in some would be set up in states where the states. "Further, we could not repeat performance was not good or below our performance in states where we expectations, to take corrective meashad previously done well in Vidhan Sabha elections and formed the gov-Kharge said the Lok Sabha poll ernment," he said. Separate discus-

mandate is a "decisive rejection" of sions on each such state will be held the politics of divisiveness and hate, soon, the Congress chief said. and stressed that the INDIA bloc must "We have to take urgent remedial continue functioning cohesively both measures. These are states which have traditionally favoured the Congress, where we have opportunities Two resolutions were unanimously passed by the CWC, including one rewhich we have to harness not for our questing Rahul Gandhi to assume the own advantage but for the benefit of position of the Leader of Opposition our people. This exercise I propose to hold very soon," he said.

Asked if had agreed to take on the Kharge further said whether the position, Congress general secretary party is in power or not, its work con-K C Venugopal said Gandhi took note tinues amongst people "24 hours, 365 of the sentiments of the CWC memdays", and raise their issues. "People have spoken against the

dictatorial and anti-democratic ways of the ruling party. It is a decisive rejection of the politics of the last 10 years. It is rejection of the politics of divisiveness, hate and polarisation," Kharge said.

"I want to draw your attention to the fact that wherever Bharat Jodo Yatra went we saw an increase in the

vote percentage and number of seats for the Congress party," he said.

Kharge also hailed INDIA bloc partners, saying each party played its designated role in different states, and each party contributed to the other.

"Our determination is that the INDIA group must continue. We must function cohesively and collectively both in Parliament and outside," he said.

The issues that we raised in the election campaign are issues that are bothering the people of India. We have to continue to raise them both in Parliament and outside, Kharge said. In its resolution, the CWC noted

that the people of the country had placed the party "firmly on the path of revival"

"The party fought a superb campaign the heart of which was a vigorous defence of our republic's Constitution and the provisions for reservations for scheduled castes. scheduled tribes and OBCs. We provided a clear alternative political, economic and social vision," it said.

"The campaign had a distinctive pro-poor focus and highlighted the urgent need for a nation-wide socioeconomic caste census to deepen social justice and empowerment and for addressing the demands of youth and farmers immediately," the CWC resolution said.

The CWC also hailed the roles played by Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi during the Lok Sabha polls.

The CWC said that former Congress president Rahul Gandhi has to be singled out largely because of the Bharat Jodo Yatra and the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra that he designed and led. "Both these Yatras that reflected his own thinking and personality were historic turning points in our nation's politics and instilled hope and confidence in lakhs of our workers and crores of our voters," the resolution said

Rahul Gandhi election campaign was single-minded, sharp and pointed and more than any other individual it was he who made the protection of our republic's Constitution the central issue in the 2024 elections, the CWC said. Briefing the media after the meeting, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the committees would carry out a thorough review after which they would submit their respective reports to the Congress president. (PTI)

Jarange launches fresh stir over Maratha quota; warns of fielding candidates in assembly polls

LDF govt's progress report a 'joke': UDF



ver linings in the mandate that has THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, June 8: The opposition Congressled UDF on Saturday termed as a "joke" the progress report released LUCKNOW, June 8: Uttar by the LDF government in Kerala Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi regarding the work it has done in Aditvanath on Saturday asked the past one year, saying it was full the ministers in the state govof "untruths, exaggerations and falsehoods". Leader of Opposition ernment to shun the VIP culture. He instructed the in the state assembly V D ministers to visit people and Satheesan said that anyone looking gave them the mantra of "diaat the report would be amazed by the claims made in the report.

2024 elections 'moral defeat' for Modi, 'morale booster' for Cong: Jairam Ramesh NEW DELHI, June 8: The Conbeen a "moral, political and personal" gress on Saturday claimed the mandefeat for Modi has started. date of the Lok Sabha polls has been "It is being propagated that Mr. a "moral, political and personal" de-

The swearing-in ceremony is

Shortly after Hasina arrived in

Jaiswal also welcomed the visit

"The visit will impart further

feat for Prime Minister Narendra a mandate thrice in a row after Jawa-Modi and said efforts were now being harlal Nehru. How leading a party to made to justify his "pathetic" elec-240 seats and becoming an 'onetoral performance. The BJP has won third' Pradhan Mantri is a mandate is 240 seats in the just-concluded Lok not explained," the Congress leader Sabha polls, falling short of the said.

"Nehru, on the other hand, got 364 seats in 1952, 371 seats in 1957, and 361 seats in 1962 - a 2/3rd majority each time. Yet he remained a complete democrat, nurturing Parliament so very carefully with his constant presence," Ramesh said in a post on

their problems by coordinating

with the local public represen-

tatives and the administration.

During the interaction, the UP

chief minister stressed that

whether it is the ministers or

other public representatives,

everyone will have to avoid the

since Nehru to be sworn in thrice - in

Ramesh pointed out that Atal Bihari Vajpayee was sworn in thrice in 1996, 1998 and 1999.

And Indira Gandhi was sworn in 4 times in 1966, 1967, 1971 and 1980, he said. "The drumbeaters will look for anything to justify Mr Narendra Modi's pathetic electoral performance in 2024," Ramesh said.

In another post, the Congress general secretary said the 2024 elections have been a "moral defeat" for Modi and the BJP, while being a "morale booster" for his party. (PTI)

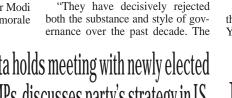
bers and told them that he would take a decision on it "very soon" congratulated the people for voting so

protect the Constitution and enhance

TMC MPs, discusses party's strategy in LS

mata Banerjee on Saturday held a meeting of senior TMC leaders and newly elected MPs on Saturday to discuss the party's strategy in the Lok Sabha.

The meeting started at around 4:30 PM and is still on. At the onset of the meeting, Banerjee congratulated the victorious candidates, especially the new ones such



social and economic justice.

In the other resolution, the CWC

powerfully to preserve democracy,

inside and outside Parliament.

in the Lok Sabha.

Yogi Adityanath asks UP ministers to shun VIP culture Mamata holds meeting with newly elected

KOLKATA, June 8: West Bengal Chief Minister Ma-

X. Neither is Modi the only man a row or not, he said. Narendra Modi is the first to receive

Citing the example of the agriculture sector, Satheesan contended that the Left government, when it came to power for a second consecutive term, had promised to increase farmers' revenue by 50 per cent and raise the price of rubber to ₹ 250 per kilogram.

"However, what they (state government) did was to write to the Centre to increase the rubber price to ₹ 250. The coconut and rice grain collection has failed. The minimum support price of rice grain was reduced.

'The entire agriculture sector is in crisis and on top of that there is the problem of human-animal conflict which the government is unable to control," he contended.

Satheesan alleged that all other government departments, including health, were not functioning properly.

The opposition leader claimed that there were regular news reports about adequate medicines not being available in state-run hospitals and wrong operations being carried out in government medical colleges. In the employment sector, between January to March this year, the unemployment in the state was 31.8 per cent, one of the highest in the country, he claimed, citing a survey report by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

"The electricity board is under a huge debt, there are several months of arrears of welfare and social security pensions, the Kerala Civil Supplies Corporation is in ruins and the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation is on the verge of complete ruin," Satheesan alleged. He said that the progress report was released by the state government at a time when "Kerala is in a severe financial crisis and the treasury is empty'

"There cannot be a bigger joke than that (the progress report)," he said. Releasing the progress report on Friday, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had said the state has witnessed rapid development under the Left Democratic Front (LDF) rule in the eight years despite facing difficulties like floods, Nipah outbreaks, Okhi and the Covid-19 pandemic. (PTI)

logue, coordination and sensitivity (samvaad, samanvay, samvedansheelta)"

He said the government is flect the VIP culture," he said. The UP chief minister confor the people and public interest is paramount for it. In such gratulated the formation of the a situation, the problems, exgovernment at the Centre for pectations and needs of the the third consecutive time person standing at the last rung under the leadership of Prime of the society must be resolved, Minister Narendra Modi, and he said. A statement issued also congratulated the minishere said in a special meeting ters who were elected as MPs. He said the way in which of the council of ministers. Adityanath asked them to visit development has gained pace the people, communicate with in UP in the 10 years (stint) of Modi, the government will be them with sensitivity and solve

VIP culture. "All of us will of the policies, decisions and the positive results of the douhave to be alert and cautious so that none of our activities reble engine government.

While discussing the departmental action plan, the chief minister said the state government is working towards achieving the target of a trillion dollar economy. The responsibility of every department is already fixed in this regard. It is the responsibility of the ministers to review the progress according to the target and get immediate correction done wherever there is any discrepancy, he said. (PTI)

successful in creating many

new records in the coming five

vears. He asked the ministers

to widely publicise the

achievements of the Centre and

the state government, increase

active participation on social

media, make the public aware

as Yusuf Pathan, Rachana Banerjee, Mitali Bag, Jagadish Chandra Barma Basunia. The TMC maintained its dominance in the state as Banerjee led her party to a resounding victory by bagging 29 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in the state, whereas the principal opposition BJP was down to 12 and the Congress to one seat. Apart from Lok Sabha MPs, Rajya Sabha MPs and district presidents are attending the meeting.

"During the meeting, the role and strategy of the party in the Lok Sabha will be discussed. The party might also decide on who will be the leader of the TMC party in Lok Sabha," a party leader said earlier in the day. In the last Lok Sabha, 75-year-old TMC MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay was the leader of the party in the lower house of the parliament. (PTI)

Ramoji Rao, who revolutionised the news and entertainment industry, died in hospital early on Saturday President Droupadi Murmu, PM Modi condole demise of Ramoji Rao

HYDERABAD, June 8: President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, chief ministers of several states and film personalities on Saturday mourned the death of media mogul Ramoji Rao

TDP Chief N Chandrababu Naidu, who was accompanied by his wife Bhuvaneshwari, paid floral tributes at the mortal remains of Ramoji Rao at the Ramoji Film City here.

Former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, former Chief Justice of India N V Ramana, several Telangana ministers and MLAs and leaders from Andhra Pradesh also paid tributes to Ramoji Rao.

President Droupadi Murmu said Ramoji Rao's contributions to the industry will be long remembered. "With the demise of Shri Ramoji

Rao, India has lost a titan of the media and entertainment sector," President Murmu said in a post on X. Expressing grief at the death of Ramoji Rao, PM Modi described him as a 'visionary' who revolutionised Indian media.

Rao's rich contributions have left an indelible mark on journalism and the world of films, Modi said on X, adding that through his



cinema, and entertainment have

left a lasting impact and trans-

hakrishnan called Ramoji Rao a

'true legend', who revolutionized

Indian media and cinema with his

profound and extensive contribu-

Telangana CM Revanth Reddy

termed Ramoji Rao's death as a

The CM, who is in Delhi to at-

tend CWC meeting, directed state

"great loss" to the Telugu newspa-

per and media industry.

formed the media landscape. Telangana Governor C P Rad-

tions

noteworthy efforts, he set new standards in innovation and excellence in the media and entertainment world.

"Ramoji Rao Garu was extremely passionate about India's development. I am fortunate to have got several opportunities to interact with him and benefit from his wisdom. Condolences to his family, friends and countless admirers during this difficult time.

Om Shanti," he said. Rahul Gandhi said Ramoji Rao's contributions to journalism,

Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari to conduct Ramoji Rao's funeral with full state honours, a CMO release said.

Mourning the passing of Rao, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin hailed the media mogul's contributions to journalism and film industry.

Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijavan, in a post on his X handle. said Rao's curiosity, foresight, and determination left an indelible mark on every field he ventured into, serving as an example and inspiration to all.

West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee extended her condolences to Rao's family members, friends and innumerable followers and remembered her personal interactions with him.

The Bengal CM also recollected her visit to the Ramoji Film City on his invitation.

Rajinikanth, Chiranjeevi, Allu Arjun, Ram Charan and Jr NTR, ace director SS Rajamouli and several other prominent cinema personalities also expressed grief over the demise of Ramoji Rao.

Ramoji Rao, who revolutionised the news and entertainment industry, died at a hospital here early on Saturday. He was 88. (PTI)



(MAHARASHTRA), JALNA June 8: Maratha activist Manoj Jarange launched an indefinite fast on Saturday demanding implementation of the draft notification that recognises as Kunbis all blood relatives of Maratha community members. He also sought framing of a law to identify Kunbis as Marathas, and warned of fielding candidates from all 288 assembly seats in Maharashtra in the upcoming state polls if his demands were not approved. Jarange launched the fresh round of agitation at his native Antarwali Sarati village in Ambad tehsil of Maharashtra's Jalna district around 10.30 am even as the district administration and the police authorities have denied permission for it. He has been demanding Other Backward Community (OBC) tag for the Marathas and implementation

of the draft notification issued by the state government earlier this year for issuing certificates to blood relatives of eligible Kunbi Marathas.

Kunbi, an agrarian group, falls under the OBC category, and Jarange has been demanding that Kunbi certificates be issued to all Marathas, thus making them eligible for quota benefits.

'I will not give up until the Maratha reservation is granted," Jarange, the face of the quota agitation, asserted. He accused the state government of trying to stall his protest by inciting the residents of Antarwali Sarati.

A section of villagers earlier submitted a memorandum to the district administration, urging it to not grant permission to Jarange's protest in the village, citing a potential threat to

communal harmony Jarange urged Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to address the Maratha reservation issue.

"If the demand for Maratha reservation is not fulfilled, I will field candidates from various communities from all 288 assembly segments in the state in the upcoming state elections," he said, adding that personally he would stay away from electoral politics.

Jarange said the draft notification on the 'sage soyare' (blood relatives) of the Kunbi Marathas be implemented and a law should be framed to identify Kunbis as Marathas.

He said the Maratha community will hold CM Shinde and deputy CM Fadnavis in high regard if the reservation demand is met.

Before this, Jarange had held the agitation over the quota issue between February 10 and 26.

On February 20, the Maharashtra legislature on Tuesday unanimously passed a bill providing 10 per cent reservation for the Marathas in education and government jobs under a separate category.

Speaking to reporters on Friday, the activist claimed that 57 lakh documents, which prove that Marathas and Kunbis are the same, have been received.

He said that once the target of Maratha reservation is achieved, he would launch a fight to get quota for Dhangar and Muslim communities as well. On whether the Maratha reservation issue impacted the candidates in the recently-concluded Lok Sabha polls, he said his community showed its strength in these polls.

He denied the allegation that BJP leader Pankaja Munde lost the election from Beed because of his appeal to the community members.

He said that he neither supported nor opposed any party.

"I did not favour any candidate nor was against anyone in the Lok Sabha election," he said.

Accusing CM Shinde and deputy CM Fadnavis of obstructing the Maratha reservation process, Jarange alleged that Fadnavis conspired against the Maratha community. (PTI)

NATION

NEET-UG row: Education ministry sets up 4-member panel to review grace marks to over 1500 candidates

NEW DELHI, June 8: Amid allegations of inflation of marks in the NEET-UG medical entrance exam, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Saturday that the education ministry has set up a fourmember panel to review the grace marks awarded to more than 1,500 candidates

5'

The NTA denied any irregularities and said the changes made in the NCERT textbooks and grace marks for losing time at the examination centres were some of the reasons behind the students scoring higher marks

The issue also took political turn with the AAP demanding a Supreme Court-monitored SIT probe into the alleged irregularities and the Congress alleging paper leaks, rigging and corruption have become an integral part of many examinations. The party also accused the BJP of cheating youngsters and playing with their futures.

There have been calls from several quarters for a re-exam alleging that the grace marks awarded to make up for the loss of time at six exam centres have led to the inflation of marks and tampered with the chances of other candidates.

These centres are from Meghalaya, Bahadurgarh in Haryana, Dantewada and Balodh in Chhattisgarh, Surat in Gujarat and Chandigarh.

The result of the medical entrance exam was announced on June 4. Sixty seven candidates had shared the first rank in the exam including

Bodies of all 4 students who drowned in Russian river recovered, being flown to India

JALGAON, June 8: Russian authorities have recovered bodies of all the four Indian students who drowned in the Volkhov river, a Maharashtra Government official said on Saturday.

"While two bodies were found within the first two days of the June 4 incident, Russian officials said two more were recovered this morning," Jalgaon district collector Avush Prasad said.

The bodies are being flown to Mumbai and will be later taken to the students' native places in Jalgaon district, the official said.

While Harshal Anantrao Desale, Jishan Ashpak Pinjari, Jia Firoj Pinjari and Malik Gulamgous Mohammad Yakub drowned, another student Nisha Bhupesh Sonawane survived. All were aged between

18 and 20. They were studying at Yaroslay-



six from the same centre in Haryana. A record more than 24 lakh candidates had registered for the exam this year

"A high-powered committee has been set up to review the results of over 1,500 candidates. The fourmember panel headed by a former UPSC chairman will submit its recommendations within a week and the results of these candidates might be revised," NTA Director General Subodh Kumar Singh said at a press conference here.

"The awarding of grace marks has not impacted the qualifying criteria of the exam and the review of results of the affected candidates will not impact the admission process," he

According to experts, the mark inflation in NEET UG 2024 result is expected to make securing a spot in medical school this year more difficult. Some aspiring students have turned to online platforms to demand

the cancellation of the results and a re-examination Asked about whether the exam

will be re-conducted for certain students, the NTA DG said, it will be decided depending upon the committee's recommendations. "The idea is to ensure that stu-

dents who lost time or other students are not at any disadvantage," he said.

Singh denied any paper leak and irregularities in the exam and reiterated that the integrity of the crucial test had not been compromised. The Congress in Kerala alleged that results have raised concerns about the authenticity of the national exam for medical courses, with many students casting doubt on the procedure.

"The Modi government is directly responsible for this. For the candidates appearing in recruitment exams, then facing several irregularities, getting caught in the labyrinth of paper leaks, is playing with their futures. The BJP has cheated the youth of the country," Congress Chief Mallikarjun Kharge said in a post in Hindi on X on Friday.

"We demand that a high-level investigation should be conducted under the supervision of the Supreme Court so that our talented students appearing in NEET and other exams get justice," he had added. The Maharashtra government has

sought immediate cancellation of last month's NEET exam, alleging that its results have caused injustice to the students from the state.

Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin said the trends from the latest NEET results have once again vindicated the DMK on its stand opposing the exam and reiterated that the entrance test goes against social justice and federalism.

The NTA DG reiterated that the increase in cutoff reflects the competitive nature of the examination and the higher performance standards achieved by the candidates this

"The number of candidates who appeared in 2023 was 20,38,596 while the number of candidates who appeared in 2024 increased to 23,33,297. The increase in candidates naturally led to an increase in high scorers due to a larger pool of candidates," he said.

Explaining the rationale behind the awarding of grace marks, Singh said, the process has been completed using a formula devised and adopted by the Supreme Court in a 2018 judgement.

"The concerns raised by the candidates through the writ petitions and representations about loss of examination time were ascertained and 1.563 candidates were compensated for the loss of time, and the revised marks of such candidates vary from -20 to 720 marks. Among these, the score of two candidates also happens to be 718 and 719 respectively due to compensatory marks," the official added

The NTA had on May 5 claimed that the distribution of wrong question papers at an exam centre in Raiasthan led to some candidates walking out with the papers. The agency had denied any leak of the question paper.

A day later, the NTA had reiterated that the reports claiming question paper leak in the medical entrance exam NEET-UG are "completely baseless and without any ground", and every question paper has been accounted. (PTI)

Cattle transporters killed in Chhattisgarh: Special probe team formed

As per preliminary investigation, three were heading towards Raipur from Mahasamund with the animals when some people chased the vehicle



RAIPUR, June 8: A special team

was constituted by Raipur Rural

police in Chhattisgarh to probe the

death of two cattle transporters,

whose kin claimed it was the re-

Two cattle transporters died and

another sustained serious injuries

after allegedly being chased by a

mob in Arnag police station limits

in the early hours of Friday. The

deceased were identified as Chand

Miya and Guddu Khan and the in-

jured as Saddam Khan, all hailing

day, the police said a 14-member

special team headed by Raipur ad-

ditional superintendent of police

(rural) Kirtan Rathore has been

constituted to probe the case and

It said deputy superintendent of

police (crime branch) Sanjay

Singh, city superintendent of po-

lice (Mana area) Lambodar Patel

and cyber cell in-charge Paresh

Arang police, late Friday night,

lodged an FIR in the connection

with case under Indian Penal Code

sections 304 (culpable homicide

not amounting to murder), 307 (at-

tempt to murder) and 34 (common

intention) against unidentified ac-

In the FIR, complainant Shoheb

Khan said Chand informed him

over phone that when the three

were heading towards Arang from

Mahasamund in a truck loaded

with cattle (buffaloes), they were

chased by some people on motor-

After one of the tyres of the

Chand told Shoheb he and his

truck got burst, those who were

chasing the trio started abusing

two other associates sustained in-

cycles and other vehicles.

and thrashing them, it said.

Pandey are part of the team.

In a statement issued during the

from Uttar Pradesh.

nab the accused.

cused.

sult of a brutal mob attack.

juries and were not in a position to walk, the FIR stated quoting the complaint. Police sources said a few sus-

pects were being questioned in the case.

ASP (Raipur Rural) Kirtan Rathore had on Friday said that as per preliminary investigation, the three were heading towards Raipur from Mahasamund with the animals when some people chased the vehicle.

"Of the three men, one was found dead and the other two were in serious condition. They were admitted to a hospital where one of them succumbed to his injuries. The truck, which was found on the bridge later, has been seized and the animals have been shifted to a cow shelter," the ASP had said.

The ASP had also said there was no evidence "as of now" that it was a case of mob lynching.

However, speaking to reporters on Friday, complainant Shoheb, a cousin of Chand and Saddam, had said a mob attacked the three persons. He claimed he had got a call from Chand, adding that his friend Mohsin was called by Saddam when they were being attacked.

"Chand told me they were being attacked by a mob. But before he could provide any detail, the call disconnected," Shoheb got claimed

In the second call to Mohsin, which lasted for 47 minutes, Saddam could be heard telling that his limbs were broken, he said.

"Saddam could be heard pleading with his attackers to spare him. believe Saddam had put his phone in his pocket while he was calling (Mohsin) and it never got disconnected so everything could be heard clearly," Shoheb told reporters on Friday. (PTI)

Indian judiciary exercises prudence & restraint in interfering with arbitral awards: Justice Kohli

NEW DELHI, June 8: The Indian judiciary exercises prudence and restraint in interfering with arbitral awards and judicial intervention on grounds of patent illegality or public policy ought to be an exceptional measure to be deployed sparingly, Supreme Court judge Justice Hima Kohli has said.

She said the Supreme Court of India has helped bolster the country's reputation as a favourable venue for dispute resolution by limiting judicial intervention and respecting arbitral awards.

"This judicial philosophy complements legislative reforms and signifies India's ambition to become a global hub for arbitration," Justice Kohli said.

She was addressing an event during the London International Disputes Week 2024: "Arbitration in India and the MENA Region: Roadmap to 2030" organised by the International Arbitration & Mediation Centre, Hyderabad in collaboration with King & Spalding LLP.

Justice Kohli said it was imperative to recognise that the essence of justice lies not only in honouring and enforcing arbitral awards but also in safeguarding fairness and equity for the stake holders.

"It must be underscored that judicial intervention on grounds of patent illegality or public policy ought to be an exceptional measure to be deployed sparingly and with utmost caution. The Indian judiciary, guided by the principles of minimal interference, exercises prudence and restraint in interfering with arbitral awards," she said.

Justice Kohli said as the landscape of arbitration evolves and new challenges emerge, the Indian judiciary has also adapted and responded to the changing needs of the hour and refined the contours of judicial intervention.

"As we look ahead to 2030, India's path forward in arbitration necessitates a robust focus on institutional arbitration. To fully realise its potential, India must continue to enhance the operational effectiveness and global reputation of its

Justice Kohli said this involves not only improving the infrastructure, but also ensuring that these institutions can boast of experienced and upright arbitrators, supported by efficient administrative frameworks and constantly updated rules.

She said by doing so, India can attract more international arbitration matters, which will, in turn, boost investor confidence and contribute to the country's economic growth.

Justice Kohli said in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, the path forward involves harmonising arbitration practices across different jurisdictions to create a more predictable and investor-friendly environment.

She said regional cooperation and dialogue are essential to achieving this harmonisation.

Justice Kohli said both India and the MENA region must embrace technological advancements to enhance the efficiency and accessibility of arbitration. (PTI)

In deepfake era, photos claiming adultery by Three workers dead, six injured in Delhi zoo transformation: New

arbitration institutions," she said.

spouse to be proved by evidence: Delhi HC Narela food processing unit fire animal species; enhanced

the-Wise Novgorod State University. The students were on a walk along the Volkhov river, when they entered the waters, a university official had said. Jishan Pinjari was on a video call with his parents when he and three others drowned, a family member said.

"When they entered the Volkhov river, Jishan made a video call to his family. His father and other family members were pleading with Jishan and the others to come out of the waters when a strong wave swept them away," the family member told local media.

Jishan Pinjari and Jia Pinjari were siblings and were from Amalner in Jalgaon district. Desale was from Bhadgaon, also in Jalgaon district. The administration of Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod State University expressed condolences in a message to the Indian envoy to Russia. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, June 8: In the era of deepfakes, photographs placed by a spouse alleging adultery by the other partner would have to be proved by way of evidence before the family court, the Delhi High Court has said. The court's observation came while dealing with a man's contention that his estranged wife was living in adultery.

The high court dismissed the appeal of the husband challenging a family court's order directing him to pay ₹75,000 maintenance to his wife and minor daughter. As the counsel for the husband drew the court's attention to certain photographs of his wife, a bench of justices Rajiv Shakdher and Amit Bansal said, "It is not clear as to whether the respondent/ wife is the person in the photographs, as alluded to by the counsel for the appellant/ husband."

"We may take judicial notice of the fact that we are living in the era of deepfakes and, therefore, this is an aspect that the appellant/ husband, perhaps, would have to prove by way of evidence before the family court," the bench said. Deepfake technology allows for the creation of realistic videos, audio recordings and images that can manipulate and mislead viewers by superimposing the likeness of one person onto an-

other, altering their words and actions, thereby presenting a false narrative or spreading misinformation. Asked by the bench whether this averment of adultery found mention in the husband's reply to the wife's plea under the Hindu Marriage Act, the man's counsel conceded that there was no mention of this aspect in the reply. The bench noted that since the petition instituted by the husband for divorce is pending adjudication, if this issue is pressed, the court may give opportunity to the parties to place their evidence on record in support of their respective cases.

"Notably, this aspect, which is vehemently pressed before us, almost as a measure of desperation to wriggle out of the obligation cast in the impugned judgment, finds no mention in the impugned judgment (of family court)," the high court said.

The husband's counsel claimed that this aspect was raised before the family court, however, it was ignored while rendering the judgment.

"If this was the situation, the best course open to the appellant/ husband was to move an application for review before the family court. However, no such measure has been taken recourse to by the husband,' it said. (PTI)

added.

NEW DELHI, June 8: Three workers were killed and six injured after a fire broke out and caused a blast in a food prodaughter. cessing unit in the Narela Industrial Area in the early hours

said. The police received a distress call at 3:35 am about the fire at the factory of Shayam Kripa Foods Private Limited, which processed dry moong dal, it said.

of Saturday, the Delhi Police

The fire engulfed the factory, trapping some workers inside, a police officer said.

Fourteen fire tenders were pressed into service and the blaze was doused by noon, a Delhi Fire Services official said.

He said nine people were rescued from the building and admitted to Satyawadi Raja Harish Chandra Hospital in Narela.

The police officer said three of them -- Shyam (24), Ram Singh (30) and Beerpal (42) -were declared dead while the others are undergoing treat-

(26), Akash (19), Mohit Kumar (21). Ravi Kumar (19), Monu (25) and Lalu (32) are undergoing treatment at Safdarjung Hospital for burn injuries, he added.

suggest that the blaze started after a gas leak from one of the pipelines. The pipelines supplied gas to burners used for roasting the moong dal, the officer said.

As the fire spread, it caused the compressor to overheat, resulting in a blast, he said.

The blast was so strong that one wall of a room also collapsed, he added.

The victims' family members alleged that they worked 12hour shifts, instead of eight, for Rs 12,000 to Rs 20,000 per month, depending on their experience.

The factory owners had hired lish and see how this unit is workabout 20 workers.

Ram Singh, a native of Uttar Pradesh's Auraiya, is survived by his wife and a six-year-old

His uncle Avdhesh Singh said, "His family lives in their native village and was solely dependent on him. He earned about Rs 14,000 a month. Who will take care of them?"

Beerpal's son Akash said he would help his father run the family by driving a taxi.

"I have a younger brother and two teenage sisters. They are all studying. I don't know how we will survive now." Akash said.

Beerpal was a native of Uttar Pradesh's Mainpuri but lived in the factory. His family lives in west Delhi's Nangloi area.

Akash said his father would come home once or twice a month to meet them.

Shyam -- a native of Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj -- lived on the first floor of the building with the other workers and worked on the ground floor, which housed all the machinery, his cousin Bhola said.

He had a night shift on Friday, Bhola added.

The factory owners -- Rohini residents Ankit Gupta and Vinay Gupta -- were arrested after they failed to provide documents related to the unit, which had been running since 2010, another officer said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Ravi Kumar Singh said a case under sections 285 (negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter), 287 (negligent conduct with respect to machinery), 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 304 A (causing death by negligence) of the Indian Penal Code has been

registered. The owners failed to provide the fire no-objection certificate and it appeared that the factory was running without proper safety measures, he added. (PTI)

visitors' experience

NEW DELHI, June 8: The National Zoological Park here is set for a significant transformation with the focus on enhancing its appearance and visitors' experience while making arrangements for new animal species, a senior official said on Saturday.

Popularly known as the Delhi Zoo, the zoological park is situated on a 176-acre site behind the historic Purana Qila and has been a prominent landmark since its inception in 1952. Speaking about the 'Zoo Transformative Plan', Sanjeev Kumar, director of the National Zoological Park, said, "A lot of work is currently underway. We are working on projects that will enhance the visitors' experience and aesthetic improvements to change the look of the zoo.

"We are also making arrangements for the convenience of the visitors and enhance the living conditions of the animal. We will make new components and fix some old components in the zoo," Kumar added.

The official said the zoo plans to welcome some new species of animals but before that happens, "necessary habitats" have to be created.

"There is a lot of fixing that needs to be done, especially if we are planning to welcome some new animal species.

"Before we welcome any new animals to the zoo, we are committed to providing them with the necessary habitats," Kumar said.

"Our priority is to create a more suitable and enriched environment for all our animals," Kumar added.

A key feature of the transformative plan is the introduction of an innovative audio guide providing detailed information about the animals, Kumar said.

"Visitors will soon be able to scan QR codes placed on trees and other strategic locations throughout the zoo. Once scanned, these codes will provide detailed audio information about the animals, making it easier and more convenient for visitors to learn about the zoo's diverse wildlife," Kumar said.

"The QR codes will revolutionise how our visitors interact with and learn about animals. This is part of our broader efforts to transform the zoo and make it more educational and engaging," he added.

Additionally, the zoo will undergo extensive beautification efforts. This includes the construction of new sections, renovation of existing structures, and overall improvements to the landscape, Kumar said. (PTI)

MUMBAI, June 8: An initiative by a non-profit organisation in Maharashtra aims to remove social and cultural stigma associated with menstruation, one of the factors contributing to the high school drop-out rate among adolescent girls. Under 'Ujaas', an initiative launched in collaboration with the state government, awareness sessions are conducted at government

schools. As many as 20 percent of girls drop out of school on reaching puberty due to lack of menstrual hygiene facilities, which also contributes to school absenteeism, said Ujaas founder Advaitesha Birla.

"According to reports, it is estimated that 23 million girls drop out of school annually due to menstruation-related issues. We feel that increasing awareness, accessibility and affordability will help reduce the drop-out rates, especially in rural areas," she told PTI earlier this week.

The initiative has been launched by the Aditya Birla Education Trust. Lack of awareness on menstrual hygiene leads to infections and re-



Mestrual awareness initiative conducted in govt schools

Initiative aims to reduce girls' school drop-out rate by spreading menstruation awareness

productive health issues, menstrual disorders, psychological distress, pregnancy complications among others. Birla stated.

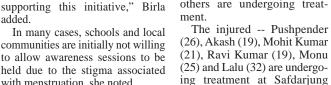
"Many girls don't even know what menstruation is until their first period, which we found early on to be a significant gap in knowledge. We aim to create a supportive and positive ecosystem involving girls, parents, community members, teach-

ers, and boys. We address affordabilhas also started a production unit for ity and accessibility by distributing reusable sanitary napkins at Jalna in sanitary napkins for free, ensuring central Maharashtra.

once they are aware," she said. "We have permissions from the SCERT (State Council of Educational Research and Training) and are working towards getting approvals for more schools. This shows the government's interest in

edge the positive impact of our sessions," Birla added. In collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Ujaas

girls have the resources they need



Preliminary investigations

with menstruation, she noted. "People are reluctant to have these

sessions, often citing previous efforts or other priorities like exams. Social and cultural hurdles make girls very shy to talk on this subject. Once we

overcome the initial resistance, we see significant progress. Both principals and teachers often acknowl-

"We have begun training women

and we now have a fully functioning

production unit with 25 self-help

group women in Jalna. We are plan-

ning to expand this model to other

parts of the country once we estab-

ing," Birla said. (PTI)

ENTERTAINMENT

Rajinikanth, Chiranjeevi, Allu Arjun and Ram Charan pay tribute to Ramoji Rao

HYDERABAD, June 8: Rajinikanth, Chiranjeevi, Allu Arjun, Ram Charan and Jr NTR were among the prominent cinema personalities who expressed grief over the demise of media baron Ramoji Rao, the founder of Eenadu Group and Ramoji Film City. Rao, who revolutionised the news and entertainment industry, died at a hospital in Hyderabad early on Saturday. He was 88.

In a post on X, Rajinikanth remembered Rao as his mentor and well wisher and said he is "deeply saddened" by his death. "The man who created history in Journalism, Cinema and a great kingmaker in Politics. He was my guide and inspiration in my life. May his soul rest in peace. @Ramoji_FilmCity," the veteran star wrote.

Chiranjeevi posted an emotional message on X, saying that Ramoji Rao, who was like a mountain that never bowed down to anyone, has reached the heavenly abode.

Allu Arjun said Ramoji Rao was a "pioneer and an inspiring visionary" and he has a deep respect for the media baron. "I feel his aura every time I shoot at #RFC. His unparal-

leled contributions to the media, cinema, and many other industries will never be forgotten. Heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. May his great soul rest in peace," he wrote on X.

The Ramoji Film City (RFC) has been recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's largest film city.

Thousands of films, including SS Rajamouli's two-part blockbuster "Baahubali", in almost all Indian languages and some in Hindi, have been shot at the Ramoji Film City on the outskirts of Hyderabad. (PTI)

HORROR COMEDY **'MUNJYA' EARNS** ₹ 4.21 **CORE AT BOX OFFICE ON DAY ONE**

MUMBAI, June 8: Horror-comedy "Munjya" earned in ₹ 4.21 crore nett on its opening day at the domestic box office, the makers said Saturday.

Starring Sharvari, Mona Singh, Abhay Verma, and Sathyaraj, the movie was released in theatres on Friday. It is directed by Aditya Sarpotdar and produced by Dinesh Vijan's Maddock Films and Amar Kaushik.

Maddock Films shared the film's opening day numbers in a post on Instagram.

"This record-breaking collection for a film with no A-list ac-



Kangana slams those praising CISF constable who slapped her

NEW DELHI, June 8: Actor-politician Kangana Ranaut on Saturday criticised people praising the CISF woman constable who allegedly slapped her, asking if they also justify "rape or murder"

Ranaut, in a video message on Thursday, said she was hit in the face and abused by the constable during a security check at the Chandigarh airport.

"If you are aligned with the criminals strong emotional impulse to commit a crime violating all laws of the land. "Remember if you are ok with breaking in to someone's intimate zone, without their permission touching their bodies and assaulting them then deep down you are ok with rape or murder also because that's also just penetration or stab only what big deal, you must look deeper in to your psychological criminal tendencies (sic)," the 37-year-old posted on X.

In her video message, Ranaut said she was hit in the face and abused by a CISF constable, who appeared to be upset with the actor over her stance on the farmer protests, during security check at the Chandigarh airport.

The ugly fracas broke out two days after she was elected to the Lok Sabha from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh. Kulwinder Kaur, the accused CISF personnel, has been suspended and an investigation has been launched. The CISF, tasked with providing security at airports, has also ordered a court of inquiry into the incident. In her latest post, Ranaut also advised people to "take up yoga and meditation or else life will become a bitter and burdensome experience"."Don't carry so much grudge, hate and jealousy please, free yourself," the actor added. Earlier on Saturday, Ranaut found support from cinema veteran Shabana Azmi, who said security officials should not take law into their hands.

In a post on X, Azmi said though she has "no love lost" for Ranaut, she wouldn't join people who are celebrating the "slap". "I have no love lost for Kangana Ranaut. But I can't find myself joining this chorus of celebrating 'the slap'. If security personnel start taking law into their hands, none of us can be safe," Azmi wrote. (PTI)

Kangana slap row: Shabana Azmi says security personnel shouldn't take law in their hands





NEW DELHI, June 8: Cinema veteran Shabana Azmi on Saturday came out in support of actor-politician Kangana Ranaut after she was allegedly slapped by a CISF woman constable, saying security officials should not take law into their hands. Ranaut, in a video message on Thursday, said she was hit in the

face and abused by the constable during a security check at the Chandigarh airport

tors is a testament to the power of a captivating story and the brilliance of CGI technology. 'Munjya' has sprung the biggest surprise in the industry, setting the stage for a remarkable box office run," the company said in a press note.

Set in Pune and the Konkan region of Maharashtra, "Munjya" follows the story of the eponymous mythical creature from the world of Indian belief and cultural system.

The film, which has its roots in the Marathi folklore, is reportedly set in the Maddock Films' horror comedy universe, "Stree" (2018), "Roohi" (2021), and "Bhediya" (2022).filming for "Daldal", the upcoming Prime Video thriller that will mark the actor's series debut.

The actor, who was most recently seen in "Bhakshak", shared the news on Instagram, where she also posted a still from the show, in which she will star as a cop hot on the heels of a serial killer in Mumbai. "The past never stays buried for long. Rita's journey with #Daldal commences from today.. #Day1 #DaldalOnPrime," Pednekar, 34, wrote in the caption. Amrit Raj Gupta of "Gullak" fame will direct the series, based on Vish Dhamija's book "Bhendi Bazaar". (PTI)

In a post on X, Azmi said though she has "no love lost" for Ra-

naut, she wouldn't join people who are celebrating the "slap"

"I have no love lost for Kangana Ranaut. But I can't find myself joining this chorus of celebrating 'the slap'. If security personnel start taking law into their hands, none of us can be safe," Azmi wrote.

Azmi's husband, veteran screenwriter and lyricist Javed Akhtar, has filed a defamation case against Ranaut over her remarks that he had threatened her. The case is still in court.

In her video message, Ranaut said she was hit in the face and abused by a CISF constable, who appeared to be upset with the actor over her stance on the farmer protests, during security check at the Chandigarh airport.

The ugly fracas broke out two days after she was elected to the Lok Sabha from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh.

Kulwinder Kaur, the accused CISF personnel, has been suspended and an investigation has been launched. The CISF, tasked with providing security at airports, has also ordered a court of inquiry into the incident. (PTI)

TVF to venture into films, plans to make sci-fi & horror shows, says originals head Shreyansh

MUMBAI, June 8: After delivering successful shows such as "Panchayat", "Gullak" and "Kota Factory", content creation studio The Viral Fever (TVF) plans to foray into films while also exploring genres like horror and thriller in the long format, says the company's Originals Head, Shreyansh Pandey.

TVF, which began as a YouTube channel, has become one of the most successful companies in the Indian streaming space, churning out relatable stories from different corners of India whether it is "Panchayat", a drama set in the rural space, or "Gullak", which revolves around a middle class family in small town India. The company's first show as "Permanent Roommates" in 2014.

"Kota Factory", another of their shows, explores the reality of competitive exams aspirants, trying to improve in

the many coaching centres of Rajasthan's Kota city.

We will keep making shows to entertain people. The next exciting step in our journey would be to make films. There are a couple of films that TVF content studio is working on. We are doing a lot of homework. We are in the process of starting new stuff," Pandey told PTI in an interview.

"For our shows, we'll do more genres, while dramas will remain at the core of it. The same goes with feature films, where we will have both simple stories and movies of spectacle and scale. There are sci-fi, horror and thriller (shows). We are trying to come up with next season of 'Gullak' soon, it is a family story on which people keep showering love," he said,

Pandey also teased more seasons of "Panchayat" and "Kota Factory" as well as the

sophomore chapter of sports drama "Sixer" TVF produced 15 shows in

2023 and the company plans to produce even more in 2024. he added.

"We hope to do more shows. We've a list of 35 to 40 shows which are in different phases of development, pre-production to production, and how much of it gets executed is a factor of many things.

Pandey, who serves as a creator of "Gullak", said the anticipation around the fourth season, which was released on SonyLIV on Friday, makes him nervous but he is also proud about the show. He revealed the series was

initially planned as a YouTube show for the channel Screen Patti but SonyLIV decided to license it for its platform.

Starring Geetanjali Kulkarni, Jameel Khan, Vaibhav Raj Gupta and Harsh Mayar, the show centers on a middle-class Mishra family as they navigate life in a nonde-

script town in Uttar Pradesh. "When you are making sea-

son four of the title, then you're always confused how much of it has to be new or how much of it has to be a return from the love for the characters and the universe that you've built," said Pandey, who also makes his debut as a director with "Gullak 4"

Writing is the most difficult job, the creator-director said, adding that the team spent close to two years to finalise the script for the new season

"The only way to do it right is to go over your script again and again, rewrite it, and narrate it to a bunch of people. Our strength comes from the litmus test wherein we are narrating scripts to our creative forum, that's within TVF. (PTI)



SPORTS

Alcaraz will play

Zverev in the first French

Open final for each

England loses to Iceland in its last friendly before Euro 2024; host Germany beats Greece

LONDON, June 8: England was booed by some of its own fans after losing 1-0 to Iceland on Friday in its last friendly before the European Championship, while host nation Germany recovered from a goal down to beat Greece 2-1.

Jón Dagur Thorsteinsson left defender John Stones standing as he scored for Iceland in the 16th minute to bring back memories of one of England's lowest points of recent years, its 2-1 elimination by Iceland at Euro 2016.

England created few clear-cut chances against Iceland and nearly conceded a second goal when a promising Icelandic counterattack ended with Thorsteinsson slipping as he shot.

"We learned a lot and we know the performance wasn't good enough," England manager Gareth Southgate told broad-caster Channel 4. "Equally we needed the game; there's a lot of players that we're managing their minutes and it was obviously a disjointed and disappointing performance and we didn't show enough character."

England, which beat Bosnia-Herzegovina 3-0 on Monday, gets its tournament under way



June 16 against Serbia in Group С.

Germany needed substitute Pascal Gross' 89th-minute goal to secure the win over Greece a week before it opens Euro 2024 against Scotland in Munich. Georgios Masouras gave

Greece the lead in the 34th on the rebound after goalkeeper Manuel Neuer failed to hold a shot from Christos Tzolis. Arsenal forward Kai Havertz leveled in the 56th when he shot on the turn and it went in off Manolis Siopis. After Benjamin Henrichs sent a shot off the bar in the 83rd, Germany finally took the lead when Gross hit a fierce shot from outside the box

With a flat first-half performance and a late recovery, the win over Greece continues a mixed bag of form for Germany, which

beat France and the Netherlands in friendlies in March but has also lost to Japan, Turkey and Austria within the last 12 months.

Neuer's error for the Greece goal came shortly after Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann confirmed he was cutting Stuttgart goalkeeper Alexander Nübel as he finalized the 26-player squad for the tournament. Barcelona's Marc-Andre ter Stegen and Hoffenheim's Oliver Baumann are the two other goalkeepers in the squad.

Nagelsmann committed in March to having Neuer as his first-choice goalkeeper for Euro 2024, even though injuries meant the Bayern Munich goalkeeper only played his first game under Nagelsmann for Germany in Monday's 0-0 draw with Ukraine.

Also Friday, Poland beat neighbor Ukraine 3-1 with three goals in the opening 30 minutes and Scotland drew 2-2 with Finland after giving up a 2-0 lead.

Romania failed to beat one of Europe's smallest nations, Liechtenstein, in a 0-0 draw. The Czech Republic cruised to a 7-1 win over Malta. Albania beat Azerbaijan 3-1. (AP)

PARIS, June 8: Carlos Alcaraz started poorly and fell behind early in his French Open semifinal against Jannik Sinner. Later, as both dealt with cramps under Friday's afternoon sun. Alcaraz

trailed by two sets to one. By the end of the latest installment in this burgeoning rivalry between two young, talented players, an engaging five-setter that lasted 4 hours, 9 minutes, Alcaraz actually had accumulated fewer total points, 147-145.

That, of course, is not the score that matters. And Alcaraz, who says he takes pleasure from challenges, ultimately persevered, pulling out a 2-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 6victory over Sinner to get to his first final in Paris. It made the 21year-old from Spain the youngest man to reach a Grand Slam title match on three surfaces.

"You have to find the joy even more on clay, here at Roland Garros. Long rallies. Four-hour matches. Five sets." Alcaraz said. "You have to fight. You have to suffer. But as I told my team many, many times, you have to enjoy suffering." He won championships at

the U.S. Open in 2022 on hard courts and at Wimbledon in 2023 on grass.

Now the No. 3-seeded Alcaraz will face No. 4 Alexander Zverev of Germany on the red clay Sunday. Hours before his 2-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 semifinal victory over No. 7 Casper Ruud of Norway, Zverev's domestic abuse case in Berlin ended, because he reached an outof-court settlement with his accuser, a former girlfriend.

When a reporter tried to follow up on the topic, Zverev said: "We move on. I never, ever want to hear another question about the subject again. That goes out to everybody."

Ruud started well, but then began to fade, and he was handed some pills by a doctor during a third-set changeover. Ruud, who said afterward he had a stomach problem, looked listless and stopped chasing some shots, a shell of the player who leads the tour in match wins this season and has been the runner-up at majors three times — including in 2022 and 2023 in Paris.

Zverev finally broke through at Roland Garros after bowing out in the semifinals each of the past three years. This will be his second Grand Slam final: He blew a twoset lead and lost in five against Dominic Thiem at the U.S. Open in 2020. (AP)

Focussed on our own skills rather than opposition: Rashid Khan



GEORGETOWN (GUYANA), June 8: Rashid Khan always wanted his teammates to have faith in their own abilities rather than fret over opposition's strengths and that's what they did during Afghanistan's memorable 84-run victory over New Zealand in the T20 World Cup group league game.

159 Defending

about the effort we put it's a batting, bowling fielding, that's something which gives me lots of pleasure.

"It's fine with as long you give hundred percent and you happy with your efforts at the end of the

day. In the last year's ODI World Cup, Afghanistan famously stunned England, Pakistan and Sri

Norway Chess: Praggnanandhaa beats Nakamura; Carlsen wins Norway Chess

STAVANGER (NORWAY), June 8: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa ended his campaign on a positive note by de-American Hikaru feating Nakamura in the finale to sign off third even as world number one Magnus Carlsen won the Norway Chess tournament here. Carlsen walked away with prize money of 7,00,000 NOK

(Around USD 65,000 reserved for the winner) for ending with 17.5 points in the unique tournament that ensured that each round had a winner either through Classical time control or Armageddon if the game ended in a draw. Nakamura finished second on

15.5 points despite losing to Praggnanandhaa, who concluded third on 14.5 points.

Praggnanandhaa can be happy with the fact that he defeated the top three ranked players in the world in one of the strongest ever tournaments.

He had beaten Carlsen and Caruana under Classical time control earlier in the tournament and his win against Nakamura ensured that he became the first player ever to beat the top three.

The fourth place went to Alireza Firouzja (13.5 points) who accounted for reigning world champion Ding Liren of China. The Iranian turned Frenchman also won under the Armageddon, leaving Liren at the bottom of the standings behind Caruana who finished on 10 points for the fifth place in the six-players double round-robin tournament



In the Women's section, Wenjun Ju had no trouble securing the top spot at the expense of compatriot Tingjie Lei. The Chinese

won with 19 points in all coming from three wins under Classical time control. Anna Muzychuk finished sec-

of Lei who in turn was two points clear of R Vaishali. Koneru Humpy on 10 points was a distant fifth ahead of veteran Pia Cramling who tallied eight points in all. The final round was not devoid of excitement. Carlsen de-

livers on demand and he did just that yet again against Fabiano Caruana. After a regulation draw in the Ruy Lopez as white Carlsen reserved his energy for the final Armageddon and his Queen pawn opening ensured a tangible advantage as the game progressed.

The Norwegian won in the Queen and pawns endgame after 52 moves when his passed pawn in the centre was about to become a new Queen. (PTI)

Batters know they didn't bat well but nothing Game-changers

shot out New Zealand for 75 with left-arm seamer Fazalhaq Farooqui and the skipper himself decimating the opposition with four wickets apiece.

"Now, we need to beat the teams in our own skills rather than think about the opposition much and that's the only thing I have been telling the guys like just make sure we look into our skills," Rashid said during the post-match presentation ceremony.

For skipper, it is the effort that matters more than the results as he believes that if a team is good enough, results take care of itself.

"It doesn't matter whoever we play the opposition it's more about how good you are how good you're going to play and what type of energy you coming with into the ground and that for me is very important.

I don't much care about the result a lot to be honest. I more care Lanka, while in the 2016 T20 World Cup they had secured a memorable win over eventual champions West Indies.

"We haven't had those victories in T20 World Cups. We had in ODI, but in T20 I feel like this was one of the best performance from the guys," said the skipper who starred in his masterful bowling act of 4/17

Rahmanullah Gurbaz blasted 80 from 56 deliveries while fellow opener Ibrahim Zadran added 44 from 41 to give them a flying start. In reply, left-arm seamer Farooqi, who claimed five wickets against Uganda on Monday, grabbed 4/17 from just 3.2 overs, matching his skipper's bowling figures

"It's not just about a single guy you know winning the game it's a great team effort the way Gurbaz and Ibrahim started the innings. (PTI)

to worry: Bangladesh skipper Shanto DALLAS, June 8: Bangladesh batters made heavy weather of the chase of 125 runs against Sri Lanka but skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto isn't too worried as they were able to make a winning start in the T20 World Cup.

Bangladesh were cruising along at 91 for 3 courtesy Towhid Hridoy (40) and Litton Das (36) before they lost five wickets for 21 runs. It was Mahmudullah Riyad, who hit a six off Dasun Shanaka to ensure a two-wicket victory for Shanto's men. "I don't think there are many reasons to worry. I'm saying this because it was a very

intense match. We wanted to win at the end of the day. So if you think about the result, we got two points," Shanto said at the postmatch press conference.

"All the batsmen know that we didn't bat well. But not everyone plays well everyday. Like Hridoy played a very good innings, Riyad will do well." finished the game, Litton gave a beautiful start after a long time. So,

we are good in some areas. "So, I hope that whoever gets set on any day should make the match win. I don't expect that all the seven batsmen in the team will play well." The two openers. Tanzid Hassan and Soumya Sarkar, failed but the skipper came to their rescue.

"As I said earlier, the game is not for the openers only. We have seven batsmen batting at the top. It's everyone's responsibility.

"As a captain, I want that whoever gets set and gets a good start, should finish the game. I hope that

the openers will give a good start and finish the game. So, I hope and I am optimistic that everyone

Rishad Hossain's two wickets in two balls proved to be a gamechanger and the skipper was all praise for the young leg-spinner.

"I always have faith in him (Rishad) because he is a wickettaking bowler. We all know that it's not easy to play a leg-spinner. There can be two or one boundary, but there is always a possibility of taking a wicket. So, I have tried to do that. "And in his case, I haven't seen left-hand or right-hand matters a lot for him. So, as a captain, I wanted him to take out one or two wickets, which he did per-

fectly." Shanto said that he is more day to make the team win." (PTI)

bothered about his players rather than what kind of narrative is being set in social media after they lost a series to the USA just before the T20 World Cup.

"No, those who talk on social media can say whether this has been stopped, but we cannot control social media. I don't think the players are following social media a lot and it's not in our control either. "So, we are only thinking about the things we can control and how honest we are, whether we are taking our preparation well and we are trying 100% to make the team win the game.

"We think about these only and the 15-17 players who are here, everyone tries to give their 120%. They think about winning every

are those who score more than 2 per ball: Sidhu

NEW YORK, June 8: Former India cricketer Navjot Singh Sidhu believes that the word gamechanger should not be thrown around loosely in T20 cricket as only those who can score at least two runs per ball deserve to be described like that. Strike rates were a hot topic during the IPL last month and also amid the low-scoring games of the ongoing T20 World Cup here.

"See, game changers are those who will score 2 runs in a ball," Sidhu said on 'Star Sports Press Room'. "You are talking about strike rates, 1.5, 1.7, but there are some people who are scoring 2.5 runs, three runs per ball. There are some people who in the end will come and score in 10 balls, a 35. Now that is the quality," he pointed out. "That 35 in ten balls, if two people score and support someone like Virat Kohli, is a game changer. Make no mistake about it," he added.

Sidhu said in the current Indian team Shivam Dube and Axar Patel have what it takes to be gamechangers. "...you look at the IPL and you look at the T20 format, those who can actually score a 2.5 per ball or above two per ball are the real game changers. There are so many of them. "There is Ravindra Jadeja, there is Dube, and even Axar also scores the runs in the same pace. Why is (MS) Dhoni such a great finisher, because his strike rate is 2.5, his strike rate at times is 4 per ball. "That is the real game changing effect in the game of cricket in T-20. It's a different skill altogether, the skill to clear the ground." Talking about the blockbuster India-Pakistan T20 World Cup clash on Sunday, Sidhu said while he would have preferred a Rohit Sharma-Yashasvi Jaiswal combination for opening, he can understand why Kohli has been paired with the skipper.(PTI)

Kohli, Bumrah can take game away from Pakistan: All-rounder Fawad Alam

NEW DELHI, June 8: Pakistan all-rounder Fawad Alam said Babar Azam's side will have to nullify Indian stars Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah in their high-profile T20 World Cup match on Sunday for a win and get their campaign back on track.

While India started the tournament with a resounding eight-wicket win over Ireland, Pakistan shockingly went down against co-hosts USA in the Super Over. "Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah will make an impact for India in the game because of their experience and also the quality of both of them. They can easily take the game away from Pakistan," Alam told PTI videos in an interview. "As a team, India is well-balanced, and it will be really hard to get past them."

Alam, who played 19 Tests, 38 ODIs and 24 T20Is for his

country, said left-arm pacer Mohammad Amir will have to come up with a match-turning effort against India, similar to his burst against them in the Champions Trophy final 2017. "I feel Mohammad Amir will redeem himself and give a match-winning performance against India alongside captain Babar who has had a pretty decent record against them," said Alam, whose last T20I for Pakistan came back in 2010.

Amir had an ordinary Super Over against the USA, conceding 18 runs, but Alam warned against writing the pacer off.

"Based on that super over, you can't blame Amir. He is not the same bowler as he was four years back.

"He has been playing cricket in different leagues and is still Pakistan's best and most experienced bowler," he added.



Alam, however, accepted that losing to the USA was not would feel pressure against India. "Pakistan losing to the USA is very shocking. The USA is playing in their first World Cup, so it is not accept-able at all. "Now the pressure is on Pakistan in the game against India. All I can hope is for a good game of cricket," he said. Alam hoped that Pakistan bowling would come good against India, despite lacking good spin options. "Imad Wasim's injury has

come as a shock. Shadab is completely out of form with the ball in his hand. Pakistan is clearly lagging in bowling, especially in the spin department. "India has Bumrah, (Mohammad) Siraj, and Kuldeep (Yadav) who can pose a threat. But if Pakistan bowling clicks in the improved (PTI)

conditions as claimed by ICC then we may witness them "acceptable" and Pakistan having an edge over India," he noted.

The left-arm spinner said the International Cricket Council (ICC) should have inspected the drop-in pitch in New York well in advance to the tournament. The deck at the Nassau County stadium has been offering variable bounce to pacers, often posing a threat to batters' limbs.

India's Rohit Sharma and Rishabh Pant took hits during the match against Ireland.

"If the wickets are well-prepared in Dallas and Florida then why didn't you host the games there? Now, you are trying to cover up but what about those teams who have already played their games and lost those matches? Who is responsible for that?" he said.

SPORTS

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024

WI in search of batting mojo vs Uganda; Scots eye big win vs Oman

GEORGETOWN (GUYANA), June 8: Co-hosts West Indies will look to shake off their batting rustiness and come in their element when they face Uganda in a Group C T20 World Cup clash here.

The pre-tournament favourites and twotime former champions suffered a scare chasing a modest 137 before they scraped to five-wicket win over minnows Papua New Guinea in their opening match.

On a difficult pitch that required patience and application. West Indies batters kept playing recklessly and found themselves half the side down for 97 with just four overs remaining.

It was then left to Roston Chase (42 not out) and Andre Russell (15 not out) to safely take them home and avoid an embarrassment

Against a team who are coming on the back of morale boosting win over Papua New Guinea, West Indies will have to exercise some caution especially with the bat. Nicholas Pooran has been their most

standout batter in the recent past and the wicketkeeper-batter will have responsibility to stay at the crease till the end.

On conditions that have assisted the bowlers, pacer Alzarri Joseph and left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein who were impressive in the previous match will look to give early breakthroughs.

Uganda have happy memories of bowling out Papua New Guinea for 77 at this venue but their batting will be in the spotlight as they struggled in the chase before securing a tense three-wicket win in the penultimate



over. Teams (from)

West Indies: Rovman Powell (c), Alzarri Joseph, Johnson Charles, Roston Chase, Shimron Hetmyer, Jason Holder, Shai Hope, Akeal Hosein, Shamar Joseph, Brandon King, Gudakesh Motie, Nicholas Pooran. Andre Russell, Sherfane Rutherford, Romario Shepherd.

Uganda: Brian Masaba (c), Simon Ssesazi, Roger Mukasa, Cosmas Kyewuta, Dinesh Nakrani, Fred Achelam, Kenneth

Waiswa, Alpesh Ramjani, Frank Nsubuga, Henry Ssenyondo, Bilal Hassun, Robinson Obuya, Riazat Ali Shah, Juma Miyaji, Ronak Patel.

Match starts: 6am IST.

Scotland will start as firm favourites against Oman in a Group B clash at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua, which will be hosting its first match of the tournament on Sunday. After their washout against England in

their opener that gave both the teams one

point each, the Scotland secured a fivewicket win against Namibia in what turned out to be a tense 156-run chase.

The result mean that Scotland now have the opportunity to go up to five points which might complicate the Super Eight qualifying scenarios for tournament heavyweights England and Australia who lock horns later on Saturday.

Only top two teams make the Super Eight. Australia and Namibia have two points each sitting behind Scotland, while England are second from the bottom with one point from one match.

While skipper Richie Berrington has been in form leading their chase with an unbeaten fifty, he would hope that their top-three George Munsey, Michael Jones and Brandon McMullen start to fire.

Oman have lost both their matches putting up ordinary shows with the bat and it would be too much of an ask for them to turn things around.

Teams (from)

Oman: Aqib Ilyas (c), Zeeshan Maqsood, Kashyap Prajapati, Pratik Athavale, Ayaan Khan, Shoaib Khan, Mohammad Nadeem, Naseem Khushi, Mehran Khan, Bilal Khan, Rafiullah, Kaleemullah, Fayyaz Butt, Shakeel Ahmad, Khalid Kail.

Scotland: Richie Berrington (c), Matthew Cross, Brad Currie, Chris Greaves, Oli Hairs, Jack Jarvis, Michael Jones, Michael Leask, Brandon McMullen, George Munsey, Safyaan Sharif, Chris Sole, Charlie Tear, Mark Watt, Brad Wheal

Match starts: 10.30pm IST. (PTI)

Bose, Ranawade, Lalchungnunga not in India's 23-member squad for away match against Qatar



ball head coach Igor Stimac on

Saturday named a 23-member

squad without the defensive trio of

Mohun Bagan veteran Subhasish

Bose, Mumbai FC's Amey

Ranawade and Lalchungnunga of

East Bengal for its away World

Cup Qualifier against Qatar on

This will be India's first match

after the retirement of Sunil

Chhetri, who made his last interna-

tional appearance in a frustrating

goalless draw against Kuwait in

their second-round World Cup

Oualifier at Salt Lake Stadium on

the debut as both Bose and

Ranawade started on the bench and

did not get any minutes in their

not named in the Indian team list

Lalchungnunga, however, was

India have five points and are

behind table-toppers Qatar who

have 13 in the Group A standings.

Afghanistan and Kuwait have five

and three points, occupying the

third and fourth places respec-

While Qatar have sealed their

third-round berth, the other three

teams, including India and bottom-

match against Kuwait.

against Kuwait.

tively.

Stimac chose to give Jay Gupta

Tuesday

Thursday.

placed Kuwait, have a chance to make the cut.

Kuwait will face Afghanistan at home in their concluding secondround clash.

India must win against the twotime Asian champions Qatar to make their maiden appearance in the third round of Asia's top-18 teams

A point will be enough for the Blue Tigers if the Afghanistan versus Kuwait tie also ends in a draw. However, a defeat in Qatar will end India's hopes of progressing, irrespective of the other result.

The Blue Tigers will travel to Doha from Kolkata on Saturday vening

India squad

Goalkeepers: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Amrinder Singh, Vishal Kaith.

Defenders: Anwar Ali, Jay Gupta, Mehtab Singh, Narender, Nikhil Poojary, Rahul Bheke.

Midfielders: Anirudh Thapa, Brandon Fernandes, Edmund Lalrindika, Jeakson Singh Thounaojam, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Liston Colaco, Mahesh Singh Naorem, Nandhakumar Sekar, Sahal Abdul Samad, Suresh Singh Wangjam.

Forwards: Manvir Singh, Rahim Ali, Vikram Partap Singh, David Lalhlansanga. (PTI)

Aditi Ashok lies Tied-51st at LPGA Classic



GALLOWAY (USA), June 8: Aditi Ashok shot a modest 2-under 69 and was lying T-51 after the first round at the ShopRite LPGA Classic. Aditi, who has been having an average season, had four birdies in the first 10 holes but

Three-shot lead for **Scheffler as Akshay Bhatia** is tied seventh at Memorial

DUBLIN (OHIO), June 8: Indian American Akshay Bhatia stayed in line for another solid result as he was tied-7th at the midway stage of the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday. The wiry left-hander Bhatia with rounds of 69 and 72 was 3under for 36 holes and tied seventh with the likes of Rory McIlroy (70-71) and the 2024 PGA champion Xander Schauffele (68-73). Another Indian-American Sahith Theegala (73-71) was T-20.

The two-time Masters champion Scottie Scheffler was solid in strong winds as he shot 4-under 68 to move into a three-shot lead. Alongside his 5-under 67 on the

utive years since Tiger Woods won three straight (1999, 2000, 2001). Scheffler, twice third here in 2021 and 2023, was chased hard till he landed an eagle on the par-5 15th. Then he finished with two solid par saves and a 12-foot birdie to take a three-shot lead.

Christiaan Bezuidenhout of South Africa had the best round on the second day at 67 and was four shots behind, along with Keegan Bradley (69). Ludvig Aberg, who spent two days watching Scheffler put on another clinical show, shot

72 and was five back. The Memorial is the seventh of eight Signature Events this season. one of the three tournaments

BUDAPEST, June 8: Indian woman wrestler Anshu Malik could not match the skills of her 21-year-old Chinese rival Kexin Hong in the final, bowing out tamely to settle for a silver in the

57kg category of the Budapest Ranking Series here. Competing against the No.1 ranked Chinese, Anshu lost 1-12 on technical superiority against

the Hangzhou Asian Games bronze medallist in the 53kg category. India's Antim Panghal had ear-

lier fought hard to settled for a

silver in the 53kg category, while star wrestler Vinesh Phogat lost to Jiang Zhu of China 0-5 in the quarterfinals in the 50kg category.

Anshu started with an incredible bout against Anastasia Nichita of Moldova, winning 6-5 on points to secure a place in the semifinal.

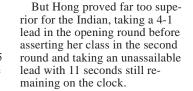
With Nichita leading 5-4 and just 19 seconds remaining on the clock, Anshu scored a takedown on the edge to claim a 6-5 lead to win the close contest. She then overcame the chal-

Spirited Afghans clip Kiwi wings, secure

84-run upset win in T20 World Cup

India's only male wrestler to qualify for the Paris Olympics, a silver on the opening day losto Japan's Rei Higuchi. (PTI)

Qi 2-1 on point to secure a title showdown with another Chinese.



Aman Sehrawat had earlier won ing 1-11 on technical superiority

Anshu Malik settles for silver in Budapest

lenge of world champion Zhang

first day, he is 9-under.

Scheffler was at 9-under 135, three shots ahead of Viktor Hovland (69) and Adam Hadwin (72), chasing another \$ four-million prize. Defending champion Hovland, who is T2, is attempting to become the first player to win the Memorial Tournament in consec-

with player hosts — the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, The Genesis Invitational (Tiger Woods) and the Memorial (Jack Nicklaus). With a dry forecast to get the Muirfield Village course even firmer, it most likely will only get more difficult over the weekend. (PTI)

Diksha misses first cut in four months, Sharma T-20 in Scandinavian



HELSINGBORG (SWEDEN), June 8: Diksha Dagar missed her first cut since February this year as she exited early in the Volvo Car Scandinavian Mixed Open. Diksha shot rounds of 75 and 73 over two days and fell well short of the cut line. She was 4-over and the cut fell at 2-under. She had three birdies in the second round but also gave away four bo-

geys. She had one birdie and three bogeys on the opening day. This was Olympic-bound Diksha's second missed cut in the season

during which she has had three top-10 finishes.

Shubhankar Sharma, who had a superb start in the first round with three birdies, repeated his 69 in the second. In both the rounds, he had five birdies against two bogeys to be 6-under. When the second round finally ended late in the evening, he was tied-20.

Swede Sebastian Söderberg leads the field with 63-66 at 15-under and is way ahead of the field. The closest rival is Scott Jamieson (67-65) at 12-under. Lying third is Frenchman Julien Guerrier (69-64) at 11-under.

Jorge Campillo (68-67) is lying fourth at 9-under with (68-67) alongside three Swedes -- the 2022 champion Linn Grant (67-68), the leading woman player, Jesper Svensson (68-67) and Jens Danthorp (68-67).

Soderberg, 33, had seven birdies and an eagle in the first round and then added four birdies and an eagle in the second. He was bogev-free for 36 holes. The Scandinavian Mixed is co-sanctioned by the DP World Tour and Ladies European Tour, with 78 men and 78 women competing on the same course for one prize fund and one trophy. (PTI)

84 and Ibrahim Zadran's 44 off 41 to post a reasonably good total of 159/6 in the low-scoring tournament. Gurbaz was expectedly adjudged player of the match for his knock.

GEORGETOWN (GUYANA), June 8: A

determined Afghanistan rode on splendid spells

from their skipper Rashid Khan and left-arm

pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi to stun an under-pre-

pared New Zealand by 84 runs and make a

strong case for a Super Eight berth in the T20

World Cup here. Chasing a tricky 160 at the

Providence Stadium here, 2021 runners-up New

Zealand were shot out for a lowly 75 in an in-

nings that lasted a mere 15.2 overs with only

Glenn Phillips (18) and Matt Henry (12) man-

backfired on the Black Caps as the Afghans re-

lied on openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz's 56-ball

The decision to bowl after winning the toss

aging double-digit scores.

The triumph was a reminder of Afghanistan's first big upset win in 2016 when they defeated West Indies by six runs in Nagpur after restricting the eventual winners to 117/8 in their defence of 123/7. Farooqi, who snared five wickets for nine runs against Uganda, returned figures of 17/4 off his 3.2 overs, including the matchsealing dismissal. Rashid was also lethal as he collected the prized scalp of Kane Williamson (9 off 13) with his first ball. He finished overall figures of 17/4 off his four overs. It took Afghanistan to four points from two matches, having earlier beaten Uganda by 125 runs.

The West Indies and Uganda occupy the next two spots, while Papua New Guinea and New Zealand are the last two teams whi haven't opened their accounts. Afghanistan next face PNG on Friday, while NZ will be up against the

skipper Rashid Khan terming it a "great team effort." "The way Ibrahim and Gurbaz started again... The wicket was not easy. They did not throw away their wickets. "Great win for Afghanistan and it is a privilege to be leading this side and winning against NZ." Williamson acknowledged that Afghans "outplayed them". "To get a total like that on a fiddly surface,

"One of the greatest performances from us in

T20I cricket against a big team," said Afghan

co-hosts West Indies on Thursday.

they kept wickets in hand and played it beautifully. Not good enough from us. Quick turnaround, we have to regroup quickly and onto the next challenge," Williamson said. Farooqi triggered the New Zealand collapse with the devastating new ball spell. He first cleaned up opener Finn Allen for a golden duck with his very first ball, a full delivery on middle stump that darted in late, knocking the leg stump out of the ground.

Faroogi followed it up with the wicket of the dangerous Devon Conway in his next over as the Kiwi wicketkeeper-batter chipped a catch to short extra cover. He ended his dream spell of 3-0-17-3 taking the wicket of Daryl Mitchell

delivery trapping the batter LBW.

In the next over, Nabi broke the resistance of Phillips for a run-a-ball 18 as for the first time NZ lost seven wickets in the first seven overs of a T20 World Cup match.

who edged a back-of-a-length delivery that an-

gled in to have New Zealand reeling at 30/3 in-

side five overs. The skipper, who also took 4/17,

then weaved his magic after the power-play fur-

ther pegging New Zealand back when he struck

off his first delivery, dismissing his counterpart

Williamson for 9 with a Gulbadin Naib taking a

smart catch at slip. The NZ top four batting card

at that moment read a sorry 0, 8, 9, 5 by Allen,

Conway, Williamson and Mitchell in that order.

Rashid cleaned up Mark Chapman (4) with a

delivery that kept a little low and crashed into

the stumps. Half the Kiwi side was back in the

dugout for 43 in nine overs. He followed it up

with the wicket of Michael Bracewell in the next

Earlier, opting to field first under overcast conditions. New Zealand found themselves on the back-foot as Afghanistan's openers, buoyed by fielding lapses, capitalised on every opportunity. Despite early missed chances -- a stumping and a fumbled run-out from wicketkeeper Devon Conway and a dropped catch at deep square leg -- Gurbaz and Zadran constructed a solid foundation of 103 runs from 14.3 overs.

Zadran was dropped on 15 off the bowling of Henry when Finn Allen grassed it at backward square leg in the fifth over. In the next over, New Zealand's fielders were left ruing a golden opportunity as Gurbaz, displaying his trademark agility, narrowly escaped a potential run-out after Conway failed to gather as Afghanistan raced to 44 for no loss inside the power-play.(PTI)

dropped two shots thereafter. Thailand's Arpichaya Yubol, who had a chance to shoot a 59, carded 61. She began her opening round on the second nine at Seaview's Bay Course and came to her closing hole, the par-5 ninth, needing an eagle to match Annika

Sorenstam's 59 shot in 2001. Yubol was 10-under par when she arrived at the 477-yard, par-5 where the young Thai hit her third shot, a pitch from short of the green, to within 10 feet of the hole.

Yubol two-putted from there for par and closed with a round of 61 to tie the tournament record at the ShopRite LPGA Classic. Jenny Shin and Narin An of South Korea were second and third with rounds of 63 and 64 respectively. Seven players were tied at 6-under 65. (PTI)

Simulation on uneven tracks: Rohit ignores blow and trains hard along with Kohli, Surya

NEW YORK, June 8: Rohit Sharma was struck on the thumb by a throwdown but didn't seem perturbed as Indian batters put in additional hours at the nets to counter the uneven bounce that might help Pakistan's pace attack

during their marquee T20 World Cup clash here on Sunday. Rohit, while facing left-arm

throwdown specialist Nuwan Seneviratne, got hit on his left thumb by a delivery that lifted from the back of a good length

area The Indian skipper looked in discomfort but shrugged it off as he continued to bat on. Rohit was then seen moving to the other end of the pitch to face the throw-

downs The drop-in tracks at the Nassau County cricket ground have copped a lot of flak for the uneven bounce as balls are flying thick and fast from length due to wide cracks which are being rolled to create an even-bounce strip. The Indian bowlers had a field

day bowling out Ireland for 96 but Rohit and the senior pros know that against Shaheen Shah Afridi, Mohammed Amir, Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah, the challenge will be very different. And hence, the coaching staff

made three of the six drop-in practice strips at the Cantiague Park in Long Islands into abrasive ones with cracks to ensure proper match-simulation for top-order batters.

The Indian team's determination to dominate on tracks with dual bounce was evident if one cites an example of South African nets in the morning session on same tracks

While Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje sent down their thunderbolts, none of the top Proteas batters wanted to risk getting injured ahead of the game against the Netherlands.

In contrast, their Indian counterparts embraced the testing conditions, using them to prepare for the upcoming challenge of facing the



Pakistani attack on tracks where teams haven't crossed the 100-run mark in four out of six innings.

There were no half-measures for the Indian skipper, Virat Kohli and others during a three-hour afternoon session where they faced Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Khaleel Ahmed and Mohammed Siraj

Kohli, Pant and Suryakumar Yadav were the first Indian batters to hit the nets. They faced the likes of Arshdeep, Bumrah, Siraj, Khaleel along with the throwdown

specialists who were hitting the hard length on a consistent basis. For the batters, the focus was on negotiating the uneven bounce which was very much evident on those practice pitches.

Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav has a fantastic match-up against Pakistani batters as one has seen in 50-over games but whether India would want to throw him in

the middle in place of an Axar Patel remains to be seen.

If one looked at Babar Azam, his strike-rate against orthodox leftarm spinners is only a shade over 112 and hence Axar's dart-like deliveries on leg-middle could be very effective.

Kuldeep, who was surprisingly not picked in the playing XI in India's tournament opener against Ireland, had a long workout at the nets along with other spinners like Axar, Ravindra Jadeja and Yuzvendra Chahal.

Against spinners, the batters were seen playing quite a few cross-batted shots like sweeps and reverse-sweeps.

As the nets session drew to a close, Jadeja and Shivam Dube took their turns batting, with Kohli joining them for his second stint of the day.

The practice concluded with a team bonding session, as players relaxed and enjoyed a game of football, fostering a lighter atmosphere. (PTI)

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