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- Israeli officials say Netanyahu has dissolved the War Cabinet
- Chinese premier agrees with Australia to 'properly manage' differences

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- Consensus prevailed on LS Speaker's choice since Independence
- NCERT working as RSS arm, assaulting Constitution: Jairam

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DIPHU, KARBI ANGLONG, TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024

PAGES 12

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### Downstream areas flooded after Kandong Dam releases water

**HT Correspondent**  
**DONGKAMUKAM, June 17:** Several areas in Karbi Anglong were flooded after NEEPCO opened the sluice gates of the Kandong Dam on the Kopili river on Monday.

Incessant rains for the past week in the district had compelled the officials of NEEPCO to release the excess water, thereby causing immense plight to the people living in the downstream areas.

The most affected MAC (Member of Autonomous Council) areas are Bithung Rengthama, Rongkhang and parts of Kopili MAC constituencies in West Karbi Anglong.

Families residing in the downstream areas were directed to move towards safer places. Many of them have either taken shelter in makeshift tents on the embankment or have moved to the homes of their relatives and friends. On Monday the Dongkamukam Tumpreng Hojai road was flooded and commuters could travel on the road only after 10 am when the water level gradually began to recede. Flood waters reportedly also overflowed the road at Komorakatta in Hojai district.

## 9 dead, 41 hurt in Bengal train mishap; probe begins

**Goods train rams into stationary Kanchanjunga Express • Documents show goods train driver not at fault • Ex-gratia announced**

**HT Bureau**  
**GUWAHATI, June 17:** At least nine people -- seven passengers and two railway staff -- were killed and 41 injured after a goods train ramed into the Sealdah-bound Kanchanjunga Express from behind in West Bengal's Darjeeling district on Monday.

Among the deceased were the pilot of the goods train and the guard of the passenger train, an NF Railway press statement said.

The injured have been shifted to North Bengal Medical College and Hospital for treatment.

Some local reports attributed to senior West Bengal Police officials put the casualty count at 15.

The toll could rise, as multiple agencies of the state and Centre were simultaneously working on war footing along with locals to rescue passengers who could still be trapped inside, sources said.

As a result of the accident, four coaches from rear side of the Kanchanjunga Express and 5 wagons of the container carrying train got derailed blocking the train move-



ments of both Up and Down lines. However, debris on the Up Line was cleared at 17:40 hrs. Work for speedy restoration of the Down Line is also in progress, the press statement added.

In a post on X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the "railway accident in West Bengal is saddening. Condolences to those who lost their loved ones".

"I pray that the injured recover at the earliest. Spoke to officials and took stock of the situation. Rescue operations are underway to assist

### Himanta condoles loss of lives in WB train accident

**GUWAHATI, June 17:** Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma condoled the death of those killed in the collision between a goods train and the Kanchanjunga Express in West Bengal on Monday and assured of all possible help.

Sarma said that his heart went out to the families of those who lost their lives in the accident.

"The tragic train collision between the Kanchanjunga Express and a goods train is extremely unfortunate," he posted on 'X'.

"We are monitoring the situation closely and will provide all necessary assistance as and when required," he added. At least 15 people were killed and 60 others injured in the collision near Rangapani station in West Bengal's Darjeeling district. Later, speaking to reporters, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

### Amit Shah reviews security situation in restive Manipur



**NEW DELHI, June 17:** Union home minister Amit Shah on Monday reviewed the security situation in ethnic violence-hit Manipur amidst reports of fresh incidents of trouble in the northeastern state.

At the high-level meeting, Shah was given a detailed briefing on the prevailing situation in the state by top security officials, sources said. The home minister took stock of the situation in Manipur a day after the state's Governor Anusuiya Uikey had called on him there. It is believed that Uikey apprised him about the law and order situation there.

There were reports of fresh violence in capital Imphal and Jiribam recently. The Centre is said to be worried over the violence spreading to new areas like Jiribam,

which has been by and large peaceful in the last one year, the sources said.

During the meeting, Manipur government representatives said that adequate forces were deployed in the areas where fresh violence were reported, they said.

Security advisor to the Manipur government Kuldip Singh, DGP Rajiv Singh and chief secretary Vineet Joshi attended the meeting on behalf of the state government.

However, chief minister N Biren Singh was not present at the meeting. Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, Director of Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka, Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande, Army Chief-designate Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi and other senior officials were (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

### Gaurav Gogoi asks EC to release data on EVMs found faulty in LS polls



**NEW DELHI, June 17:** Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi on Monday asked the Election Commission to put out data on how many EVMs were found faulty throughout the Lok Sabha polls.

Gogoi, who won the just concluded Lok Sabha elections from the state's Jorhat seat by defeating his nearest BJP rival by a margin of over 1.44 lakh votes, said he can confidently say that these machines have shown inaccurate results.

Gogoi's statement came a day after a fresh political row erupted over EVM tampering claims with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and other opposition leaders citing a media report that alleged that a relative of the Shiv Sena candidate in Mumbai North West Lok Sabha constituency was found using a mobile phone "connected" to an electronic voting machine during the counting of votes on June 4.

In a post on 'X', Gogoi said before treating the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) as infallible, the Election Commission of India should put out data on how many EVMs were found faulty throughout the elections. He said the ECI should answer how many machines showed the wrong time, date, votes registered during the general elections and how many EVMs had their components replaced - counting unit, ballot unit and how many EVMs were found faulty during the mock poll. "Having contested the elections, I can confidently say that these machines have shown inaccurate results. I hope the Election Commission puts out the above data because the public have the right to know," he said. Returning officer of the Mumbai North West Lok Sabha constituency, Vandana Suryavanshi, has dismissed (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

### 'Each MLA should pay own electricity bill', says BJP legislator Prashanta Phukan

**HT Bureau**  
**GUWAHATI, June 17:** BJP MLA Prashanta Phukan has welcomed the decision of the government to end VIP culture in the state and ministers, senior government officials will have to pay the bills of their electricity consumption at their residences.

Phukan asserted on Monday that prepaid electric meters should be installed at the houses of each legislator and all MLAs in the state will take of their power expenses. The BJP MLA claimed that in 2007, he raised this issue in the assembly, however, no decision was taken at that time.

Phukan also heaped praises for Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for taking this decision and he mentioned that it will benefit the general public.

Notably, Sarma on Sunday declared that the government has decided to stop paying senior government officials' power bills, including those of the ministers, ending the VIP culture in the state.

He said that as on July 1, each state minister will pay their own electricity bills. Senior government of-

officials, including those working at the state secretariat, would also have to pay the power bills on their own.

The Chief Minister said, "We have already told the senior state government officials that they will no longer receive free electricity if they remain at the quarters."

According to him, the state government will have to take less burden and the power department can stop hiking the electricity tariffs of the general public.

Sarma said that he will start paying his house's electrical bills on July 1 and that the required instructions have already been sent. "No Chief Minister in Assam has paid power bills on their own in the last 75 years since India gained independence; instead, the state government was taking the burden of paying their power bills. I was also receiving these freebies for the last three years until recently I came to know about this," he said.

Sarma claimed that he quickly gave the order to install power meters in the Chief Minister's residence after learning that the bills had been paid from a specific state government fund.

### Sikkim: Around 50 tourists rescued from Lachung, moved to Mangan town

**GANGTOK, June 17:** Around 50 tourists were rescued from North Sikkim's Lachung on Monday and moved to Mangan town, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) said. The rescue operation, however, had to be halted due to inclement weather, and the remaining tourists would be moved on Tuesday, it said.

The rescue operation began after the BRO restored connectivity between Chungthang and Mangan via the recently built bridge at Toong over the Teesta river.

"The BRO in close coordination with civil administration and team of NDRF is leading the mammoth evacuation operation," a statement said. Incessant rains since June 12 wreaked havoc in Mangan, causing multiple landslides, and severing connectivity to most parts of the district. Due to the blockage of various roads at several locations, around 1,200-1,500 tourists got stranded in Lachung town, officials said. The situation became grave after the collapse of the newly constructed suspension bridge at Sanglang as it was the main connection to North Sikkim and Dzongu, they said.

"Responding to the natural disaster by overcoming severe weather conditions and heavy rainfall in the region, the BRO launched restoration efforts by mobilizing huge manpower and machinery to restore connectivity to North Sikkim at the earliest," the statement (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

### CM Sarma visits GMCH, reviews construction of Mother and Child Hospital



**HT Bureau**  
**GUWAHATI, June 17:** Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday and reviewed the progress being made regarding the construction of the Mother and Child Hospital wing of the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) in the city.

The Mother and Child Hospital wing is being constructed at a cost of Rs. 375 crores and comprises of eight floors, excluding the basement and the ground floor and with a total building area of 56,840 square meters.

The chief minister chaired a meeting attended by senior officials of the state health department and GMCH authorities during which matters related to filling up of vacant faculty positions, recruitment of staff, capacity expansion and various other issues of the medical college and hospital were discussed.

Addressing the media, Sarma said that the purpose of his visit was to look into the progress being made regarding the construction front of the upcoming Mother and

Child Hospital wing and get a first-hand idea of its floor-plan.

He said, "The need for a wing dedicated entirely to maternal and pediatric care had been long felt owing to the increasing number of patients visiting GMCH for treatment. Once the Mother and Child Hospital becomes functional, it will contribute greatly towards enhancing the capacity and efficiency of GMCH in dealing with such medical cases. Around 70 per cent of the construction works of the hospital have been completed and that the remaining 30 per cent is likely to be finished on or before April next year."

The State Cancer Institute and Neuro-science Centre of GMCH have been contributing immensely in making modern healthcare services affordable and accessible to all, the chief minister said while emphasizing the importance of a robust public healthcare delivery system in the state. "As the medical college's various departments, including super-specialty departments, get their (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

### Blade-like object found in food of Air India flight

**MUMBAI, June 17:** A blade-like metal piece was found in the food of a passenger onboard an Air India Bengaluru-San Francisco flight last week for which the airline's catering partner has apologised.

Confirming the presence of a "foreign object" in the food, the airline on Monday said that it came from the vegetable processing machine used at the facilities of its catering partner TajSATS.

The passenger, in a post on X, claimed that he got a feel of the blade-like object only after chewing the grub for a few seconds but luckily no harm was done.

"Air India food can cut like a knife. Hiding in its roasted sweet potato and fig chaat was a metal piece that looked like a blade. I got a feel of it only after chewing the grub for a few seconds. Thankfully, no harm was done," the passenger, Mathures Paul, who is a journalist by profession, said.

Paul blamed Air India's catering service, adding, "but the incident doesn't help the image I have of Air India...what if the metal piece was in the food served to a child?" (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

### Teenager drowns in Siloni river in KA

**HT Bureau**  
**DIPHU, June 17:** A teenager from Diphu drowned in the Siloni River at the Longsokangthu picnic spot in the afternoon on Monday. The Longsokangthu picnic spot is located 24 kms north of Diphu.

The teenager was identified as Roshan Basumatary (17), son of Kanak Basumatary. He was a resident of Panbari, Diphu.

According to sources, the victim had gone to the Longsokangthu picnic spot by the bank of the Siloni river to take a bath along with his friends. While he was bathing in the river he was carried away by the swift current of the water at around 2:30 pm.

The locals informed the police. Police from the Manja Police Station reached the spot and launched an operation to fish out the body of the victim from the river.

### Delay in rollout of proposed India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) discussed during meeting

## NSA Doval, his US counterpart Sullivan review implementation of iCET

**NEW DELHI, June 17:** NSA Ajit Doval on Monday held extensive talks with his American counterpart Jake Sullivan, focusing on implementation of the ambitious India-US Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET), bilateral defence ties and regional security situation.

Sullivan is visiting Delhi from June 17 to 18, in the first trip to India by a senior Biden administration official after the Modi government came to power for the third term.

The US National Security Adviser (NSA) is accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising senior US government officials and industry leaders.

It is learnt that the two NSAs also deliberated on the proposed India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) against the backdrop of a delay in its rollout in view of the current situation



in West Asia.

Sullivan's visit to India came three days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden had a brief conversation on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Italy's Apulia region.

The top Biden administration official also met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. He is also expected to call on Prime Minister Modi. "Delighted to welcome US NSA @JakeSullivan46 in New Delhi today morning. A comprehensive discussion on a broad range of bilateral, regional and global issues," Jaishankar said on 'X'. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

### 'Bharat', 'India' to be used interchangeably in textbooks: NCERT chief

**NEW DELHI, June 17:** "Bharat" and "India" will be used interchangeably in NCERT textbooks as is the case in the country's Constitution, National Council of Educational Research and Training Director Dinesh Prasad Saklani said.

The comments assume significance in the wake of a high-level panel working on the social science curriculum recommending that "India" should be replaced with "Bharat" in school textbooks for all classes.

In an interaction with PTI editors at the agency's headquarters here, the NCERT chief said both the words will be used in the books and the council has no aversion to either "Bharat" or "India".

"It is interchangeable...our position is what our Constitution says and we uphold that. We can use Bharat, we can use India, what is the problem? We are not in that debate. Wherever it suits we will use

India, wherever it suits we will use Bharat. We have no aversion to either India or Bharat," he said.

"You can see both being used in our textbooks already and that will continue in new textbooks. This is a useless debate," Saklani said.

A high-level committee for social sciences, constituted by the NCERT to revise the school curriculum, had last year recommended that "India" should be replaced with "Bharat" in the textbooks for all classes.

Committee chairperson C I Isaac, who was heading the panel, had said they have suggested replacing the name "India" with "Bharat" in the textbooks, introducing "classical history", instead of "ancient history" in the curriculum, and including the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) in the syllabus for all subjects. "The committee has unanimously recommended that the name Bharat should be (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)



## New initiative aims to ensure quality and sustainability in state's historic tea industry Minister Bimal Borah inaugurates Mobile Residues Testing Lab in Dibrugarh



**HT Correspondent**  
**DIBRUGARH, June 17:** State Commerce and Industry minister Bimal Borah inaugurated the Mobile Residues Testing Lab to support tea leaves testing in Dibrugarh on Monday.

Borah formally inaugurated this advanced laboratory at the Teamafco tea factory in Alimur, Dibrugarh.

While speaking at the programme, Bimal Borah appealed to all the stakeholders to follow the prescribed guidelines for the greater interest of the entire tea industry.

"The chief minister of Assam will discuss the matter related to the SOP on June 22, 2024, in the presence of all the stakeholders," Borah said.

"I would like to thank the Assam Bought Leaf Tea Manufacturers' Association for bringing the mobile testing lab to Dibrugarh to check the tea leaves collected from small tea growers. This step is much needed for the sustainability of the tea industry. The tea industry has been facing many challenges, but we have overcome every challenge we faced," Borah said.

Amid ongoing controversy over

the use of prohibited chemicals on raw tea leaves, a mobile testing laboratory named 'Eurofins Agro Laboratories' was inaugurated in Dibrugarh.

"This mobile lab will ensure the quality standards of chemicals used on tea leaves. This is the first laboratory in the 200-year history of Assam's tea industry. Tea leaves purchased by bought leaf factories from small tea growers and the made tea produced by the bought leaf factories will be tested in this laboratory," said Chand Gohain, president of ABLTMA.

He added, "There will be sample

collecting centres in various places, including Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, etc. The launch of this Mobile Residues Testing Lab comes at a crucial time."

"This mobile lab will empower our small and large tea growers alike, providing them with accessible, timely, and reliable testing services right at their doorstep," said Gohain.

Pankaj Jaiminy, managing director of Eurofins Analytical Services India, assured, "The launch of this Mobile Residues Testing Lab comes at a crucial time. The global market's demand for safe, residue-free tea is growing, and with increasing regulatory standards, it is imperative that our tea producers can meet and exceed these requirements. This mobile lab will empower our small and large tea growers alike, providing them with accessible, timely, and reliable testing services right at their doorstep."

"This state-of-the-art facility will enable us to test for pesticide residues in tea leaves swiftly and efficiently. In doing so, we take a giant leap towards safeguarding the health of consumers, ensuring the integrity of our tea, and maintaining our reputation on the world stage," he said.

### Buradia river embankment collapse

**HT Correspondent**

**NALBARI, June 17:** The Buradia river embankment collapsed early on Monday morning, inundating several villages in its wake. Purni village bore the brunt of the flood, with more than eight neighbouring villages including Nadla, Barbara, Nawpara, Sahpur, Gamarimuri, Kulbil, and Pahlangpara also affected by the surging waters. The deluge has devastated paddy crops belonging to local farmers, leaving over 100 houses submerged and disrupting communication networks.

## Meritorious students felicitated at Chengamari



**HT Correspondent**  
**BISWANATH CHARIALI, June 17:** A total of 31 meritorious students who have recently passed the HSLC and HS examinations and brought laurels to the greater Chengamari area were felicitated in a public meeting organised by the Chengamari branch of Assam Sahitya Sabha on Monday. The public felicitation meeting took place at the conference hall of Diplonga ME School premises with Shailendra Saikia, president of the literary organisation, presiding over the event. The programme was inaugurated by Arun Bordoloi and graced by Dr Ranjan Gogoi as a distinguished guest.

The event was attended by Ghanashyam Kalita, Mahim Hatibaru, Premananda Das, Satyendra Kr Bora, Debajit Saikia, Bakul Sut, and other dignitaries. Meritorious students were honoured with citations, garlands, and a packet of books. Addressing the session, Dr Gogoi advised the students to be sincere, systematic, and regular in their efforts. The meeting also featured speeches by Haren Pator, Rupam Saikia, Palabika Saikia, and Bharat Kalita. Biswajit Sut, secretary of the branch committee, conducted the proceedings of the programme.



Devotees taking out a water collection on the occasion of annual Bor Sabha Bornamghar at Tongana Village, Gohpur on Monday. UB Photos

## Students gain insightful day with Indian Army commanders



**HT Correspondent**  
**MARGHERITA, June 17:** Students from Titlagar Government High School in Charaideo district, Shree Shree Anirudha Deva Adarsha Jatiya Vidyalaya, Kordoiguri, and Udaipur High School, Jagun, under Margherita sub-division in

Tinsukia district, spent a day with company commanders of the Indian Army at Charaideo and Tinsukia on Monday.

The visit by 250 students and 20 teachers provided a unique experience and opportunity for the children, giving them a firsthand look at the life, responsibilities,

and values upheld by Indian Army personnel.

It not only served as an educational adventure but also instilled a sense of patriotism, discipline, and respect for the armed forces among young minds.

The day began with a warm welcome for the children by the company commander and his team.

The children were introduced to the key personnel, learning about their roles and the structure of the Indian Army.

An interactive session with the soldiers was the highlight of the day, where the children got a chance to ask questions and learn about the experiences and challenges faced by personnel.

The session was filled with stories of camaraderie and the dedication required to serve in the Indian Army, thus motivating young minds.

To make the experience more engaging, the children participated in a tug-of-war match followed by a volleyball competition.

Later, all the children, along with the teaching staff, shared a meal with the soldiers.

This unique opportunity fostered a sense of respect and admiration for the armed forces among children, especially from an area disturbed by insurgent activities for a long time.

## Eid-Ul-Zuha celebrated with religious fervour

**HT Correspondent**  
**HOJAI, June 17:** Along with the rest of the country, the holy festival of sacrifice, Eid-Ul-Zuha, also known as Eid-al-Adha, was celebrated with pomp and gaiety throughout the entire Hojai district on Monday.

Despite incessant rainfall over the past few days, the festivity was celebrated with high spirits. Thousands of Muslims joined the celebration of Eid-Ul-Zuha at mosques in Hojai, Nilbagan, Daboka, Udali, Jugijaa, Murajhar, Gopal Nagar, Kapasbari, Lanka, and Lunding. The namaaz began at 7:00 am.

During the namaaz, the Muslims prayed before the Almighty Allah to bless each and every human being with happiness, and for universal peace and harmony. Hojai markets were thronged with children from nearby areas enjoying the festivity by purchasing various food and sports items.

Talking to this correspondent,



Basit Alom Chowdhury, president of Nilbagan Youth Association, said, "Eid festival is the symbol of peace, tranquility, and brotherhood." He added, "We Muslims prayed to Almighty Allah for universal peace and happiness."

**Our Demow correspondent**

The holy festival of Islam, Eid-ul-Zuha, also known as Bakrid, was celebrated in Demow on Monday. Muslims gathered at the Masjid in Demow Dehajan in the morning to offer prayers. They exchanged greetings and gifts to mark the occasion of Eid-ul-Zuha.

## TU launches new programme in semiconductor technology

**HT Correspondent**  
**TEZPUR, June 17:** Tezpur University (TU) has started admissions for the Master of Technology (M Tech) program in semiconductor technology for the academic session 2024-25. This specialised program, designed to equip students with advanced knowledge and skills in the rapidly evolving field of semiconductor technology, will be offered by the department of electronics and communication engineering.

The M Tech in semiconductor technology at Tezpur University is a two-year, full-time program that combines rigorous academic coursework with practical, hands-on experience. The curriculum is meticulously crafted to cover key areas to produce graduates who will be well-prepared to meet industry expectations.

Giving the example of the recent semiconductor unit set up in Jagiroad, Prof Shambhu Nath Singh, vice chancellor of TU, said that India's 'Semiconductor Mission' represents a strategic initiative aimed at establishing the country as a global hub for semiconductor design, manufacturing, and innovation. "Semiconductors are essential to almost all sectors of the economy, including aerospace, automobiles, communications, clean energy, information technology, and medical devices. Given the importance of this area, TU is launching the multidisciplinary program this academic year," Prof Singh said.

Interested candidates can apply online through the Tezpur University admission portal. The last date for submission of applications is July 18, 2024.

## Sur Sadhana Sangeet Mahavidyalaya organises Rabha Divas in Nagaon



**HT Correspondent**  
**NAGAON, June 17:** Sur Sadhana Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, a pioneer institute of vocal music and instrumental, celebrated Bishnu Prasad Rabha Divas with day-long programs at the Haladhari Bhuyan Memorial Auditorium of Srimanta Sankar Mission premises on Sunday.

The program was inaugurated with the lighting of a lamp and garlanding of the portrait of Bishnu Prasad Rabha by Sidananda Dev Goswami, a noted litterateur and retired official of All India Radio, Nagaon centre. In his inaugural speech, Goswami illustrated the life and contributions of Bishnu Prasad Rabha, mentioning that he was a true artist who sought to unite all people, irrespective of caste, community, and religion, through his songs, music, and poems.

The program was chaired by Nava Kumar Mahanta, the president of Sur Sadhana Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, while Suwagmoni Mahanta, the principal of the institute, mentored the entire program. Suwagmoni Mahanta presented a special musical piece with 'Aye Mur Sesh Gaan' by Kala Guru Bishnu Prasad Rabha, following which the students from the institute performed songs by Kala Guru one after another.

Noted artist Ranjan Bezbaruah, who has achieved national recognition for singing old Assamese classic songs in Sanskrit, and noted singer Nayan Jyoti Hazarika also attended the program as special guests. They spoke about the works and creations of Bishnu Prasad Rabha. Both Ranjan Bezbaruah and Nayan Jyoti Hazarika also performed Bishnu Prasad Rabha's songs during their lectures, as stated in a press note.

## Sarkari Sangeet Vidyalaya celebrates Jyoti Prasad Agarwala's birth anniversary

**HT Correspondent**  
**MORIGAON, June 17:** The Sarkari Sangeet Vidyalaya (SSV), Morigaon, celebrated the birth anniversary of 'Rup Konwar' Jyoti Prasad Agarwala with fanfare at the cultural hall of the Srimanta Sankardev Sangha Zila Namghar, Morigaon, on Monday. The programme titled 'Jyoti Alok Sandhaner Rabhar Aabhare Haou Aami Jyotisman' was organised by Sankari Sangeet Vidyalaya (SSV), Morigaon.

At the beginning of the programme, the members of Sankari Sangeet Vidyalaya (SSV), Morigaon, felicitated the invited guests. The former state general secretary of Srimanta Sankardev Sangha (SSS), Babul Bora, spoke at length about Rup Konwar's life. Thereafter, Anghuman Dutta, the district cultural officer (DCO) of Morigaon, inaugurated the programme with a valuable speech. Speaking on the occasion, the DCO said, "Rup Konwar Jyoti Prasad Agarwala's dedication towards the upliftment of Assamese culture is remarkable."

The president of Sankari Sangeet Vidyalaya (SSV), Morigaon, Gyan Mohan Deka, welcomed the invited guests and students to the programme. The principal of Sankari Sangeet Vidyalaya (SSV), Morigaon, Prasanna



Kr Medhi, along with Guru Tapash Bordoloi, Utpala Hukai, and some aspirants of SSV, Morigaon—Mantu Kr Nath, Ranajit Bordoloi, Ajoy Deoraja, Binaram Deori, Bhabananda Mahanta, Basanta Raj Kumar Goswami, Jitu Deka, Sonamoni Deka, and Tapan Sarai—conducted the felicitation programme.

The programme started with a chorus performed by the guardians of the students of SSV, Morigaon, directed by Prasanna Kr Medhi. Thereafter, students of SSV performed songs and dances, paying tribute to 'Rup Konwar' Jyoti Prasad Agarwala and 'Kalaguru' Bishnu Prasad Rabha.







Tenzin Nima Glow, a first-timer, emerged victorious from Thrizino-Buragaon assembly seat

# Three independents extend support to Khandu govt

ITANAGAR, June 17: Three independents in Arunachal Pradesh have extended their unconditional support to the BJP government led by chief minister Pema Khandu.



The MLAs - Laisam Simai, Wanglam Sawin, and Tenzin Nima Glow - conveyed their decision through a letter of support to Khandu, BJP sources confirmed.

Tenzin Nima Glow, a first-timer, emerged victorious from Thrizino-Buragaon assembly seat in West Kameng district, defeating two-time BJP MLA Kumsi Sidosow.

## NEET seminar at Prism Academia concludes

GUWAHATI, June 17: Prism Academia in Ghari Makha Leikai, Imphal West, Manipur, recently hosted a highly informative and engaging two-day seminar on NEET Counselling.



Successful careers in the medical field. AMERF Education Counsellor, Joychand Moirangthem, provided an in-depth analysis of the NEET examination.

## Underground power cable in Tripura: Minister

AGARTALA, June 17: The Tripura government will go for underground electricity cable networks in a few urban areas including Agartala Municipal Corporation (AMC) areas, said state Power minister Ratan Lal Nath.

## DIPR Nagaland sends individuals to MIFF



KOHIMA, June 17: The Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of Nagaland, has selected five individuals from film and related fields from Nagaland to attend the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival, 2024.

## Trucks carrying essential supplies stopped in Tamenglong

Violence in Jiribam district has claimed at least two lives

IMPHAL, June 17: More than 100 trucks carrying essential items to Imphal were stopped on NH 53 near Tatbung in Manipur's Tamenglong district on Monday by people who have called for an indefinite blockade of the Imphal-Silchar highway to protest violence in Jiribam district, police said.



On June 6, the body of 59-year-old Soibam Saratkumar Singh was discovered in Jiribam district triggering violence in the district which was not affected by ethnic violence till then.

TE(Ex) Admn- 5/2024/330
CORRIGENDUM
In continuation of the office notification published vide Janasanyog/D/1568/24, dated 15th June, 2024, it is brought to notice to all concerned that the registration process for admission into Engineering and Architectural courses of the Institutions outside Assam against the seats reserved for the candidates of Assam through CSAB-NEUT-2024 is going to start from 19th June, 2024 17.00 hours instead of 17th June, 2024.

### KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR OF SERICULTURE, DIPHU, KARBI ANGLONG

No. Addl. DSDG.192/Pt/2021-2022/31, Dated Diphu the 13th June, 2024

#### SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tender in plain paper affixing non-refundable KAAC money receipt of Rs. 10.00 (Rupees Ten) only are hereby invited from PWD/KAAC registered Contractors and will be received on 15/06/2024 to 29/06/2024 upto 3:00 P.M. and subsequently open on the same day in presence of Tenderers or their authorized agencies if any.

#### GROUP-A. UNDER THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SERICULTURE, DIPHU :

Table with 5 columns: Sl. No, Name of works, Tender Value (in lakh), Earnest Money SC/ST-1% Others-2%, Time of completion. Contains 8 items for Group A.

#### Group-B. UNDER SUPERINTENDENT OF SERICULTURE, DIPHU :

Table with 5 columns: Sl. No, Name of works, Tender Value (in lakh), Earnest Money SC/ST-1% Others-2%, Time of completion. Contains 7 items for Group B.

#### Group-C. UNDER SUPERINTENDENT OF SERICULTURE, DIPHU:

Table with 5 columns: Sl. No, Name of works, Tender Value (in lakh), Earnest Money SC/ST-1% Others-2%, Time of completion. Contains 4 items for Group C.

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- 1. The rate should be quoted as % (Percent) scheduled of rate works for all division under CPWD for the year 2021.
2. Earnest Money should be deposited in favour of the undersigned in the form of call deposit and should be attached along with Tender, without which no Tender will be allowed.
3. The following documents (Xerox) should be attached along with the Tender:
a. KAAC Professional Clearance Certificate.
b. Sale Tax Clearance Certificate/GST Registration No. along with PAN Card.
c. Caste Certificate for ST/SC.
d. Personal Bank Passbook with A/C no.
4. Payment will be made subject to availability of fund.

Sd/- R. Rongphar,
I/c Additional Director of Sericulture,
Karbi Anglong, Diphu.
Dated Diphu the 13th June, 2024

Memo No. Addl.DSDG.192/Pt/2012-2013/31-A,







# 'The Great Indian Kapil Show' renewed by Netflix for season two

**MUMBAI, June 17:** The Great Indian Kapil Show, hosted by comic-actor Kapil Sharma, will return for a second season, Netflix announced on Monday.

The first season of the popular celebrity chat series will conclude on June 22, with actor Kartik Aaryan as the celebrity guest.

In its ongoing chapter, The Great Indian Kapil Show featured several celebrities including Aamir Khan, Ranbir Kapoor, Vicky Kaushal and international singer Ed Sheeran across episodes. Besides Sharma, the show, which premiered in March on the streamer, also features Sunil Grover, Krushna Abhishek, Archana Puran Singh, Kiku Sharda and Rajiv Thakur.

In addition to Sharma, the series, which began in March, also stars Sunil Grover, Krushna Abhishek, Archana Puran Singh, Kiku Sharda, and Rajiv Thakur. Sharma described the first season as 'wonderful' and promised fans



that they won't have to wait long for the next installment. "Enjoy the finale episode with Kartik Aaryan this weekend and stay tuned as we gear up for season 2," Sharma declared.

Tanya Bami, Series Head of Netflix India, added, "After a

phenomenal first season, we're overjoyed to welcome Kapil and the gang back to Netflix for Season 2. Kapil's unparalleled ability to connect with audiences through his humor has made him a household name in Indian entertainment." According to Net-

flix, 'The Great Indian Kapil Show' has consistently ranked among the top two shows in India since its debut and is the first Indian series to remain on the Global Top 10 Non-English TV list for five consecutive weeks. (PTI)

## Blake Lively on film adaptation of 'It Ends With Us': Did our best to honour the book and fans



**LOS ANGELES, June 17:** Actor Blake Lively, who is set to star in the big-screen adaptation of Colleen Hoover's book "It Ends With Us", says fans of the source material won't be disappointed with the upcoming film.

In "It Ends With Us", Lively stars opposite Justin Baldoni, who has also directed the film.

"Some people will always like a book better than a movie and some people like a movie better than the book, but I think that we just did our best to honour the book and honour the fans, and, I think, really make something that works even by itself," Lively told Entertainment Tonight in an interview.

The film follows Lily Bloom, who thinks she's found the love of her life in Ryle Kincaid.

"However, after a troubling incident of abuse reminds her of her dark past, she must decide if love alone can carry her marriage through. Further complicating things is the return of her first love into her life: a man who she took in many years prior when he was homeless," according to the official synopsis.

Even if someone hasn't read the book, the "Gossip Girl" star assured them they would like the film and vice versa.

"If you don't know the book, the movie works. I don't think there's any way that if you read the book and you saw the movie that you wouldn't be thrilled. We really worked hard on that.

"I also believe if you saw the movie and then read the book, you wouldn't go, 'Hold on, this isn't like...' You can do either. I think they're both really beautiful," she added.

"It Ends With Us" is slated to be released on August 9 with Brandon Sklenar, Alex Neustaedter, Isabela Ferrer and Jenny Slate also rounding out the cast. (PTI)



## 'Chandu Champion' earns ₹ 24.11 crore in opening weekend

**NEW DELHI, June 17:** Kartik Aaryan-starrer "Chandu Champion" has collected ₹ 24.11 crore in its first weekend, the makers said on Monday.

Directed by Kabir Khan, the sports drama opened at the box office with ₹ 5.40 crore on Friday and earned ₹ 7.70 crore on Saturday. It added ₹ 11.01 crore on Sunday to its collection. "Chandu Champion" is inspired by the life of India's first Paralympic gold medalist Murlikant Petkar. The Hindi film is produced by Sajid Nadiadwala's banner Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment and Kabir Khan Films.

"Chandu Champion" opened with ₹ 5.40 crore on Friday, Day 1. The film then witnessed close to 45 per cent growth on Saturday, Day 2, collecting ₹ 7.70 crore.

"Garnering tremendous positive word of mouth, it registered 100 per cent growth on Sunday, Day 3, with a collection of ₹ 11.01 crore. This makes 'Chandu Champion' the film with the best growth post-pandemic, with a total collection of ₹ 24.11 crore in 3 days," the makers said in a press note.

Vijay Raaz, Bhuvan Arora and Rajpal Yadav also round out the cast of the film. (PTI)

## 'MUNJYA' CROSSES ₹ 50 CRORE-MARK IN 10 DAYS OF RELEASE

**NEW DELHI, June 17:** Horror comedy Munjya has earned ₹ 55.75 crore in 10 days of its release, the makers announced on Monday.

Munjya, the latest offering in Maddock Films' horror comedy universe, follows the story of the eponymous mythical creature which has its roots in Marathi folklore.

Directed by Aditya Sarpotdar and produced by Maddock Films, the film hit the screens on June 7. It stars Abhay Verma, Sharvari, and Mona Singh.

According to a post shared by the production banner on X, by the ninth day of its release, Munjya had collected ₹ 47 crore nett as its domestic box office collections. It added ₹ 8.75 crore nett for the 10th day, totalling to ₹ 55.75 crore.

"Munjya hits a half-century at the box office, and it's only 'cuz of your love! Catch the #Street2 teaser exclusively with #Munjya, running successfully in cinemas!" Maddock Films captioned the post.

Sathyaraj and Suhas Joshi also round out the cast of the film. (PTI)



# FUNDAMENTALISM DOESN'T BELONG TO ANY ONE RELIGION: KONKONA SEN SHARMA



**MUMBAI, June 17:** Actor-filmmaker Konkona Sen Sharma on Sunday said fundamentalism is "its own beast" and doesn't belong to any religion in particular.

She was speaking at the launch of cinematographer Nusrat F Jafri's book This Land We Call Home, published by Penguin Random House. The event was also attended by writer-filmmaker Varun Grover and Svetlana Naudiyal, programming director, APAC, MUBI.

Asked what national incidents from their formative years influenced their thoughts on country and society, Sen Sharma said for her it was the demolition of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh when she was a teenager.

The actor, daughter of veteran filmmaker Aparna Sen, said her mother made her write a report in Bengali and English on the 1992 incident. "For me, it is Babri Masjid (demolition), December 6, 1992... One of the chief things that came across from that (report) was that our fundamentalism doesn't belong to any one religion. It's its own beast. Because of that, it was easy to trace other

events from there.

"That was the first time I was actually so conscious about a political event. Before that, I think (it was) '84 and all (anti-Sikh riots). We were young, so we don't remember some stories that one has heard. And, these are not taught in schools. These are conversations which are highly charged even within families and family friends," Sen Sharma said during the Q&A session moderated by Naudiyal here.

Jafri, known for lensing Hansal Mehta's Shahid and the Zakir Khan-starrer series Chacha Vidhayak Hain Humare, also echoed Sharma's sentiments on the Babri Masjid demolition.

The cinematographer said she was 12 at the time and grew up in Lucknow, which has a fair representation of Muslims.

"Muslims and Christians were always a minority even in Lucknow where there's a good representation of Muslims and Christians. But even then, we had a good coexistence. It was Babri Masjid which started these, like Konkona (said), very charged, heated, passionate discussions even among stu-

dents.

"These were discussions where children were listening to their parents with each family's ideology coming in... We just went in for one or two months of curfew. We were off from school but the conversations had started. As a preteen, I was aware was an important event," Jafri added. For Grover, it was in the late 1990s when he heard about an incident of a Ganesha idol "drinking milk" in Delhi. Even as a student, the writer said he found it hard to believe that so many people could fall for "a simple sixth standard trick".

"For me, that was the day which told me that we are a nation of negative scientific temperament... That gave me a reality check about how to navigate the world and society.

"For a nation obsessed with engineering, sciences and being the knowledge centre of the world... And then saying, okay, it is something divine... But it shaped me in a very particular way (about) how to shape the world," said the writer, who studied civil engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Varanasi. (PTI)

Asalanka, smoked the Netherlands bowlers with minimal footwork and maximum power

# Sri Lanka beat Netherlands by 83 runs

**GROS ISLET (SAINT LUCIA), June 17:** Sri Lanka finally found their mojo as they clinically disposed off the Netherlands by a whopping 83 runs in an inconsequential final group D league game of the T20 World Cup here.

With Bangladesh beating Nepal by 21 runs in the other group league game, the faint outside chance that the Netherlands had despite a way inferior net run-rate was up in smoke as they were bowled out for 118 in pursuit of an improbable target of 202 set by Wanindu Hasaranga's men.

The Sri Lankans left it too late while bringing their A game to the fore as all three units fired in unison but the horse has already bolted as they were out of reckoning for the Super Eights.

The Sri Lankan middle order were brilliant with veteran Angelo Mathews (30 off 15 balls) and skipper Hasaranga (20 off 10 balls) shored up the scoring rate but it was left-hander Charith Asalanka's 21-ball-46 that was the real difference in their innings. Asalanka smashed five sixes as Sri Lanka crossed the 200-run mark.

Asalanka, smoked the Netherlands bowlers with minimal footwork and maximum power, keeping a stable base that allowed him to go for the jugular.

"These are far better conditions than the USA, and we enjoyed those conditions. It can be tough to come in at No. 5. We just played the conditions," said Asalanka, who was adjudged 'Player of the



Match'. "I know I have to be a little more consistent. In general we are a little disappointed about the results in the first two games. But in the end we had a good game here," the southpaw said.

During the chase, the Netherlands openers Michael Levitt (31) and Max O'Dowd (11) added 45

in just 4.2 overs but once Maheesh Theekshana got the former stumped, there was virtually no resistance from the other batters.

Slinger Nuwan Thushara (3/24) was the pick of the Lankan bowlers while Chennai Super Kings star Matheesha Pathirana (2/12) also remained accurate during his overs hitting the blockhole

consistently.

From being 45 for no loss in the first five overs, the Netherlands lost half of the side by the time they reached the halfway stage. Any remote chances of an impressive win ended then and there.

It was one of the best tracks across both USA and the Caribbean islands and there was

very little room for error on a track where ball came onto the bat nicely. Kusal Mendis, a seasoned campaigner, started the onslaught with 46 off 29 balls with a flurry of boundaries in the Powerplay to set the tone.

That allowed Asalanka, Mathews and Hasaranga to go hammer and tongs towards the back-end.

"After the bad first two games this win is very healthy for us. The wicket was really good we just wanted to put a 160-170 score on this wicket. With our attack anything over 160 we can defend. In the first two games we lost two or three wickets in the first six overs. Today we didn't. I think that was the difference," Hasaranga said at post-match presentation ceremony.

For Netherlands, the performance was a bit underwhelming in this format after impressing one and all during their 50-over global campaign in India last year. Even their Australia-born skipper Scott Edwards, who scored 31 on the day, admitted that his team was found wanting against better quality sides.

"We had good patches throughout the tournament where we gave our chances to win at least three of those games. But something was slightly off and against good quality sides you can't afford that.

"In the batting, we needed someone to have a big innings, and we weren't able to do that. Backing our boys to come back firing." (PTI)

# England secures 1-0 win against Serbia

## Jude Bellingham's goal at Euro 2024



**GELSENKIRCHEN (GERMANY), June 17:** Jude Bellingham scored to give England a winning start at the European Championship by beating Serbia 1-0 on Sunday.

The Real Madrid star put Gareth Southgate's team in front with a stooping header in the 13th minute at the Veltins Arena from Bukayo Saka's cross.

The buildup to the game had been overshadowed by concerns about violence between rival supporters. And some of those fears were realized when police rushed to separate brawling fans in Gelsenkirchen earlier in the day.

Social media footage showed men throwing chairs at each other outside a restaurant festooned with Serbian flags in the city.

England fans were soon cele-

brating once the game got underway after Bellingham's early goal. Harry Kane so nearly extended the lead in the second half when Serbia goalkeeper Predrag Rajkovic pushed his far post header onto the underside of the bar.

Kane set a record for his country by making his 23rd appearance at a major tournament.

Victory sent England to the top of Group C after Denmark drew 1-1 with Slovenia in an earlier game, with Christian Eriksen scoring three years after suffering a cardiac arrest on the field at the last Euros. England plays Denmark on Thursday.

England was a beaten finalist at the last Euros, losing on penalties to Italy in the final three years ago. It is one of the favorites this time around. Serbia is playing in the Euros for the first time since 2000. (AP)

# Sumit Nagal attains career-high ATP ranking of 71

**NEW DELHI, June 17:** India's Sumit Nagal continued his ascent in the ATP singles chart, climbing to a career-high ranking of 71 on Monday.

His previous best was 77 last week.

The Olympic-bound Nagal jumped six places following his runner-up finish at the Perugia ATP Challenger tournament on Sunday.

The 26-year-old, who will be the sole Indian in the men's singles event at the Paris Olympics, has so far logged 777 ATP points.

A string of impressive results in recent times has not only helped Nagal improve his ranking but also make the cut for singles event at the Paris Games.

The year began with a historic second round outing at the Australian Open. While he bowed out of the French Open in the first round, Nagal is set to compete at in the main draw of Wimbledon followed by the Paris Olympics at Roland Garros.

He had won the men's singles crown at the Heilbronn Neckarcup 2024 Challenger event in Germany earlier this month and the Chennai Open in February.

Nagal, who is currently the best-ranked Indian singles player, has won four ATP Challenger titles since 2023 and Heilbronn was his fourth title on clay. (PTI)

# Tanzim, Mustafizur star in Bangladesh's Super Eight entry

**KINGSTOWN (SAINT VINCENT), June 17:** Pacer Tanzim Hasan Sakib's career-best figures of 4 for 7 with an astounding 21 dot balls headlined Bangladesh's dominant bowling performance as they entered the Super Eights of the T20 World Cup with a comfortable 21-run win against Nepal in their final group league game.

Having nearly shocked South Africa in their previous game, Nepal bowlers were again on target, bowling out Bangladesh for 106 but Tanzim along with seasoned Shakib al Hasan (2/9) and Mustafizur Rahman (3/7) bowled out Nepal for 85 in 19.2 overs.

Nepal were on course at 78 for 5 at one stage before losing their last five wickets for seven runs as a determined Bangladesh team used all its reservoir of experience after a disappointing batting show.

Bangladesh should have won the match when Nepal were reduced to 26 for 5 after seven overs courtesy the right arm outswing specialist Tanzim but Kushal Malla (27) and world record holder Dipendra Singh Airee (25) added 52 runs to raise visions of a first big win for the country against a major Test playing nation.

But as it happens with ICC's Associate Member nations, the batters with little exposure of facing quality bowling didn't know what to do with an experienced player like Mustafizur.



Needing 22 off 12 balls, 'The Fizz' was an artist at work as he bowled his customary slow off-cutters, which would pitch on middle stump and cut across the right hander.

Airee, who holds the world record of fastest T20I fifty off 9 balls and only third cricketer after Yuvraj Singh and Kieron Pollard to hit six sixes in an over, understood the difference of facing a world class operator to plundering runs against Mongolia and Qatar.

Mustafizur didn't even let Airee lay bat on ball during the five deliv-

eries that also had a slow bouncer. He got Airee off the last delivery.

In fact, four among the last five Nepalese batters failed to open their accounts with the fifth remaining not out without troubling the scorers. "Very happy the way we played this round. I hope we can continue with our bowling performance and hope that our batting performance will be fine in the next round," Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto said at post-match presentation ceremony.

The skipper wasn't happy that

none of the Bangladeshi batters could even cross 20 but has confidence that his bowling unit can defend any totals.

"We have everything. All the fast bowlers have worked really hard in the last two or three years. In this format, the bowling unit is very important and I hope they continue their form. We have to plan for the next round and execute our plans," he said. As far as Nepal skipper Rohit Paudel is concerned, he conceded that inexperience became their undoing. (PTI)

# Rohit Sharma's coach shaped my career: USA cricketer



**NEW DELHI, June 17:** Left-arm spinner Harmeet Singh, who is a part of the USA team that is enjoying a fairytale run in the ongoing T20 World Cup in the Americas, has revealed that Indian captain Rohit Sharma's coach Dinesh Lad has been instrumental in shaping his career.

The 31-year-old represented India in two Under-19 World Cups and played for Mumbai at the age-group level before moving to the USA. He is now a member of the American team that has made the Super Eight stage in its very first appearance at the showpiece.

"I would like to thank everybody who supported me in this journey and especially to Dinesh Lad Sir. My talent was first recognised by Lad Sir, who was the coach and mentor during my school days (Rohit Sharma studied in the same school)," Harmeet recalled in a video shared with PTI.

"In fact, he only advised me to join his school. There he provided me with everything he possibly could," he said.

Harmeet said his progress would not have been possible without Lad. "I switched to Swami Vivekanand school. We broke many records, there was no cricket in the suburbs then but now looking back at it, it all looks like a dream. What all we achieved at the school, couldn't have been possible without Lad Sir's support," he said.

"The passion with which he worked on us, and the dedication he showed by sending us to the Shivaji Park Gymkhana to train better under Padmakar Shivalkar Sir and Pravin Amre Sir," he added.

The USA will open their Super Eight campaign against South Africa on June 19. (PTI)

# Fans want Windies to legitimise T20 supremacy with third title

**BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS), June 17:** The last resting place of Malcolm Marshall, one of the greatest fast bowlers of all time, looks like a forgotten piece of land when one passes through the burial site located a few blocks away from the Grantley Adams International Airport here.

Marshall's achievements are duly recognised by the cricketing world but 25 years after his untimely death, his homeland doesn't seem to remember him the way a player of his stature should be.

The pacer, who died at the age of 41 due to cancer, rests in peace alongside many departed souls in the churchyard of St Bartholomew's Church.

The site is of Marshall's mausoleum is unattended and littered with plastic bottles, raising questions on its upkeep.

The current generation doesn't seem to be aware of his contribution to the game either. There were blank faces at the international airport when one asked about the location of his last resting place which is literally a stone's throw from that facility.

"There is no doubt about Marshall's greatness but as they say 'out of sight can be out of mind'. The current generation was not even born when he was winning games for the West Indies in the



'80s. "The money and the eyeballs were not as much as they are now. I am sure the modern day cricketers won't be forgotten that easily," said Kevin, a local who is a self-proclaimed fan of the game.

Besides Marshall, Barbados has produced many greats of the game including Sir Garfield Sobers and Joel Garner.

Marshall played his last Test in 1991 to end up with as many as 376 wickets at an exceptional av-

erage of 20.94. The right-arm pacer's legend grew during his county stint for Hampshire who named the road leading to the stadium after the West Indian. He was diagnosed with cancer in 1999 and succumbed to it within months.

The West Indies is hosting a men's World Cup after 14 years and the excitement in the entire region is palpable.

The remote location of the makeshift stadium in New York

did not help in promoting the game in an alien land but the organisers in the Caribbean have been able to engage the fans.

Posters and banners reading the 'Home of Final' are installed all around Bridgetown including the airport with the title clash scheduled at the Kensington Oval on June 29.

Darren Sammy captained the regional outfit to two T20 World Cup titles and now fans are backing him for a third one as a coach.

"I want the West Indies to be masters of the T20 game and Sammy can guide them to a third title. He has the ability of bringing everyone together. The world title would mean the world to the fans.

"One day I also hope we can regain the glory days in Test cricket," said Jerry Newton, who is from the neighbouring island country of Dominica but keenly followed the West Indies' performance even when he was travelling for work in UK last week.

The expectations are higher from fans as two-time winners West Indies could not qualify for the ODI World Cup in India last year.

Cricket also does a remarkable job of uniting the Caribbean where it remains the number one sport.

The Rovman Powell-led side has already entered the Super 8 stage of the tournament and if they do go on to garner more glory in the shortest format, the party in the Caribbean will last for months.

"If West Indies do end up winning a record third trophy in the T20, the party in the Caribbean will be going for many, many months afterwards, as everyone celebrates what would be a fantastic achievement by our men's team. I can assure you that," summed up Cricket West Indies CEO Johnny Grave. (PTI)

