- Harris stepping in for Biden at Ukraine summit
- **US** military targets Houthi radar sites in Yemen
- Home Minister Amit Shah to review J-K security situation today
- NC, PDP disapproves of prosecution sanction against Arundhati Roy

www.thehillstimes.in

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15: BJP president J P Nadda on

Saturday formed a four-member

committee to look into the alleged

political violence in West Bengal,

as the party accused chief minister

Mamata Banerjee of remaining a

The committee includes Biplab

Kumar Deb, Ravi Shankar Prasad,

Brii Lal and Kavita Patidar, all BJP

In a jibe at the saffron camp, Tri-

namool Congress spokesperson

and former Rajya Sabha MP San-

tanu Sen said the BJP is now hunt-

ing for excuses after being rejected

by the people of West Bengal in the

Lok Sabha polls. Of the 42 Lok

Sabha seats, the TMC won 29, the

A BJP statement said, "Mamata

Banerjee remains a mute spectator,

while criminals of her party attack

and intimidate opposition workers

BJP 12 and the Congress 1.

MPs, with Deb as its convener.

mute spectator.

Voice of the hills people

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DIPHU, KARBI ANGLONG, SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024

YEARS OF DEDICATED JOURNALISM

Angry TMC rubbishes allegation

Post-poll violence in Bengal: BJP forms panel of 4 MPs

PAGES 12

PRICE ₹8

Himanta inspects Lachit Moidam Memorial Complex in Jorhat

The Jorhat-Shibsagar four-lane road will be finished by December this year: Assam CM



HT Bureau GUWAHATI. June 15: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inspected the Lachit Moidam Memorial Complex in Jorhat on Saturday,

HTBRIEFS

Green Bodoland

KOKRAJHAR: The Green

Bodoland Mission (GBM), an

initiative of govt of Bodoland

Territorial Region (BTR) was

ceremonially launched on Satur-

day amidst a well attended gath-

ering held at the BTC Secretariat

Complex, Bodofa Nwgwr in

Kokrajhar. The chief executive

member of Bodoland Territorial

Region (BTR), Pramod Boro

launched the Bodoland Green

Mission (GBM) amidst presence

of BTR executive members,

MCLAs, government officials,

NGO members, students from dif-

ferent colleges, community lead-

ers. The GBM has been

emphasising for bringing green &

celebrating life across the

Bodoland region, and subse-

quently ceremonial plantation of

trees under the Green Bodoland

Mission and unveiling of Logo

was held on the occasion. CEM

Pramod Boro and several digni-

taries have planted trees at the

BTC Secretariat complex on the

Yoga Day

TEZPUR: On the second day

of the "7 Day Countdown Pro-

gram" in connection with the

upcoming state-level celebra-

tion of the 10th International

Day of Yoga 2024 on 21st June

in Tezpur, a mass yoga program was organised by National

Ayush Mission, Assam in col-

laboration with Sonitpur district

administration at the iconic

places of Tezpur namely Ba-

muni Hill, Ouguri Hill and Da

Parbatia simultaneously. Each

venue saw the enthusiastic par-

ticipation of around 40 students

from different government

schools of Tezpur along with of-

ficials from the district adminis-

practitioners, and a few local

residents. Notably, district com-

missioner Deba Kumar Mishra

took part in the yoga session

held at Da Parbatia where

Ashram Administrator cum

Yoga Trainer of the Art of Liv-

ing Foundation, Guwahati Brah-

machari Madhavanand led the

yoga session for all present.

tration.

regular

slated

directing officials to expedite on-

going works and incorporate an in-

stadium,

completion by early next year.

government is constructing a stateof-the-art cultural complex dedicated to honoring the courageous Ahom General.

"I paid homage to Lachit Barphukan today and reviewed the progress at the Lachit Moidam Memorial. We are committed to building a cultural complex that celebrates the legacy of our bravest Ahom General," Sarma stated on the microblogging site X. Addressing the media during the event, Sarma announced that the Jorhat-Sivasagar four-lane road will be finished by December this year. The chief minister also noted that while the impressive statue of Veer Lachit, a key feature of the project, was unveiled to the public by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March, work on its second phase is progressing rapidly. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Tripura Cong convenes meeting on June 18 to decide

meeting on June 18 to take feedback from its leaders on the alliance with Left parties for the three-tier panchayat elections in the state, a party

panchayat samities and gram panchayats- in the northeastern state are

"Tripura Pradesh Congress president Asish Saha has convened a meeting on June 18 to get views from party leaders on the alliance strategy for the upcoming panchayat elections", MLA Sudip Roy Barman told reporters.

Meanwhile, a five-member

BARI (ITALY), June 15: Amidst severe strain in bilateral ties, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Saturday that there was a commitment to work together with India to deal with some "very important issues" after he met Prime

sidelines of the G7 Summit.

Modi had posted an image on social media of the two leaders shaking hands on Friday, with a one-liner saying "met Canadian PM Justin Trudeau at the G7 Summit".

Minister Narendra Modi on the

The meeting which took place on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Apulia, southern Italy, is the first amid strained diplomatic relations over pro-Khalistani extremism after Trudeau alleged that Canadian authorities are "actively pursuing credible allegations" related to In-

murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a designated terrorist.

Calcutta High Court has taken note

of these excesses and extended de-

ployment of CAPF till June 21 and

has listed the matter for hearing on

Sabha elections were held across

the country and no instance of po-

The saffron party said the Lok

June 18."

The Canadian allegations from last year were strongly rejected by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) as "absurd and motivated".

"I'm not going to get into the details of this important, sensitive issue that we need to follow up, but this was a commitment to work together, in the coming times, to deal with some very important issues," Trudeau told reporters at a press conference in Savelletri Di Fasano in Italy on Saturday, the concluding

day of the three-day G7 Summit. The last meeting between the two leaders happened on the sidelines of the G20 Summit hosted by India in

Soon after the meeting on Friday evening, the Canadian Prime Min-

lationship", during which Trudeau also congratulated Modi on his reelection.

litical violence was reported from

grip of post-poll violence, the kind

we saw post-2021 assembly elec-

In response to the allegation, the

"It continues to be in the vice

anywhere except West Bengal.

tions," the BJP alleged.

"Of course, there are important issues between our two countries right now. You can appreciate that we won't be making any further statements at this time," spokesperson Ann-Clara Vaillancourt was quoted by the Canadian Press news

India has been maintaining that the main issue between the two countries is that of Canada giving space to pro-Khalistan elements operating from Canadian soil with im-

India has repeatedly conveyed its "deep concerns" to Canada and New Delhi expects Ottawa to take strong action against those ele-

ister's Office said the leaders had a ments. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2) **G7 Summit commits to** promoting India-Middle East-

Europe Économic Corridor

BARI (ITALY), June 15: The corridors for quality infrastructure Group of Seven industrialised nations have committed to promoting concrete infrastructure initiatives such as the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) in the G7 Summit Communique issued at the end of the three-day G7 Summit, attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Communique was issued on Friday evening after the customary "family photo" at the luxury resort of Borgo Egnazia, where the G7 also reiterated a commitment to a "free and open Indo-Pacific" based on the rule of law. Prime Minister Modi attended the G7 Summit at the invitation of Italian Prime Minister

Giorgia Meloni, the host. 'We will further promote concrete G7 PGII (Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment) initiatives, flagship projects, and complementary initiatives to and investment, such as the deepening of our coordination and financing for the Lobito Corridor, the Luzon Corridor, the Middle Corridor, and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, also building on the EU Global Gateway, the Great Green Wall Initiative, and the Mattei Plan for Africa launched by Italy," reads the communique.

Billed as a path-breaking initiative, the IMEC envisages a vast road, railroad and shipping network among Saudi Arabia, India, the United States and Europe to ensure integration among Asia, the Middle East and the West.

The IMEC is also seen as an initiative by like-minded nations to gain strategic influence in the face of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which has faced increasing criticism over lack of transparency and disregard for sovereignty of the develop transformative economic nations. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

fair. But after the dismal show, they are now inventing excuses and weaving false narratives of postpoll violence"

'There could have been stray incidents, which were the results of family or local disputes," he said. Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari met BJP workers, who have been affected by alleged attacks by the TMC after the polls, in

Coochbehar district. "If Governor C V Ananda Bose gives me time, I will meet him at Raj Bhavan on Sunday with 100 people who became homeless due to the TMC attacks," he said. Adhikari said he has sought permission from Kolkata Police to stage a sit-in for five days outside Raj Bhavan with those affected by post-poll violence. "It will be the same spot where TMC leader Abhishek (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Committed to work together: Canadian Govt must ensure corporate takeovers PM Trudeau on meeting with PM Modi are fair: Cong

NEW DELHI, June 15: The Congress on Saturday said it is the government's responsibility to ensure that competition among corporate is not stifled, oligopolies or monopolies do not emerge and corporate takeovers are free and fair.

It is also the government's responsibility to ensure that undue advantage arising out of access to political power is not exercised, party general secretary Jairam Ramesh said. His comments came after the Adani Group acquired Penna Cements while strengthening its share in the cement sector in southern India.

"Aap chronology samajhiye (understand the chronology): September 2022: Adani acquires Ambuja Cements and ACC, to become country's second largest cement player. August 2023: Adani acquires Sanghi Industries, India's largest single-location cement unit. June 2024: Adani acquires Penna Cements, giving it substantial market share even in the last remaining region of South India." he said.

"Upcoming: Adani is exploring the acquisition of Saurashtra Cement, Vadraj Cement, and the cement business of Jaiprakash Associates," Ramesh claimed in a post on X.

Quoting former RBI deputy governor Viral Acharya, he said the noted financial economist had established that the five big conglomerates, including the Adani Group.? are building monopolies in 40 sectors, including in the cement sector.

"This growing monopolisation is linked to India's shaky economic growth, unemployment crisis, and high inflation. In 2015, when a common man used to spend ₹ 100 on goods, ₹ 18 would go as profit to the business owner? -- in 2021, the owner now gets ₹ 36 in profits," Ramesh claimed.

"Firms must grow. Companies must expand. But at the same time, the government has a responsibility to ensure competition is not stifled, oligopolies or monopolies do not emerge, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

on alliance for rural polls AGARTALA, June 15: The Con- alliance with the Left parties but gress unit in Tripura has convened a

MLA said on Saturday.

The elections to zilla parisads, due in August.

In last year's assembly elections and the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls, the Congress forged an could not succeed. Roy Barman said a concrete decision on the alliance with the Left parties for the panchayat elections will be taken after considering the views of leaders from districts and blocks.

Tripura congress delegation met the state election commissioner and demanded free, fair and peaceful rural polls. "The opposition parties could not field their candidates in 95 per cent of the total seats in zilla parisads, panchayat samities and gram panchayats during the last elections. We requested the state election panel to take steps so that opposition parties could submit their nomination papers during the

scheduled (CONTD. ON PAGE-2) dian government involvement in the KAAC doubles funding for Karbi Film Society's foundation day celebration

DIPHU, June 15: Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) CEM Tuliram Ronghang announced on Saturday an increase in funding for the Karbi Film Society (KFS) foundation day celebration, raising it from ₹ 10 lakh to ₹ 20 lakh

annually. The announcement came during the 16th foundation day celebrations of KFS, held with a daylong programme at Sarsing Teron (Langkung Habe) Memorial Town

"Previously, KAAC allocated ₹ 10 lakh annually for the KFS foundation day celebration. Starting this year, this amount has been increased to ₹ 20 lakhs," stated the CEM.

Additionally, the CEM highlighted increases in budget allocations for other cultural events: the Karbi Youth Festival's budget has been raised from ₹ 5 lakh to ₹ 1 crore, and the annual conference of Karbi Lammet Amei has been in-



creased from ₹ 5 lakh to ₹ 50 lakh. "The Karbi Cultural Society, led by president Chandrasing Kro and other members, appealed to chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for inclusion of ₹ 3 crore in the state annual budget for the Karbi Youth Festival, which has been approved," added the CEM

Further announcements included a cash award of ₹ 5 lakhs each to Malin Tissopi, awarded Best Actress for the Karbi feature film 'Mirbeen' at the NERI International Film Festival of India in November 2023, and to Dhoniram Tisso, the film's producer. This award aims to recognize (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Man- animal co-existence for better future

Makers of Forest: Toiling to nurture environment at Garoghuli

By- Hiranya Barman

GUWAHATI, June 15: Arjun Boro, a resident of Garoghuli, was recently spotted planting a Chandan tree sapling purchased from a nearby nursery, continuing his daily efforts to nurture Garoghuli's envi-

His wife, Leena Boro, joined him this time, carrying a Star Fruit sapling. Together, they have planted over 500 saplings of various species-medicinal, fruit-bearing,

exotic, and native varieties. "I bought this Chandan sapling for ₹ 120 from a nearby nursery, Boro told The Hills Times, proudly displaying the plant.

"I've been planting since 2022. Sometimes my wife accompanies me. Elephants, during their free-



ranging movements, often visit this area in search of food and water. These plants, once matured, will provide fruits for the elephants,"

Boro explained. Garoghuli, located approximately

19 km from Dispur, is a leisure spot inaugurated by MLA Ramendra

Narayan Kalita and is part of the

Garbhanga forest reserve. It attracts

people from Guwahati and nearby

areas seeking respite from urban

hustle. Boro remains enthusiastic about his mission despite challenges, such as grazing goats damaging some saplings, including orange trees. Sal and Segun trees are prominent, and medicinal plants like Arjun trees line the streams of Garoghuli.

Regarding economic benefits, Boro emphasised his reliance on the forest area, harvesting vegetables like gourd and leafy greens planted around the area.

"Sal and Segun trees will provide significant benefits once they grow into healthy plants," Boro reflected.

"I assist my husband in planting trees. We purchase these saplings ourselves, without government funds or sponsorship. We do this out of love, seeing them grow and bear fruits for (CONTD, ON PAGE-2)

8 Naxalites, one STF jawan killed in encounter in Chhattisgarh

NARAYANPUR, June 15: Eight Naxalites and a jawan of the Special Task Force (STF) were killed in an encounter in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district on Saturday, police said.

Two other STF personnel sustained injuries in the incident, they said. A huge cache of weapons and other materials belonging to Naxalites were recovered from the encounter site, they said.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said his government is fully committed to eliminating Naxalites, and it will not sit quiet till it achieves the goal. The gunfight broke out at around 7 am in the forest of Abhujmad, where a joint team of security personnel from four districts — Narayanpur, Kanker, Dantewada and Kondagaon was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range Sundarraj P said.

The operation was launched on June 12 based on information about the presence of cadres belonging to Maad division and PLGA company no. 1 of Maoists in forests of Kutul, Farsebeda and Kodtameta villages under Kohkameta police station area of the district, he said. Personnel from the state police's District Reserve Guard (DRG) and STF, along with the 53rd battalion of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and 135th battalion of the Border Security Force (BSF), were involved in the operation, he said.



The exchange of fire broke out when security personnel were cordoning off the area, followed by intermittent firing till the afternoon in the forests of Kutul, Farsebeda and Kodtameta villages, he said.

After guns fell silent, bodies of eight Naxalites clad in a uniform were recovered from the site along with an Insas rifle, a .303 rifle, a barrel grenade launcher (BGL) and other weapons and Maoist-related materials, the official said. The identity of the deceased Naxalites was yet to be ascertained, he said. Three STF constables sustained injuries in the gunfight, and one of them, Nitish Ekka (27), a resident of Jashpur district, succumbed during preliminary treatment at the encounter site, he said. Injured constables (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Parliament had passed the DPDP Act in August last year

NEW DELHI, June 15: Drafting of rules under the data protection legislation is in advanced stage with industry-wide consultations slated soon, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday, asserting that India will also look at doubling electronics production and adding jobs under the Modi

At the same time, the Minister for Electronics and IT assured that regulatory work will see "good continuity" and that the agenda on digital regulatory framework remains "intact". The timelines for semiconductor plants of Micron and Tata Group too are on track.

The process of implementation of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act will be based on 'digital-by-design' principle, paving the way for a new way of working, and the work on creating this 'digital by design' platform is also moving in parallel. Such a platform or portal will be created in-house by the likes of NIC and

The Parliament had passed the DPDP Act in August last year. The key piece of legislation aims to protect the privacy of Indian citizens while proposing a penalty of up to Rs 250 crore on entities for misusing or failing to protect digital data of individuals.

"We had started the rules' drafting work around December. DPDP rules drafting is in very advanced stage. We will start the industry consultation now and go as extensive as we can," Vaishnaw

told reporters at a briefing. Both the Telecom Act as well as the DPDP Act had entailed extensive consultations, he said while promising that the rules of DPDP too will not be a rushed affair and will involve "as consutative a



process as can be"

"In parallel, we are working on creating a digital-by-design platform so implementation can be done in a digital form, which is part of the Act," he said.

Vaishnaw, who took charge as Minister for Electronics and IT earlier this week, said he reviewed the work-in-progress on data protection rules and is happy with the outcomes. However, there will be tweaks and changes based on industry and stakeholder views, he

The other big priority for the ministry is in the area of electronics production -- where India has set its sight on becoming a global

manufacturing powerhouse. "In the last four months, queries have come on large players wanting to come in, on the process and modalities of setting up plants, and we have been directing them to OEMs so that OEMs and component manufacturers can have a synergy," he said.

The minister exuded confidence that a "good and clear picture" on this would emerge in coming three-four months.

"We are in a stage where our dream of becoming a big electron-

ics manufacturer will be fulfilled."

he affirmed. While Micron's plant will ensure made-in-India memory chip, progress on other plants is also good. Vaishnaw has spoken to chief ministers of Assam and Gujarat, and both states have assured their full support on all aspects and are taking keen interest in ongoing projects.

Manpower training is also moving in tandem as India looks to build a formidable skills base in areas of chip manufacturing; in fact some universities are being empanelled by manufacturers themselves for building a skilled pool of manpower.

Housing needs of workers, in these massive electronics and semiconductor plants that are coming up in India, is an areas which is being proactively addressed. In Assam and Gujarat, for instance, state governments are assuring full support on the housing aspects, including providing

timely permissions. "In electronics, each plant em-

ploys 20,000-30,000 people...For instance, Tata Electronics' plant has already crossed 40,000-mark in one single plant, and is now moving towards 50,000...that means they have to create their own housing, which they are doing," an official said.

India's electronics production is currently pegged at roughly USD 125-130 billion with employment numbers at 20-25 lakh.

"I can see that in this term, we should be easily doubling it, about 50 lakh in terms of employment number, and USD 200-300 billion as total production. In fact, I think we should be taking a more aggressive target, which I think we should do once we talk with the industry," Vaishnaw said.

On laptop and server production. India is in the process of becoming self-reliant and most of companies that were granted permission have started production.

According to Vaishnaw, India will also have a massive ecosystem of EVs (electric vehicles) in coming three-four years.

On regulations, the minister said there is a "good continuity" and government's thought process of creating new digital regulatory framework is "absolutely intact". The overall structure in terms of the Telecom Act, DPDP, and draft Digital India Bill "remians in-

Sources said that in the the light of developments in the recent past, where the destructive power of AI and deepfakes have been in the spotlight, the larger question is whether strategy should be recalibrated.

"We need to definitely have a good legal structure where our society and democracy can be protected," Vaishnaw said. (PTI)

OPPO unveils

F27 Pro+ 5G

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, June 15: OPPO India has

launched the F27 Pro+ 5G, marking the debut

of India's first IP69-rated super-rugged, mon-

soon-ready smartphone. Available in Dusk Pink

and Midnight Navy, the F27 Pro+ is priced at

INR 27,999 for the 128GB model and INR

The F27 Pro+ 5G is designed to withstand the

toughest conditions, boasting IP66, IP68, and

IP69 ratings for comprehensive protection

against dust and water. Savio D'Souza, Director

of Product Communications at OPPO India,

veather conditions. It meets the highest stan-

dards of dust and water resistance and features our 360° Armour Body for superior protection.

validated by Swiss SGS and MIL-STD-810H

In addition to its rugged exterior, the F27

Pro+ 5G includes a four-year durable

5,000mAh battery, promising long-term relia-

bility. The device is engineered with internal

dampening materials and a high-strength alu-

minium alloy to enhance drop resistance, while

Corning Gorilla Glass Victus 2 shields the

The F27 Pro+ 5G's durability has earned the

Swiss SGS Premium Performance 5 Star rating

for multi-angle drop tests and high shock resist-

29,999 for the 256GB version.

certifications.

Godavari Biorefineries files IPO papers; eyes ₹ 325 crore via fresh issue



NEW DELHI, June 15: Ethanol and bio-based chemicals maker Godavari Biorefineries Ltd on Saturday filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). The proposed initial share-sale is a combination of fresh issue of equity shares worth ₹ 325 crore and an Offer-for-Sale (OFS) of 65.27 lakh

equity shares by promoters and an investor according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

Private equity firm Mandala Capital AG Ltd is offloading 49.27 lakh shares through the OFS route. Proceeds from the fresh issue to

the tune of ₹ 240 crore will be used for debt payment and the remaining amount for general corporate

The Maharashtra-based Godavari Biorefineries is one of the prominent manufacturers of ethanol-based chemicals in India.

The company's diversified product portfolio comprises bio-based chemicals, sugar, different grades of ethanol and power. These products find application in a range of industries such as food, beverages, pharmaceuticals, flavours & fragrances, power, fuel, personal care and cosmetics.

According to Frost & Sullivan Report, the bio-based chemicals market has been growing exponentially owing to the increasing need for environmentally sustainable solutions. The market for biobased chemicals in 2023 was valued at USD 97.2 billion, and is expected to be growing at a CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 10.4 per cent, for the next five years from 2023 to 2028.

SBI Capital Markets and Equirus Capital Markets are the book running lead managers of the public issue. (PTI)

Contd. from Page 1...

Himanta inspects Lachit

"We are considering the addition of an indoor stadium within the complex, providing local children with a space to play," he added.

During the program, Sarma personally witnessed the condition of the four-lane road in Upper Assam, particularly from Jorhat bypass to Janji.

"Previously, due to various issues and negligence by contractors, this road remained unfinished for many years. However, now it is nearing completion, and I urge the public to extend their cooperation," he stated. Regarding the Anti-Corruption Branch's action against the looting of a government forest officer in Jorhat on Saturday. Sarma affirmed the government's commitment to combating corruption.

"While some may criticise, our government maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption," he added. The chief minister was accompanied by ministers Ajanta Neog, MLAs Sushanta Borgohain, Tarang Gogoi, Rupjyoti Kurmi, BJP leaders, members of the Lachit Maidam Sansthan Samiti, and administrative officials.

Post-poll violence in Bengal

Banerjee staged a sit-in with his party supporters in November 2023. If police can permit the TMC to demonstrate at the same spot, there should not be any differential treatment to BJP," he added. (PTI)

Tripura Cong convenes

time. "We also suggested online submission of nomination papers for the panchayat elections," Madan Saha, TPCC vice president said after the meeting with the state election commissioner. He also sought the deployment

of central paramilitary forces to ensure free, fair and peaceful polls. (PTI) KAAC doubles funding for

their contribution in elevating Karbi films to an international level. In addition, the CEM declared that there will be no hall charges for holding KFS annual foundation day celebrations at various venues

Earlier in the day, a cinema conclave addressed the sustainability and profitability of Karbi films, featuring speakers Rajiv Kro, a noted Assamese actor, and Dhoniram Tisso, a renowned filmmaker, who discussed challenges and improvements needed in Karbi film production.

The event was chaired by KFS president Dilip Bey and attended by former MP Horensing Bey, KAAC executive member (Art & Culture) Surjya Rongphar, MAC member Johny Timung, filmmaker Dhoniram Tisso, KCS president Chandrasing Kro, KLA president Kamsing Hanse, and KFS general secretary Mongolsing Rongpi.

G7 Summit commits to

The BRI is a mega connectivity project that connects China with Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Russia and Europe. The IMEC initiative was firmed up on the sidelines of the G20 Summit hosted by India in Delhi last year. About the Outreach session on Friday on the topic of Artificial Intelligence, Energy, Africa and the Mediterranean addressed by Modi, the Communique reads: "In a spirit of shared responsibility, we warmly welcome the participation of the Leaders of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, India, Jordan, Kenya, Mauritania, Tunisia, Turkiye, and the

"We will step up our efforts to enhance interoperability amongst our AI governance approaches to promote greater certainty, transparency and accountability while recognizing that approaches and policy instruments may vary across G7 members. We will take a risk-based approach in these efforts as we seek to foster innovation and strong, inclusive, and sustainable growth."

Among the other priorities of the summit's agenda, the communique registers "unwavering support" for Ukraine in its ongoing conflict with Russia.

It notes: "With a view to supporting Ukraine's current and future needs in the face of a prolonged defence against Russia, the G7 will launch Extraordinary Revenue Acceleration (ERA) Loans for Ukraine, in order to make available approximately USD 50 billion in additional funding to Ukraine by the end of the year. "Therefore, without prejudice to possible other contributions and standing together, the G7 intends to provide financing that will be serviced and repaid by future flows of extraordinary revenues stemming from the immobilisation of Russian sovereign assets held in the European Union and other relevant jurisdictions. To enable this, we will work to obtain approval in these jurisdictions to use future flows of these extraordinary revenues to service and repay the loans.'

Pope Francis became the first pontiff to join the participants of the G7 hosted by Italy – US President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, French President Emmanuel Macron, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Charles Michel. (PTI)

Govt must ensure corporate

takeovers are free and fair, and undue advantage arising out of access to political power is not exercised,"

Makers of Forest: Toiling

elephants and humans alike," Leena Boro added. "Previously, students from various institutes and organisations conducted plantation drives here. We ensure the greenery in these hilly areas is preserved and conduct cleanliness drives, especially during peak picnic seasons when garbage accumulates even in remote places. I aim to plant every sapling that isn't currently found here and welcome suggestions from the community," Boro affirmed.

Local youths are currently constructing a high-rise canopy atop a majestic tree, locally known as a 'Sang ghor'. to provide visitors at Garoghuli a vantage point to observe herds of elephants that frequent the area for food and

8 Naxalites, one STF

Lekhram Netam (28) and Kailash Netam (33) were evacuated using a helicopter and admitted to a hospital in Raipur, where their condition is said to be out of danger, the IG said.

In a post on his 'X' handle, the chief minister said, "8 Naxalites killed in an encounter with security forces between Farasbeda-Dhurbeda in Narayanpur district. There is also sad news that one STF jawan got martyred, and two other jawans sustained injuries in the encounter." "The Naxalites are frustrated by the strict action taken against them. Our government is fully committed to

eliminating them, and we will not sit quietly until the target is achieved," he said.

As many as 131 Naxalites have been killed in separate encounters with security personnel in Bastar division, comprising Kanker, Kondagaon, Narayanpur, Bastar, Bijapur, Dantewada and Sukma districts, so far this year, On June 5, six Naxalites were gunned down in an encounter in Narayanpur, while seven Naxalites were killed

on the Narayanpur-Bijapur border on May 23. At least 12 Naxalites died in an encounter in Bijapur on May 10, and 10 cadres, including three women, were neutralised along the border of Narayanpur and Kanker districts on

On April 16, 29 Naxalites were gunned down in an encounter with security forces in Kanker district, they said.

Committed to work together

Nijjar's murder is being probed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Four Indian nationals have been arrested in this connection by the RCMP.

Modi's meeting with Trudeau came at the end of a packed day of bilateral meetings for the Prime Minister, including with French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Japanese PM Fumio Kishida, German Chancellor Olaf Scholtz and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni - the host of the summit. He

also had discussions with other world leaders gathered for the summit, including with US President Joe Biden. Prime Minister Modi joined leaders of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Jordan, Kenya, Mauritania, Tunisia, Turkiye, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to address the Outreach session on Artificial Intelligence, Energy, Africa and the Mediterranean, along with Pope Francis, on the invitation of Meloni. (PTI)

FOGSI releases comprehensive immunization schedule for adult women

<u>HT Bureau</u> GUWAHATI, June 15: The issue of low vaccine coverage, especially among women, can be significantly mitigated by enhancing the accessibility and awareness of adult vaccinations. Experts emphasise the establishment of dedicated adult vaccination centers and the crucial role of physician education in boosting vaccination rates. Dr. Nandita Palshetkar, Past President of FOGSI and Immediate Past President of ISAR, highlighted the importance of infrastructure in improving vaccine coverage.

"The lack of dedicated adult vac-

cination centers is a major barrier. It is essential to set up such centers for adolescents, adults, and the elderly. Expanding the number of vaccine delivery sites with walk-in services and extended hours can effectively bridge the gap between expected

and actual vaccination rates." Dr. Priya Ganeshkumar, Chairperson of the FOGSI Oncology Committee and Coordinator for FOGSI Mahila Kavach Kendra, pointed out the impact of physician awareness on vaccine uptake. "Studies indicate that increasing physicians' knowledge and awareness about

vaccines significantly improves vaccination rates. Information, counseling, and non-directed guidance are critical motivators for improving vaccine uptake. To support this, FOGSI has provided its member gynecologists with the 'FOGSI Handbook on Prevention & Management of Cervical Cancer' and recently launched 'FOGSI FOCUS PLUS on Adult Women Vaccination. These resources are vital for building confidence among gynecologists to counsel their patients on available vaccines and

highlighted the device's robust features: "The preventable diseases, including F27 Pro+ 5G caters to consumers who need a cervical cancer.' durable smartphone that performs under all Kotak Life Insurance unveils Kotak Gen2Gen Protect

HT Bureau GUWAHATI, June 15: Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Ltd ("Kotak Life") has launched an innovative protection plan, Kotak Gen2Gen Protect, which introduces an industry-first feature allowing coverage to extend across two generations, offering a unique legacy

of protection. Kotak Gen2Gen Protect stands out with its 100% guaranteed return of premium benefit upon survival. This plan provides the flexibility for the parent, or primary life insured, to transfer the complete risk cover to their child when they turn sixty or sixty-five. The risk cover continues

tional riders such as Accidental Death Benefit. Permanent Disability Benefit, and Critical Illness Plus. Additionally, women policyholders benefit from an extra 5% death benefit.

Mahesh Balasubramanian, MD of Kotak

tomers to secure two generations with a single term plan. This product embodies the importance of family, tradition, and legacy in Indian culture. It aligns with our dedication to exceed

corporating in-built wellness benefits and op-

Mahindra Life Insurance Company Limited, emphasized the company's commitment to innovation.

"Kotak Gen2Gen Protect allows our cus-

ance. It also meets the MIL-STD-810H Method 516.8 standard, ensuring resilience against varfor the child until they reach the age of sixty. customer expectations and supports IRDAI's vi-The plan offers comprehensive coverage, insion of 'Insurance for All' by 2047." ious shock and drop conditions. Asia shares rise amid Bank of Japan focus after the Fed stands pat

TOKYO, June 15: Asian shares mostly rose Thursday, as investors turned their attention to what the Bank of Japan might decide on monetary policy later this week. The Bank of Japan is not expected to raise its benchmark rate when it wraps up its meeting on Friday, but the economy is under pressure from the dollar's prolonged surge against the Japanese yen.

"Given the recent 'hawkish hold' outcome from the Fed, if the BOJ were to stick to its usual accommodative tone in terms of policy settings, that may pave the way for the upward trend in the U.S. dollar to the Japanese yen to continue," Yeap Jun Rong, a market analyst at IG, said in a commentary.

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar edged up to 157.01 Japanese yen from 156.71 yen. The euro cost \$1.0807, down from \$1.0812.

As expected, the Federal Reserve kept its main interest rate steady on Wednesday following its latest policy meeting. And Treasury yields dropped after a report on inflation showed U.S. consumers paid prices that were 3.3% higher for food, insurance and everything else last month from a year earlier. Economists had been expecting to see the inflation rate stuck at 3.4%. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 dipped 0.1% in morning trading to 38,831.36. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 surged 0.5% to 7,751.00. South Korea's Kospi jumped 1.4% to 2,766.99. Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained nearly 0.4% to 18,001.18, while the Shanghai Composite de-

clined 0.4% to 3,026.27. Wednesday on Wall Street, the S&P 500 added 0.9% to its all-time high set a day earlier, closing at 5,421.03. The Nasdaq composite also built on its own record and jumped 1.5% to 17,608.44. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lagged the market with a dip of 0.1% to 38,712.21. Smaller companies that need to borrow to grow and can therefore feel the pinch of higher interest rates more than larger rivals led the market. The smaller

For Wall Street, a slowdown in inflation not only helps U.S. households struggling to keep up with fastrising prices, it also opens the door for the Federal Reserve to cut its main interest rate. Such a move would ease pressure on the economy and give a boost to investment prices. Everything from bitcoin to gold to copper rallied after the inflation data raised expectations for coming cuts to interest rates. A measure of nervousness among investors in U.S. stocks also eased.

Policymakers welcomed the latest update on inflation, but "we'll need to see more good data to bolster our confidence," Fed Chair Jerome Powell said. He repeated the Fed's mantra that it needs an accumulation of data showing inflation is sustainably heading toward its 2% target before it lowers the federal funds rate, which is at the highest level in more than two decades. "We'll have to see where the data lights the way," he said, reiterating the Fed's commitment to moving based on where incoming reports steer it.

Lower interest rates could mean easier mortgage rates, helping to inject energy into the housing market. Homebuilder D.R. Horton climbed 3%. Builders First-Source, which sells vinyl windows, custom millwork and other building materials, jumped 5.3%.

Oracle helped lead Wall Street higher with a leap of 13.3% even though it reported weaker profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected. Financial analysts pointed to strong bookings, including contracts related to artificial-intelligence training.

A furor around AI has helped send stocks to records despite worries about high interest rates and the slowdown in the economy that they induce. Nvidia again was the strongest force pushing the S&P 500 higher, with a gain of 3.5%. The chip company has become the poster child of the AI rush, and its total market value has topped \$3 trillion. (AP)

Vicks unveils doublepowered cough drops

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, June 15: Vicks has announced a significant innovation in its iconic cough drop line, introducing the "Vicks ki Goli Ab Ho Gayi Hai Badi" campaign with brand ambassador Ranveer Singh. The first-ever double-powered transformation of Vicks' triangular cough drops in two decades was unveiled, marking a notable shift in the product's history.

Sahil Sethi, Category Leader, Consumer Healthcare at P&G India, emphasised the enduring legacy of Vicks. "The iconic jingle 'Vicks ki Goli Lo, KhichKhich Door Karo' resonates with generations of Indians. Listening to consumer feedback, we are excited to launch the Vicks Double Power Cough Drops. These larger cough drops, formulated to relieve throat irritation and cough, offer greater relief with a bigger size.

Dr. Jaspreet Kochhar, Director of Vicks Research & Development, detailed the product's enhancements. "The new Vicks Double Power Cough Drop is formulated with effective Ayurvedic ingredients like menthol, eucalyptus oil, and camphor. It features 2X menthol for superior relief, available in cooling menthol, soothing honey, and warming ginger variants. Tested with Indian consumers, these drops provide quick and lasting relief with a great taste."

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024

Digitised version of historical resources, books launched CM Sarma highlights role of judicial court in justice delivery system historical resources,



HT Correspondent

MORIGAON, June 15: Morigaon district commissioner, Devashish Sharma on Saturday handed over the digitised version of the rare Sanchi manuscripts and artefacts to representatives of the Sri Sri Narwa Bali Satra and Sri Sri Narwa Kuji Satra during a meeting held at the DC office

The Suryya Kumar Bhuyan Memorial Trust and the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage INTACH) digitised rare Sanchi manuscripts and artefacts available in these two satras.

Co-convenor of INTACH, Swapnanil Barua said, "There are 22 satras in Morigaon district and these satras have many ancient books, idols and valuables. These ancient books and artefacts can provide us with many historical stories and their proper preservation can pave the way for research and study. The Surya Kumar Bhuyan Memorial Trust and the National Trust for Arts and Culture and Heritage of India (IN-TACH) have been taking these views into consideration and making efforts for its preservation."

INTACH is a heritage preservation organisation. It was formed with the objective of identifying, documenting, preserving and making accessible to the public the historical resources of India. In 2022, the Assam chapter of IN-TACH started preserving the manuscripts at Sri Sri Srinarawa Kuji Satra and Sri Sri Narawa Bali

"He said the materials preserved in the form of manuscripts in the satras are the main source of written information of the Middle Ages. The books are not only the most authentic evidence of medieval Assam, but also record what aspects of life were considered important," said Sheila Bora, prominent writer and convener of INTACH. The meeting appreciated the work and emphasised on the preservation of historical resources of other satras in Mori-

GUWAHATI, June 15: Fulfilling the long-standing

demand of the people of South Tripura and Jorhat dis-

trict of the state, the Northeast Frontier Railway

(NFR) has decided to extend the services of the (Seal-

dah – Agartala – Sealdah) Kanchanjungha Express

from Agartala to Sabroom and the (Alipurduar Jn. –

Lumding - Alipurduar Jn.) Intercity Express from

The extension of these trains will be effective from

The (Sealdah - Sabroom) Kanchanjungha Express

will depart from Sealdah at 06:50 hours with effect from June 16 on every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and

Sunday to reach Sabroom at 20:00 hours on every

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Monday respec-

tively. Similarly, the (Sabroom - Sealdah) Kanchan-

jungha Express will depart from Sabroom at 06:20

hours with effect from June 18 on every Tuesday,

Thursday, Saturday and Sunday to reach Sealdah at

19:20 hours on every Wednesday, Friday, Sunday and

Lumding to Mariani.

June 16.

gaon district. Devashish Sharma said that these preserved resources could be passed on to the new generation which would help in conservation and research.

lished four histories. He said five more histories are on the way.

A team of conservators led by Sheila Bora and Swapnanil Barua as project directors with the institutional and financial support of the Suryya Kumar Bhuyan Memorial Foundation restored valuable manuscripts and idols at Sri Sri Narwa Kuji Satra and Sri Sri Narwa Bali Satra. They started working on Ramti. Mridumaucham Barak, General Secre-Society for Srimanta Sankardev, Dhing was appointed as the chief coordinator of the project and he was assisted by Sanghati Adhikari and Papu Das, manager of Epitome Computer

The trustee secretary of the Suryya Kumar Bhuyan Memorial Trust, Loya Sinha said the organisation was formed in 2014 by late Banti Bhuyan, an educator and owner of the Faculty Higher Secondary School in North Guwahati. The long-term aim of the Trust is to compile and publish the complete works of Dr. Bhuyan and to translate some of his great works into English. The Trust has translated the history of Dr. Survya Kumar Bhuyan from Assamese into English and has already pub-

Conservation aspects are supervised by the integration officer. Local youths are trained and employed in both the places. The manuscripts have been treated, preserved and digitised in a very scientific manner and the figurines have been treated using natural Hengul Haital dyes. There are 227 manuscripts in the Sri Srinarawa Kuji Satra along with 4093 folios and 8016 digitised images. There are 370 manuscripts, 6,221 folios and 1,1282 digitised images at Srishrinarawa Bali Satra. The youths involved in the project were awarded certificates

Kanchanjungha Express to run to Sabroom Alipurduar

Jn, Lumding Intercity extended to Mariani

Monday respectively.

mensely benefitted.

at 20:00 hours on the same day.

uar Jn. at 00:50 hours on the next day.



Sarma said.

SIVASAGAR, June 15: Chief

Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on

Saturday highlighted the impor-

tant role played by judicial courts

in delivering justice to millions of

Sarma said this while inaugurat-

Speaking on the occasion, the

chief minister underlined the im-

portance of the judicial courts in

the country to meet the tremen-

dous pressure of litigations be-

sides expediting the delivery of

only to provide justice to under tri-

als, but also to dispense justice to

the victims in cases coming under

the Protection of Children from

Sexual Offences Act (POCSO),

2012 and other cases of sexual

abuse. Such cases are on the rise.

I appreciate Chief Justice Vijay

Bishnoi for taking proactive steps

in developing the infrastructure of

the court buildings in the state,"

Trains rescheduled.

cancelled in Lumding -

Badarpur hill section

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, June 15: The

Northeast Frontier Railways have

cancelled and rescheduled a few

trains in the Lumding - Badarpur

hill section with the meteorological

department issuing a red alert for

the next two days in the Dima -

There has been incessant rain in

The (Guwahati - Dullabcherra)

the Dima Hasao area for the past

Express, the (Rangiya - Silchar)

Express and the (Silchar - New

Tinsukia) Express commencing

journey on its journey from June

Moreover, the (Guwahati

Silchar - Guwahati) Express, the

(Dullabcherra - Guwahati) Ex-

press, the (Silchar - Rangiya) Ex-

press and the (New Tinsukia -

Silchar) Express commencing on

its journey on June 16 have also

On the other hand, the (Agartala

- Deoghar) Express commencing

on its journey on June 15 has been

rescheduled to start at 23:30 hours

The railway authorities are mon-

itoring the situation round the

clock. Appropriate decisions will

be takenkeeping in view the safety

instead of 19:00 hours.

With this extension, passengers from the southern-

The (Alipurduar Jn. - Mariani) Intercity Express

most areas of Tripura will get direct connectivity to

Kolkata. Traders, students, patients will get im-

will depart from Alipurduar Jn. at 03:45 hours with

effect from June 16 on a daily basis to reach Mariani

Similarly, the (Mariani - Alipurduar Jn.) Intercity Express will depart from Mariani at 09:15 hours with

effect from June 17 on a daily basis to reach Alipurd-

rail connectivity of the Upper Assam areas with North

Bengal, promoting economic activities in the region.

are available at IRCTC website, NTES andare also

being notified in social media handles of NFR. Pas-

sengers are requested to verify the details before un-

This extension will further strengthen the existing

The details of stoppages and timings of these trains

15 have been cancelled.

been cancelled.

Hasao areas of this hill section.

"The duty of the judiciary is not

ing the new judicial court building

people in the state.

justice to millions.

in Sivasagar.

"While the Borpeta judicial court building has been inaugurated, those in Bokakhat and Dhubri are about to be completed. New court buildings have to be constructed with the formation of new districts," he said.

The chief minister also said that

tre made historic reforms in 2023 in the Indian criminal justice system by bringing in three new legislations, the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Surakhsha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam by replacing the British era Indian Penal Code, 1860. He said that the Prime Minister has stressed 'ease of justice'

Judicial courts to be established with formation of new districts: CM

in the country, which takes pride in the rich heritage of the justice delivery system.

Justice Arun Dev Choudhury spoke on the rich cultural and political history of Sivasagar, the4 erstwhile Rongpur' of the Ahom era. Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, Vijay Bishnoi said, "I express my gratitude to the chief minister and his cabinet of ministers for inaugurating the new judicial court building, which had been constructed with funds worth over ₹23 crores.

The new building will facilitate a new enthusiasm among legal practitioners, litigants, police personnel, IT workers and the judiciary of the district. I hope the new building would stand as the seat of justice for every individual."

Justice Suman Shyam, chairperson of the Building and Infrastructure Committee of the Gauhati High Court, said that it was a Red Letter Day for the lawyers and all the people of the district.

He said that the new building ent on the occasion.

epitomizes and reflects the rich cultural and ethnic diversity of the district.

The Union law ministry and state government had extended invaluable assistance in building the robust judiciary infrastructure in the state. It will ensure quick justice to the people, and expedite justice dispensation, he said.

State education minister Ranuj Pegu, state revenue and disaster management minister Jogen Mohan, Thowra MLA Sushanta Borgohain, Justice Debashish Baruah of the Gauhati High Court, Justice Arun Dev Choudhury of Gauhati High Court, who is in charge of the Infrastructure Development of the Judicial Courts, Sivasagar district and session judge, Justice Mridu Chanda Bordoloi, Sivasagar district commissioner Aditya Vikram Yadav, senior advocate Lohit Prakash Dutta, district BJP president Mayur Dutta and Sivbasagar SP Subhrajyoti Bora were also pres-

TU organises national seminar on 'Yoga for Women, Peace, and Wellbeing'

HT Correspondent
TEZPUR, June 15: As part of the Tezpur University (TU) Yoga Mahotsav 2024, Centre for Yoga and Sports Sciences and National Service Scheme (NSS) of TU organised a national seminar titled 'Yoga for Women, Peace, and Wellbeing: Exploring New Domains" on Saturday.

Indranoshee Das, director of AYUSH, Assam and Aarti Jagannathan, additional professor of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore delivered lectures during the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion as chief guest, Indranoshee Das highlighted how yoga offers a comprehensive approach to health and wellbeing. She spoke of the initiatives taken by the department of AYUSH for strengthening health

care facilities at all levels by integrating clarity. Addressing the gathering, Robin Dutta, AYUSH systems into National Health Care Delivery Systems.

Delivering the keynote address, Aarti Jagannathan explained the connection between Yoga and mental wellbeing. She said that regular yoga practice reduces stress and anxiety by promoting relaxation and mindfulness. She gave different models of Yoga developed at NIMHANS. "We have yoga for caregivers, schizophrenic people and people suffering from Parkinson's disease", she said.

M.K Sarma, vice-chancellor in-charge of TU lauded the Centre for Yoga and Sports Sciences for creating awareness on yoga. He said that yoga is beneficial for all generations, especially the younger generations looking for calm and

dean of the School of Sciences shared about his battle with asthma and how yoga helped him to fight the disease.

Papori Baruah, head in-charge of the Centre for Yoga and Sports Sciences highlighted various activities conducted during the Mahotsav and remarked that yoga not only strengthens the body, but also cultivates resilience and confidence, essential for women's empowerment.

The seminar also featured two technical sessions, viz.-Yoga as Therapy, women's health and sports and Yoga in stress, well-being and spirituality, besides having a poster presentation. The seminar started with the lighting of the lamp and sloka recitation followed by a recital

HT Correspondent MARGHERITA, June 15: Veteran con-

gress leader and a prominent Tangsa leader, Lukam Tulung has breathed his last at his residence in Kharankong village in Margherita in Tinsukia district. The 93-year-old Tulung, who passed away on June 12 was the former president of Khumchai gaon panchayat, former president of Khumchai Mandal Congress Committee and vice-president of Margherita Block Congress Committee from 2005 to 2024. He had devoted his whole life to Indian National Congress. He was also a soldier of the Burmese Army and fought in the Second

The Margherita Block Congress Committee family has expressed deep grief over his demise. Tinsukia district Congress committee president Javanta Kalita, Margherita block Congress committee president Tara Prasad Dehingia, Tinsukia district Congress committee leader Prem Upadhyaya, Margherita block Congress committee members Pushpa Chetry, Chitra Buragohain, Pranjal Chetia, Raju Chetry, Min Bahadur Chetry, Margherita Assembly Youth Congress Committee president Avishek Beldar and many more Congress leaders paid their last tributes before his mortal remains.

His death was also mourned by the Tirap Autonomous District Council Demand Committee, All Assam Tangsa Student Union, All Assam Sema Student Union, All Assam Mech Kachari Student Union, Ledo Malu gaon panchayat village pradhan Tehan Hakun, All Assam Sema Naga Council, Pan Singpho Student Union, All Assam Maan Tai Speaking Student Union and many other organisations of Margherita sub division.

The veteran leader is survived by six

Veteran Congress leader passes away

World War from 1939 to 1945.

daughters, two sons, grandchildren and a host

SHORT NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

Sealed quotation affixing court fee of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and Twenty Five Paisa) only / Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council cash receipt of Rs. 10 (Rupees Ten) only are invited for Hiring of Vehicle for Field Visit, Sample collection & Transportation, IEC Activities and Monitoring of IDSP unit (DSU and DMCH), NRCP, NVHCP (SC and TC), NPPCL and SBPC Programme Activities in Karbi Anglong district (details annexed at Annexure A) from Tour operator/Vendor/ firm. The quotation will be received in the office of the District Surveillance Unit, IDSP, Karbi Anglong , Diphu upto 4:00 PM of 20° June '2024 and if the office is closed on this day due to Govt. holiday or any other Bandh, the next working day of the office will be the date of receiving and opening of quotation.

*For details contact DSU, IDSP at O/O The Jt. Director of Health Services, Karbi Anglong or browse the link https://t.ly/qUoAW

Distrist Surveillance Officer Joint Director of Health Services DSU, IDSP, Karbi Anglong Diphu, Karbi Anglong

No.DPRD/BTC/(15th FC)UT(V)Udl-08/2024/10, Dated Kokrajhar, the 15th June, 2024 PRESS NOTICE (e-Procurement)

In cancellation to the earlier press notice issued Vide No. DPRD/BTC/(15th FC)UT(V/Udl-8/2024/9, Dated Kokrajhar, the 27th Feb., 2024, the Director, P&RD, BTC Kokrajhar invites bids for implementation of work "Construction of road from Edenbarl to Jaffa" for an amount not exceeding of Rs. 35,00,000.00 (Rupees thirty five lakhs) only under 15th Finance Commission to BTC for the year 2022-23 (Grant No.66) under Untied Grant during 2023-24 from the registered contractors of Class - I & Class- II (A,B & C) category of Assam PWD (Roads) / (Building), BTC

Details may be seen at website http://assamtenders.gov.in and also at the Office of he undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-Director, Panchayat & Rural Development,

IPR(BTC)/C/2024-25/30

BTC, Kokrajhar

Bodo writers honoured with Sahitya Akademi award

Assamese writers Ranju Hazarika, Nayanjyoti Sarma conferred Sahitya Akademi award

HT Correspondent
KOKRAJHAR, June 15: Two Bodo writers have been honoured with the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award 2024.

Eminent poet of Kokrajhar, Virgin Jekobha Mushahary has been awarded twith he prestigious Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Purashkar for her poem book 'Brahma Boinibw' The children poem book was published in 2019 by Bodo Publication Board of Bodo Sahitya Sabha.

On the other hand, Rani Boro of Udalguri has been awarded the prestigious Sahitya Academy Yuva Puraskar, 2024 for her short story

book 'Saikhlum' Meanwhile, Ranju Hazarika and Nayanjyoti Sarma in the state were also conferred the Sahitya Akademi award for the year. While Hazarika has been awarded for his Assamese novel 'Biponna Bismoi Khel', Sarma



was honoured for his Assamese short stories collection 'Jaal Kota Jui'. President of the Bodo Sahitya

Sabha, Surath Narzary and president of the All Bodo Students Union, Dipen Boro have extended their warm congratulations to the Bodo writers. They said that the winning of



the Sahitya Akademi award is a great achievement for the writers of the Bodo community

They expressed hope that the award will encourage writers of the Bodoland Territorial Region to create good quality literature in the days to

Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), Pramod Boro extended his best wishes to all Sahitya Akademi award achievers including Bodo writers, Mushahary and Boro. He said that this is a proud moment for the Bodo community and the state.

"I extend my heartiest congratulations to Virgin Jekobha Mushahary and Rani Boro on being awarded the prestigious Sahitya Academy Bal Sahitya Puraskar and the Sahitya Academy Yuva Puraskar respectively. I also congratulate Ranju Hazarika and Nayanjyoti Sarma and to all young literary persons for being awarded with this distinguished recognition. My best wishes to them all for a bright future ahead," said Boro said adding that this singular honour is a reflection of the rich literary traditions of Bodoland region

No.DPRD/BTC/(15th FC)UT(V)Udl-10/2024/12, Dated Kokrajhar, the 14th June, 2024 PRESS NOTICE (e-Procurement)

In cancellation to the earlier press notice issued Vide No. DPRD/BTC/(15th FC)UT(V/Udl-10/2024/8, Dated Kokrajhar, the 7th March, 2024, The Director, P&RD, BTC Kokrajhar invites fresh bids for implementation of work "Construction of Market Shed at Joraphukuri Weekly Market" for an amount not exceeding of Rs. 50,00,000.00 (Rupees fifty lakhs) only under 15th Finance Commission to BTC for the year 2022-23 (Grant No.66) under Untied Grant during 2023-24 from the registered contractors of Class -1 & Class- I (A,B & C) category of Assam PWD (Roads) / (Building), BTC.

Details may be seen at website http://assamtenders.gov.in and also at the Office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-Director, Panchayat & Rural Development, BTC, Kokrajhar

IPR(BTC)/C/2024-25/29

অসম লোকসেৱা আয়োগ ASSAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



The Assam Public Service Commission hereby declares today, the 15th June, 2024, the result of the recruitment for the post of Conservation Officer (Grade-II) under the Directorate of Archaeology, Assam under Indigenous and Tribal Faith and Cultural Department (Advt. No. 24/2023 Dtd. 25/08/2023). The Interview for the said post was conducted by the Commission on 15th June, 2024. The

Commission recommended the following candidate for the said post in order of merit. No. of Post: 1 (OBC/MOBC)

Sl. No.	Roll No.	Name of Candidate	Gender	Recommended against vacancy
1	10024	CHIRANJIB HAZARIKA	M	RESERVED

Janasanyog /D/ 1630 / 24/ 16-Jun-24

\$d/-Principal Controller of Examinations, Assam Public Service Commission, Jawaharnagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-22

Editor's pick

Modi's third term to drive India's global diplomacy

By: Abhishek Pratap Singh

n June 4, the results for the Indian Lok Sabha elections 2024 started coming in. For many, the results came with an element of surprise, amidst the euphoria created by our Exit polls and expectations of the ruling Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP).

Despite no single party getting the majority, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by the BJP is set to form the next Government. Modi 3, as we may call it, led by Narendra Modi is well prepared to lead the nation once again.

In the last decade, India has well-positioned itself as an influential global player. Led by the pro-active diplomacy of the Narendra Modi Government, India has made a shift from being a 'strategically reticent' State to a 'balancing power

As an "aspirational power", India has refused to be drawn into any great power rivalries and has remained focussed on strengthening neighbourhood relations, soft power expansion, promoting humanitarian aid, building economic cooperation, fighting global terrorism and climate change, adherence to international laws and seeking UN security

In an editorial written by the Prime Minister himself, he reiterated that India is being "acknowledged as a strong and important voice of the Global South."

Modi 3.0 is likely to build on these continuities and achievements of foreign policy. In a complex world, Modi's third term faces new diplomatic challenges and opportunities. Alliance partners may influence policy, but key trends will shape India's foreign policy under the NDA Government.

Firstly, the direction of India's Foreign policy cannot be understood without any reference to the question of our national identity which remains well aligned with our ancient past and glory.

In the last ten years, our diplomacy has invested its intellectual energy and political strength embracing the importance of our civilizational identity.

And this identity is well shaped by the values and culture of the glorious Hindu past.

Against the backdrop of coalition partners, it would be interesting to see if this question of civilizational identity has to emulate any sub-national diplomacy chore given the TDP's role in the Government and its style of politics and pride in Telugu identity.

For the BJP and Narendra Modi, the call for a resurgent India is well shaped and defined by our core and united civilizational identity.

Secondly, the role of foreign policy will be critical in Modi 3 in terms of building political alliances and economic partnerships, that may well align with our major policy goals as we drive towards building Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047. Diplomacy is crucial for achieving Government goals in the global world.

Market reforms, free trade agreements, digital infrastructure upgrades and energy security are essential for our economic resilience and global relevance.

Thirdly, it would be interesting to see India's diplomatic manoeuvring and great power engagements as we keep pushing for a multipolar world order.

India's relationship with the United States is likely to deepen further, shaped by strategic convergence between both on concerns over China's assertiveness and developments in the Indo-Pacific region.

Modi 3 will focus on strong India-US ties, people-to-people connections, business, science/tech and strategic cooperation. India will assert national interests confidently, as seen with Ukraine and Doklam. Emphasising 'neighbourhood policy,' India seeks to improve regional connectivity and trade, shown by its \$4 billion aid to Sri Lanka during the 2022 crisis. Leaders from neighbouring countries are invited to the NDA Government's oath ceremony, underscoring regional partnerships despite challenges.

Lastly, managing relations with China is not going to be an easy cakewalk for foreign policy under Modi 3. BJP's election manifesto very clearly pledged to "accelerate the development of robust infrastructure" along the two countries' border

Amidst the growing trust deficit, India fully recognises the potential threat of aggressive and resurgent China.

The electoral campaign also witnessed the use of a 'China card' by the opposition against the BJP. How diplomacy comes out of this pause in bilateral relations will be an enquiring concern under the new Government.

We need to find a new equilibrium in its ties with China while building our defence capabilities and strengthening strategic with like-minded States.

In the given scenario, diplomacy under Modi 3 is poised for continuity and comprehensive foreign policy reforms. strengthening strategic alliances and India's leading role in the Global South.

Moreover, India's role in global politics is set to expand and evolve, as India strives to be a pivotal player on the world stage. (Courtesy: The Pioneer)

Kushal Konwar: The immortal martyr of Assam's freedom struggle

the cows to Golaghat cow shelter

and the Jamuguri tea estate had

ssam had played a significant role in the Indian freedom struggle. Many sons of Assam did her proud by sacrificing life for the cause of the country. Among them all, Kushal Konwar stands out as a bright star of India's historical freedom struggle for he happened to be the only martyr in the country who was hanged during the Quit India Movement of

Born to middle class parents at the village called Chowdang Chariali of Ghiladhari Mouza of Golaghat District (formerly falling under Sivasagar District) in 1905, Kushal Konwar was just like other youths of his times, leading a quiet family life. But from 1925 onwards, he came under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi and this changed the course of his life. Since then, Kushal Konwar pledged to remain a vegetarian and accepted the Shrimad Bhagawad Gita as his only companion. Starting from the salt satyagraha led by Gandhiji in 1931, Konwar even stopped taking salt. He observed these pledges till the last moment

Kushal Konwar was quiet and truth loving as a child - the traits that he inherited from his parents, Konwar, Sonaram Kanakeswari Konwar. The fifth child of his parents, Kushal Konwar completed his primary

school education in 1918 and took admission at the Bezbarua Middle English School at Golaghat. During that time, after the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919, the spirit of the freedom movement spread nationwide. Subsequently at the Congress session held at Nagpur in 1920, it was resolved that "Purna Swaraj" was the main aim of the Congress. And in 1921, the freedom movement took a new turn. Non-cooperation movement started throughout the country and for the first time the students of the country joined the freedom movement in an organized manner under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

The ripples of this national upsurge were felt in Assam too. In accordance with Gandhiji's directive, non-cooperation with the British began in all fields - social, political, economic and educational. Foreign goods were also boycotted. Students left schools and colleges to take part in the movement. Kushal Konwar too, left school in 1921 along with many other students. He was then 17 years of age and was in the eighth standard. During that time, Kushal Kon-

war's father who was trading in timber jointly with an Englishman named Mr Migor Wilson. suffered losses when the latter left for England. Having suffered losses, his economic condition deteriorated and to make good the loss, he abandoned his paternal property at Balijan and shifted base to Rengmai, where he took to agriculture and shop keeping. Kushal Konwar was at the prime of his youth then and he easily adopted the social life of Rengmai. He began to be associated with a number of social organizations at Rengmai and in due course established himself as a social worker. He also engaged himself in spreading the message

of freedom among the people. At Rengmai, he established a Konwar and in excitement, was about to hit Konwar with a stick. primary school with the help of Enraged at this, Kushal Konwar the people, and worked there as took off one of his shoes and a teacher on an honorary basis charged at Wilson. Seeing much to the annoyance of his fa-Kushal Konwar's courage and ther. His father did not approve temper, Wilson was forced to reof him working in the school betreat. Later Kushal Konwar sent

came difficult for him to keep the to spend a lot of money to get the home fires burning. Paying heed cows released. to the insistence of his father, he After this incident and also decided to join a tea garden. But after coming into close contact being independent minded he rewith Gandhiji, the urge for freefused to work under the British. dom began to possess Kushal Luckily for him, an Assamese tea Konwar and finally on 30th June planter with nationalist leanings, 1936, he resigned from his servnamed Bisheswar Sarma, opened ice in the tea gardens to actively a tea garden at Balijan. Hence in follow the path shown by Gand-

cause his economic condition

came to such a pass that it be-

order to help his father run the

house, Kushal Konwar joined

Sarma's tea garden as a supervi-

sor on June 17, 1927 and went on

to become a clerk later. He

worked in the garden till 1936, a

The family had retained some

of their property at Balijan and

Kushal Konwar stayed there and

worked in the garden. While at

home, he conferred with the

Congress leaders about the orga-

establishing himself in the soci-

Instead he was imbibed with

the spirit of sacrifice and surren-

dered himself totally to the cause

of freedom of the country. This

worried his father and he began

to look for a bride for his son.

Though initially he resisted the

attempts of his father to tie him

down in matrimony, he finally re-

lented due to the persuasion of

his elders. In 1929, he wedded

Prabhabati, the daughter of Pre-

mananda Duwara, a respectable

gentleman of Morongi Konwar

village. In course of time, the

couple became the proud parents

Gandhi had paid a visit to Go-

laghat during a ten-day sojourn

to Assam. During those days it

appeared as if all roads led to Go-

laghat because people came here

from far and wide to have a look

at the great leader. The responsi-

bility of serving Gandhi during

those days fell on young Con-

gress workers like Kushal Kon-

war, Bhadra Phukan, Tilak Bora

and others. Kushal Konwar was

overwhelmed with sacred feel-

ings on seeing Gandhi and he

touched the Mahatma's feet and

sought his blessings. This meet-

ing made an everlasting impact

on the young Kushal Konwar

and proved to be a turning point

Another incident a year later

too made a great impact in his

some 60/70 cows from the neigh-

bouring Jamuguri tea estate,

owned by an Englishman, had

destroyed tea plants of Balijan

tea estate. Enraged at this Kon-

war tied up all the cows and told

the labourers who came to get

them, that they will be released

only when the Manager himself

comes to seek their release.

When the Manager of the Ja-

muguri tea estate, Wilson came,

On 15 April, 1934, Mahatma

of two sons.

in his life.

total of nine years.

young man with a

job, he was not

When Kushal Konwar was about 31 years of age, he was already reciting the Gita and Bhagawat regularly and had given up non-vegetarian food and salt. Having given up his job, he began to involve himself even more actively in the activities related to the freedom movement and he went about spreading the message of freedom in the villages. One of the agendas of the nizational works of the Congress freedom movement was the forparty. Though he was a handsome DEGREE OF THOUGHT mation of region and mouza-wise

and mouza-wise

rayat forums. At

interested in amassing wealth or Kushal Konwar established one rayat forum. He won the hearts of the people with his mental vigour, his capacity to toil tirelessly and his organizational capacity. After the success of the Sarupathar rayat forum, Konwar's popularity grew in Con-

Dipak Kurmi

committee. In the meantime, after his father's death, Kushal Konwar along with his wife and three children, shifted base to Sukia Pathar. The Sarupathar Congress office became Konwar's second home and the responsibility of running the home was left en-

gress circles, and he came to be

recognized as a prominent leader

of the Golaghat district Congress

tirely to his wife, Prabhabati. In 1942, the activities of the freedom movement reached a climax and the Congress session held at Bombay adopted the "Quit India" resolution. Along with the rest of the country, in Assam too, there were widespread protests against the British rule. But the British regime came down heavily on the non-violent protestors and many attained martyrdom. Among them mention may be made of Kanaklata, Mukunda Kakoty, Bhogeswari Phukanani, Thogi Sut, Nidhanu Rajbongshi, Ratan Kachari and others. The sacrifice of these martyrs earned Assam a place of pride in the history of India's freedom move-

Though the movement against life. While Kushal Konwar was the British was conducted in a working in Balijan tea estate, non-violent manner, yet the atrocities meted out by the authorities forced some in the Congress to organize a suicide squad. This squad indulged in subversive activities like derailing trains, burning bridges, attacking army outpost and snapping communication channels. Being an ardent follower of Gandhiji, Kushal Konwar did not approve of the activities of the "Suicide Squad" and kept his distance he entered into an argument with from them. But unfortunately, an

act of sabotage by the volunteers of the squad proved to be a great disaster for Kushal Konwar.

On the 10th October, 1942, at 1:52 in the night, a train carrying British soldiers got derailed at about one kilometer away from the Sarupathar Railway station. According to witnesses, about one thousand soldiers were killed in the accident. It was a handiwork of the "Suicide Squad". Fish-plates were removed from the track and hence the derail-

Immediately after the accident, police and Army personnel cordoned off the Sarupathar area and indulged in indiscriminate atrocities and arrests. Numerous freedom fighters were implicated in the accident and jailed. During that time Kushal Konwar was advised by many to go underground, but Konwar refused. Since Konwar was a prominent leader of the Golaghat District Congress Committee, he too was falsely implicated and arrested along with 43 others.

On the 5th November 1942, on the ground of being under trial, Kushal Konwar and others were sent to jail on the orders of the Golaghat Magistrate. In Jorhat Jail, Kushal Konwar spent altogether 221 days. The first 121 days as an under trial prisoner and the next 100 days in solitary confinement as a prisoner awarded with death sentence. In the jail as an undertrial prisoner, Konwar came into contact with a number of prominent leaders of Assam, like Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Bimala Prasad Chaliha and others and he was popular with all of them. His knowledge about the Gita, the Bhagawat and the Kirtan Ghosha, his moral outlook and his progressive ideas impressed everyone.

The trial of the Sarupathar rail accident began from 11 February, 1943. The trial did not take place under any ordinary court established under the British colonialists. At that time, in order to curb the revolution of 1942, the Governor General used to issue an ordinance whenever he felt like. So by a similar ordinance (Ordinance III of 1942 and Section 109 of IPC), giving special powers to the District Commissioner. the trial took place. No Indian judge was appointed for the trial. The Deputy Commissioner of Sivasagar District, Campbel Andrew Humphrey was entrusted to conduct the trial.

The British Regime conspired with all the means at its disposal to implicate Kushal Konwar in the accident. Many were death and the British regime was tempted, persuaded, threatened and even tortured to appear as witness against Kushal Konwar. It was a trial only in name.

On 6 March, 1943, Saturday, the hearing of the trial began at the Jorhat jail. Among the 17 prisoners, Indreswar Phukan and Nagen Chutiya were given ten years rigorous imprisonment, Dhaneswar Gogoi was given three years imprisonment and declared that he could also be released on bail. But Kushal Konwar, Dharmakanta Deka, Ghanashyam Saikia and Kanakeswar Konwar were ordered to be hanged. And the rest were released due to lack of evi-

Later, on 26 April, 1943 the Governor of Assam revoked the death sentence of Kanakeswar Konwar, Dharma Deka and Ghanashyam Saikia and awarded them with ten years rigorous imprisonment. But Kushal Konwar's death sentence remained.

In order to save Konwar's life, many prominent leaders, lawyers and citizens of Assam gave a petition with their signatures to the Governor General Lord Linlithgow. But the petition was rejected. So Konwar spent his days in jail waiting patiently for the last day. But his spirits were not subdued. He took recourse to holy books and discussions and presented a picture of total calm.

Three days before his death, when Konwar's wife, brother and his three sons came to see him in jail, he consoled his wife, who was crying uncontrollably, by saying that he considered himself lucky, for God has given him the opportunity to sacrifice his life for the country. A day before the hanging, his meeting with some prominent leaders was a historic moment. Leaders like Gopinath Bordoloi, Tayabullah, Amiyo Kumar Das, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed had gone to console him in jail, but they themselves came away consoled. About this Gopinath Bordoloi had written in his diary on 14 June, 1943. On the dawn of 15 June, 1943,

at 3.30 a.m. some representatives of the British colonial regime came to Kushal Konwar's cell while he was still asleep. They were Deputy Commissioner Humphrey, one Magistrate, jailor, assistant jailor, civil surgeon, a hangman and a dozen armed constables. When the jailor called out his name, he woke up with a start. When the jailor informed that his time had come, he got up, freshened himself, said a prayer, recited the Gita and got up to follow the jailor. With calm steps, he got to the stage where he was to be hanged, and greeted the people gathered there. He asked for forgiveness from the people if they thought he had committed any crime. Then he said that he is praying to God to give freedom to the country and he shouted, "Inquilab Jindabad." As the hangman prepared for the final moment, Konwar was heard singing -"Par Kora Raghunath Sansara Sagar...

After the Magistrate signaled with a white handkerchief, a thud sound was heard and with that ended the life of a thirty-eightyear-old freedom fighter and a Vaishnava. He was victorious in defeated for it was a defeat of their Goddess of Justice. It was 4.30 a.m. and rain started pouring as if nature too was showering flowers as rain upon the mortal remains of Kushal Konwar. He became immortal.

Kushal Konwar was by birth an ordinary citizen. But he died a glorious death, having sacrificed his life at the prime of his youth for the cause of his country. His patriotism, truthfulness, morality and mental strength were unique. The present generation can take a leaf out of his life and emulate his patriotism and spirit of selfsacrifice. (The writer can be reached

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Eid-ul-Adha: Embracing sacrifice and spiritual renewal

By: Waris Nissar

id ul-Adha, known as the Festival of Sacrifice, stands as a cornerstone of Islamic tradition, em-richness. Rooted in the Quranic narrative of Prophet Ibrahim's unwavering devotion to Allah, this sacred occasion serves as a testament to the values of sacrifice, obedience, and compassion. In this comprehensive article, we delve deeply into the historical, religious, and Quranic dimensions of Eid ul-Adha, exploring its origins, significance, rituals, and Quranic foundations.

Historical roots:

The origins of Eid ul-Adha lie in the story of Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) and his son Isma'il (A.S), as recounted in Islamic scripture. According to tradition, Ibrahim received a divine command to sacrifice his son as a test of his faith and obedience. Despite the immense challenge, Ibrahim remained resolute in his devotion to Allah and prepared to fulfill the command. However, before he could carry out the sacrifice, Allah intervened and provided a ram as a substitute, affirming Ibrahim's faith and devotion. This event serves as the foundational narrative of Eid ul-Adha, symbolizing the ultimate surrender to the will of Allah.

Religious significance: Eid ul-Adha holds profound religious significance for Muslims worldwide, serving as a commemoration of Ibrahim's unwavering faith and submission to Allah. It is a time for believers to reflect on the lessons of sacrifice, humility, and obedience imparted by Ibrahim's story. The

festival also marks the culmination of the Hajj pilgrimage, during which millions of Muslims journey to the holy city of Mecca to perform sacred rituals and rites. Eid ul-Adha thus symbolizes the culmination of spiritual fulfillment

and the celebration of Allah's mercy and grace. **Ouranic foundations:**

The Quranic narrative of Ibrahim's sacrifice is central to the significance of Eid ul-Adha, as it underscores the

virtues of faith, obedience, and devotion. Surah As-Saffat (37:102-107) praises Ibrahim (A.S) for his unwavering commitment to Allah's command, highlighting his exemplary character as a model for believers. Surah Al-Haji (22:34-37) emphasizes the spiritual essence of sacrifice, stating that it is not the meat or blood of the sacrifice that reaches Allah, but rather the piety and sincerity of the in-

The primary ritual of Eid ul-Adha is the sacrifice of an animal, typically a sheep, goat, cow, or camel, in commemoration of Ibrahim's sacrifice. This act of sacrifice is performed following specific guidelines and regulations outlined in Islamic law, ensuring that it is carried out with reverence and respect. The meat from the sacrifice is then divided into three parts: one-third is given to the needy, one-third is shared with relatives and friends, and onethird is retained for personal consumption.

In addition to the sacrifice, Eid ul-Adha is marked by communal prayers, feasting, and social gatherings. Muslims gather at mosques or designated prayer spaces to offer special prayers, known as the Eid prayer, in congregation. After the prayer, they exchange greetings and blessings, visit relatives and friends, and partake in festive meals together. Traditional dishes and sweets are prepared and shared, adding to the joyous atmosphere of the occa-

Conclusion:

Eid ul-Adha stands as a profound testament to the values of faith, sacrifice, and community in Islam. Through its rich historical roots, religious significance, and Quranic foundations, the festival serves as a reminder of the enduring legacy of Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) and his unwavering devotion to Allah. As Muslims worldwide come together to commemorate Eid ul-Adha, they reaffirm their commitment to faith, compassion, and service, embodying the timeless principles of Islam. (The author can be reached at warisnissar46@gmail.com)

Talking Points

Tourists turning away from Ayodhya

By: Narvijay Yadav

The unexpected defeat of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Ayodhya was bound to have side effects. The storm of tourists that had been blowing in Ram's city since January has stopped after the announcement of the poll results. The anger of the people saddened by the defeat of the BJP erupted on social media and a campaign to boycott Ayodhya started. The result was that the interest of tourists and pilgrims in Ayodhva diminished.

SpiceJet airline stopped its direct flight from Hyderabad to Ayodhya, which was launched two months ago. In February, this airline had direct flights to Ayodhya from Chennai, Bangalore, Jaipur, Patna, Darbhanga and Hyderabad. Its direct flights can now be availed only from Delhi and Ahmedabad. Passengers from other cities can no longer enjoy SpiceJet's direct flights

On top of that, an Islamic terrorist organization has threatened to blast the temple. The number of devotees recit-

ing Hanuman Chalisa and chanting Jai Shri Ram on flights to Ayodhya is rapidly

diminishing.
After 2021, religious tourism in India grew by 16 percent per annum. After the consecration (pran pratishtha) of Ram Lalla in January 2024, a huge increase was seen in the number of people reaching Ayodhya. Ram temple had the potential of drawing up to 5 crore visitors every year. This number is double that of Tirupati temple in Andhra Pradesh, where 2.5 crore people visit annually, offering the highest donations of Rs 1200

Around 1.5 lakh pilgrims started reaching Ram temple every day. As a result, 25,000 new jobs were expected to be created in the hotel and travel industry. The Maharishi Valmiki International Airport of Ayodhya, built for Rs 1450 crore, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 30 December. It has been designed to accommodate 10 lakh passengers annu-

At the beginning of the year, people were so excited that booking of air tickets to Ayodhya surged by 150 percent, and flight searches for this destination also saw a 70 percent jump.

Ovo Rooms founder Ritesh Agarwal claims that the highest demand for hotel rooms is coming from temple towns. This trend grew upward in the last two years. Bookings for religious places like Puri, Varanasi, and Ujjain increased by 60 percent. Airfares for these cities have also increased by 20 percent compared to last year.

Other religious destinations include Amritsar, Katra, Puri, Shirdi, Haridwar, Rishikesh and Tirupati. The number of people visiting Ayodhya suddenly shot up and an 80 percent increase was noticed in the number of people looking for hotel rooms. Till last month, there was a 70 percent jump in the number of people using the Oyo app in Ayodhya, while this figure was 50 percent in Goa and 60 percent in Nainital.

The Government of India had allocated a fund of Rs 700 crore for various projects in Ayodhya assuming that

tourism there would grow. To promote religious and spiritual tourism in the country, the Union Ministry of Tourism started PRASHAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive) a few years ago and approved 46 projects.

According to the SBI Research report, the number of tourists in 2022 was 32 crore, of which 2.21 crore were from Ayodhya alone. These tourists spent approximately Rs 2 lakh crore. But, the situation in Ayodhya is not favor-There is able now. disappointment among the tourism service providers

Ayodhya got the gift of clean and wide roads, the world-famous Ram Janmabhoomi temple, the international airport, and many other facilities. The movement of tourists gave a new boost to the economy there. But the election results spoiled everything. Let us pray that Ayodhya will shine again in the times to come. (The author is a senior journalist, columnist & can be reached at narvijayindia@gmail.com)

Digital nomad visa

s soon as Thailand announces its extension of digital nomad visas upto 5 years, it brings tremendous joy among remote workers. Previously, the digital nomad visa offered a maximum stay of 60 days. The extended validity, allows remote workers to reside in Thailand for up to 180 days at a time over a five-vear period. To comply with visa regulations, holders will need to depart and re-enter Thailand at the conclusion of each 180-days stay. This new policy, positions Thailand as a lucrative workplace destination for professionals seeking a flexible work-life balance. Imagine you are exploring different countries for your

Digital nomad visas offer an excellent opportunity for remote workers to live and work in different countries, experiencing new cultures and lifestyles in connection with their work. If you're a remote worker looking to explore the world, a digital nomad visa might be the perfect solution to combine your professional and personal needs. Many countries worldwide now offer these special visas, allowing remote workers to extended periods. A remote worker can be benefitted by obtaining digital nomad visa because unlike tourist visa, it allows to work remotely without breaching immigration regulations. It also comes with longer validity than tourist visa.

Apart from the remote worker, the

host country also gets some economic benefits. When a country opens its doors for remote workers, it contributes to a nation's knowledge economy and it opens a door for tourism to their country. Additionally, digital nomad helps in generating revenue by their daily expenses. Nomad visa rules are not same for all country. Every country has their own set of rules and regulations and some restrictions. But a nomad worker needs to submit his income proof to ensure his financial stability so that he accommodates him well during applying for visa. Digital nomads are not allowed to take part in local employment of the host country.

To understand it more clearly let's take an example. Raj is a content writer from India. He works remotely for an agency based in Mumbai. Since his job only requires a computer and internet connection, he can work from anywhere in the world. perience life in different countries while continuing his work. He hears about digital nomad visas and decides to look into this option to legally live and work in another country for an extended period. While searching for Asian countries which provide digital nomad visa, he chooses an Asian country. He checked their rules and regulations while applying for visa. And after meeting all the criteria, he is allowed to work in that country with digital

nomad visa.

The concept of a digital nomad someone who travels the world while working remotely - has become increasingly popular in recent years, particularly after COVID-19 period. This concept allows freedom, work flexibility and they are lucky to explore new places and new cultures which often give them boost for creative writing. The application process for a digital nomad visa can vary depending on the country. Documents such as your passport, proof of health insurance, evidence of remote work, and financial statements are must while applying for visa.

It is a dream of many to work in such a place where he can get into serenity of a place, with a relaxing



beauty. Portugal, Mexico, Mauritius, Indonesia are some of the countries that offer digital nomad visa. The remote worker must check whether he meets all the requirements for the country he chooses to stay like cost of living, internet connectivity etc. Countries welcome tech savvy remote workers as it generates revenue and even in some countries remote workers need to pay tax too. And from the worker's point of view. It's a mixture of exploration and work. Digital nomads can foster cultural exchange and promote their host country through social media.

While we think digital nomad's life is full of adventures and appealing, sometimes it may come with some disadvantages too. Sometimes they may feel isolated, may feel difficulty in coping with local lifestyle, healthcare process and even tax ob-

As remote work continues to gain

wider acceptance, the demand for digital nomad visas is poised for substantial growth. Governments around the world are increasingly recognizing the economic and cultural benefits of attracting digital nomads. Experts predict that the future will see more countries joining the fray. This shift highlights a significant trend in global mobility, driven by the evolving nature of work in the digital age.

Other than traditional mode of work, digital nomad visas shifted our views on work with a combination of travel and creativity. As the world continues to embrace the flexibility of remote work, digital nomad visas represent a global mobility and innovation. This trend is set to redefine the future of work, making the world more interconnected and dynamic than ever before. (The author can be

SHORT STORY

THE CALI

By: Dr. Suman Bharali

(...continued from the last edi-

That night Seema could not sleep. She kept tossing from one side to another and the thoughts kept coming in her mind. She was unable to find any solution. Then heavy rain and thunderstorm came and she fell asleep out of fatigue late in the night.

Next day she told her mother that she is not feeling well and stayed at home. She switched off her mobile phone and did not go to the school and tuition. The next day she went to tuition via a different route. Though it was a bit longer but she wanted to avoid the boys. It was raining since last two days and the streets were covered by water. So it took some more time.

Due to rain and thunder the electricity of the area was cut for some time. Her tuition was over and she looked outside the window to see whether she can go to her home. It was dark and raining heavily. She decided to stay in her tuition center for some more time till the rain diminishes and the electricity is resumed. But even after half an hour the electricity did not came. By that time the rain intensity was reduced a bit. So she decided to go towards her home gradually as the electricity might not come and it will get late. She took her umbrella and started walking towards her

It was dark, rain was falling continuously and the ground was covered with water. There were scarce people on the street. Only a few shops were open and some people were talking there waiting for the rain to stop so that they can go out. After walking for some distance, Seema saw the boys were standing in front of a shop smoking cigarettes. They spotted Seema and started walkng towards her. They were wearing raincoats and their head were covered by the hoods. Seema got rightened and started walking fast to avoid them. She entered an unknown bye lane to get rid of them. She was looking back repeatedly if the boys were behind her. As the road was covered with water, she started walking on the slabs over the drain along the road. After a while she heard

some voice behind her. "There she is. Come move

Seema looked back and saw the boys were chasing her. She tried to walk faster. Then a boy "Hey Sweetheart. Why are you

walking so fast? Wait we will accompany you to your house.'

Seema was looking back and walking fast to be ahead of them.

As Seema switched off her mobile and went contact less since two days. The boys were unable to manipulate her. So they were desperate and angry. They wanted to teach Seema a lesson and to show their power.

"We are searching for you since two days. Where were you? Don't keep us at distance." Shouted another boy.

Seema understood, these boys were calling her on her mobile phone. She had doubt on the boys as she had not meet any other bad person in the locality.

"Wait a moment darling." Shouted one of the boys and they started approaching towards her

In haste she did not see what was in front of her. Her focus was on the boys behind her. Under the dark and water-covered footpath, a slab was missing over the big drain. She took a fast step and fell into an open manhole. With a deep splash she disappeared in the drain full of water. She shouted but her voice was also engulfed by the water. The drain was full with water and the current was high. The boys ran towards the place, but could not find her. She was carried away by the water current. The boys put their hand into the manhole, but could not find anything. They got frightened. They became speechless and their feet froze where they were. They could not understand what to do. To call some body for help or to escape from the place, before anyone sees

Breaking the silence, Biju said. "Oh my god! What happened?

Now what should we do? "Let's find some help quickly. Otherwise she will die." Spoke Pramod

"Wait, nobody has seen us. If she dies people will blame us. They will ask what we are doing here. If she is rescued then also she will tell people about us." Said Rajneesh

"Yes he is right. We will be Let us leave this place as soon as ontinued)

possible, before anyone sees us." Replied Usman.

Once again they tried to find Seema by putting a stick inside the man hole. There was nothing except water. They looked all around them and saw no one. Then Rajneesh said.

"Run from here as fast as you can and don't get out of your

All of them ran towards their bikes through a different route and then went to their respective omes on it.

All of them were terrified by the incidence. They were feeling guilty and were afraid of being caught. They deleted Seema's phone number from their mobiles and were hiding in their homes silently.

On the other side Seema's mother was waiting for her to come home. It was late and dark. She did not have any personal phone so was unable to contact Seema. She went to a neighbor's house and told them that Seema had not reached home till then. She asked to use their phone. They dialed Seema's number, it was ringing but not answered. Seema's mother was getting impatient and frightened. She started walking towards the tuition center searching for Seema. The streets were empty. Only a few of small stalls were open. She reached the tuition center and enquired about Seema. The person there said all the students went home couple of hours ago. Seema's mother's heart rate increased and feet became numb. She hold her head and sat on the floor. Then the person there said.

"It was raining when the students went home. She might have went to one of her friend's home. Don't worry sister. Go to your home she will be there

"Yes! Hope she is fine. My God please keep my child safe." She prayed and stood up.

"But why is she not receiving the phone calls?" Asked Seema's

"They are children. They forget everything while chatting with friends. Don't panic she will be fine. Go to your house now. If you don't find her tell us. We will contact every student in our register." The person assured Seema's mother.

"Ok. Thank you for your advice. I will contact you if needed. Please send her home if you find her." Asked Seema's mother

"Sure sister. We will do everything. Don't worry. Go to your house soon." He replied Seema's mother started walk-

ing back to their house looking for Seema along the way. But there was nobody. As she was approaching her house her stress was increasing more and more. She was thinking, what if she has not reached home till now? Where she might have gone? What might happen to her? Whom will I tell if anything happens? Being single mother is not so easy. Only one who raises their children all alone knows about the insecurities in their mind. Now a days all sort of bad incidences happen all of a sudden. When it happens with someone else it's an interesting news for others. But when one faces such untoward incident the whole family is shaken.

When Seema's mother reached their front gate she rushed into the house and shouted

"Jumi where are you?" "I am here Maa." The younger daughter replied.

"Oh! Did Seema reach home?" The mother asked immediately when she saw Jumi.

"No, Di has not come yet." Jumi replied. She called Seema 'Di' at home.

"Oh God where is my child." Sobbed the mother as she ran out

She went to neighbors houses

and told everyone she met. Soon there was a gathering of people and cacophony of them talking with each other. Everyone came out of their home to look what is happening. Soon people comforted the grieving mother say-

"Don't worry we will search for Seema together. You are not alone. We all are with you." Said

"She is like our own child. She has grown up in front of our eyes. We won't let anything happen to her." Said another woman.

"Some of us will search for her in the streets. You go to the police station and lodge a missing report there. Some please go to the tuition center and collect the phone numbers of students. We will call each one of them to know whether she is with any one of them. If needed we will visit their houses to see." Spoke punished if we are caught here. a man leading the crowd. (..to be

Samadrita's Father's Day gift

By: Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee

amadrita felt suffocated in the class room. It is too hot outside. Last night he and his sister drew the Father Day card but could not finish it. His father is not well. A card as a gift will cheer him up. Heat wave was continuing. Their school opened last week and as last year he had less percentage this academic session his parents do in no way allow him to be absent from classes . The school bus is not at all comfortable. Heat is tremendous all the way inside the bus. Some schools have AC bus for their own students. Samadrita's school has no transportation of its own. Private pull cars are the only arrangements. After getting down from the bus all start running for reaching at the school gate before it is closed. Whole body gets wet in sweating. Samadrita feels suffocation in the classroom. His other classmates are all busy in gaming on their mobiles which they carry secretly in their school bag. Mobiles are restricted. Samadrita is not allowed to bring mobile.

Moreover his mobile is not working properly that old Samsung mobile. The screen is not working. His friends are all buying costly mobile. I phone XR to I Phone 14 Pro Max. Samadrita knows his parents won't give him any mobile before his ICSE. He does the online classes in his father's mobile. That time after the class he at times downloads game apps. But those games are not his choice. Last birthday he dreamt of having Playstation 5. His friend Billu got that as a gift from his father. Samadrita's father is scared of giving those high power digital appliances to his son.

Samadrita sometimes tries to convince his father that a good IPhone is easy for searching google data. It will help him study better and prepare for the exams. But his father thinks that he will waste his precious time for gaming if he gets an IPhone. Last three birthdays went dull as each time he craves for getting an Iphone. His uncles gifted him Playstation 5 on his last birthBut buying games for PS 5 is ever costly.

He is bored with one set of car games. Everyone is critical of his gaming. Samadrita is now a little comfortable in the classroom. His friends all hide their mobiles in their bags as Class Teacher enters silently and roll call starts. This is the daily picture. They all do projects and write their answers from google data. Samadrita does not have any internet connection in his Samsung Mobile. He uses his father's mo-

bile for online classes. During his sacred ceremony many relatives gave him gold and even diamond rings but they did not give any mobile. Samadrita expected his Koni Auntie to gift

uncle was dead against giving Iphone to little school bov. He did not get the Iphone from any one. The Iphone 14 Pro Max is what he every modreams of

an Iphone.

buying. He imagines one day he will get it as a gift from anyone He wants to buy an IPhone for him but only from one who loves him the best. But all who love him best do not want to give a child so costly Iphone.

During Durga puja many relatives came to their house. One auntie came from the US. She brought many gifts for Samadrita. One digital calculator and one robot pencil sharpener which sings while it sharpens a pencil. That aunty described how in the US second hand Iphone is available at a low price. She was proudly showing the Iphone 14 to all. Samadrita did not tell anything. He consoled himself that at his age he cannot do two things. One is driving a car as at his tender age he cannot get any driving license for that. Secondly, he won't get his much craved Iphone.

During the Durga puja his birthday was celebrated. One maternal uncle brought a cake in the shape of a huge Iphone. Samadrita laughed. One uncle gave him a bicycle from Decathlon. He gave a lot of advice to Samdrita why cycle riding is good for health. He also focused on the need for increasing height. It was known to Samadrita. He learnt cycling at a tender age many are amazed by his balancing on

> paddle. But everyday this is bori n g Samadrita's father feels proud when he dribbles fast.

Many shout, Messi when Samadrita plays local club tournament with little passes. His father proud of his son's feat.

time. But it can help him to study better. Samadrita is in a dilemma. He feels bored with his books. The teachers are so professional and they teach him without devoting their heart. No affection no human touch in their teaching. His father cannot bear the high expenses of bringing home tutor. He has to go to the group coaching where he does not feel comfortable. His father was too worried and his

One is coming to their home. Others are teaching him with personal care. He loves

mother finally managed to arrange some

good tutors.

English and Physics and Maths. His father is so happy to see his son's interest in science. He forgets to wish him on his birthday but never forgets his tuition dates. He knows a good phone will help him in his study. He is having financial crunch.

A few months ago he had an accident in the bike. Samadrita feels for his father and his mother too. His mother goes to office everyday. She is highly diabetic and suffers from a lot of ailments. One day she was senseless while going to office. Samadrita is their only son. Samadrita does not speak his heart to anyone. He along with his sister take care of his parents. One night, his mother was senseless and they gave her ORS and did not disturb their sick father's sleep. On Mother's Day, they drew colourful card and wrote,

"We will study and no time to waste, we will not take any junk food." Mother was too happy to see the card. On 16th of June on the Father's Day Samadrita and his sister planned to give a surprise gift to their father by expressing their resolve to study seriously. He will tell his father he will be serious in his study in the morning when his father wakes up, they wished Happy Father Day. Father was happy to see the seriousness of Samadrita. But he was smiling with a packet in his hand. What was that? Samadrita was thinking that it may be a geometry box or a colour pencil box. This time it was a big surprise.

When Samadrita unwrapped the packet, he saw it was his much craved IPhone 14 Max. He could not believe his eyes. This is a wonderful Father Day for him. But his father told in a stern voice, Babu I give this to you for studying more. You cannot play games or cannot take it to your school. "Samadrita nodded his head. He lost all words in super excitement." (The author is an Affiliate Faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University and a writer of Children Literature and a poet. He can be reached at bhattacharjr@vcu.edu)

POETRY

Yoga

By: Mowsam Hazarika

In the silence, We find a gentle peace.

With each breath, Thoughts cease.

Through each pose, The soul awakens. Under the open sky,

We are united. Mind, body, and soul,

In the flow of voga. We grow spiritually.

We flourish and grow.

Bound together.

In every breath,

Sun Rays

By: Khemu Parashar

Sun's rays are full of positivity, frees man from ego, create a happy home for them, make your relationship strong with these rays,

don't be afraid of energy, this will definitely do you good, will provide energy till death, they have a good weapon, which destroys negativity in an instant

> Man don't think too much, embrace these rays and, be full of positive energy, destroy sorrows, remove all disputes, make life very happy

Our Constitution

By: Maharshi Dubey

Our constitution is our pride Which provides us fundamental rights,

> It protects our dignity, Gives liberty and equality,

It is the largest constitution in the world, 'We the people of India', these are it's initial words,

> It is soul of our democracy Which makes powerful our judiciary, legislature, executive, bureaucracy,

It makes strong every Indian's voice, Our constitution is our pride.



Nudity

By: Mowsam Hazarika In morning's quiet embrace,

Her body's shadow fades,

A bare canvas revealing Secrets softly laid.

Only truth and clarity

Now stand exposed, Nudity's tales whisper

What once was closed. In worldly fashion,

Forbidden forms arise, Nature's light illuminates A beauty undisguised.

The essence of allure, Raw and true,

> Youthful intoxication, Fascinating, unique hue.

In the body's folds, A secret tale.

Silent whispers Bold, and time-honored, prevail.

The naked form,

A symphony of flesh and bone,

In every curve, A world of its own.



OBBÜRGEN, June 15: It's Vice President Kamala Harris, not President Joe Biden, who joined world leaders Saturday in Switzerland for a summit on Ukraine and planned to meet with Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy to discuss his country's vision for ending the war launched by Russia.

As she arrived at a resort overlooking Lake Lucerne, Harris announced \$1.5 billion more in U.S. assistance for Ukrainians through the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development. That includes money for energy assistance, repairing damaged energy infrastructure, helping refugees and strengthening civilian se-

Biden on Friday wrapped up three days at the Group of Seven summit in Italy, where he held talks with Zelenskyy, and then flew straight to Los Angeles for a Saturday night fundraiser with Hollywood Alisters George Clooney and Julia Roberts.

His decision to skip the summit on Ukraine spotlights the competing election-year demands facing Biden as he Switzerland.

tries to balance a complicated domestic and foreign policy agenda while running against former President Donald Trump. It also reflects the growing profile Harris has found making the case for a second Biden term as the 2024

"Being vice president means you take a lot of hits for the team," Matt Bennett, who served as an aide to former Vice President Al Gore, said ahead of Harris' scheduled 28hour dash from Washington to Switzerland and back. "In the past, these moments on the global stage have been good for her. She looks presidential and very capable among world leaders.

campaign heats up.

Zelenskyy for months publicly lobbied Biden and other world leaders to take part in the summit, even warning that their absence could further embolden Russian President Vladimir Putin in his 28month war against Ukraine.

But Biden ultimately decided to dispatch Harris and White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan to represent the administration in missed opportunity for the president and for the United States," said Bradley Bowman, senior director of the Center on Military and Political Power at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies in Washington. "That said, sending the vice president with the national security adviser is not exactly sending the junior varsity team."

Biden has increasingly turned to Harris as he tries to reassemble the coalition of voters that helped them beat Trump in 2020, and that they will likely need again to win a second term. For her part, Harris has taken a more visible role in making the pitch for Biden to a diverse cross-section of the Democratic base.

She visited an abortion clinic in Minneapolis to spotlight the administration's record on the issue. She's launched an effort to highlight economic development on Biden's watch, with a particular focus on minority commu-

And she's crisscrossed the country to talk about issues like marijuana legislation and gun violence as Biden's standing with the coalition that catapulted him to the White House has shown signs of eroding. She even squeezed in a visit to Atlanta on Friday to promote the administration's economic agenda before boarding Air Force Two for her red-eye flight to Switzerland. (AP)

Iran and Sweden agree to a prisoner swap freeing man convicted of war crimes over '88 executions



DUBAI, June 15: Iran and Sweden agreed on Saturday to a prisoner swap, freeing Hamid Nouri, convicted of war crimes by Sweden over mass 1988 executions in the Islamic Republic, in exchange for two men held by Tehran.

Iran released Johan Floderus, a Swede who had been working for the European Union's diplomatic corps, as well as a man identified as Saeed Azizi by Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson.

They "are now on a plane home to Sweden, and will soon be reunited with their families." Kristersson wrote on the social platform X.

Oman mediated the swap, the state-run Oman News Agency reported. Iranian state television reported Nouri was already freed and would be heading back to Tehran.

In 2022, the Stockholm District Court sentenced Nouri to life in prison over his role in the executions. It identified Nouri as an assistant to the deputy prosecutor at the Gohardasht prison outside the Iranian city of Karaj. (AP)

US military targets Houthi radar sites in Yemen after a merchant sailor goes missing

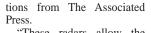
DUBAI, June 15: The United States military unleashed a wave of attacks targeting radar sites operated by Yemen's Houthi rebels over their assaults on shipping in the crucial Red Sea corridor, authorities said on Saturday, after one merchant sailor went missing following an earlier Houthi strike

on a ship. The at as the US Navy faces the most intense combat it has seen since World War II in trying counter the Houthi cam-

Mideast.

paign - attacks the rebels say are meant to halt the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. However, the Iranian-backed rebel assaults often see the Houthis target ships and sailors who have nothing to do with the war while traffic remains halved through a corridor vital for cargo and energy shipments between Asia, Europe and the

US strikes destroyed seven radars within Houthi-controlled territory, the military's Central Command said. It did not elaborate on how the sites were destroyed and did not immediately respond to ques-



"These radars allow the Houthis to target maritime vessels and endanger commercial shipping," Central Command said in a statement.

The US separately destroyed two bomb-laden drone boats in the Red Sea, as well as a drone launched by the Houthis over

> The Houthis, who have Yemen's capital, Sanaa, since

knowledge the strikes. nor any military losses. That's been typical since the US began launching airstrikes targeting the rebels.

Meanwhile, Central Command said one commercial sailor from the Liberianflagged, Greek-owned bulk cargo carrier Tutor remained missing after an attack Wednesday by the Houthis that used a

bomb-carrying drone boat to

strike the vessel. "The crew abandoned ship and were rescued by USS Philippine Sea and partner forces." Central Command said. The "Tutor remains in the Red Sea and is slowly taking on

Chinese premier lands in Australia on first such visit in 7 years

MELBOURNE, June 15: Chinese Premier Li Qiang arrived in Australia on Saturday on a relations-mending mission with panda diplomacy, rock lobsters and China's global dominance in the critical minerals sector high on the agenda.

His visit is the first by a Chinese premier in seven years and is expected to pave the way for President Xi Jinping's first journev to Australia since 2014.

This is the second leg of his tour after New Zealand, and will end in Malaysia. Before leaving New Zealand, Li told an audience in the city of Auckland on Saturday that his country was committed to creating a firstclass business environment and supporting foreign enterprises to develop in China, according to Chinese state media.

Li said there was vast potential for China and New Zealand to collaborate in areas such as green development and that Beijing welcomed New Zealand enter-

prises, such as dairy company Fonterra, that seized such opportunities, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

During the Australian leg of his travels which ends on Tuesday, China's most powerful politician after President Xi Jinping is expected to visit Adelaide Zoo in the South Australia state capital where his Air China flight landed from Auckland.

Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and South Australia Premier Peter Malinauskas greeted Li on the Adelaide Airport tarmac.

Li will also visit a Chinesecontrolled lithium processing plant in the Kwinana Beach industrial estate in Western Australia state, as well as Australia's Parliament House in the national capital Canberra.

China initiated a reset of the bilateral relationship after Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's center-left Labor Party was elected in 2022.

The relationship collapsed during the previous conservative administration's almost decade in power over legislation that banned covert foreign interference in Australian politics, the exclusion of Chinese-owned telecommunications Huawei from rolling out the national 5G network due to security concerns, and Australia's call for an independent investigation into the causes of and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beijing imposed an array of official and unofficial trade blocks in 2020 on a range of Australian exports including coal. wine, barley and wood that cost up to 20 billion Australian dollars (\$13 billion) a year.

All the trade bans have now been lifted except for Australian live lobster exports. Trade Minister Don Farrell predicted that impediment would also be lifted soon after Li's visit with Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wen-

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT FISHERY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, KARBI ANGLONG, DIPHU.

No.AFH-79/Tender Notice/2024-25/ Dated: Diphu the 14th June' 2024.

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender affixing Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council revenue fee stamp worth Rs.10.00 are invited by the undersigned for the following works under Diphu, Bokajan, Howraghat Sub-Division of Karbi Anglong District and West Karbi Anglong District. Tenders will be received in the office of the undersigned and in the office of the Sub-Divisional Fishery Development Officer, Hamren up to 2.00 PM of 5th July' 2024 and will be opened in the same date and time.

The name of works/project in details are given below:-

Sl. No.	Project Name	Estimated Amount
1.	Improvement of Aquaponics division at Aquacentric Park	5.00
2.	Painting of office boundary wall	3.00
3	Plantation and beautification of Bahani Fish Farm	8.00
4	Construction of office building at Hamren	50.00
5	Construction of Fish Framers Training Hall cum open stage at Bakalia	50.00
6	Excavation of new Fishery at Hemari Bey Residence	5.00
7	Excavation of new Fishery at Hemai Engti, Tikok Langso	3.00
8	Excavation of new Fishery at Sikari Pathar, Langpher	3.00
9	Excavation of new Fishery at Hati Dandi, Langpher	3.00
10	Excavation of new Fishery at Teteliguri, Bey Gaon	3.00
11	Excavation of Ningme Fishery Project at Birla, near Sarada LP School	4.00
12	Excavation of New Fishery at Kongjuk Athoi	3.00
13	Excavation of Amiva Kro Fishery Project, Kolai Kro Gaon, Ok-Kereng	6.00
14	Excavation of Birsing Teron Fishery, Dengaon	4.00
15	Excavation of Nalini Fishery, Pub Dikharu	4.00
16	Excavation of Pudumi Fishery, Dilaji 10 Km, Kehai Timung Gaon	4.00
17	Excavation of Lolita Fishery, Dikrenglangso, Diphu	4.00
18	Excavation of Fishery Project at Bithung	5.00
19	Excavation of Fishery Project at Bithung	5.00
20	Excavation of Fishery Project at Bithung	5.00
21	Excavation of Fishery Project at Bithung	5.00
22	Excavation of Kaloi Fishery project near Geeta Ashram	2.80
23	Excavation of Fishery near Assam University, Diphu	5.00
24	Excavation of New Fishery at Dongchara Bey Gaon	2.40
25	Excavation of Irish Fishery, Cherop Engti Gaon, Manja	2.40
26	Excavation of Sampothar Dhansing Fishery	3.00
27	Excavation of Fishery at Howraghat, Borbil Gaon	2.25
28	Excavation of Fishery at Langvoku	3.50
29	Excavation of Fishery at Pub Silputa, Sarthe Engti Gaon, Bakalia	1.50
30	Excavation of Community Fishery at Dojoi Kro Village, Dhentaghat	1.50
31	Excavation of Fishery project at Langklangvong Model Village, Longnit	1.25
32	Excavation of Haldiati Sankar Fishery	4.00
33	Excavation of Fishery Project at Sorupathar	4.00
34	Excavation of Fishery Project at Langminso	6.55
35	Excavation of Fishery at Art of living Center, Diphu	3.00
36	Excavation of Fishery Protect at Amptikhuri	4.00
37	Excavation of Khorsing Rheta Fishery project, Song killing Gaon, Boylan	4.00
38	Excavation of Loringiangso Fishery project. Matipung	4.00
39	Excavation of Fishery Project at Gam Bashi, Itongr hedon	4.00
40	Excavation of Fishery at Tirkim under Socheng MAC Constituency	3.00
41	Excavation of Fishery at Rongmandu under Socheng MAC Constituency	2.40
42	Excavation of Fishery at Chinthong	2.40
43	Excavation of Sariok Teron Fishery	2.40
44	Excavation of Bortangs° Fishery	2.40
45	Excavation of Rongtara Fishery	2.40
46	Excavation of Longlutso Adong Fishery	2.40
47	Excavation of Tado Fishery Project at Rongmonjir Ward No.11, Diphu	3.00
48	Taralangso New Fishery Project opposite Helipad	20.00
49	Construction of retaining wall, repairing, renovation and extension of	25.00
7078	Departmental exhibition stall at Taralangso	
50	Installation of CCTV Camera, JioFiber connection etc.	8.00
51	Renovation of Fishery Board Chairman Quarter	5.00
52	Lightings of decorative lights at Aquacentric Park	2.45
53	Making of Departmental documentary vedio	2.00

The other terms and condition for submission of tenders are as follows:-

- 1. The tender must furnish up to date Income Tax, GST, PAN card, professional tax, Caste Certificate and trading license without which no tender will be considered.
- 2. Tenderer must furnish earnest money (1% for SC,ST,OBC. 2% for others) shown against the item of work in the form of call deposit duly pledged to the undersigned without which no tender shall be considered.
- 3. The tenderer should quoted the rate of works as per estimated value/ Scheduled rate.
- 4. The successful tenderer shall have to come in to agreement in PWD F-2 form within 7(Seven) days from the date of issued work order and allotted work shall have to start within 10(Ten) days failing which in the works shall be cancelled.
- 5. The work must be executed under the supervisor of the officer duly authorized by the undersigned.

The earnest money will be released only after satisfactory completion of specified works.

- 6. Any partnership Farm/ Shamik Bahini submit tender must furnish certificate copy of their registration and power of attorney to execute the deed of agreement and to receive payment.
- 7. The tender need to submitted in the sealed envelope duly super scribed as tender for the work and name to be has mentioned against each work.
- 8. The plan and estimates of the work may be seen in the office of the undersigned during office hours on request.
- 10. The undersigned is not bound to accept the tender and reserve and the right to reject any or all tender without
- assigning any reason what so ever.

Sd/-District Fishery Development Officer, Karbi Anglong, Diphu. Dated: Diphu the 14th June' 2024.

Memo No. AFH-79/Tender Notice/2024-25/94-05

Four declared winners unopposed in Nagaland ULB polls

HT Correspondent

Page 7 June 16_Normal Pages 15-06-2024 20:34 Page 1

DIMAPUR, June 15: The Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee (NPCC) on Saturday said three of the party candidates were declared winners unopposed in Tuli Town Council in the upcoming elections to the urban local bodies (ULBs) in Nagaland, scheduled for June 26.

The three winners are Imlionen Longkumer from Ward no. 5 (Tuliyong ward), Temsumenba Imsong from Ward no. 6 (Mendenti ward) and K Imlitemjen Jamir from Ward no. 8 (Longpong ward). A ruling Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party candidate Sevievino Vitsu from Ward no. 7 under Medziphema Town Council was also

eclared elected unopposed in the ULB election on June 13.

Congratulating its three winning candidates, the NPCC thanked the electorate of Tuli town for reposing their trust in the Congress party candidates, especially on the heels of the massive mandate in favour of the party candidate, Supongmeren Jamir, in the recently held Lok Sabha polls.

"We gratefully welcome the vote of confidence and anticipate many more such victories throughout the state during the upcoming urban local body elections," the NPCC communication department said.

Meanwhile, out of the 669 candidates filed nominations for elections to the

urban local bodies, 36 candidates withdrew their nominations so far, according to an update from the State Elections Commission on June 14.

Out of the 36 candidates who withdrew their nominations, 34 candidates are from eastern Nagaland and one each from Dimapur Municipal Council and Wokha Town Council.

The Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO) had called for abstention from any central or state polls in Nagaland to press for its demand for creation of Frontier Nagaland Territory comprising six districts of eastern Nagaland. However, 27 candidates from eastern Nagaland are yet to withdraw

Devastating floods impact beekeeping in Imphal East

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, June 15: The All Manipur Beekeepers' Association (AMBA), accompanied by Th Joysana Meetei, a life time board member of the All India National Bee Board (NBB), New Delhi conducted an extensive inspection of the devastating impact recent floods have had on beekeeping communities in the villages of Maiba Khul, Mongjam, and Koirengei. The inspection, carried out on June 14, 2024, revealed significant damage, with approximately 200 beehives destroyed and numerous bee colonies lost.

The inspection team, comprising Nagngom Khelemba, vice president, AMBA, W Dinamani, treasurer, AMBA, Atom Sunil Singh, secretary, AMBA, and H Folo Singh, assistant secretary, AMBA, observed widespread destruction. The flood-

Installation of G.R.P. Tank on existing 5

leaving behind scenes of devastation with countless dead bees. W Dinamani expressed the association's commitment to supporting the affected beekeepers, stating, "We will do our utmost to provide assistance to the beekeepers of Manipur during this challenging time." Nagngom Khelemba described the situation as "quite unfortunate," reflecting on the significant hardships faced by the beekeeping community.

Atom Sunil Singh highlighted the broader environmental impact, noting, 'The recent floods in Imphal Valley, particularly in Imphal East District, have had a detrimental effect on bee populations. Flooding leads to the inundation of nestcells and mould growth, which threaten the brood of soil-nesting bees. This reduction

₹ 10.00

sequences, as bees are essential for pollination, which is vital for biodiversity and agriculture. The loss of bees can result in decreased crop yields and a potential loss of biodiversity, affecting food security and ecosystems." Th Joysana Meetei emphasised the severity of the situation, stating, "The water level was so high that there was no time to rescue the bees." The Association underscores the urgent need for conservation efforts to protect bee populations and their habitats to mitigate these impacts.

The All Manipur Beekeepers' Association calls on local authorities and the broader community to join in efforts to support the recovery and resilience of beekeepers and to safeguard the essential role bees play in our environment and agriculture.

15 Days

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PHE) URBAN WATER SUPPLY DIVISION, DIPHU

SHORT TENDER NOTICE NO —1 of 2024-25 UNDER SOPD

Sealed tender affixing KAAC receipt worthZ10.00 (Rupees ten) only are invited from registered contractors/ firms of PHE Department, Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong district for the below mentioned work of AAP 2024-25 (SOPD) duly approved and accorded A/A by the KAAC authority vide No. KAAC/ PRE-3/ AA /2019-20/2021-22/13-A DL 13-06-2024 under Urban Water supply division, Diphu will be received upto 29-06-2024upto 2.00 P.M. and tender so received will be opened on the same date at 2:30 PM in presence of intending tenderer or their authorized representative who likes to be present.

Detail tender papers, specification, terms and condition etc may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on all working days from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM of 17-06-2024 to 28-06-2024 and upto 12.00 noon of 29-06-2024on payment of ₹100.00 (Rupees one hundred) only in demand draft which should be pledge in favour of "Executive Engineer (PRE), Urban Water Supply division, Diphu". The undersigned have reserved the right to accept or reject or cancel the same without any reason and claim thereof. In case of any unavoidable circumstances if tender could not be received or open on the predetermined time and date the same shall be received and opened in the next working day at the same time for which no separate communication will be made.

The estimates were prepared based on APHE SOR (2015-16) &CPWD SOR (2021-22) and rate analysis based on present market price.

Name of the work: - As per Annexure —"A"

Terms and Condition: -

- 1. Bidder should quote their rates distinctly both in figures and in words on percentage basis as per below / above / and the estimated rates / departmental approved rates.
- 2. The Bidder should furnish their full name and address distinctly in the tender papers.
- Earnest money should invariable be enclosed to the tender papers.
- 4. Income tax, Professional tax and GST clearance certificate should be enclosed with the
- 5. The work must be completed within stipulated time.
- 6. The work should be started after signing necessary agreement and in consultation with AEE (PHE) / SO (PHE) i/c.
- 7. Payment will be made subject to availability of fund.
- 8. No advance payment will be made for the work.
- 9. Non-tribal tenderer must produce up to date KAAC trading license along with the tender documents.
- 10. All other terms and condition will be followed as per APWD -2 form of tender.
- 11. The undersigned reserved the right to accept / reject any or all tender in part of in full without assigning any reason thereof and he does not bind himself to accept the lowest tender rate.

ANNEXURE-A

NIT Memo. PHEE / UWSD /DIP /TB -40 (C) / 2024-25 /24-33 Date: - 15-06-2024

SI	Name of Work	Gr. No	Amount (In Lakhs)	Earnest Money		Time of
No				Gen	ST/SC	Completion
1	Installation of G.R.P. Tank on existing elevated P.S. Tank at various lacation including refabrication and M.S. Stagging including labour charge and materials.:- a) 46800 liters capacity P.S Tank at Circuit house	1	₹ 7.00	2%	1%	25 Days
2	New pipe for provision of lifting and delivery arrangement of water distribution	2	₹ 5.00	2%	1%	15 Days
3	Replacement and improvement of 80 mm dia G.I. Distribution main at Forest colony and PWD colony	3	₹ 3.00	2%	1%	10 Days
4	Extension of 80 mm Dia G. I pipe line from DAV School down side to Main tila Tininali (L=40014 9 Improvement and Renovation of Teralangso Exibition hall at Taralangso.	4	₹ 7.00	2%	1%	10 Days

5	Installation of G.R.P. Tank on existing elevated P.S. Tank at various lacation	5	₹ 10.00	2%	1%	15 Days
	including refabrication and M.S.					
	Stagging including labour charge and					
	materials.:-a) 46800 liters capacity P.S Tank at Circuit house					
6	Installation of DTW in DC office,	6	₹ 14.00	2%	1%	20 Days
_	Diphu, Diphu.	*	, 2.100	2,0	1,0	20 54,5
7	Refurbishing including Sanitation	7	₹ 4.00	2%	1%	25 Days
	and Electrffication of Staff Quarter at					
	Rural Water supply complex under					
8	Urban W/S Division, Diphu Construction of car shade for parking	8	₹ 3.00	2%	1%	15 Days
U	official car at (PHE) Rural office		3.00	2/0	170	15 Days
	complex			24.0	5.8	
9	Reconditioning of 50 HP Pump Sets	9	₹ 3.55	2%	1%	10 Days
4.0	AT Manja Low Pressure pump house.	40	3 0 5 0	2004	4.07	125
10	Installation of new sluice valve at various point between Manja pump	10	₹ 3.50	2%	1%	7 Days
	house and Binapani TP pipe line.					
11	Construction of new intake structure	11	₹ 6.00	2%	1%	15 Days
	for new pump house at Manja low					
	pressure		3 0 0 0			
12	Shifting of pumps from old pump house to new RCC pump House.	12	₹ 3.00	2%	1%	10 Days
13	Water pumping arrangement from	13	₹ 5.00	2%	1%	10 Days
	one reservoir to other along with		, 5.55		1,0	20 54,5
	mechanical and electrical					
1018W2V	arrangement at Binapani TP	12727			-	
1 4	Filter Media replacement at Binapani	14	₹ 3.00	2%	1%	15 Days
15	Cleaning and disinfecting of	15	₹ 1.50	2%	1%	7 Days
10	flocculator at Binapani 7P complex	15	(1.50	270	1,0	r Duys
16	Clearing of jungle along with cutting	16	₹ 1.50	2%	1%	7 Days
	of grass and dressing of the area at					
17	9lakhs TP	17	₹ F 00	20/	100	10 D
17	Extension of 80/50 mm dia al distribution main from Shiv Bari R.C.0	17	₹ 5.00	2%	1%	10 Days
	Bridge to nearest Shiv Bari colony					
	(200 RM)					
18	Extension of 80 mm Dia G.Lpipe line	18	₹ 5.00	2%	1%	10 Days
	from Rongpoli to Rongbin Akam (
19	L=300 /179 Construction of Toilet and Septic	19	₹ 3.50	2%	1%	20 Days
13	Tank at 9 lakhsTP		0.30	2,0	170	20 Days
20	Cleaning and Disinfecting of	20	₹ 2.00	2%	1%	10 Days
	reservoirs at 9 Lakh T.P. complex					
21	under GDWSS (C) Estimate for &low pipeline New Dam	21	₹ 45.00	2%	1%	20 Days
21	intake point including 150mm GI	21	45.00	270	170	20 Days
	pipe connecting 200 mm MS dia.					
	Main siloni pipeline near Terang Basil					
22	under DWSS(M) 2024-25	22	35 40 50	201	404	20.5
22	Utility Relocation of existing 225 mm dia C.I. Raw Water Gravity Main by	22	₹ 19.50	2%	1%	20 D ays
	laying and re-aligning with new 225					
	min dia HDPE pipe due to fallen					
	underneath NH-329 near NAYARA					
22	GAS STA'T'ION, Assam Riffles area.	22	= 0.00	201	100	45.0
23	Construction of Siloni Pipeline (a)MS 200mm Dia. RCC Pillar between	23	₹ 8.00	2%	1%	15 Days
	Siloni T.P to intake point at Terang					
	Basti (b) US 200mm Dia. And Cl					
	225mm Dia. RCC pillar between					
	Diphu to Siloni T.P. under DWSS(A.4)					
24	2024-25.at various point Refurbishing including Sanitation and	24	₹ 5.00	2%	1%	20 Days
∠ 4	Electrification of Staff Quarter	24	3.00	2/0	170	20 Days
	atSiloni under Urban W/S Division.					
25	Installation of Ultrasonic Type Flow	25	₹ 10.00	2%	1%	10 Days
	Meter with Armoured wiring DN 450,					
3.0	PN 16	36	3 5 5 6	20/	do.	15.5
26	Installation of Remote Terminal Units (RTU) with HMI, Energy Sensor, Level	26	₹ 5.50	2%	1%	15 Days
	Transmitter, Non slam Air Valve with					
	isolation valve , Tripple action air					
	valve with isolation valve.at High					
	Pressure of DN 450, PN 16					
					10000 A WILLIAM TO	

Sd/-

Executive Engineer Engineer (PHE) Urban W/S Division. Diphu.

Date:-15-06-2024

Memo NO. PHEE / UWSD /DIP /TB —40 (C) / 2024-25 /24-33

Page 8 June 16_Normal Pages 6/15/2024 6:45 PM Page 1

NC, PDP disapproves of prosecution sanction against Arundhati Roy, ex-professor under UAPA



SRINAGAR, June 15: The National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party have expressed their disapproval of the prosecution sanction against author Arundhati Roy and a former professor in Kashmir under the stringent UAPA for allegedly making provocative speeches at an event in Delhi in

According to officials, the FIR against Roy and former Central University of Kashmir professor Sheikh Showkat Hussain was registered following the orders of the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate,

Will appear before CID for inquiry on June 17: Yediyurappa



BENGALURU, June 15: Senior BJP leader B S Yediyurappa on Saturday said he will appear before the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on June 17 for inquiry in connection with the POCSO case registered against him.

On his arrival in the city, the former CM said people would teach a lesson to those "indulging in conspiracies" against him.

The Karnataka High C

Friday restrained CID from arresting Yediyurappa in connection with the POCSO case

It also directed the veteran BJP leader to appear before CID, which is probing the case, on June 17.

"I had gone to Delhi for a pre scheduled programme. I had informed in advance in writing that I will appear for an inquiry on June 17. The High Court has given an order restraining CID (from arresting). I'm appearing for an inquiry on Monday. Unnecessarily some tried to create confusion, I don't want to blame anyone, everyone knows the fact," Yediyurappa.

While speaking to reporters here, he said, "... people will teach a lesson to those indulging in conspiracies.'

A court here on Thursday had issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against Yediyurappa in the case registered against him under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act on March 14 this year.

The Special Investigation Team of the CID had moved the First Fast Track Court seeking an arrest warrant against him since he failed to appear for questioning on Wednesday.

According to police, Yediyurappa has been booked under the POCSO Act and Section 354 A (Sexual harassment) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) based on a complaint by the mother of a 17-yearold girl who alleged that he molested her daughter during a meeting on February two this year, at his residence in Dollars Colony

Yediyurappa, who has denied the charge, said he would fight the case legally. He has filed two separate petitions in the High Court, seeking anticipatory bail and quashing the FIR.

The victim's mother, who had leveled the charge against Yediyurappa, died at a private hospital

here last month, due to lung cancer. Earlier this week, the victim's brother had moved the court alleging that though the case was registered on March 14, no progress has been made in the investigation. The petitioner prayed the court for a direction to the police to arrest Yediyurappa and interrogate him. (PTI)

Expressing disapproval of the move, the National Conference (NC) stressed the need to uphold the fundamental right of every citizen to free speech as guaranteed by Article 19 of the Constitution.

'The NC expresses its strong disapproval of the prosecution of author Arundhati Roy and Dr Sheikh Showkat Hussain under the UAPA (Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act). The use of anti-terror laws to suppress dissent and criminalize speech is deeply concerning," it said in a post on 'X'.

"It is also imperative to note that this permission has been granted

14 long years after the alleged speech took place. In the intervening years the speech has been all

but forgotten and didn't vitiate the

atmosphere in J&K," it said.

The NC said this prosecution would serve no purpose except perhaps to show that the "hardline stance of the BJP/Union Government won't change despite the electoral setback they recently

Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena on Friday accorded sanction to prosecute author Arundhati Roy and a former professor in Kashmir under the stringent Unlawful Ac-

tivities (Prevention) Act for allegedly making provocative speeches at an event here in 2010. PDP chief and former chief minister of the erstwhile state of J-K Mehbooba Mufti, termed the sanc-

tion "shocking". Shocking that Arundhati Roy, world-renowned author and a brave woman who has emerged as a powerful voice against fascism, has been booked under the draconian UAPA," she said on 'X'.

The PDP chief said the Centre continues its "rampage violating fundamental rights with impunity'

"Booking a former law professor from Kashmir is also an act of frustration," Mehbooba Mufti Her daughter and media adviser

Iltija Mufti said Roy will be prosecuted under UAPA for being an "audacious voice who refuses to "Equally worrying that it also in-

cludes Dr Sheikh Shoukat a former Professor of Law from Kashmir. What is becoming of India? Might as well turn this country into an open-air prison," she said on X.

Roy and Hussain had allegedly made provocative speeches at a conference organised under the banner of 'Azadi - The Only Way' on October 21, 2010, at LTG Auditorium in New Delhi.

The FIR in the matter was registered on a complaint made by Sushil Pandit, a social activist from Kashmir, on October 28, 2010.

LS victory is only beginning, MVA will win assembly polls: Uddhav

MUMBAI, June 15: Upbeat after the preparations for the assembly elections, Maha Vikas Aghadi's (MVA) "victory" in the Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday said it was only a beginning and the opposition alliance will maintain its winning streak in the coming assembly elections in the state. "During the election campaign, I ad-

For the first time after the MVA's spectacular performance in parliamentary polls, where it won 30 out of 48 Lok Sabha seats in the state, Thackeray held a joint press conference here with his MVA allies NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar and senior Congress leader Prithvirai Chavan. The press conference followed a pre-

liminary meeting of leaders of the Sena (UBT), NCP (SP) and Congress for

due in October. People of Maharashtra showed in the Lok Sabha elections how hollow the myth of the Bharatiya Janata Party's invincibility was, Thackeray said, adding, "Lok Sabha poll victory of the Maha Vikas Aghadi is not the end,

dressed my audience as 'deshbhakts' (patriots)....all deshbhakts came together to save democracy," the former chief minister said, adding that people have awakened and the struggle has just started. The "Modi sarkar" is now 'NDA sarkar", and it remains to be seen how long it lasts, he said.

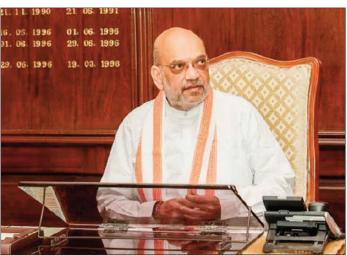
The BJP had ridiculed the MVA as an unnatural alliance, he noted, asking should the alliance at the Centre be now dubbed natural or unnatural.

Asked about the BJP's claim that Opposition spread fake narratives during the elections, Thackeray said, "What do you call the narrative about INDIA alliance planning to take away people's wealth and distributing it among those with more children, take away mangalsutra, buffalos and cut off water connections?"

To some BJP leaders' jibe that the Shiv Sena led by him got votes of Muslims but not those of Marathi-speakers, its traditional support base, Thackeray said patriotic people cutting across religions voted for the opposition alliance and they included both Muslims and

Home Minister Amit Shah to review J&K security situation today On June 13, PM Modi spoke to Shah and discussed deployment

of security forces and counter-terror operations



NEW DELHI, June 15: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will take stock of the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday in the wake of the recent terror attacks there and is expected to give broad guidelines to intensify counter-terror operations, sources said.

The home minister will also review the preparation for the annual Amarnath pilgrimage set to start on

Shah will chair the high-level meeting three days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a similar meeting where he directed officials to deploy the "full spectrum of counter-terror capabilities" after a spate of terror incidents, including

an attack on a bus carrying pilgrims. National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, Army Chief General Manoj Pande, Army Chief-designate Lt. General Upendra Dwivedi, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, Director of Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka, Director General of CRPF Anish Dayal Singh, Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police R R Swain and other top security officials are expected to attend the meeting.

Shah is likely to be apprised about the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, the deployment of forces along the International Border and Line of Control, infiltration attempts, the status of ongoing anti-terror opoperating in the Union Territory, sources said

He is expected to give broad guidelines about the immediate action to be taken by the security agencies in line with the prime minister's directive, they said.

Terrorists struck at four places in Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts of Jammu and Kashmir in four days, killing nine pilgrims and a CRPF jawan and leaving seven security

personnel and several others injured. Two suspected Pakistani terrorists were also killed in an encounter with security forces in Kathua district and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from them.

The incidents come ahead of the annual pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Amarnath in the south Kashmir Himalayas, which is set to begin on June 29 and will continue till August

The Amarnath pilgrims travel through two routes -- Baltal and Pahalgam -- in Jammu and Kashmir. Sources said last year, over 4.28 lakh people visited the cave shrine and the figure could go up to five lakh All pilgrims are expected to be

given RFID cards so that their realtime location can be traced and everyone will be given Rs 5 lakh insurance cover. There will also be an insurance cover of Rs 50,000 for each animal carrying the pilgrims.

Shah is expected to stress on pro-

route from the airport and railway station to the pilgrimage base camp and proper security of all pilgrims.

Last year, Shah had directed officials to ensure adequate stock of oxygen cylinders and their refilling and asked for the availability of additional teams of doctors. He had ordered adequate medical beds and deployment of ambulances and helicopters to meet any medical emer-

Following Shah's order, a better communication system on the pilgrimage routes was ensured and machines were deployed to immediately open routes in case of a landslide. On Friday, the home minister was briefed by the officials of the ministry, Intelligence Bureau and other security agencies about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the steps taken following the terror incidents, sources said.

On June 13, PM Modi spoke to Shah and discussed the deployment of security forces and counter-terror operations. The prime minister also spoke to Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and took stock of the situation there.

Sinha briefed him on the efforts being undertaken by the local ad-

In the meeting, the prime minister was given a full overview of the security-related situation in the region and was apprised of the counter-terror efforts being undertaken.

A search operation is underway in Jammu and Kashmir to track down and neutralise terrorists after the June 9 attack on the bus carrying pilgrims, officials said.

Security forces also launched a search and cordon operation in Kathua's Saida Sukhal village on Thursday following information about the presence of two more terrorists. Two suspected Pakistani terrorists and a CRPF jawan were killed in Kathua's Saida Sukhal village on Wednesday after an over 15hour operation.

Police on Wednesday released sketches of four terrorists involved in two attacks in Doda district and announced a reward of Rs 20 lakh

BJP's arrogance, pride crushed into dust: TMC's Abhishek

KOLKATA, June 15: Hailing the Lok Sabha elections as that of "protest, resistance and revenge", senior Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee said the poll results have 'crushed BJP's arrogance and

pride into dust". He also accused the saffron party of "abusing central agencies, corrupting the judiciary, gagging the media and manipulating the Election Commission to cling to power".

In a Facebook post late on Friday night after meeting party workers and common people in his Diamond Harbour constituency, from where he was re-elected by a record margin of over 7 lakh votes. the TMC national general secretary said that the 2024 Lok Sabha polls will be etched in golden letters in history as 'jonogoner gorjon' (people's

'jonogoner gorjon' (people's roar) will be etched in golden letters in the history. This Lok Sabha election was one of 'protibaad, protirodh and protishodh' (protest, resistance and revenge). BJP's arrogance, pride, and backbone have been crushed into dust," he said. Although the BJP-led NDA returned to power for a third consecutive term, the saffron party failed to secure a majority on its own, and has to rely on the support of key allies Telugu Desam Party and JD

(U) for continuance in power. On the TMC's performance in West Bengal, where it bagged 29 of the 42 seats, improving its tally by seven seats as compared to the 2019 polls, Banerjee, the de facto number two in the party, said, "Bengal and the country witnessed a new dawn on June 4 (when Lok Sabha poll results were announced)." He thanked the people of Diamond Harbour

for giving him a huge mandate. "Your support and prayers have bound me in a debt of love, a debt I vow to repay with transformative development," he said. He also accused the BJP of uprooting the democratic rights of the people.

Banerjee, who has been interrogated by central agencies several times in the past in connection with alleged coal and cattle scams, slammed the Narendra Modi government of "abusing central agencies".

Cong holds 'matka phod' protests in Delhi

NEW DELHI, June 15: Amid a water crisis in the national capital, the Delhi Congress held 'matka phod' protests across the city on Saturday with its members smashing earthen pots to the ground.

The protests began around 10 am in all 280 blocks in Delhi. Carrying earthen pots on their heads and Congress flags, the protesters raised slogans against the Delhi government and chief minister Arvind Kejriwal. Later, they threw the pots on the ground. Delhi Congress chief Devender Yaday, who also joined the protests, demanded a special session of the assembly to discuss the issue.

He had alleged on Friday that the Delhi government had not taken effective steps to address the water shortage in the city due to which, people had to run after water tankers. Water Minister Atishi had said on Friday that water production in Delhi was decreasing continuously as less water was reaching the Yamuna river here. The AAP government has been accusing BJP-ruled

Harvana of not releasing Delhi's share of water.

Sharing data, she had said water production on June 6 was 1,002 million gallons per day (MGD) and it declined to 993 MGD the next day and 990 MGD on June 8. (PTI)

Delhi HC orders removal of excise case court proceedings video from social media

NEW DELHI, June 15: The Delhi High Court on Saturday ordered removal of a video recording of court proceedings related to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy case from social media platforms. In the video, Arvind Kejriwal, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor, is seen addressing a trial court.

A bench of justices Neena Bansal Krishna and Amit Sharma issued notices to six people, including Sunita Kejriwal, and social media intermediaries X (formerly known as Twitter), Meta and YouTube on a petition alleging violation of the video conferencing (VC) rules of the Delhi High Court.

"Prima facie it is observed that the court proceeding recording is violative of Rule 3(vi) of Delhi High Court Video Conferencing Rules, 2021 and cannot be permitted to remain in public domain," the bench said in its 6-page order.

The high court directed the social media intermediaries to forthwith take down the audio or video recording from their respective platforms.

During the hearing, the bench asked the respondents, including the six individuals, to take down the content from social media platforms.

However, the order uploaded on the court website said, "The social media platforms namely X (formerly 'Twitter'), Meta (formerly 'Facebook'), Instagram and YouTube are hereby directed to remove forthwith the audio/video recording from their respective platforms".

The court also mentioned the list of URLs to be removed and said it should be ensured that the audio/ video is not re-uploaded on their platforms till further orders.

The court passed an ex-parte adinterim order and listed the matter for further hearing on July 9. "Notice of the petition be issued

to other respondent no.1 to 7, to be served through ordinary post and electronic mode, returnable for the next date of hearing. The order be communicated within 48 hours to the respondent (s)," the bench said. The high court was hearing the

petition filed by lawyer Vaibhav In his petition, Singh claimed that

when Arvind Kejriwal was produced before a trial court on March 28 after

his arrest in the Delhi excise policy case, he chose to address the court in-person, and the video recording of the proceedings was posted on social media platforms which is prohibited under the High Court of Delhi Rules for Video Conferencing for Courts, 2021. According to the Rules, there shall be no unauthorised recording of the proceedings by any person or en-

The video was allegedly re-posted by Sunita Kejriwal and the others.

The petitioner told the court that YouTube had sent an e-mail saying that it had deleted the content on its platform. In the public interest litigation

(PIL), the petitioner sought the formation of an SIT to investigate and register an FIR against the alleged conspiracy of recording and sharing the audio and video of the court proceedings and putting the life of the trial court judge at high risk. "Several members of the Aam

Aadmi Party, including members of various other opposition parties, have intentionally and deliberately and with wilful intention to malign and manipulate the court proceedings done the audio and video recording of the court proceedings and circulated on social media platforms," the plea said.

It also sought a direction to conduct a thorough investigation to identify the individuals responsible for recording and sharing audio and video recordings of the court proceedings.

The plea sought to "punish the alleged contemnor as per the provisions of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, and impose strict penalties on the individuals found guilty of violation of VC Rules 2021 of this Hon'ble court, as per the provisions specified in law'

The petition urged the court to issue appropriate directives to social media platforms to prevent the recurrence of such unauthorised recordings and their subsequent dissemination and impose penalties for non-compliance of directions on any individual or entity.

Arvind Kejriwal was arrested in the money laundering case stemming from the Delhi excise policy 'scam' on March 21 and has been lodged in Tihar jail under judicial custody. (PTI)

Narain was a member of the COP-28 President Sultan Al Jaber's advisory panel which also heads oil giant Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, which fuelled activists' worries that big industry was hijacking the global response to the environmental crisis

India can play even bigger role in climate talks; should host COP in 2028: Sunita Narain

NEW DELHI, June 15: India can play an "even bigger" role in climate talks by emerging as the voice of the global south and presenting the challenges faced by them, leading environmentalist Sunita Narain said as Prime Minister Narendra Modi eyes hosting the UN climate summit in 2028.

In an interaction with PTI editors here, Narain, the Director General of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), said the Conference of Parties, under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, was the only forum where multilateral decisions can be taken to deal with the challenges posed by climate change.

"We can play an even bigger role as a country which stands for countries of the south. We have challenges. We can talk about our challenges, not paper over them. And, we can help the world to find a better way ahead. We can play a

leadership role," Narain said. Modi, in his address at the Conference of Parties (COP-28) in Dubai, had offered to host the cli-

mate conference in India in 2028. The COP presidency rotates between different world regions and India's next opportunity will be in 2028 when Asia gets its turn. All



countries in that group must unanimously agree to Modi's bid before it is confirmed.

"Absolutely we should host the COP and absolutely we must talk. See, climate change is a very unique problem in the world which cannot be sorted on a bilateral level at all. It is a multilateral

issue," Narain said. She said climate change was one way to relearn socialism because it was about a common atmospheric space where countries have to learn to live together, whether they like it or not.

"The UN talks are the only

forum where you do multilateral decisions and decision making, however broken the system is, it is important." Narain said

Narain was a member of the COP-28 President Sultan Al Jaber's advisory panel. Al Jaber, also heads oil giant Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, which fuelled activists' worries that big industry was hijacking the global response to the environmental crisis.

"A lot of the flak that was given also to me was... 'but he is an oil producer. And why are you advising an oil producing producer?" But that is important. And, I think

pushed the talk about renewable energy to the background. "Germany was going back to building LNG stations. The US is talking about fracking more and more,

Narain said.

to be opened out. This is the reality" Narain said Narain said the increasing influence of right-wing parties in Europe has also led to protests against the EU Green Deal.

talking about more and more lands

it is important for us to come to a

common ground to say, what are

we going to do with fossil fuels?

How are they going to reduce,"

She said the Ukraine war had

"We need a forum where we can come together as nations to discuss and for the south to play a bigger and bigger role in demanding that," she said Narain said India should also

raise the issue of climate finance

and the high cost of capital for re-

newable energy projects. 'These are issues that we need to have on the table. And, the only way to discuss that is in multilateral forums. Yes, India should hold the talks. I think India is a very important part of the global leadership. We play an important role," Narain said. (PTI)

Plea in SC seeks scrapping of NEET-UG

exam, court-monitored ČBI probe

NEW DELHI, June 15: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking scrapping of the NEET-UG 2024 exam and an apex court-monitored probe by the CBI or any other independent agency into the alleged irregularities in the test held on May

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024

The petition, filed by 20 students who had appeared for the medical entrance exam, has also sought a direction to the National Testing Agency (NTA) and others to conduct the test afresh.

While hearing separate petitions raising grievances over the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate)-2024, the apex court on Friday had sought responses from the Centre and the NTA on a plea for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into allegations of question paper leak and other irregularities in the exam.

The fresh plea stated that in view of "rampant irregularities and fraudulent practices", re-examination would only help in short-listing deserving students to get admission in medical institutions

"Because the sanctity of the examination is questionable in view of the confirmed cases of leakage of



which FIRs have been lodged and several persons have been arrested, as per the media reports," the plea, drawn by advocate Dheeraj Singh,

It said the result declared by the NTA disclosed that 67 candidates have scored the maximum possible marks 720 out of 720. A closer traordinary significant increase of more than 400 per cent in the number of students scoring 620-720 marks, the plea stated.

"The aforesaid material irregularities are required to be investigated thoroughly by CBI or by any other independent agency or committee under the supervision of this court so as to do justice to the large numanalysis would also reveal an ex- ber of meritorious students whose

claims have been defeated by systemic failure to ensure conduct of fair examination," it said.

The plea has sought a direction to a court-appointed committee or any other independent agency to conduct "post-exam analysis including academic background check, forensic analysis and investigate all such candidates who have scored 620 and above", under the supervision of the court.

It has also sought directions to the NTA and others to take effective steps to ensure transparency and fairness in the examination process and to address the concerns pertaining to alleged fraudulent practices, leakage of question papers, impersonation, unfair means etc in NEET-UG in the future.

The Centre and the NTA had on Thursday told the top court that they had cancelled the grace marks given to 1,563 candidates who took the examination for admission to MBBS and other such courses.

They will have the option to either take a retest or forgo the compensatory marks awarded to them for the loss of time, the Centre had

NEW DELHI, June 15: There will

be some changes in the last and first

train timings on Sunday and Monday

respectively in view of the ongoing

work on a 490-metre section of

Janakpuri West to R K Ashram corri-

dor of Phase-IV of Delhi Metro's Yel-

low Line, officials said on Saturday.

The alignment in the stretch, which

crosses over Haiderpur Badli Mor

Metro station, is adjacent to the exist-

ing operational Yellow Line and is

critical as the corridor reaches a

height of about 28.36 metre, the high-

est rail level ever of the Delhi Metro

DMRC's principal executive direc-

tor corporate communications, Anuj

Dayal, said on Sunday, the last train

will depart at 10:45 pm instead of 11

in the entire network, they said.

May 5 across 4,750 centres and around 24 lakh candidates took it. The results were expected to be declared on June 14 but were announced on June 4, apparently because the evaluation of the an-

swer sheets got completed earlier. There have been allegations of question paper leaks in states like Bihar and the other irregularities in the prestigious exam.

The allegations have led to protests in several cities and filing of petitions in several high courts as also the Supreme Court. Scores of students protested in Delhi on June 10 seeking a probe into alleged irregularities.

As many as 67 students scored a perfect 720, unprecedented in the NTA's history, with six from a centre in Haryana's Faridabad figuring in the list, raising suspicions about irregularities. It has been alleged that grace marks contributed to 67 students sharing the

The NEET-UG examination is conducted by the NTA for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions

Won't allow trees to be felled for VVIP bungalows in Bhopal, citizens vow

BHOPAL, June 15: Hundreds of Bhopal residents have joined hands to save over 27,000 trees that they fear would be chopped to make space for VVIP bungalows in the city, even mulling to launch a protest akin to the 'Chipko An-

A top Madhya Pradesh government official, however, said on Saturday that no such plan has been finalised.

For the past ten days, citizens, students, and green activists have been campaigning against what they call a plan by the MP Housing Board to construct bungalows for MLAs and bureaucrats by clearing trees at Shivaji Nagar and Tulsi Nagar, one of the greenest natches in the city.

Many of them, including women and a BJP MLA, worshipped and clung to trees on Friday vowing to protect them.

MP Housing and Urban Development Principal Secretary Neeraj Mandloi said nothing will happen to the trees immediately.

"It was a concept floated by the Housing Board before the Urban Development Minister. As of now, there is no approval or final proposal before the government. The government is fully sensitive to

Metro timings of last, first Yellow Line trains

proposal to cut the trees as of now," he said.

Environmental activist Dr Subhash C Pandey, who is among those leading the campaign, said they will wait for the government's reaction to their movement. 'In the meantime, we are mulling to launch a massive protest akin to Chipko Andolan if the government does not act," he said.

Launched in the 1970s in Uttarakhand (then a part of Uttar Pradesh), Chipko Andolan was a movement wherein people clasped to the trunk of trees to stop them from being felled by loggers.

"There are indications that over 27,000 trees, seventy per cent of them heritage ones, are going to be chopped for the (housing) project," he said.

Pandey said their delegation met MP Housing Board Commissioner Chandramauli Shukla and Housing Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya over the issue, but was told that compensatory saplings would be planted if such a project comes up.

"Not a single sapling planted to compensate for the felling of trees for the metro train project, Smart City and a private concern's huge complex in the past in Bhopal has

10 killed, 13 injured as tempo traveller skids off road, falls into Alaknanda river in Uttarakhand



RUDRAPRAYAG, were killed and 13 injured when a tempo traveller skidded off the road and fell into Alaknanda river on Badrinath national highway in Uttarakhand here on

Saturday, officials said. Inspector Garhwal General of Police KS Nagnyal said that the victims of the accident were tourists on the way to visit Chopta.

Nagnyal said 26 people were in the vehicle and most of them were residents of Delhi. Ten people died in the accident, the IG said.

On Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami's instructions, seven persons seriously injured in

the accident have been admitted to AIIMS, Rishikesh through heliambulance, while six others are being treated at Rudraprayag district

hospital, he said. District Disaster Management Officer Nandan Singh Rajwar said the accident happened around 11 am, and police and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams rushed to the spot and started relief and rescue operations. He said that the vehicle fell on the banks of Alaknanda river about 250 meters below

the road. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the accident and termed it "heartbreak-

cident in Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand is sad. I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of those injured.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah expressed condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the accident. In a post on X, he said:

"Received the tragic news of the road accident in Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand. My condolences are with the families of those who lost their lives in this accident. The local administration SDRF teams are engaged in relief and rescue work

and all possible help is being provided to the injured. I pray to God for the speedy recovery of the injured.' CM Dhami expressed

In a post on X, the

Prime Minister's Office

said, "The road accident

in Rudraprayag, Uttarak-

hand is heartbreaking.

My deepest condolences

to the bereaved families

who lost their loved

ones. Along with this, I

all the injured. Under the

supervision of the state

government, the local ad-

Hindi, Murmu said, "The

news of the death of sev-

injured.

grief over the accident and ordered the district magistrate to investigate the incident. He also diwish speedy recovery of rected officials to provide necessary treatment to the injured. In a post on X, the

chief minister said that ministration is engaged in providing all possible the local administration help to the victims." and the State Disaster President Droupadi Response Force (SDRF) Murmu condoled the loss team are engaged in reof lives in the accident lief and rescue operations and prayed for the and that the injured have speedy recovery of the been admitted to the nearest medical centre. In a post on X in

He added, "We are fully committed to provide all possible help to

on Sunday, Monday to change for work: DMRC

nium City Centre Gurugram and at 9:30 pm instead of 11 pm from Millennium City Centre Gurugram to Samaypur Badli.

On Monday, the first train service will start at 7 am instead of 6 am from Samaypur Badli to Millennium City Centre Gurugram. There will be no train services available between the small section of Samaypur Badli and Jahangirpuri after 11 pm on Sunday and before 7 am on Monday, he said.

However, normal train services will continue to remain available on remaining major section of Yellow Line from Jahangirpuri to Millennium City Centre Gurugram during this period, Dayal said.

To avoid any inconvenience to the passengers during these late night and early morning hours on non-working days of Sunday and Monday, announcements will also be made at the stations and inside the trains on Yellow Line about the destination of trains and respective platforms for change over during this period, he

The DMRC always gives top priority to passenger convenience whenever such challenging engineering works, requiring passing over or under already-operational corridors,

The work sequence is meticulously planned and specially taken up during night only in a very limited window of few hours when passenger services are almost over. It is finished by the

time passenger services are scheduled

to commence the next day, he stated. The construction work on this Phase IV section can only be done during night time shutdowns between Samaypur Badli and Jahangirpuri section of the operational Yellow

The same revision of timings may be required over the coming weekend too in order to finish off the remaining work as the DMRC avoids taking up such works during weekdays for larger passenger convenience, he

pm from Samaypur Badli to Millen-Odisha CM directs Health dept to check spread of Diphtheria in Rayagada

BHUBANESWAR, June 15: Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday directed the Health department and Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) to inquire and find out the reasons for Diphtheria cases in Rayagada district and take all possible steps to bring the situation to normal.

The direction in this regard was issued after the RMRC confirmed a death due to diphtheria at Manuspadar village of Kashipur block in Rayagada district. It was the fifth case in the series of deaths suspected due to diphthe-

"A prophylactic dose of antibiotic has been given to all susceptible persons in the community

and the symptomatic patients are responding to treatment. The situation is under control," a statement issued by the chief minister's office said.

The CM has also directed the Panchayati Raj department to provide drinking water supply and construct a motorable road to the place at the earliest.

Official sources said that at least five reported deaths have taken place at Manuspadar village in Kashipur block of Rayagada district over a period of one month. The village is in a remote and difficult area. The outbreak of the disease started in the village in the last week.

Diphtheria is a serious bacterial infection that usually affects the mucous membranes of the nose

Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) of Rayagada Dr Lalmohan Routray said: "Blood samples of the affected persons have been collected and

Bhubaneswar for test to ascertain the disease." Meanwhile, a health department team visited the village and carried out door-to-door screening and treatment, the official said, adding that health teams are visiting daily and closely

monitoring the situation. "The first four deaths were not

brought to any health facility and were cremated at the community level. But they are suspected to be cases of diphtheria," the statement

IIT student's mother hopeful of getting justice 2 years after son's death KOLKATA, June 15: The mother of

IIT Kharagpur student Faizan Ahmed, whose decomposed body was found in the hostel around two years ago, on Saturday said she is hopeful of getting justice after a court-appointed forensic expert said the youth from Assam "might have been hit by an object and shot at". Wondering how someone can carry a firearm inside a high-security zone like IIT Kharagpur, Rehana Ahmed asserted that his son's death was the result of a "conspiracy". "We have all along been saying that my son was murdered in cold blood. Tell me how can a student carry guns or knives on the campus in a high-security zone like IIT Kharagpur? There had been attempts to hush up the issue from the very beginning," Expressing hope that her family

will get justice now, Rehana Ahmed said she had written to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee demanding that her son's death be probed and the perpetrators punished but none of them responded.

"If truth comes out, it will also be a trendsetter," Rehana Ahmed said. She also wondered why so many students died mysteriously in higher educational institutions in the country. "Even if you consider cases of suicide, why aren't those thoroughly probed? What steps do the authorities of higher educational institutions take to address the safety issues of hostel students. They get admitted (to these institutions) in search of a bright career, not to end up in coffins," she

Odisha natives arrive in Bhubaneswar Bal Sahitya Puraskar winners for 2024 'Winner of the Yuva Puraskar in Sanskrit will be announced at a later date' NEW DELHI, June 15: The Kumar's collection of children's sto-



Kuwait fire: Mortal remains of two

BHUBANESWAR, June 15: The mortal remains of two persons from Odisha who died in the Kuwait fire incident arrived in Bhubaneswar on Saturday morning. Deputy Chief Ministers K V Singh Deo and Pravati Parida received the bodies of Muhammad Jahur and Santosh Kumar Gouda at Biju Patnaik International Airport here and paid floral tributes. The bodies were later taken to their native villages where their family members would perform

Expressing condolences to the bereaved families, Singh Deo said that Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has announced an ex-gratia compensation of Rs 4 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased.

Parida said, "It is extremely saddening that two very young Odias, who went to another country for their livelihood, lost their lives in the devastating fire incident. This might cause fear among Odias residing in other countries. But, I want to convey that our government is always there and will be there for every Odia." Pro-tem Speaker Ranendra Pratap Swain, minister Prithviraj Harichandan and Health Secretary Shalini Pandit also paid tributes to departed souls.

Earlier, the chief minister expressed grief over the death of two Odisha natives in the fire incident. Gouda hailed from Ranajhalli village in Purosottampur block of Ganjam district, while Jahur was a native of Karadapalli village in Tigiria police station area in Cuttack district.

They were working for a private company and residing in the seven-storey apartment building in Mangaf in southern Kuwait where the fire broke out early on Wednesday morning. Jahur's family members said he was married for only two years and his wife was seven-months pregnant. He had been working in Kuwait since 2017 and had visited his village only a month ago.

Similarly, Gouda had visited his village in March and had returned to Kuwait in April. (PTI)

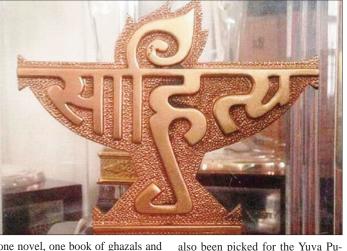
Sahitya Akademi on Saturday announced the names of 23 writers, including English writer K Vaishali and Hindi author Gaurav Pandey, who will receive the prestigious Yuva Puraskar across as many lan-The National Academy of Letters

also announced the names of 24 winners of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for 2024. The winner of the Yuva Puraskar in Sanskrit will be announced at a later date, the Akademi said in a statement. "The Executive Board of the

Sahitya Akademi in its meeting held today under the Chairmanship of its President Sri Madhav Kaushik approved selection of 23 writers who were selected on the basis of recommendations made by the Jury comprising three members each in the concerned language in accordance with the rules and procedure laid down for the purpose," the literary body said in a statement.

While K Vaishali will be honoured for her memoir "Homeless: Growing up Lesbian and Dyslexic in India", Gaurav Pandey won the prestigious award for his poetry collection "Smritiyon Ke Beech Ghiri Hai

The Yuva Puraskar has been awarded for 10 poetry books, seven collections of short stories, two collections of articles and one of essays,



Sahitya Akademi announces Yuva Puraskar,

one novel, one book of ghazals and one memoir.

The other winners of the Yuva Puraskar are Nayanjyoti Sarma (Assamese), Sutapa Chakraborty (Bengali), Self Made Rani Baro (Bodo) and Heena Choudhary (Dogri).

Rinku Rathod (Gujarati), Shruti B R (Kannada), Mohd Ashraf Ziya (Kashmiri), Adwait Salgaonkar (Konkani), Rinki Jha Rishika (Maithili), and Shyamkrishnan R (Malayalam) are also among the winners.

Waikhom Chingkheinganba (Manipuri), Devidas Saudagar (Marathi), Suraj Chapagain (Nepali), Sanjay Kumar Panda (Odia), Randhir (Punjabi), Sonali Sutar (Rajasthani) have also been picked for the Yuva Puruskar. The other winners are Anjan Kar-

makar (Santali), Geeta Pradeep Rupani (Sindhi), Lokesh Raghuraman (Tamil), Ramesh Karthik Nayak (Telugu) and Javed Amber Misbahi (Urdu).

Yuva Puraskar awardees will receive a casket containing an engraved copper plaque and a cheque of Rs 50,000 at an awards ceremony later.

For the Bal Sahitya Puraskar, the Akademi has picked English writer Nandini Sengupta for her historical fiction "The Blue Horse and Other Amazing Animal Stories from Indian History" and Devender

been awarded for seven novels, six books of poetry, four stories, five short stories, one play, and one historical fiction The winners of the Bal Sahitya

The Bal Sahitya Puraskar has

ries "51 Baal Kahaniyan".

Puraskar are Ranju Hazarika (Assamese), Dipanwita Roy (Bengali), Birgin Jekova Machahary (Bodo), Bishan Singh 'Dardi' (Dogri), Gira Pinakin Bhatt (Gujarati) and Krishnamurthy Biligere (Kannada). Muzaffar Hussain Dilbar (Kash-

miri), Harsha Sadguru Shetye (Konkani), Narayangee (Maithili), Unni Ammayambalam (Malayalam), Kshetrimayun Subadani (Manipuri), Bharat Sasane (Marathi), Basanta Thapa (Nepali) and Manas Ranjan Samal (Odia) are also among the winners.

The remaining winners are Kuldeep Singh Deep (Punjabi), Prahlad Singh 'Jhorda' (Rajasthani), Harshdev Madhav (Sanskrit), Dugal Tudu (Santali), Lal Hotchandani 'Lachaar' (Sindhi), Yuva Vasuki (Tamil), P Chandrashekhar Azad (Telugu) and Shamsul Islam Farooqi

(Urdu). The winners of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar will receive a casket containing an engraved copper plaque and a cheque of Rs 50,000 at a special function to be held at a later

ENGINEERING WORKS IN LUMDING DIVISION ender Notice No. : LMG/Engg/88

2024, dtd. 11-06-2024; E-Tender at invited by the undersigned for the following work; SN-1; Brief Description of Ite Replacement of 1 in 12 turnouts with 1 16 turnouts in Mahur (4 sets), in Dibolo (2 sets), in Langting (2 sets). Mandardisa (2 sets), Maibong (1 set) and in Daotuhaja (2 sets) under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/III/Lumding. Tender Value 1,48,90,842.01; Earnest Money ₹.2,24,500/-; Date & time of closing bove tender at 15:00 hrs. on 08-07-202 and opening at 15:00 hrs. on 09-07-2024 The complete information with the tend ocument of above e-tender will b vailable upto 15:00 hrs. of 08-07-202 website http://www.ireps.gov.in.

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Young people more intelligent, know what stories to tell: AR Rahman on India's show at Cannes

NEW DELHI, June 15: Music composer A R Rahman says talent shouldn't be restricted to a region and young Indian artists like Cannes winner Payal Kapadia, who are in tune with changing times, play a key role in making stories from India go global.

Kapadia, an alumnus of the Film & Television Institute of India (FTII), is the first Indian filmmaker to win the Grand Prix award for "All We Imagine as Light" at the Cannes Film Festival. The Malayalam-Hindi feature, an India-French production, was the first film from an Indian director after 30 years to make it to the main competition section of

Rahman, a multiple award-winning musician feted both at home and around the world with double wins at Oscars and Grammys besides a Golden Globe, said beautiful stories from India deserve international recognition.

"The spirit of the young people has changed now. They are more intelligent. They know where to move stuff, what kind of stories to tell. As long as we tell beautiful stories about India and not just poverty, it's a good thing.

"The art of film is not just for (audience at home), it's international... It's important to learn certain things, not be happy with, 'Oh we got a great audience here, box office is good here.' Some people are not satisfied with that. So they go for (international festivals), Payal Kapadia is one (of them)," the composer told PTI in an interview.

Last month, Rahman was also at Cannes to unveil the Nagaland-set "Headhunting to Beat Boxing", directed by Rohit Gupta, at the festival's market.

"Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know" by FTII student Chidananda S Naik and Anasuya Sengupta of "The Shameless" fame won major awards at Cannes. Sengupta became the first Indian to win the best actress prize in Un Certain Regard, while Naik's

> "Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know..." won the La Cinef first prize (film school fiction or animated films) at the film festival. Recalling the time when he earned two Academy Awards for the British film "Slumdog Millionaire" in 2009, Rahman said there were people who said he

deserved to win an award for "Lagaan" (which made it to the final five in the best foreign film Oscar category in 2002) and

"We want our stories to be heard, represented and accredited. There's a system to follow. Even when I won Oscars and everything for 'Slumdog Millionaire', (people said) 'Lagaan' should have won, 'Roja' should have won. I said, 'First of all, I didn't even enter (these awards at the time), I didn't even enter all the stuff in any of the systems'," said the composer, who won the best original song Oscar for "Jai Ho" and another one for the original score of "Slumdog Millionaire".

In February, Zakir Hussain was India's big winner with three Grammys, flautist Rakesh Chaurasia picked up two. Singer Shankar Mahadevan, violinist Ganesh Rajagopalan and percussionist Selvaganesh Vinayakram, Hussain's collaborators in the fusion group Shakti, won one Grammy each.

Giving the example of multiple Grammy winners Hussain and Ricky Kej, Rahman said all in all, the Indian field of arts has witnessed a great high in the last decade.

"Half of the people don't even know (how to enter the system). (They say) 'I think this should win the Grammy'... It's not like that. There's a process for everything. So, even in this case, I think they said it was a collaboration... even Payal Kapadia's film," he added.

"Headhunting to Beat Boxing" is a musical documentary that follows the story of a tribe in the Northeastern state "engulfed in the depths of violence and bloodshed, (the tribe) resurrects itself through the healing power of music and emerges through a musical renaissance". Rahman, who has backed the film via his ARR Immersive Entertainment banner, said he boarded it as a producer five years ago after he fell in love with Nagaland while attending the state's annual Hornbill Festival. (PTI)

KARTIK AARYAN'S **'CHANDU CHAMPION' MINTS** ₹5.4 CRORE ON DAY ONE

NEW DELHI, June 15: Kartik Aaryan-starrer "Chandu Champion" has earned in ₹ 5.4 crore at the domestic box office on its opening day, the makers said Saturday.

Filmmaker Kabir Khan, known for movies such as "Ek Tha Tiger", "Bajrangi Bhaijaan", "83" and "Kabul Express", has directed the film, which made its debut in theatres on Friday and received positive reviews from the

"Chandu Champion" is produced by Sajid Nadiadwala's Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment and Kabir Khan Films.

won the hearts of the audience. "The tremendous love from the audience

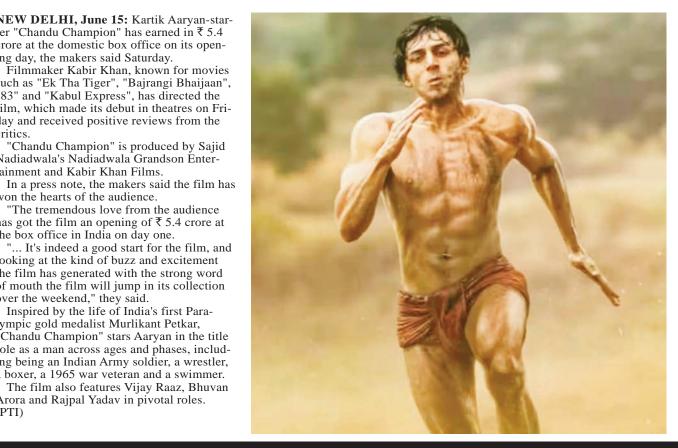
has got the film an opening of ₹ 5.4 crore at the box office in India on day one. ... It's indeed a good start for the film, and

looking at the kind of buzz and excitement

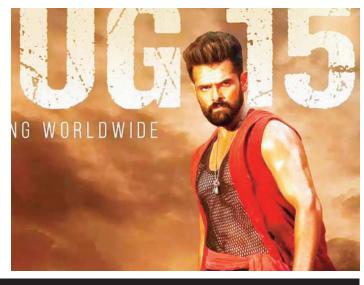
the film has generated with the strong word of mouth the film will jump in its collection over the weekend," they said. Inspired by the life of India's first Paravmpic gold medalist Murlikant Petkar. "Chandu Champion" stars Aaryan in the title

ing being an Indian Army soldier, a wrestler, a boxer, a 1965 war veteran and a swimmer. The film also features Vijay Raaz, Bhuvan Arora and Rajpal Yadav in pivotal roles.

role as a man across ages and phases, includ-



Puri Jagannadh's 'Double iSmart' to release on **Independence Day**



'Mr & Mrs Mahi' earns ₹ 50 crore in two weeks



NEW DELHI, June 15: "Mr & Mrs Mahi", starring Rajkummar Rao and Janhvi Kapoor, has crossed ₹ 50 crore mark at the global box office, the makers said on Saturday.

The romantic sports drama, directed by Sharan Sharma and produced by Zee Studios and Dharma Productions, was released in theatres on May 31. Dharma Productions on Friday evening shared the box office update on its official X page along with a poster that stated the film has earned ₹ 50 crore gross at the worldwide box office.

"Destiny brought them together, but your love made them score big on dreams!" the banner captioned the post.

In "Mr & Mrs Mahi", Kapoor plays the role of Mahima, a doctor, who becomes a cricketer after her husband Mahendra, essayed by Rao, spots the cricketing talent in her and encourages her to chase her dream. The movie also features Rajesh Sharma, Kumud Mishra and Zarina Wahab in pivotal roles. (PTI)

maker Puri Jagannadh's upcoming film "Double iSmart" will be released in theatres on Independence Day on August 15, the makers announced on Sat-

MUMBAI, June 15: Film-

The film, also backed by the filmmaker and Charmme Kaur's banner Puri Connects. features Telugu actor Ram Pothineni in the lead.

In a post on Instagram, the actor shared the release date of the film, which will come out in five languages — Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam.

"Maammmaaaaa! Date block kar!! Ustaad #DoubleIsmart Shankar #DoubleiSmartonAug15," the actor wrote alongside a poster of the film.

"Double iSmart" is a sequel to Pothineni and Jagannadh's 2019 sci-fi action film "iSmart Shankar", about an assassin who helps the police when a slain cop's memories are transferred to his brain.

Bollywood star Sanjay Dutt, who was recently seen in Vijay's Tamil hit "Leo", is also part of the cast of "Double iS-

Mani Sharma has composed music for the film. (PTI)

YRF's 'Maharaj' doesn't drop on Netflix after **Gujarat HC stays release**

NEW DELHI, June 15: YRF Entertainment's "Maharaj" did not premiere on Netflix on Friday as scheduled after the Gujarat High Court stayed its release following a petition by members of a Hindu sect who claimed the film would hurt their religious sentiments.

The film, in which Aamir Khan's son Junaid Khan makes his debut, is based on an 1862 libel case between a Vaishnavite religious leader and a journalist, Karsandas Mulji, who alleged in an article in a Gujarati weekly that the godman had sexual liaisons with his women devotees.

"Maharaj" caught the attention of social media users on Wednesday with hashtags such as "Boycott Netflix" and "Ban Maharaj Film" trending on X.

On Thursday, Aamir Khan was also trending on the social media platform.

Responding to a petition by members of Pushtimarg, a Vaishnav sect of Hinduism, the Gujarat High Court stayed the film's release on Thursday. A single-judge bench of Justice Sangeeta Vishen passed the order against the film and issued notices to the Centre, Netflix and Yash Raj Films. The court has posted the matter for further hearing on June

YRF and Netflix are challenging the stay order, said a

trade insider. "The matter is in court. Maharaj is based on a real-life case. It is adapted from Saurabh Shah's book titled 'Maharaj'. The author has also come out to say that the film does not vilify the Vaishnav community or the religion.

"It is about a social reformer who brought about a positive change in society. The makers are hopeful for a positive outcome on this," the trade source

Shah, the author of the 2016 book, said in a post on X that people should form an opinion only after watching the film.

"This film is neither against Sanatan nor Vaishnav sect. Me and my family are part of the Vaishnav community with full devotion. The book written by me and the film made by @yrf are both in favour of the Vaishnav community... 'Maharaj' is a story that Hindus should be proud of," he added on Thurs-

Directed by Siddharth P Malhotra and produced by Aditya Chopra under YRF Entertainment, the movie also stars Jaideep Ahlawat.

And most unlike a mainstream film launching a star son, there were no trailers or teasers, barring a poster featuring Jaideep and Junaid.

The poster shows the two actors side by side with Jaideep's character sporting a 'tilak' on his forehead while Junaid's character is dressed in a waistcoat. According to a press release issued by Netflix last month, "Maharaj" follows the "allegations of misconduct by a prominent figure" and journalist and social reformer Mulji, who was a pioneering advocate for women's rights and social reform. (PTI)





Host Germany give Euro

2024 liftoff by outclass-

ing 10-man Scotland 5-1

India, SA eye building momentum, fitness of Jemimah, Pooja in focus

BENGALURU, June 15: India and South Africa will be eager to achieve different goals with the broader picture of the Women's T20 World Cup hanging in the backdrop when they begin a three-week long all-format series with the first ODI here on Sun-

In the year of T20 WC, the 50over matches might look a bit incongruous but they are significant for the two teams looking to hit a busy road to the ICC showpiece, to be hosted by Bangladesh in October, on a winning note, and gain momen-

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side, which had lost the ODI and T20I series against Australia at home this January, came roaring back, blanking Bangladesh 5-0 in a recent away T20I series and the hosts would like to build on it further.

Head coach Amol Muzumdar termed the result as a vital stepping stone in their preparation along with the target-oriented camps in Bengaluru and Mumbai. "We had fantastic preparations in the last eight weeks. We went to Bangladesh and won the series 5-0. We practiced on the same ground where we will be playing the World Cup.

'We also had a couple of camps before this series (against SA). We had a split camp. The bowlers' camp was held at the NCA (Bengaluru) and the batters' camp was in Navi Mumbai. It was a concentrated camp and we achieved some desired results," said Muzumdar.

However, the victory over Bangladesh on slow tracks was crafted by the Indian bowlers as



the batters often struggled to hit the top gear. But a return to the M Chinnaswamy stadium with its placid pitch, short boundaries and quick outfield, will fill them with hope. The likes of Harmanpreet, Smriti Mandhana and Shefali Verma will be keen to get

back to the run-making ways. India will also keep an eye on the fitness of top-order batter Jemimah Rodrigues, who had missed the series against Bangladesh with a back injury.

Rodrigues, who has been undergoing rehab at the NCA, was included in the squad subject to fitness. Medium pacer Pooja Vastrakar, who appeared in all the matches against Bangladesh, has also been named in the squad, though she is also recuperating from an unspecified in-

But India have enough depth to cover the possible absence of the aforementioned duo, and the young wicketkeeper batter Uma

Chetry will also be closely monitored. The uncapped player has replaced injured Yastika Bhatia in the team and will be in con-

tention alongside Richa Ghosh.

India's bowling unit consisting of pacers Renuka Singh Thakur, Arundhati Reddy, spinners Asha Shobana and Shreyanka Patil will be quite a handful for the visitors irrespective of the nature of the surface here.

series against Sri Lanka at home where they lost the T20Is 1-2 before sharing the ODIs 1-1.

So, they would want a turnaround in this series and in-form skipper Laura Wolvaardt will have to lead their batting. Her last five innings are: 102, 56, 41, 110 not out and 184 not out.

The Proteas will also hope for other senior pros such as Marizanne Kapp, Ayabonga Khaka On the other hand, South and Nadine de Klerk to find their

Netherlands before their game

against Sri Lanka was washed

out. The would have remained

in contention for a Super Eights

berth had they defeated South

Africa but they will now play

tion, especially if we won

today's game, it would be a very

Bangladesh and our games. The

next game, we'll play for pride.

We wanted to beat a Test play-

ing country. Eventually, it didn't

happen today so we want to do

'We are aware of that situa-

knockout game for

MUNCIH, June 15: Host Germany could hardly have wished for a better start to the European Championship.

Goals from Florian Wirtz and Jamal Musiala in an imperious first half set Germany on the way to a confidence-boosting 5-1 win over 10-man Scotland in the Euro 2024 curtainraiser on Fri-

While Germany didn't really have to break sweat against a sub-par Scotland at Allianz Arena, it was the ideal result to launch its tournament and ramp up excitement in the country.

'Yes, that's exactly the way we wanted to start and, to be honest, we needed a start just like that. Germany captain Ilkay Gündogan told German broadcaster ZDF. "I had a good feeling before the game already, to be hon-

"But exactly this atmosphere, the euphoria in the stadium now with our own fans, that's exactly what we need in order to go far.

est, and it came true, thank God.

Pre-tournament title expectations of the Germans were underwhelming after they crashed out of their last three major tournaments. But they've opened with their biggest victory in Euros history.

They dominated the first half, which ended in the worst possible way for Scotland when defender Ryan Porteous was sent off and Kai Havertz converted the resulting penalty kick. Substitutes Niclas Füllkrug and Emre Can piled on to Scotland's misery after the break.

"The first 20 minutes were very impressive. The first goals were very good," Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann said. "It's very valuable that many players performed well early on.

"It was only the first step but a very good one and we can build

on this one. We're very happy.' Scotland, which hadn't had a shot on goal all match, managed to give its raucous fans something to celebrate late on when the ball was bundled into the back of the net off Germany defender Antonio Rüdiger for an own goal. Steve Clarke's side will have to do better against Hungary and Switzerland if it is to get out of Group A and reach the knockout stage for the first time. "Difficult night. We didn't play to our standard. The German team were excellent,"

"We feel as though we've let ourselves down. We're better than that. Hopefully we can show that the next two games."

Scotland's Tartan Army of supporters started the match in fine voice but they were swiftly quietened when Wirtz scored in the

Toni Kroos picked out Joshua Kimmich with a brilliant crossfield lob and he rolled it across for Wirtz to fire in.

Wirtz became Germany's youngest Euros goal-scorer at 21. Musiala, 67 days older than Wirtz, doubled Germany's tally nine minutes later after combining well with Havertz.

Right on halftime, Scotland goalkeeper Angus Gunn only parried a header from Gündogan, but just when the captain appeared set to tuck home the rebound he was upended by a thunderous challenge from Por-

Referee Clément Turpin showed Porteous a straight red card and awarded Germany a penalty, which Havertz converted.

Scotland managed to hold out in the second half until an attempted exchange between Musiala and Gündogan fell kindly for Füllkrug. The substitute, who came on only five minutes earlier, unleashed a thunderbolt into the top right corner.

Scotland's late consolation came when Kieran McKenna's header from a free kick went in off Rüdiger.

Still, Scotland conceded five goals for the first time in 12 years when Can, who was brought into the squad only two days ago as a late replacement for the ill Aleksandar Pavlovic, curled in in stoppage time. "A great feeling and a crazy story ... I was on vacation two days ago" Can told ZDF. "Then the call came on Wednesday, and on Wednesday evening I met up with the team, trained once yesterday, came in today (off the bench), scored a goal. I'm thankful to Julian (Nagelsmann) and the whole coaching staff that they put their trust in me." Late German soccer great Franz Beckenbauer was honored before the match, and the capacity crowd included German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Scotland First Minister John Swinney, and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán.

Messi scores twice in return to Argentina lineup in 4-1 win over Guatemala

MUNCIH, June 15: Host Germany could hardly have wished for a better start to the European Championship.

Goals from Florian Wirtz and Jamal Musiala in an imperious first half set Germany on the way to a confidence-boosting 5-1 win over 10-man Scotland in the Euro 2024 curtainraiser on

While Germany didn't really have to break sweat against a sub-par Scotland at Allianz Arena, it was the ideal result to launch its tournament and ramp up excitement in the country.

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Nepal have showed in T20 World Cup that they belong here: skipper Paudel

CENT), June 15: Skipper Rohit Paudel believes Nepal have done enough in the T20 World Cup to show they belong at the highest level even though they have fallen out of reckoning for Super Eight round.

Nepal fell agonisingly short of realising their dream of beating a full member side when they lost to South Africa by a mere run in a low-scoring thriller here.

With two runs needed off the last ball, Gulsan Jha (6) was run-out as the Proteas notched up their fourth consecutive win in the tournament.

"The way we played today; it shows that we belong here. The way we bowled and the way we batted also, I think we belong here. This will give good confidence to us for the next game against Bangladesh," Paudel told the media here after Nepal's heartbreaking defeat.

"I am very proud of the unit, especially the way they played today. The way we bowled in the first innings and the way we batted, especially in the last few moments where we could have



capitalised on our side, but it went their way," he said.

Paudel remained nonchalant even though he watched his team coming close to a historic win but failing to get over the

"I didn't feel anything. I was just there in the moment," he two runs were needed in two

balls. T20 is a fast game. The game shifts with two good balls or even a boundary. Being present is essential, especially in T20, because the momentum

shifts a lot," he added. "We missed nothing. We played good cricket but still we went on losing side. But overall, said. "Everyone was excited, we played very well," Paudel

that in the next game." Paudel also thanked Nepal's plethora of fans at each game in this World Cup, which shows the rise in popularity for the game in the Himalayan nation.

"We feel very grateful to them, especially the way they come and support us. We wanted to give a gift to them today, but it didn't go our way. This exposure will help us in coming matches and if we play regularly these tournaments and these type of games, it will work for us for next games," he

Brazil goes to Copa America with Endrick up front and more unknowns than knowns

SAO PAULO, June 15: Whatever Brazil does at the Copa America in the United States it will come as a surprise to many.

Dorival Júnior, who took over as coach in January, has been in charge for only two friendlies and his squad for the South American soccer championship so far has provided little evidence of his plans. Added to that is the absence of aging superstar Neymar, now

32, who is out with an ACL injury. A few Brazil team traits have been easily recognizable over the last decades. Win or lose, there's often sharp dribblers up front, right and left backs that play from one end to the other, and strong defenders in place to score goals.

Not this time. The one exception is Vinicius Júnior, one of the favorites for the Ballon d'Or after winning the Champions League with Real Madrid and scoring in the final against Borussia Dortmund. He will be Brazil's main star at the tournament from June 20 to July 15. Brazil watchers don't expect the Copa America to provide much evidence of what the team

will look like at the 2026 World Cup — and to most in the country, that is the only tournament that matters. But the continental tournament is likely to give the new coach a chance to test young talents like strikers Endrick, who will be wearing the team's historic No. 9, and Rodrygo as starters.

"It is utopia to say we are not thinking about results," Júnior said last month, adding he has enough players to pick from despite the absences of Casemiro, Richarlison and recently injured goalkeeper Ederson. "It doesn't matter the age, the club, or anything else that is not each athlete's moment. We lost 14 players to injury in the previous call, some more after they came to us. Those who played gave a great response then.'

Brazil beat England 1-0 at Wembley Stadium in March, and a few days later drew 3-3 with Spain at the Santiago Bernabeu. Júnior's team looked quicker in transitions than the team assembled by predecessor Fernando Diniz throughout 2023. Still, those two matches did not give any hints about the team's future.

After upcoming friendlies against the United States and Mexico, Brazil will face Costa Rica, Paraguay and Colombia in Group D at the Copa America.

Endrick scored Brazil's winner at Wemblev and also netted in Madrid, which will become his home next season. The 17-yearold striker is widely expected to be in the starting lineup at Copa America, his first major event with the senior team.

"I am glad for the person I am becoming. I don't put my head down, I never give up easily," Endrick said in an interview with TV Globo that aired on the day Júnior called him up for the national team. "Now I need to work well here at the club so I can get well to the senior team."

Endrick picked up a right thigh injury while playing for Palmeiras in May. This year, he has scored seven goals for his club and the national team in 24 matches. Although that mark is far from impressive, most agree that the teenager deserves to be the team's target man for the foreseeable future. If things don't work out,



Júnior might be forced to use Rodrygo as a center forward. He planned last year. could also assemble a Real Madrid trio up front, with Vinicius and Rodrygo on the wings and Endrick

as a center forward. Under fire with Neymar out and several inexperienced players in the squad, midfielder Lucas Paquetá has a chance to carry the team to the title and, maybe, revive his chances of leaving West Ham midfielder received a yellow card

for Manchester City, as initially

Paquetá, however, was charged with misconduct by English soccer authorities on May 23 after being accused of deliberately receiving yellow cards during Premier League matches to influence betting markets. The case centers around four matches from November 2022 to August 2023. The

in each of them.

Júnior has repeatedly said he sees the 26-year-old Paquetá as one of the potential foundations of his team, but Diniz did not include the midfielder in three previous national team callups because of the investigations in England.

Paquetá denies any wrongdoing. If found guilty by English soccer authorities, he would still have several appeals at his disposal. Several relatively unknown players are in the squad.

Left back Wendell has a real chance of becoming a starter in a position that has been open since Marcelo left the national team. Defender Beraldo, who quickly entered Paris Saint-Germain's starting lineup, will fight for a place with Éder Militão, who re-

cently has recovered from injury. Brazil's starting midfield for the Copa America could also include Ederson, who just won the Europa League with Atalanta, and Wolverhampton's João Gomes. Also little known at home, strikers Pepê, Evanilson and Savinho will fight for a place in the team if Raphinha fails to deliver. (AP)

Page 12 June 16_Normal Pages 15-06-2024 21:09 Page 1

RAMPANT AUSTRALIA WARY OF SCOTLAND THREAT

Pakistan take on Ireland in dead rubber in T20 World Cup

GROS ISLET (ST LUCIA), June 15: about Australia manipulating their ap A rampant Australia will be wary of Scotland threat when the two teams clash in a crucial Group B encounter in the T20 World Cup here with the outcome set to influence Super Eight qualification. With Australia having already booked one spot for the Super Eight from Group B, Scotland and England are in race for the second position.

Scotland will go through if they beat Australia or even if their contest is washed out, but in case of a defeat to the Mitchell Marsh-led side and England winning against Namibia hours earlier, the Scotswould miss the bus.

For England, a win over Namibia is a must and if the Australians do them a favour by beating Scotland, chances will only brighten up.

A washout in England-Namibia game in the same group will see Scotland go

Australia have been in top-form with hardly any serious concern. Nathan Ellis is expected to continue featuring in their playing XI since the Australians tend to rest one of their big three fast bowlers -Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc — in such contests.

Hazlewood had earlier mentioned

proach against Scotland to keep England threat at bay, but Jos Buttler's team have done themselves a massive favour by improving their Net Run Rate immensely with a dominant victory over Oman.

For the Scots, beating former champions Australia is 'a hell of an opportunity' in Michael Leask's words and they would want to give their best, or maybe even hope that rain gods do them a favour, since they are still second on the points table with five points compared to England's three.

Squads: Australia: Mitchell Marsh (c), Ashton Agar, Pat Cummins, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis (wk), Glenn Maxwell, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade (wk), David Warner and Adam Zampa.

Scotland: Richie Berrington (c), Matthew Cross, Brad Currie, Chris Greaves, Oli Hairs, Jack Jarvis, Michael Jones, Michael Leask, Brandon Mc-Mullen, George Munsey, Safyaan Sharif, Chris Sole, Charlie Tear, Mark Watt, Brad Wheal.

Match starts at 6:00am IST. Babar Azam's Pakistan will look to re-



store some pride when they take on a under-firing Ireland in their final Group A match at Lauderhill in Florida on Sunday. With arch-rivals India and USA sealing the two spots for the Super Eight stage from Group A, Pakistan have been

confined to some introspection and relook at their T20 game. But before all that, Babar's side will have to first thwart the Irish challenge.

Ireland had beaten Pakistan comprehensively in a bilateral game in days

leading to the T20 World Cup and the contest — if at all it happens — could see both the teams in green fighting hard for a final laugh.

Ireland are the only team without a win in Group A and they will be inspired

to sign off with their account opened, riding on Pakistan's lack of confidence, their trait of being fallible at crucial stages and a unified effort.

But all that will come to fore only if the rain stays away to allow play to happen as Florida has witnessed a flood-like station amid heavy downpour in the last few days.

In fact, co-hosts USA's unexpected qualification happened only after their contest here against Ireland was washed out. which had also ensured Pakistan's exit in the first round.

Squads:

Pakistan: Babar Azam (c), Abrar Ahmed, Azam Khan (wk), Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Usman

Ireland: Paul Stirling (c), Mark Adair, Ross Adair, Andy Balbirnie, Curtis Campher, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Graham Hume, Josh Little*, Barry Mc-Carthy, Neil Rock (wk), Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker (wk), Ben White, Craig

Match starts at 8:00pm IST. (PTI)

Veteran sports journalist Harpal Singh Bedi passes away South Africa edges Nepal

NEW DELHI, June 15: Veteran sports journalist Harpal Singh Bedi, who covered several highs and lows of Indian sports in a career spanning over four decades, served as the national Olympic contingent's press attache in 2012 and charmed the media box with his inimitable wit and warmth, died after prolonged illness here

on Saturday.

He was 72 and is survived by his wife Revathi and daughter Pallavi.

The former sports editor of the United News of India (UNI) was among the tallest figures in Indian sports journalism and was working as a consulting editor of the Statesman newspaper for the last couple of years.

His awe-inspiring work experience included on-ground coverage of eight Olympic Games, "hard to count" Asian Games, the Commonwealth Games, World Cups of cricket and hockey, and world and national championships of athletics and other major Olympic

Not to be forgotten was his ability to be a mentor to young journalists in the press box. He could make nervous newbies comfortable with his trademark humour.

"Harpal Singh Bedi was a quintessential newsman, loved and re-

spected...," said veteran journalist and sports administrator G Rajaraman as he paid tributes to his former colleague.

"His finger was on the pulse of Indian sport and sports administration," Rajaraman, who will be India's press attache at the upcoming Paris Olympics, told PTI.

A close friend of Bishan Singh Bedi, he was also often mistaken for the late Indian spin great.

"We are close friends you know, I am BSB, he is HSB. We go back a long way," the former India captain, who passed away in 2023 after battling multiple health prob-

lems, had told this correspondent

An alumnus of the prestigious Jawahar Lal Nehru University, where he did his Masters and M. Phil from the School of International Studies, Bedi was considered a father figure in sports journalism by his colleagues.

"A particularly sad day for first generation JNUites. Harpal Singh Bedi, the legend of our times, passed away this morning. My condolences to his family. Om Shanti," Foreign Minister Dr S Jaishankar posted on X with a group picture featuring him and Singh Bedi and was interviewed

Bedi from their time at the univer-

Bedi was witness to the change and growth in the country's sporting landscape from the time P T Usha attained worldwide fame with her fourth place finish in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics to the epoch-making gold medal that rifle shooter Abhinav Bindra won in the 2008 Beijing Games.

His fame transcended borders and he became a popular figure with Pakistani journalists when he toured the country with the Indian cricket teams in 2004 and 2005. He quite literally became a story for the local journalists for his jovial personality.

"His understanding of the Indo-Pak relationship was at par with the best foreign affairs experts," Rajaram recalled.

Senior Pakistani sports journalist Rasheed Shakoor was among those who befriended Bedi during these tours.

"Unke paas khabron ke saath saath lateefon ka bhi khazana hota tha (He was a treasure trove of both news and jokes)," Shakoor told PTI.

"His was such a jolly personality. It was so easy to become his friend. I once wrote a piece about how he was mistaken for Bishan by a TV channel.

"I called him for a comment and I remember he laughed so much and made fun of me for writing about it. Bohot hi pyaare insaan, jo respect dete the, aur badle mein unhe bohot respect milti thi (He was a lovely human being. He gave respect to others and also earned a lot of respect)."

The only recorded instances of Bedi not being his jovial self in the press box were the times when the Indian hockey team performed

A passionate follower of the sport, Bedi could be seen muttering under his breath in frustration while furiously typing his reports much to the amusement of his colleagues. "The only journalist I knew who could laugh at himself. The press box will not be the same without him," said Vijay Lokapally, a former senior editor with The Hindu'.

However, Bedi's health had deteriorated in the past one year, making him reclusive to even closest of friends

"Harpal Singh Bedi ji, the most cheerful among sports journalists, is no longer among us. Rest in peace," 2008 Olympic bronzewinning boxer Vijender Singh posted on his social media page, offering his tributes. (PTI)

KINGSTOWN (ST VINCENT), June 15: Nepal came within a whisker of achieving its best-ever win in cricket, losing by one run to powerhouse South Africa here.

Nepal needed two runs from the last ball of the match to win, one run to match South Africa's modest total of 115-7 and force a Super Over. But teenager Ghulsan Jha was run out at the non-striker's end attempting a single from the final ball and South Africa held on to win a thrilling

The Nepal players were disconsolate. They seemed to be headed for Nepal's first win in 12 attempts against a ICC full member nation when they needed 22 runs from the last 24 balls. They needed 18 runs from 18 balls but lost three wickets for one run within six balls including two wickets to spinner Tabraiz Shamsi and the equation changed. Gulshan was unable to score from the first two balls of the last over,

bowled by Ottneil Baartman. He then slashed a four through the off side and Nepal needed four runs from three balls. Gulshan ran two with Sompal Kami and Nepal needed 2 from two

balls. The fifth ball was a dot ball — no runs were scored — and Gulshan was run out next ball to end the match. "We were very close and yet so far," Nepal captain Rohit Paudel said.

"I think in crunch moments we did well and the way we fought was very good. If we can play top teams more regularly then next time we will be on the winning side." (AP)

HI names 40-member core probable group for junior men's national coaching camp

Hockey India On Saturday announced a 40-player core probable group for a 63-day junior men's national coaching camp to be held at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) from June 16.

This camp follows the Indian junior men's team's European tour, where it played five matches from May 20-29 against Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands club team Bredase Hockey Vereniging

During the tour, India secured a 2-2 (4-2 SO) win against Belgium in their first game but lost 2-3 in the second match against the same opponent. They faced a narrow 5-4 defeat against Bredase Hockey Vereniging. Against Germany, India was defeated 2-3 in the first game but won 1-1 (3-1 SO) in the return match, which was also the final game of the tour. The upcoming camp, led by coach Janardhana CB and overseen by HI's high performance director Herman Kruis, will end on August 18.

Janardhana said, "We have a tal-

tensive training sessions will help

Singh, Bikramjit Singh, Ashwani Yaday, Adarsh G. Ali Khan

Forwards: Mohit Karma, Sourabh Anand Kushwaha, Araijeet Singh Hundal, Gurjot Singh, Mohd. Konain Dad, Prabhdeep Singh, Dilraj Singh, Arshdeep Singh, Mohd. Zaid Khan, Gurse-

them reach their full potential. Our goal is to develop a cohesive and formidable team ready to take on any challenge." 40-member core-probable group: Goalkeepers: Prince Deep

Defenders: Sharda Nand Tiwari, Sukhvinder, Amir Ali, Rohit, Yogember Rawat, Manoj Yadav, Anmol Ekka, Prashant Barla, Akash Sorong, Sundaram Rajawat, Anand Y, Talem Priyo Barta

Midfielders: Ankit Pal, Rosan Kujur, Thounaojam Ingalemba Luwang, Mukesh Toppo, Thokchom Kingson Singh, Ritik Kujur, Ankush, Jeetpal, Chandan Yadav, Manmeet Singh, Vachan HA, Govind Nag, Bipin Billavara Ravi

wak Singh. (PTI)

Mumbai FC sign Kerala forward Noufal on three-year deal

MUMBAI, June 15: The 2023-24 ISL champions Mumbai City FC on Saturday announced the signing of Kerala forward Noufal PN on a threeyear contract till the end of 2027 season.

The 23-year-old began his footballing journey with Basco FC before securing a transfer to his hometown club, Gokulam Kerala FC, in 2022. "Mumbai City FC is one of the most successful clubs in India and I am excited to join them," Noufal said in a statement. "It's a dream come true for me to don the prestigious jersey and play at the biggest competitions. I'm eager to grow as a player and work with Coach Petr Kratky. I can't wait to join the squad and embark on this new chapter with the club."

Mumbai FC coach Kratky said they were looking to sign the Kerala forward for sometime. "I am delighted to welcome him to Mumbai City FC. His remarkable pace and skillful footwork in setting up goals for his teammates make him a valuable addition to our team. I am looking forward to having him in our squad and working with him," he stated. The Kerala native quickly made his mark on the squad, cementing his place as a starter through match-winning assists and goal contributions. (PTI)

Aditi Ashok is T-16 on the LPGA at Meijer Classic

BELMONT, MI (US), June 15: Indian golfer Aditi Ashok carded two under 70 to be placed Tied-16th at the halfway stage of the Meijer LPGA Classic, here. The Bengaluru player, who is enduring an average season, is due to play her third Olympic Games in August and a return to form will be a relief. Still without a top-10 finish in 2024, Aditi had a bogey start but made up with birdies on the sixth, eighth and the 18th for a 70 and a total of 6-under 138.

She is five shots behind three-time LPGA Tour winner Ally Ewing who shot the round of the week through 36 holes with a 9-under 63 second round. Moving from T33 after her firstround 70, Ewing sits in a tie for the lead at -11 alongside young Aussie star Grace Kim, who went 68-65 in rounds one and two to put herself

in prime position heading into Moving Day. It is a stacked leaderboard behind Ewing and Kim, with LPGA Tour winner Nanna Koerstz Madsen and two-time KLPGA winner Narin An just behind them at -9 and in a tie for third.

Five players follow them at T5, including major champion Allisen Corpuz and two-time Meijer LPGA Classic champion Brooke Henderson. China's Jing Yan, who is the only player in the field to go bogey free in both rounds at Blythefield Country Club, is also among those tied for fifth with Saturday ahead. Notables to miss the cut which came at 2-under are six-time 2024 Tour winner Nelly Korda and majorchampion Minjee Lee. Defending champion Leona Maguire and Lexi Thompson, made the weekend among the 81 players. (PTI)

Indian men's archery team qualifies as top seed in Final Olympic Qualifier

ANTALYA (TURKEY), June 15: Indian men's recurve archery team of Tarundeep Rai, Dhiraj Bommadevara and Pravin Jadhav entered the 24-team elimination round as the top seed in the Final Olympic Qualifier here on Saturday.

The trio shot a total of 2018 points to claim the pole position in the leaderboard ahead of Chinese Taipei (2008) and Germany (1998). The top-24 made the cut for the elimination round which is a draw of 32. A total of 46 teams com-

By virtue of finishing on top, India got a bye into the last-16 where they will face 17th seed Luxembourg.

elimination round will get the Paris Olympic quota places in the men's recurve team event.

India will get their individual quota upgraded to team quota should they finish in the top-three. Dhiraj had bagged the individual

quota earlier. Meanwhile, Indian women's recurve team of Deepika Kumari, Bhajan Kaur and Ankita Bhakat on Friday failed to get the quota after suffering a shock 3-5

quarterfinals. The women's team can still qualify based on their rankings ahead of the Paris Olympics cut-off date. (PTI)

loss to lower-ranked Ukraine in the pre-

Groupings within Pakistan team was also a factor in disastrous WC campaign: Sources

KARACHI, June 15: Pakistan's shock early exit from the T20 World Cup is being blamed on "groupings" within the team and non-performance of senior players during critical moments and it could lead to "major changes" not just in the team but also in the According to Pakistan Cricket

Board (PCB) sources, the biggest challenge before Babar Azam on his comeback as captain was to unite the team but he could not do so because of the groupings. Shaheen Shah Afridi upset at

losing the captaincy and Babar not supporting him when required while Muhammad Rizwan was unhappy at not being considered for the captaincy.

"There are three groups in the team, one led by Babar Azam, the second one by Shaheen Shaheen Afridi and the third one by Muhammad Rizwan. Add to this mix the return of seniors like Muhammad Aamir and Imad Wasim and the recipe was ready for a World Cup disaster," a source close to the team told PTI.

"The return of Imad and Amir added to the confusion as it was difficult for Babar to get any worthwhile performances from both of them as they had not played top level domestic or international cricket for a long while now except in franchise based

"There were even instances where some players were not talking to each other and a few of them even tried to appease all the group leaders in the team," added the source. A senior PCB official said that

Chairman Mohsin Naqvi was well aware of the problems in the team even before the World Cup and had been briefed by his right hand, national selector and senior manager, Wahab Riaz. "Naqvi held two meetings with

all the players in private and gave them pep talks asking them to put their issues aside and focus on winning the World Cup and he would remove all misgivings in the team later on but apparently things didn't work out.



what is a captain supposed to do when your premier bowler can't even defend 15 in the final over against a weak USA side and concedes a boundary and six on full

"Or when an all-rounder brought out of retirement to help win the World Cup sits out with fitness issues.

The role of outside elements including agents of players and some former players who ran social media campaigns also have not helped ease the simmering tensions in the team.

Naqvi has now hinted at making changes in the national team but another well-informed source made it clear that changes would now also be made in the cricket board.

"The Chairman obviously is going to clean up things in the team but already he has started a process of performance related appraisals of senior and mid level employees in the board," the

source claimed. "You will see major changes in the team and at management level in the board now," he said.

"Naqvi is himself facing problems as he is not the ruling government's choice to head the board. He is also now facing criticism for the WC debacle and there are calls for his head as well," said another PCB source.

Several reliable sources have also confirmed that Naqvi will not be making an immediate call on Babar Azam's captaincy since Pakistan now plays its next white ball series in November.

"The one good thing for Naqvi is that Pakistan now has two test series lined up at home against Bangladesh and England and with Shan Masood already the test captain and a new head coach in Jason Gillispie and he doesn't have to

worry about immediate changes. Usually in Pakistan cricket a failed World Cup campaign means that heads roll and the board tends to search for scapegoats but this time even the cricket fans and critics are pushing the PCB to take steps to stop

the fall of the team. (PTI)

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"I am not defending Babar but