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Education ministry after UGC-NET cancelled: 'Won't hesitate in taking action'

New Delhi: The Ministry of Education announced the cancellation of the University Grants Commission National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET) 2024, citing potential compromises in the examination's integrity. The decision, affecting over 9 lakh candidates who participated in the exam conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on June 18, comes amidst growing concerns over the security and fairness of competitive exams. Govind Jaiswal, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Education, confirmed the cancellation during a briefing on Thursday, stating, "The Ministry has observed significant indications of a possible compromise in the UGC-NET examination. Therefore, as a precautionary measure, we have decided to cancel the exam." He further added that the



matter has been referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a thorough investigation. Earlier intelligence inputs from the National Cyber Crime Threat Analytics Unit raised red flags regarding the exam's integrity shortly after its conclusion. These concerns prompted the Ministry to prioritize transparency and uphold the sanctity of

the examination process by opting for cancellation and scheduling a fresh examination at a later date. The cancellation of UGC-NET 2024 marks a critical juncture amidst controversies surrounding other examinations conducted by the NTA, notably the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-UG) for undergraduate medical admissions. The

NEET-UG results have been marred by allegations of irregularities, including the awarding of grace marks and alleged paper leaks. In response to the NEET-UG issues, the Ministry of Education has initiated measures to address concerns, including seeking detailed reports from authorities regarding alleged irregularities in exam conduct in specific regions. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, amidst mounting criticism and protests related to NTA-administered exams, assured the public of necessary reforms within the agency. "There is a need for substantial improvements in the National Testing Agency," he acknowledged, underscoring the government's commitment to ensuring fairness and accountability in competitive examinations.

President Droupadi Murmu appoints BJP's Bhartruhari Mahtab as Lok Sabha Protem Speaker



New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Bhartruhari Mahtab, a seasoned BJP parliamentarian, as the Protem Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha. This announcement marks a crucial step in the parliamentary proceedings as Mahtab assumes the responsibility under Article 95(1) of the Constitution until the election of a permanent Speaker. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju shared the news, stating, "President is pleased to appoint Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Member of Lok Sabha, to perform the duties of Speaker Protem."

Alongside Mahtab, several other Members of Parliament have been ap-

pointed under Article 99 of the Constitution to assist in administering the oath or affirmation to newly elected members.

The appointed members include Suresh Kodikunnil, Thalikkottai Rajuthavar Baalu, Radha Mohan Singh, Fagga Singh Kulaste, and Sudip Bandyopadhyay, highlighting a diverse representation across party lines in facilitating the initial proceedings of the new Lok Sabha. The role of Protem Speaker is pivotal in maintaining parliamentary decorum and ensuring the smooth conduct of business until a Speaker is democratically elected by members of the Lok Sabha.

Pakyong district declares water unsafe in Nimtar and Mangthang

Gangtok: Tashi Chophel, the District Collector of Pakyong and Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority has issued a directive declaring the water from Nimtar, Mangthang and surrounding areas unsafe for consumption. This order, issued under Section 30 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, comes after water samples from these regions tested positive for contamination, as confirmed by the microbiology lab at STNM Hospital, according to the Health and Family Welfare Department of the Government of Sikkim. The District Collector, Tashi Chophel stated the gravity of the situation and urged the residents to refrain from using the contaminated water for drinking, cooking, or any other domestic purposes. "The water from these sources has been declared unfit for con-



sumption. We are advising the public to take immediate precautions to avoid any health risks," stated Chophel in the official order dated June 20, 2024. Earlier in the day, The Sangklang bridge, a crucial connection between Mangan and Dzongu, was washed away due to incessant rainfall. This severely hampered transportation and the movement of materials between these regions. To address this urgent need, a zip line has been constructed in Sangklang to facilitate the transfer of materials to and

from Dzongu and Mangan. The engineering team of BAC Passingdang, We are advising the public to take immediate precautions to avoid any health risks," officials from BAC Mangan and the entire engineering team of Zilla MDZP Mangan, led by Divisional Engineer (MDZP) R.D. Lepcha, undertook the construction of the zip line. A significant aspect of this effort was the involvement of the local communities of Dzongu and Chandey, who played a crucial role in the rapid response to the crisis.

NIA arrests accused in Bishnupur bomb blast case

Imphal: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a second person in the bomb blast that took place at Kwakta in Manipur's Bishnupur district on June 21. The NIA, in coordination with Manipur Police, today arrested the second accused identified as Mohammad Islauddin Khan. NIA had found the involvement of Islauddin in the bomb blast laden Scorpio vehicle which was parked over a bridge located in the area of Phougakchou and Kwakta along Tiddim road in Bishnupur district. After his arrest, Islauddin was produced before the jurisdictional court in Imphal whereupon the court remanded the accused to seven days of NIA custody. Prior to this, NIA along with Assam Police had nabbed the first accused in the case identified as Mohammad Noor Hussain from Silchar in Assam's Cachar district.

Assam's Abhishek Priyam Dutta clinches silver medal at National Powerlifting Championship

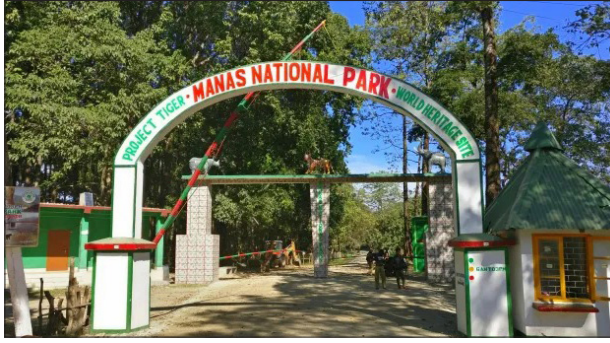
Guwahati: Abhishek Priyam Dutta from Assam has made the state proud by clinching a silver medal at the National Powerlifting Championship on June 8. The powerlifting championship was held in Jharkhand's Ranchi. Assam Education Minister Ranaj Pegu took to the micro-blogging site Twitter and congratulated Dutta for his achievement. "A proud moment for Assam as a prodigal son of Dhemaji Shri Abhishek Priyam Dutta has made the entire state proud by clinching Silver Medal at the National Powerlifting Championship on June 8, 2023 held in Ranchi, Jharkhand. My best wishes to him and may he win the coveted Gold medal at the next championship. Kudos," Pegu tweeted. A

proud moment for Assam as a prodigal son of Dhemaji Shri Abhishek Priyam Dutta has made the entire state proud by clinching Silver Medal at the National Powerlifting Championship on June 8, 2023 held in Ranchi, Jharkhand. On June 19, another Assam boy named Amlan Borgohain clinched a gold medal in the men's 200m event at the National Senior Athletics Championships held in Bhubaneswar. Borgohain clocked 20.71 seconds to win the 200m gold. However, the sprinter failed to breach the Asian Games standard of 20.61 seconds. Borgohain had also brought laurels to the state with their splendid performance at the third Indian Grand Prix in Bengaluru in April this year.

Manas National Park temporarily halts tourist activities due to bad weather

Guwahati: Manas National Park, a project tiger reserve, an elephant reserve, and a World Heritage Site in Assam, has officially closed its gates to tourists starting today, June 20. This annual closure aligns with the National Park Authority's decision, primarily influenced by the challenging weather conditions this year in flood-affected Assam.

The National Park Authority had earlier issued a notification on June 5, signaling the halt of tourist jeep safaris within the



park. However, due to open roads, authorities extended the jeep safari period from the Banhbari range entrance to Mathanguri by 15 days, keeping the park accessible until June 20.

As the deadline expired today, Manas National Park ceased all tourist activities. The park is set to reopen to visitors after a three-month hiatus in October, per the directives of the National

Park Authority. Despite the closure, tourists visiting Manas during this period were delighted to witness the unrestricted movement of animals and revel in the park's natural beauty. In the ongoing tourism year 2023-24, the Manas National Park Authority reported revenue collection amounting to Rs 1.30 crore.

This financial success reflects the park's popularity, with approximately 50,000 domestic tourists and 2,000 foreign tourists having visited Manas in the current tourism season.

NPP leader Pyniaid Sing Syiem elected as the new Chief Executive Member of KHADC



Shillong: The National People's Party (NPP) MDC from Sohryngkgam, Pyniaid Sing Syiem elected as the new Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the KHADC uncontested here on June 20. The election of Syiem has formally announced by KHADC Chairman Lamphrang Blah after the Opposition decided not to contest the election of Syiem. Syiem who is the former Chairman of the Council now will lead the new Executive Committee of the NPP-led of the Khasi Hills Democratic Front. Besides the 12 MDCs of the NPP, the new ruling alliance in the KHADC also has the support of the six Congress MDCs. Earlier, the Executive Committee of the United Democratic Alliance (UDF) led by

Chief Executive Member (CEM), Titossarwell Chyne the no-confidence motion moved by the NPP MDC, Bajop Pyngrope during the first day of the Council summer session on Monday. Moving the no-confidence motion, Pyngrope questioned the style of functioning of Chyne. The ruling Executive Committee of the United Democratic Party (UDP) in the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC) led by Chief Executive Member (CEM) Titos Chyne collapsed after failing to survive the non-confidence motion. The No-Confidence Motion was moved by NPP MDC Bajop Pyngrope. 17 members out of 30 MDCs supported the 'No Confidence Motion' brought by the NPP MDC.

Heavy rain triggers landslides in Arunachal, connectivity affected as roads damaged

Itanagar: Torrential rainfall in Arunachal Pradesh triggered landslides and blocked and damaged major roads, impacting connectivity in the state, and hundreds of people being affected due to the inclement weather. Heavy rain washed away the crucial link of Karsingsa Road and the route from Nirjuli to Banderdewa was blocked due to landslides, inconveniencing commuters. The district administration is on high alert, and bulldozers, excavators, and labour crews have been dispatched to the most affected areas to clear the debris and restore traffic flow. Despite the challenging weather conditions, efforts are underway to reopen the roads and ensure safe passage for commuters. Local residents have expressed frustration and concern over the disruptions, as many rely on these key roads for daily commutes, access to essential services, and economic activities. The blockade of



the Nirjuli to Banderdewa route, in particular, has left many stranded and unable to reach their destinations. The economic impact of the road closures is significant, affecting local businesses and markets. The state government has urged the public to exercise caution and avoid unnecessary travel until the situation improves. Emergency services are on high alert to assist those in need. Authorities have also set up helplines and information centers to keep the people informed about the progress of restoration efforts and any alternative routes that may be available.

In 2021, the government began constructing a 1.1 km viaduct bridge over the Dikrong River, starting from Nirjuli and ending in Karsingsa, as a permanent solution to the frequent monsoon disruptions.

However, locals have protested against the slow progress and alleged poor quality of work by the executing agency. Key roads across the state are strewn with debris, making travel dangerous and sometimes impossible, according to locals. The district administration has allocated substantial resources to repair the damage and restore normalcy.

Wild elephant found dead in Tinsukia tea garden

Guwahati: A wild elephant found dead behind Gayatri Academy in Tinsukia has left workers arriving at the nearby tea garden in shock. The discovery prompted immediate action as locals quickly alerted the forest department, prompting officials to swiftly mobilize to Brahman Chariali to investigate the scene. Residents reported the distressing sight and subsequent notification of authorities, who are now actively investigating the circumstances surrounding the elephant's sudden death. A post-mortem examination is scheduled to be conducted on-site by a veterinarian to determine the exact cause of death. A local resident expressed profound sadness over the incident, stating, "Behind Gayatri Academy, when people came for work in the tea garden, they saw a big wild elephant that was dead. After they saw it, they informed the forest department, and they arrived and are looking into the matter. A doctor will come now and perform the post-mortem right here. Also, there is no electric cable around, so we can't say it died of electrocution either." Authorities have confirmed that there are no nearby electric cables in the area, eliminating electrocution as a possible cause of death.

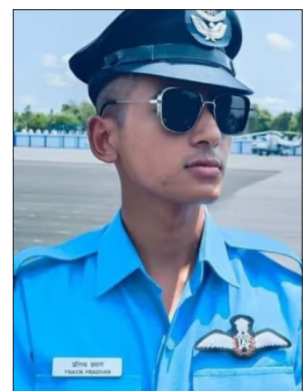
Manipur achieves milestone with first free heart surgeries in new cardiac OT

Imphal: The National Health Mission (NHM) in Manipur announced a milestone achievement with the successful completion of the first free heart operations in the newly constructed State of the Art Modular Cardiac Operation Theatre (OT) at the Regional Paediatric Cardiothoracic Unit. The operations, conducted under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) in collaboration with RIMS Hospital, marked a significant advancement in the state's healthcare delivery system. Led by Prof. Thokchom

Chito, the RIMS Cardiothoracic Surgery (CTVS) team performed the groundbreaking surgeries on two young girls, aged 3 and 6, both suffering from congenital heart diseases. The operations took place on June 11 and the children were successfully discharged on June 19. This historic event underscores the government's commitment to providing free healthcare services, alleviating the financial burden on families by eliminating out-of-pocket expenses for such critical treatments.

Pratik Pradhan becomes Sikkim's 1st fighter jet pilot

Gangtok: Pratik Pradhan, hailing from Sikkim, became the state's first fighter jet pilot officer. His journey from securing the 7th rank in the Army officer examination to completing his 15-month training in the Indian Airforce is a significant achievement. Pratik Pradhan, son of Mahendra Pradhan and Kunti Pradhan, and resident of Sadam Suntaley/Melli, Sikkim, was born into the Maskey family. Pratik secured the 7th rank in the competitive examination for Army officers through NCC direct entry on an all-India merit basis in 2022. He underwent training as an Army officer in Chennai. During his 3-month training period, he cracked the tough competitive examination for an Air Force flying officer. He then



joined the Indian Airforce Academy in Hyderabad from January 2023 to 15th June 2024. Pratik has now completed his 15-month training course and has been commissioned as a Fighter Jet Pilot officer in the Indian Airforce. This is a proud moment for Sikkim as he has become the first fighter jet pilot officer in the state.

Flipkart organizes its edition of its highly anticipated Glam Up Fest 2024

Guwahati: Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, announces the second edition of its highly anticipated Glam Up Fest 2024 on June 14, 2024, at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai. This Glam Up Fest, one of India's largest beauty event gatherings, will feature 3,500+ Beauty and Lifestyle influencers and participation from over 70 top brands across consumer categories. The Glam Up Fest will provide an unparalleled and immersive platform for the lifestyle influencers who will bring the experience of a diverse range of beauty and lifestyle products to life for their followers through social media, showcasing interactive features.

The Glam Up Fest, a beauty event, will feature innovative brand launches, experiential zones, and ce-

lebrity appearances. It will unite over 3,500 influencers and 70 popular brands across Beauty and Skin-care. Top celebrities like Taapsee Pannu, Siddhant Chaturvedi, Rohit Saraf, and Adah Sharma will also be present. The Glam Up Fest will feature top beauty and grooming brands, including Mamaearth, Revlon, Wild Stone, and Lotus Herbals, as well as technological interventions like Virtual Try-On, Video Commerce, and Skin Analysers to enhance shopping experiences in fashion and lifestyle categories. Manjari Singhal, Head of Business, FMCG and General Merchandise, Flipkart, said, "Flipkart is elevating the beauty shopping experience for its customers with the second edition of Glam Up Fest - our largest beauty extravaganza."

Incorporate these three supper foods to your diet to maintain a healthy heart

New Delhi: The fast-paced world, with its demands of work, digital connectivity, and work-life balance, can lead to chronic stress, anxiety, and lack of self-care. Unhealthy coping mechanisms like overeating, smoking, or excessive alcohol consumption further increase the risk of heart problems. Therefore, stress management, regular exercise, and a balanced approach to modern life are crucial for maintaining a healthy heart. Sheela Krishnaswamy, Nutrition and Wellness Consultant, recommends adding three super foods to your diet to

keep your heart healthy. Three essential food items to incorporate into one's diet for improved heart health include: Almonds, Oats and Garlic.

Almonds are high in calcium, vitamin E, magnesium, and fiber, which can help lower cholesterol levels and provide healthy fats to reduce the risk of heart disease. They also improve vascular function by relaxing blood vessels and reducing artery stiffness. Almonds can be consumed as a morning ritual or as a daily evening snack, making them a valuable addition to any diet.

Bandhan Mutual Fund on Father's Day 'Sharma ji ke Papa'

Mumbai: Bandhan Mutual Fund has released a captivating video on Father's Day, presenting a modern perspective on the father-child relationship. Highlighting a slice of life, where today's children take the lead on equipping fathers with the know-how on the use of technology, sometimes using jibes and quips, showcasing the evolving social dynamics where children now empower their fathers to be smarter in various aspects

of life. The video cleverly pivots to 'Sharma ji ke Papa,' demonstrating a modern twist where fathers learn from their children in many ways. Yet, it also shows that in some areas, fathers still have the upper hand, and their wisdom prevails. Vishal Kapoor, CEO, Bandhan AMC, shares, "This Father's Day, let's embrace the spirit of 'Badhte Raho' to keep growing, learning, and enriching our lives, no matter our age."

Samsung Electronics Unveils Galaxy Watch FE

New Delhi: Samsung Electronics has launched Galaxy Watch FE, a new smartwatch designed to provide a more advanced and holistic wellness experience to a wider user base. Incorporating the groundbreaking hardware performance and advanced health and fitness monitoring features of Galaxy Watch, the Galaxy Watch FE features a stylish design and durable design.

The Galaxy Watch FE, available in three colors (Black, Pink Gold, and Silver), offers a stylish and durable device with a Sapphire Crystal glass for superior durability. It also features a variety of watch faces for customization and a one-click band for easy pairing. The device is equipped with Samsung's advanced Bio-Active Sensor, providing personalized fitness and wellness tips. The watch also allows users to monitor Blood Pressure and ECG for a deeper understanding of their heart health. The watch is designed to make daily life healthier and more motivated.

Blackberrys launches a heartfelt Father's Day campaign featuring the talented actor Randeep Hooda

Mumbai: Blackberrys, a leading contemporary Indian menswear brand known for its commitment to quality and innovation for over three decades celebrates Father's Day by recognizing the power of fathers in inspiring their children to #KeepRising despite all odd challenges. Celebrating this breed of fathers, Blackberrys, has unveiled a touching Father's Day campaign featuring actor-par-excellence Randeep Hooda and his father Ranbir Hooda.

The brand values strong, confident fathers who drive their children to reach their full potential.

MSDE Minister Jayant Chaudhary Conducts Comprehensive Review of Ministry's Divisions and Schemes

Mumbai: The Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Shri Jayant Chaudhary conducted a comprehensive review of all the ongoing Ministry' schemes and its various divisions. He participated in the immersive session to gain a deep understanding of the operations of various MSDE divisions, their achievements, and the challenges they face.

This engagement provided valuable insights into enhancing the Ministry's strategic approach and future roadmap towards skill development. Elaborating on the necessity of a unified effort to ensure the successful implementation and expansion of skill development initiatives across the nation, Shri Jayant Chaudhary said that we must focus on close collaboration and convergence with other Ministries and States to bring scale and speed to the skill ecosystem.

Minister Chaudhary emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship in driving economic growth and self-reliance, highlighting the Ministry's initiatives to promote entrepreneurial skills. The Hon'ble Minister praised the MSDE's efforts in creating a skill ecosystem, emphasizing the importance of building demand for skills and bridging the skills gap. He also reviewed the latest data and feedback to identify areas requiring immediate attention and improvement, highlighting the Ministry's efforts in creating a conducive environment for innovation and employment.

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Toyota Kirloskar Motor announces T-TEP Facility and STAR Scholarship Program at The Government Polytechnic

Guwahati: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has launched the 66th Toyota Technical Education Program (T-TEP) facility and the "Scholarship program for Technical Education and Recognition" initiative at The Government Polytechnic, Bareilly, in line with its 'Skill India' mission. The primary objective of these initiatives is to improve the skills of students, particularly those from rural areas, and increase their employability through the company's unique training program, the Toyota Technical Education Program (T-TEP). The launch event was graced by Chief Guest Mr. D C Verma, Member of Legislative Assembly, Government of Ut-

tar Pradesh, in the presence of Principal of Government Polytechnic, Bareilly Mr. Narendra Kumar, Director of Commercial Toyota, Mr. Shivam Gupta and TKM senior management.

Over 13,000 students have been trained, with over 70% securing employment. TKM also launched the STAR scholarship program to help economically challenged students pursue technical studies. Present at the event, Chief Guest Mr. D C Verma, Member of Legislative Assembly, Government of Uttar Pradesh said, "We applaud TKM's commitment to empowering our youth with the necessary skills to thrive in today's competitive job market".

Tata Nexon commemorates its 7th anniversary with 7 lakh unit sales

Guwahati: Tata Motors, India's top automotive manufacturer, has achieved 7 lakh unit sales of its top SUV, Nexon, in its seventh year. Launched in 2017, Nexon has achieved the distinction of being India's largest selling SUV for three consecutive years from 2021 to 2023. Nexon was India's 1st GNCAP 5 star rated vehicle in 2018, which set the benchmark for all Indian automobiles to follow.

The legacy has continued ever since. In Feb 2024, the new gen Nexon received its GNCAP 5 star rating as per the enhanced 2022 protocol.

The Nexon, a 41-award winner, has experienced rapid sales growth, selling over 3 lakh units in 2022 and 2023. Available in petrol, diesel, and electric, the brand has gained popularity for its class-leading design, segment-best features, and tech-forward experience, attracting a loyal fan base. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Vivek Srivatsa, Chief Commercial Officer, Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd., said, "To celebrate this landmark achievement of 7 lakh sales in 7 years and to express our sincere gratitude to the growing Nexon family, we are passing on exciting price benefits for both existing and new customers."

HDFC Life recognized as one of 'India's Best Companies to Work For' 2024

New Delhi: HDFC Life, a prominent Indian life insurer, has been named one of 'India's Best Companies to Work For' 2024 by Great Place to Work. The company achieved the 11th position overall and was honoured as the 'Best in In-

dustry 'for Life Insurance'. It also features among the Laureates, marking a decade of recognition.

This certification reflects the Company's value-driven culture and commitment to delivering value to all stakeholders. One of In-

dia's first private life insurers, HDFC Life has over 32,000 employees and upholds a strong organizational culture founded on the values of Excellence, People Engagement, Integrity, Customer Centricity & Collaboration

(EPICC). Vibhash Naik, Chief Human Resources Officer, HDFC Life, stated "We are honoured to be recognised as one of 'India's Best Companies to Work For' in 2024 and as the 'Best in Industry for Life Insurance'."

Great moment in European football as the Lionel Messi of Turkey does a Cristiano Ronaldo

Agency: Attacker Arda Guler, known as the Messi of Turkey, on Tuesday must have been under immense pressure considering the magnitude of the occasion. Life can't be easy when one is compared with the one and only Lionel Messi. For one thing, the spotlight is forever on you. And then you are forever under pressure to deliver. Often such comparisons turn out to be exaggerated. Let's face it: footballers like Lionel Messi are not born every other day or not even every other decade, as a matter of fact.

Attacker Arda Guler, known as the Messi of Turkey, on Tuesday must have been under immense pressure considering the magnitude of the occasion. He was making his Euros debut just like their opponents, Georgia. And then when you have been labelled the Messi of Turkey, things can be very unnerving. But as they say "cometh the hour, cometh the man", the teenager born in Altındağ left football fans in awe with a strike that was in line with all the hype surrounding him leading into the game. At the Signal Iduna Park, the 19-year-old curled in a screamer from way outside the box to send Turkey into a 2-1 lead and become the youngest to score on Eu-



ros debut -- they eventually won 3-1. Turkey's opener was scored by Mert Mulder in the first half which was also a great goal. Turkish fans would haven't had the inkling that a better-looking goal awaits them later in the match. Guler gave them that with his strike in the 65th minute. Guler plays for Spanish giants Real Madrid, the biggest club in the world for sure. Those who follow the game passionately would know Real have an extraordinary scouting team in place. If the scouts there believed Guler was good, he was good. Full stop! Guler joined Los Blancos last year in July from Fenerbahce where he rose through the ranks to the senior team in

2021. Gençlerbirliği is another club where he honed his football skills -- before joining Fenerbahce in 2019. His Real stint, however, got off on the wrong foot thanks to the several injuries he picked up there. He waited months before making his debut for them, which came early this year in a Copa del Rey game. He went on to play five La Liga games and scored five goals, including one on his La Liga debut, in what was a trophy-winning campaign for Carlo Ancelotti's men. Early this month when Real also won the Champions League, Guler became the first Turkish player to win Europe's best club competition. Because the 2023-24 season didn't turn out the

way he would have hoped for, Euro 2024 was very important for him. Donning Jersey No.8 when he slid on his knees after scoring the goal with his left foot, one could see how the goal mattered to him. It was for the third time in history that a teenager had scored a goal on his first Euros appearance. And the last time somebody had done it, Guler wasn't born yet. Yes, it was Cristiano Ronaldo for Portugal in 2004. Until Tuesday, the Portugal superstar also held the record for the youngest scorer on Euros debut. Guler may be drawing comparisons with Messi in terms of how he plays, he is now also indelibly connected to Ronaldo through his feat. Renowned

football commentator Guy Mowbray spoke of him in glowing terms: "The Turkish Messi has delivered -- what a tournament this is becoming for the youngsters." Former England defender Stephen Warnock was equally impressed with what he saw. "Earlier on in the game we saw Arda Guler roaming round the pitch seeing those nice touches that he possesses. The moment of magic that we saw with the goal was quite brilliant -- that is only a glimpse of what he can do," he said on BBC Radio 5 Live. Guler and Turkey face a much bigger test on Saturday when they play Ronaldo's Portugal. And then on Wednesday night they play the Czech Republic, who lost to Portugal on Tuesday night. If Guler passes these very important tests, we would then know for sure that the Messi comparisons were not exactly exaggerated. Guler has started very well catching the imaginations of football fans worldwide with what he did against Georgia. As a result, expectations have risen manifold now. It will be interesting to how see how he fares against those two great footballing nations. At this moment though, the sky is the limit for him.

Virat Kohli eyes comeback in Super Eights clash against Afghanistan

Agency: As India prepares to face Afghanistan in their Super Eights clash of the T20 World Cup, all eyes are on star batter Virat Kohli, who has yet to find his form in the ongoing tournament. Kohli, the top run-getter in T20 World Cup history, has had an uncharacteristically poor run, with scores of 1 against Ireland, 4 against Pakistan, and 0 against the USA. Despite arriving at the tournament after a stellar Indian Premier League (IPL) season for Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) -- where he amassed 741 runs in 15 innings at an average of 61.75 and a strike rate of 154.69, earning him the Orange Cap -- Kohli has struggled to replicate his IPL success on the challenging surfaces at Nassau County International Stadium in New York. The pitches were criticized for their bounce and poor play for batters, which hindered Kohli's aggressive approach. However, the Men in Blue will now play in the West Indies, with matches scheduled in Barbados, Antigua, and Saint Lucia. Kohli, known for his resilience, will be eager to end his streak of low scores. His record against Afghanistan is impressive: in eight matches across formats, he has scored 323 runs in six innings at an average of 80.75, with a century and three half-centuries. In T20Is, he has accumulated 201 runs in four innings at an average of 67.00 and a strike rate of 171.79, including a century and a half-century.

Kohli's remarkable performances against Afghanistan include a memorable 50 off 39 balls in the 2012 T20 World Cup and an explosive 122 off 61 balls during the Asia Cup 2022, which marked his return to form after a three-year century drought. He also boasts a strong record against Afghanistan's top bowlers: he has scored 37 runs off pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi in two innings without being dismissed, and 104 runs off spinner Rashid Khan in nine innings, with Rashid dismissing him twice.

Indian football federation to penalise unauthorised tournaments

Kolkata: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has taken decisive action to combat unauthorized football tournaments nationwide. In a recent Executive Committee meeting held in Kolkata on June 6, the AIFF issued strict directives aimed at preventing the participation of players, coaches, and referees in unsanctioned competitions. Key highlights of the AIFF's directives include the imposition of substantial penalties on individuals involved in unauthorized tournaments, including coaches, referees, and registered players. State Football Associations have been tasked with developing new policies



to ensure compliance with AIFF guidelines, emphasizing the importance of participating only in AIFF-sanctioned competitions. The AIFF's focus on maintaining the integrity and credibility of football in India is evident in these measures, which seek to create a fair and regulated environment for the sport's growth and development

across all levels. Key highlights of the AIFF's directives include the imposition of substantial penalties on individuals involved in unauthorized tournaments. By cracking down on unauthorized tournaments, the AIFF aims to uphold the standards and professionalism of football in the country. This proactive stance by the AIFF has been welcomed as a significant step towards preserving the integrity of football in India. The AIFF's focus on maintaining the integrity of State associations are expected to implement these directives to reinforce the structure and standards of football at the grassroots and professional levels.

Team India pays tribute to David Johnson with black armbands in T20 World Cup clash

Bengaluru: Rohit Sharma's Team India donned black armbands during their ICC T20 World Cup 2024 encounter against Afghanistan, honoring the late former cricketer David Johnson. The solemn tribute took place amidst the backdrop of tragic news that shook the Indian cricket fraternity hours before the Super 8 match in the Caribbean. David Johnson, a former pace bowler who represented India in two Test matches, tragically passed away after a fatal fall from his fourth-floor apartment balcony in Bengaluru. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the somber decision on X, confirming that



the entire Indian squad would wear black armbands in Johnson's memory. Johnson, aged 52 at the time of his untimely demise, leaves behind his grieving wife and two children. His unexpected death has cast a shadow over the cricketing community, with tributes pouring in from former teammates, fans and officials alike.