

Evening News Script

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THE HEADLINES :-

- Nagaland Government signs deal with France's Cooperl to modernise state's piggery sector
- Security stepped up after IED blast at Chümoukedima
- Mon Deputy Commissioner, Wennyei Konyak highlights digital initiatives at National Conference
- France, Spain clash in first World Cup semifinal tonight

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The Nagaland Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Cooperl, a leading French pork processing company, aimed at modernising the state's piggery sector through scientific breeding and improved farming practices. The MoU was signed today at the Embassy of France in New Delhi by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and French Ambassador to India, Thierry Mathou. Announcing the development on X, Mr Rio said the partnership marks the beginning of a landmark collaboration based on mutual trust, shared aspirations and a commitment to sustainable development. He said the initiative will support training for farmers, veterinarians, and technical professionals, while also establishing a centre dedicated to protect and promote Nagaland's indigenous pig breeds. Noting that pig farming plays a vital role in the state's economy and rural livelihoods, Mr Rio said Nagaland has long been recognised

as one of India's leading pig-rearing states. He expressed confidence that the MoU will strengthen the sector through innovation balanced with conservation. Noting France's participation as a partner country at the Hornbill Festival 2025, the Chief Minister described the MoU as an example of how cultural diplomacy can lead to meaningful economic cooperation.

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Security operations have been intensified following the IED blast at Sukhovi in Chümoukedima district yesterday, which claimed the life of an Assam Rifles personnel and left four others injured. According to Defence PRO Nagaland, additional Assam Rifles and Nagaland Police personnel have been deployed to strengthen search and area domination operations. The deceased has been identified as 44-year old Havildar Mohd Iqbal of 28 Assam Rifles. The four injured are receiving medical care and reported to be in stable condition. Meanwhile, a wreath-laying ceremony was held today at the Assam Rifles Training Centre and School, 3rd Mile, where Director General Assam Rifles Lieutenant General Vikas Lakhera, led senior Army and Assam Rifles officers in paying tribute to the fallen soldier. Speaking to the media, Lieutenant General Lakhera described the incident as an act against humanity and said such acts could undermine the hard-earned peace in Nagaland. He said investigations are underway to identify those responsible and appealed to the public to help preserve peace.

The mortal remains of Havildar Mohd Iqbal will be flown to Delhi tomorrow, before being taken to his native village in Jammu and Kashmir for the last rites. Havildar Mohd Iqbal had been serving at the Assam Rifles Training Centre and School, Sukhovi, and is survived by his wife.

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The Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee (NPCC) has strongly condemned the IED blast at Shokhuvi, calling it 'cowardly' and 'reprehensible'. In a statement, the party said such incidents endanger innocent lives and threaten the hard-earned peace and stability of Nagaland. The party called for a thorough,

impartial and time-bound investigation, and appealed to the public to remain calm and maintain communal harmony. The NPCC also expressed condolences to the bereaved family and wished speedy recovery of the injured personnel.

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Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced major policy reforms aimed at modernising Indian Railways and making logistics more efficient. Briefing media in New Delhi, he said that Rail bhoomi portal will be launched to manage the complete process of land acquisition. Mr Vaishnaw also announced reform in fly ash transportation, shifting from open railway wagons to specially designed containers.

Mr Vaishnaw also announced reforms to allow fertilizers to be transported in specially designed containers, and a unified licence system under container policy.

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Deputy Commissioner, Mon, Wennyei Konyak, is attending the National Conference on 'NextGen Administrative and e-Gov Reforms' being held in Shillong, Meghalaya. Speaking on the "Common Web-Portal for Strengthening and Supporting the Handicraft & Handloom Ecosystem", Mr Konyak highlighted the Mon Craft Bazaar, an online platform that connects local artisans with wider markets, helping create sustainable livelihood while preserving indigenous knowledge. He said, the platform currently supports 160 registered artisans across the district.

On the "District Smart Hub for Efficient Governance", Mr Konyak said the Mon Smart Hub is expected to speed up public service delivery and reduce delays.

He also highlighted the Mon District Land Permit Portal, which has digitized the district land records. Mr Konyak said, the digital initiatives are improving e-

governance and improving administrative efficiency through integrated, citizen-centric solutions.

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The Under-17 State-level Pre-Subroto Tournament got underway today at the IG Stadium, Kohima. Speaking at the opening programme, Secretary, Youth Resources and Sports Department, Anthony Ngullie, expressed satisfaction over the increasing participation, particularly in the girls' category. Urging young footballers to continue striving for excellence, he reaffirmed the department's commitment to promoting grassroots sports.

Teams from seven districts are competing in the girls' category, while the boys matches will be played next week. Winners in both categories will go on to represent Nagaland at the 65th Subroto Mukherjee International Football Tournament, to be held in New Delhi from August 18 to September 25.

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The FIFA World Cup enters its semi-final stage tonight with France taking on Spain at the Dallas Stadium in Texas. The match will kick off at 12:30 AM local time. France will aim to reach a third consecutive World Cup final, while Spain will be looking to book their first appearance in the finals since winning the tournament in 2010.

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And in weather... the Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority has forecast light to moderate rainfall to continue over most districts across the state till the 18th of July. The showers are likely to be accompanied by localized thunderstorms and lightning. The authority said, moderate to heavy rainfall is expected at a few places in Longleng and Mon districts tomorrow.

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