

NOTES
Bajrang Dal activists held

NAWADA, JULY 4 /-/- At least six Bajrang Dal activists were arrested here today while trying to enforce a bandh in protest against the arrest of a leader of the Sangh Parivar outfit in connection with a communal flare-up that took place last year. According to Nawada Superintendent of Police Hariprasad, one Jitendra Pratap alias Jitu, the Bajrang Dal's district coordinator, was arrested on Tuesday in connection with the communal clashes that had erupted in April, 2017 around the festival of Ram Navami. Bajrang Dal activists got enraged over the arrest, terming it as "high-handedness" on part of the district police, and gave the call for a bandh in Nawada town in protest. The SP said police had to charge the baton against the Bajrang Dal supporters for forcing unwilling businessmen to down their shutters and six of them including the outfit's district unit secretary general Kailash Vishwakarma, were arrested. (PTI)

NCSN (IM) camps busted

ITANAGAR, JULY 4 /-/- In a major blow to NCSN (IM), security forces busted three major camps of the outfit during a joint operation in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district. Defence sources said today, a joint team of Assam Rifles and Army conducted successful operations at Motongsa village under Jairampur subdivision in Changlang district resulting in destruction of three camps and a logistic dump of the outfit on Tuesday. Kohima-based Defence Spokesman Colonel Chiranjeet Konwer said in a statement here. The security forces had launched the operation after receiving specific intelligence about presence of the outfit's cadres attempting to extort people in and around the village, he said. There was, however, no report of any casualty or arrest. A massive search operation is in progress to locate and neutralise the fleeing cadres from the camps, the spokesman said. The three camps were being used by the outfit as a base for operations by the outfit. Konwer said. The busting of the camps followed a similar operation conducted by the forces in Miao circle in March this year which resulted in the destruction of a NCSN (IM) hideout, he added. (PTI)

Agartala Airport to get new name

NEW DELHI, JULY 4 /-/- The Union Cabinet today decided to name the Agartala airport in Tripura after Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore, the erstwhile ruler of the state. The airport was constructed in 1942 on the land donated by the maharaja. As a visionary ruler, who had travelled across the globe, he took several steps for the all-round development of Tripura, an official statement said. There was a long-pending demand of the people of Tripura as well as the Tripura government for paying tribute to the maharaja, it said. A meeting of the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gave approval to rename the Agartala Airport as Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore Airport, Agartala, the statement said. The maharaja, who ascended the throne of the erstwhile Tripura princely state in 1923, was an enlightened and benevolent ruler, it said. (PTI)

Four cops suspended over lynching of anti-rumour campaigner

AGARTALA, JULY 4 /-/- Four police personnel were today suspended in connection with the lynching of a person hired by the Tripura government to spread a awareness against rumour-mongering last month, a senior police official said. The four were an assistant sub-inspector and a constable of the state police, and two Riflemen of the Tripura State Rifles, IG (Law and Order) K V Sreejesh said. "These police personnel were there in the area for some other purpose. We have suspended them because a departmental inquiry has been initiated against them regarding their roles on that day," Sreejesh said. Whether there had been lapses on their part would be known after the inquiry is complete, he told reporters. Sukanta Chakrabarty (43) was lynched by a mob suspecting him of being a child-lifter at Kalachhara in South Tripura district on June 28. He was a member of a team set up by the state Information and Culture Affairs Department which was campaigning against rumour-mongering. Investigation was on to find out the cause of rumour mongering, he said adding that more people could be arrested in this connection. Altogether 14 people were arrested in that connection. To a question, Sreejesh said, "They were not carrying any firearm that day. But they were not instructed against carrying firearms." Tripura police was closely monitoring similar incidents in other states of the country, the IG said. Besides Chakrabarty, an unidentified woman and a hawker from Uttar Pradesh were also lynched on the suspicion of being child-lifters in separate districts of the state on the same day. (PTI)

Army officer's wife seeks police help for finding her husband

IMPHAL, JULY 4 /-/- The wife of a lieutenant colonel has sought the help of Manipur police and social organisation to find and protect her husband, who she claimed, had been taken into custody by the Army without issuing any warrant. Making the appeal Ranju Singh, the wife of Lt Col Dharamvir Singh, told newsmen here on Tuesday that he had been taken into custody without any warrant on the morning of July 1 from his official residence in Imphal. Media reports said that Lt Col Singh had reportedly accused his superiors of extortion and carrying out fake encounters. The police today said Ranju Singh had filed an FIR and the force acting on it had met the Army officers who reportedly took away Lt Col Singh and asked them to arrange for her and her two children's safe transportation at the earliest to where he had been taken. The woman had told the police that she had been informed over phone by the Army that Lt Col Singh is in Dimapur in Nagaland. Police said that Ranju Singh had also said that she and her children are at present not in her husband's quarters and refused to divulge her and her two children's whereabouts. The Army has strongly denied the charges levelled by Ranju Singh and said it were made to "malign" its image. The Army in a press release last night said that Lt Col Singh was posted at Dimapur and had been sent to Manipur on temporary assignment. He was told to report back at Dimapur after the completion of the assignment and was also informed that he had been released by another officer. Accordingly on July morning he was provided with an official vehicle along with security to proceed to his place of posting. He had officially reached Rangapghar in Dimapur at 9 pm on that night and has been "discharging his bonafide military duties". The movements of the officer has been intimated to the Imphal West police, the Army said adding that it does not understand why Ranju Singh had chosen to stay back in Imphal despite being provided with independent staff car with security. Her unusual behaviour could speak of motives unknown to the army and that "possible family feuds or dispute need to be investigated", the release said. (PTI)

Meghalaya sends fish samples from outside state for formalin tests

SHILLONG, JULY 4 /-/- The food safety officials in Meghalaya have collected and sent samples of fish brought from outside the state for tests to confirm if they are laced with formalin as a preservative, an official said today. Following the ban imposed by Nagaland government, about 10 different types of fish samples brought from outside the state and as far as Andhra Pradesh, have been collected and sent for testing at the Assam-based Public Health Laboratory, Food Safety deputy commissioner S N Sangma told PTI. He said in case the samples return positive with formalin, actions will be taken as per law against the distributors and the fish transported from outside may be banned for sale in the market. The Nagaland government had on June 22 prohibited storage, distribution, and sale of fresh fish products treated with formalin or other forms of preservatives in the state for a period of three months. The corrective measures were taken. Formalin is used to preserve bodies and prevent its decay in mortuaries. The widespread use of the deadly chemical nowadays in the preservation of fish, fruit and other food items is posing a great threat to public health. Samples of fish for formalin testing kit from Germany which would be sent to all 11 districts in the state. Food samples are collected in a routine manner, he said adding last year after test fish samples were found negative for formalin. (PTI)

Odisha govt increases inter-caste marriage incentives

BHUBANESWAR, JULY 4 /-/- The Odisha government has increased the incentives for inter-caste marriage among Hindus, an Odisha minister said. Odisha's ST and SC Development Minister Ramesh Chandra Majhi said that the government has decided to increase the inter-caste marriage incentive from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2.5 lakh. The decision would be implemented with retrospective effect from September 2017, he said on Tuesday. The minister clarified that the marriage in which both of the spouses belonged to the SC community and the other belonged to an upper caste, will be considered for the incentive. The incentive amount would be deposited in a joint account of the couple in any nationalised bank and they would be able to withdraw the amount only after five years of marriage, he said. The amount would be given to the beneficiaries, irrespective of their economic background. Majhi said they can purchase land or other household articles with the money. In 2017-18 fiscal, as many as 63 couples availed the benefit. For the year 2017-18, the government spent Rs 65 crore as incentive. Similarly, 8,000 married couples availed the incentives under the provision in the last five years. The maximum numbers of married couples to get the benefit were from Balasore district followed by Cuttack and Jagatsinghpur districts. The state government had increased the inter-caste marriage incentive from Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh in 2017, officials said. (PTI)

Mayurbhanj Police files chargesheet in rape & murder of tribal girl case within 17 days

BARIPADA, JULY 4 /-/- The Mayurbhanj Police has submitted a chargesheet in a court involving rape and murder of a tribal girl, within 17 days of the incident. This is for the first time in the district that a chargesheet was filed by the police within 17 days of a rape and murder case, Mayurbhanj SP Awinash Kumar told reporters. The case was pursued swiftly by the police for a speedy trial, he told reporters today. The chargesheet was filed in the court of Additional District Judge-cum-Special Judge (child protection officer) on Tuesday. A nine-year-old tribal girl of Garudabasa village under Betnoti Police Station was allegedly kidnapped by one Jamnikanta Mohanta (24) of the same village on June 15. (PTI)

Attempt to kidnap child foiled

LANKA, JULY 4 /-/- An alleged attempt to kidnap a two-year-old girl child from her house in Nagon district of Assam has been foiled by the intervention of the local police said. The child's mother said that an unidentified person had entered her house, through a door left ajar, at Bhalukmari in Lanka area at 8 pm on Tuesday and asked her to hand over the child to him. When she refused to do so, the man hit her, snatched away the child and started running, the mother told reporters today in the presence of policemen. She chased the man and on hearing her screams, neighbours rushed to the scene, she said. On seeing the loots, the man left the child on the road and fled from the spot, she said. The police reached the spot and launched an operation to trace the suspected kidnapper. (PTI)

Abducted man rescued

MEDININAGAR, JULY 4 /-/- An abducted man was rescued after five days of captivity here, the police said. Acting on a tip off, police rescued Choudhary from Medininagar on Monday. Superintendent of Police Indrajit Mahanta told reporters, Choudhary, a construction firm employee, was abducted from Saraiya village on June 28. Four abductors were arrested from different areas of the town, he said. (PTI)

Action would be taken against coal belt polluters; Jharkhand Minister says

DHANBAD, JULY 4 /-/- Jharkhand Minister Sarayu Rai today said here that the government would take action against those polluting the coal belt of the state. The minister said companies engaged in transporting coal do not follow environment guidelines and transport coal uncovered which pollutes the environment. Rai, the Food and Supply minister said the state government would soon issue directive to all coal companies to initiate safety measures to check pollution. He launched a campaign of making the coal belt of the state pollution and plastic free. He urged the residents of Jharia to shun plastic and plan for safety and healthy life of their future generation. Rai said "10 years ago I had launched 'Damodar Nadi Bachao Andolan' and today Damodar River, which is called life line of Dhanbad Bokaro regions, is today almost pollution free. So success of Damodar river campaign has encouraged me to kick start the campaign against air pollution of Jharia." (PTI)



The SFL-DYFI rally to protest against the irregularities in the examinations conducted by PSC on Wednesday Photo: Arijit Ganguly

Bru refugee leaders happy with repatriation package

AGARTALA, JULY 4 /-/- Bru refugee leaders in Tripura today said they are "happy" with repatriation package offered by the Centre. After more than two decades, as many as 32,876 people belonging to the Bru community will be repatriated from Tripura to Mizoram following a tripartite agreement signed by the two state governments and the Centre on Tuesday. Mizoram Bru Displaced Peoples Forum (MBDPF) secretary Bruno Msha said they were "satisfied" with the repatriation package which was signed between the Central government, Mizoram government, Tripura and Mizoram and the MBDPF on Tuesday. "We have signed the tripartite agreement with the Central government and Mizoram government and the repatriation will end in September. We are happy with the offer. How-

ever, the financial package offered in the deal might not be sufficient," he said. The Central government will provide financial assistance for rehabilitation of Bru community members in Mizoram and address their issues of security, education, livelihood, etc. in consultation with the governments of Mizoram and Tripura. A statement issued by the Tripura government on Tuesday said that all six transit camps, which now house Bru displacement victims, would be closed down in first week of October this year. Repatriation would end by September 10. The rehabilitation package offered in repatriation deal said each refugee family would be given a financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh. The money would be deposited in the name of each refugee family head and would be handed over to them after 3 years of repatriation. Mizoram, officials said. Each repatriated family would also be given Rs 5,000 as monthly cash assistance for two years, Rs 1.50 lakh house building assistance, free ration for two years and free transportation to Mizoram during repatriation, they said. The displaced Bru people from Mizoram have been living in various camps in Tripura since 1987. (PTI)

Security beefed up in Jharkhand for today's bandh

RANCHI, JULY 4 /-/- Elaborate security arrangements have been made for tomorrow's Jharkhand bandh called by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and other Opposition parties to protest against amendments in the Land Acquisition Act, 2015, by the Jaguabhar Das ministry. The state-wide bandh is supported by Congress, RJD and JVM (Prasanna) of former chief minister Babul Marandi among others. Joining of all Opposition parties in the bandh could be seen as the unity among the non-BJP parties in view of the upcoming general elections next year. The bandh has been called against amendments in the Land Acquisition Act, through a bill passed in the Jharkhand Assembly in August 2017. The bill had done away with the impact assessment clause to allow government sponsored developmental projects. The bill has been sent to the President for his consent. 5,000 policemen and magistrates would be deployed all over the state in view of the bandh, said home secretary S K Rahate along with Director General of Police D K Pandey at a joint press conference here today. A total of 3,000 home guards, riot control unit, riot control unit and 300 highway patrolling vans would also be deployed, Rahate said. CCTV has been installed and close monitoring would be done to ward off any untoward incident, he said. As per the Jharkhand High Court's earlier directive, the people to maintain peace, the director general of police said, adding that action would be taken against those damaging public or private properties. The damages would be realised from those indulging in such acts, he said. Rahate also referred to the Supreme Court ruling that mob violence is crime and it is the responsibility of the state government and administration to control such incidents. Appealing to the people to maintain peace, the director general of police said that the government's aim is 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Suraksha and Saabka Vikas' (together with all, safety and development for all). "All should join in maintaining peace," the DGP said and warned of action against those obstructing peace. He said the police would provide security on national highways, railway tracks, government offices, hospitals and to school children. Drones will also be used during the day, the DGP said. (PTI)

Ex-deputy commissioner of Lower Subansiri held for graft

ITANAGAR, JULY 4 /-/- The Special Investigation Cell (SIC) of vigilance has arrested former deputy commissioner of Lower Subansiri, a district official and a businessman for alleged irregularities in assessment and disbursement of compensation in a project, an official said today. Kemo Lollen, during his tenure as deputy commissioner of Lower Subansiri district, is alleged to be involved in gross irregularities in assessment and disbursement of compensation in the Trans-Arunachal Highway (TAH) project, the official said. Along with Lollen, a private individual Likha Maj, who is alleged to have been an active co-conspirator along with another government official, Bharat Lingu, who was the former district land revenue and settlement officer were arrested, the Superintendent of Police (SP) of SCI, Pranay Tayal said. An amount of Rs 40 crore was sanctioned for construction of the Joram to Koloriang stretch of TAH, which was funded by the Centre through National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL). The irregularities caused by government officers in discharge of their duties have caused wrongful loss to the government exchequer, the SP said. A case has been registered under Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, and investigation has been launched, the SP said. SIC arrested Lollen, Lingu and Maj on Tuesday. They were produced before the court of special judge, West Sessions Division at Yupia which remanded them to seven days police custody, the SP added. (PTI)