

**NOTES**

**Rs 3 lakh looted**

**HAJIPUR, JULY 9 /-/-** Three gunmen today looted Rs 3 lakh from an employee of a micro-finance company in Bihar's Vaishali district, police said. The incident occurred in Umesh Cinema road under town police station when the employee was going to office after collecting the money. SHO Sunil Kumar said. Police are investigating the matter, Kumar said. (PTI)

**Mamata remembers Chhanda Gayen on birthanniv**

**KOLKATA, JULY 9 /-/-** West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee today remembered mountaineer Chhanda Gayen, the first civilian woman from the state to summit Mt Everest, on her birth anniversary. Describing the mountaineer as "brave", the chief minister said that her courage may become an inspiration for everybody. "Fondly remembering the brave mountaineer Chhanda Gayen on her birth anniversary. In her memory, the Bengal Government has instituted the Chhanda Gayen Bravery Award for successful mountaineers. May her courage inspire the brave. Banerjee wrote on her Twitter handle this morning. Chhanda Gayen, who had scaled Mt Everest in 2012, went missing along with two sherpas in an avalanche while descending the western side of the Kanchenjunga, also known as Mt Yulan Kang, in Nepal in 2014. (PTI)

**Arunachal CM, Guvcondole ex-Guv's death**

**ITANAGAR, JULY 9 /-/-** Arunachal Pradesh Governor Brig (Retd) Dr B D Mishra and chief minister Pema Khandu have condoned the sudden demise of Congress leader and former Governor of Meghalaya M M Jacob who breathed his last on Sunday. Mishra, in a message to the bereaved family members, conveyed his condolences and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul on behalf of the people of the state. Jacob died at a private hospital in Pala near Kottayam in Kerala on Sunday owing to age-related ailments. He was 90. In his message, Chief Minister Pema Khandu remembered Jacobs notable contributions to the nation as a parliamentarian, minister and governor. (PTI)

**Man arrested for raping minor**

**JAJIPUR, JULY 9 /-/-** A 26-year-old man was arrested for allegedly raping a minor girl at a village in Odisha's Jajipur district, police said today. The incident happened at Nanpur village in Balichandrapur area on Friday night when the 12-year-old girl was returning home after witnessing a marriage procession, inspector in charge of Balichandrapur police station, Rakesh Chandra Tripathy, said. The accused, identified as a person of the same village, was arrested on Sunday on the basis of a complaint lodged by the girl's mother on Saturday. (PTI)

**JU-V-C urges students' union members to call off hunger strike**



JU V-C Suranjana Das meeting protesting students at Aurobinda Bhavan, Jadavpur University on Monday—Arijit Ganguly

**KOLKATA, JULY 9 /-/-** Jadavpur University Vice-Chancellor Suranjana Das today met members of students' union, observing hunger strike over the past three days in protest against the new admission procedure, and urged them to withdraw their strike. Das insisted that it was his job to implement the orders of the university's Executive Council (EC), the highest decision-making body of the institute, but he was "willing to look for a solution" keeping the interest of students in mind. "So long I am occupying the V-C's chair, I have to go

by the decision taken by meeting of EC. What I feel about the issue at a personal level doesn't matter. However, I do have the interest of students in mind," he said. Around 20 members of Arts Faculty Students' Union (AFSU) started a hunger strike on July 6, two days after the university announced that it would admit undergraduate students in English, comparative literature, Bengali, history, political science and philosophy on the basis of board marks, reversing its earlier decision to hold entrance tests. Despite requests by Das, the

union members today refused to call off their strike. Somashree Choudhury, the chairperson of AFSU, said the indefinite strike by the 20 students of the arts faculty would continue until the time the authorities reconsider their decision. "We heard what the V-C said, but there was no assurance from his side. The turn of events over the admission issue in past couple of days has only harmed JU's reputation. This can be restored by bringing back the admission test," she said. The V-C, on his part, said he had met Governor K N Tripathi, who is also the Chancellor of the university, and efforts were being made to reach a middle-path, acceptable to all parties concerned. Das, who was accompanied by Pro-VC Pradipt Ghosh, said the university will take every step to monitor the health condition of the students, who had been sitting on hunger strike over the issue. He also suggested them to use a room in the administrative building for their protest instead of camping out in the open, next to Aurobindo Bhavan. Meanwhile, joining their colleagues from three other humanities streams, 12 teachers of the philosophy department today refused to lend a helping hand in the admission procedure. In a letter sent to JU authorities, the teachers said, "We state

that four assistance in any form regarding BA admission of this year is solicited, we will be unable to cooperate unless the strike of teachers of the faculty of arts is reinstated by a written statement." "If the administration does not involve the teachers in the admission test, then the teachers cannot be a part of the admission process in any way at all," they added. Earlier, the faculty members from departments of English, comparative literature, and international relations had said that they prefer to stay out of the entire admission process. A spokesperson of Jadavpur University Teachers' Association (JUTA) said a letter has been sent to Tripathi to seek his appointment for discussing the modalities of the issue, but no response has arrived from Bhavan so far. The V-C, too, has written to Tripathi with details of events unfolding at the university in the wake of the recent decision and subsequent agitation by the students, a university official told PTI. On July 4, an hour after the decision to scrap entrance tests was announced, the students gheraoed the VC and other members of the executive council in protest. The gherao, which lasted for 30 hours, was followed by JUTA ceasefire, class boycott and indefinite fast by AFSU members. (PTI)

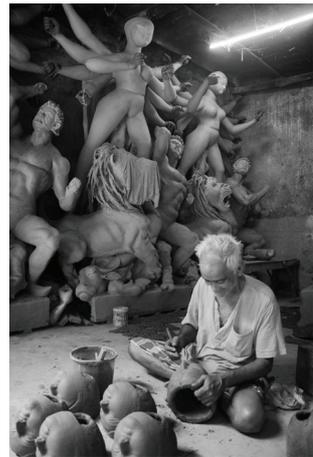
**CID identifies linkmen of 5 Chinese nationals held with contraband**

**KOLKATA, JULY 9 /-/-** The West Bengal CID has identified some linkmen in different metro cities, who helped the five Chinese nationals arrested with drugs here last week, a senior CID official said today. The Chinese nationals were arrested outside Kolkata railway station on June 30, after the GRP seized 197 kg of 'party drug' amphetamine, worth Rs 40 crore. Mobile phones, a laptop, Chinese currency and train tickets were also seized from them. The CID sleuths were quizzing the five accused to know how they learnt about the linkmen in India, the official said. "Our investigation has revealed that these linkmen are lo-

cated in different metropolises of India, including New Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad. They helped these Chinese nationals in moving around in the country," he told PTI. With the help of these linkmen, two of the arrested five had visited Darjeeling before going to Beladanga in Murshidabad district, the official said. The state CID had also conducted a raid at a closed factory in Beladanga recently and seized another 1.9 kg of amphetamine tablets. "It seems that these Chinese nationals were in touch with many people. We have to verify their claims. Our officers are working on the information gathered

from them," the official said. The arrested Chinese nationals have been identified as Wang Xiao Dong, Xue Yonghui, Li Cheng, Cheng Hao, Liu Bixian, aged between 30 and 37 years. "It is quite difficult to talk to them because they hardly speak English. Only Dong can speak a little bit of English but others converse in provincial Chinese dialects," he said, adding the CID sleuths have been taking the help of interpreters to quiz the five accused. Preliminary probe has revealed that the five accused had hired a vehicle while travelling across West Bengal, the official said. Asked about their hideouts in

the state or in other parts of the country, the CID officer said, "According to the information we have gathered, they were not staying at one particular place. We believe they had taken shelter somewhere in the districts bordering Bihar or Jharkhand, where the five had some local links." The Chinese nationals had been frequently visiting India since 2016. "They had been visiting New Delhi, Mumbai and various other cities since 2016. It seems they had also started visiting smaller cities like Aurangabad, Allahabad, Gwalior and others. We need to find out whom they met during their visits to these places, with



Kamatuli artist Samir Paul making headpieces of goddesses Durga on Sunday—Arijit Ganguly

**CM's wishes for success of Mayapur Rath Yatra**

**KOLKATA, JULY 9 /-/-** The annual festival of Jagannath Rath Yatra will be celebrated at ISKCON HQs at Mayapur in Nadia district of West Bengal from July 14 to 22, according to Alay Govinda Das, chairman of the committee formed for the purpose. West Bengal's chief minister Mamata Banerjee has extended her greetings to the organisers and wished success for the celebrations, states a press note issued by the organisation. The celebrations will start on July 14 afternoon and Justice Sambuddha Chakraborty of Calcutta High Court will be the chief guest. The most unique feature of the celebrations at Mayapur is that it becomes a symbol of connecting and integrating people from various communities and socio-economic background. It may be mentioned that Rath Yatra was first celebrated by ISKCON in San Francisco in 1987 by Bhaktivedanta Swami Sril Prabhupada, founder Acharya of ISKCON, and is being currently organised in all the 700 centres across the world. (EIOC)

**Centenary celebration of Govt College of Engineering and Leather Technology**



**KOLKATA, JULY 9 /-/-** The Centenary celebration of Government College of Engineering and Leather Technology was held at the eastern Zonal Cultural Centre recently. The main highlight of the event was the Centenary Lecture where dignitaries discussed the evolution of science and technology in India in the last 100 years. Professors and principals of different colleges were present on the dais on the day. The Speakers highlighted the milestones that India has touched in the field of Space Science and Satellite Technology in the recent times and also its various achievements in the field of science and technology. (EIOC)

**Students, teachers of Manipur Varsity start relay hunger strike demanding V-C's removal**

**IMPHAL, JULY 9 /-/-** Post graduate students and teachers of Manipur University today started a relay hunger strike at the gate of the varsity campus here demanding the removal of vice-chancellor Pankaj Prasad Pandey in the impasse in the university entered its 40th day. The hunger strike was started after a series of sit-in protests and rallies by the students and teachers. The hunger strike will continue till July 24. Manipur University Teachers' Association (MUTA) spokesperson Professor M Ranjit said. Since May 30 the Manipur University Students' Union (MUSU) and MUTA are holding sit-in protests and sending fax on campus demanding the removal of the vice-chancellor alleging that Pandey has failed to fill up key posts in the university, indulging in contract works, irregularly on tours outside the state at the expense of the university. Pandey had earlier denied all these charges leveled against him. Six deans and five heads of departments have already resigned during the course of the agitation, the MUTA said. On the question of postponing of 6th semester examination of the MA students, Pandey in a declaration issued on 4th semester of college students, profes-

or Ranjit said that the teaching community is very much concerned over the delay and appealed to the state government to intervene at the earliest to save the career of the students. Ranjit said that if the vice-chancellor is removed, the teaching community along with the staff of the university will instantly take up the process to conduct the examination and declare the results of all pending examinations. Meanwhile, a press statement was released issued on Sunday by the office of the Public Relations Officers (PRO) of Manipur University said all forms of agitation within the university campus be stopped as it infringes the code of conduct of the university's ordinance and asked the protesters to "refrain from unlawful acts". The release stated that "condonatory" as the university does not have PRO at the moment and creation was not signed by any individual. MUTA remarked that the vice-chancellor has "no authority to issue such regulatory statements to the press." MUTA president I Tomba Singh said issuing of press statement under the office of PRO when the University itself has no PRO amounts to "continuation of indulging in false fabrication" by Pandey to "mislead the public. (PTI)

**All Jharkhand households should get electricity by Dec 2018: CM**

**RANCHI, JULY 9 /-/-** Jharkhand chief minister Raghubar Das today said by December this year every household in the state should get electricity connection. "By December 2018, we have to bring electricity to every household in this work, negligence will not be tolerated at any cost," the chief minister said while reviewing the progress of work with rural electrification agencies. Das said electricity has not reached to all even after so many years of Independence and told the agencies to plan out strategies to achieve the goal of electricity connection to every household, an official release said. "Complete the work of power supply to every household within the given time frame and those who cannot do, surrender. Now the government will take action. (PTI)

**State education minister announces salary hike for para teachers**



Firad Hakim, minister for urban development and municipal affairs and Partha Chatterjee minister for higher education and school education department present at a meeting organised by TMC affiliated organization of para teachers at Netaji Indoor Stadium, Kolkata on Monday—Arijit Ganguly

**KOLKATA, JULY 9 /-/-** West Bengal education minister Partha Chatterjee today announced hike in the salary of para teachers effective from March 1, 2018. Para-teachers are those who assist teaching in schools and are not full-time teachers. Chatterjee announcing the pay hike at a rally of his party's para-teachers' wing, said 22,065 of them at the primary level and 26,585 at the higher secondary level will be benefited by it. He said, para teachers in primary schools will get a monthly salary of Rs 10,000 from the present Rs 5,954, from now on, while those in higher secondary schools will draw Rs 13,000 every month from Rs 8,500 at present with effect from March 1, 2018. Women para-teachers will get maternity benefits and their retirement age would be 60 years.