

NOTES
Six die of suffocation in Bihar

MOTIHARI, AUG 9 /-- Six persons, four of them members of the same family, died of suffocation after inhaling poisonous gases when they entered a septic tank in East Champaran district, police said. The incident took place at the house of Dinesh Mahto (45) in Bela Jeepur village under Jitna police station area. Deputy Superintendent of Police Alok Kumar Singh said. He said Dinesh entered the septic tank to clean it and the five others also went inside it to rescue him after realising that he had fallen unconscious. They also died after inhaling poisonous gases in the tank, the DSP said. The other five were his wife Bachani Devi, sons Mohan Mahto and Basant Kumar, besides neighbours Sachin Mahto and Sanjay Mukhiya, the deputy SP said. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem. (PTI)

Nagaland launches second phase of National De-worming Day

KOHIMA, AUG 9 /-- The Nagaland government today launched the second phase of National De-worming Day (NDD) for the current year, which aims to de-worm children and adults in the age group of 1-19 years. Principal Director of Health and Family Welfare, Vikeley Losu administered the first tablet to a student at a programme in Dr Neilhouz Kire Government Higher Secondary School, Seikhaozu here. In his address, Losu said that worm infection can take a toll on one's health and therefore, it is important to maintain hygienic practices. Stating that worm infection affects the physical growth and well-being, he encouraged the children to take the de-worming tablets at least twice a year. (PTI)

Mild quake in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR, AUG 9 /-- A mild earthquake reading 3.6 in the Richter scale was felt in several parts of Odisha early today, the Regional Meteorological Centre said. The earthquake, which had its epicentre at Angul, was experienced by the people in Boudh, Sagar, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Nayagarh and Angul at 3.03 am, the met office said. The magnitude of the earthquake, having depth of 10 km, was measured 3.6 in the Richter scale. No casualty or loss of property has been reported so far, official sources said. (PTI)

Arms, ammunition recovered in Manipur

IMPHAL, AUG 9 /-- Security forces on Wednesday recovered a large cache of arms and ammunition from suspected militants in Manipur's Bishnupur district, police said. A combined team of Manipur Police and Assam Rifles chased a group of suspected militants at Kumbi Setapur Maning Ching area and made the recovery, which included rifles, pistols, hand grenades and gelatine sticks, they said. The group, however, fled deep into a forest, a police officer said. A case has been registered at Kumbi Police Station for further investigation, he said. (PTI)

Odisha to pay people returning OMFED packets, plastic bottles

BHUBANESWAR, AUG 9 /-- The Odisha government today said it would reward people who returned Orissa State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited (OMFED) plastic containers and empty packets after use from October this year. The government would issue a public notice by the end of August in this regard, it said. The government has been following a directive issued by chief minister Mohapatra to ban use of plastic and

polythene containers in the state from October 2. "People will be paid on returning the OMFED (Orissa State Cooperative Milk Producers Federation) packets and plastic bottles," forest & environment additional chief secretary S C Mohapatra told reporters after chief secretary A P Padhi discussed the matter at a high-level meeting here today. The meeting also discussed the rules to be framed for plastic ban in Odisha. The

plastic packets and bottles will be collected through agents, it said. The state government will give 15-day time to the people for their opinion in this regard while a law to this effect would be enacted by September 15, Mohapatra said. He said the chief secretary has directed the department concerned to implement the ban order within two weeks after the enactment of the law. Mohapatra said that as plastic has posed a

serious threat to the environment, the use of plastic bag and polythene will be banned in Puri and all municipal corporations in the first phase and it will come into force in the remaining civic bodies over the next two years. Urban and Housing Department as well as Panchayati Raj departments have been directed to ensure strict implementation of the ban in the urban and rural areas respectively, Mohapatra said. (PTI)



Finance Minister Amit Mitra garlanding the portrait of Matangini Hazra on the occasion of 'Quit India Movement' Day on Thursday at Nabanna—Shyamal Maitra

Bengal BJP chief's car attacked

KOLKATA, AUG 9 /-- West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh's car was attacked by some miscreants at Khatra in Bankura district, the police said today. The incident happened when Ghosh was returning to his hotel in Khatra after attending a dinner at a party worker's house in the area, they said. "Stones were hurled at my vehicle by some miscreants last night," Ghosh said adding that they were also abusing the BJP. Ghosh, who is an MLA, later filed a complaint with the police. The BJP blamed miscreants "associated with the ruling TMC" for the attack. The Bankura district TMC leadership termed the allegation as "baseless" and said the attack was a fallout of the infighting in the state BJP and has nothing to do with the ruling party. (PTI)

Not sure when screening will start at Priya Cinema: Owner

KOLKATA, AUG 9 /-- The owner of Priya Cinema, where a fire broke out during the night show on August 6, today said he was not sure when screenings would resume at the theatre as the fire department has given a lot of conditions to fulfill for obtain the no-objection certificate to resume show. Some of the conditions involve alterations in the layout of the auditorium and surrounding areas. Priya Cinema owner Arjit Dutta said. The fire department had sent a letter to the owner of the hall recommending certain changes in the seat arrangement, exit-entrances, lay out in the building and the surrounding area. "We are not sure when all these changes can be incorporated and we can finally throw open the theatre for the public," he said. Fire Services Minister Sovan Chatterjee earlier

said the government would take every step to ensure safety of the audience and those visiting the restaurants functioning on the ground floor of the theatre, he had stated. The fire originated from a food stall located on the ground floor and the main theatre was not affected as the employees managed to evacuate the audience immediately after the incident. Dutta had said earlier. The fire had broken out at the theatre in Deshapriya Park area of south Kolkata during a show of a Bengali film on August 6 at around 10:15 pm. Cinemagoers had managed to exit after smoke filled the auditorium in the middle of the show. Four members of Dutta's family and a staff member were trapped on the roof, but were evacuated safely by fire brigade personnel. There was no report of any casualty. (PTI)

Naveen betrayed people by backing NDA candidate in RS: Cong

BHUBANESWAR, AUG 9 /-- Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) today accused chief minister Naveen Patnaik of betraying the people by backing NDA candidate in the Rajya Sabha deputy chairman election in a bid to return the CBI from exposing ruling party's "misdeeds". "BJD supporting the NDA candidate for Rajya Sabha deputy chairman election is not surprising at all, that's what allies are supposed to do. It's a deal to stop CBI from exposing the BJD's misdeeds," OPCC president Niranjan Patnaik alleged in a twitter post. Patnaik further claimed that the chief minister's move gave credence to talks about understanding between the BJP and the BJD. "This strengthens the ongoing rumours of seat sharing discussions between the BJP and the BJD," he said in a statement. "The BJD has been betraying the people of Odisha for many years by making false claim about maintaining equal distance from both the BJP and the Congress. But, its real character has now come to fore," Patnaik said. Naveen Patnaik has all along

been misleading the 4.35 crore people of Odisha by accusing the previous UPA regime and BJP-led NDA government of neglecting the state, he alleged. On the other hand, the chief minister cleverly backed the BJP on most issues such as demonetisation, introduction of GST, presidential election and holding of simultaneous Lok Sabha and state Assembly polls, the Congress leader said. "Now Naveen Patnaik has proved himself to be loyal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi by announcing BJD's support to the NDA candidate in the election to the post of Rajya Sabha deputy chairman after getting a telephone call," he said. By changing colours like a chameleon, the BJD chief has always been sacrificing the interest of the state to protect his narrow interests, he alleged. BJD, however, justified its decision saying there were ideological similarities between the party and JD (U) of which the elected NDA candidate Hariwanth Narayan Singh belongs. "Our party has decided to support Singh since JD (U) and BJD have similar ideological background. Both the

parties have emerged from the Jaiprakash Narayan movement against the Emergency imposed by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in mid 1970s. BJD spokesperson Sasmit Patra said. (PTI)

TSR contingent in Mizoram to participate in 1-Day parade

AGARTALA, AUG 9 /-- To strengthen inter-state cooperation among the security forces, a contingent of Tripura State Rifles (TSR) has gone to Mizoram for Mizoram Armed Police. Police personnel have arrived in Tripura to participate in the Independence Day parade of the neighbouring state. Assistant inspector general of police (law and order), Smriti Ranjan Das said that the contingent from the Ministry of Home Affairs to all the states had asked for inter-state participation of the security forces in the Independence Day parade of neighbouring states. In January last, during a meeting of the DGPs and IGs at Tekanpur in Madhya Pradesh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had suggested that security forces of the neighbouring states could participate in inter-state cooperation among the security forces, a top police official said. In line with the directive, a contingent of 44 TSR personnel has gone to Mizoram and a contingent of Mizoram police will be sent to Tripura, the police officer said. The MAP is now jointly exercising with the Tripura police. The TSR contingent is in Mizoram for participation in the Independence Day parade, the AIG said. (PTI)

Students lift sit-in protest at JU

Kolkata, Aug 9 /-- The Arts Faculty Students Union (AFSU) today withdrew its sit-in protest outside Jadavpur University Vice-Chancellor Sarwanjan Das' chamber after the dean of Arts said he was quitting from the admission process, an AFSU leader said. The sit-in protest was held for a long demonstration at 5 am following which the V.C. Prof-VC Pradip Ghosh and other senior university officials left for home, a teacher of Jadavpur University Teachers' Association (JUTA) said. The students were protesting against the university's decision to put the history admission process on hold following the demand for review of history entrance test answer scripts of all applicants, as raised by a section of guardians. They were also demanding the resignation of the dean of Arts, Subhasis Biswas, who is also the head of the history department. The varsity had witnessed prolonged gherao and hunger strike by the AFSU in July demanding reintroduction of the admission system to six humanities streams. An AFSU member said the varsity should not put on hold the counseling for history admissions, scheduled for today and tomorrow, as it would further delay the already delayed new classes slated to begin on August 13. Guardians of 110 candidates had asked for re-evaluation of the answer scripts after their wards allegedly scored less than 10 in history despite scoring high marks in Plus-II board exams. However, 106 students scored higher marks in the admission test which was on par with their board exam marks, a university official said. The varsity will now take the admission system to six humanities streams. A fresh merit list and counseling for those who had challenged the provisional merit list, the official said. The vice-chancellor said aggrieved parents of any applicant, who had appeared for the admission test in six humanities streams, can communicate with the varsity by the second week of August following which the details of the students can be re-tabulated. (PTI)

Chess corner inaugurated under busy flyover in South Kolkata



KOLKATA, AUG 9 /-- In a move aimed at promoting the game of chess, the Kolkata Police has set up a chess corner under a flyover in a busy south Kolkata neighbourhood. Called 'Gariahat Chess Club', the corner was inaugurated on Wednesday evening in the presence of Commissioner of Kolkata Police Rajeev Kumar, Grassroots Union Dhanendra Barua, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East) Kalyan Mukhopadhyay and Hooghly River Bridge Commission Chairman Kalyan Bandopadhyay. The DC (South-East) said 'Gariahat Chess Club' is open to all and both chess veterans and beginner room can come here and play the game. Barua praised the 'unique initiative' and said it would help in popularising chess among masses. He pledged his support in running the chess corner. Coaching classes will also be undertaken in future at the Gariahat Chess Club, the DC said adding the chess corner, built with support from a jewellery group, would also help in the beautification drive under the flyover. (PTI)

IIT KGP takes step to become smart college campus

KOLKATA, AUG 9 /-- The IIT Kharagpur (KGP) today claimed to have taken a step towards becoming the country's first smart college campus, in which students can operate equipment inside their hostel room remotely using a smart phone app. A smart switch module was installed in 100 of its hostel rooms and from now on, when a student leaves the room, the fan and light in it would automatically turned off. The student can also remotely switch off electrical equipment in his/her room through the app which remains connected to the smart switch board through Wi-Fi.

With this system, which will make IIT KGP the country's first smart college campus, the institute is now expected to save about 20 per cent of its monthly electricity expenditure, an IIT KGP statement said. The entire 2100 acre campus of IIT KGP is Wi-Fi-enabled and the institute has over 5,000 hostel rooms of which 100 have come under the smart electrification module to be operated by the app. The smart switch product has been developed for B2B (business to business) and B2C (business to consumer) commercial use by Alive Home, a green start-up by a recent graduate and a few current students of the IIT KGP. The development and assembling of the hardware and software was done in-house at the Innovation Lab of the institute and the product was tested and cleared by the Electrical and Maintenance Works of IIT KGP for safety and operational ease for installation at the campus. "A major benefit of the product is its economy in pricing which is as low as 50 per cent of similar products available in the market while the other key aspect is that the product can be personalised as per customers' requirements both for B2B and B2C," Prof P K Dan, faculty at IIT KGP's Rajendra Mishra School of Engineering Entrepreneurship, was quoted in the statement. Dan had mentored the development and deployment work. (PTI)

Manipur varsity V-C in forms Centre of the impasse

IMPHAL, AUG 9 /-- Manipur University Vice-Chancellor (in-charge) professor V Vishwanath has written a letter to the Centre that the agitating bodies have refused to cooperate with the fact finding committee to probe the allegations of financial and administrative irregularities against the VC A P Pandey. The agitating bodies have sought for an independent high power committee under the Commission of Enquiry Act 1952 against Pandey, who is currently on a month-long leave. Vishwanath said in the letter to the HRD Ministry on Wednesday. Despite assuming office as in-charge of the post of the vice-chancellor of the Central university, he has been unable to perform his official duties, Vishwanath said in the letter which was made available to the media. As many as 93 colleges have been affiliated to the university and publication of the examination results of final year college students is pending making the possibility of losing an academic year, he said seeking a response in two days. Academics in the university have been paralysed since May 30 when the Manipur University Students Union (MUSU) has demanded removal of Pandey on alleged financial irregularities and administrative negligence. Meanwhile, a joint press release issued by the Manipur University Teachers Association, the Manipur University Staffs Association and MUSU said that investigation against Pandey should be initiated before August 14 in the interest of the public. (PTI)

Iron rods pierce labourer's stomach, timely surgery saves life

KOLKATA, AUG 9 /-- A labourer who fell from the roof of a house on to iron rods piercing through his stomach, returned from the brink of death following timely surgery at a city hospital today. The accident took place around noon when Uday Sarkar touched a live wire and fell down from the roof at Baruripara area of South 24 Parganas district, police said. Three rods pierced his abdomen narrowly missing his liver and kidneys but passing through the colon before coming out of the back, a senior doctor where he was operated on said. He was taken to the hospital after preliminary check up at a super-specialty hospital at Baruripara and was referred to a hospital in the city, police said. A five-member team of doctors were formed who quickly conducted a very critical surgery. Prior to the surgery, the rods were shortened by iron cutting machines following which doctors conducted a two-and-a-half-hour long to remove the rods. "It was a very critical operation. We had to keep in mind about the possible risks which could have harm other organs of the body while taking out the rods. There was a good amount of blood loss. However, it was a successful surgery," the doctor said. Sarkar would be now kept under observation, he added. (PTI)