

NOTES
Student activists checking people entering Mizoram from Assam

AIZAWL, AUG 21 /--/ Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZP) or Mizo students federation today said that it has sent activists to Mizoram-Assam border villages to ensure that people whose names are not in Assam's NRC list do not enter Mizoram. MZP president L. Ramdiani Renthlei claimed that they had already detected and pushed back 204 non-tribals whose names were not included in Assam's NRC list and tried to enter Mizoram from Assam since Thursday (August 16). Renthlei told PTI over phone that MZP activists began checking people entering the state from neighbouring Assam at the border check posts from Thursday. The Mizoram government said that additional police personnel were deployed in the border areas. (PTI)

Man arrested for raping minor

MOTIHARI, AUG 21 /--/ One person has been arrested on the charge of raping a seven-year-old girl at Jamia village in Bihar's East Champaran district, police said today. The man was held following an FIR lodged by the girl's father on Monday. Muzaffarpur station SHO Arvind Prasad said. The accused might have lured the minor girl to an isolated place, Prasad said, adding, he took her near a roadside in the village after allegedly committing the crime. A medical examination of the girl has confirmed rape, the SHO said. (PTI)

Two top leaders of militant outfit arrested

SHILLONG, AUG 21 /--/ Chairman and information secretary of Manipur based militant outfit Zeliangrong United Front were arrested from Meghalaya's West Jaintia Hills district, police said today. Chairman Raitu Chawang and information secretary G P Namthuiyang, both wanted for their crimes in Manipur, were taken into custody on Monday when they were going to Guwahati in a bus. "We have arrested the two militant leaders from a bus. The bus was on its way to Guwahati," district SP Vivesh Szym told PTI. The 66-year-old chairman and the information secretary would be handed over to the Manipur police, he said. The two were wanted by the Manipur police in at least five cases, the SP said. From their possession, four mobile phones were seized and certain documents. (PTI)

Train services disrupted on ER's Sealdah South Section

KOLKATA, AUGUST 21 /--/ Train services were disrupted on Eastern Railway's Sealdah South section from 1.55 pm on Tuesday as a group of people obstructed train movements between Sonarpur and Barurpur stations on non-railway cause. Its impact has been felt on Sealdah-Lakshmitapur, Sealdah-Diamond Harbour and Sealdah-Barurpur sections while normal train services were maintained between Sealdah-Canning, Sealdah-Sonarpur and Sealdah-Budge Budge sections during the obstruction period. Normal train services were resumed at 2.50 pm when the obstructions were withdrawn. As a consequence 3 pairs of EMU locals had to be cancelled. 6 EMU locals (4 Up & 2 Down) were detained en route for 30 minutes each on an average and one pair of Bh EMU local was short-terminated. (EOIC)

AAPSU detects over 2,000 ILP violators in Arunachal

ITANAGAR, AUG 21 /--/ The All Arunachal Pradesh Students Union (AAPSU) today said it has detected over 2000 Inner Line Permit (ILP) violators across the state during a drive taken up after publication of the complete draft of the NRC in neighbouring Assam on July 30. The list of such violators was given to the police in various districts, following which they have been taken out of the Arunachal Pradesh's boundary into Assam. AAPSU general secretary Tabom Dai claimed. Admitting that they have received such lists from the apex body of students' associations in the state, police sources said, without elaborating, that they were on the job. "Altogether 2205 ILP violators were detected during the two-day Operation Clean Drive from August 17. The drive has been suspended temporarily and it will resume soon," the AAPSU general secretary said.

Dai said these people were staying in the state without valid ILP which is mandatory for outsiders for entry into Arunachal Pradesh. When contacted, Capital SP Harsh Vardhan said, "We are on the job. The police are checking the ILP documents of the people after the (complete draft of the) NRC was published. We are taking action."

The Arunachal Pradesh Police have also detected 2,333 ILP violators across the state since the publication of the complete draft of the NRC in Assam. Papum Pare district accounted for the maximum number of 663 violators, police sources said.

These figures were shared by the Director General of Police S B K Singh in the state Cabinet meeting on August 10. The student's body, however, expressed disappointment with the government over the ILP. "The state government has failed to detect ILP violators. They act only when they are detected by the AAPSU," Dai alleged. Chief Secretary Satya Gopal said the state government has issued directives to the SPs to remain alert on possible infiltration of illegal migrants into the state. The police have started rigorous ILP checking in the state. Gopal said, AAPSU president Hava Bagang said its members would soon launch house to house drive in the state to detect illegal migrants and ILP violators. "Our move is not to

harass any innocent person but to detect illegal migrants who are staying in the state without valid documents. We urge the state government to initiate action against such people," Bagang said. Bagang said, "There are reports from various districts that ILP violators caught during the Operation Clean Drive are being let off without action. This should be looked into." The Operation Clean Drive was launched as the AAPSU has apprehended that illegal migrants from Assam might sneak into the tribal state to evade deportation. Serving a 15-day sentence, the AAPSU had on August 1 warned all illegal migrants to leave the state and asked those who did not have valid ILP to procure the same within 15 days. (PTI)



Taxis queue up for meter calibration on Ruby Rajdanga Main Road at Anandapur on Tuesday—Arjit Ganguly

Two die, two taken ill after eating mango kernel cake

NABARANGPUR, AUG 21 /--/ In a case of apparent food poisoning, a woman and a 15-year-old girl died today and two other members of a family fell ill reportedly after having traditional cakes prepared from mango kernel powder in the district, officials said. Family members of one Arjuna Santa in Mainapadar village cooked traditional rice gruel mixing mango kernel powder last week and ate the cake. Though there was no problem at that time, the family members complained of stomach problem after they ate it again later and fell sick, the officials said. Four of the family members - Sudhamani, Prakash, Namita and Pramila - started vomiting followed by acute diarrhoea on Monday night. Namita, sister of Arjuna, died at around 2 am, following which they were taken to the local community health centre and later shifted to the district headquarters hospital. However, Arjuna's wife Sudhamani died on the way to the hospital, the officials said. Now, Arjuna's son Prakash and sister-in-law Pramila are undergoing treatment at the hospital. "Preliminary diagnosis has found it to be a case of food poisoning. The cause of death will be known after post-mortem," additional district medical officer Sivaram Mishra said. "It is a shame for the state that people are eating mango kernel for want of food," BJP spokesman Golak Mohapatra alleged. District Collector Ajit Mishra, however, said Arjuna Santa is a well-off person who owns two tractors and a car. (PTI)

NCW asks Bihar DGP to apprise of detailed action in beating, stripping of woman

NEW DELHI, AUG 21 /--/ The National Commission for Women (NCW) has directed the Bihar DGP to apprise it of the detailed action being taken in a case in which a woman was allegedly beaten and stripped by a mob in Bhojpur district, an official said. The woman was beaten up, stripped and paraded naked on Monday on the streets by an irate mob who suspected her of being involved in the killing of a 19-year-old man. Taking suo motu cognizance in the case, the NCW directed Bihar DGP K S Dwivedi to apprise it of the detailed action being taken in the matter at the earliest, the official said. The commission took cognizance of the incident and serious note of the fact that no arrests were made by the police even after several photos and videos had been circulated on social media, she said. The incident occurred in the Bihya police station area, where the body of Vimalash Sah, who went missing on Sunday, was found near a railway track on Monday. Bhojpur superintendent of police Avakash Kumar said. He said the residents of Sah's native village Damodarpur rushed to the spot after they came to know about his death and some of them suspected that those living in a red light area nearby strangled him to death. The villagers stormed the place, setting fire a number of shops and beating several residents. They dragged out the woman on the street, ripped off her clothes and paraded her naked while kicking and slapping her, the SP said. (PTI)

Jharkhand Cabinet passes resolution condoling death of Vajpayee

RANCHI, AUG 21 /--/ The Jharkhand Cabinet today passed a resolution condoling the death of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The resolution was passed by chief minister Raghubar Das,

which was carried out by Bihar on November 15, 2000, the release said. The resolution extended sincere condolences to the family of Vajpayee, who passed away on August 16, the release added. (PTI)

World-class interpretation centre to come up in Bhitarkanika

KENDRAPARA, AUG 21 /--/ The Odisha government has decided to set up a state-of-the-art interpretation centre at Bhitarkanika National Park to showcase its flora, fauna and rich biodiversity, a senior official said. At present, the national park has an interpretation centre at Dangat but it has proved to be inadequate in preserving the vast reserve of the finest biodiversity hotspots of the state, the official said. Mangrove and wildlife researchers had also suggested for better showcasing of the natural heritage here. "So there is a need for setting up a specialized and world-class interpretation centre at Bhitarkanika," he said. The project,

which has been approved under the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Programme (ICZMP), will be taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 3 crore, the official said. The construction of the centre will get underway in winter. ICZMP project director, Sushant Nanda, said. The conservation measures for protecting crocodiles in their natural habitat and preserving the rich mangrove diversity in Bhitarkanika wetland sites will be exhibited at the proposed centre. The ICZMP-funded centre that is coming up will cater to the needs of the researchers for an in-depth study of Bhitarkanika's rich reserve of flora and fauna, he said. It will also be of interest to visitors who through the internationally-acclaimed Ramsar wetland site. We plan to develop the centre both as a tourist attraction and a place for students to learn about the environment," Nanda said. It could be a major attraction for both domestic and international tourists, he said. The national park is said to house 70 per cent of the country's estuarine crocodile or saltwater crocodiles, conservation of which was started way back in 1975. The crocodile population at Bhitarkanika is estimated to be 1698 as per the latest census. The park is also famous for its mangroves, turtles and migratory birds. (PTI)



Army honours veer naaris at Fort William

KOLKATA, AUG 21 /--/ As a run up to the 52nd Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA) Day celebrations, a function was organized by HQs Bengal Sub Area under the aegis of HQ Eastern Command to felicitate the Veer Naaris, war widows of Indian Armed Forces settled in south Bengal, whose husbands' sons had laid down their lives in service of the "nation", at Fort William here today. The function attended by a large number of war widows from West Bengal was formally inaugurated by Sujata Srivastava, regional vice-president AWWA Eastern Command. Apart from felicitating, efforts were also made to resolve their pension issues, ex-servicemen's health issues and other problems directly in the presence of officials from the concerned departments and banks. They were also provided an opportunity to access UIDAI registration, medical checkups and provision of medicines. (EOIC)

OSRTC staff on strike, 400 buses to remain off roads

BHUBANESWAR, AUG 21 /--/ Over 400 buses remained off the roads across the state as a section of employees of the Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC) today launched a three-day agitation to press for their demands. As part of the strike, the agitating employees of the state-owned transport corporation are holding demonstrations at different places throughout Odisha. The demands include regularization of contractual service, reinstating employees disengaged by the corporation, same wage for same work and upgradation in salary as per the 7th Pay Commission. "We will intensify the strike if the state government does not fulfill our demands," a member of the agitating staff of Odisha State Road Transport Corporation Association said. The association, however, is not recognised by the OSRTC. As most OSRTC buses ply in remote areas, road communication has taken a hit in Koraput, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Gajapati, Nabarangpur and other districts. Around 60 buses remained stranded at Badambadi bus terminal in Cuttack, adding to the woes of commuters. The OSRTC has termed the agitation as "illegal" and "unlawful." "We have appealed to the agitating employees to return to work... The corporation had recently hired the remuneration of contractual employees by 20 per cent. As such, OSRTC is a loss-making undertaking," general manager R P Sahu told PTI. Sahu said that the strike is not legal as it is being organised by an employee body not recognised by the corporation. (PTI)

Assam citizen body dubs Assam govt as anti-Bengali

KOLKATA, AUG 21 /--/ The members of Assam Nagarik Mancha today accused the BJP ministry in the state of being "anti-Bengali" and demanded that a new National Register of Citizens (NRC) be published with the voter list of 2014 being the benchmark. The complete draft of the NRC touted as a document of Assamese identity, was published last month and excluded the names of over 40 lakh people of the state. "The BJP government in Assam is anti-Bengali. It wants to remove Bengalis from Assam," Bijay Chakraborty, general secretary of the Mancha, told newsmen here. "The BJP came to power with the votes of these people and now all of a sudden they have become foreigners. We will never allow BJP to divide India on the basis of communal lines," he said. Chakraborty said in the name of NRC the BJP is targeting Bengalis who have been living in Assam for the last several decades. "We demand that a new NRC should be published with the voter list of 2014 being the benchmark, he said. (PTI)



Mayor of Kolkata Sovan Chatterjee at KMC House on Monday. Behind him is chairperson of KMC Mala Roy and on the right side is municipal secretary Harihar Prasad—Arjit Ganguly