

Chit fund bosses kept under close surveillance in jails

KOLKATA, MARCH 31 /-/ The state correctional department has put owners of various chit fund companies, including Saradha Group chairman Sudipto Sen and Rose Valley head Gautam Kundu under close surveillance inside the jail. State correctional minister Abani Mohan Joardar said that they have been put under close surveillance and "the step has nothing to do with the CBI investigation." They used to take advantage inside the jail premises such as using mineral water from outside. We have ensured that these things are not repeated. They will be treated like any other prisoner and will not be given any extra privilege. Joardar told news agency PTI. The jail officials have been asked to keep a close tab on every person who comes to meet the bosses of these chit fund companies and their daily routine. Jail sources said, "We have been told to ensure that they don't mingle with the other prisoners. Whether they are passing any information or not should also be kept under tab. A sentry has been placed outside the cells of the chit fund owners. CCTV cameras have also been installed outside their cells," a jail official said. Jail doctors regularly monitor the health and diet of the chit fund owners. The special surveillance arrangements comes in the backdrop of the concerns of various political parties, including BJP and Left Front over the safety and security of Sen and Kundu following their arrests in the chit fund scam. (PTI)

Prompt action by Asansol, Dhanbad DRMs bring quick relief for sick passenger

KOLKATA, MARCH 31, 2017 /-/- Prompt action by two divisional railway managers (DRM) of Eastern Railway ensured quick medical assistance for a travelling passenger today. While travelling by 12909 Dn New Delhi - Sealdah Duronto Express today, daughter of one passenger, B. Malakar (B-7, 35 & 36) suddenly started vomiting with tremendous stomach pain when they were crossing Gaya. Shri Malakar immediately informed Eastern Railway authorities for medical assistance. Shokhar Ranjan Ghosal, divisional railway manager (DRM), Asansol immediately took all initiative and requested the DRM, Dhanbad for necessary help by deputed a doctor to attend the sick child at Dhanbad station. DRM Dhanbad responded very promptly and directed medical doctor, Dhanbad to depute a doctor to attend the child. Subsequently, when the train stopped at Dhanbad, one railway doctor attended the child and provided her the necessary medical assistance. Parents of the child expressed their sincere thanks and gratitude to the Railway authorities for their prompt action.

Bihar BJP suspends MLC over 'sexual harassment' charge

PATNA, MARCH 31 /-/- BJP today suspended its Legislative Council member Lal Babu Prasad for allegedly sexually harassing a woman J.P.M.C. Lal Babu Prasad, MLC, was suspended from the primary membership of BJP senior BJP leader Sushil Modi said in a tweet. A show cause has also been issued by the party to Prasad, Sushil told newsmen. The chairperson of State Legislative Council Awadesh Narayan Singh announced in the House that the matter had been referred to ethics committee of the House for probe. The chairperson said he took this decision after taking suo motu cognisance of the sordid episode in Legislative Council premises on March 29. Singh further announced that Prasad has been removed from Council's Committee on Pollution and Environment. The episode had created a major embarrassment for BJP and NDA. Ruling Grand Alliance MLCs had on Thursday raised in the Legislative Council the issue of a BJP MLA reportedly thrashing a party MLC for "sexually harassing" the former's wife who is an L.P.M.C. (PTI)



S N Agarwal, general manager of South Eastern Railway (SER) and patron, SER Bharat Scouts and Guides giving away prizes to winners of different events at the valedictory function at the District Camp Rally of Central District Association at BNR Group, Santragachhi. SER Bharat Scouts and Guides shows spectacular performances at the event. A.D. Dutta, A.D.G and president of SER Bharat Scouts and Guides and other senior officers were also present at the event.

Man arrested in city for selling 'artificial eggs'

KOLKATA, MARCH 31 /-/- A shopkeeper was arrested here today for allegedly selling "artificial eggs" to a woman, police said. A shopkeeper named Md. Shamim Ansari was arrested on Friday morning from Park Circus Market for allegedly selling artificial plastic eggs to the complainant Anita Kumar, an officer from the Kolkata Police's Enforcement Branch said. Kumar lodged a police complaint at Kolkata's Karaya police station on Thursday evening after she discovered that she was sold "fake eggs" that had a "strange" plastic-like quality when they were spread out on a pan. "I tested my suspicion by putting a match to it and it caught fire. The shell also looked plastic. I was sure these eggs are found to be life-threatening to natural and, being a mother, I felt I should alert the public," Kumar said. The Kolkata Municipal Corporation ordered an investigation into the matter. A team from the civic body, headed by Mayor-in-waiting (Health) Atin Ghosh, raided various city markets

and seized similar samples of artificial eggs on Friday. According to Ghosh, the eggs sold by Ansari were procured from a wholesaler in the city's Muchipara area. "We have seized a crate of eggs from the wholesaler who sold the eggs to Ansari. We will also collect at least three more crates of similar samples from other shops in the market and send them to the concerned department for analysis," Ghosh said. Accused Ansari bought eggs worth Rs 1.5 lakh from the wholesaler "according to the Food Safety and Standards Act, food adulteration is a punishable offence. The artificial eggs are found to be life-threatening to offenders may face major punishments like life imprisonment and a huge fine," Ghosh added. (PTI)

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State BJP minority cell to raise awareness against beefeating

KOLKATA, MARCH 31 /-/- Amidst the controversy over crackdown on illegal abattoirs in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal BJP's minority cell has decided to launch an awareness programme about the "ill effects and environmental hazards" of beef consumption and cow slaughter in the state. The BJP state unit has decided that minority cell president Ali Hossain, along with his supporters, would spread the message against beef eating and cow slaughter among the minority community of the state, which comprises of the 27 per cent of the population. "Consumption of beef or cow slaughter has nothing to do with our religion. Actually, it is a misguided people and opportunist political parties are trying to propagate as if beef consumption and cow slaughter are parts of our religion," Hossain told news agency PTI. The BJP leader said that the party's minority mocha units would fan out in various parts of the state and raise awareness about the issue. A senior state BJP leader said the decision to put the party's minority cell in the forefront of campaign against beef consumption and cow slaughter has been taken in keeping in mind political and religious equations. "If the BJP main unit tries to propagate against it, we will be termed as communal and infringement into the rights of the minorities. But if the same message is spread by a minority leader, it is more acceptable to the people of the minority community," the state BJP leader said. (PTI)

Raghubar desperate to snatch Littipara seat from JMM

RANCHI, MARCH 31 /-/- Jharkhand chief minister Raghubar Das is doing all he can to win the Littipara Assembly by-election to deal a blow to the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM). And the JMM is desperate to retain the seat, until now known as its stronghold. The chief minister has been camping in the constituency since Wednesday and is likely to return to Ranchi on Saturday. The election assumes significance as it is taking

Jharkhand by-poll

place after the Jharkhand government amended the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act and the Santal Pargana Tenancy Act. After the amendments, the agricultural land can be used for non-farming purposes too and land in the area can be acquired for development work. The entire Opposition and even the BJP ally, the All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU), have opposed the amendments. Till Friday, Raghubar Das had addressed 12 rallies in the constituency. More than half a dozen ministers are also campaigning. The election is due on April 9 and the result will be declared two days later. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of a bridge over the Ganga river in Sahabganj district, which falls in Santal Pargana. The JMM has alleged that Modi's programme has been deliberately scheduled to influence the voters. "Modi will distribute free mobile phones and announce new projects. We have written to the Election Commission," said JMM general secretary Supriyo Bhattacharya.

Ironically the chief minister is being quoting JMM chief Shibui Soren, popularly known as Gurji, to seek votes. "I have fulfilled the dream of Gurji by amending the money lending law. Hemant Soren, his son, did not end money lending when he was the chief minister. The JMM has held the seat for the last 40 years but did nothing for the welfare of the people," Hemant has, in turn, accused the chief minister of trying to copy his Uttar Pradesh counterpart Yogi Adityanath. "And Raghubar is using Shibui Soren's name to get mileage." The BJP has fielded Hemlal Murmu, who was one of the top leaders of the JMM till 2014. Political experts say the chief minister is trying to snuff out the JMM seat to send a message that his move to amend the land acts has been accepted by the tribal people. (PTI)

Assam can emerge as India's corridor to South East Asia: President

GUWAHATI, MARCH 31 /-/- President Pranab Mukherjee today said Assam, which is emerging as economic hub of India, is perfectly positioned to become the corridor of the country to the ASEAN nations as the 'Act East' policy takes forefront. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the 'Namami Brahmaputra' festival in Guwahati, he said, "Assam is perfectly positioned to become the corridor of the country to the ASEAN nations as the 'Act East' policy takes forefront. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the 'Namami Brahmaputra' festival in Guwahati, he said, "Assam is perfectly positioned to become the corridor of the country to the ASEAN nations as the 'Act East' policy takes forefront. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the 'Namami Brahmaputra' festival in Guwahati, he said, "Assam is perfectly positioned to become the corridor of the country to the ASEAN nations as the 'Act East' policy takes forefront."

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). He said the country's traditions, including the teachings of Assam's great scholar and social reformer Shankaradev, never allowed the practice of intolerance. The President said South East Asia is an important destination for India's investment and trade. Stating that Assam has "immense development potential", the President added the inland water transport system in the National Waterways can change its economic scenario. "The development of this national waterway can give Assam access to international ports like Chittagong in Bangladesh. This will give Assam an exposure to international trade and commerce. With the Act East Policy taking forefront, Assam is perfectly positioned to become the corridor of the country to the ASEAN nations," he said. Mukherjee hailed Assam's richness in natural resources and its hardworking people to underline that all it needed was "strong drive, right policies and effective implementation." "We have to join hands to make the dream of Bharat Ratna Gopinath Bordoloi first chief minister of Assam becoming a front runner in the field of socio-economic progress - a reality," the President said. (PTI)



President Pranab Mukherjee in conversation with Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal at the inaugural function of India's Biggest River Festival 'Namami Brahmaputra' in Guwahati.

Maosists attack railway station in Odisha to oppose PM's visit

BHUBANESHWAR, MARCH 31 /-/- Maoists attacked a railway station in Odisha's Rayagada district early today, triggered a blast and put up posters protesting against the proposed visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the state next month. Around 15-20 Maoists stormed Dokaikala railway station under Sambalpur Division shortly after midnight and ransacked the station master's office, chief public relations officer of East Coast Railway (ECOR), J P Mishra said. The ultras pulled out station master S K Parida and triggered an explosion in the station premises. Parida and a token porter Gobind Hikka were also detained by them for a brief period, he said. The attackers snatched the walkie-talkie of the station master and forced staff of a goods train standing outside the station to shut down the engine, Mishra said.

Rayagada superintendent of police K Siva Subramani, who rushed to the spot, said minor damage was caused to the engine of the goods train. No railway staffer or local people were, however, hurt in the incident, the CPRO said adding control room has been able to speak to the staff. Train services through Daikulla, located between Rayagada and Paradip, were disrupted for quite some time. A number of trains were stranded at Muniguda station, railway officials said. The Maoists left behind handwritten posters opposing the policies of Narendra Modi government at the Centre and Navneta Patnaik regime in Odisha, officials said. In one of the posters, the attackers opposed the proposed two-day visit of the Prime Minister to Odisha on April 15 and 16 to attend BJP's national executive meeting. (PTI)

Bihar govt to pay power bill subsidy to consumers: Nitish

PATNA, MARCH 31 /-/- Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar today announced in the state Assembly that the state government would provide subsidy on power bill to consumers instead of power companies from 2017-18 fiscal. The chief minister's statement came six days after the chief minister said in presence of Energy Minister Bijendra Prasad Yadav. The chief minister said Bihar was the first state to experiment this policy of providing power subsidy straightaway to consumers. "Officials told me that senior officials of the Centre have appreciated the concept. If this succeeds it would be followed by others too," he said. The Bihar announced major rationalisation of power tariff for different categories of consumers which he said was lower than that in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal in 2016-17 fiscal. Giving details, he said for Katta Jyoti (KJ) for BPL families with limit of 50 units, BERC had announced Rs 0.68 per unit rate. On this the state government would provide Rs 0.58 per unit subsidy after which the final rate would come down to Rs 2.50 a unit. He said this was Rs 3.44 a unit in West Bengal and Rs 3.17 per unit in UP. For domestic consumer rural areas, the Commission suggested tariff of Rs 6.45 per unit on which the state would provide Rs 3.10 per unit subsidy on which the final rate would come down to Rs 3.35 a unit, he said adding the same is Rs 4.75 and Rs 3.35 per unit in West Bengal and UP respectively.

For urban domestic consumer, BERC rate was Rs 6.48 per unit, subsidy is Rs 1.48 a unit and final charge is Rs 5 per unit. This is Rs 5.02 a unit in West Bengal and Rs 5.28 per unit in UP (PTI)

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