

Bank collection agent shot dead



EOI PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENT

MALDA, JUNE 28 /- A collection-agent of a private-bank was shot dead by

four miscreants at Kushida area under Harishchandrapur police station around 2 pm on Thursday. The miscreants looted the cash-bag from the

agent too.

According to sources in the district police department Babu Haldar, 25 was stopped by four miscreants while he was collecting money from consumers of the bank at Bengal-Bihar embankment area.

The miscreants came by two two-wheelers and asked Haldar to hand over the cash bag to them.

As the agent refused, the miscreants opened fire. A bullet pierced Haldar's head and another hit his left eye. The youth reportedly died on spot. The miscreants fled by their vehicles snatching the cash-bag. An inhabitant of South Dinajpur, Haldar lived at a

rented house at Kushida area.

Police rushed to the spot and sent the body for post-mortem. Police anticipated that the miscreants had escaped into Bihar after the incident.

Dinesh Mandal, branch manager of the bank at Harishchandrapur said, "Haldar used to collect nearly Rs 1 lakh from the subscribers of the bank on regular basis."

Sub-divisional police officer, Chanchal Sajkanti Biswas said, "A collection agent of a bank was killed near Kushida. Police have started a probe. Searches for the miscreants are underway."

Vector-borne disease research centre gets state approval, ICMR's funding

BABUL SARKAR

ALIPURDUAR, JUNE 28 /- The state's first district level vector-borne disease research centre would be in Alipurduar. Health officials as well as the residents of the district were delighted after the state health department sent the approval of this centre through e-mail on Wednesday evening. Indian Council of Medical Re-

search (ICMR) has also sanctioned Rs 80 lakh for the infrastructural development of the centre. Notably initiatives were first taken to establish such a centre in the district in 2017. A centre without any approval from the state government started functioning at a room on the first floor of the district health administration's office. A vector-specialist has also appointed.

Dr Subarna Goswami, deputy chief medical officer of health said, "We always felt the need of such a centre in Alipurduar as the district encircled by hills, forests and tea-gardens is an ideal venue for such researches. State government's approval and ICMR's funding would expedite our effort. "Researches on diseases like dengue, malaria, filaria would be done

here. ICMR has chosen to fund only two research centres in eastern and north-eastern states - one is in West Bengal and another in Tripura. Several species of insects are available here. Hence, the researches would be easier." Dr Goswami said. Detailed data on the insects' life-style, growth, reproduction would be stored in the research centre.

Siliguri safari park gets 3 crocodiles from Alipur Zoo

PRASHANT ACHARYA

SILIGURI, JUNE 28 /- Three large crocodiles have been accommodated at Bengal Safari Park adjacent to the city to attract a larger crowd. One female crocodile and two of its male counterparts were brought to the park from Alipur zoo in Kolkata.

Previously, five gharials were brought to safari park from Bethuadahari in Nadia. Three crocodiles have been added as the park authority felt the demand of the visitors. The reptiles have been kept at the crocodile-zone of the park. Asish Samanta, director of Alipur zoo conceded the shift of three adult crocodiles to Bengal safari park.

Meanwhile, it has been learnt from sources that the cheetah safari though scheduled to be inaugurated on July 1 may take longer to be open for public.

According to sources,

measures are on to train the four cheetahs - two male and two female before they are sent to enclosure for the safari. Although Sachin, a male cheetah is abiding by the directions by the trainers, Saurav, another male cheetah seems to be untamed still. Two female cheetahs - Kajal and Shital, have not been taken out to enclosure yet, sources informed.

Khunti gang-rape incident pre-planned: NCW New Delhi, June 28 /- The National Commission for Women (NCW) said today the alleged rape of five NGO workers at gunpoint in Jharkhand's Khunti district was pre-planned, and it questioned the role of the manager of the school from where the women were abducted.

The five women had gone to Kochang village in the district to create awareness on migration and human trafficking on June 19, when they were allegedly

abducted from R C Mission School and later raped at gunpoint.

The NCW, which had sent a three-member team to Khunti, cast serious doubts over the conduct of Father Alfonso Aiendi, the school manager who reportedly failed to inform authorities about the abduction of the 'naked natak' team members.

"He also persuaded the victims not to disclose the facts to anyone. It is, therefore, considered that he has

definitely acted contrary to the legal requirements and possibly complied with the accused in committing the crime," the NCW said. The NCW team also interacted with two sisters and nuns who had accompanied the survivors to Kochang area. Details of action taken by the state administration were also scrutinised by the fact-finding team and based on the interactions, the role of Father Aiendi in the incident has been questioned by the team. (PTI)

Tigris from MP set to meet partner at Odisha sanctuary

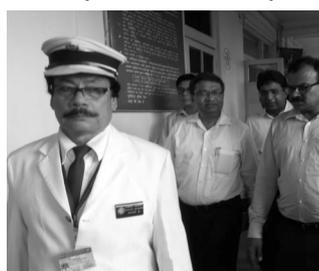
BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 28 /- A Royal Bengal tiger from Odisha's Satkosia Sanctuary, a forest official said. The tigris, about two-year-old, is being relocated to Satkosia from Bandhavgarh National Park in Madhya Pradesh as part of the Odisha government's initiative to revive big cat population in the state. Sudarshan Panda, the additional principal chief conservator of forest and field director of the reserve, said here today.

The tiger, too, was moved to the Satkosia enclosure from Kanha National Park in Madhya Pradesh on June 21. Altogether, six tigers would be translocated to the reserve in phases, Panda said.

"The Madhya Pradesh government has already identified and sent a Royal Bengal tiger and tigris for the Odisha government initiative," he said, adding that four more would be sent to the protected forest in due course of time. According to the 2016 tiger census, Odisha has 40 Royal Bengal Tigers - 13 males, 24 females and three calves. The two-year-old tigris is being ferried to Odisha in a special vehicle by a team of forest officials and veterinary doctors from Odisha and Madhya Pradesh, Panda said. The entire exercise would be supervised by officials of Wildlife Institute of India (WII), he stated.

"We expect the tigris to reach Satkosia Sanctuary by the end of this week. As the team will cover a distance of more than 700 km, nothing can be said for sure about the duration of the travel," Panda told reporters here. A special enclosure has been readied at Satkosia keeping the needs of the tigris in mind. (PTI)

NF Rly GM visits Alipurduar station



ALIPURDUAR, JUNE 28 /- General Manager (GM) of Northeast Frontier (NF) railway Sanjib Roy inspected New Alipurduar station on Wednesday. Roy was accompanied by Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Alipurduar division Chandravir Ram. The NF railway GM spoke to the passengers during the inspection and enquired of their expectations from the railway authority. He also inaugurated a milk parlour on railway platform which would be run by railway jointly with a leading dairy producer of the country. Roy paid visit to every nook and corner of the station and discussed the facilities available with railway officials. "We are planning to upgrade Alipurduar Junction and Darjeeling stations as model stations." The NF railway GM said. (EOIC)

Major initiative by Hq Bengal sub area to provide healing touch to veterans/serving soldiers/dependents in the Year of the Disabled

EOI CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA, JUNE 28 /- An initiative by the Veterans Branch, Headquarters (HQ) Bengal Sub Area with a philanthropic NGO, "International Inner Wheel" (a voluntary service organization with women members established in 1924) resulted in the NGO donating 26 Wheel Chairs on 25 June for the disabled veterans/dependents/serving soldiers of Indian Army residing in the Area of Responsi-

bility of HQ Bengal Sub Area.

The process of distribution has commenced on June 26 with GOC Bengal Sub Area commencing the proceeding with the presentation of a wheel chair to the 100 per cent disabled son of a serving soldier, havildar Sanjay Singh of Infantry. This marked the commencement of the mega initiative taken by headquarters Eastern Command and HQ Bengal Sub Area to reach out to the disabled veter-

ans/dependents/serving soldiers. Effort is also being made to deliver maximum number of wheelchairs to the affected members of Indian Army, their residence to ensure maximum outreach. This outreach initiative towards the disabled fraternity of Army is expected to a long way in providing a healing touch to the disabled and achieving the objectives of the organization to support our disabled during this 'Year of the Disabled'.



Snana Jatra of Sree jagannath celebrated at ISCON Temple, Kolkata on Thursday--- Ashok Kumar Sarkar

Snana Jatra celebrated, devotees throng Shree Jagannath temple

PURI, JUNE 28 /- The annual ceremonial bathing ritual of the presiding deities of Shree Jagannath temple here was celebrated today amid tight security in the presence of thousands of devotees. The ceremonial public bath, known as the 'Snana Jatra' ceremony of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra and is held on Deva Snana Purnima, was witnessed by a large number of devotees from across Odisha and outside. The ritual was performed on the bathing altar known as the 'Snana Mandap' in which the priests poured 108 pitchers of aromatic sacred water on the deities. The water is traditionally drawn from a well situated inside the sprawling

temple complex. The bathing ceremony followed a grand procession called 'pahan'di' in which the deities along with the idol of 'Sudarshan' were taken out from the sanctum sanctorium to the bathing altar in a majestic manner.

After the bathing ritual, the deities were attired with 'Gajjana Vesh'a' (elephant dress). Lord Jagannath adorns the elephant attire to please his Maharastrian devotees who worship Lord Ganesha. The 'Snana Jatra' is a significant ritual in the run-up to the annual Rath Jatra festival of Lord Jagannath. It is held on the full moon day of the Hindu month of 'Jyeshtha', considered to be the birthday of Lord Jagannath.

SMC Opposition leader seeks mayor's notice to citizen's harassment

PRASHANT ACHARYA

SILIGURI, JUNE 28 /- Trinamool Congress councillors met Siliguri mayor Asok Bhattacharya on Thursday to draw his attention to the problems faced by different boroughs under Siliguri Municipal Corporation (SMC). Ranjan Sarkar, Opposition leader of SMC along with his party councillors met

Bhattacharya at his chamber. "Although the month of June is over, many of the borough committees are yet to receive their grant sanctioned by SMC authorities," Sarkar said.

"Huge inconveniences are being faced by boroughs 2, 3 and 5 of SMC. The borough committees are not being able to render civic services to the residents of wards under those bor-

oughs. The mayor and his team have to undertake the revision of such regular inconveniences," Sarkar said.

The Trinamool delegation also demanded that the Left Front run SMC must allot vehicles for regular disposal of garbage from different ward. Demand of recruiting staff at the borough offices were raised by the Opposition also.

Experts recommend NCERT curriculum for Tripura schools

AGARTALA, JUNE 28 /- An expert panel has recommended that the Tripura government should adopt National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) curriculum for schools in Tripura, state minister Ratan Lal Nath said today.

The panel also suggested implementation of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) syllabus across all government and government-aided schools in the state, the education minister said.

A six-member expert committee headed by former Tripura University Vice-Chancellor Professor Arunoday Saha submitted its recommendation on Wednesday, the minister said, adding, the committee suggested implementation of the CBSE syllabus to reduce the burden of books on students and discourage rote learning. Nath said the government would decide regarding implementation of the report. The six-member expert committee was constituted by the BJP-IPFT government a month ago, to prepare a roadmap for adopting NCERT curriculum.

"We have collected inputs from fifty headmasters and from students of different schools for one month, and after analysing the data, we have come to the inference that the CBSE syllabus could be implemented from the first to eighth standard from January 2019 as books were already translated in Bengali," Saha told PTI.

"For implementation of the new course from classes 8 to 12, we have to wait for one more year (2020) for two reasons. One is that, the CBSE has decided to revise their syllabus next year (2019), and the books need to be translated in Bengali and local tribal language Koksharik," Saha said.

The education minister also said that work was in progress to prepare new textbooks. Professor Saha said, NCERT director, Professor Ranjana Aurora, CBSE director, Biswajit Saha and secretary of the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Biswajit Gupta were the members of the committee among others. The erstwhile Left Front government had introduced a different syllabus in 2008

termining it to be "NCERT pattern" and the syllabus was revised several times, he said.

After the results in Madhyamik Examination conducted by Tripura Board of Secondary Examination (TBSE) this year, the government has decided to explore the possibility to implement CBSE syllabus as it is, Saha said. Madhyamik results for this year were announced earlier this month and the pass percentage 59.59 per cent. The pass rate has dropped by 7.79 per cent when compared to the previous years' results. (PTI)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kishanu Ghosh S/o Kamal Ghosh resident of 02, Birendra Krishna Bhadra Sarani, Hakimpura P.O.P.S. Siliguri, Dist.-Darjeeling shall henceforth be known as Krishanu Ghosh vide Affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Siliguri on 28-06-2018. Kishanu Ghosh and Krishanu Ghosh is one and same identical person.

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In Brief

Bangladeshi held near Uttarkanya

SILIGURI, JUNE 28 /- Police from NJP police station nabbed a citizen of Bangladesh while suspiciously lingering near Uttarkanya, the North Bengal secretariat on Wednesday night. During primary interrogation, police learnt that the youth identified as Babu Islam hailed from Barishal district in Bangladesh. Police learnt that the youth entered into India two months ago and stayed in Kashmitr and Kolkata for some weeks. A mobile phone was seized from him. Police was grillng him after the youth's replies to queries during interrogation reportedly seemed to be incongruous. A probe has been initiated, police said. (EOIC)

Defunct rail-gate stalls traffic

ALIPURDUAR, JUNE 28 /- Traffic was stalled for hours together after a rail-drop-gate got defunct at Ghoramara area in Kamakhya on Thursday. Commuters had a tough luck as the drop-gate could not be repaired quickly. They had to opt for an alternative road to reach at the destination. The gate was mended by railway authorities in the afternoon. (EOIC)

Husband pours acid on wife's face

RAIGANJ, JUNE 28 /- An acid-attack was made against a housewife allegedly by husband at Khamarpukur village under Goolpokhor police station on Wednesday night. Nizat Ara, the housewife, who filed a case of domestic violence against her husband Mehebab Alam, was admitted to Kishanganj district hospital in Bihar following the attack. Although the relatives of the injured housewife caught red handed Mohammed Fokira Sheikh, who allegedly helped Alam during the acid-attack, the main accused scampers away. (EOIC)

Under-trial flees from hospital

RAIGANJ, JUNE 28 /- Police have launched an extensive search to find an under-trial inmate Rofikul Sheikh who fled from Raiganj super-speciality hospital on Wednesday night. Sheikh was admitted to hospital for hernia surgery scheduled to be done on Thursday. Soon after his disappearance from the prisoners' ward in the hospital was noticed, senior police officials reached the spot to probe into the incident. In a primary enquiry police have come to know that Sheikh went to the lavatory of the ward and fled away by opening the false-ceiling. Sheikh, who was arrested from Kaliachak in Malda, was brought to Raiganj correctional home from Malda correctional home 11 months ago. Additional SP Nikita Faring, Prasad Pradhan, deputy superintendent of police, Sumanta Biswas, inspector-in-charge of Raiganj police station rushed to spot after the incident. "Police have launched ongoing operation to trace out the fled inmate quickly," the additional SP, North Dinajpur said. (EOIC)

North Bengal cultural festival

SILIGURI, JUNE 28 /- The North Bengal cultural festival would commence on June 29 at Dinabandhu Mancha of the city Sur Bharati, the key-organizers briefed the media about the festival on Thursday. Sanjay Balachandran Patki, head of the department of music in the University of North Maharashtra would be present during the festival. An art exhibition would be held in the exhibition gallery as a part of the festival, the organizers informed. (EOIC)