

SC asks Meerut IGP to supervise probe in Hapur lynching case

NEW DELHI, SEPT 5 /- The Supreme Court today directed the Inspector General of Police (IGP) of Meerut range to supervise the investigation in the Hapur lynching case. A bench of Chief Justice Dipak Mishra and justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud was informed by the Uttar Pradesh government that it has transferred the SHO concerned and filed appeals seeking cancellation of bail granted to the accused in the case. "It is directed that the investigation shall be carried out under the supervision of IGP of Meerut range," the bench said while putting the matter for hearing after two weeks. Advocate Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, told the top court that the police had taken swift and instant action at the time of the incident and the investigation in the case will be completed in 60 days.

On August 13, the apex court had directed a senior Uttar Pradesh Police officer to supervise the Hapur lynching case in which one person was killed and another brutally assaulted in the name of cow vigilantism, while terminating the allegations of survivor Samiuddin as "serious". It had also directed the IGP to "facilitate the recording" of victim's statement before a judicial magistrate regarding the incident in which 45-year-old Qasim Qureshi was beaten to death on June 18.

The plea had sought setting up of a special investigation team (SIT) to ensure "an impartial, competent and fair investigation" into "the barbaric incident of mob lynching on June 18 in Hapur district of Uttar Pradesh, wherein Samiuddin (the petitioner No. 1) and Qasim, both belonging to the minority community, were targeted and mercilessly assaulted by a mob of the majority community from the neighbouring village, in the name of cow vigilantism."

Street plays to promote 'Ayushman Bharat' campaign



SANJAY AGARWAL

RANGPO, SEP 5 /- The Regional Outreach Bureau, Guwahati, of the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Health and Family welfare, has launched

a public campaign on 'Ayushman Bharat' in the different north eastern states. For Sikkim, it has started the campaign through street plays. A group from Assam is in Sikkim to present the street plays. They held programmes in different public places of West Pandem constituency on Wednesday.

Alagiri's show of strength in Chennai turns out to be a tame affair

CHENNAI, SEPT 5 /- Sacked DMK leader M K Alagiri's rally, billed as a "massive show of strength" to press for his reinduction, was a tame affair today with the usually abrasive son of M Karunanidhi sparing party chief M K Stalin any criticism, a move seen as extending an olive branch to

his younger brother. Alagiri, a former union minister who was expelled from the party by his father and then DMK boss Karunanidhi in 2014 at the height of the siblings' tussle for supremacy, was expected to break the fire and brimstone at the rally ostensibly called to show his

strength but the event ended not with a bang but a whimper. The once strongman of Madurai, clad in a black shirt and dhoti as a mark of mourning for his father, was said to have mustered around 10,000 people for the rally that began from Wallajah Road junction and

concluded at Karunanidhi's mausoleum on the Marina beach, 1.5 km away. Alagiri stood on an open-top van with his loyalists holding banners hailing him as 'Anjanenjar' (Braveheart). Alagiri's close family members—son Durai Dayanidhi and daughter Kayalvizhi—besides a few

hardcore loyalists, including former deputy mayor of Madurai Corporation P M Mannan, also were black for the occasion, and followed him to Karunanidhi's grave where they paid floral tributes to the DMK stalwart. Contrary to expectations, not a single DMK functionary was present.

UP govt to invoke NSA for exam paper leakage, blacklist responsible agencies

LUCKNOW, SEPT 5 /- Taking strong note of frequent competitive exam question paper leakages, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath has directed investigating bodies to invoke the stringent National Security Act (NSA) against those involved in such acts and "blacklist" agencies responsible.

"The exams should be transparent and corruption-free. The government will not tolerate those trying to play with the future of youths. Strict action will be taken against those who pollute the examination process," an official spokesman said Wednesday quoting the chief minister. "The NSA will be invoked against those involved in paper leaks and if discrepancies are committed by the agencies involved in the process, they will be blacklisted and

legal action will be taken against them," said the chief minister, according to the spokesman. Adityanath is of the view that the exam system should be made foolproof and directed officials heading recruitment boards to ensure vacancies in their departments are filled without much delay. "The posts in any department should not remain vacant for longer duration. They should be filled timely," the UP chief minister said.

Last week, the UP Pradesh Special Task Force had arrested 11 people for their alleged roles in the leakage of question papers for tubewell operators recruitment tests, which is organised by the UP Subordinate Services Selection Commission (UPSSSC). The leakages led to the cancellation of the exami-

nation and the UPSSSC had said it will prepare "at least two sets of question papers" as a corrective measure. "We are planning to have at least two sets of question papers so that in case of leakage of a particular set another set of questions can be given to the examinees," UPSSSC Chairman CB Palwal said. "A proposal will be sent to the state government suggesting two examinations—screening and mains. This will help in weeding out chances of possible leakage

of question papers in the future," Palwal had said. In the past, leakages of question papers of various examinations were reported from the most populous state of the country, earning it a bad name and giving tough time to both the job aspirants and the cops. On July 29, as many as 51 people were arrested by the UP Police from different parts of the state for facilitating cheating during a recruitment examination for assistant teachers.

Ajmer blast convict on bail gets hero's welcome in hometown

BHARUCH, SEPT 5 /- A convict in the 2007 Ajmer Dargah blast case, in which three persons were killed, was accorded a hero's welcome here Sunday by a large crowd, including members of the VHP, RSS and BJP after being released on bail.

Bhavesh Patel, one of the convicts in the Ajmer dargah blast case, was granted bail by Rajasthan High Court last week. As he arrived in Bharuch, his hometown, from Ajmer, members of the saffron outfit as well as of the BJP-ruled Bharuch Municipality, along with general public gave him a warm welcome. "A large number of members of Bharuch Municipality were present on the occasion," local BJP councillor Marutisinh Atodariya said. Among those present to welcome him was Surbhi Tamakwala, president of Bharuch Municipality. "VHP, RSS and BJP members along with hundreds of people welcomed him as he walked towards his residence at Hathikhana Bazar from nearby Swaminarayan temple, where he went to of-

fer prayers after his arrival here," Viral Desai, spokesperson of south Gujarat unit of the VHP, said. Desai claimed Patel has been associated with the VHP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) since his younger days. He had also served as an office-bearer of the RSS's Bharuch unit long back. In March 2017, a trial court had sentenced Patel and his co-accused, Devendra Gupta, to life imprisonment in the Ajmer dargah blast case. The blast at the dargah of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer at the time of Ram Navami on October 11, 2007, had left three pilgrims dead and 15 others injured. After reaching Bharuch, Patel visited the Swaminarayan temple in Dandiya Bazar area. On his way home from the temple, hundreds of people stood on the way to welcome him. As he walked towards his residence, people showered rose petals, garlanded him and shouted slogans in his support. Dressed in saffron robes and a turban, he walked towards his residence with his hands folded in prayer as his supporters surrounded him.

Parties slam Maharashtra BJP MLA for anti-women remark

MUMBAI, SEPT 5 /- The Opposition parties in Maharashtra today likened BJP legislator Ram Kadam to demon king Ravana for telling youngsters he would "kidnap" a girl they like even if she rejects their proposal.

The Ghatkopar MLA, who has expressed regret over his remarks, made the comments at a 'dahi handi' event in his suburban Ghatkopar assembly constituency Monday night. The Maharashtra Navnirman Sena put up posters depicting Kadam as Ravana outside chief minister Devendra Fadnis's residence and in Ghatkopar.

"The 'dashing' MLA, who proclaims himself to be compassionate, will abduct daughters. If he or his men do so, file a police complaint and also let us know. We will help you safeguard your daughters," the Raj Thackeray-led party said in the posters. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) spokesperson Nawab Malik said the BJP's "Ravana-like" face is out and its legislator will be called "Ravana Kadam" till he apologises.

"Expressing regret and apologising are very different things. The NCP will keep protesting against him and call him 'Ravana Kadam' till he apologises. State-wide protests will be held against him till he apologises," the opposition leader said. Women members of the Indian Youth Congress burnt Kadam's effigy and also thrashed it with footwear in who has expressed regret over his remarks, made the comments at a 'dahi handi' event in his suburban Ghatkopar assembly constituency Monday night. The Maharashtra Navnirman Sena put up posters depicting Kadam as Ravana outside chief minister Devendra Fadnis's residence and in Ghatkopar.

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State Notes

Hardcore Hizbul activist arrested

JAMMU, SEPT 5 /- A top over-ground worker of Hizbul Mujahideen, who was involved in encouraging youth to join the terror group and revive militancy in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, has been arrested, the police said today. "Touseef Ahmad Gudna alias Abu Bakr was arrested on specific information Tuesday, a police spokesman said. The arrest of the hardcore motivator came just two months after police unearthed a module of the outfit planning to carry out grenade attacks and revive militancy in the district.

Flyover in Thane closed after cracks appear

THANE, SEPT 5 /- A flyover in the Bhiwandi powerloom town here in Maharashtra developed cracks and was closed today for vehicular traffic, an official said. Notably, Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnis had travelled on Monday on the bridge during his visit to the town to attend the 'Dahi Handi' festival. A slab of the Rajiv Gandhi Flyover developed cracks. A 'crater' was formed on the bridge after some of its cement plaster fell off, an official of the Bhiwandi Nizampur Municipal Corporation's disaster control cell said. Some of the iron rods on the bridge were also dangle precariously, he said.

Cop killed in road mishap

MUMBAI, SEPT 5 /- A 30-year-old traffic police constable died Wednesday after he was run over by a vehicle in Talaja area in Navi Mumbai, around 50 kms from here, the police said. The incident occurred at Nitalasar Phata (diversion) when the constable Atul Gargare was returning to the beat outpost after clearing a traffic congestion at around 5 am, a police official said. The incident was reported by some rickshaw drivers to the Talaja traffic police. Gargare was rushed to a government-run hospital in rural Panvel where he was declared dead before admission, he said. Police are yet to identify the vehicle that mowed down the constable.

Plans for Durga Puja in Mangan



DEEPAK SHARMA

MANGAN, SEP 5 /- At Mangan Bazar, North district, on Sunday a meeting was held for celebrating the Durga Puja this year under the supervision of Durga Puja Celebration Committee like in

other years. This year the celebration would be supervised under president Karna Jigdal Bhatia and vice president Shiv Kr Prasad.

The organizing committee and devotees have appealed for cooperation from all communities of North district.

Awareness programme on social security schemes in Dzongu



DEEPAK SHARMA

DZONGU, SEP 5 /- An awareness programme on social security scheme (life insurance) for women and girl child was conducted at Gnon ICDS Centre on Tuesday. The programme was chaired by Vice President of Hee Gyathang GPU, Ninley Lepcha.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate Dzongu, T. D. Bhatia was the guest of honour. During the programme CDO Dzongu, Netuk Lepcha briefed the gathering about the Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojna (PMMVY) on the occasion of "Matru Vandana Saptah" which is observed in the first week of September.

Punjab college teachers on mass leave on Teacher's Day

CHANDIGARH, SEPT 5 /- On Teacher's Day, over 6,000 government and non-government college teachers in Punjab proceeded on mass leave in support of their demands, including raise in pay scale.

Under the banner of Punjab Federation of University and College Teachers Organisations (PFUCTO), the agitating teachers from several parts of the state gathered here Wednesday to participate in the protest against the "apathetic

attitude" of the Congress-led government towards their demands.

"We have been demanding implementation of recommendations of the UGC with regard to the seventh pay commission report. Several states, including Haryana, have given the UGC pay scale to teachers of colleges and universities but the Punjab government has failed to do so yet," general secretary of PFUCTO, Jagwant Singh said.

Singh said that University Grants Commission (UGC) had al-

ready asked the states to implement the pay scale but the state government had not done yet. The protesting teachers also condemned the state government for nothing regular teachers in the government colleges.

"With fresh recruitment not being made, imparting education in government colleges has been hit. Only 30 per cent regular teachers, including professors, have been working in the government colleges," he said adding that more than

1,300 posts of teaching staff in 60 government colleges were lying vacant. "According to UGC guidelines, the norms of the teaching staff should be regular, but in Punjab the situation is different," Singh said.

The PFUCTO general secretary also demanded that the state government regularise the services of 1,925 contractual college teachers who were hired in 2015.

The organizing committee and devotees have appealed for cooperation from all communities of North district.