

Court sends separatist Aasiya Andrabi, 2 others to 10-day NIA custody

NEW DELHI, JULY 6 /- Aasiya Andrabi and two other Kashmiri separatists were today handed over by a Delhi court to the National Investigating Agency (NIA) for 10 days' custodial interrogation in connection with a case of allegedly waging war against the country. Amid tight security, the trio, who were brought here from Srinagar, were produced before District and Sessions Judge Poonam Bamba. During the in-camera proceedings, the judge allowed the plea of the NIA that Andrabi, who is chief of the banned outfit Dukhtar-e-Millat and others, were required to be quizzed as they "are running a cyber space they are arranging a concerted campaign to solicit support from terrorist entities from Pakistan." The NIA had

sought the custody of Andrabi and her two associates—Sofi Fehmeeda and Nahida Nasreen—for 15 days. The lawyers, who were associated with the case, were allowed inside the court room and they briefed the waiting media about the court proceedings. The case was registered against the three women in April this year. Seeking their custody, the NIA said, "The present investigation is so far as the accused persons are found involved in the conspiracy and acts to severely destabilize the sovereignty and integrity of India. By their activities on cyber space they are running a concerted campaign to solicit support of Pakistani establishment which inter-alia includes arranging support from terrorist entities from Pakistan." Their involvement needs further investigation,

and for this purpose the interrogation of accused persons has become a necessity." The three women have been arrested for the offences under sections 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting armed with deadly weapon), 149 (unlawful assembly), 34 (wrongful restraint), 306 (attempt to murder) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of Ranbir Penal Code and under relevant provisions of Prevention of Damage of Public Property Act and Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. Andrabi, who was in a prison in Srinagar after the Jammu and Kashmir High Court cancelled her bail last month, was brought here from Kashmir along with her associates. The Union Home Ministry, registered a case against them as well as the or-

ganisation, which is banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, in April this year. According to the FIR, the "central government has received information that Aasiya Andrabi and her associates namely Sofi Fehmeeda and Nahida Nasreen are actively running a terrorist organization named as 'Dukhtar-e-Millat' (DEM) which is proscribed under the First Schedule to the UAPA." "They are using various media platforms to spread inflammatory imputations and hateful speeches that endanger the integrity, security and sovereignty of India. DEM through Aasiya Andrabi openly advocates secession of Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India and has also called for Jihad and use of violence against India," the FIR alleged (PTT)

Umar Khalid to challenge JNU panel's recommendation of rustication

NEW DELHI, JULY 6 /- JNU student Umar Khalid today said that the students would challenge in court the University panel's recommendation upholding his rustication in connection with the February 9, 2016 incident against Afzal Guru's hanging during which anti-national slogans were allegedly raised in the campus. In a statement released on social media, Khalid said this is the third time in the last two years that the administration has come up with a rustication order against him in the case, an order that has been twice set aside by the courts.

"I am not vindictive," and imposed financial penalty on 13 others for violation of disciplinary norms. The students had then moved the Delhi High Court, which had directed the University to place the matter before an appellate authority to review the panel's decision. Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya were arrested in February 2016 on charges of sedition in connection with the controversial event and are out on bail. Their arrest had triggered widespread protests. (PTT)

"Once again reject this farce of an enquiry along with its findings and verdict. It is against all principles of natural justice, and is riddled with contradictions, lies and malice which will soon be exposed again. We will challenge this in court," he added. The PhD scholar said that they were being "targeted in a systematic and a malafide manner by an enquiry that was prejudiced against us from day one."

"An administration that has been running at the orders of the ruling BJP and the RSS, was at no point of time in a position of impartiality to conduct this enquiry. The court has repeatedly found faults with the enquiry process and has vindicated our apprehensions," the statement read. This recent order of the HLC (high-level inquiry committee) in JNU is in line with the pattern of the administration's high-handedness and selective targeting of opposing voices in the student community who against all odds have refused to kneel in the face of despotism, he said. He further alleged that the panel's recommendations have come up right before they are due to make their final submission. "They have conjured this HLC order just two weeks before the deadline of our final submission which is shame-

ful and rabidly vindictive." "It is symptomatic of public larger assault on public education, on research on social justice and on criticality. However, we want to assure them that we shall not lie low," he said. The inquiry committee upheld Khalid's rustication and a fine of Rs 10,000 imposed on Kanhaiya Kumar, the then students' union president, in connection with the campus event against Guru's hanging. The five-member panel had also suspended two more students

Agartala-Deoghar weekly express flagged off by MOSR



Mr Rajen Gohain, Minister of State of Railways, flagging off Agartala-Deoghar Express (Weekly) from Agartala today.

KOLKATA, JULY 6 /- Mr Rajen Gohain, Hon'ble Minister of State of Railways, with Shri Bipal Kumar Deb Hon'ble Chief Minister, Tripura flagged off the Agartala-Deoghar Weekly Express from Agartala today (6.7.2018) through VC in august presence of Shri Nishikant Dubey, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Shri Narayan Das, Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly at Deoghar. Speaking on the occasion Shri Rajen Gohain, Hon'ble Minister of State of Railways said that Agartala is the capital of Tripura being the second largest city in North East India after Guwahati while Deoghar is a prominent town and pilgrim centre in the State of Jharkhand. The introduction of Agartala-Deoghar Weekly Express is a phenomenon of immense importance that will fulfill long standing aspiration of both the States.

Mr Bipal Kumar Deb, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Tripura said that introduction of Agartala-Deoghar Weekly Express will provide direct rail connectivity between the States of Tripura and Jharkhand. Moreover, the people enroute and adjoining States like Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal will be immensely benefited with the introduction of the new train. It will provide speedy, safe, comfortable and affordable journey for all.

Mr Nishikant Dubey, Hon'ble Member of Parliament said that thousand of people visit Deoghar throughout the year to offer pujas in Baidyanath temple. The new train will immensely help the pilgrims and common people of North East India to reach Deoghar easily and comfortably. Mr Narayan Das, Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly addressed the programme at Deoghar.

Shri P. K. Mishra, Divisional Railway Manager, Assam was present on the occasion at Deoghar. 15626 Agartala-Deoghar Weekly Express will start from Agartala at 22.00 hrs, on every Saturday and will reach Deoghar at 13.00 hrs, on every Monday. On return the train will start from Deoghar at 18.45 hrs.

Madhav defends Sushma in passport row

NEW DELHI, JULY 6 /- BJP general secretary Ram Madhav today disapproved of the "hounding, abuses, death-wishes and obscenities" aimed at Union Minister Sushma Swaraj on social media in a row over passport application of an interfaith couple, describing her as a leader who has championed the cause of nationalism for over four decades. In an article in a leading English daily, he also said that difference of opinion in such matters is hers to bear and valid but it would be improper to blame the external affairs minister for a decision like transfer of a passport official accused of asking irrelevant questions to the couple about their religious. Madhav's defence of Swaraj is the first instance of a senior BJP office-bearer offering a detailed public response on the controversy. He is also considered close to the RSS. Swaraj was viciously attacked after her ministry had issued a passport to Tanvi Seth, days after she accused Lucknow-based passport officer Vikas Mishra of harassing her and her husband Anas Siddiqui. Seth had made a slew of allegations against Mishra, including asking her husband to convert to Hinduism and pulling her up for marrying a Muslim. The passport official, who claimed that he made only professional enquiries, was subsequently transferred. "Every issue that involves two different

religions need not be seen from a religious prism alone. There can be secular issues involving people of different religions. They should be seen from a purely administrative or governance prism," Madhav argued. "A difference of opinion in these matters is plausible and valid as well. What is not valid is the hounding, the abuse, the death-wishes, the obscenities like calling her Begum Sushma or worse commenting on her husband. Dubey, or a retired professor asking her husband to beat her up," he said. All this was done to a leader who championed the cause of nationalism for over four decades in the rough and tumble of the country's politics, by those who claim allegiance to the very same ideology, Madhav added. A number of social media users who attacked Swaraj are seen to be vocal supporters of the BJP. She responded with dignity to her husband, he said. Madhav said the case should actually have been used against the "regressive clerics" who insist upon changing the name of a Hindu woman to that of a Muslim in the 'nikahnama' as in most cases it is done against the wishes of the women. Her 'nikahnama' gives out her name as Shadia but all other documents, including the Aadhaar card and her bank accounts, mention her name as Tanvi Seth, he said. (PTT)

Legalise prostitution, says retired SC Judge Santosh Hegde

HYDERABAD, JULY 6 /- Supporting the Law Commission's recommendation on allowing gambling and betting in sports, retired Supreme Court Judge N Santosh Hegde today even favoured legalising prostitution, saying vices cannot be abolished by law. "A person who thinks vices can be abolished by law is living in a fool's paradise," said the former Solicitor General of India. The Law Commission yesterday recommended that gambling and betting in sports be allowed as regulated activities taxable under the direct and indirect tax regimes and used as a source for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). "It's a very good recommendation," Hegde told PTI. "There are certain vices which cannot be controlled by law and any attempt to control such vices will lead to illegal systems developing." "We have experienced it earlier when there was prohibition. There is illicit liquor production there (where prohibition was in place). Government loses excise duty, the vice will continue, you can't control it. These are certain things which can't be controlled by law", he said. Similarly, illegal gambling is going on in the country. Making it legitimate and by controlling 70-75 per cent of illegal activities will stop, the former Karnataka Lokayukta said. "But certain amount of control is absolutely necessary".

Asked if the thought prostitution should also be legalised, Hegde said: "It has to be legalised. It's going everywhere. What's the big idea of (keeping it illegal). It should be legalised." "(Prostitution) has become a regular profession now. It should be legalised and people (engaged in prostitution) should be licensed. Then these people will be controlled over the system." Hegde said. "There are certain vices which cannot be abolished by the state, he said. Otherwise it would then go on in an illegal manner. Better than that was to have control over the system. "Which is the city or the state where there is no prostitution? We are just closing our eyes and saying it's not there. And in places like Mumbai, there are certain areas recognised by the Government where prostitution continues. Therefore, morality can't be controlled by law. It can only be controlled by religion and religious leaders", he said. (PTT)

Sick, wounded horses used in weddings rescued in Delhi

NEW DELHI, JULY 6 /- Three sick horses that were being used in wedding celebrations were rescued from outer Delhi's Nangloi area today police said. The distressed horses, one of them wounded, were rescued with the help of animal rights group, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India, and were shifted to a farm where they would be treated, they said. "The three horses were very sick and being used in wedding celebrations. One of them also had some wounds. The owners have surrendered the horses to PETA. No FIR was filed since the owners have given the custody of the horses on consent," a senior police officer said. PETA, however, claimed that one more horse was rescued. PETA has been running a campaign to rescue horses that are used in wedding celebrations, a PETA official said, while alleging that they are "subjected to cruelty" in the name of goading them to perform for the event. The seizures follow PETA India's complaints to the Delhi police, which sought to crack down on the "rampant cruelty" meted out to horses, used for wedding and other ceremonial purposes, the PETA official claimed. The animals used for such purposes are often found to be "sick, injured, and lame and that when they're not being treated, they give rides or perform, they're typically kept in filthy conditions and tied up with ropes that are often so short that the animals can't engage in normal movements," the group alleged. "Horses used in wedding celebrations are commonly malnourished, sick, and wounded and horse providers often use spiked bits to keep these animals still, amid terrifying and chaotic noise on the ground," said PETA India CEO and equine expert Manali Valliyate. PETA India is calling on couples to keep horses out of their weddings and "celebrate with compassion, not cruelty", he said. PETA India also said that despite being prohibited under the Prevention of Cruelty to Draught and Pack Animals Rules, 1965, the use of spiked bits to control these horses is common.

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After consultation with Constitutional experts, Sardar Patel's opinion was that he could not prevent Mookerjee from propagating his idea of 'Akhand Bharat' under the Constitution and if the Prime Minister wanted him to stop this, the Constitution needed to be amended. The Bill to amend the Constitution which, amongst others, contained the restriction relating to 'friendly relations with foreign States' was introduced in Parliament, he said, adding it was passed despite objections by leaders like H V Kamath, Acharya Kripalani, Mookerjee and Nazrudin Ahmad. "Was this intolerance against Dr Mookerjee and his philosophy which triggered this Constitution amendment? The answer is obvious," Jaitley said. But the major paradox today is that the essence of this amendment was that a mere speech advocating 'Akhand Bharat' is a threat to the country. It can be an incitement to a war and, therefore, any talk of the same could be prohibited, he said. "It could even be made a penal offence. The paradox in our jurisprudence evolution is that we have applied a different yardstick to those who want to dismember India and commit an offence of sedition."



Karnataka Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy paying floral tributes to Babu Jagjivan Ram on his 32nd death anniversary at Vidhan Soudha in Bengaluru on Friday

Jaitley uses Syama Prasad Mookerjee's anniversary to attack Congress on free speech debate

NEW DELHI, JULY 6 /- Union Minister Arun Jaitley today attacked the Congress, saying the party supported the "tukde tukde" agitation at the JNU by calling it a "legitimate free speech", while the first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, amended the Constitution to restrict Syama Prasad Mookerjee's advocacy of 'Akhand Bharat'. Mookerjee, whose birth anniversary falls today, was founder and President of Bharatiya Jan Sangh, the precursor of the Bharatiya Janta Party. In a blog, Jaitley said there were many in India who were opposed to the very idea of partition and amongst the leading opponents undoubtedly was Mookerjee. "He was one of the key advocates of a united India which he referred to as Akhand Bharat. Two days before the 'Nehru-Liaquat Pact' was to be signed in April 1950, Dr Mookerjee, who was Industry Minister in the first Cabinet as a Hindu Mahasabha representative, resigned from the Cabinet in protest and took strong public position against the Nehru-Liaquat Pact," the senior BJP leader said. Mookerjee, he said, spoke extensively in Parliament and outside, opposing the pact and advocating his philosophy in brief of 'Akhand Bharat'. "Pt Nehru over-reacted to Dr Mookerjee's criticism. He interpreted the very idea of 'Akhand Bharat' i.e. united India as an invitation to conflict since the country could not be reunited other than by war. "He, therefore, advised Sardar Patel to consider what action would be taken," said Jaitley, who is recuperating from a kidney transplant operation. After consultation with Constitutional experts, Sardar Patel's opinion was that he could not prevent Mookerjee from propagating his idea of 'Akhand Bharat' under the Constitution and if the Prime Minister wanted him to stop this, the Constitution needed to be amended. The Bill to amend the Constitution which, amongst others, contained the restriction relating to 'friendly relations with foreign States' was introduced in Parliament, he said, adding it was passed despite objections by leaders like H V Kamath, Acharya Kripalani, Mookerjee and Nazrudin Ahmad. "Was this intolerance against Dr Mookerjee and his philosophy which triggered this Constitution amendment? The answer is obvious," Jaitley said. But the major paradox today is that the essence of this amendment was that a mere speech advocating 'Akhand Bharat' is a threat to the country. It can be an incitement to a war and, therefore, any talk of the same could be prohibited, he said. "It could even be made a penal offence. The paradox in our jurisprudence evolution is that we have applied a different yardstick to those who want to dismember India and commit an offence of sedition."

This debate recently came into forefront during the 'Tukde Tukde' agitation at the Jawaharlal Nehru University," said Jaitley, in an apparent attack on the Congress. In the past 70 years, he said India has witnessed a change in the situation where Pt Nehru amended the Constitution so that a demand for 'Akhand Bharat' could incite a war and therefore should be prohibited. (PTT)

ER organises a seminar & health check-up camp

KOLKATA, JULY 6 /- A seminar & interactive session on "Women's Health and well-being" and a massive Health Check-up Camp for Women employees were organised by Eastern Railway at its headquarters at Fatima Place, Kolkata today. Speaking in the seminar, Smt. Ananya Das, Vice-President, Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (ERWVO) stressed upon the importance of health check-up of women employees on a regular manner to know about the health status and for early detection of any ailments for preventive measure. Amongst others, Smt. Piyasi Lahiri Sanyal, Executive Committee Member, ERWVO spoke on the occasion. Earlier, in the morning, Dr. Sunil Kumar, Principal

Chief Medical Director, Eastern Railway inaugurated health check-up camp for the women railway employees. More than 60(sixty) women employees were checked by the senior railway doctors at the health check-up camp wherein screening for breast diseases, gynaecological, orthopaedic and general problems were done.

SER to run three pairs of unreserved rath yatra spl

KOLKATA, JULY 6 /- With a view to clear excess of passengers during Rath Yatra Festival, South Eastern Railway has decided to run three pairs of unreserved Special train between Shalimar-Puri-Santargachi leaving Shalimar on 13.07.18, 21.07.18 & 22.07.18 and leaving Puri on 14.07.18, 22.07.18 & 23.07.18. 08005 Shalimar-Puri Special leaving Shalimar at 23.55 hrs will reach Puri at 08.35 hrs, the

next day. In the return direction, 08006 Puri-Santargachi Special leaving Puri at 23.35 hrs will arrive Santargachi at 09.00 hrs, the next day. The trains will have all unreserved coaches with stoppages at Santargachi, Khargapur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Keonjhar Road, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Khurda Road and Sakhigopali stations enroute.

Digital Aadhaar and Driving Licence as proof of identity of passengers valid for train journey

KOLKATA, JULY 6 /- The issue regarding accepting Aadhaar and Driving Licence as valid proof of identity when presented from digital locker account of the passenger has been examined by Ministry of Railways and it has been decided that while undertaking journey in a train, a passenger shows the Aadhaar/Driving Licence from the 'Issued Documents' section by logging into his/her Digilocker account, the same should be considered as valid proof of identity. It is, however, clarified that the documents uploaded by the user himself/herself (i.e. the documents in 'Uploaded Documents' section) will not be considered as a valid proof of identity. At present, the following proofs of identity are considered as valid for undertaking journey in an unreserved class of Indian Railways: I. Voter Photo identity card issued by Election Commission of India, II. Passport, III. PAN Card issued by Income Tax Department,

IV. Driving Licence issued by RTO, V. Photo identity card having serial number issued by Central/State Government, VI. Student Identity Card with photograph issued by recognized School/College for students, VII. Nationalised Bank Passbook with photograph, VIII. Credit Cards issued by Banks with laminated photograph, IX. Unique Identification Card-Aadhaar, m-Aadhaar & e-Aadhaar, X. Photo Identity cards having serial number issued by Public Sector Undertakings of State/Central Government, District Administrations, Municipal bodies and Panchayat Administrations, XI. In case of reserved tickets booked through computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counter, for undertaking journey in Sleeper (SL) & Second Reserved Sitting (2S) classes, attested photocopy of Ration Card with photographs and Nationalised Bank Passbook with Photograph are also accepted.

Metro's efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emission in environment

KOLKATA, JULY 6 /- To contribute to a cleaner and greener environment, Metro Railway, Kolkata has undertaken several Green Energy Initiatives. Efforts are on to generate more solar power to reduce dependence on conventional energy in Metro premises. As part of this programme, solar panels have been installed on the rooftops of Metro Rail Bhavan, Nagerbazar, Mahanayak Uttam Kumar, Kavi Subhash Station and Tapani Sinha Memorial Hospital. Due to these concerted efforts, the total installed capacity of solar panels in Metro Railway has increased to 543.5 kw. Two Metro Stations namely, Mahanayak Uttam Kumar & Kavi Subhash have been declared as "Green Stations". Metro Railway has generated 12,10,092 kwh of solar energy which has helped in reducing 900.31 metric tons (approx) of carbon dioxide emission (in the last 7 years) in the environment which has had a positive impact on the environment in the City of Joy.