

Free health camp at Samkey village

SANJAY AGARWAL
RONGPO, JULY 2 /- The Sikkim Tamang Youth Society in association with the Lions Club of Rangpo has successfully concluded a day-long free health check-up camp at Samkey village of West Pendum constituency in East Sikkim. Visiting physician Dr. Udit Pradhan from Central Referral Hospital, Manipal Gangtok had thoroughly checked more than 80 patients coming from surrounding villages.

The two organizations have provided the patients with free medicines, blood pressure and blood sugar check-ups. Social Worker Mr Dhan Bahadur Chettri who is also the retired Deputy Director (HRDD) coordinated the camp and graced this social event as the chief guest. Lion Sanjay Agarwal offered khadas to all the



participants. Besides, a Certificate of Participation was given to all the volunteers.

Chief Guest D.B. Chettri appreciated the effort made

by both the associations. President of Samkey Samaj Rudra Pokhrel extended thanks to both the associations on behalf of the whole village and surrounding areas. The club has also celebrated the National Doctors Day. Dr Udit Pradhan was felicitated for his contributions to the society

Mandsaur rape victim improving: Hospital

INDORE, JULY 2 /- The health conditions of the eight-year-old girl, who was allegedly gang-raped in Mandsaur in Madhya Pradesh, were improving and she was likely to be shifted out of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) soon, a hospital official said today.

The girl, who was allegedly raped on June 26 and left severely injured by two men in Mandsaur, located about 200 km from here, is undergoing treatment at the Maharaja Yeshwantrao (M) Hospital here. She has suffered grievous injuries to her neck, face, head and private parts. "There has been a lot of improvement in the girl's health in the past 24 hours. She is having adequate semi-solid food," MY Hospital superintendent V S Patil told newsmen. "She was able to walk in the ICU today with the help of medical personnel. She can be sent to the general ward from the ICU soon," he added.

The hospital administration is also taking the help of psychiatrists to ensure that the girl recovers from the trauma caused by the incident. The minor was allegedly lured away by the two men while she was waiting for her father outside her school on the fateful day.

SFI leader stabbed to death on college campus in Kerala

KOCHI, JULY 2 /- An SFI leader was stabbed to death and two others were injured in an attack allegedly by members of a pro-Islamic outfit at a college here, on Monday.

They were attacked allegedly by workers of the Campus Front and its parent outfit Pogor Front of India (PFI) inside the Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, campus on Sunday night, they said.

The connection of one of the injured students is said to be serious. Three workers of the PFI and the Campus Front have been taken into custody in connection with the incident, police said.

The Students' Federation of India (SFI), the student wing of the CPM, has called for a state-wide protest today against the killing of Abhimanyu (20).

Vaccination camp for dogs



Dogs being treated

RONGPO, JULY 2 /- A free vaccination camp for dogs was conducted at Majitar, Rongpo, on Monday against several types of diseases under the joint supervision of Animal and Us, an animal-welfare group of Gangtok, and Paksam Veterinary Clinic. The programme was focussed on stray dogs which are prone to viral infection.

Donations were given by members and college students.

Within about three hours, 20 stray dogs were inoculated.

The team has a future programme of treating in the same way 10 stray dogs in other places. Vaccination of dogs from viruses is important for private dog owners also as these diseases cause a high rate of mortality among dogs.

SC notice to UP govt over fake encounters

NEW DELHI, JULY 2 /- The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Uttar Pradesh government on a plea alleging that several fake encounters have taken place in the state in recent past. A Bench comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud issued notice to the Uttar Pradesh government on the PIL filed by the NGO, People's Union for Civil Liberty (PUCL). Lawyer Sanjay Parikh, appearing for PUCL, alleged that as many as 500 encounters have been carried out in Uttar Pradesh recently, in which a total of 58 persons have been killed. The bench did not accept the plea that the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), which had earlier issued notice to the state government on the issue, he also made a party in the present proceeding.

Haryana govt to set up new traffic police station in Hansi

CHANDIGARH, JULY 2 /- The Haryana government will set up a new traffic police station in Hansi district to tackle congestion and unregulated traffic. With this, the number of traffic police stations in the state will rise to 23, Director General of Police (DGP) B S Sandhu said here today. "A decision to set up a new traffic police station in Hansi has been taken in view of rapid traffic volumes on the roads in the town," the police officer said. The move would help in tackling the issue of congestion and unregulated traffic, he said. At present, 22 traffic police stations are functional in the state, one each in 20 districts and two in Gurgaon.

Senior citizen killed after being pushed off parapet in Thane

THANE, JULY 2 /- A 75-year-old man died during a brawl with a group of people over his son allegedly touching a young girl inappropriately in Maharashtra's Thane area, police said. Police said that Yunus Ali Sayyed on Sunday fell from the third floor of a building after being pushed onto a parapet wall, which came crashing down, police said. He sustained grievous injuries and died while undergoing treatment at a local hospital, an official said.



A one day Training cum demonstration on value addition of locally available fruits and vegetable was organised by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, West Sikkim, under Krishi Kalpana Abhiyan at village Daromdin (Dhalang) on Sunday. The programme was chaired by Panchayat member of Daromdin G.P.U. Horticulturist Sonjee Palmu Bhutia. She highlighted the details of post-harvest and value addition of locally available fruits and vegetable. A total of 63 farmers and rural youths participated. SANJAY AGARWAL

Plea in Delhi HC seeking CBI probe into rape case against Daati Maharaj

NEW DELHI, JULY 2 /- A plea was today filed in the Delhi High Court seeking transfer of the probe in a rape case against self-styled preacher Daati Maharaj to the CBI.

The petition filed by an NGO alleged that the investigation carried out by Delhi Police seemed to be "biased and unfair" as no arrest has been made so far, which could lead to influencing of witnesses and destruction of evidence. It is likely to come up for hearing on July 4. The plea by NGO Delhi Citizen Forum for Civil Rights, through its chairman and general secretary, and advocates Joginder Tuli and Joshini Tuli, claimed that the chances of the accused leaving the country also cannot be ruled out. A complaint was lodged against Daati Madan Lal alias Daati Maharaj on June 7 and an FIR was registered on June 11. The police had questioned the accused,

charged with raping a disciple in his ashrams in Delhi and Rajasthan, on June 22. The preacher has claimed that he was being framed in the case. The woman had filed the complaint against the preacher, his three brothers and a woman at the Fatehpur Beri police station in south Delhi. The case was later transferred to the crime branch. The petitioner has claimed that the accused and his associates were interrogated by the crime branch on different dates but were not arrested.

"A number of politicians and senior officers of the government (Centre and state) are regular visitors of Shani Dham (ashram), Fatehpur Beri, New Delhi. Hence fair investigation by the Crime Branch cannot be assured," it alleged, while maintaining that delay in arresting the accused amounted to interference with the evidence and witnesses in the case.

Haasan trolled by Twitterati over his stand against caste

CHENNAI, JULY 2 /- Actor-politician Kamal Haasan has come under criticism from a section of Twitterati over his stand against caste, seeking to remind him of reported remarks made by his daughter Shruti about her caste identity some years back and asked him to start reforms from his own backyard.

Haasan's recent Twitter remarks that he had refused to fill in the caste and religion column in his daughters' school admission certificate, was questioned by some Twitter users, asking if that alone could end caste issues. "I refused to fill in the caste &

religion column in both my daughters' school admission certificate. That's the only way, it will pass on to the next generation. Every individual should start contributing for progress. Kerala started implementing the same. Those who do should be celebrated," Haasan had tweeted.

However, a Twitter user uploaded a brief part of a TV interview by Shruti Haasan some years back, where she appears to say she was an "Iyengar" (a Brahmin Vaishnavite sect). @ikamalahaasan ur attempts to abolish caste has totally failed sir despite you not filling in the school application. Start your reform from home sir. Not filling in caste is not a solution, bring the kids up in a way they don't know their caste @Iyengar," wrote one user. Shruti had "proudly" identified her father, her sister and herself to be "Iyengar," another Twitter user said, adding "mere removal of the 'poonool' (sacred thread-janvu) or tearing apart the caste certificate will not end caste."

Incidentally, Haasan had made some remarks about the sacred thread also, saying it was one that had "affected" him.



The aquarium in Mirik which is under construction in full swing under Gorkhaland Territorial administration may be the main tourist attraction in the hill town in near future. Recently the GTA secretary visited the aquarium and asked for its completion within a month. The aquarium would have different types of Himalayan fishes and other ornamental fishes. -- DEEP MILAN PRADHAN

Naxal killed in encounter with police in Bijapur

RAIPUR, JULY 2 /- A Naxal was gunned down in an encounter with the police in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, a senior official said today.

The face-off took place late last evening at a forest in Etapal village when a team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) was out on an anti-Naxal operation. Inspector General of Police (anti-Naxal operations) Sundarraaj P told news agency PTI.

The DRG personnel were cordoning off a forest patch near Etapal, located about 450 km from Raipur, when a group of rebels started firing at them leading to the gun-battle, he said. After guns fell silent, the body of a Maoist clad in "uniform" was found at the spot, he said, adding that the deceased was yet to be identified.

An Inas rifle and some Naxal-related material were also recovered from the spot, the official said.

Mystery deepens over Burari deaths as victims' relatives dismiss suicide theory

NEW DELHI, JULY 2 /- As the mystery deepened over the deaths of 11 people found hanging in their New Delhi home, two family members insisted today that they were killed and did not commit suicide.

Police are investigating whether the 11 members of one family aged between 25 and 77 killed themselves yesterday as part of a suicide pact after they found handwritten notes from the house, which indicated a "religious or spiritual angle" to the deaths.

The handwritten notes said "the human body is temporary and one can overcome fear by covering their eyes and mouth", Sujata Nagpal, the daughter of the 77-year-old Narayan Devi who was found dead on the floor in the house, accused progress. Kerala started implementing the same. Those who do should be celebrated," Haasan had tweeted.

However, a Twitter user uploaded a brief part of a TV interview by Shruti Haasan some years back, where she appears to say she was an "Iyengar" (a Brahmin Vaishnavite sect). @ikamalahaasan ur attempts to abolish caste has totally failed sir despite you not filling in the school application. Start your reform from home sir. Not filling in caste is not a solution, bring the kids up in a way they don't know their caste @Iyengar," wrote one user. Shruti had "proudly" identified her father, her sister and herself to be "Iyengar," another Twitter user said, adding "mere removal of the 'poonool' (sacred thread-janvu) or tearing apart the caste certificate will not end caste."

Incidentally, Haasan had made some remarks about the sacred thread also, saying it was one that had "affected" him.

came to know about the incident at 6.30 pm on Sunday. She said the family was gearing up for the wedding of Priyanka (30), who was among the deceased, and celebrated her engagement last month.

"They were religious like any other normal family. After hearing about various cases involving babies and tantriks, our family hardly believed in them."

"The family business was going fine. There was no fight within the family. They were busy with wedding preparations. They were all happy. So why would they commit suicide at all," she questioned. The 11 deceased were identified as Devi, who was found dead on the floor, her daughter Pratibha (67), her two sons Bhavnesh (50) and Lalit Bhatia (45).

Bhavnesh's wife Savita (48) and their three children - Meenu (23), Nidhi (25) and Dhruv (15) were among the deceased. Lalit Bhatia's wife Tina (42) and their 15-year-old son Shivam were also among those found dead along with Pratibha's daughter Priyanka (33).

Except Devi, others were found hanging from an iron-mesh in the ceiling, police said.