

Bihar girl allegedly raped for months by principal, teachers, students

CHAPRA, JULY 7 /--/ A class 9 girl has alleged that she was raped and blackmailed by her school's principal, two teachers and 16 students in Bihar's Saran district, police said today.

The principal and a teacher were arrested and four students apprehended for allegedly raping and blackmailing the girl, Superintendent of Police (Saran) Harkishore Rai told PTI. In her complaint, the girl alleged that she was raped and subsequently

blackmailed for seven months by the principal, two teachers and 16 students.

The school is located in Parsagarh village which comes under the jurisdiction of Ekma police station of Saran district, about 35 km from the district headquarters of Chapra. The SP has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) under deputy superintendent of police Ajay Kumar Singh, who visited the school on Friday, and made the

arrests. Raids are being conducted to apprehend the other accused, the SP added.

In the complaint, the victim alleged that she was first raped by some of the students of her school in a toilet there in December 2017, Rai said. The students also recorded a video of the act and threatened her to make it viral if she reported the matter to anyone, he said. When the victim complained to the principal about the incident, he convinced and

persuaded her not to lodge a complaint as the matter would bring disrepute to her and the family, the SP said. The principal along with two teachers, later also raped and blackmailed her, the girl alleged. The victim told reporters today that she could only muster courage to lodge a complaint with the police since her father was in jail for several months. The girl's father was released from jail a couple of days ago and a complaint was lodged on Friday (PTI).

Jharkhand CM directs for probe into NGOs, trusts after baby-selling incident

RANCHI, JULY 7 /--/ Taking serious note of incident of selling of a baby in Nirmal Friday, a shelter home run by the Missionaries of Charity, Jharkhand chief minister Raghubar Das on Friday instructed to get the activities of other NGOs and trusts running such services probed.

Das directed his principal secretary Sunil Barnwal for a probe into such matters by any capable agency, an official release said here.

The instruction followed CM's meeting a delegation headed by BJP MP Sameer Oraon who urged him to order a probe into the works of other NGOs and trusts so that innocent people were not cheated and exploited. Oraon referred to reports published in newspapers, which are a cause for concern, particularly the July 5

newspaper publication on Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity wherein baby selling was reported, according to a press release.

An FIR has also been registered in that connection. He added, Oraon said that the NGO has also admitted that selling of babies had happened in the past too. The delegation comprised Khajri MLA and BJP's Scheduled Tribe Morcha state unit president Ram Kumar Patra, BJP's state unit spokesman Man B. Tubid and former MLA Sunil Soren.

Two days back Child Welfare Commission (CWC), Ranchi unit, had filed a complaint against Nirmal Hriday staffer Anima Indwar for allegedly selling an infant boy to an Uttar Pradesh-based couple. The staffer and a nun have been arrested by the police in this connection. (PTI)

Digital empowerment of police will lead to safer Assam: CM

GUWAHATI, JULY 7 /--/ Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal said today digital empowerment of the police will lead to better policing and make the state safer. Sonowal also urged Internet users of the state to strengthen the age-old amity and bonhomie existing in Assam. He was addressing a gathering while inaugurating the office building of Assam Police Cyberdome Project here.

The Cyberdome Project, which was promised in the state budget, aims at empowering the force to use Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for better service delivery, create digital repository of its available databases on crime, insurgency, terrorism and related cases. "Crimes perpetrated in digital era have assumed digital significance and all cyber-users must take responsibility to use Internet for creating harmony in our society," Sonowal said.

He hailed the Assam Police for its intervention from time to time to prevent any situation from snowballing into a major problem and urged them to use ICT to fight against various evils from corruption to superstition. The project was conceptualised to use an advanced platform for addressing cyber crime and related issues. Director General of Police Kuladhar Saikia, special DG Special Branch Falah Bhattacharyya and senior police officers were present at the programme. (PTI)

Three killed by suspected cow smugglers in Meghalaya

SHILLONG, JULY 7 /--/ Three persons, including a village headman, were killed and three others seriously injured after a group of suspected cow smugglers attacked them near the Bangladesh border in Meghalaya's West Jaintia Hills district, police said today.

The SP said, adding, later, the police arrested three others, including another brother of the main accused. According to villagers, the headman and other villagers, earlier this week, had apprehended the main accused when he was trying to smuggle cattle to Bangladesh. He was assaulted by the villagers and the police had to rescue him, a police officer said. An FIR was lodged against the village secretary and another member of the village were killed on the



Jadavpur University students on hunger strike at campus to protest against the abolition of entrance examination on Saturday.—Arijit Ganguly

Unrest over shifting of border pillar on India-Myanmar border

IMPHAL, JULY 7 /--/ Prohibitory orders were imposed today in some areas in Moreh sub-division after unrest over the alleged shifting of an India-Myanmar border pillar well into the Indian territory.

Tenagapuri district magistrate A Tombikanta ordered imposition of prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPc during the night hours for the next six months in some parts of the sub-division. The orders prohibit assembly of five or more people from 7 pm to 4 am and carrying any weapon. It was imposed after rising tension in the area over "shifting" of border pillar No 81 three kilometre inside the Indian territory, officials said. The move comes a day after a visit by the Manipur revenue minister Karam Shyam to the area where he said a high power committee on border pillars would submit a detailed report to the government on the contested pillar. The border pillar was erected in 1969-70, the minister had said. The residents of Kwatha Khunou had flagged the issue last month, alleging encroachment. Their claim was supported by several social bodies and political parties. (PTI)

Raj Kanojia's VR plea accepted

KOLKATA, JULY 7 /--/ The West Bengal government has accepted the plea for Voluntary Retirement (VR) by Raj Kanojia, the director general of Police and commanding general, Home Guards, with effect from September 30 next, according to a state government notification. Kanojia, who is also the Director General of Police, Coastal Security, West Bengal and an 1982 batch IPS officer, had prayed for voluntary retirement from the Indian Police Service. Since Kanojia has completed more than 30 years of service and has attained 50 years of age he is eligible for seeking VR under Rule 18(2) of AIS (DCRB) Rules, 1958 and the state government is competent to accept his prayer, the notification said.

"In exercise of the power conferred by Sub-Rule 2 of Rule 16 of the All India Service (DCRB) Rules, 1958, the Government is pleased to allow Raj Kanojia to take voluntary retirement from Indian Police Service with effect from September 30, 2018," it added. (PTI)

State Notes

Dhenkanal RTO held

BHUBANESWAR, JULY 7 /--/ Vigilance sleuths arrested the Regional Transport Officer (RTO) of Dhenkanal, for allegedly possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income, vigilance officials said today. He was arrested and produced before a court in Cuttack on Friday which remanded him to judicial custody till July 19, a vigilance statement said. On the basis of allegations that the RTO of Dhenkanal, Basanta Kumar Behera, has been acquiring huge assets, two houses owned by him in Cuttack, a flat in Bhubaneswar, a house of one of his relatives at Arikana in Jajpur district and his office in Dhenkanal were searched on Thursday. A vigilance statement said. The operation was carried out following search warrants issued by the Court of Special Judge, Vigilance, Cuttack, it said. (PTI)

Male tiger released in Odisha forest

BHUBANESWAR, JULY 7 /--/ The male Royal Bengal Tiger released in the Madhya Pradesh to Odisha was on Friday released in the Satkoski Tiger Reserve in Angul district of the state, a forest official said. The big cat has been inside a special enclosure under CCTV surveillance at Satkoski since it reached the state on June 21. The tiger was released to the forest in the afternoon after experts felt that the animal had been accustomed to the local environment, the official said. The three-year-old animal was brought from Kanha Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh with the intention of increasing the tiger population at Satkoski which has only two female Royal Bengal Tigers. (PTI)

Nine hurt in clash

BERHAMPUR, JULY 7 /--/ At least nine persons were injured in a clash between two groups following a dispute over keeping buffaloes at a village in Ganjam district today, police said. Stones, bricks and fireworks and bombs were used in the clash that took place at Tatadapali village under Golanath police station limits. The groups had previous enmity and the immediate provocation of today's clash was a dispute over keeping buffaloes in a particular place of the village, police said. Earlier, police had warned both the groups not to involve in clashes. The condition of the four of the injured was stated to be serious and they were hospitalised, police said adding that 10 persons were arrested for their alleged involvement in the clash. (PTI)

Expelled CPM MP made chief of state govt committee

KOLKATA, JULY 7 /--/ Expelled CPM Rajya Sabha MP Ritabrata Bandyopadhyay was made the chairman of a committee constituted by the Mamata Banerjee ministry for the welfare of tribals in West Bengal on Friday.

Bandyopadhyay, who participated in a meeting chaired by the chief minister, would be coordinating with the members of the Tribal Development Commission, officials said. "I have been made the chairman of the committee to set up the state government for the welfare of the tribal community in West Bengal. I will be coordinating with other members in the committee and give my best," Bandyopadhyay told PTI.

Heaping praise on chief minister Mamata Banerjee, he said, "Under Mamata Banerjee, West Bengal has surged ahead by leaps and bounds and this had never happened before. Development of West Bengal has always been the priority of Mamata Banerjee. I am always wanted to take West Bengal ahead."

"That's why I am part of it now. I am humble to be a part in Did's endeavour of transforming the state," Bandyopadhyay said. Asked whether he is switching over to the Trinamool Congress, Bandyopadhyay said, "This is not the right time. But because I have been roped in a government job I will give my best. I will work together as a team."

He was expelled by the CPM in September last year for grave anti-party activities. Speculations arose in political circles here about his joining the TMC but there is no immediate confirmation either from Bandyopadhyay or the TMC.

More than 100 people from tribal-dominated pockets of Jhargram, Purulia, West Midnapore and Bankura districts took part in today's meeting where the chief minister asked women participants about the problems faced by them, officials said. This is the first meeting held by the state government for tribal communities after the panchayat election in May.

The chief minister in a Facebook post said, "Under our community development initiative, it is indeed a pleasure to hear about the local development issues from these young men and women who have come from all over the state." She started a fresh murder case related to the violence during the Nandigram movement of 2007 and named former CPM MP Lakshman Seth and 15 others as accused in the case, a statement said on Friday.

The move was initiated after members of family of two victims moved a local court seeking re-investigation into the missing cases. It said adding that the court has directed the CID to register murder cases, the CID statement said. "We have taken up investigation of the case and arrested a multiple cases of Durgapada

New station, host of projects inaugurated before Rath Yatra in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR, JULY 7 /--/ A new railway station in Bhubaneswar and a host of other infrastructure projects were inaugurated today ahead of Lord Jagannath's Rath Yatra festival beginning July 14. The Bhubaneswar New station, constructed at a cost of Rs 30 crore, was dedicated to the public by Union petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

The new station, located between Mancheswar and Barang stations and around 14 km from Bhubaneswar main station, will improve communication for people in northern parts of the city, Pradhan said. It will also play a major role in boosting business and trade activities, he said. Apart from the new station, several other projects such as a mobile app for Rath Yatra, a MEMU shed at Khurda Road station and new foot over bridge at Bhubaneswar station were also unveiled by the minister. Pradhan said the mobile app will help pilgrims and tourists in particular about available trains to Puri for the festival and related information.

Initially, three passenger trains will stop at the Bhubaneswar New station and express and super fast trains will stop there gradually, a railway official said. The new station was built to ease the traffic in the main station in which over 140 trains pass daily, the official said adding that the main station has six platforms while the new one seven. Some other railway projects including a new station building at Bhadrak are likely to be commissioned later this month, he said. (PTI)

Communicative English course for WBCS officers held

KOLKATA, JULY 7 /--/ Twenty five probationary officers of the West Bengal Civil Services have undergone a communicative English course training conducted by the British council, sources in it said today. The course was part of the long-term objective of creating an international education hub in West Bengal, director, British Council, East and Northeast India, Debanjan Chakrabarti said.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had in the past stressed on the need for all civil services officers in West Bengal to acquire sufficient level of command over English. The three-week training was held under the personnel and administrative reforms and governance department of the government, a British Council statement said here today. It focused on developing both spoken and written forms of communication of the participants to suit the needs of the 21st century workplace, it said. The course materials were developed to the needs of the participants and lessons were task-driven as the participants took part in group-based role plays and discussions, as well as undertaking individual activities.

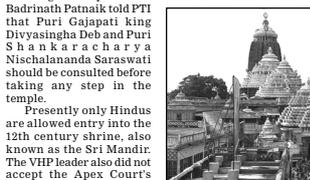
CID registers fresh murder case in Nandigram case

KOLKATA, JULY 7 /--/ The West Bengal CID has started a fresh murder case related to the violence during the Nandigram movement of 2007 and named former CPM MP Lakshman Seth and 15 others as accused in the case, a statement said on Friday.

On March 14, 2007, at the height of anti-land acquisition agitation in Nandigram in West Midnapore district, 14 persons were killed in alleged police firing on agitators. The CPM-led Left Front was ruling the state at that time. Incidentally, the CBI had filed a multiple chargesheet in the case and arrested a CPM workers. (PTI)

VHP opposes entry of non-Hindus into Shree Jagannath Temple

BHUBANESWAR, JULY 7 /--/ The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) today strongly opposed the entry of non-Hindus into the Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri and said it would file a review petition in Supreme Court to reconsider its proposal on this, Odisha VHP top leader said today. The organisation's state working president Badrinath Pattnaik told PTI that Puri Gajapati king Divyasingha Deb and Puri S h a n k a r a c h a r y a Nischalananda Saraswati should be consulted before taking any step in the temple.



Presently only Hindus are allowed entry into the 12th century shrine, also known as the Sri Mandir. The VHP leader also did not accept the Apex Court's proposal of abolishing the hereditary Puri tradition in the Shree Jagannath temple.

Pattnaik said, "The state government will be urged to maintain its existing stance to this effect falling which we will file a review petition in a higher bench of the Supreme Court." The Supreme Court had directed the Jagannath temple management to consider allowing all visitors,

irrespective of their faith to offer prayers to the deity. The top court had also said that allowing every visitor into the temple will be subject to regulatory measures regarding dress code and giving an appropriate declaration.

Insisting that the Puri Gajapati king and the Shankaracharya of Govardhan Peeth in Puri

difficult and if done, would create chaos. Earlier, Puri district judge had suggested to the Supreme Court to stop the hereditary services of the Jagannath temple servants.

Stating that the hereditary service of the servants is clearly mentioned in section 15 clause 1 of Shree Jagannath Temple Act, 1952, he wondered why the advocate general, who was representing the state government at the time of the submission of the report by the Puri district judge, did not just oppose the recommendation of the Apex Court on the matter.

Mohapatra said there should be no comparison of Shree Jagannath temple with other temples. The Puri temple is a unique shrine because the servitors perform at least 120 rituals of the deities. Urging the Puri Gajapati king to intervene in the matter since he is the first servitor of Lord Jagannath, Mohapatra suggested that he, the Shankaracharya of the Govardhan Peeth, the state chief secretary, law secretary and the advocate general should discuss the matter and take a final decision. (PTI)

decision after the Apex Court gives the final verdict," he said. Stating that the state government is keen on reforms in the Jagannath temple, Jena said that if necessary the government will amend the Jagannath Temple Act, 1954. Senior BJP leader Bijay Mohapatra told a press conference here that stopping the servitors' hereditary practice is