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Renaming does not make illegally held territory legal: India tells China

NEW DELHI, APRIL 20 /--/ Hitting back at China, India on Thursday said that renaming or inventing a name did not make illegally held territory legal. "Arunachal is an integral part of India," ministry of external affairs spokesperson Gopal Baglay emphasised. China had on Wednesday announced that it had 'standardised' official names for six places in Arunachal Pradesh and had termed the provocative move as a 'legitimate action'. Their move had come days after Beijing had lodged strong protests with India over the Dalai Lama's visit to the frontier state. The state media in Beijing had said that the move was aimed at reaffirming China's claim over Arunachal Pradesh.

China claims the state as 'South Tibet'. "China's ministry of civil affairs announced on April 14 that it had standardised in Chinese characters, Tibetan and Roman alphabet the names of six places in 'South Tibet', which India calls 'Arunachal Pradesh', in accordance with the regulations of the Central government," state-run Global Times had reported. The official names of the six places using the Roman alphabet are Wo'gyainling, Mila Ri, Qoidengarbo Ri, Mainquka, Bumo La and Namkapub Ri. "These names reflect China's territorial claim over South Tibet (Arunachal Pradesh) is supported by clear evidence in terms of history, culture and administration," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang had told newspersons, as per PTI. Defending the action to standardise the names, Lu had said, "to issue these names is actually carried out in accordance with the regulations about the names of the localities and it is a legitimate action by the Chinese government". "Let me stress that about the Indian government's indulgence of (the) Dalai Lama activities in disputed eastern section of the India-China boundary and also about his anti- China activities, this is something we are firmly against. These activities are also against the Indian government's commitments to China," Lu had added when asked about the significance of standardisation of names. Asked why it took China so long to standardise the names and whether the sudden move was in retaliation to the Dalai Lama's recent visit to Arunachal Pradesh, he had further said that China chose this time to announce the standardisation as it was now doing a second census of names of localities and an important part of it was to standardise names in ethnic languages. "In the next step, we will also step up our study of those names in Tibetan ethnic languages and in the next step we will announce more standardisation of these names," he had gone on to say said. Reiterating that China's claims over the east section of India-China boundary in Arunachal Pradesh were clear and consistent, Lu had said, "these names have been passed on from generation to generation by people who have lived there for generations, the Tibetan ethnic and Monpa ethnic groups. It is also an example that shows China has clear administration over these areas and there are many activities by the Chinese people in that area." China's move had come just days after the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, which was seventh since the 81-year-old spiritual leader fled from Tibet through Tawang and sought refuge in India. (PTI)

Concerned' over Jadhav's health, New Delhi seeks details of appeal process from Islamabad

NEW DELHI, APR 20 /--/ India has sought from Pakistan details of the appeal process in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case in which it has made 15 attempts to get consular access to the Indian national given death sentence by a military court there. External affairs ministry spokesperson Gopal Baglay said India was "concerned" as it has no information about

the location or the condition of Jadhav, who Pakistan says was in their custody. Noting that the ministry had "called in" the Pakistan deputy high commissioner on Wednesday, he said Pakistan has been asked to provide details of the trial against Jadhav. "Pakistan claims there have been legal proceedings against Jadhav. If there have been any proceedings against (him), we would, officially, like to see details of those proceedings," Baglay said. India would also like to know how it can proceed in the case, and asked Shah about various options available in Pakistani legal system, Baglay said, noting that India is still awaiting a response to its demands for consular access and details of the trial proceedings against Jadhav. "Yesterday also we asked for consular access to Jadhav and in the past we made 13 such requests," Baglay said, adding it was important given the nature of charges levelled against the retired Indian Navy officer. "We don't know anything about Jadhav's location or condition in Pakistan. It is a matter of concern for India. We are concerned about his health and whereabouts," he maintained. On reports that Pakistan will present a dossier on Jadhav with evidence of his alleged spying activities, Baglay merely said that in past also Pakistan has attempted to "misinform" the international community.

TMC fields senior leaders for civic body polls

EOI CORRESPONDENT

DARJEELING, APRIL 20 /--/ The Trinamool Congress has fielded party heavyweights as candidates for the municipality election. Today the party announced 14 candidates from Darjeeling and seven from Kalimpong. The heavyweight candidates include hill TMC working president N.B. Khawas from ward 20, hill TMC Mahila president Sardha Subba from ward 32 and GTA nominated Sabashad Milan Dukpa from ward 13. In Kalimpong the names include those of Maximus Kalikotey, who has remained the vice chairman and chairman of Kalimpong municipality during the GNLF's heydays, and C.K. Kumai, another former municipality chairman. Kalikotey was with the GNLF and joined the TMC today right before the candidates' names were announced. "The main reason we are fielding heavyweights for the civic polls is that we want our main aim of good governance to be fulfilled. We want the municipality board to be run properly all local issues solved. The public wants change and we are confident about winning in all the four municipalities. We want the people to know that development is possible only through our party as we are in power in the state government. As a result, the municipalities can function more smoothly," said Rajen Mukhia, the hill TMC president. With the TMC already announcing 10 candidates for Kalimpong municipality on Wednesday, the names announced there are now 17 from the 23 wards, while in Mirik municipality the TMC has already announced seven candidates out of the nine wards. For Darjeeling the number remains at 14 till now from the 32 wards, while the names for Kurseong for the 20 wards will be announced by Friday. The TMC, which is in a seat sharing agreement with the GNLF, also said they were leaving two wards for the GNLF in Mirik, which include wards 1 and 6, while in Kalimpong they are not contesting in four wards, 4,5,10 and 9. The number of wards that will be given to the GNLF in Kurseong and Darjeeling is yet to be fixed. The TMC has also decided to invite senior party leaders Partha Chatterjee, Gautam Deb and Arup Biswas to Darjeeling, Rabindra Nath Ghosh to Kurseong, Sourav Chakrabor ty to Mirik and Mohan Sharma to Kalimpong, to campaign for the candidates. On the other hand, the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha today announced the names of six more candidates for Darjeeling municipality, taking the total to 17 candidates. With no further names announced for the other three municipalities, the number remains at 19 candidates in Kurseong municipality and 20 candidates in Kalimpong, while none has been announced for Mirik municipality. The nominations continued today with GJM candidates in Darjeeling filing their papers. The last date of nomination filing is on April 24.

FICN peddling racket leader nabbed

MALDA, APRIL 20/--/Baishnabnagar police after a relentless search arrested kingpin of FICN (fake Indian currency notes) circulation racket Aizul Sheikh from his hideout at Mohanpur village late last night. The 29-year old mastermind of FICN peddling racket was produced in court today. Police appealed for taking him into custody. It has been learnt from police sources that serious cases like dacoity, bombing, attempt to murder were pending against Sheikh. Later, he got involved with FICN peddling and even went to Nepal and Bangladesh illegally. He even trained other youths and minors as carriers of FICN. As police started comb-hunting for him, Sheikh even crossed Bangladesh border to take shelter in neighbouring country illegally for few days. According to police sources, Sariful Mia and Esraful Mia were arrested few days back from a mango orchard at Kumbhira village under Baishnabnagar police station. Large quantity of firearms and ammunition were seized from them. While grilling them police learnt about Sheikh's active role in as the key person of an FICN peddling racket. Police officials came to know from sources that Sheikh would be at his house on Wednesday night. Accordingly, a raid was designed and Sheikh was caught raid-handed. Sanjay Biswas, inspector-in-charge of Baishnabnagar police station that Sheikh had serious criminal cases pending against him. He would be interrogated in police custody.

BJP president Amit Shah to visit Siliguri

PRASHANT ACHARYA

SILIGURI, APRIL 20 /--/ BJP national president Amit Shah is slated to visit Siliguri on April 25 to boost the morale of party workers ahead of the municipality election. During his three day visit, Shah will first address a public rally at Pukaijote in Naxalbari. The BJP has started its campaign in fully swing and accordingly, Shah has chosen Naxalbari, from where the Naxalite movement started.

BJP sources said Shah will also speak at a public gathering at the Siliguri Indoor Stadium on April 26. He will meet party leaders from north Bengal to discuss strategies to give a big fight to the TMC in the civic polls.

The BJP and the TMC have been at loggerheads over several issues and the former seems to be working very hard to win the hearts of the people in the hills and plains of north Bengal. According to local BJP leaders, while there is strong support for the party, the BJP still doesn't enjoy the kind of organisational penetration the TMC, or even the Left continue to have in the rural belt of Bengal. Shah will meet with voters directly and party workers will work ceaselessly to explain to the voters that the BJP is the only alternative to the TMC in Bengal, said a senior leader. Apart from Shah, MoS External Affairs VK Singh will also be in Siliguri to open a passport Seva Kendra for north Bengal.

Mamata meets Naveen, says regional parties strong enough to tackle BJP

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee with her Odisha counterpart Naveen Patnaik at his residence in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR, APRIL 20 /--/ The regional parties are strong enough to counter the BJP, said West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee today after meeting her Odisha counterpart Naveen Patnaik, who made no comment on the perceived saffron surge in his state.

"The regional parties are enough to tackle the BJP," the Trinamool Congress supremo told newspersons after a 10-minute meeting with Patnaik at his residence here. Asked about the threat to regional parties, particularly from the BJP in wake of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly poll results, Mamata shot back: "I do not believe that they (BJP) are a threat." Coming down heavily on the BJP, she said the party (BJP) divides people and split political parties, a tactics that the regional parties do not resort to. "They divide parties. Sometimes they purchase ministers, MLAs and whatever they can. They create division among Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, tribals and scheduled caste people. They even create division within the Hindu community. We regional parties do not do that. We say Jai Jagannath as there is no caste, creed and religion in the Jagannath culture," said the West Bengal chief minister. To a question on the proposed federal front, the TMC chief said: "That is my consistent effort. We love regional parties and we want regional parties to persist and grow." "In the federal structure, regional parties strengthen the very system under the Constitution," she said adding all states are important in a federal setup. "We are already in the federal structure. Look, he (Naveen) is Odisha chief minister and I belong to West Bengal. Therefore, I say all regional parties are there. Secular parties are always secular and are together," Mamata said. Asked whether she finds a natural ally in Patnaik's BJD, the TMC supremo said: "We have great respect for it." On the upcoming Presidential election, she said: "It is still early for that. If he (Naveen) proposes any name, I will talk to him. Don't worry. We have the best of relationship."

The two chief ministers, who spoke to the press together, maintained that their meeting was not political in nature and it was out of courtesy. "I m very glad that honourable chief minister of West Bengal came to pay a courtesy call today," said Patnaik and denied having any political discussion with her.

Apollo Gleneagles asked to submit report on Kuheli's treatment

KOLKATA, APRIL 20 /--/ The West Bengal Clinical Establishment Regulatory Commission today sought a report from Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals after parents of a baby who died there submitted a complaint alleging medical negligence against the medical establishment. "We have asked Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals' authority to submit reports in connection with the treatment of the baby. They have been asked to submit the report within 72 hours or as early as possible," Commission secretary Arshad Hassan Warsi said. Parents of four-month-old Baby Kuheli Charaborty lodged a complaint with the Commission today alleging medical negligence of part of the hospital as well as three doctors. "The Commission will look into the report from the Apollo Gleneagles and depending on it we will take follow-up action," another senior officer of the Commission said. The baby was transferred to Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals on Saturday last and died there on Wednesday morning. Her family members have alleged that medical negligence by the hospital was responsible for it. The baby's parents also submitted a copy of their complaint to the state department of health and family welfare and met the director of health services Biswaranjan Satpathy. newspersons.

AT A GLANCE

Ganja seizure

SILIGURI, APRIL 20 /--/ A sealed packet containing ganja was recovered from Jalpaiguri Road Station on Wednesday evening by the Railway Protection Force during routine patrolling. RPF inspector Aditya Kujmar Meena said the person carrying the contraband was possibly planning to smuggle it, but panicked and threw the packet before running away upon seeing the RPF personnel in the area. Meena said the packet contained about 5kg ganja with an estimated market value of Rs 10,000. (EOIC)

Malda College vs Gour Banga Varsity

College teachers unanimously reprimand acting COE's remarks

SOUMYA DE SARKAR

MALDA, APRIL 20/--/In an unusual move the teachers' council of Malda College adopted a unanimous proposal scorning the officiating controller of examinations (COE) of the University of Gour Banga Sanatan Das for his alleged 'misbehaviour and use of unparliamentarily phrases' during a telephonic conversation with the college's principal Uttam Sarkar recently. The teachers of Malda College, wherefrom the varsity commenced its journey 10 years back, would also take up the matter with vice chancellor Prof Gopalchandra Mishra during their proposed meeting with him on April 24.

"I felt hurt by the abusive words used by the COE when I called him to discuss some problems related to accommodating large number of Part II & III examinees in our college recently. I shared my disappointment with my colleagues who too felt upset and convened an emergency meeting of teachers' council yesterday at 3 pm. However, following my busy schedule I attended the meeting only at the concluding moment," Sarkar said. Dilip Debnath, a teacher of chemistry department of Malda College and secretary of teachers' council said, "The words used by the COE to our principal were undesirable. A teacher should not use such words while talking another senior teacher who is head of a premier college of the district. We adopted a unanimous proposal condemning the acting COE's behaviour. We would meet the VC on April 24 and express our resentment to him also." Debnath also said that if necessary, a delegation from Malda College would meet the education minister Partha Chatterjee and Chancellor and Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi to convey their grievances. Das, the acting COE, however, did not find any logic in enlarging a trivial issue. "Who would condemn the principal's behaviour with me? The principal cl;aimed that he had recorded the conversation. If that is brought in public, the truth would be revealed." Das also advised the teachers of Malda College to concentrate more on holding the upcoming examinations properly than indulging in such apparently 'eye-catching activities.'

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