

Army chopper crashes in Sukna, three dead



PRASHANT ACHARYA
SILIGURI, NOV 30 /- An Army helicopter crashed today about 11:20am while attempting to land at Sukna Military Station near Siliguri, killing three officers on the spot. The deceased have been identified as Lt Col Arvind Bajjala, Maj Lather and Lt Col Rajnish. The fourth passenger, a jawan, has been critically wounded in the accident. The Cheetah helicopter had gone on an operational reconnaissance of the forward areas. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered by Army authorities to ascertain the cause of the incident.

Trade union asks Modi to allow wage payment in cash to tea workers

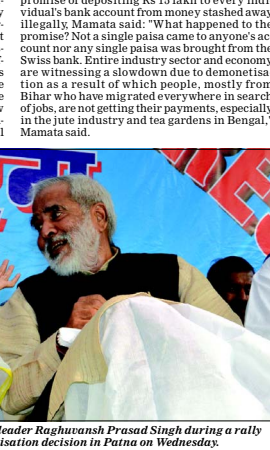
EOI CORRESPONDENT
DARJEELING, NOV 30 /- The Gorkha Janmukti Morcha affiliated Darjeeling Terai Doors Plantation Labour Union today sent a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting for allowing wage payments in cash to tea garden workers of the hills till such time proper infrastructure is put in place to facilitate compliance to electronic payments. The trade union sent the letter through Darjeeling MP S. Anilwalia, following the circular issued by the Centre and the RBI to tea garden managements directing them to open bank accounts for workers in any nationalised bank to facilitate wage payments. As per the union, the directive was premature and not of significance to workers' interests. Following the demonetisation of Rs500 and Rs1,000 notes on November 8, the managements of the 87 tea gardens of the hills had requested the state government to intervene. Faking cognisance, the central government had allowed workers' wages to be transferred to the account of the Darjeeling district magistrate, which would then be disbursed in cash to the managements for distribution to the workers. But even though the process has got underway, payments have been made to only 40 per cent of the 55,000-odd workers in the hills, while many have to get wages of two weeks. According to the DTDPLU, opening bank accounts for workers would take time and moreover, the tea gardens in the hills lacked ATM facilities. "Opening bank accounts for the workers is a huge task and time consuming. How will they sustain their livelihood without money till then? Also, the tea gardens are located far away from the nearest bank or ATM. We feel that until banking infrastructures including ATMs are established in the gardens, wage payment in cash should be reintroduced," said DTDPLU general secretary Suraj Subba today at a press briefing in Darjeeling. He said the daily wage of a worker is Rs132.50 and weekly earnings, after deduction of provident fund amounts to Rs70. Since the gardens are located at fair distances from towns and markets, the minimum travelling cost incurred to reach the nearest bank or ATM would be anywhere from Rs100 to Rs200 in the hilly region of Darjeeling. Further, the DTDPLU argues in its letter to the prime minister that if the workers do adhere to the circular and open bank accounts, they would have to stay away from work for a day to withdraw weekly wages. "As it is, wages are low, but if the management remains adamant in honouring the circular, a worker's real earnings per week would come only to Rs400-450 and Rs1,000 notes to weed out black money from the country. The DTDPLU also said that unlike Assam, the Bengal government had failed to take proactive steps to mitigate garden workers' woes. "The Assam government has taken steps to help garden workers by opening ATMs and bank branches. But our state government has failed to do anything of that manner," Subba said. On the issue of opening bank accounts, the DTDPLU general secretary said only about 50 per cent workers did not have accounts. "With the management paying PF and gratuity, at least 70 per cent of workers have bank accounts. Still, the management has started opening accounts even for them, which is taking time," Subba said. The trade union also requested the prime minister to direct the banks to establish branches or set up ATMs in convenient places so as to implement the policy of the central government and not compromise with workers' interests at the same time.

Mamata's veiled attack on Nitish at Patna rally

'Those supporting demonetisation are traitors'

DURGADAS BANDOPADHYAY
PATNA, NOV 30 /- A day after she dared Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah to divulge their bank account details at the rally at Lucknow, chief minister Mamata Banerjee, who is leading the all India agitation against Modi's demonetisation move, today called out the so-called Modi 'traitors' saying they would not be forgiven by people. "If someone comes with us, then it is good. If it certainly pains us if someone is not with us in the struggle for common people. This is people's cause. People will not forgive 'gaddars' (betrayers)," she said at a rally at Patna that was organised by her party. Incidentally it was Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar, who along with Orissa chief Minister Naveen Kumar have supported the demonetisation move of Modi. And the rally also brought to the fore the widening rift between Nitish Kumar of JD-U and his alliance partner Lalu Prasad Yadav of RJD. In fact Yadav, at whose house Mamata dropped in on Tuesday after she arrived at Patna, sent his party leaders including Ragunath Prasad Singh, former party MP Ramchandra Dubey, party state president, Manjuka Singh Yadav, general secretary of the party, to name a few, to the rally held at Gardaniabagh at Patna. "The government has taken away the freedom from the people that they have been enjoying for the past 60 years. The government has snatched 'Roti, Kapda aur Makan' from the people... A people's movement was started during the Emergency days. Today the situation is even worse than Emergency, it can be termed as super Emergency," the TMC supremo said. Raising the issue of funding

of PM Modi's public meetings in foreign countries, she asked "From where do they get money from to hold such mega public meetings in foreign countries like the US?" she asked. The West Bengal chief minister also raised issue of registration of land by BJP in Bihar for opening of offices in districts and displaying deed numbers of land purchased by the BJP; she questioned the PM's intentions as to how could BJP buy huge chunks of land in the month of September, a few weeks before the announcement of demonetisation on November 8. Questioning Modi's poll promise of depositing Rs 15 lakh to every individual's bank account from money stashed away illegally, Mamata said: "What happened to the promise? Not a single paisa came to anyone's account nor any single paisa was brought from the Swiss bank. Entire industry sector and economy are witnessing a slowdown due to demonetisation as a result of which people, mostly from Bihar who have migrated every where in search of jobs, are not getting their payments, especially in the jute industry and tea gardens in Bengal," Mamata said.



Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with RJD leader Ragunath Prasad Singh during a rally demanding roll back of the demonetisation decision in Patna on Wednesday.

State BJP suspends party leader accused in child trafficking case

Dr Dilip Ghosh was arrested by CID on Tuesday

KOLKATA, NOV 30 /- The West Bengal unit of BJP suspended party leader and medical practitioner Dr Dilip Ghosh who was arrested by the CID for allegedly being involved in the child trafficking case. Ghosh had contested the Bidhanagar Municipal Corporation election last year on BJP ticket. He lost the contest. "We have suspended him from all posts till he comes out clean in the probe. Who has done his professional life is not the lookout of BJP," the party's state president Dilip Ghosh, BJP was left reeling over the arrest as it has demanded a CBI inquiry into the child trafficking case. Another doctor, Nityananda Biswas was also arrested by CID sleuths for his alleged involvement in the racket. Ghosh, who was formerly working with state-run R G Kar Medical College and Hospital linked to Sri Krishna Nursing Home and Biswas had played crucial roles in the child trafficking racket and have been involved with for a long time, claimed a CID official. With the two arrests, a total 20 people have been arrested by CID in a span of 10 days since the racket was unearthed at Baduria in North 24 Parganas. Ghosh, a resident of Salt Lake, was called by CID on Tuesday afternoon for an over an hour-long

grilling at its headquarters at Bhawanishwaran. During grilling it surfaced that the doctor, who is in his mid-60s, knew Santosh Kumar Samanta, who was associated with the same nursing home as that of the doctor, for his alleged involvement in the racket. The doctor, who was an active member of BJP, was asked to surrender his passport during Thursday's grilling. Biswas, a resident of Parnashree area of Behala, was picked up from his residence, the officer said.



The accused being taken into custody

Deputy national security advisor peruses Indo-Bangla border in Malda with team



Malda, NOV 30 /- A delegation of National Security Advisor Council (NSAC) headed by the deputy national security advisor Arvind Gupta visited the district today, giving rise to speculations at different circles. The high level delegation arrived in Malda in the afternoon and visited Indo-Bangla border at Pannapur area under Bamangola police station after holding a closed door meeting with the BSF officers. Though all concerned remain tightlipped about the purpose of the trip, it is being considered as quite significant as the Indian defense minister Manohar Parrikar is on his Bangladesh trip now. The delegation would visit Siliguri also as learnt from sources. (EOIC)

Krishnendu Choudhury is no more EBM chairman as TMC includes Nihar Ghosh

SOUMYA DE SARKAR
MALDA, NOV 30 /- Putting an end to prolonged political uncertainty Krishnendu Choudhury, chairman of Trinamool Congress run English Bazaar municipality (EBM) stepped down today after he was directed by Subrata Bakshi, the all India general secretary of the party to quit chairmanship of the civic body forthwith. Interestingly the directive from the Trinamool top brass reached Choudhury over phone soon after independent MLA of English Bazar and an EBM councillor Nihar Ghosh joined Trinamool along with six Left Front EBM councillors joined the ruling party Trinamool Bhawan in Kolkata today. It may be recalled that Trinamool leadership had asked Choudhury to resign immediately through an e-mail sent to Dr Moazzem Hossain, the district Trinamool president on 16 November. But to the surprise of Ghosh, the MLA cum councillor favoured Trinamool in a crucial no-confidence meeting of Mohda Zilla Parishad brought against the ruling by jointly by the Congress and the LF. Since then speculations have been rife about when Choudhury would finally resign. Meanwhile, eight Trinamool EBM councillors including Dulal Sarkar, the EBM vice chairman resigned from their offices on 19 November protesting against Choudhury's refusal to quit as EBM chief despite receiving the party's directive. Later, five CPM councillors too joined Ghosh's band wagon inviting expulsion from their party. They also supported the aggrieved TMC councillors' fight against Choudhury. Both the camps were determined to move a no-confidence motion against Choudhury jointly. However, the initiative of removing Choudhury through no-confidence motion became irrelevant after Choudhury declared his resignation today. "I have received communication from Subrata Bakshi and Suvendu Adhikari, the transport minister and party's observer for Malda this afternoon. They conveyed me the message from our party supporters that Mamata Banerjee had asked me to resign. Accordingly, I have made up my mind to step down," Choudhury said. About his next course of action Choudhury said, "Party would determine my next responsibilities." Nihar Ghosh, on the other hand, said over phone, "I am thankful to Trinamool leaders for helping me to keep my promise to remove the dictator chairman of EBM. Our motto is to serve the people of English Bazaar with humbleness."



Three babies rescued

KOLKATA, NOV 30 /- Three babies were rescued from a bush near a canal at Falta in South 24 Parganas district. "We are looking into whether these babies were part of a trafficking racket and also trying to ascertain the identity of these babies," a senior police officer said. He said locals, who heard the cry of the babies, informed Falta police station on Tuesday evening, following which police personnel rushed to the area and rescued them. "The policemen along with the locals launched a search and found the three babies wrapped in a blanket in a bush on the banks of a canal," he said. The three babies - two girls and a boy - have been admitted to a government hospital at Diamond Harbour, the officer said.

Pay day today, Govt asks RBI to ensure adequate flow of new notes at banks

NEW DELHI, NOV 30 /- With Thursday being the pay day, banks are gearing up to face a huge rush as people will queue up at banks across the country to withdraw salaries amid the ongoing cash crunch following demonetisation. Making matters worse, a large number of ATMs are still dry 22 days after the government scrapped 500 and 1000 rupee notes earlier this month to crack down on black money. Top government officials say special efforts are being made to pump in additional cash into banks to meet the heavy demand for currency notes on account of salary withdrawal. The Reserve Bank has been asked to ensure adequate supply of new Rs 500 notes at banks and currency printing presses are working overtime to print them, the official said, adding that there is a lag of 21 days for printed notes to reach markets. Bankers' fears of rush at the branches for a week as many ATMs are still not functional. Banks may have to lower the withdrawal limit as there is limited cash coming into the branches from UCO Bank. People are likely to throng at bank branches on December 1 as central and state governments credit salaries and pensions to millions of accounts. At the central level alone, there are around 50 lakh employees and 58 lakh pensioners. Bankers said the government's move last week to provide Rs 10,000 in advance to non-gazetted staff may provide only a slight relief.

FLY ABROAD AND WORK

Why Endless wait for Govt. Job when you can choose jobs yourself. A to Z Category of Jobs for A to Z Classes of People

FREE ASSESSMENT + COUNSELLING 100% JOBS ABROAD OR IN INDIA

YOU NEED ONLY WILL + DESIRE

Vacancies for: Waiter, Waitress, Care takers, House keeping, General workers, Driver, Cleaners, Nurses, Security Guards, Sales, Service crews, Foremen, Construction workers.

Contact:

YAKTHUNG

Phansidewa More, Amarpally, Siliguri-734013, Phone: 8670311679 / 9002644505 / 9002744506 / 9800287505 Email: job@yakthung.org

YAKTHUNG (Gowahati) Near Pensioners Bhawan, Chandmari Colony, Gowahati-781003, Assam, Phone: +91-361-266-9945, +91-94029-29421 Email: info@jobs.yakthung.org

YAKTHUNG (Sikkim), Four Season Building, Nam Nang Road, Gangtok, Sikkim, Phone: 03592280148 Email: sikkim@yakthung.org