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Itahar flood alert

RAIGANJ, JULY 1 /--/ Panic gripped the residents of Itahar after the block administration and police alerted them regarding possibility of heavy rain-fall and inundation at some areas. The block administration has already held an urgent meeting keeping in view the situation. All concerned departments have been reportedly alerted. Arvind Meena, DM, North Dinajpur has started inspection of different embankments. It has been learnt from the block officials that considering the heavy rain-fall in the district and the devastating aftermath, all preventive measures have already been taken now. Last year eight persons reportedly died at Itahar block alone during the season. Announcements are being made at Surun I & II, Gulandar I & II, Kapasia, Joyhat and Marnai areas to keep the inhabitants on alert as has been learnt from block administrative sources. (EOIC)

Liquor seized

ALIPURDUAR, JULY 1 /--/ A huge quantity of illegally hoarded liquor was seized during an extensive drive that started on Friday night and continued up to Saturday at different parts of the district by the district officials of the state excise department. Three persons were arrested too during the drive for illegally hoarding the liquor. Nikhil Nirmal, district magistrate of Alipurduar said that over 1000 litre of illegally hoarded local and foreign liquor was seized during the drive. "Acting on a tip off the drive was conducted at 16 different places of the district," he said. It has been learnt from the sources in the district excise department that a special team was constituted for holding the drive. Ghargharia Bazaar and Dabur Hat under Alipurduar police station, Sibkata under Shamuktala police station, Barobisha under Kumargram police station, Shantikul and Jamtala Bazaar under Madarihat police station, Madhu tea-garden and MSE Choupathi under Jaigaon police station were raided during the drive, sources informed. (EOIC)

Bengal Safari Park near Siliguri had a formal inauguration of much awaited Leopard-Safari by the forest minister Binay Krishna Burman on Sunday. Tourism Minister Gautam Deb was present at the ceremonial inauguration programme. The ministers hoped that the newly introduced leopard-safari would attract more visitors than before----EOI Photo

Krishnendu, Nihar at loggerhead again over dengue at Englishbazar

EOI PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENT

MALDA, JULY 1 /--/ Rift between sitting chairman of English Bazaar municipality (EBM) Nihar Ghosh and his predecessor Krishnendu Choudhury came to the fore again after a youth from the municipal area was reportedly detected suffering from dengue. Choudhury, the former civic body head and a member of first Trinamool Cabinet accused the running civic body headed by Ghosh, who is also the MLA of English Bazaar of failure in maintaining a suitable environment in preventing the vector-borne decease.

Interestingly both Ghosh and Choudhury are senior leaders of district Trinamool Congress but are arch rivals. Ghosh was elected an MLA as an Independent candidate defeating Choudhury who contested for Trinamool. Ghosh was inducted to Trinamool and nominated as the EBM chairman as he is also a councilor. Choudhury, who is now a municipal councilor from ward no. 10 under EBM, visited residence of Dipsekhar Mishra, 27, who has reportedly been suffering from dengue since June 19. Chiranjit Mishra, brother of the patient said, "He was diagnosed suffering from dengue when his blood sample was tested from a private pathology-centre in English Bazaar on June 19. We are worried. But our local councilor Choudhury has helped us in all possible ways. We are grateful to him."

Choudhury blamed the lack of sanity in EBM areas and said that failure in maintaining cleanliness resulted in outbreak of deceases like dengue.

"It's a matter of great regret that EBM received environment-excellence award on October 6, 2004 when I was the chairman. Now, the town figures among first 25 dirtiest places in the country. It is an utter failure of the present authorities of the civic body," he said.

"Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee asked the district administration and all concerned to combat dengue and other vector borne deceases at any cost. But EBM authorities have miserably failed in this regard," he said adding in the same breath that the sitting chairman prioritized his personal interest to interest of the citizens. Ghosh, however, paid to no heed to Choudhury's criticism. "No dengue case in EBM area has officially been informed to me so far. State health department headed by the CM has repeatedly informing the people to get the blood samples tested through eliza system available in all medical college hospitals in state including the one in Malda. The report would be authentic."

He also said that following the advice of the CM, EBM authorities along with district administrations and district health officials had adopted all possible measures to prevent outbreak of dengue and other insect borne deceases. EBM chairman also urged the residents to be alert and not let the water deposit at any place around human-habitations.

Minister inaugurates North Bengal Skill Conclave

EOI CORRESPONDENT

SILIGURI, JULY 1 /--/ The minister for technical education, training and skill development Purnendu Basu said that the state government is spending Rs 789 crore for the skill development of students undergoing different courses at different institutes in the state.

Basu inaugurated North Bengal Skill Conclave organized by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) to develop and expand the art and craft of the region at a private hotel near Mallaguri area of the city.

"Due to the initiative of the state government there are now 12 universities and over 600 colleges in the state. Over 8 lakh students get admitted to these universities and colleges every year," the minister said. "We spend over Rs 789 crore for the skill development of those learners," he said while addressing the audience comprising hundreds of students from different educational institutions of North Bengal.

Infrastructure of proposed MCH in Raiganj inspected

ANUP JAYSWAL

RAIGANJ, JULY 1/--/ A two-member team deputed by state health education inspected the infrastructure of proposed Medical College and Hospital (MCH) in Raiganj on Sunday. Dr Ajay Roy, principal of National Medical College and Hospital and Prof Dr Shaibal Mukherjee from NRS medical college and hospital in Kolkata visited different sections of Raiganj super-specialty hospital that soon going to be upgraded into a medical college as declared by the state government. Dr Arijit Mukherjee, medical super cum vice-principal and Dr Dilip Pal, principal of the proposed medical college accompanied the delegation during their inspection. The delegation inspected the dialysis unit, critical care unit and the newly built pediatric unit also.

The delegation members said that the initiatives would be taken to promptly commence studies in Raiganj Medical College.

"The construction of building and commencement of studies are our objectives. The purpose of today's inspection was to oversee those preparations," Dr Pal said. It has been learnt from sources that initially the classes would be held at the old hospital building adjacent to Raiganj super-specialty hospital.

Youth detained for allegedly raping minor

EOI CORRESPONDENT

RAIGANJ, JULY 1 /--/ Police detained a youth for allegedly raping a minor girl after having drugged her. The incident occurred at Kachhnadangi village of Ghirnigaon gram panchayat under Chopra police station on Saturday. A women's organization of the district demanded exemplary punishment of the youth.

It has been learnt from police sources that the youth and the minor girl were found in a compromising state at Lalbajar area of Chopra by some locals. The duo was detained by the locals and local members of the women's organization were informed. The minor girl reportedly told the women-activist that she had a love-affair with the accused youth Manoj Mandal. Mandal allegedly assured her of marriage and summoned her to a place on Saturday. According to the girl, she was offered some food and drink by the youth which made her mentally imbalanced. The accused youth then allegedly took her to a place and forcibly got into a physical relationship. After taking into account the statement of the minor girl the women activists rushed to the house of the accused. They were allegedly abused and humiliated by the accused and his family members. After the members of the women's association informed, police went to the spot and detained the youth. "A probe has been started into the matter," a police official said.

Mass-marriage at Alipurduar

ALIPURDUAR, JULY 1 /--/ Mass-marriage was jointly arranged by Viswa Hindu Parishad and Sebayan, a charitable organization of Siliguri at Rajabhatkhawa tea-garden at Kalchini block at Alipurduar on Sunday. Anjali Baraik, on behalf of the organizers, said that 70 couples got married together. "We chose the prospective couples from different parts of the district who could not afford a ceremonial marriage owing to financial crisis. We helped them to get married formally," Baraik said. The newly married couples were offered the utensils to run start their home, monetary help and some furniture as learnt from the organizers.

Mob ransacks hooch shop after drunken husband hurts wife

EOI CORRESPONDENT

COOCHBEHAR, JULY 1 /--/ An irate mob ransacked and torched an illegal hooch-bar at Paradubi village under Mathabhanga police station after a local under fit of intoxication hit his wife with a shar p-weapon leaving her gravely injured. While the housewife Laxmi Sarkar was hospitalized with several wounds, the accused scampered away. It has been alleged by the local women that the hooch-bar run illegally used to be visited by people looking for liquor against a cheap price. The illegal liquor-bar affected the social-environment of the locality as the altercation and ruckus among the customers were regular affairs. The locals alleged that Sarkar was a frequenter to the illegally hooch-bar paying no heed to the warning and requests from his wife. As he went to get to the bar on Saturday morning and stayed there for late, Laxmi, his wife went to the spot herself and asked him to return home. She allegedly protested against the running of illegal-bar at the locality and accused the shop-owner of spoiling sanity of the locality. Although Sarkar remained mum during his wife's vocal protest against the hooch-shop in public, he allegedly attacked Laxmi with an axe after returning home in the evening. The housewife was beaten from pillar to post by her husband who was allegedly under a fit of intoxication. Her scream for help gathered the neighbours who rescued her and sent to MJN hospital in Coochbehar. The accused husband fled meanwhile.

In Brief

Huge python found

JALPAIGURI, JULY 1 /--/ A huge Burmese python measuring 13.3 ft was rescued from Kaluaganj area in the district on Saturday. Mohammed Shahajahan Chowdhury first spotted the python at the ceiling of his quarter and informed the forest department immediately. A four-member team of the forest department reached the spot to rescue the python. But another two employees had to join them as it was not easy to catch the gigantic snake. Forest officials identified the python of Burmese species. A very big mob gathered near the house to observe the rescue-process of the snake.

Studio showcases women night-wears in Siliguri

SILIGURI, JULY 1 /--/ The city has now got a women's own unique studio exclusively for night-wears at Planet Mall. The store interestingly named as 'Inside Story' was inaugurated on June 25. Seema Goyal and Sheetal Goyal, on behalf of 'Inside Story' informed that nightwear and lingerie collection from almost all major brands would be available at the store. "Customized and designer night-wears of different varieties from reputed fashion designers are also available with us. We also have adequate stock of track-pants, swim-wears, accessories related to inner-clothing at 'Inside Story,'" they said. According to the studio-authority, doorstep delivery would be made too. "Inaugural discount, loyalty offer for card holders and special offers on birthday and anniversary are available from us," they said.

Tusker kills woman

ALIPURDUAR, JULY 1 /--/ Excitement gripped Raidak tea-garden under Kumargram police station as a wild tusker killed a woman-labourer on Saturday night. The deceased has been identified as Titri Oraon, 49. According to the sources in the forest department, the tusker leaving its herd entered the Raman lines of the tea-garden on Saturday night. As soon as she felt the presence of the jumbo near her quarter, Oraon tried to flee through the window. But the tusker picked her up by its trunk and threw down on the floor. The woman reportedly died on spot. The body was sent for post-mortem. Forest officer of North Raidak range Kedarnath Mahato rushed to the spot on Sunday morning to hold a probe into the death. "The issue of sanctioning compensation for the family of the deceased would be considered," Mahato said.

Youth loses leg under wheel of train

ALIPURDUAR, JULY 1 /--/ Hurry to board a running train caused a heavy loss to a youth who lost his right leg on Sunday. The incident took place at Hamiltonganj station under Alipurduar division of Northeast frontier railway. The seriously injured youth was hospitalized by the fire-brigade officials. It has been learnt from the sources that Jayakash Soren of Tinchula village in Kalchini block went to Hamiltonganj station around 3.30 pm on Sunday to board a Siliguri bound passenger train that came from Bamanhat in Coochbehar. As he was late in catching the train, Soren risked his life in boarding the running train. He slipped and his right leg fell on the railway track and got separated from body under the wheel of the train. Seeing the incident and hearing the frightening scream, the station master asked to signal the train to stop. The youth was rescued and hospitalized. His condition was stated to be grave by the hospital authority. (EOIC)

Malda police launch help-lines for preventing fraudulent admission into colleges

SOUMYA DE SARKAR

MALDA, JULY 1 /--/ With an eye to implementing the state government's policy to ensure completely fair admission into colleges in the state, district police launched help-lines to prevent all sorts of fraudulent monetary dealing in admission. Along with distributing leaflets among the students seeking admission to undergraduate courses in different colleges in the district, the police circulated the message in Whatsapp groups to generate more consciousness in this regard.

"The state government and the higher education department have already declared that the admission would be conducted online purely on the basis of the merit. Still some rackets are active to thwart the merit based fair admission system. We have introduced three helpline numbers which would be open round the clock," said Arnab Ghosh, superintendent of police on Sunday.

"If any student is offered back-door admission to a particular college or with a particular subject, the incumbent should feel free to bring the matter to our notice mentioning his name, address and contact no. We assure that the identity of the complainant would never be disclosed and top privacy would be maintained in this regard," the SP said.

The help-line numbers as opened by district police are 03512-221221, 03512-221338 and 03512-252018.

Trinamool Chhatra Parishad (TMCP) has welcomed the initiative of district police to prevent admission against money. "This is a praiseworthy move by the district police. We would cooperate with police with our organizational strength to ensure fair and merit based admission system," said Prasun Roy, district TMCP president. Other student-organizations also praised the effort of the police.

Rise in water-level in Karala – municipal areas in Jalpaiguri waterlogged

JALPAIGURI, JULY 1 /--/ Different areas of municipal ward no. 25 under Jalpaiguri Municipality got inundated following incessant rainfall and rise in the water-level at Karala River on Saturday night. Netaji Para, Paresh Mitra Colony, Boelkhana Bazaar and the low field were completely waterlogged causing suffering of the inhabitants. It has been learnt from meteorological department that 214 mm rainfall was recorded between Saturday night and Sunday morning. Although the water-level in the Teesta River has not yet swelled as it did not rain heavily in hills, rise in the water-level of Karala contributed to inundation of those areas under municipality. Hemlata Mishra, a local inhabitant said, "Rise in water-level of Karala first affects these low-areas."

Amal Roy, another inhabitant alleged that several intimations to the civic body authorities did not solve the problem. Owing to the circumstances the local market was not open today. The sellers chose the road as the venue to sell their products from. Dipak Sarkar, a toto-van puller said that there was continuous power-cut following inundation. "We have to leave houses and take refuge either on the embankment of Karala or any other high-land if the water-level rises any further," Sarkar said. Local Congress councilor Parimal Malo Das said, "I drew the attention of the municipality authorities a number of times. A master-plan should be made to save these areas from yearly humiliation during monsoon."

Mohan Bose, chairman of Jalpaiguri Municipality conceded that the low-areas got inundated with rise in water-level in Karala. "However, larger amount of the excess water is flown out through Gadadhar canal. Hence, sewerage is not a major issue in Jalpaiguri," Bose said. Siliguri Jalpaiguri development authority (SJDA) chairman Saurav Chakraborty conceded that he was aware of the issue.

"The development of sewerage system in Jalpaiguri was discussed at length during the recent visit of state irrigation minister Soumen Mahapatra to North Bengal. 3 km stretch of Karala was dredged so that the excess water can be transferred to Teesta at the Teesta-Karala meeting point near Jubilee Park. A written proposal of dredging another 1 km stretch of Karala was sent to the irrigation department," Chakraborty said. (NA)

Sushma acts upon Mausam Noor's appeal: Family gets mortal remains of Malda labourer from Dubai

SOUMYA DE SARKAR

MALDA, JULY 1 /--/ Active intervention of Malda north Congress MP Mausam Noor and a quick response from Sushma Swaraj the foreign affairs minister finally brought the mortal remains of a labourer back to the country from Dubai. The migrant labourer Subhas Singha, 31 from Pandua village under Gazole police station worked as a cleaning staff with Ses Al Qusais of Dubai in United Arab Emirates. He was an employee of a company named 'active maids cleaning service.' The labourer reportedly died in early June but his body could not be brought back to country as the family lacked fund and knowledge of the procedure. As the helpless relatives of Singha drew the attention of Noor, she wrote a letter to Sushma Swaraj on June 10 and sought her cooperation in bringing back the mortal remains of the labourer. Taking a serious note of Noor's letter, the external affairs ministry directed the Consul General of India (CGI) in UAE to do the needful in this regard. Sumathi Vasudev, the Consul (Consular & Labour) took the necessary action. The CGI first established a contact with one Ashraf who took Singha to Dubai. Through Ashraf, the office of the CGI contacted M/s Al Nakheel tourism that arranged a tourist visa for the deceased labourer. The labourer went to work in Dubai on a tourist visa. The office of the CGI sought an authorization from the family of Singha to collect the mortal remains from the hospital where the body was preserved. After fulfilling all formalities the CGI in Dubai arranged to send the mortal remains of Singha under care by a local social worker. The mortal remains reached Kolkata at 4.45 pm on June 28 and sent back to Singha's village. The family members thanked the Congress MP and the external affairs minister for quick response to their appeal which let them get back the body of Singha.

Go Green': Members of Rotary Club of Malda Central planted saplings in English Bazaar on Sunday to mark the commencement of a New Rotary Year. Club President Rajesh Gupta said that the plantation programme would continue round the year under the slogans – 'Trees for Future' -----EOI Photo

Coochbehar gets waterlogged after heavy shower

COOCHBEHAR, JULY 1 /--/ Continuous rainfall and rise in water-level of Torsa River waterlogged different areas under Coochbehar Municipality on Sunday. Residential areas under wards 4, 7, 11, 12, 13 and 18 are reportedly worst-affected. (N.A.)

AFFIDAVIT/CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MESAK SUBBA**, S/O – **UDAY SUBBA**, RESIDING AT MILAN MORE, KARAIBARI, P.O – CHAMASARI, P.S. – SONADA NAGAR, DIST. DARJEELING PIN – 734003 DO HEREBY SOLEMNLY AFFIRM AND DECLARE THAT ACTUAL AND CORRECT SPELLING OF MY AS WELL AS MY FATHER'S FULL NAME IS **MESAK SUBBA**, S/O. **UDAY SUBBA** WHICH IS CORRECTLY WRITTEN/RECORDED IN MY **AADHAAR CARD BEING NO. 611807302169.** THAT IN MY STATEMENT OF MARKS, PASS CERTIFICATE AND ADMISSION CARD – ICSE (CLASS – X) CONDUCTED BY THE INDIAN SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, NEW DELHI, WHEREAS MY NAME AS WELL AS MY FATHER'S NAME OF SPELLING HAS BEEN MISTAKENLY WRITTEN/RECORDED AS **MESAK SUBHA, S/O. UDAI SUBHA** IN PLACE OF OUR ACTUAL AND CORRECT NAME OF SPELLING **MESAK SUBBA**, S/O. **UDAY SUBBA**. THAT **MESAK SUBBA** AND **MESAK SUBHA** IS THE SAME AND SINGLE IDENTICAL PERSON i.e MY SELF. THAT **UDAY SUBBA** AND **UDAI SUBBA** IS THE SAME AND SINGLE IDENTICAL PERSON WHO IS MY FATHER VIDE AFFIDAVIT IN THE COURT OF THE LD. EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE AT SILIGURI ON 29.6.2018.

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