



A biker crossing a water-lagged stretch of a road after heavy rain in Mirzapur on Monday.



Chief minister Mamata Banerjee displaying the logo of West Bengal at a press conference at Nabanna-Shyama Maitra

Mamata designs logo for state

West Bengal will now have a logo which will be used in all official stationery and other requisite places, chief minister Mamata Banerjee today said at a media conference at Nabanna. The logo which has been designed by Mamata herself has been approved by a committee set up by the government. She also said that the next cabinet meeting of the state government would be held at Darjeeling. "But we will ensure that no tourist is disturbed for the meeting," Mamata said.

State opposes Centre's move to ban cattle sale for slaughter, to move SC

SABYASACHI BANDOPADHYAY

KOLKATA, MAY 29 /-/- The West Bengal government today joined those of Kerala and Karnataka to oppose the central government's move to ban sale of cattle for the purpose of slaughter as it said it would move the Supreme Court against the ban. The decision was conveyed by chief minister Mamata Banerjee who said it was another instance of the Centre's blatant encroachment in the powers of the state. On May 23 the Union environment ministry had notified the stringent Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Regulation of Livestock Markets) Rules, 2017 under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Through this notification the Environment Ministry banned the sale of cattle in cattle markets for the purpose of slaughter. Both the CPM-

led Kerala government and the Congress government in Karnataka opposed the move saying they would move the court against the Centre's decision. "We will not accept this at all. What the Centre has done is arbitrary. If the central government is an elected government we too are an elected one. Trade and commerce as well as markets and fair are all state subjects and the Centre cannot make any legislation on this. There is the union list on which the Centre can make laws and we never venture to make any legislation on that. The way the central government is encroaching on our powers, they are destroying federal structure, it's unconstitutional and unethical. We will challenge it in the constitution bench (of the Supreme Court). We are consulting our advocate general and other legal experts," Mamata said at a media conference at

Nabanna. Officials of the department of animal resource development (ARD) of the state government however said they were looking at all papers to find out how to get out of the situation. "We are studying the notification and other constitutional provisions regarding this. It's a central government notification and before defying it we will have to look at all aspects of it," a senior official of the state government told Echo of India. She also criticised cow vigilantes saying they were creating mayhem in the name of protecting cows. "Even those who are carrying cows for milk are not spared. This is unacceptable," the chief minister said, adding all secular political parties should unite in this regard. Mamata also referred to the way red beacons from vehicles were ordered to be removed by the central government.

Curfew like situation continues in Kashmir

■ Search operations in Pathankot after abandoned bag found ■ Three Kashmiri separatists questioned by NIA

PATHANKOT, MAY 29 /-/- A search operation was launched by the Punjab Police and the Army after an abandoned bag containing Army magazines was found here, a police official said today.

A local resident informed the police about the bag on Sunday following which the search operation was conducted in Pathankot city and Mamoan Cantonment here. "We conducted a search operation along with army officials here to look for any suspicious person," the official said. "Five shirts and two trousers were found in a wheat flour bag at a secluded place near the Defence Road here," the official said. In 2015, three heavily-armed terrorists wearing Army fatigues were found in a jacked car and stormed a police station in Dinanagar town of Gurdaspur district. They killed seven persons, including a Superintendent of Police, before they were gunned down.

Last year, four terrorists who had sneaked in from across the border had attacked the Pathankot Air Base on the intervening night of January 1 and 2, claiming the lives of seven security personnel. Meanwhile, three Kashmiri separatists today appeared before the National

Investigation Agency (NIA) here for questioning in connection with a case related to the funding of terror and subversive activities in Jammu and Kashmir. Agency sources said Farooq Ahmad Dar alias 'Bitta Karate', Nayeem Khan and Javed Ahmed Baba alias 'Gazi' of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat have arrived here for questioning by NIA sleuths. Dar

Kashmiri separatist Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Jammu and National Front Chairman Nayeem Khan in a Preliminary Enquiry (PE). Khan has since been suspended from the Geelani-led Hurriyat Conference.

The case is based on a sting operation, aired on a news channel, in which Khan was purportedly shown confessing to receiving money from Pakistan-based terror groups through hawala channels. It may be added here that curfew-like restrictions continued in parts of Kashmir for the second consecutive day today as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order following the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Sabzar Bhat in an encounter with security forces.

The restrictions were in place in seven districts in the state including Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag, Shopian and Pulwama town in south Kashmir and in the township of Sopore in Baramulla district of north Kashmir, the officials said. In all the restrictions were in place in four out of 10 districts in the valley.



Ahmed and Khan were asked to bring certain bank and property documents, besides other papers, before the NIA team that had questioned them here for four consecutive days earlier this month. The questioning comes after the Central probe agency, for most in the wake of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, named Pakistan-based Lashker-e-Taiba chief Hafeez Saeed, hardline

Rajnath cautions youths not to fall prey to terror designs

KURUKSHETRA, MAY 29 /-/- Union home minister Rajnath Singh today cautioned the youth not to fall prey to terror designs of global fundamentalist forces. Singh exhorted the youth to imbibe and abide by such values that would make them emerge winners in any situation, and enable them to achieve anything they aim for in life. Delivering his address at the 30th convocation of Kurukshetra University here, the minister said the ancient Indian ethos is based on universalism and brotherhood, and it must be retained for the development of modern society. Drawing a contrast between the youth working in IT major Infosys and terror outfit al-Qaeda, he said while one section was working in the interest of society, the other was working for its destruction. Singh quoted Thomas L Friedman, who in his book 'The World is Flat', has written an essay comparing Infosys with al-Qaeda. He said Infosys has a global network, and so does al-Qaeda. The youth are in Infosys as well as al-Qaeda. He (Friedman) also said that highly-talented youth are in Infosys and al-Qaeda. The difference lies only in their thinking. One believes in creative thinking while the other believes in destructive thinking. Rajnath said quoting the essay, the home minister told the students that the ultimate aim of education should not be to just get a job and make a living, but maintaining values. A convocation connotes completion of study for a degree, but not the completion of education, which is a lifelong process, he said.

ICGS Rajveer evacuates stranded passengers from Kamorta



PORT BLAIR, MAY 29 /-/- Extending support to the administration, the Indian Coast Guard ship Rajveer evacuated 134 stranded passengers to Katchal on Monday. Due to non-availability of passenger vessel at Kamorta, passengers, who were waiting to go to Katchal, got stranded there. Since there were no facilities for keeping the passengers at Kamorta, the administration requested Coast Guard assistance for sending these passengers by CG Ship.

The fast patrol vessel of Coast Guard, ICGS Rajveer which was deployed in Southern Group of Islands was diverted for the mission. ICGS Rajveer embarked 134 passengers including 25 children from Kamorta jetty at 3pm and took them safely to Katchal Island jetty at 4.30 pm. The operation has once again demonstrated ICG commitment towards the safety and well-being of Islanders in support of the A&N Administration, a release from the Coast Guard said.

Administration committed to ensure upliftment of fishing community: LG

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The Administration has proposed to construct 19 Fish Landing Centres in different locations of the Islands and out of this, at present 6 Fish Landing Centres have been completed and put into use. The LG Governor disclosed. He said, another 13 Fish Landing Centres are at different stages of construction, of which, some are nearing completion. In addition to this, he said, with the assistance of National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), two modern Fish Markets, one each at Junglighat and Mohanpara is being taken up to provide a much safer and hygienic environment to the fishermen as well as the consumers. The LG Governor said, the modern fish market at Junglighat is expected to be completed by March 2018 while the construction work of modern fish market at Mohanpara will start soon.

Regarding the old Jetty at Junglighat which has to be demolished, the LG Governor said, condemnation certificate has been obtained and fund has been sanctioned for taking up of demolition. The tender has been floated and this will be done soon. The LG Governor said in the years to come, more fisheries infrastructure facilities will be created for the betterment of the fishermen community of the Islands.

The Member of Parliament, Mr Bishnu Pada Ray expressed happiness over the laying of foundation stone for the extension of the jetty which, according to him, was the long pending demand of the fishers to accommodate their fishing boats. Mr Ray said that for the first time in the history of India, a diesel outlet has been opened in the premises of Fish Landing Centre in Junglighat. Through this outlet, fishers will get diesel in cheaper rate and they will not only save money but also get diesel in the jetty itself without wasting their time.

Shri Ray stated that many of the Central Govt. schemes for the fishermen needs to be implemented in a proper manner in these Islands. He said the 'Model Fishermen Village', a housing scheme for the fisher folks is yet to be implemented. He further informed that the subsidy scheme for construction of boats should be implemented fully and urged for taking up the 19 cases which are still pending with the Department of Fisheries. He further urged for providing financial assistance to the fishermen as is given in the

LOCAL NEWS

CYCLONE MORA

Squally winds to prevail, fishers cautioned

PORT BLAIR, MAY 29 /-/- The cyclonic storm 'Mora' over east-central Bay of Bengal will further north-north-east storm during past six hours with a speed of 19 kmph and lay centred at 2.30 pm on May 29 over east-central Bay of Bengal near latitude 9.3°N and longitude 91.0°E and about 570 km south-southeast of Kolkata and 440 km south-southwest of Chittagong. The system is likely to intensify further into a severe cyclonic storm during next 12 hours. It is very likely to move north-north-eastwards and cross Bangladesh coast between longitude 91.0°E and 92.0°E near Chittagong around May 30 forenoon. The Indian Meteorological Department has forecast squally winds speed reaching 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph along and off Andaman Islands and adjoining sea areas in the next 12 hours. Sea condition will remain rough to very rough along and off Andaman Islands during the period. Fishermen are advised not to venture into sea along and off Andaman Islands in the next 48 hours.

LG urges scientists to ensure research benefits reach farmers

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Addressing the scientists and technical officers, the LG Governor lauded ICAR CIARI for the well-maintained campus. He also appreciated the contribution of CIARI scientists for their relentless efforts in yield a positive outcome and the scientists are selflessly dedicated in this regard. The LG Governor remarked that commitment is necessary for any research activities to yield a positive outcome and the scientists are selflessly dedicated in this regard. The LG Governor also urged CIARI to work in coordination with the Administration to ensure that the fruits of the research activities percolate to the grass root level for the benefit of Islands' farmers. He said, the scientific research carried out by the scientists is yielding positive result, but efforts needs to be mounted to see that practical results are beneficial to the farmers in increasing their yields in their respective farms. In his address, the Director, CIARI, Dr S Dam Roy maintained that the research institution will strive to fulfill the expectation of the administration and the people of these islands. He also informed that ICAR CIARI, Port Blair, has been catering to the needs of the Islanders for the last 40 years. The Institute has 32 Scientists besides technical officers who are carrying out research in various sectors. He also informed that ICAR CIARI has also spread its domain to Minicoy in Lakshadweep in line with its activities at Nicobar under Tribal Sub-Plan, besides North Eastern States and the Sunderbans. He also presented a shawl and memento to the LG Governor on the occasion. Earlier, the Principal Scientist, CIARI, Dr. Jai Sunder welcomed the gathering.

Drinking water crisis at Amkunj tourist spot

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But for lack of drinking water facility at the beach, we are forced to cut short the trip. The situation is troublesome particularly for children and elderly persons and tourists are forced to seek water from nearby villagers. The government agencies managing the eco-friendly tourist spot should ensure availability of the basic facilities for the tourists," said some visitors. Amkunj beach is located at a distance of about 7 kms from Rangat towards Mayabunder and about one km from the Nimbatala. It is another sandy beach on the way to Cutbert Bay ideal for swimming, sun bathing and relaxation. The Forest Department has developed the beach in a manner using eco-friendly structures, ecotourism and groves named after locally found flora (casuarina, jamun, pandanus). The eco-friendly beach facilities such as log sofas, log topops provides a perfect place for recreation for tourists and locals of Rangat and the adjoining villages.