

Mr. Sanjay Debray

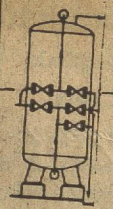
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IN BRIEF

Wage Boards meeting on April 3

NEW DELHI, March 20 : A meeting of the wage boards for journalists and newspaper employees has been convened on April three, the Rajya Sabha was informed today. Labour Minister Sri P A Sangma said workers' representatives on both the boards have been selected on the basis of the recommendations of the working journalists' and non-journalist newspaper employees' organisations. —PTI

Panchayat-clash

BANGALORE, March 20 : One person was killed and four others were injured in clash at Neralaguddageri village in Shimoga district of Karnataka late last night after the results of the Zilla and Taluk Panchayat elections were announced. —UNI

2 killed

AGARTALA, March 20 — Two persons were killed and another was injured in different incidents in Tripura yesterday, the police said. While one person was shot dead by underground insurgents at Murabari under Kalyanpur police station of Khawai subdivision in West Tripura district last night, another was hacked to death at Rangitiya under Sidhai Police Station in the same district. —PTI

Ceiling Act

NEW DELHI, March 20 : Minister of State for Urban Development P K Thungon told the Lok Sabha today that the repeal of the Urban Ceiling Act was not under consideration of the Government. He told Sri Ram Naik the written reply that there

Mahanta criticises govt policies

BY A STAFF REPORTER
GUWAHATI, MARCH 20 — THE OPPOSITION LEADER, SRI PRAFULLA KUMAR MAHANTA TODAY MADE A SCATHING ATTACK ON THE POLICIES ADOPTED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND DECRIED ITS CLAIM ABOUT THE PREVAILING SITUATION IN THE STATE AND ACCUSED IT OF LEADING THE NEXT GENERATION ASTRAY BY PROVIDING EASY ACCESS TO LIQUOR, GAMBLING AND LOTTERY.

Participating in a debate on the Governor's address in the House here this morning, Sri Mahanta asserted that Sri Loknath Mishra's address failed to reflect the prevailing state-of-affairs of the State. He accused the State Government of all around failure and alleged that wanton killings and violation of human rights by the Government machineries have become the order of the day.

The Opposition leader opening

his attack on the policies adopted by the State Government said that it has been sending a wrong signals to the youths by encouraging a section to go for easy money. In name of rehabilitation of former ULFA-men, a section of them have destroyed forest worth over Rs 235 crore by felling trees and killing animals. The Laukhowa Reserve Forest in Nagaon district is all but wiped out he said, adding that while the family of the victim of those killed gets Rs. 1 lakh, a SULFA-mer who may have been responsible for the killing gets Rs. 2 lakhs as rehabilitation package.

Has the Government ever considered what message a youth would get from this? he said, adding that by opening up liquor permits, gambling centres and lottery, the Government is encouraging the youths to go astray. How many youths from the state have come out successful in IAS, IPS and other all-India services in recent years,

he asked. Sri Mahanta who dwelt at length on the law and order situation during his one-and-a-half hour long speech, said that though the Government claims that total peace prevailed in the State, 130 companies of para-military forces were currently stationed in Assam in addition to the regular police force. For maintaining the para-military forces the State Government has spend Rs 15.88 crore till last year.

Referring to the activities of the dreaded ISI of Pakistan in State, Sri Mahanta said that it surprising to note that though the Governor expressed concern at their activities, the State Government did not mention anything about what they have done to tackle the menace. On the other hand, the Government has so far not denied the news report in a section of the media about the links of a Congress (I) legislator with a fundamentalist (See page 8, Col:4)

Walk-out on Adil issue

By A Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, March 20 — The Opposition members in the State Assembly barring the Parameswar Brahma faction of the Bodoland Legislative Party today staged a walk-out in protest against the failure of the Chief Minister to give a statement in the House regard

matter immediately. Sri Promode Gogoi (CPI), said that the person involved, Adil Shah is a protected person and the Government has provided Personal Security Officers for his protection. The involvement of such a person in an attempt to murder is a serious matter. Sri Shah also used his revolver to

Government is yet to refute the allegation, he added. Sri Gogoi further pointed out the allegation that Sri Shah had taken a sum of Rs 50,000 from Samsul Haque, who was injured in the shootout, promising him a Government job but no job was provided to him nor was the money returned.

Tewari resigns from CWC

LUCKNOW, March 20 — Veteran Congress(I) leader N D Tewari today resigned from the membership of the Congress(I) Working Committee and all other party offices, reports agencies. In a letter faxed to party president and Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao this evening, he expressed his deep sense of remorse over many statements issued directly in the name of the party Disciplinary Action Committee threatening him with disciplinary action if he attended the 'Shahidi day' (Martyrs day) rally in Bhatinda (Punjab) on March 23.

'Is it a political crime to offer floral tributes to the martyrs on the anniversary of their martyrdom at their samadhi on March 23 next', Sri Tewari asked.

No comments: The Congress-I tonight declined to comment on the resignation of Sri Tewari. "I have no comments to offer", the party spokesman, Sri V N Gadgil said in Delhi.

Sri Tewari announced his resignation at a crowded Press conference at his Mall Avenue residence in Lucknow.

Antony may succeed Karunakaran

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, March 20 — Congress (I) Working Committee member, Sri A K Antony, is expected to be elected leader of the Congress (I) Legislature Party (CLP) at its meeting to be held here tomorrow at 1130 hours paving the way for a new Congress-I led United Democratic Front (UDF) Ministry headed by him in place of the outgoing Karunakaran Ministry, reports PTI.

The Central Congress-I observers, Sri madhavsinh Solanki and Sri G.K. Moopanar, who arrived here this afternoon, began meeting the Congress-I MLAs individually to ascertain their

views on the successor to Sri Karunakaran, who resigned on Thursday last bowing to pressure from the Congress-I dissidents and major front partners.

A majority of the Congress-I MLAs are expected to express themselves in favour of Sri Antony succeeding Sri Karunakaran as the Congress-I High Command reportedly considers him as the best bet in the prevailing circumstances. Hence, the issue of the Chief Minister is unlikely to be decided by contest barring last minute unexpected developments.

If everything goes well, Kerala's 16th Ministry since the formation of the State in 1956, is expected to be in office by Wednesday evening. Sri Karunakaran, meanwhile, is back in Thiruvananthapuram, after having talks with the Prime Minister, Sri P V Narasimha Rao, on the future set-up in Kerala.

Treasury officers threaten agitation

By A Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, March 20 — The All Assam Treasury Employees

11 forest officers suspended

By A Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, March 20 — The State Government today suspended eleven officers of the Forest Department to 'check irregularities in the Department and to preserve the forest resources of the State', officials sources said here today.

Sources said that the officers suspended today are — Sri M M Pathak, Conservator, Central Assam, Sri RDF Tanowar, DFO, Digboi Division, Sri N Das, DFO, Nagaon South Division, Hojai, Sri NK Sarma, DFO, Social Forestry, office of the Principal Chief Conservator, Sri S C Phatowali, DFO, Darrang, Sri H K Saikia, DFO, Kamrup West Division, Guwahati, Sri Anup Pathak, Forest Range Officer, Banda-para, Kamrup, Sri B C Das, Forest Range Officer, Rongjuli division, Goalpara, Sri K K Nath, Forest Range Officer, Sri S Rahman, Forest Range Officer, J V Range, and Sri Bhaskar Deka, Range Officer, Dharamtul Range.

It may be recalled here that the issue of large-scale destruction of the forest reserves was a major issue of discussion among the Opposition members in the ongoing budget session of the State Assembly. Participating in the debate on the Governor's address, the leader of the Opposition Sri Prafulla Kumar Mahanta today expressed serious concern over the large-scale destruction of forest resources of the State. He said that the surrendered ULFA men, in connivance of forest officials, destroyed forest resources worth Rs 235 crores and the Laukhowa Reserve Forest has

been completely destroyed. Several other members also expressed serious concern over the large-scale destruction of the forest reserves. Dr Kamala Kalita (AGP) said that the reserve (See page 8, col 5)

Expelled Cong MLAs seek clarification

By A Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, March 20 — The three expelled Congress-I legislators including former Chief Minister, Sri Keshab Gogoi today submitted a petition to the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly seeking a clarification for allotting them separate seats in the House.

The three members of the ruling party — Sri Keshab Gogoi, Sri Ismail Hussain and Sri Borgoram Deuri were expelled from the party for six years after they were found to be hobnobbing with the former Union Human Resources Minister, Sri Arjun Singh's.

The joint petition filed before the Speaker said that they are yet to receive any notice from the Congress Legislative Party regarding their expulsion from the Party. Under the circumstances they wanted to know, on what ground they have been allotted separate seats.

The petition further queries that if a decision to expel them from the Party had been taken, then when was the decision was taken and on what grounds. They have sought a reply from the Speaker by March 21.

CM returns

ment along with the bowlers who could get used to the faster tracks.

Lilee cited the performance of the West Indies bowlers against India in the Chandigarh Test match where the visitors made good use of the dead wicket and India were at one stage pushed to the wall. 'If one is used to dead wickets, he will find it difficult on bouncy ones.'

Endorsing Lilee's views, Garner said 'Indian cricket administrators must take some large measures to standardise the wickets in their country'.

Lilee said the MRF Pace Foundation had three different pitches — fast, slow and another in between the two. He said he

such facility in West Indies to train youngsters who want to be fast bowlers and this is what makes this coaching school unique', former West Indies pace bowler Joel Garner has commented after visiting the MRF Pace Foundation here.

The six-foot-eight tall bowler, who along with Andy Roberts, Holding and Colin Croft formed the fearsome four, was addressing a press conference jointly with Dennis Lilee, the chief coach at the Foundation. Garner said although there has been a plan to set up such an Academy in West Indies for aspiring fast bowlers it had not materialised. 'I suppose there is a lot of politics involved,' he added.

Pak want quiz in bribes probe

ISLAMABAD, March 20 — Pakistan cricket chiefs want Australia's two Test players who accused Salim Malik of trying to bribe them to be cross-examined during their probe into the charges.

An ad-hoc committee running the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP) also said today it had removed the ban imposed on Malik during their investigation, leaving the sacked captain free to play again.

Malik has denied allegations he offered \$ 50,000 each to Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne and off-spinner Tim May to lose the first Test in Karachi last September.

The three-man ad-hoc commit-

NF Rly squad

GUWAHATI, March 20 — NF Railway Sports Association has announced its 16 member squad for the ensuing All India Railways Cricket Tournament (group D) which gets under way at the Maligaon Railway Stadium here from March 22 to 31.

The selected players were — Rajesh Bora, Satya Gopal Chakravorty, Subhrajit Saikia, Rajib Rajbangshi, Satya Sarkar, Jayanta Choudhury, Parag Kumar Das, Debajit Chakravorty, Zakaria Zuffri, Subhadip Ghose, Deep Bora, Utpal Bhattacharjee, B Das, A Sarma, B Choudhuri, Riiazul Haque.

Mukut Das has been appointed as coach while Dr H Paul and Sumit Dutta were appointed as manager and assistant manager of the team respectively.

tee said in a statement it had discussed its legal adviser's report on the issue and found that the seriousness of the allegations made by certain Australian cricketers against Salim Malik warranted full opportunity to him to defend himself.

The committee has, therefore, acceded to his request that he will be allowed to confront his accusers and cross-examine them'.

Dismal day for Edberg, Sampras, Sabatini up

KEY BISCAKYNE, March 20 — Stefan Edberg of Sweden, ranked 15th in the world, showed only a glimmer of his former greatness as he lost in the second round of the 4.1 million dollar Lipton Championship yesterday.

Edberg, seeded 11th here, had a first-round bye, then lost lamely — 6-3, 7-6, (7-1) — to Karsten Braasch of Germany, ranked a lowly 102.

Pete Sampras, the top seeded American, and Gabriela Sabatini, the fifth seeded woman, made easy work of their Sunday matches.

Sampras defeated unseeded fellow American, Derrick Rostagno, out of tennis for the past 19 months, 6-3, 6-2. Sabatini, of Argentina, took out Romania's Irina Spirlea 6-1, 7-6 (7-4).

Second-seed Andre Agassi of the United States blazed forehands past Japan's unseeded Shuzo Matsuoka to win their second round encounter 6-2, 6-4.

Ranji player Niranjan Das, guided ONGC, Sivasagar, post a facile six wicket victory over Ankurjyoti Club in the All Assam Limited Over Cricket Tournament at the AEI ground here today.

Using the strip first the local outfit notched up 173 in 32 overs losing all the wickets. Veteran Naba Konwar was the chief contributor with a strokeful 43 while A Das scored 32. It was Niranjan Das who apparently ran through the Ankurjyoti innings with five scalps sparing only 28 runs.

Niranjan came good again with his willow and hammered a breezy 73 which made the task easy for the visitors while chasing the winning target of 174. ONGC scored 177 for four in 30.5 overs.

Today's match
AG Office vs Santipur AC

Kho-kho body

GUWAHATI, March 20 — The Assam Kho Kho Association has elected its new office bearers for the next session in the general meeting of the Association held at Maloybari recently.

Surya Kumar Mazumder was elected president while Pradip Sarma was reelected as general secretary. Tapan Deb Baruah became treasurer of the Association.

WEATHER

Local forecast for Guwahati and its neighbourhood valid for next 24 hrs.— Bright.

The following are the temperatures as recorded in selected cities

	Maximum	Minimum
Guwahati	34.0°C	15.4°C
Dibrugarh	30.4°C	17.3°C
Tezpur	32.7°C	17.1°C
Shillong	22.5°C	11.6°C
Silchar	34.8°C	17.8°C

TV PROGRAMME

5.55 AM—Vande Mataram 7.00 AM—Samachar 7.10 AM—Subharambha 8.10 AM—News 8.45 AM—Batori 1.00 PM—Programme on higher education 2.00 PM—Samachar 2.10 PM—News 2.20 PM—Bhakta Dhruva : Film in Hindi 8.30 PM—Samachar 9.00 PM—Tehkikaat 9.30 PM—Amaravati Ki Kathayen 10.00 PM—News 10.30 PM—National programme of dance 11.00 PM—Mile Sur Mera Tumhara.

Guwahati Centre

5.00 PM—Programme for North East 6.00 PM—Bhajan : Sangeeta Das 6.15 PM—Sishur Vitamin Abhajanita Rog 6.30 PM—Krishi Anusthan 6.55 PM—Yuv Darshan 7.10 PM—Chitramanjuri 7.20 PM—Assembly Review 7.30 PM—Batori 7.45 PM—News 8.00 PM—Aranya.

Alleging gross misuse of power, the Opposition leader said that the ruling party had recently announced that block president of Congress (I) would henceforth select appointment of teachers.

Claiming that his Party wants negotiated settlement of the extremist problems in the State, he said that the State Government ought to engage the organisations like the Asam Sahitya Sabha, Freedom Fighter Association and others to bring about a peaceful solution to the issue. Denying that AGP was responsible for birth of the ULFA, he said that had it been so, then they could have brought about a negotiated settlement to the issue during their tenure itself. 'All our gesture for negotiation were refused by the ULFA, he added.

The Opposition leader further alleged that the Government has been neglecting the modernisation of the police force and it has so far failed to utilise the first instalment of the money provided by the Centre under the Scheme.

Claiming that the debt burden of the common has been increased from Rs 3,000 to Rs 6,000 per man in the State, he said that when the State Bank of India was giving a loan between 7-11 per cent, the Government

Rising A win

GUWAHATI, March 20 — Rising A trounced River Rine by five wickets in the day night cricket tournament at the Latasil ground here this evening.

In reply to River Rine's 124 for six Rising A hit up 128 for five.

Brief scores

River Rine 124 (Akash 56, Nirup 24)

Rising A — 128 for 5 (Paresh Boro 37, Biswadev Konwar 30)

Earlier UGC defeated Don Bosco School on toss last night. Both the teams scored 177 and toss had to be made to bring out the result.

Brief scores — Don Bosco 177 (Mritunjay 66, Eleon 50) UGC 177 (A Dutta 51).

OBITUARY

Naren Kalita

GUWAHATI, March 20 — Sri Naren Kalita, popular film actor and poet died here today at his Silpukhuri residence here due to protracted illness. He was 56.

Sri Kalita was closely connected with various literary and cultural organisations including Asam Sahitya Sabha and Assam Kavi Sanmelan.

He leaves behind his wife, two sons and one daughter. His funeral at Navagraha cremation ground was largely attended.

Ruling Party also took part in the debate and defended the Governor's address.

Forest officers suspended

(Contd. from page 1, col 8)

forests in the Boko and Chaygaon areas were completely destroyed while Sri Jatin Mali of the same party alleged that policemen were also involved in felling of trees.

It may be mentioned here that a few months back the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests had deputed two officers of the department to carry out an on-the-spot enquiry into the allegation of large-scale felling of trees in Digboi Division. The enquiry officers strongly indicted the DFO, Digboi Division Sri RDF Tanowar, who has been put under suspension today. The enquiry officers also seized a truck used for transporting illegally cut trees and mentioned in their report that some of the forest reserves in the Digboi Division were completely damaged.

Third phase of Bihar polls today

PATNA, March 20 — Elaborate security arrangements have been made for tomorrow's third phase of polling in 64 Assembly constituencies and repoll in 76 booths that went to polls in the first phase, says PTI.

Polling was to be held for 66 seats but election in Hilsa was countermanded following the killing of the Janata party nominee Chandrashekhara Prasad, on Saturday. Polling in Munger was put off after the detection of defective ballot papers.

The 1.08 crore voters would decide the fate of 1900 contestants, including the Chief Minister, Sri Laloo Prasad Yadav (Danapur), the former Union Minister and Samata Party nominee, Sri Nitish Kumar (Harnaut) and the Bihar People's Party chief, Sri Anand Mohan (Kharagpur).

The state home secretary, D. P. Maheshwari, told PTI that over 8,000 of the 17,500 booths spread over the 64 constituencies have been declared sensitive and super-sensitive.

The polls were initially scheduled for March nine but were deferred to March 15 and finally put off till March 21 to facilitate proper deployment of para-military forces.

Repolling will be held tomorrow in 76 booths of 22 Assembly constituencies which had gone to polls on March 11. Polling in all these booths were cancelled following complaints of large-scale rigging and booth capturing.

colleges in the state.

Earlier raising the matter Sri Goswami said that way back in 1992 the Homeopathic Council had threatened to cancel the recognition of the Homeopathic Colleges of the state. He alleged that even after four years of the threat the Government has not taken any step to improve the condition of the Homeopathic Colleges of the State.

Small Industries : Sri Ramen Kalita (AGP) today alleged that the small industries of the State are facing closure because of the failure of the State Government to implement the new industrial policy which was announced in 1991. He said that though according to the new industrial policy the small industries should get tax exemption, the Finance Department is pressurising the small industries for payment of tax. He called for proper coordination between the Industries and the Finance Department in this regard.

In reply, the Industries Minister, Sri Bizit Saikia said that he had discussed the matter with the Entrepreneurs Association and assured that the new policy would be implemented soon. He also informed the House that he had discussed the matter of tax exemption to small industries with the Finance Minister.

Text Book : AGP member, Sri Badan Barua, today expressed concern over the mistakes in the text books brought out by the private publishing houses. In this regard he pointed out that a textbook on science for class II, brought out by a teachers' association in Mangaldoi contained many serious mistakes. Raising the matter in the zero hour, Sri Barua said that the private publishing houses got the opportunity to such books because of the failure of the Assam Textbook Corporation to bring out the textbooks on time. He also alleged that the District Education Officer had given permission to bring out the book.

In reply, the Minister of State for Education, Sri Gautam Bora said that the book was not given recognition by the District Education Officer. He said that the District Officer has also informed the Deputy Commissioner of Darrang about the matter and ordered the Press of the book stalls either to print or publish the said book.

BHUBANESWAR, March 20 — The strength of the five-member Congress (I) Ministry, headed by Sri J. B. Patnaik, in Orissa rose to 22 today with the induction of 17 more Ministers, eight of them cabinet rank.

Orissa Governor B. Satyanarayan Reddy today administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new Ministers at a function in Ravindra Mandap here. — UNI

Pensioners, irrespective of their date of retirement/death with effect from July 1, 1994 onwards.

According to the enhanced Dearness Relief, Pensioners drawing Basic Pension/Family Pension upto Rs. 1500.00 P.M will get 67% of pension as Dearness Relief per month. Similarly, Pensioners drawing Basic Pension/Family Pension from Rs. 1501 upto Rs. 2500 PM will get 50% of Pension subject to a minimum of Rs. 1005 PM and those drawing Basic Pension/Family Pension from Rs. 2501 P.M. and above will get Dearness Relief at the rate of 44% of pension subject to a minimum of Rs. 1250 P.M.

The Dearness Relief will also be admissible on the provisional pension upto the validity of the provisional pension. The current dues of the enhanced rate of Dearness Relief will be paid from December, 1994 onwards and no arrears will be paid with effect from July, 1994 to November 1994 until further orders.

IDBI (amend) bill passed

NEW DELHI, March 20 — The Rajya Sabha today passed, amid a walkout by the Left parties and the DMK, the Industrial Development Bank of India (Amendment), Bill, 1994, which seeks to provide greater financial autonomy and operational flexibility to the IDBI, reports UNI.

The Amendment Bill would replace an ordinance promulgated in January this year to this effect.

Minister of State for Finance M V Chandrashekhara Murthy was heckled several times by the opposition during his reply to the debate. The opposition members wanted to know the necessary to go in for public issue instead of borrowing money from national and international institutions.

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