

HIMALAYAN MIRROR

VOL 11 No 186 RNI No: SIKENG/2006/18384

GANGTOK, MONDAY 20 MARCH 2017

STTO Mirik burns Roshan Giri's effigy

HM Correspondent

Mirik, Mar 19: Expressing strong resentment at the objection raised by the Gorkha Territorial Administration (GTA) over the state government's recent call for document verification of secondary and senior secondary level teachers working on temporary basis across schools falling under the GTA jurisdiction for their job regularization, the Mirik zonal members of Secondary Temporary Teachers Organization (STTO) here today burned the effigy of Roshan Giri, GTA Sabhasad (Education Department). It may be recalled, the GTA had on Feb 14, 2017 issued a



statement opposing the alleged state government's 'meddling' in the GTA affairs by calling for the document verification of hill teachers in Siliguri. The GTA in its contention had stated that the state government had not even bothered to discuss the issue with the GTA before

releasing a notification calling for the document verification. It had further demanded the government to seek GTA's permission prior to its decision on regularization of jobs of the temporary teachers and that the document verification process should be conducted in the GTA

area instead of Siliguri.

"We strongly object to the GTA Sabha's unnecessary intervention on the issue at a time when all the temporary teachers whose documents have already been verified on Feb 10 and 11 at the DI office in Siliguri and are now awaiting confirmation of their job

regularization," said Sushma Tamang, Convener, STTO Mirik. Giri's effigy was burnt today by the enraged STTO members here at Fulbari Maidan. Samprit Tamang, one of the STTO members warned the GTA of unnecessary intervention on the issue. "We demand justice and in case of such intervention from the GTA, we are ready to take legal recourse. We will also condemn the GTA education department if it poses impediments instead of offering us additional help on the issue for our betterment" he added.

Meanwhile, the Kalimpong STTO also burnt Roshan Giri's effigy in Kalimpong on the same issue.

Yogi takes charge of UP, Modi calls for 'Uttam Pradesh'



Lucknow, Mar 19: Fire-brand leader Yogi Adityanath on Sunday took charge of Uttar Pradesh as its 21st Chief Minister, heading a 47-member ministry that included known Hindutva faces and political turncoats.

The oath taking at Smriti Upvan, which marked the return of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to power in the country's most populous state, was watched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP President Amit Shah, BJP Chief Ministers besides thousands of cheering supporters.

Governor Ram Naik administered the oath of office and secrecy to Yogi Adityanath, a Gorakhpur MP known for his hardline Hindutva views, Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dinesh Sharma as well as 44 ministers.

Maurya is the state BJP chief and a Lok Sabha member from Phoolpur while Sharma is the Lucknow Mayor. There are 22 members of the cabinet, nine ministers of state with independent charge and 13 ministers of state. Om Prakash Rajbhar, leader of Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party, a BJP ally, was also sworn in as a cabinet minister. The sole Muslim in the ministry is former cricketer Mohsin Raza, who is not a member of the assembly as the BJP did not field any Muslim in the election.

Raza is a minister with independent charge.

Baldev Olakh, who won from Bilaspur, is the Sikh face of the ministry.

Dressed in his characteristic saffron robes, Adityanath, after taking oath, walked over to and sought the blessings of BJP veterans L.K. Advani and Murlu Manohar Joshi as well as Rajnath Singh, the Home Minister and a Lucknow MP. Adityanath, 44, was born in Uttarakhand and left his home in 1990 to join the Gorakhnath Math in Gorakhpur. He has been elected from Gorakhpur to the Lok Sabha since 1998.

As celebrations erupted in Adityanath's native village Panchur in Uttarakhand and Gorakhpur town, Modi congratulated the new Chief Minister and his team and hoped they will transform Uttar Pradesh into "Uttam Pradesh".

"I have immense confidence that this new team will leave no stone unturned in making UP Uttam Pradesh," tweeted Modi, a star attraction at the Sunday event. "There will be record development... When UP develops, India develops."

Prominent among the cabinet ministers are veteran BJP legislators Surya Pratap Shahi, Suresh Khanna, a seven-time legislator from Shahjahanpur, Ramapati Shastri, Rajesh Agarwal, a six-term MLA from Ba-

reilly Cantt, Satish Mahana and Satyadeo Pachauri.

Three Lucknow legislators - Brajesh Pathak, Rita Bahuguna Joshi and Ashutosh Tandon — also made it to the cabinet. The fourth Lucknow MLA, Swati Singh, became a minister of state with independent charge. Political turncoats who contested on BJP ticket and got a place in the ministry included Swamy Prasad Maurya, Dara Singh Chauhan and Brajesh Pathak (all ex-BJP) and Rita Bahuguna Joshi, a former Congress leader who defeated Mulayam Singh Yadav's daughter-in-law Aparna Yadav. Four women - Gulabo Devi, Archana Pandey, Rita Bahuguna Joshi and Swati Singh — are in the government. The BJP gave ticket to 43 women - 32 won. While seven Thakurs, including the Chief Minister, were sworn in, eight Brahmins and 17 OBCs and MBCs also found a place in the government. There are seven Dalit and eight Vaishya ministers.

The ministry also includes Suresh Rana, an accused in the 2013 Muzaffarnagar communal riots in which 63 people were killed and thousands rendered homeless.

The BJP won 325 of the 403 seats in Uttar Pradesh along with allies Apna Dal and Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party.

Golay meets ex-CM Bhandari at his residence

HM Report

Gangtok, Mar 19: Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) supremo P.S. Golay along with other senior leaders of the party today met Sikkim's ex-Chief Minister N.B. Bhandari at his residence and discussed the existing political scenario in Sikkim. The veteran leader gave his inputs on the types of role



and future strategies which the opposition parties in the state should undertake keeping in mind the uplift of the state and its people, a communiqué from the

SKM reads. Golay also thanked the ex-CM for gracing the SKM Foundation Day event with his presence on Feb 4, 2017.

GJM leader cum former vice chairperson of Kurseong municipality joins TMC

HM Correspondent

Kurseong, Mar 19: The Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) on Sunday suffered yet another jolt after its Nari Morcha senior leader cum former vice chairperson of Kurseong municipality Kalpana Pradhan joined the Trinamool Congress (TMC) in presence of Aroop Biswas the State Youth and Sports Minister who is also the TMC in-charge for the hills.

Pradeep (Bhupendra) Pradhan the former vice chairman of the GTA cum former GJM vice president has already joined the TMC.

Kalpana Pradhan along with hundreds of others today accepted the TMC flags from the minister. Laxman Sharma a founder GJM activist and also the office-staff of the Kurseong MLA, Dr Rohit Sharma also joined the ruling TMC today.

Addressing the party's

meeting at the Community hall in Kurseong, Biswas appealed hill people to cast their vote for the all-round development of Darjeeling hills in the ensuing municipality election.

The hill people so far had voted for different parties including the GJM but no one has worked for their development. Biswas said adding that the Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee is sincerely concerned and committed for the development of Darjeeling hills.

He reiterated that the state government has given funds of several crore to the GTA. But the GJM and the GTA leadership has failed to solve even the basic problems of the hills, Biswas alleged. Meanwhile, Kalpana Pradhan said that though she still respects the core demand of hill people, she joined the TMC for development.

Darjeeling district Hills TMC not upholding principles of coalition

HM Correspondent

Darjeeling, Mar 19: Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) Spokesperson Neeraj Zimba today accused the Darjeeling district Hills Trinamool Congress (TMC) party of not upholding the principles of coalition. Zimba in a telephonic interview today alleged the Hills TMC of luring GNLF supporters from Kurseong, Mirik and other areas with offers of money to join the TMC. "This is not fair and is

against the basic tenets of coalition. In the earlier Lok Sabha and Bidhan Sabha elections, the TMC had formed a coalition with the GNLF and based on that, the GNLF has been seeing the TMC as its ally. However, in the existing scenario wherein the TMC is indulging in such nefarious practice of luring GNLF supporters using its monetary power, it is too early now to speak whether or not the TMC-GNLF coalition will further hold good in the forthcoming

Municipality Board elections" Zimba added. The GNLF central committee has asked its branch committees to submit reports of their respective wards about the party's status. The decision whether to contest the municipality elections alone or go for a coalition will be taken by the central committee after analyzing the ground reports collected from the party's Kurseong, Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Mirik units, he informed.

Scores of Buddhist people join "thanks-giving" rally in Siliguri

HM Correspondent

Siliguri, Mar 19: Scores of Buddhist people on Sunday thronged to Siliguri to thank West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for declaring holiday on Buddha Purnima.

Organised by All Bengal Buddhist Development Committee (ABBDC), thousands of followers of Lord Buddha today took out a silent rally here from Darjeeling More which con-

verted into a meeting at Bagajatin Park.

The ABBDC formed in Kolkata on July 31 2016 envisages bringing the followers of Lord Buddha under a single platform and work for the rights of the community.

Aakash Lama the general secretary of the Committee told Himalayan Mirror that today's rally was planned five months back to demand government holiday on Buddha Purni-

ma - a festival marking the birth of Gautama Buddha.

During her last Kalimpong visit, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee duly declared the holiday.

"As the chief minister has already declared holiday on Buddha Purnima, the rally today was converted into a thanks giving rally," said Lama. Thousands of Buddhists people including monks from Terai, Dooars and the Hill ar-

rested students were sent to police custody from March 10 to March 14. They were taken to the Alipore Central Jail at 8 pm on March 10.

SFI protesters with Partha Chatterjee's effigy Madhuja Sen Roy, narrating the sequence of events that took place at the Alipore Central Jail, alleged the students were made to strip there. She said that as soon as they reached the Alipore Central Jail, the eight (four males and four females) were asked to freshen up in the respective cells. The female members of SFI including the state SFI President were then sent to the search zone in the women's cell. They claim that the female police officers asked them to take off their clothes. When they were being searched, the police asked Madhuja whether she was menstruating. She claims that when she said she was, she was forced to remove her innerwear too. In an article published in CPM mouthpiece Ganashakti, Madhuja has claimed that following this, lewd gestures and comments were passed by the police officials on the four girls. Added to that, when they were being let off on March 14, she claims that their private parts were again touched in a lewd manner and comments were again passed.

Madhuja Sen Roy and other SFI members during teachers' recruitment scam protest

The student leaders have launched a protest against the police action demanding action by the authorities. The SFI and DYFI staged another protest against the police action on March 18. The protests are likely to spread across the state till action is taken.

Other demands include to ensure BTMC administrative board at Bodh Gaya for the Buddhist community, running of trains for pilgrims to Bodh Gaya, inclusion of Pali and Bhothi (Ladakhi) languages in North Bengal university, a Buddhist university in North Bengal, naming of different government institutions and main highways, any road, within Kolkata in the name of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

West Bengal: SFI members allegedly strip searched by police, claim one of them menstruating was asked to remove innerwear

Kolkata, Mar 19: In a shocking case of alleged police high-handedness and brutality in West Bengal, some female student leaders of the Students' Federation of India have claimed that they were strip searched forcefully at the Alipore Central Jail last week. One of them, West Bengal SFI President Madhuja Sen Roy has claimed that she was menstruating while they were asked to take their clothes off, and she was also forced to take off her innerwear. The incident reportedly happened on March 10 at the Alipore Central Jail where the students were taken after being arrested during a protest against the Primary Teachers Recruitment Scam in Kolkata.

On March 9, SFI and Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) protested in Kolkata against the alleged teachers' recruitment scam. The protesters shouted slogans against West Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee and beat his effigy during their march from College Square to Dharmatala. The police reportedly lathicharged the protesters and 123 of them were detained. Those who were detained have claimed that they were taken to the Lal Bazar police station and were asked to file for bail with the police telling them that they have been arrested. However, the students protested claiming there were no basis for their arrest and lathicharge, and asked the police to take them to court.

On March 10, the 123 protesters were produced before the Bankshall court following which eight out of the 123 student leaders were charged with 'damaging public property' while others were let off. The eight

NGT transfers Darjeeling pollution case to Eastern Bench

New Delhi, Mar 19: The National Green Tribunal has transferred a case relating to the indiscriminate dumping of municipal waste in the picturesque Darjeeling and pollution in Mahananda river to the Eastern Zonal Bench.

A bench, headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar, passed the order after lawyers appearing for the parties informed it that a similar case was pending before the Eastern Zonal Bench in Kolkata.

"The counsel appearing for the State of West Bengal and Siliguri Municipal Corporation submit that the case involving the same question in relation to

river Mahananda in Siliguri is pending before the Eastern Zonal Bench of the Tribunal. In view of the circumstances, we direct that this Application be transferred to the Eastern Zonal Bench, Kolkata of National Green Tribunal," the bench said.

The green panel had earlier issued notices to the West Bengal government, state pollution control board, Siliguri Municipal Corporation and its Deputy Commissioner in the case. "It has been brought to the notice of the tribunal that there are serious environmental issues in relation to pollution of river Mahananda in Siliguri, District Darjeeling and indiscriminate dumping of mu-

nicipal solid waste all over the city.

"Despite the fact that the matter was brought to the notice of public authorities, they have failed to take any remedial and precautionary steps. The river is being polluted by discharge of sewage and other effluents and dumping of waste. Consequently, we issue notice," the bench had said.

The NGT took suo motu (on its own) cognisance of the reckless dumping of waste in Darjeeling city and pollution in Mahananda river and issued the notices, pointing out that the authorities had failed to act despite the matter being brought to their notice.

49 families from Bungkulung and Deorali join TMC

HM Correspondent

Mirik, March 19: A total of 46 families from Bungkulung and Deorali villages under Soureni constituency in Mirik who were supporters of Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM) and Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) today switched their allegiance to the Trinamul Congress (TMC) party. They were officially inducted into the TMC fold

during a program conducted by the party's Soureni GPU (II) Secretary Pritam Subba. Anil Chhetri party's Mirik unit President handed the TMC flags to the new inductees during the program which was also attended by Santosh Khawas, Secretary, Arjun Chhetri, the party's President for Soureni constituency, Rapem Subba, vice-president and others. Meanwhile, the party also formed a branch committee

for its Bungkulung unit which has B.B.Limboo as its President, Ganga Limboo, vice-president, Sanjay Subba, Secretary, Chudamani Limboo, Assistant Secretary and Suman Rai as the Treasurer, informed Dinesh Chamling, the publicity secretary. Those who switched their sides to the TMC today said, they were saddened by the absence of any visible development works from by the Morcha.