

Sidelights

Some employees in the Secretariat were seen playing cards during office hours. Several others were seen chatting in groups or loitering around. A number of lady employees were busy knitting. Employees engaged in issuing entry passes spent a leisurely day, as there was hardly any visitor in the Secretariat.

* City buses plied by the ASTC carried more CRP personnel than commuters. Several 'Passengers' were seen commuting up and down the GS route several times during the day. All the drivers and conductors of ASTC city buses were rounded up yesterday evening and detained in the CRP camp for the night to ensure playing of the city-buses today.

* Several individuals were injured by the indiscriminate use of the lathi by the CRP personnel under the pretext of enforcing Section 144 Cr PC. Sri Abhoy Deka, a driver received severe lathi-blown on the abdomen late in the afternoon, while innocently chatting with a group of people in front of the Assam Tribune premises and had to be hospitalised.

* Small groups of employees were observed hanging around the different State and Central offices for some time in the morning, before dispersing.

* A large number of people, particularly in the evening, roamed around the City aimlessly.

* The Pandu-Narengi shuttle was filled with CRP personnel, with very few genuine commuters.

* Traffic police being engaged for law and order purposes, the traffic points remained unmanned.

* The Indian Airlines office at Paltanbazar had its shutters down.

* In the DC court building only one window on the first floor was open.

4 BUSINESSMEN ARRESTED

By A Staff Reporter

GUWAHATI, Nov 19—Police arrested last night four prominent businessmen of Guwahati under the Assam Maintenance of Public Order Act, e arr azarooli

The arrested persons are Sri Sawalram Goenka, Sri Ram Niranjana Goenka, Sri Rai Chand Kothari and Sri Sawalram Didwania. They were reportedly taken outside Kamrup district for detention.

A spokesman of the Kamrup Chamber of Commerce alleged that the District authority had threatened to take drastic action against those businessmen who would not keep their shops open during the 36-hour Assam Bandh. The District Magistrate had reportedly said he would cancel licences of those textile and yarn dealers if their shops were found closed on Bandh days. Some Textile officials are understood to have gone today to inspect some shops and verify their records.

The Kamrup District authority also threatened the Fair-price shops and Cooperative stores that their licences for foodstuff and other controlled commodities would be cancelled if their shops were not kept open during the Bandh period.

Meanwhile the business community has condemned the arrests and harassment of traders fair price shops cooperative stores by the authority. A spokesman of the Kamrup Chamber of Commerce and the Fair-price Dealers Association stated that they feel 'panicky and insecure due to threat and harassment to them by the authority.

EXPULSION FROM KAMRUP

The Purbottar Pradeshiya Marwari Sanmilan Yuva Manch Guwahati has condemned the 'expulsion of four leading businessmen of fancy bazar from the Kamrup district by District Authorities for 72 hours.

In a statement the Yuva Manch says that the trading community has responded to the Assam Bandh call given

by AASU and AAGSP and as such the District Authority has taken this action to terrorize the trading community. These persons has already been taken out of the Kamrup District under police guard the statement added.

H.K. Bhattacharyya's Parole Rejected : Sent To Jail

By A Staff Reporter

GUWAHATI, Nov 19—

After rejection of parole by the Supreme Court, Sri Hiranya Kumar Bhattacharyya, former DIG of Assam was sent to the jail today.

It may be mentioned that after receiving the Supreme Court order the police went to his residence yesterday to send him to jail, but they left soon after when Sri Bhattacharyya informed them that he would surrender nextday.

Sri Bhattacharyya further said that a news item circulated by a news agency that his writ petition challenging his dismissal from service was rejected by the Supreme Court was not 'correct' as he didnot file any such petition. So the question of rejecting his petition didnot arise at all, he added.

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