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AASU's Appeal

GAUHATI, Dec. 28.—The All Assam Students Union today appealed to the people to participate in the 36-hour road blockade programme beginning 5 a.m. on December 31, report UNI and PTL.

In a statement, AASU president, Mr Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, said they were compelled to take the hard line of democratic movement because of the "undemocratic way of working" and "anti-Assam attitude" of a section of Government officials. He alleged that the Central leadership were more occupied with safeguarding the foreigners' interest than the Indian citizens'. The people of Assam must continue the movement with more courage, determination and patience, he said.

All kinds of road and water transport will be included in the first 24 hours and in the last 12 hours beginning 5 a.m. on the New Year Day, rails will be included in the programme.

Mr Mahanta said air services had been excluded from the purview of the road blockade programme. Medical vans, military and police vans, and Government vehicles engaged in the law and order duty would also be excluded.

Other services exempted from the programme are milk vans, water tankers, air lines vehicles and electricity vans. Offices, shops and markets will, however, remain open as usual during the road blockade programme.

Meanwhile, the two-day "poster campaign" launched to start the

new phase of the agitation on foreigners in the State ended peacefully today.

The Chief Secretary, Mr Ramesh Chandra, said not much poster activity was noticed during the campaign nor was there any untoward incident.

The All Assam Students Union and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad, accorded public reception in different parts of the State today to persons who became "disabled" due to alleged "police atrocities" during the movement.

About 10 people, including four at Gauhati, were arrested in various parts of the State for trying to paste posters or write "objectionable slogans".

The State Government had instructed the district and sub-divisional authorities to take action against persons indulging in poster campaign under Section 144 Cr.P.C. sources said.

A delegation of the Assam movement leaders on a publicity campaign in New Delhi has met leaders of major Opposition parties, excluding the CPI, and explained its stand on the foreign nationals issue.

The delegation met Mr A. B. Vajpayee, Mr L. K. Advani (both BJP), Mr Ravindra Verma, Mr Piloo Mody (both Janata), Mr Biju Patnaik, Mr Ladli Mohan Nigam (both Lok Dal), Mr Bhola Paswan Shastri (Cong-S), Mr Samar Mukherjee (CPI-M) and Mr Chitta Basu (Forward Bloc) among others.