

# Assam agitators to revive stir

GAUHATI, Nov. 10.

The Assam agitators announced today that they would launch a "vigorous movement" again throughout the State "to force the Government" to accept their latest 17-point proposal to settle the foreigners issue and called upon the people to be prepared.

The announcement was made at rallies held in various educational institutions here. The agitators took exception to the Government's action in not allowing them to hold a mass rally at the Judges Field.

They said details of the next phase of the agitation would be decided at an executive body meeting, likely to be held here on Wednesday keeping in view the latest action of the Government.

**'Not earnest':** The agitation leaders alleged that today's action had once

again proved that the Government was not earnest about finding a solution to the foreigners' problem and wanted to suppress the movement by the use of force.

They claimed that thousands of people had taken part in rallies arranged quickly in different parts of the city to avoid a confrontation with the security forces.

The venue of the proposed rally at the Judges Field was cordoned off by CRPF personnel and all roads leading to the site were blocked. The Government claimed that there was no case of violation of the prohibitory orders.

The police chased away groups of people going to attend rallies in different parts of the city. Ferry services between Gauhati and North Gauhati across the Brahmaputra were suspended by the authorities, presumably to prevent people from joining the rally.

About 200 ticketless travellers, going from Patiladah station in Goalpara district to Gauhati to join the rally, were arrested by the railway police.

**Shops closed:** Most shops at Panbazar, Chandmari and Silpukhuri, which were open in the morning, downed their shutters by midday apprehending trouble.

City bus services were normal. The traffic along the route via the Judges Field was, however, diverted as the police had cordoned off the area.

Troops were alerted to stand by to help the civil authorities to maintain law and order in the city. The day passed without any untoward incident.

Educational institutions throughout the State were closed on account of the "Ras festival".

Road communications between Gauhati and the rest of the State were

disrupted as all public and private buses heading towards the city were checked and detained at different points outside the city.

**Explosion:** A bomb exploded in Nehru Park near Judges Field this morning. No one was injured.

**Leaders arrested:** In a morning swoop, more than 80 agitation leaders, including the All-Assam Students Union general secretary, Mr. Bhriku Kumar Phukan, and the All-Assam Jatiyatabadi Yuva Chatra Parishad president, Mr. Prabin Gogoi, were taken into custody as "a preventive measure."

Four other AASU leaders, Mr. Biren Baisya, Mr. Dhebar Gahain Baruah, Mr. Chanykya Das and Mr. Punya Jyoti Goswami, were arrested near Jalukbari as they were travelling in a car towards Gauhati. — UNI & PTI.