

Alert in Assam to face 'curfew'

GAUHATI Jan 24 (UNI): The Assam Government today tightened security measures in the State and alerted troops to assist the civil authorities, if necessary, to maintain law and order in view of the "state-wide dawn-to-dusk people's curfew" called by the agitators on Republic Day.

An official spokesman told UNI today that adequate forces were being deployed all over the State and instructions had already been sent to the district authorities to prevent any disturbance on Republic Day and, if necessary, to take the help of troops.

The spokesman said preparations were being made to celebrate Republic Day. Ministers would leave tomorrow for different parts of the State to take part in various functions.

The main function will be held in Janata Bhavan field at Dispur, near here, where Chief Minister Keshab Chandra Gogoi will hoist the national flag, the spokesman added.

The All Assam Students Union (AASU) and All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP), the sponsors of the foreigners issue agitation, have given the 'people's curfew' call to protest against the

"curtailment of the democratic rights of the citizens and the murders committed by the Government."

Reaffirming their respect for the constitution and the national flag, they appealed to the people to stay indoors from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Republic Day and said the protest was only against the "misuse of power by the Government."

They also called upon their volunteer forces and the people to keep an eye on violators of the "curfew" and to maintain peace at any cost.

The 'curfew' comes at the end of a month-long agitation programme worked out jointly by AASU and AAGSP.

Chief Minister Keshab Chandra Gogoi last night sought help and co-operation from all sections of the people to create a cordial atmosphere and appealed to them to refrain from activities which might create tensions and bitterness.

He also appealed to the agitation leaders to call off their agitation in view of the tripartite talks which have given a new hope for an early solution to the vexed problem.

25 - January - 1982

Free Press Journal