

Army alert to meet Assam stir

GAUHATI, January 17 (UNI):

STRICT security measures have been taken all over Assam to maintain law and order during the 12-hour statewide total non-co-operation, called by the agitators on the aliens issue from 5 a.m. tomorrow, according to official sources.

Troops have been kept in readiness to assist the civil authorities to meet any situation in the state during the period, the sources said.

The district and the sub-divisional authorities have been instructed to enforce the law strictly and, if necessary, to take help from the army, the sources added.

Meanwhile, the chief minister, Mr. Keshab Chandra Gogoi, told newsmen today that he had instructed the law enforcing authorities to maintain law and order firmly and fearlessly. But at the same time, he said innocent people should not be unnecessarily harassed.

He also appealed to the people to maintain peace and discipline at any cost and urged the movement leaders to call off their total non-co-operation programme as the tripartite talks on the foreign national issue will begin the same day.

A 13-member delegation of the All Assam Students' Union and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP) left here for Delhi today to participate in the proposed tripartite talks beginning in the capital tomorrow.

Five leaders of the two organisations are already in Delhi.

Meanwhile, Mr. Keshab Chandra Gogoi also left for Delhi by the same plane to discuss the formation of his council of ministers with the Congress (I) high command.

The former Assam Pradesh Congress (I) general secretary and AICC (I) member, Mr. Dhruba Narayan Barua, today resigned from the primary membership of the party.

Our Gauhati correspondent adds: Mr. K. C. Gogoi said here on Sunday that he would hold the budget session of the state assembly in five weeks.

Talking to newsmen at his official residence at Dispur, he reiterated that he had the support of a comfortable majority in the assembly but declined to disclose the details to save his supporters from undue harassment.

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