

Assam Observes Dusk-To-Dawn 'Blackout'

BY A STAFF REPORTER
GUWAHATI, Jan 5—A
DUSK-TO-DAWN 'BLACK
OUT' WAS SUCCESS-
FULLY OBSERVED IN
ASSAM YESTERDAY IN
RESPONSE TO THE
MOVEMENT LEADERS'
CALL TO MOURN THE
DEATH OF SEVEN VIC-
TIMS OF POLICE FIR-
INGS DURING THE 36-
HOUR 'PATH BANDH'
PROGRAMME THAT
ENDED AT 5 P.M. ON
THE NEW YEAR'S DAY.

The blackout was total in Guwahati city when after 5 pm the roads were almost deserted look with few people coming out on urgent business only. The police and the CRP personnel were found patrolling the streets and resorting to indiscriminate beating of innocent people in the name of maintaining law and order and enforcing orders under section 144 Cr. P.C.

The CRPF personnel rana amack among the citizens all over the city. Since dusk onwards almost all vehicles including city buses, rickshaws, two-wheelers, etc. went off the roads more out of fear of CRP atrocities than due to the inconvenience of the 'black-out'.

The few people who ventured out on urgent work/were invariably accosted by the CRPF posted at all street-corners and given a few lathi-beatings to hurry them back home or abused in filthy language.

The atrocities which started in the morning went on till late in the evening.

At Rehabari, an employee of a Central intelligence agency was beaten by the CRP

while buying 'tamful' from a panshop. A chowkidar standing nearby was also beaten after being chased without any reason.

At Dispur, four Jawans of Assam Police Battalion in full uniform were beaten, allegedly for violating prohibitory order.

Vehicles plying without headlights were forced to put on by the CRPF with threatenings and abuses. Drivers and occupants of rickshaws without light were beaten up.

At Ulubari two youngmen were challenged and were allowed to proceed only on producing identity cards of the Central Industrial Security Force.

At Birubari, CRPF jawans even while in civilian cloths let loose a 'reign of terror'. The area, a regular haunt of the jawans in search of country liquor, is in a constant state of terror from the drunken CRPF jawans.

Four employees including a lady of the Assam State Development Corporation for Scheduled Castes Limited, were beaten up while coming to the office.

More than 40 people from different parts of the city including Panbazar, Ambari, Uzanbazar, Silpukhuri, Dighalipukhuri, Jyotinagar, Chandmari, Noonmati, Dispur, Beltola, Rupnagar, Ulubari, Gandhibasti, Kacharibasti, Rehabari, Manipuribasti, Birubari, Fatashil, Gopinath Nagar and Machkhowa were administered first-aid at the Gauhati Medical College Hospital. Countless others could not or preferred not to come to the hospital.

The 'Protest day' and the black out were successfully observed at Tinsukia, Nowgong, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Nalbari, Diphu; Rangiya; Tezpur, Biswanath Charali, North Lakhimpur, Bongaigaon, Goalpara Kokraihar Naharkatia, Sibsagar and Nazira according to reports received here from our Correspondents.

According to PTI, barring a stone throwing incident near Babelia in Nowgong districts, the dusk-to-down "black out" programme from 1700 hrs yesterday in Assam ended peacefully at 0500 hrs today.

The situation in the State was officially stated to be quiet.

Official sources, however, said security personnel fired one round in the air to scare away some miscreants who hurled brickbats on a police party near Babelia under cover of darkness last night injuring a number of CRPF jawans and injuring and damaging their vehicles.

Streets were plunged in darkness in many parts of the State due to sabotage by miscreants, official sources reported.

At Guwahati, at least 20 persons were arrested on various charges for attempted acts of disruption on power supply.

A power line in Kabilipara area of the city was snapped by some miscreants, the sources said.

A Dibrugarh report quoting official sources said stray cases of stone throwing at private residences and vehicles plying with headlights were reported in Dibrugarh during the 12-hour 'blackout' last night.

One bus and a vehicle of Oil India were slightly damaged following stone throwing, the report said.

A few passengers of the bus and the occupants of the Oil India vehicle, besides a police man received minor injury in the stone throwing, the report added.

Atleast seven persons were taken into custody in connection with the incidents in different parts of Dibrugarh town, the report said.

Janata Demands
Judicial Inquiry
6 JAN 1982
Into Police Firings

GUWAHATI, Jan. 5—A delegation on behalf of the Janata Party waited upon Sri R V Subramaniam and Sri Natara-jan, advisers to the Governor and Sri Ramesh Chandra, Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, today at the Janata Bhawan and lodged a strong protest against the brutal firings upon unarmed people in different places of Darrang and Nowgong districts causing deaths to seven persons and injuring many others. The delegation demanded immediate and high-power judicial inquiry into these firings.

The delegation also drew the attention of the Government to numerous instances of indiscriminate lathicharge, chasing and beating of hundreds of innocent people in different places of Assam including Guwahati city and the Dispur Capital complex. The delegation was of the opinion that such a reign of terror let loose by the police has proved complete lack of co-ordination at different stages of the law-enforcing machinery of the State. If things continue like this, the overall situation in Assam will further deteriorate and divisive forces shall gain ground.

The delegation urged upon the advisers and the Chief Secretary to take immediate steps to stop police excesses and to convey to the Central Government party's demand for fixing up the date for the proposed tripartite conference.

The delegation consisted of Sri Golap Barbor, Sri Dulal Baruah, Sri Nagen Baruah, Sri Kiron Bezbaruah, Sri Haren Goswami, Sri Umesh Das, Sri Ramesh Das and Sri Chakbhal Kagyung—all MLAs.

Sri Golap Barbor, leader of the delegation, also apprised the senior officers about his visit to Bamungaon, Dimow, Puranigudam and Nowgong town on January 3 and 4 and placed before them some instances of excesses committed by the police in these areas.

Sri Ajit Kumar Sharma, MP in a statement issued here today, while condemning the latest police violence in Assam and demanding immediate withdrawal of CRPF, said that the events of the last few days brought about a radical

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