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# Assam stir leaders arrested

GAUHATI,  
January 4 (UNI).

ABOUT 300 people, 41 of them All-Assam Students' Union and All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad executive members, were arrested for taking out a procession defying prohibitory orders.

Markets and business establishments remained closed today almost all over the Brahmaputra valley at the call of the agitation leaders.

The executive members of the AASU and AAGSP took out the procession to march to Dispur to submit a memorandum to the government.

Reports said some people were injured when the police made a lathi-charge to disperse a procession in the Silpukhuri area here.

## BLACKOUT OBSERVED

In another development, the dusk-to-down "total blackout", at the call of the foreigners' issue agitators began at 5 p.m.

The agitation leaders appealed to the people to observe the "blackout" by switching off the lights in their homes as a mark of respect to those who were killed in police firing during the 36-hour road block programme on December 31 and January 1.

Today the agitation leaders wanted to march towards Dispur to submit a memorandum to the chief secretary, demanding stoppage of "police repression on the people" in the state.

Among the arrested leaders were the AASU president, Mr. Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, its general secretary, Mr. Bhriagu Kumar Phukan, the assistant general secretary, Mr. Bharat Narah, and the AAGSP conveners, Mr. Atul Bora and Mr. Biraj Sharma. The arrested included eight women.

While 36 leaders were arrested in

front of the Cotton College, the rest were intercepted and arrested in the Silpukhuri area, about one km. away from the AAGSP office. No untoward incident was reported from any part of the town.

Mr. Nibarani Bora, another leader, was arrested while on his way to join the procession.

Newspapers and news agencies were not exempted from the purview of the "blackout" programme.

The chief secretary, Mr. Ramesh Chandra, told UNI that the overall situation in the state remained peaceful and no untoward incident had so far been reported from any part of the state.

While shops in some parts in the Brahmaputra valley remained open, the closure call had no response in

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Cachar, North Cachar and Karbi Anglong Hill district, he said.

In the Silpukhuri area, Mr. Pradip Baruah, proprietor of a group of newspapers, was allegedly beaten up after his car was stopped on the road.

The agitation leaders claimed that 30-odd processionists, including Mr. Atul Bora and Mr. Biraj Sharma, two conveners of the AAGSP, were stopped on the way and beaten up.

Mr. Anil Daimari and Mr. Prasentit Brahma, who represented the All-Assam Tribal Students' Union, alleged that Mr. Prabin Gogoi, Mr. Durga Das Bora, Mr. Nripen Goswami, Mr. Bisheshwar Bora and some women processionists were among others similarly treated.

CRPF personnel were seen chasing away bystanders on roads whenever they collected in small groups.

PTI reports that a memorandum was submitted to Mr. R. V. Subramanian, adviser to the governor, by a delegation of movement leaders who alleged that some of the executive members of the AASU and the AAGSP were injured after being assaulted by the police on their way to Dispur.

## TM introduced in Assam jail

GAUHATI, January 4 (PTI): Perhaps for the first time in the country, transcendental meditation (TM) has been introduced for convicts in Assam jail.

Mr. D. K. Neog, superintendent of the district jail, Gauhati, stating this said most of the 25 life convicts who had been taught transcendental meditation had shown remarkable change in their social behaviour. They now live in harmony with fellow prisoners and were free from worries and tensions, cheerful and optimistic, he added.

Mr. Neog was presenting a report at a seminar organised here last Saturday by the Indian Institute of Natural Law which discussed the role of natural law and technology of consciousness in law, justice and rehabilitation and in health, education and culture.

Identifying stress and anxiety as the root cause of criminal behaviour in most cases, Mr. V. N. Rajan, director of the Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science, said anxiety manifested in depression, hostility and even acts of violence. Transcendental meditation providing stress release, promoted orderly social behaviour, he added.

Extensively quoting Islamic and Hindu scriptures, the chairman, Mr. Justice Baharul Islam, judge of the supreme court and vice-president of the Indian Institute of Natural Law, said transcendental meditation was most effective in unfolding mental potentiality, improving health and creating ideal social behaviour. He expressed serious concern over the deteriorating law and order situation, with crime and corruption on the rise every day.

Inaugurating the seminar, Dr. J. M. Choudhury, vice-chancellor of Gauhati University, noted that the Institute of Natural Law had developed various techniques to take the mind from a gross to the subtler and ultimately to the finest state of creativity and activity.