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Bandh observed in Assam districts

GAUHATI, January 11 (UNI).

THE 36-hour statewide civil disobedience called by the Assam agitators on the foreigners issue was peaceful, barring a few incidents of explosion, on the second and concluding day today.

Official reports received here said a complete dawn-to-dusk bandh was observed in Karbianglong Hill district. The bandh was partial in North Lakhimpur.

The bandh call was given by the agitators in protest against the alleged police atrocities on the people.

Meanwhile, about 500 people were arrested all over the state today for trying to board government buses and trains without tickets.

The reports said post offices did not function at Mongaldai in Darrang district. In other places, they functioned but there was no rush.

Official sources said all trains, government-owned long-distance buses and ferry services were running normally with armed escorts.

An incident of explosion was reported from Barpeta in Kamrup district this morning. However, no one was injured.

About 25 people were arrested at Barpeta for throwing stones at the police.

No money transactions were carried out at post offices in Greater Gauhati. There were no sales of postage stamps because of an absence of buyers.

The AASU and the AAGSP had appealed to the public not to make money transactions or buy postage

stamps during the civil disobedience programme, in addition to not paying fares on trains and government buses, and ferries.

Bank officials in the north-eastern states today boycotted clearing houses and attended their offices wearing black badges to protest at alleged police atrocities on bank staff during the course of the Assam agitation.

Meanwhile, the indefinite curfew, imposed on January 1 after a mob violence in the municipal area of Tezpur, was lifted today as normalcy returned to the town, official reports said.

Meanwhile, the AAGSP announced that it would resort to a 12-hour total non-cooperation if the legislators, who had been elected with the foreigners' votes, formed a ministry in the state.

Gogoi elected leader

GAUHATI, January 11
(PTI & UNI).

MR. Keshab Chandra Gogoi, former Assam finance minister, was unanimously elected tonight as the leader of the Congress (I) legislature party at the end of a four-hour long marathon meeting.

Mr. Gogoi's name was proposed by the former chief minister, Mrs. Anwar Taimur, and seconded by the former education and supply minister, Mr. Hiteswar Saikia in the presence of the AICC (I) observers, the Union labour minister, Mr. N. D. Tiwari, and the AICC (I) general secretary, Mrs. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai.

Altogether 36 members attended the Congress (I) legislature party meeting.

Mrs. Taimur resigned from the ACLP (I) leadership on January 9.