

5 AASU

leaders held under NSA

GAUHATI Jan. 5 (UNI): Five of the All-Assam Students Union (AASU) and All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP) executive members who were arrested yesterday have been detained under the National Security Act (NSA). The rest were released this mornig, according to the police.

Meanwhile, 156 people, including seven women, and advocates of the Gauhati High Court and the lower court were arrested here today as they took out a procession in defiance of the prohibitory orders under section 144 Cr PC.

The advocates, who abstained from their duties, took out the procession in protest against what they alleged were "CRPF atrocities on innocent citizens" in the State.

Barring some stray incidents of stone-throwing in different parts of the Brahmaputra valley, the dusk-to-drawn black-out programme ended peacefully this morning.

Reacting to the NSA arrests, the AASU alleged that the detention of five of its executive members was a clear indication of the Government's unwillingness to hold the proposed tripartite talks in New Delhi on the foreign nationals issue.

In a strongly-worded statement, AASU president Prafulla Kumar Mahanta and general secretary Bhirgu Kumar Phukan condemned the detention of their colleagues.

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