

Gauhati Bandh Peaceful

GAUHATI, Jan. 7.—Barring some stray cases of assault, the dawn-to-dusk Gauhati bandh called in protest against the death of a Government employee, allegedly in a police lathi-charge, passed off peacefully today, report UNI and PTI.

The Chief Secretary, Mr Ramesh Chandra, said that while attendance at the State secretariat at Dispur and at the North-east Frontier Railway's headquarters at Maligaon was normal, it was below normal in other offices in the town.

Life in Gauhati was virtually paralysed as private vehicles and city buses went off the road. Almost all banks, business establishments and markets remained closed during the day.

According to the police, 12 people were arrested on various charges.

However, long distance and Assam State Transport Corporation buses and train services of the North-east Frontier Railway functioned normally.

The 27-Up Gauhati Luning passenger, which was picketed near

Narengi this morning, moved out of the station after the picketers were persuaded to disperse.

The water and electricity supply, newspapers and airlines were exempted from the purview of the bandh.

Security personnel were patrolling different areas of the city as a precautionary measure although the situation was officially reported to be peaceful.

The bandh was called jointly by the All-Gauhati Students' Union, All-Gauhati Gana Sangram Parishad and the All-Kamrup District Tribal Students' Union in protest against the "barbarous atrocities" of the Central Reserve Police on the people.

In Delhi, the National Convention on the Assam Crisis has expressed deep concern at the police firing and arrest of thousands of people in Assam.

The Convention's chairman, Mr Jainendra Kumar, urged the Central Government to stop "repression by the authorities" and prepare the ground for finding a "meaningful solution to the problem without further procrastination".

A four-member All-Assam Minority Students' Union delegation discussed the foreign nationals issue with the Lok Dal president, Mr Charan Singh, and Mr Devraj Urs of the Congress (S).

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