

Curfew imposed in Shillong after social media-triggered communal tension

Agency
Shillong, June 1,

A journalist and four civilians were injured in the clash. Rumours generated via social media about the death of a tribal man led to communal tension in Shillong on Thursday evening, forcing the authorities to clamp curfew in parts of the city. Superintendent of Police (City) Steve Rynjah said a clash broke out between drivers of State transport buses and residents of Them Lew Mawlong locality, also known as Sweeper's Lane, on Thursday afternoon.

An incident of eve-teasing allegedly involving a conductor of one of the

buses and a girl of the locality was said to be the trigger of the clash between tribal people and Dalits. Some claimed the fight started after women of the locality objected to the parking of a bus that blocked the way to a water collection point. In that scuffle, a tribal boy in the bus got injured. "But a rumour that a local person had died during the incident went viral on social media, following which scores of people marched to Sweeper's Lane. We had to use tear gas to disperse the angry crowd and bring the situation under control," Mr. Rynjah said.

Locals said despite the presence of police, tension

prevailed till 2 am on Friday as waves of people tried to force their way to the locality. The authorities of East Khasi Hills district, under which Shillong falls, later imposed curfew in 14 localities around Sweeper's Lane. These include Lewduh or Bara Bazaar, the commercial hub of the city.

"Information is received that there is a serious breakdown of law and order in Shillong city... there is every likelihood of serious breach of peace which may lead to acts of arson, targeting vehicles and causing loss of life and property," East Khasi Hills District Magistrate P.S. Dkhar said in an order promulgating curfew indefinitely from 4 am.

India, Singapore agree to deepen economic and defence ties

Agency
Singapore, Jun 1

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Singaporean counterpart Lee Hsien Loong today agreed to deepen the bilateral economic ties and build on defence cooperation as the two sides signed eight agreements including one on logistics cooperation between their navies.

The two leaders, who held wide-ranging discussions on regional and global issues of mutual interests, also called for a peaceful, open, and friendly maritime environment in the Indo-Pacific region.

Prime Minister Modi said that the strategic partnership between India and Singapore has stood the test of time in the real sense.

"We have been able to conclude successfully the second review of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation (CECA) but we agreed this is not just our target and goal but this only means to an end," Modi said in a joint press statement after the meeting.

"Our officials will soon begin discussions on upgrading and reforming this agreement," he added.

Since CECA was signed in 2004, India-Singapore bilateral trade more than doubled from SGD12 billion (USD 8.97 billions) to SGD25 billion (USD 18.69 billion). Singapore was the second largest investor in India in FY-2016.

Modi hailed the close defence cooperation between the two countries and welcomed the completion of the logistics agreement between the two navies.

"In the coming times, dealing with cyber security and extremism and terrorism will be important areas of our cooperation," the prime minister said.

Modi and Lee also exchanged views on the regional and global challenges and reiterated their principled position on maritime security and expressed commitment to 'Rules Based' Order. The two leaders also agreed on the need to maintain an open, stable and fair

international trade regime. "We both have reaffirmed our views on maritime security and have shown our commitment to a 'Rules Based' order... We also agreed for a peaceful, open, and friendly maritime environment in the Indo-Pacific region," Modi said.

China is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in the South and East China Seas. Beijing has also made substantial progress in militarising its manmade islands in the past few years, which it says it has the right to defend.

China claims sovereignty over all of the South China Sea. But Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan have counter claims. In the East China Sea, Beijing has territorial disputes with Japan.

The South China Sea and the East China Sea are stated to be rich in minerals, oil and other natural resources. They are also vital to global trade. On his part, Lee said the bilateral defence ties have grown stronger.

"Our defence ties have strengthened, our navies have signed an agreement today on logistics cooperation and will also celebrate 25th anniversary of annual Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) this year," Lee said.

Modi said the air traffic between India and Singapore has increased rapidly and both countries will enter into a new 'Air Service Agreement' soon.

He said the international launch of RuPay, BHIM and UPI based remittance app in Singapore yesterday represented Digital India initiative and the renewed partnership between the two sides.

Lee said Indian tourists will be able to use their RuPay cards for electronic payments at Changi airport and selected operators across Singapore.

He said he looked forward to welcoming Modi back to Singapore in November for the East Asia Summit, and "to continue working with him to further deepen our cooperation bilaterally and regionally".

Modi, who arrived here yesterday on the last leg of his three-nation visit, earlier made a courtesy call on President Halimah Yacob after a welcome ceremony at the Istana where he was given a guard of honour.

He earlier visited Indonesia and Malaysia. The two countries



I am innocent, will challenge suspension: Sanjita Chanu

in the Gold Coast CWG in April. We will fight it out why this is happening," she said.

"In any case, we have written that we would go for the 'B' sample test. After we got the results we will hire a top lawyer to present our case at the hearing (at the international federation). I am sure Sanjita has not taken any banned drugs. I am confident we will prove her innocence," he added.

Yadav also said that there was no danger of India losing the gold medal won by Sanjita in the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in April. She lifted a total of 192kg to win that gold in 53kg category. She had also won a gold in the 48kg category in the 2014 CWG in Glasgow.

If Sanjita's 'B' sample also tests positive, she could be handed a four-year ban from the sport. Sanjita had taken part in the 53kg class in the World Championship last year, finishing 13th with a total lift of 177kg.

The 24-year-old was, on May 9, included in the Sports Ministry's Target Olympic Podium Scheme for her Asian Games preparations. But her name is expected to be struck off from the list if she is finally ruled to have committed the dope offence. The latest dope flunk will hit Indian weightlifting hard after a clean recent past, especially after

Mirabai Chanu's 48kg category gold medal in the World Championship.

After a dope free 2016, one weightlifter — Sushila Panwar — returned positive in a test conducted by the international federation. Sanjita's case is the first positive result of this year.

Recently, the International Weightlifting Federation decided to punish offending countries by limiting their quotas for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics after the IOC asked them to clean the tainted sport.

It was decided that countries like Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Belarus will be given only two places each at Tokyo 2020. The new rules state that any nation with 20 or more doping violations from 2008 to 2020 will have just one man and one woman at the Games. Countries with 10-19 doping violations over that same period will be limited to two men and two women in Tokyo. At least nine more countries, including Bulgaria, Iran and India fall into that category.

This decision to limit Olympic quotas, however, will not have much impact on India as the country has not been sending more than two weightlifters each in men and women's sections in the Olympics during the past few editions.

Before Sanjita's case, 12 Indian weightlifters had returned positive in tests conducted by the international federation since 2008.

Agency
New Delhi, June 1

Indian weightlifter Sanjita Chanu today said she will challenge the provisional suspension imposed on her for allegedly failing a dope test, insisting that she is innocent.

"I am innocent, I have not taken any banned substance. I will challenge this with the help of the national federation," Sanjita told to the News Agency.

Sanjita, who had won a gold in the women's 53kg category in the recent Gold Coast CWG, was suspended by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) tested positive for testosterone.

The sample was taken during an out-of-competition test prior to the World Championship in Anaheim (US) in November last year.

She, however, got the backing of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF) President Sahdev Yadav, who said he was confident of the Manipuri's innocence.

"We don't understand why the dope result took so long. After the sample was taken, she competed in the World Championship in November last and then she won a gold

14-year-old Indian-American wins National spelling Bee championship

Agency
Houston, June 1

Karthik Nemmani, a 14-year-old Indian-American boy, today won the prestigious Scripps National Spelling Bee, taking home more than USD 42,000 in cash and prizes after correctly spelling "koimonia" to become the 14th champion from the community in 11 consecutive years.

An eighth-grader from McKinney, Texas, Karthik won the spelling competition after numerous rounds against Naysa Modi, another Indian-American student, underscoring the overwhelming dominance of Indian-Americans in the competition. Karthik and Naysa were the last two standing of the initial 516 spellers.

"I had confidence, but I didn't think it would really happen," he said, adding that he knew he would correctly spell the word meaning Christian fellowship or communion as soon as he heard it. Karthik received USD 40,000 and a trophy from the Scripps Bee, a USD 2,500 cash prize (and a complete reference library) from Merriam-Webster, trips to New York and Hollywood as part of a media tour, and a pizza party for their school, the Washington Post reported.

Taliban reject US commander's statement on peace talks

Agency
Kabul, June 1

The Taliban say they "categorically reject" a statement made this week by the US commander of coalition forces in Afghanistan about "off stage" contacts and dialogue taking place between the Kabul government and the insurgents.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah

Mujahid says in a statement distributed to the media today that Gen. John Nicholson's remarks, made to reporters at the Pentagon from his Kabul office, were a "baseless claim."

Nicholson said Wednesday that "mid-level, senior-level Taliban leaders" are "engaging with Afghans," adding that unspecified international organizations, foreign governments and other interested parties also are involved.

Mujahid says that "American General Nicholson is making such fabricated statements to divert attention from his failures and keep the Washington media busy with false claims instead of exposing the failed Trump (administration's) strategy" in Afghanistan.

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, KANPOKPI DISTRICT NOTICE

Kangpokpi, the 31st May, 2018

No.DC(KPI)3/33/97(Pt) : It is hereby for general information that Shri K.G. Donrei S/o Late Pougaing, resident of Natok Village, P.O. Langjing, P.S. Gamphazol (now Thanglong New Keithelmbani) Kangpokpi District, has applied for registration of Rectification Deed with reference to Sale Deed being No. 80 of 2008 on the 26th day of October, 2008 between Shri Ningkhonlun Gangmei, S/o (L) Gaikhemlung Gangmei of Khonglong Part-II, Saitu-Gamphazol Sub-Division, (now Kangchup Sub-Division), P.S. Gamphazol, Senapati District (now Kangpokpi District), as Vendor and Mr. K.G. Donrel, S/o Late Pougaing of Natok Kabui Village, P.O. Langjing, P.S. Gamphazol, as Vendee. The boundary of the said land is prescribed hereunder:

Schedule of the land:-

On the North : by the land of Shri L. Ibopishak Singh

On the South : by the Namching Hill Land of Mahakabui Village

On the East : by the A.R. Road intervene by land of Gamthaolung Gangmei; and

On the West : by approach road of Mahakabui Village.

Objection is hereby invited from any interested person(s) to file objection if any within 7 days from the date of publication of this Notice in Newspaper. If objection is not received within the stipulated period, it will be presumed that there is no objection.

Sd/-
Kaigoulal Kipgen
Sub-Deputy Collector HQ
DC's Office, Kangpokpi