

Thunderstorm affects livelihood in Kangpokpi



DIPR Kangpokpi, April 30,

The devastating thunderstorm which was experienced all over the state on Sunday also affected livelihood in various parts of Kangpokpi district. As reported till today, as many as 56 houses, 4 schools and 1 bank have been damaged. Saikul sub-division was affected the most with 23 houses being destroyed,

followed by Lungtin with 21 houses, 9 houses in KangchupGeljang and 3 houses in Saitu-Gamphazol sub-division. A Punjab and Sind Bank in T.Waichong which is still under construction and yet to function was also damaged. More reports of destruction of houses and other properties will come.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner Kangpokpi,

Lalithambigai K IAS, informed through a notification to contact officials of the District Administration and SDOs in case of any loss of lives, casualties and damage of properties and crops. She also instructed the SDOs to inform the villagers to remain alert and stay away from water bodies. She further mentioned that all unknown numbers will be entertained.

AR conducts security meet

IT News Imphal, April 30,

Keithelmanbi Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) conducted a security meet at Lilong Company Operating Base. The security forum was attended by the Meira Paibis, Ward Councilors along with representatives of local youth clubs. During the meet the locals were sanitised and updated on

current situation existing in the area of responsibility. There was also an interaction carried out on necessary measures required to be undertaken by locals in synergy with Assam Rifles for maintaining a strict vigil against illicit activities in the area. In addition to the security issues, future action plan in respect of civic action projects like medical camps, recruitment in Assam Rifles and Army

and career counseling for youth were also discussed during the meet. The locals expressed their gratitude and appreciated the efforts of Assam Rifles for conduct of such security meetings and ensuring peace in the area and assured their commitment and assistance in maintaining the same. The security meet concluded with tea and refreshments for all the attendees

Varavara Rao's bail plea rejected

Agency Pune, April 29,

A special court here Monday rejected the temporary bail application of activist and poet P Varavara Rao who is currently lodged in a prison here. Rao wanted temporary bail to visit his hometown to perform post-death rituals of his sister-in-law who died on April 22. However, the prosecution, objecting to the temporary bail to Rao, cited a letter to Pune's Joint Commissioner of Police by Hyderabad Superintendent of Police (Special Intelligence Branch) which stated, "Considering seriousness of the crime, there is a possibility that accused may abscond if he is allowed attending the last rites of his relative". "Moreover, there is a

possibility of a serious attack on the police party, who will be deputised for an escort, by Naxals," the letter added. The prosecution also informed the court that the letter stated that as per Hindu traditions and customs, there is no established procedure and norms to attend "pedda karma" (10th-day ritual) by the brother-in-law of a deceased who is survived by her children. After hearing the arguments and going through the written submissions from the prosecution, judge Vadane Monday rejected the temporary bail application. Rao was first arrested on August 28 last year in connection with the Elgar Parishad case along with activists Sudha Bhardwaj, Arun Ferreira, Vernon Gonsalves and Gautam

Navalakra. However, the Supreme Court later asked the police to place them under house arrest. On November 17, Rao was re-arrested by Pune police. The prosecution, in its submission, said the accused is an active member of the proscribed CPI (Maoist) and along with other accused, was involved in unlawful and terrorist activities, and that investigation so far had revealed that he was involved in raising and distributing funds to smuggle arms and ammunition. "There is ample of evidence against the accused and the charge sheet too has been filed and therefore it is not desirable to release the accused on temporary bail," according to the prosecution.

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May Day Born in the United States

But May Day, 1890, was celebrated in many European countries, and in the United States the Carpenters' Union and other building trades entered into a general strike for the 8-hour day. Despite the Exception Laws against the Socialists, workers in the various German industrial cities celebrated May Day, which was marked by fierce struggles with the police. Similarly in other European capitals demonstrations were held, although the authorities warned against them and the police tried to suppress them.

In the United States, the Chicago and New York demonstrations were of particularly great significance. Many thousands paraded the streets in support of the 8-hour day demand; and the demonstrations were closed with great open air mass meetings at central points. At the next Congress, in Brussels, 1891, the International reiterated the original purpose of May First, to demand the 8-hour day, but added that it must serve also as a demonstration in behalf of the demands to improve working conditions,

and to ensure peace among the nations. The revised resolution particularly stressed the importance of the "class character of the May First demonstrations" for the 8-hour day and the other demands which would lead to the "deepening of the class struggle." The resolution also demanded that work be stopped "wherever possible." Although the reference to strikes on May First was only conditional, the International began to enlarge upon and concretize the purposes of the demonstrations. The British

Laborites again showed their opportunism by refusing to accept even the conditional proposal for a strike on May First, and together with the German Social-Democrats voted to postpone the May Day demonstration to the Sunday following May First. In this way, Marx, starting from the economy's most basic unit - the commodity - brings out the nature of the economic laws governing capitalism. He thus exposes the scientific economic basis for the socialist revolution and the road to communism.

Over 64 per cent voter turnout recorded in fourth phase of Lok Sabha elections

Agency New Delhi April 30,

Over 64 per cent polling has been recorded in the fourth phase of Lok Sabha elections. Seventy one Parliamentary constituencies, spread across nine states, went to polls in this phase yesterday. West Bengal recorded the highest 79.5 per cent voter turnout, followed by Madhya

Pradesh around 74 per cent. Nearly 70.5 percent votes were polled in Odisha, where Lok Sabha and Assembly elections were held simultaneously. Rajasthan and Jharkhand registered around 65 per cent polling. In Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, polling percentage was nearly 60 per cent and 56 per cent in Maharashtra. The polling percentage was 8 per cent in Kulgam district,

which falls under the Anantnag Parliamentary constituency in Jammu and Kashmir. Briefing media in New Delhi, Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Umesh Sinha said, except minor incidents, polling remained peaceful in this phase. A large number of women and senior citizens came out to vote. Mr Sinha said, of the 543 Lok Sabha

seats, polls have, so far, concluded in 373 constituencies. The Election Commission said, this time EVM replacement was very minimal as compared to the last three phases. The poll panel has also seized unaccounted cash, illicit liquor, drugs, gold and freebies worth over 3,200 crore rupees since the Model Code of Conduct came into effect.

EC to meet today to decide on alleged violation of model code of conduct

Agency New Delhi April 30,

The Election Commission is meeting in New Delhi today to decide on the alleged violation of model code of conduct by top political leaders. This was stated by Deputy Election Commissioner Chandra Bhusan Kumar during a press conference in the national capital last evening. He was asked about the status of complaints filed against senior BJP leader and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP

President Amit Shah and Congress President Rahul Gandhi for alleged violation of poll norms. Election Commission officials are also meeting today to discuss Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Sources said, concerned officials from the state will attend the meeting. The BJP had withdrawn support to the PDP, led by Ms Mehbooba Mufti in the 87-member J&K Assembly last year. Since the fallout of the coalition government, the state has been under President's rule.

Security arrangements tightened to ensure free & fair polls in Bihar tomorrow

Agency New Delhi April 30,

In Bihar, tight security arrangements have been made to ensure free and fair polls. Voting will take place in five Lok Sabha constituencies-Darbhanga, Ujjairpur, Samastipur, Begusarai and Munger. 66 candidates including three women are in fray. Jawans of Central para military forces have been deployed at

every booths. Inter district border has been sealed and strict vigil is being maintained to avert untoward incidents. There will be water patrolling in Gandak river. One helicopter will be stationed at Samastipur and an air ambulance will be ready in Patna to meet any eventuality. Over 16,000 polling staffs have been engaged in poll related work. They have reached their polling station.

Masood Azhar to be designated global terrorist at UN meet tomorrow: Sources

Agency New Delhi April 30,

China is expected to lift its hold on blacklisting Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar at a UN sanctions committee on May 1, paving the way for further global financial sanctions against the banned group, people familiar with the development said. Azhar's designation as a global terrorist would be a major diplomatic victory for the Narendra Modi government, which has been pushing for the move particularly since the February 14 terror attack in Pulwama. "May Day is going to be the death knell for Masood Azhar, as he will be designated as a global terrorist by the UN's Islamic State and al-Qaeda

Sanctions Committee, with Beijing caving in to the global demand led by the US, France and the UK that the main orchestrator of the Pulwama attack be brought to book," said a senior official who asked not to be named. "China is expected to lift the technical hold which it had placed on March 13 on the proposal by the US, the UK and France, with all other Security Council members approving the move," he added. While there were reports suggesting that Beijing wanted to lift the hold around May 15, the other members of the UN Security Council, led by the US, have made it clear that time was running out for China and its all-weather ally Pakistan on the issue of Azhar. Soon after the Pulwama attack by a JeM suicide bomber that killed 40 Indian troopers, France, with the backing of the US and the UK, moved a proposal at the UN's 1267 Sanctions Committee to designate Azhar as a global terrorist. Members of the committee, who are the same as the 15 members of the Security Council, had 10 working days to raise objections to the proposal. On March 13, the final day, China placed a hold on the proposal, saying more time was needed to discuss the matter. This was the fourth time China blocked the designation of Azhar even though JeM was proscribed by the UN in October 2001. The development infuriated the US and its allies, which circulated a draft resolution on listing Azhar among the

UN Security Council's members to force China's hand. During a visit to India last week, the US principal deputy assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asia, Alice Wells, conveyed to her Indian interlocutors that Washington was looking for action against Azhar "in the near term", people familiar with the developments said. The UK high commissioner, Dominic Asquith, also told reporters last week that his country was optimistic about Azhar's listing. Azhar was released on December 31, 1999, in a hostage swap at Kandahar airport after an Indian airliner was hijacked by Pakistani terrorists. He has been accused of masterminding some of the most heinous terror attacks in India. Before Pulwama, the JeM was responsible for the 2016 attack on Pathankot airbase, the 2001 attack on Parliament, the Jammu and Kashmir assembly attack the same year, and a series of assaults against security forces in Kashmir. The 50-year-old Azhar is suffering from a life threatening spinal cord ailment and is bed-ridden but plays an active role in orchestrating attacks against India with the help of brothers Athar Ibrahim and Rauf Asghar. The JeM operates from a newly built headquarters in Bhawalpur, which also houses the grave of Azhar's father Sabir Alvi. Three of his kin, including two nephews, have been gunned down by security forces in Jammu and Kashmir since 2017.

Campaigning on for remaining three phases; scrutiny for 7th, final phase today

Agency New Delhi April 30,

Campaigning is on for the remaining three phases. Top leaders of several political parties are holding public meetings at various places across the country to woo the voters. Senior BJP leader and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address rallies at Muzaffarpur in Bihar and at Brahmagiri and Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh today. BJP President Amit Shah will campaign at Dausa, Alwar and Bharatpur in Rajasthan and Morena in Madhya Pradesh. Congress President Rahul Gandhi will be in Madhya Pradesh. He will address rallies in Tikamgarh, Damoh and Panna. BSP Chief Mayawati will hold public meetings in Uttar Pradesh. Scrutiny of nominations is being held today for the seventh and final phase. 59 constituencies, across seven States and one Union Territory, will go to polls in this phase on the 19th of next month. Yesterday was the last day for filing of candidature. The nominations can be withdrawn till Thursday.