

Agency
New Delhi June 9,

A journalist was arrested on Saturday for allegedly sharing an 'objectionable' post against Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath on social media, police officials familiar with the matter said. A first information report (FIR) was registered against Delhi-based journalist

Prashant Kanojia by a sub-inspector at Hazratganj police station on Friday night in which it was alleged that the accused made "objectionable comments against the chief minister and tried to malign his image". Senior superintendent of police (SSP) of Lucknow Kalanidhi Naithani said charges under Section 500 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)

(making defamatory comments) and Section 66 of the IT Act (posting objectionable comments on social media) were slapped on Kanojia. He further said a probe was on and a few people were being questioned in the matter. News agency PTI said that Kanojia had shared a video on Twitter and Facebook where a woman is seen speaking to

reporters of various media organisations outside the chief minister's office claiming that she had sent a marriage proposal to Adityanath. In a press release issued late in the night, Lucknow Police said: "He [Kanojia] has not told about his association with any news agency during interrogation. Probe is on in the matter," the release said.

3 killed in Bengal's North 24 Parganas as TMC-BJP clashes continue

Agency
New Delhi June 9,

Three political workers, including two from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and one from the Trinamool Congress, were killed in a clash between the supporters of the two parties in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, on Saturday, police said. However, the BJP claimed five of its workers were killed, while Trinamool leaders claimed that three of their workers were murdered in the clash in the Hatgachi area under Najat police station of Sandeshkhali Assembly constituency. Hatgachi is about 84 kilometers from Kolkata. BJP leader Mukul Roy called on Union Home Minister Amit

Shah on Saturday night and apprised him of the situation. "A team of BJP MPs will visit the area on Sunday and submit a report to Shah," she said. "Three political workers - two of them from the BJP and another from Trinamool - were killed," said a police officer. State BJP General Secretary Sayantan Basu claimed three of its leaders - Pradip Mondal, Tapan Mondal and Sukanta Mondal - were killed and five other functionaries injured in the clash. BJP state General Secretary (organisation) Subrata Chattopadhyay said a fourth BJP worker Debabrata Mondal also died of bullet injury, while 18 other villagers were missing. Later, another injured BJP worker Shankar Mondal's

body was found. The Trinamool said while its worker Qayum Mollah was stabbed to death, two others were thrown into the water. According to the BJP leaders, the clash erupted after Trinamool workers allegedly removed the saffron party's flags in Sandeshkhali area, while local Trinamool leaders accused the BJP workers of defacing their flags. "During a booth level meeting of our workers in Hatgachi, some miscreants, backed by the BJP, attacked them. Mollah, a 26-year-old Trinamool worker, was taken out of the party office and stabbed to death," state Minister and Trinamool's district President Jyotipriya Mallick claimed. "Two other workers were thrown into the river. Eighteen

Trinamool workers, including six women, are injured, he said. I would like to ask the BJP whether we don't even have the right to hold a meeting. A large posse of police personnel, including those from the Rapid Action Force, have been rushed to the spot. Union minister and BJP leader Babul Supriyo in a tweet said he was 'deeply disturbed' about the murders of BJP functionaries. "The people of West Bengal will very soon put an end to TMC's atrocities," said Supriyo. Mukul Roy held Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee "directly responsible" for "unleashing violence against the BJP workers".

A tribute to Arambam Somendra



Arambam Somendra

Every year on June 10, we observe his Death Anniversary both in Manipur and outside. Arambam Somendra was born on the 12th July 1935 at Sagolband Meino Leirak Imphal. His father was the late Dorendrajit Poet, Playwright and Author of the 1930s. His mother was Longjam Ningol Jamini Devi daughter of Longjam Amuba, the Ishinglakpa during the British Administration. Somendra's Grandfather Meino Babu was the first Sub-Inspector of Police after the British takeover of Manipur which was of 1891. His grandfather Khomdonsana was the youngest daughter of Maharaja Surchandra (1886-1890). During the second world war when Somendra was 9 years old his father died in 1944 during the tension and struggles of human displacement. His maternal grandfather who had agricultural tenants in Sawbung village gave the family shelter. But the sudden invasions by the Japanese forces from the Ukhrul side forced them to seek shelter at Salam Keikhu in the traditional Langon yanfams of the family. However Dorendrajit died at age 37 leaving his wife and two sons and a daughter as orphans.

Somendra's widowed mother reared the family after the war. He finished matriculation at Churachand High School and entered D.M. College in the intermediate class in 1955. He inherited leadership qualities from his erstwhile grandparent's yet he nourished the thirst for movement and change as youths of the day. During the feverish student agitations in the 1950s through socialist ideologies and practices, Somendra led a batch of khwai students who picketed at the Khwairamband Bridge in 1952. The police beat him up and threw him down into the Nambul River. His family and friends nursed him back to health. Since then he was determined to fight for justice & dignity for his people. At Dhanamanjuri college he rose to the position of senior under officer when the National Cadet Corps was first

introduced in 1955. After finishing the MA degree in Pune University in 1963, he slowly and consistently worked for the unity of the hills and plains people and aspired for the transformation of the status of the once proud pan mongoloids of the north-east. In 1969, the first notice came that there was an insurgency movement in Manipur and Somendra left home and went underground for six years. In 1975, when the Government of Manipur proclaimed general amnesty, Somendra returned to Imphal and spent the rest of his life as a cultural activist and social visionary. He wrote a number of award winning plays and contributed to the revival of indigenous cultures of the land and also for special empowerment to women. He also worked for the consolidation of the Meitei diaspora. While attending a seminar on shumang leela at Khurai Nandeibam Leikai on June 10, 2000, he was shot at by some unknown assailants. He was martyred for his land and people he loved. His friends, colleagues and admirers built a mausoleum at the site of his martyrdom. And each June 10, since then both the people from Manipur and outside offer flowers to the soul of this patriot of Manipur.

US approves sale of armed drones to India

Agency
Washington June 9,

India is only the third country and the first non-NATO member country to have been offered the armed version of Guardian unmanned drones by the United States, the acquisition of which has been under discussion for almost a year now, according to people aware of the negotiations. Technical briefings have taken place and discussion are now focused on determining the number of drones that India would like to purchase, they said. The only other countries offered the armed drones are the United Kingdom and Italy, both NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) partners

of the US. The United States had first offered General Atomics' unarmed MQ-9 Guardian drones for maritime surveillance and approved the sale of 22 of them to India around the time of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's June 2017 visit to Washington for his first meeting with US President Donald Trump. But India was more interested in armed version of the drone - Predator-B - which the United States agreed to "about a year ago", as had been reported by Hindustan Times (May 2018) and Reuters (July 2018). Discussions have been on since.

There has been no progress, however, on the other US offers of Terminal High Altitude Area Defence and Patriot-3 missile defence systems, first reported by Hindustan Times, to dissuade India from purchasing Russian S-400s. India and Russia signed an agreement concluding the purchase contract for five S-400s for an estimated cost of \$5 billion. The United States has sanctioned China for its purchase of three Russian missile defence system under Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) and on Friday, announced it was cancelling the sale of F-35s fighter jets to Turkey for its plans to buy S-400s despite

repeated US threats and appeals. Indian purchases of US defence materials have gone up from zero in 2008 to \$15 billion in 2019 and recent buys include MH-60R Seahawk helicopters (\$2.6 billion), Apache helicopters (\$2.3 billion), P-8I maritime patrol aircraft (\$3 billion), and M777 howitzers (\$737 million), according to the state department. India was the first non-treaty partner to be offered a MTCR Category-1 Unmanned Aerial System - the Sea Guardian UAS manufactured by General Atomics. India asked for armed drones and now discussions are underway for its acquisition.

10th ARAMBAM SOMENDRA MARTYRDOM ANNIVERSARY 10TH JUNE, 2019 PROGRAMME

Sl. No	Time	Subject	Venue	Organizer
1	10 am	Mukna Festival	Heirok part-iii	Youth Brilliat Club
2	5th -10th June	Kaang Tournament	WabagaiAwang Leikaki Mandap	Development for Education ,Sport & Culture Organization
3	Whole Day	State Level Cheibi Tournament	Kondon Leirembi Moreh	All Manipur Cheibi Assn.
4	10 am	Children painting Competition "CAB"	Phuthiba Community Hall Khurai Pthiba Leikai	Paari Imom Kanba Lup
5	10 am	Arambam Somendra	Wangoo Langmeidong Literary Festival	Dramatic Union
6	10 am	Recitation,Competition and Blood Donnation Camp	Khongman Mangjil	Oriental Club
7	10 am	Arambam Somendra Annivesary	Hojai	Assam Manipur Sahitya Parishad
8	10 am	19th Somendra Annivesary	Borakhal Community Hall	A.S.T Silchar
9	10 am	19 Somendro Annivesary	Silchar	Assam Manipuri Students Union
10	10 am	Tribute to Arambam Somendra	Manipur Sumang Lilla council Office Imphal	MSSLC Imphal
11	10 am	Student debate on Dialogue for political dispute	Manipur University	AMSU,MU
12	10 am	A Somendra Symposium	JIMPAL Office	Jimpal Jiribam
13	Afternoon	Arambam Somendra Memorial Music Competition	Jiribam Blind School	Blind School Jiribam
14	9:30 am	Arambam Somendra 19th Annivesary Rituals recitation & women 's Moirang Parba	Salanthong Khurai	Social Standard Club & AST
15	2 PM	14TH Arambam Somendra Memorial lecture by Babloo Loitongbam ,HRA	Lamyamba Sanglen Konung Mamang	AST

Sri Lanka president Maithripala Sirisena sacks intel boss over Easter bombings probe

Agency
New Delhi June 9,

Sri Lanka's president Maithripala Sirisena sacked the country's intelligence chief Sisira Mendis on Friday after the latter testified against the government in the Easter Sunday bombings probe by a parliamentary select committee, officials familiar with the developments said ahead of a visit to the island nation by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday. Conflicting reports emerged earlier on Saturday on whether Mendis had resigned or he had been sacked. Top Indian intelligence officials said information shared at the highest level between the two countries indicated that Mendis was sacked after Sri Lankan agencies failed to act on specific inputs about the

terror plot. India alerted Sri Lanka on April 4, 10, 16 (the day an explosive device was tested by the terrorists on a bicycle), 20 and 21 (hours before the bombings were executed) and the intelligence inputs identified the possible targets, including two churches that came under attack, officials in New Delhi said, adding that authorities in the island nation failed to act on the same. After the attacks, Indian agencies informed their Sri Lankan counterparts of the arrest of the key plotter of the bombing at Shangri La hotel by Saudi police, the officials cited above said. The April 21 attacks killed 258 people. Mendis reportedly pinned the blame for the failure to prevent the attacks on government inaction. He said the president had failed



to hold regular security meetings to assess the threat from Islamic radicals who carried out the bombings. Sirisena's office did not give a reason for the sacking. Halfway through the testimony, the live telecast of the proceedings was stopped on the president's orders, officials said in Colombo. A source told AFP that Sirisena refused to allow any police, military or intelligence

personnel to testify before the committee. Sirisena's defence secretary and police chief have suggested that he did not follow proper protocols in dealing with intelligence warnings about the bombings. Sirisena has denied he was aware of an impending threat. A local jihadist organisation, NTJ, and the IS group claimed responsibility for the attacks.