

Political scenario in Begunia hots up

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

As the elections near, the apolitical scenario in Begunia block of Khordha district seems to be getting warmer by the day.

On Monday, two groups of the BJD organised political gatherings at two different places under the block on the plea of a protest meeting and a "Mahashanti Yajna", respectively. This has been a subject of discussion among local people now.

While supporters of the local MLA held a protest meet-

2 BJD meetings held in Begunia on a day

ing in the Begunia Mini Stadium in protest against the ransacking of the police station by some rivals of the MLA a week back, former Minister and Rajya Sabha Member Prashant Nanda's son Rushabh along with thousands of his supporters from about 40 gram panchayats attended the "Mahashanti Yajna" at Brahmeswar Peeth in Lakhapur village. MLA supporters had come

in a rally from Sarua to reach the mini stadium. Among others, BYJD Begunia president Bibhuti Mohanty, BYJD Bolgarh president Rabindra Natha Subudhi, Bolgarh block president Gopal Behera attended.

Those who attended Rushabh's meeting included Prashant Kumar Maharaj, former Sarpanch Chaitanya Jaysingh, Krushna Chandra Ranabiju, Hemant Sundray, Surendra Behera, Sangramkeshari Mishra, Dillip Mahabhoi and Jalandhar Mohanty.

Retired staffs, teachers to hold demo on Feb 5

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Thousands of retired employees and teachers under the banner of the Retired Employees and Teachers' Forum would hold a demonstration here on February 5 against the State Government's callous attitude in fulfilling their various demands.

Forum president Sarat Chandra Dash informed this while addressing a Press meet here on Tuesday. Dash said the State Government is flouting the direction of the Seventh Pay Fitment Committee to resolve their problems and failed to fulfil their demands through discussions even after direction.

He also said that even if 70,000 retired employees and teachers have written to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to fulfil their demands, the Government is turning a deaf ear to the demands.

Even if the Central Government has decided to provide a minimum of Rs 9,000 as pension to the retired staffs and teachers, the State Government is giving Rs 8,300, which is ridiculous, Dash added. Among others, forum general secretary Lokanath Rath, Durga Charan Nayak, Surjyamani Tripathy, Biswanath Panda, Ajay Kumar Sahu, Ajay Kumar Nayak and Shyam Sundar Khadanga were present at the Press conference.

Naveen Sambalpur meet venue sparks row

Cong says VSS stadium not meant for political meet

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

A controversy has erupted over the venue of the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's programme in the city while opposition Congress described it as violation rules for a political meeting.

The CM is scheduled to attend a youth convention of the region in the Veer Surendra Sai stadium here on February 1. Patnaik will address a gathering of over 30,000 youths inside the stadium. He will also lay the foundation stones of various projects and inaugurate several

completed projects of the district from the venue. The district administration is organising it.

Meanwhile, District Congress Committee (DCC) president Aswini Guru in a statement strongly criticized the ruling BJD for using the stadium for political meeting. The District Athletic Association (DAA) is an independent body and the district administration neither informed nor had taken its permission before organising the show. The administration has totally damaged the stadium ground by fitting pillars for shed and security cover, Guru said.

Massive preparations are on for the CM's programme on that day. Patnaik will arrive in Jamadar pali airstrip at around 12.30 pm and take a helicopter

to the venue. Along with the CM, several Ministers, MPs, MLAs and party leaders from different districts will attend the convention.

During the one-hour stay, Patnaik will lay the foundation stones for a nurses hostel at Burla, a students' hostel of VIMSAR, a drug research centre at Sambalpur, the Bhutapada-Dhankauda road, a bridge over Dhubijor near Nari Seva Sadan and Jail Chowk, a road over bridge near Hirakud, while he will inaugurate a rope way connected between Jawahar garden and Gandhi Minar in Hirakud dam, an administrative building of Sambalpur District Headquarters Hospital and 300-bed hostel of Gangadhar Meher Junior College, the official sources said.



Flag not lowered at sundown; HM axed

In S'garh school

PNS ■ SUNDARGARH

A headmaster of a Government school of Sundargarh district was placed under suspension on Tuesday

On Monday, BEO Sahu went to the school and conducted an inquiry

allegedly for leaving the National Flag to fly throughout night on the Republic Day. He was identified as Kumar

Singh Purti, headmaster of Kanika Cluster Bandabahal Primary School in Hemgiri block. On the Republic Day morning, the flag hoisting in the school premises had been done in presence of headmaster Purti but the flag was not

lowered and was not kept after sunset that day. The flag remained with the bar throughout night in darkness and flew in night. On Sunday morning, villagers lowered the flag and informed Hemgiri BEO Surendra Sahu about the laps-

es. On Monday, BEO Sahu went to the school and conducted an inquiry.

Notably, the Flag Code states that the flag can fly in night hours but that area must be properly illuminated.

BJD supporters in KALIA list: Morcha

Gheraos panchayat office in Kamakhyanager

PNS ■ KAMAKHYANAGAR

The BJP Kishan Morcha Kamakhyanager unit organised a Gram Sabha and gherao of the Panchayat office at Badasuanlo, protesting figuring of names of BJD Block Chairman, a ZP member and several Sarpanchs in KALIA

beneficiary list. Morcha's Dhenkanal and Sambalpur Lok Sabha Pravari Er Debashisha Hota led the protest. More than 1,000 people participated in the Gram Sabha.

Er Hota questioned the transparency of the list and asked where are the names of the poor farmers in the list who should be the deserving beneficiaries.

He alleged that the Naveen Patnaik Government has launched the KALIA scheme for the benefit of

party functionaries and supporters.

He also charged that the CM was misusing the welfare and RMC funds to win the elections befooling the farmers.

The beneficiary list included top BJD leaders like Bhuban Block

Chairman Dharmananda Baral, former Zilla Parishad Vice Chairman of Dhenkanal Mayadhar Panda, Mines Minister and Kamakhyanager MLA Prafulla Mallick's close aids of Baligorada Sarat Chandra Swain and former

headmaster Baikuntha Parida, Dhalapada Sarpanch Lili Sahoo's husband Abhimanyu, among others.

There is no relief for farmers even after complaining in the toll free number, he told. All farmers are well aware about these irregularities by the BJD people in their respective villages, he added.

Thousands of farmers would gherao BJD leader and Bhuban block Chairman Dharmananda Baral's house at Jamunakote village on January 31, Hota threatened

Dog 'Sandy' helps crack S'garh murder mystery

Sniffs out 5 bodies dumped in abandoned well

MALAY RAY ■ SUNDARGARH

A sniffer dog played a key role in tracing bodies of five persons of a family from an abandoned well under the Koira police station of Sundargarh district four days ago that helped the police crack the sensational murder case of a woman and her four minor children over sorcery suspicion.

Six persons in the case were arrested and forwarded to court.

The crime occurred on Friday at Indupur village and on Saturday afternoon, a scientific team along with sniffer

dog "Sandy" from the Rourkela police had gone to the spot to trace the bodies.

Sandy was engaged to trace the bodies, which immediately dragged his master towards the abandoned well and police saw broken bangles and hair near the well. When the cover of the well was taken out, the bodies were traced inside well and later with the help of pump set, water was dried and the bodies were brought out.

During investigation, police came to know about previous enmity of Debra Munda and his wife Sumi Munda with Mangri Munda and had been accusing Mangri of practicing black magic. According to police, during interrogation, Debra told that his daughter had died one month ago due to some ailment and his another daughter fell ill and when he and his

wife Sumi approached tantric Budram Munda, he told them that Mangri was performing black magic on his family and Mangri's children are witches. After hearing this, Debra along with her three brother-in-laws (wife Sumi's brothers) identified as Raju Munda, Salu Munda and Dagam Munda had planned to kill Mangri and her children. Debra's co-brother, Motu Munda and Motu's wife Gurbari and another Sunil Munda had also conspired with Debra to finish Mangri and her children.

On January 24 night, Raju, Salu, Dagam and Sunil had reached the house of Mangri in a motor cycle and forcibly entered into Mangri's house by breaking open the door and killed Mangri and her four children and dumped their bodies in an abandoned well.

2 infants' bodies found in Khordha

PNS ■ KHORDHA

Police on Tuesday recovered bodies of two infants from the backside of a hotel near Pitapalli under the Khordha police station on National Highway (NH)-16.

The reason behind the death of the infants was yet to

Reason behind the death of the infants was yet to be ascertained. The police sent the bodies for postmortem and started investigation

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Balipatna Fire Officer held while taking bribe

Khordha GPTA also held for graft

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Vigilance police on Tuesday caught Khordha district's Balipatna Fire Station Officer Prafulla Kumar Behera held for demanding and accepting illegal gratification of Rs 5,000.

He was caught taking bribe from complainant Sayed Sahir Ualla (truck owner) of Bengabati village in the district for issuance of fire certificate against his truck, which was damaged by fire in December 2018 near

Athantara petrol pump by unknown persons.

His residential house at Badagada in Bhubaneswar and house at his village under Nischintakoiili police station in Cuttack were searched. He was arrested and forwarded to court.

Similarly, Khordha district's Balipatna block Gram Panchayat Technical Assistant (GPTA) Kshyanaprava Mulia was caught taking bribe of Rs 10,000 from complainant Bikram Behera of Ambadiha village in the district for passing of bills for final payment in connection with construction of Anganwadi Centre at Mahadeba Sahi in the village executed by Behera.

Newspaper staff killed in Balangir

Loot motive suspected; 3 detained

PNS ■ BALANGIR

An employee of a newspaper was murdered by some miscreants in the town late on Monday night. The deceased was identified as Pratap Mohapatra.

Mohapatra, a resident of Jagatsinghpur district was working as the circulation executive of a vernacular daily. While returning from office, some miscreants attacked Mohapatra with sharp weapons killing him on the spot. Preliminary investigation

stated the miscreants attacked him in an attempt to loot. After receiving information, police reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem. Besides, the cops have detained three persons in connection with the incident.

"Three persons have been detained in connection with the incident. Of them, involvement of two persons is established from the primary interrogation. Mainly they attacked him with an attempt to loot him," said Balangir K Siva Subramani.

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