

REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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Overnight cyclonic storm has left a trail of destruction in several places in the state with some persons receiving minor injuries. However there is no report of any casualty so far. Heavy rain accompanied by storm lashed the state at around 9 last night and continued till around 3 today morning. The strong wind blew away the tin sheet of more than 20 kuccha houses in Six Kilo area and around 10 in Dokum Colony. Several houses were completely flattened to the ground. The gale uprooted trees and bamboos and caused damage to power transmission lines, telephone and other cables in several districts. In the state capital, the worst affected locations were Six Kilo area, Dokum Colony and Raj Bhawan Campus. The uprooted trees caused traffic congestion at several locations in the morning. The storm also hit Borguli, Kiyit and Ngopok villages of Mebo Circle in East Siang district and caused damages to around 30 dwelling houses, granaries and power transmission lines.

Condemning the intrusion of Assam people into Arunachal at Tarasso and holding a bike-rally shouting anti-Arunachal slogans yesterday, government spokesperson Nabam Rebia said Chief Minister Nabam Tuki called an emergency meeting on the issue this morning. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary, Home Commissioner, DGP and IGP. Taking strong exception to the incident, the Chief Minister directed the police department to immediately deploy additional security forces at Tarasso. Rebia said Tuki has written to Home Minister P Chidambaram and his Assam counterpart Tarun Gogoi and called for their intervention on the issue. Meanwhile, the Sonitpur DC has assured to take stern action against the intruders.

Expressing shock over the death of five persons in a fire mishap at Ngopok village in Mebo circle on Tuesday, Chief Minister Nabam Tuki today announced an ex-gratia

payment of Rs 1.50 lakhs each for the deceased persons. Relief will also be given to the injured after receiving the expenditure figures for their treatment. The Chief Minister appealed the people to adopt fire mishap preventive measures and remain vigilant all the time.

An 8 member European Union ambassadorial delegation headed by Joao Cravinho today sought to know the trade potentials of the state so that EU could venture into Arunachal. Interacting with the members of Arunachal Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Cravinho said the business sector is one of the major players in cementing bilateral relations between the EU and India and Arunachal could contribute significantly in that direction. Earlier today, the team visited RGU and interacted with faculty members and students. Joao Cravinho called upon the students to apply for programmes under the Erasmus project. Later, the team left for Ziro where they will stay the night.

The government has declared the 24 hours AAPSU bandh call on May 18 as illegal and unjustified. Parliamentary Secretary Home, Gadam Ete said that it had responded to AAPSU's five point charter of demands and had proposed a meeting which was turned down by the Union. Meanwhile, the District Magistrate, Itanagar Capital Complex urged the Union to abstain from any violence, adding that any damage to public and private property shall be recovered from AAPSU.

The NCP Arunachal Pradesh Unit said the issue on financial matter of the state needs to be made public. Its President Ngurang Pinch said non-release of pending bills has adversely affected small time contractors.

Students of the Northeastern Homeopathic Medical College, Itanagar on Wednesday vandalized the college infrastructure allegedly for not allowing them to sit in pre-university examination following a fee hike.

A tripartite meeting of the district administration, representatives of power developers and project affected people was held at Mechuka on Wednesday. Parliamentary Secretary P.D. Sona said the meeting was convened to solve all core issues of the dam affected people and the company's responsibility towards tribals.

Lorang Loham, ZPM, Kapu Anchal Block was elected unopposed as the Zilla Parishad Chairperson of Tirap district on Wednesday. The election for the ZPC came following creation of Longding district.

Now the weather forecast....

According to the Met Centre the weather will be generally cloudy with a few spells of rain or thundershower over Itanagar and nearby areas during the next 24 hours. The maximum temperature recorded today was 25.8 degree Celsius with a minimum of 16.9 degree Celsius and a rainfall of 56.4mm.