

UP conversion racket

Razing of structures on govt land by mastermind enters day 3

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BALRAMPUR

THE district administration here has removed around 80 per cent of illegal constructions on government land allegedly encroached upon by Jalaluddin alias Chhangur Baba, the 'mastermind' of a religious conversion racket nabbed by the Uttar Pradesh ATS, an official said on Thursday.

He informed reporters that eight bulldozers have been deployed to clear the

encroachments, covering an area of around one acre.

"The action began on Tuesday and is still underway. On the first day, 20 per cent of the illegal construction was demolished. By Wednesday, 80 per cent of the illegal construction was demolished," the senior official said, adding that it would continue till the land is completely free of encroachment.

Additional Superintendent of Police Vishal Pandey said a complaint was received that Chhangur Baba had

In the initial probe, it has come to light that the activities of the accused Jalaluddin are not only against society but also against the nation: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

grabbed government land in Madhyapur village, and a probe found the allegation to



be true. Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) on

Wednesday secured a week-long custody of Jalaluddin alias Chhangur Baba and his

associate Neetu alias Nasreen.

Four people had been arrested in connection with the case. While Chhangur Baba and Nasreen were arrested last Saturday, two other co-accused, Naveen alias Jamaluddin and Jalaluddin's son Me-hboob, were arrested in April.

The police have alleged that the accused acted in an organised manner to convert individuals from Hindu and other non-Muslim communities to Islam. Investigators

allege that the racket targeted poor labourers, widows, and vulnerable individuals, who were allegedly coerced, misled with financial incentives, or manipulated through marriage proposals.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had said, "In the initial probe, it has come to light that the activities of the accused Jalaluddin are not only against society but also against the nation."

Asserting that there will be no leniency in matters related to law and order in the

state, the chief minister had said that properties of the accused and others linked to his gang would be seized, and strict legal action would be taken against them.

The case, registered at the ATS police station in Gomtinagar, Lucknow, includes charges under BNS Sections 121A (waging war against the state), 153A (promoting enmity), 417 (cheating), 420 (fraud), and provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Act, 2021.

Several HP roads closed for traffic due to downpour

Mandi, which was ravaged by 10 cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides, leading to the death of 15 people in the intervening night of June 30 and July 1, saw 138 roads closed

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA

HEAVY rain in the past few days has led to the closure of 245 roads, including the Mandi-Dharampur stretch of the National Highway-3 that connects Attari in Punjab with Leh in Ladakh, officials said on Thursday.

Mandi, which was ravaged by 10 cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides, leading to the death of 15 people in the intervening night of June 30 and July 1, saw 138 roads closed while 124 transformers and 137 water supply schemes were affected.

According to the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC), a total of 192 transformers and 740 water



supply schemes were disrupted in the state on Thursday morning.

Isolated places in Sirmour and Bilaspur districts were lashed by heavy rain. Dhaulakuan was the wettest in the state, recording 168.5 mm of rain since Wednesday evening, followed by Bilaspur, 120.4 mm.

Low to moderate rains occurred in several parts of the state. Manali received 46 mm of rain, Jubbarhatti 44.2 mm, Nagrota Suriya 42.4 mm, Poanta Sahib 38.4 mm, Sujanpur Tira 37.5 mm, Jatton Bar-rage 34.6 mm, Nahan 34.1 mm and Guler 32.8 mm.

The local weather office has issued a yellow alert of heavy rainfall at isolated places in the state from Sunday to Wednesday. It also warned of low to moderate flash-flood risk in parts of Chamba, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla and Sirmour districts.

Two arrested for pelting stones at Rajdhani Exp

Following an extensive search operation, RPF personnel apprehended Mohd Lateef and Mohd Saeem, who admitted to throwing stones at the train while under the influence of alcohol

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KANPUR

TWO men have been arrested for allegedly pelting stones at the New Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani Express near Chandari railway station here, a senior Railway Protection Force official said on Thursday.

Three coaches of the train were damaged in the incident. "A probe was launched immediately after the incident," Assistant Security Commissioner of Railway Protection Force (RPF) Vivek Verma told PTL. Following an extensive search operation, RPF personnel apprehended Mohd Lateef and Mohd Saeem, who admitted to throwing stones at the train while under the influence of alcohol. Verma said authorities are checking the criminal



background of the accused and investigating their possible involvement in other stone-pelting incidents.

In light of the incident, security arrangements at Kanpur Central railway station and nearby areas are being intensified.

According to officials, several cases of stone pelting on trains have been reported in recent months along the stretch between Kanpur Central and Chandari. In another incident, A

22-year-old man was found dead under suspicious circumstances near a hotel on the Etah-Kasganj road early Thursday, police said.

The man identified as Anshul was found critically injured by the roadside around 3 am.

After being notified by passersby, police reached the scene and rushed the victim to Etah Medical College, where doctors declared him dead on arrival, officials said.

According to Kotwali Dehat Station House Officer (SHO) RK Singh, Anshul was a resident of Amapur town in Kasganj district.

"His family said he had left home on Tuesday evening, saying he was going to Etah market. However, they were unaware how he ended up on the Etah-Kasganj road instead of the Etah-Sahawar-Amapur route," Singh said.

The body has been sent for postmortem. Police are investigating all possible angles for further leads, he added. Preliminary probe suggested that Anshul may have been hit by an unknown vehicle, SHO Singh said.

However, the family has raised suspicion on the body being found at the spot and circumstances leading to his death.



Raj University students demand union elections

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR

PROTESTERS demanding restoration of student union elections at Rajasthan University asserted their demand uniquely by placing cut-outs of prominent political leaders who launched their political careers through student politics.

They used the cut-outs of former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and other leaders to voice their demands.

Student leader Shubhm Rewad, who has been spearheading the protest, said that the university administration and the state government should permit the elections.

"The state government claimed that student union elections were not producing any outcomes. But today, we are standing here with the

cut-outs of those leaders who emerged from student union elections," he told reporters.

Besides Ashok Gehlot and Shekhawat, cut-outs of Hanuman Beniwal, Satish Poonia, Rajendra Rathore, Ashok Lahoti, Harish Chaudhary and other leaders were also placed at the protest site.

Reacting to the protest, former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot called for the immediate restoration of student union elections.

"Rajasthan's youth have been demanding student union elections for a long time, but the BJP government is disappointing them," Gehlot said.

The Congress leader said that there should be no obstacles in conducting these elections. He also said that during his tenure, the polls were postponed (in 2023) due to the state assembly elections.

UP Int'l Trade Show: Roadshow in Hyd today

HANS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW

AHEAD of the third edition of the UP International Trade Show 2025, the state government is organising mega roadshows across India's key industrial hubs, and the next event is scheduled to be held in Hyderabad on Friday.

This event will present Uttar Pradesh's strengths in trade, investment, exports, and innovation to stakeholders in southern India, the government said in a statement on Thursday.

Minister for MSME, Khadi and Village Industries, Handloom and Textiles, Rakesh Sachan, will outline the state government's forward-looking vision at the event, it said. "The primary objective of this mega roadshow is to showcase the state's Export



Vision 2025. The event will witness participation from foreign diplomats, embassy officials, international buyers, trade organisations, industry leaders, and startup representatives," it stated.

"Uttar Pradesh's delegation will present a comprehensive picture of the state's industrial progress, infrastructure development, investor-friendly ecosystem, and policy-driven governance," it added. The government said key sectors such as MSME, One District One Product (ODOP), textiles, electronics, electric vehicles, IT, agro-based industries, and food

processing will be prominently featured, highlighting their immense potential.

"The roadshow will serve not only as an opportunity for investors and industry leaders, but also as a vital step in connecting Uttar Pradesh's indigenous products to global platforms," it said.

These roadshows are being held in preparation for the UP International Trade Show (ITS) 2025, scheduled from September 25 to 29 in Greater Noida.

The aim is to engage and invite industry leaders and foreign representatives to actively participate in the event. After the successful launch in New Delhi, upcoming roadshows are planned in Bengaluru (July 18), Mumbai (July 25), and Ahmedabad (July 30), it added.

Man, sister arrested with heroin worth Rs 70 lakh

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU

A brother-sister duo were arrested with 550 grams of heroin worth Rs 70 lakh on the outskirts of Jammu city on Thursday, police said.

They said the accused have been identified as Gurjeet Singh and his sister Navneet Kour from Tanda village in RS Pura.

During routine checking at the Balol checkpoint in the Miran Sahib area, police intercepted two people travelling on a scooter and recovered 550 grams of heroin from them. Their scooter was seized, police said. The recovered contraband is valued at Rs 70 lakh in the international market.



An FIR has been registered against the siblings at Miran Sahib police station under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, they said. According to police, the mother of the two accused was arrested in a drug peddling case by Punjab Police in June.

The interrogation of the accused is expected to provide further leads on the drug supply chain and distribution network, police said.

The source and destination of the drug consignment are yet to be ascertained. A financial investigation has also been initiated to trace the proceeds of the illegal narcotic trade, they said.

UP woman kills hubby with lover's help; both arrested

HANS NEWS SERVICE
UNNAO

A woman and her lover allegedly killed her husband by slitting his throat and dumped the decapitated body from a drain in Kanchankheda village here, following which the duo was arrested, police said on Thursday.

Sheeba (24) and Farman alias Chunna (26) were arrested on Wednesday.

During interrogation, both the accused confessed to having killed Imran (28) in connivance with Farman's friend Rafiq Qureshi, police said.

Police received information about blood stains near a drain culvert in the village and initiated an inspection that led to the recovery of the decapitated body from the drain. A case was registered,



and the body was later identified as that of Imran, a resident of Akhlaq Nagar under Gangaghat police station limits. The body was identified from the mobile phone and documents found in the pockets.

Circle Officer (CO) Bighapur Rishikant Shukla said that Sheeba and Far-

man were in a relationship for a long time, and ongoing disputes with the husband prompted them to plan the murder.

The accused allegedly intoxicated Imran before slitting his throat with a knife, the officer said, adding efforts were on to nab the third accused, who is absconding.

Sutlej-Yamuna Link issue will be resolved soon: Saini

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

HARYANA Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has expressed confidence that the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) issue will be resolved soon, asserting that the Punjab government has also sought a solution to the problem.

Saini made the remarks after attending a high-level meeting here on the SYL issue convened by Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Paatil on Wednesday. The chief minister said a meaningful discussion took place in a cordial atmosphere in the meeting which was also attended by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. It was decided that the next meeting

will take place on August 5, a state government release said. Speaking to the media after the meeting, Chief Minister Saini said meaningful discussions were held in the meeting. He said the chief minister of Punjab also acknowledged that this issue should be resolved as it has remained pending for far too long. Saini expressed confidence that a positive outcome will be achieved on this issue. He said that Punjab and Haryana are like brothers, and even today, they share a common space with mutual respect and harmony.

He added that discussions in the next meeting are expected to lead to a better solution and yield positive results.

Redressing every citizen's grievance is govt's top priority: Adityanath

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GORAKHPUR

GRIEVANCE redressal must be both result-oriented and people-centric, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Thursday.

The chief minister made the remarks at a Janta Darshan programme at the Gorakhnath temple where he met around 200 people and heard their grievances. Many persons, including women, raised issues related to land disputes and illegal encroachments, it said.

The chief minister took serious note and directed officials to take swift and strict action. He stressed that resolutions must be prompt and effective.

For those seeking financial assistance for treatment of serious illnesses, Adityanath as-

sured them that lack of money would not hinder anyone's medical care.

He instructed the administration to expedite the preparation of cost estimates for patients concerned and submit them to the government immediately so that funds could be released without delay.

Taking serious note of the alleged suicide attempt by a lekhpal in this district, CM ordered a high-level investigation into the matter.

Subhash Meena, a lekhpal (revenue official), suspended over bribery allegations allegedly consumed a poisonous substance at his premises in Dhaulana Tehsil of this district on Wednesday.

Taking cognisance of this incident, the chief minister ordered a high-level probe by the

divisional commissioner and inspector general of police of Meerut Zone.

Meena's suspension on June 3 followed the villagers' allegations of demanding money for land records.

"On July 7, the CO Chakbandi had filed a chargesheet in allegations against the lekhpal," said Dhau-lana SDM Shubham Srivastava.

"The suspended lekhpal's condition is stable," he added. Sources suggest that "a significant sum of money was allegedly being demanded from both the lekhpal and the private employee to settle the registered report".

Police are investigating the complainant.

The lekhpals staged a protest at the hospital here following the suicide attempt.

Hapur lekhpal suicide attempt: CM Yogi orders high-level probe

