

City Monitoring Report - 15th May, 2010

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Delhi City Monitoring

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Law and Order

Dry day for vehicles as pumps shut

A majority of petrol pumps in the city remained closed on Friday to protest against the government's decision to hike VAT on diesel from 12.5% to 20%. As a result, many Delhiites who ran short on fuel were forced to opt for car pools and public transport. Starting May 24, petrol pumps will remain closed on all Mondays to mark their protest and also cut costs.

On Friday, all petrol pumps barring 10 which are company-owned and company operated, remained closed.

Dealers, meanwhile, remained firm on their stand. "Our intention is not to make the common man suffer. But we are also helpless. No one is benefiting from the government's decision to increase VAT on diesel. People are paying more, we are suffering losses as a large number of motorists are not getting diesel from NCR, pollution levels are on the rise and the government's revenue has also not increased due to a sharp decline in sales. But the government isn't even giving us a hearing," said Atul Peshawaria, President, Delhi Petrol Dealers Association.

Meanwhile, Delhi finance minister AK Walia met representatives of oil companies on Friday to discuss the issue. Walia was reportedly given sales figures and told that the collections of petrol pumps located near the city borders are the worst hit. The minister has reportedly asked for more details on collections.

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Law & Order

Three-day ATM strike this month

Brace for long queues at bank branches for three days as the Bengal Provincial Bank Employees' Association has decided to go for a three-day ATM strike later this month in Bengal.

It has called a shutdown on May 17, 28 and 29 demanding minimum wages notified by the Centre and eight-hours-a-day work for ATM contract employees. The ATMs of 14 PSU banks, including SBI, and five private sector banks are under the purview of the strike.

Some of the banks that will be affected are Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, PNB, Allahabad Bank, Central Bank, Union Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, United Bank of India, UCO Bank, Andhra Bank, Vijaya Bank, Bank of Rajasthan, Yes Bank, Federal Bank and Karur Vysya Bank. These banks have over 2,000 ATMs across the state and have over 4,000 contract employees.

Rs 5-lakh burglary at film production firm

Burglars decamped with Rs 5 lakh in cash from the office of a film production and distribution house in central Kolkata on Thursday night.

Police said the miscreants broke into the fourth-floor office of Shree Venkatesh Films on Waterloo Street and stole the cash after breaking the cashier's drawer. Initial probe suggested that the burglars scaled up a rainwater pipe behind the building and broke a windowpane. They entered through the window.

Around 9.30 am on Friday, employees of the production house noticed the broken drawer and found the cash missing. Vishnu Mohta, one of the proprietors of the firm, informed Hare Street police station. Detectives from Kolkata Police's anti-burglary squad have started probe along with the officers of police station.

Police suspect this may be the handiwork of one of the new gangs of burglars that have started operating in the city.

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Gang in auto robs bizman of Rs 60,000

A 62-year-old small-time businessman was on Thursday morning dragged into an autorickshaw in Parris by an unidentified gang, a sedative allegedly sprayed in his face and Rs 60,000 snatched from him. He was then pushed out on to the road.

According to the police, around 6 am, Antony Raj stepped off an MTC bus and was walking

along Rajaji Salai when an auto stopped near him and he was dragged in. Raj screamed and some passers-by rushed there but those in the auto sent them away saying the senior citizen (Raj) had left home after quarrelling with family members and that they were taking him back.

The police said Raj usually carried Rs 10,000 with him. On Thursday he came with Rs 60,000. Someone may have tipped off the gang about the cash he was carrying. The police, however, denied that he was sprayed with a sedative.

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Powerless Saturday for Bangalore

Brace yourself for a sweaty Saturday as the electricity supply in many parts of the city will be affected. While most areas will witness power cut from 10 am to 5 pm, some will not be as badly hit. The affected areas are:

Krishna Temple Road, CMH Road, Binnamangala, Indiranagar 1st and 2nd Stages, Baiyappanahalli, Parts of MG Road, Old Madras Road, Cambridge Road, Ulsoor Road, Artillery Road, Jogupalya, Kasturi Nagar, Krishnaiyanapalya, Sadananda Nagar, East of NGEF Layout, Benniganahally, Krishnareddy Industrial Area, Muthappa Industrial Area, Dargamahall, Jyothipura, Pai Layout, Udayanagar, Nagavara Palya Market, Varthur Road, Byrasandra, Bhuvaneshwarinagar, Parts of CV Raman Nagar, Kaggadasapura 1st Cross to 13th Cross, Balaji Layout, Abbaiah Layout, Rahat Bagh of Defence Colony, Kensington Road, Ulsoor, Lakshmipura, Kadirena Palya, Mical Palya, B M Kavel and surrounding areas.

BTM 2nd Stage, Jayanagar 9th Block, J P Nagar 2nd & 3rd Phase, Madiwala, Gurappana Palya, Bismilla Nagar, Chikk Adugodi, IAS Colony, Madina Nagar, N S Palya, N S Palya Industrial Area, Mico Layout, Bank Officers Colony, Nanjappa Layout, Belekalli and surrounding areas.

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Hyderabad City Monitoring

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Law & Order

Cop dies in Hyderabad shootout, high alert in city

A policeman was killed and two others were injured when two people on a motorcycle opened fire at a police picket in Hyderabad on Friday. The police suspect involvement of a terror operative Viqar Ahmed in the incident.

Eyewitnesses said two people on a motor cycle opened fire on the picket in Shahali Banda, about a kilometre from the historic Charminar and Mecca Masjid, in the Old City area.

The policemen were deployed as part of the security arrangements ahead of the third anniversary of the blast at the Mecca Masjid (May 18). The assailants fled after the attack.

The incident sent shock waves as it came despite the continuing search operations by police for over a fortnight amid intelligence warnings of possible terror attacks and close on the heels of the arrest of a terror suspect.

On May 3, an alleged terror suspect of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Mohammed Zia-ul-Haq, 34, was held for planning to cause explosions in the city.

Police have put up barricades at several points in the city and started checking vehicles and frisking people.

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Drugs worth Rs 3.5L seized

The state drug controller, along with CRPF and RPF men, carried out a raid at the parcel house at Patna Junction on Friday and seized drugs of different companies from there.

Patna GRP SHO Alok Kumar said acting on a tip off about the presence of the drugs at the parcel house, the GRP informed the officials of drug control wing of the state health department. He said the drug controller reached the parcel house and seized drugs worth Rs 3.50 lakh from there. He said one Rajan Jaiswal, who was booking the consignment of drugs to Varanasi, was arrested.

Kumar said the drug controller checked the documents and found that they lacked proper travel papers. He said an FIR has been lodged with the Patna GRP. "The GRP would now investigate as to how these drugs landed in Patna as it could have been directly despatched to the parties from the factories itself. Secondly, the GRP would investigate whether there is any involvement of officials of parcel house in transaction of the drugs. Thirdly, it will be probed whether these drugs are genuine or fake," the SHO said.

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Law & Order

Four policemen arrested for supplying weapons to Naxals: Police

Four policemen were arrested for allegedly supplying arms and ammunition to Naxals and anti-social elements, taking the total number of those nabbed in the scam to 10, police said yesterday.

Constable Sushil Kumar of para-military PAC unit in Gonda, and police armourers Rajesh Shahi, posted in Gorakhpur, and Amar Singh and Jitendra Singh, posted in Faizabad, were taken into custody last evening, they said.

On April 30, the Special Task Force had arrested five security personnel and a retired sub-inspector following inputs that a large quantity of cartridges were being allegedly smuggled out of the CRPF group centre at Rampur through a source in Allahabad to various criminal gangs and possibly Naxals.

Over 5,000 live cartridges, 16 magazines of INSAS rifles, .25 bore guns, SLR and AK-47s were then recovered besides 245 kg of empty shells following raids at various places.

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5 hurt in Srinagar grenade attack

Three CRPF personnel and two civilians were injured when militants lobbed a grenade towards a security picket in the Saraf Kadal locality here yesterday afternoon. Several others were injured in clashes between stone throwing youths and the police at different places in downtown Srinagar and elsewhere in Ganderbal, Sopore and Baramulla areas.

Five persons, including three personnel of 44 Bn CRPF, were injured in the grenade attack on a CRPF picket in the Saraf Kadal locality near MR Gunj in downtown around 4.30 pm yesterday.

The grenade thrown towards the CRPF picket exploded during the clashes between stone throwing youths and the security forces in the area after the Friday prayers. The clashes took place during the 'peaceful demonstrations' called by Syed Ali Geelani's APHC against alleged human rights violations and death sentence to three persons in the Lajpat Nagar blast case of 1996.

Groups of protesting youths also held demonstrations in parts of Ganderbal district, near here. Several others were injured in the clashes with the police in Sopore and Baramulla towns.

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Law & Order

Ten dead, 125 injured in Bangkok violence

Thai troops opened fire on protesters on Friday after a military lockdown of their vast rally site in the heart of the capital sparked fierce clashes that left 10 people dead and 125 wounded.

Security forces moved to regain control of a road close to the Suan Lum night bazaar, a popular spot with tourists, after "Red Shirt" demonstrators spilled out of their fortified rally base, which was under siege by troops.

The protesters, who are trying to bring down the government of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, threw stones, used slingshots and launched fireworks at the troops as the two-month standoff descended into more violence.

As night fell, gunfire continued to ring out close to the protest site, which was still occupied by thousands of demonstrators. Several blasts were heard in the nearby financial district but the cause was unclear.

Nine men and one woman, all civilians, were killed in the violence, according to the official Erawan emergency centre. The injured included at least three foreigners, it said.

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