

MAMATA GOES ON STIR AFTER CBI MOVE

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The State-Centre crisis related to the chit fund scam investigation by the CBI took a sharp turn around 7 p.m. when CBI officials reached the residence of the Police Commissioner in south Kolkata. They tried to enter the residence to question him.

The Shakespeare Sarani police station, half-a-km from the police chief's house, was immediately informed. Officials from the station reached Mr. Kumar's house and stopped the CBI officials from entering it. The Kolkata police told the CBI officers that they needed to approach the station for permission. When the CBI officials went there, they were bundled into a police vehicle. The police and CBI officials engaged in a fist fight as the latter were pushed into the vehicle.

Meanwhile, the city streets under South Division of KP were shut down and the Chief Minister, who reached the police commissioner's residence by 7.30 p.m., convened a high-level meeting of the Ministers, government officials and her advisers. The incident is described as "unprecedented" in the history of the Kolkata police.

Within minutes of Ms. Banerjee's announcement to go on a dharna, a stage was erected for her and her colleagues. The area falls under the Metro Channel Control Post, Hare Street Police station, and a police official said "as far as indications go, she may continue with her protest."

Ms. Banerjee also said that "a makeshift room will be constructed by the dharna mancha" for her to do daily meetings. "I will not be able to attend Monday's [State] Budget presentation in the Assembly but will do the necessary meeting in the makeshift room," Ms. Banerjee said.

The atmosphere was electric as hundreds of supporters of the Trinamool Congress reached the area late on Sunday night. They were shouting slogans against the Prime Minister: 'Modi Hatao, Desh Bachao.'

The entire Trinamool Cabinet and all senior State government officials reached the dharna mancha by 10 p.m. Ms. Banerjee confirmed that Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Congress veteran Ahmed Patel called her and expressed solidarity.

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