

Tobacco ignites Gogoi-Sarma difference



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Amid conflict between Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi and health minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, the former refused to bring a legislation in the Assam assembly to ban Gutkha.

According to Gogoi, it would be more convenient to ban harmful tobacco products under the existing Food Safety Act because the latter had been upheld by courts, including the Supreme Court.

It's a major embarrassment for Dr Sarma who often boasts of his landmark initiative to bring the legislation.

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NAZIRA, September 27, 2026 — Tension continues to prevail in Nazira, particularly in the Santak-Bihubar area, following the killing of Biman Barua, president of the Rangajan Yuva Samaj and a youth social worker, on September 18 under Bihubar Police Station.

Following the killing, local residents have been demanding stringent punishment for the alleged masterminds, Ravindra Singh alias Vicky Singh and Rubul Khan, besides seeking demolition of Vicky Singh's residence.

Meanwhile, Sivasagar district police have taken Vicky Singh and Rubul Khan into custody and are questioning them at the district headquarters police station in connection with the murder case and allegations of drug-related activities.

According to police sources, the two allegedly told investigators during questioning that drugs were brought from Dimapur and Nagaland and stored at the residence of Vicky Singh's sister in Nazira town. The drugs were allegedly supplied from the house to users in different parts of Nazira and Sivasagar.

Based on the information allegedly obtained during the questioning, a joint team of Bihubar Police and Nazira Model Police Station conducted a raid at the residence of Vicky Singh's sister, Rinki Singh Bora, in Ward No. 6 of Nazira town on Saturday morning.

Police detained Rinki Singh Bora and are reportedly questioning her in connection with the alleged storage and distribution of drugs.

The investigation into the murder of Biman Barua and the alleged drug network is continuing.

SK Hasan

Freelance journalist, Nazira, Sibasagar district.

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