



Showing Solidarity to Irom Sharmila : women staged one day fast protest on Ningol Chakouba day

Gaikhangam warns people to be aware of divisive communal force

IT News
Imphal, Nov. 14: Deputy Chief Minister Gaikhangam, also President of Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) today warned the people of the state from divisive communal forces which is trying to play spoil to the integrity of the state. Speaking at the closing function of the yearlong celebration of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Pandit Jawarhalal Nehru, here at Congress Bhavan, BT Road Imphal, Gaikhangam said that divisive communal forces are trying to distort the unity of the state and are trying to personalize by playing blame game when spoken for the integrity of the state. Indirectly pointing fingers to state BJP leaders but without mentioning their name, Gaikhangam said that they are angry for standing and speaking for the people of the state.

“Without Nagas, Kukis, Muslims or Meiteis, there **Maoist lifts ban on Sangai Festival**

IT News
Imphal, Nov.14: Maoist Communist Party, Manipur has lifted ban on Sangai Festival saying that the outfit would like to prove the people on promotion of Tourism Industries in the state by organising such festival. In a press statement said the party banned certain business enterprises like KB Enterprises for interfering to the party matters without diagnosing the reason behind banning of the festival. “The party challenged to see how much the tourism in Manipur could be promoted through this festival which has been an agenda of India Government without any intervention from the Party’s side”, the statement read. The Party said that they had been banning the festival since 2011.

cannot be a Manipur. Manipur is for all of us and nobody has the right to distort the unity”, Gaikhangam said. He said that any challenges to the integrity of the state will not be tolerated. On the allegation by rival political party about his signing to the Naga Integration movement years back, Gaikhangam shrewdly clarified that before blaming others circumstances leading to such act should be studied. “They should know whether it is done under duress or under some pressure before putting such allegation”, he said. Gaikhangam added that people know the rise of threat perception every time

he talk and he is not afraid to sacrifice for the cause of the integrity of the state. Recalling the role played by Congress party in restoring freedom from the British colonial regime and rebuilding of a modern India, Gaikhangam said that under the guidance of the Congress leadership like Pandit Jawarhalal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, the country is marching towards peaceful, developed and prosperous nation. He also highlighted the visions of Pandit Nehru, who is regarded as the Architect of Modern India, saying that Nehru not only think for the country alone but for the whole world and for humanity. Regarding the upcoming by-

election at Thongju and Thangmeiband Assembly Constituencies scheduled on November 21, Gaikhangam said that people will teach lesson to BJP for the third time. “Six months after the BJP came to power at the centre with false promises, Delhi had taught the BJP a lesson, then recently in Bihar election people had taught the party for the second time and now the by-election at Thongju and Thangmeiband Assembly constituencies will taught the party a lesson for the third time not to fool the people”, a confident Gaikhangam said. He also added that they can fool some people all the time but they cannot fool all the people all the time.

Irom Sharmila’s family never celebrate Ningol Chakouba since 2000

IT News
Imphal, Nov.14: Women from several women organizations joined Irom Sharmila’s 16 years of struggle to repeal AFSPA on the very special day of Ningol Chakouba. A number of women staged a fast protest demanding repeal the draconian Act at Sakal Sanglen, Porompat. The fast protest was organized by Sharmila Kanba Lup (SAKAL) under the banner “Call for One Day Fast in support of Irom Sharmila Chanu and for the repeal of AFSPA Program on NingolChakouba Day”. While joining the demand protest, Irom Singhajit brother of Sharmila lamented the Indian democracy silence on the issues of military regime in Manipur. He further said that although today is a very special occasion in Manipur yet since Sharmila start her fast in 2000 their families never celebrated Ningol Chakouba.

Representatives of various women organizations from different communities such as Sharmila KanbaLup (SAKAL), Lamshang Hundi Women’s Society (Kabui organisation), Thawanthaba

Women’s Development Society (Muslim organisation), Linthoinambi Women’s Welfare Association of Lup 18, Lamshang, Taothang, Porompat, Ayangpalli

TSA congratulates victorious Thadou candidates

IT News
Imphal, Nov.14: The Thadou Students’ Association – General Headquarters (TSA-GHQ) congratulated Thadou candidates Thangkhoab Hoakip and Thongkhomang Haokip for their victory in the recent Myanmar general election.

“Beyond Brahmaputra” Speaking to the media, Col (ret’d) Satish Malik said “Beyond Brahmaputra” gives a message about limitless abilities of people who are physically challenged. Inspired a general sense of adventure in the masses and bring people from rest of India closer to the northeast by spreading the spirit of brotherhood, peace and friendship.

Women’s Organisation, TummiChingmiApunbaLup, Leiphrakpam Branch, Wangoi took part in the fast protest and expressed the togetherness to strengthen the movement to repealAFSPA.

Thangkhoab Hoakip fought in the election from Tamu-2 constituency in Sagaing Division while Thongkhomang Haokip fought from Tonjang-1 constituency in Chin State. Both candidates had fought for Aung San Suu Kyi-led National League for Democracy (NLD).

120 dead in Paris attacks, worst since WWII

Courtesy: AP
Paris, Nov 14: A series of attacks targeting young concert-goers, soccer fans and Parisians enjoying a Friday night out at popular nightspots killed at least 120 people in the deadliest violence to strike France since World War II. President Francois Hollande condemned it as terrorism and pledged that France would stand firm against its foes. The worst carnage was at a concert hall hosting an American rock band, where scores of people were held hostage and attackers ended the standoff by detonating explosive belts. Police who

stormed the building encountered a bloody scene of horror inside. When the attacks were over, eight attackers were dead — seven of them in suicide explosions, one killed by security forces in the music venue, Paris prosecutor’s spokeswoman Agnes Thibault-Lecuire told The Associated Press. She could not exclude the possibility that some attackers might still be at large. Authorities are searching for possible accomplices. The death toll was at least 120 people at six sites, including the national stadium and a circle of popular nightspots,

Thibault-Lecuire said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks. Jihadists on Twitter immediately praised them and criticized France’s military operations against Islamic State extremists. Witnesses in the concert hall described hearing attackers say “Allahu Akbar.” Hollande declared a state of emergency and announced that he was closing the country’s borders, although officials later said they were just re-imposing border checks that had been removed after Europe created its free-travel zone in the 1980s.

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National library week observed

IT News
Imphal, Nov 14: Two Day National Seminar under the theme of “Modernization of Library in Digital Era”, the observance of the National Library Week has begun today at the main hall of Manipur Press Club, Imphal. The observance is being organized by Manipur Library Association (MALA) in collaboration with Ministry of Culture, Government of India and Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata.

The inaugural function was attended by Kangjam Radhakumar Singh, IAS, Secretary (Art and Culture/Revenue), Th Prameshwar Singh, Director NIELIT, Imphal, Kangjam Chaoba Singh, President Manipur Library Association (MALA)

and Prof Narendra Lahkar, HOD, Library and Information Science, Guwahati University as guests of today’s function. During the function, Kangjam Radhakumar Singh, IAS, Secretary (Art and Culture/Revenue) said that the role of those students graduated in the field of library science is very important in preserving the history and going along with the modern library era. The fact of advancement in the scientific way must be admitted and must be think globally like in E-Library, E-Book but the library era which was there before the digital era must not be forgotten, he added. Narendra Lahkar, HOD, Library and Information Science, Guwahati University also said in the function that library and information

centers must be developed sufficiently so that users can meet the needs without facing any complexities. Library should be given equal weightage to the physical as well as to the digital documents, he added. Narendra Lahkar further said that in context of modernization of libraries, existing library staffs are required to undergo training programme to make them worthy in the new environment. Ignoring them and recruiting new library staffs professionals equipped with new technology will adversely affect the environment. Innovate, automate or evaporate is the guideline that today’s library must realize in context of modernization of libraries, he added.

Recitation Competition on Naoria Phulo’s Poem

IT News
Imphal, Nov 14: The 5th Recitation Competition of Naoria Phulo’s Poem organized by Laininghan Naoria Phulo Charitable Trust, Soibam Leikai, Wangkhei Khunou, Imphal, was held today at Manipur Dramatic Union (MDU) Hall, Yaikul Police Lane, Imphal. Prof. E Dinamani, Ex President, Manipur Sahitya Parishad, Imphal, NK Puthiba, President

Apokpa Marup, Singjamei Akampat, N.Tomba, Executive Editor, Pandam Daily Evening News, S Manaoon Singh, Eminent Social Worker, L Joy Khuman, Secretary, All Manipur Recognised Private Schools Welfare Association were chaired as guests of today’s recitation competition of Naoria Phulo’s Poem and Doren Khaba Ngamba, Founder of Down Public School also attended as

special invitee. Speaking in the function, S Manaoon Singh, Eminent Social Worker said that with the efforts of Naoria Phulo, Manipur regained its lost culture, lost identities. The significance of Sanamah religion or Meitei religion of Manipur was also taught by Naoria Phulo, he added. Around 50 students from different schools took part in the recitation competition.

Missing history traced: 87 Brave Manipurians of the First World War

By - Yumnam Rajeshwar Singh

“In January 1917 the Secretary of State for India informed the Viceroy that 50,000 “South African kaffirs” were being sent to France and asked if he could supply an equal number of labourers. While other local governments remained noncommittal, Archdale Earle, Chief Commissioner of Assam, offered “eight to ten thousand able-bodied hill-men. Quite remarkably, this labour was being offered from the most sparsely populated tracts of Assam- the Garo, Khasi, and Jaintia hills and down along the Assam Burma frontier, the Naga hills, the mountainous tracts of Manipur Princesly State and the Lushai hills” (Radhika Singha). In April 1917, a group of 2000 recruits for the Labour Corps assembled in Imphal. They underwent a short period (around three weeks) of rigorous intensive physical training and on basic warfare knowledge. The leaders of the various contingents were as follows: 1. Porachao and Angom Porom Singh of Phayeng led the Meitei contingent; 2. R.S.Ruichunghao led the 1200 strong Tangkhul

contingent; 3. Teba Kurong led the Kom contingent; and 4. Thomson Ngulhao, a Kuki Christian evangelist was the leader for the 500 Kuki recruits. (Pratap Chetri) ‘His Highness Maharajah Churhand Singh of Manipur State offered the Manipur Double Company and Manipur Labour corps which rendered distinguished service during the war. The Maharajah contributed an aeroplane and four motor ambulances amounted to Rs 51,300, Rs. 14670 to various relief funds, comfort funds and memorials, Rs40,830 towards the expenses of the Double Company and Rs 3044 towards the expenses of the Corps’ (Budheswar Pati) Recorded in The Gazette (London Gazette), issue 12680, 4 December 1917, His Highness Raja Chura Chand Singh, Raja of Manipur was appointed by the King of England to the Most Excellent order of the British Empire (CBE) for services in connection with the 1st World War. Later again as recorded in The Gazette (London Gazette), page 4, 1st January 1934, His Highness was appointed by the King of England as Knight Commander of the Order of the

Star of India (KCSI). Many Manipurians who went to participate the First World War must have died in various part of the world. After almost 96 years of the end of First World War, 87 numbers of Graves and Memorials belonging to Manipurians were discovered during my research in various cemeteries and memorials of France, Italy, Yemen and Egypt. The memorials and Graves belong to five different companies of Manipur Labour Corps. They are the 39th Manipuri Labour Coy, 40th Manipuri Labour Coy, 65th Manipuri Labour Coy, 66th Manipuri Labour Coy and the 22nd Manipuri Labour Coy. Out of these 87 Manipurians, two families had come forward to claim the photographs of the grave. Putanlung was originally from Tangkhul Hundung. His nephew is still today alive and lives in Litan. Putanlung is buried in ST. SEVER CEMETERY EXTENSION, in Rouen, France. Almost all of the hospitals at Rouen remained there for practically the whole of the war. They included eight general, five stationary, one British Red Cross, one labour hospital, and No. 2 Convalescent Depot. A number of the dead from these

hospitals were buried in other cemeteries, but the great majority were taken to the city cemetery of St. Sever. So it can be concluded that Putanlung died in a hospital due to illness or by a wound from a battle. There is a possibility of Putanlung’s death in one of the above Hospitals after a battle injury. The German offensive had started one month before he died. Another laborer’s grave picture was also handed over to his grandson, Mr Lohro from Mao, Manipur. The Grave of Akhill Pukhimi is also located in France in the Barly French Military Cemetery. Barly is a village and commune in the Department of the Pas-de-Calais, some 25 kilometres south-west of Arras. Pukhimi did not die in Barly. His remains were brought from isolated burials in France along with eight other Indians after the end of 1st world war to be reburied in this Cemetery. Manipur has no memorial dedicated to those who participated the Great War. It’s time now the present generation carves the name of those brave forgotten Manipurians, so that the future generation will cherish the memories of their forefather.

(List of the 87 Manipuri enclosed on page 2)