

Imphal, Feb 24: The All Manipur Working Journalists' Union (AMWJU) today condoled the untimely demise of Senior Journalist Khankhanthang Valte popularly known as KK Valte, Joint Editor of Churachandpur based Manipur Express. AMWJU President-in-charge, K Sarojkumar Sharma, standing committee members and Advisors of the union expressed deep sorrow and grief and observed two minute silence and prayer for the departed soul at Manipur Press club, states a press released from the union. KK Valte pass away on Friday evening following a brief illness at Churachandpur District.

We all should work together for a change: CM

DIPR
Imphal, Feb. 24: Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said that if we want a positive change in the society then we all should get involved to bring the change rather relying only on the Government. The change should begin within ourselves. This was stated by him at the inauguration of College Week Celebration, 2018 of D.M. College of Science held at D.M. College of Science campus, Imphal today.

Speaking as Chief Guest of the function, Chief Minister said that the new government is working towards bringing emotional integration, rebuilding the trust among the different communities living in the State. With such objective, the government has started a mission "Go to the Hills" to root out the

misunderstandings and mistrust among the communities and to bring equal/inclusive development in the State. Selfish desires and corrupted minds have ruined the State, he added. Chief Minister said that with the advent of the new government, we are fortunate to have a paradigm shift in the education sector. There is an improvement towards building a strong and positive relationship between the teachers and students in the State. Number of students enrolled in schools have increased manifold, he added.

Mentioning the initiatives of the new government in the education sector, Chief Minister said that the government is providing free education to the students upto class VIII in the State. He maintained that the government has streamlined the process of providing scholarships to the eligible students of the State. Mentioning that formal education is fixed and limited to a period, he called to the students to concentrate on their studies rather diverting their minds on something else. He assured that the government would open its doors 24X7 for any grievance and problems faced by the students. Chief Minister announced that under RUSA the colleges of the State would get a sum of Rs. 50 crores to improve the infrastructures, laboratories, library and classroom of the College. The State government would also share of a sum of Rs 5 crores in this regard, he added. Chief Minister said that in the last 11 months, the new government has waged a war against drugs to stop the negative impacts of drug abuse in the society. The government has already started new policies for drug abusers such as rehabilitation



programmes, imparting vocational training to them etc. The government is conducting mass drives to destroy the illegal plantation of poppy plants in various parts of the State. It is shame for the State to learn from the reports from Delhi and Uttar Pradesh that illegal drugs are being smuggled from Myanmar through Manipur. Chief Minister appealed that it is our collective responsibility of the people of the State to uphold and promote the positive image of the State to the outside world. Taking the opportunity of the function, he thanked the people of the Senapati District especially the youths, students

and civil societies of the area for extending co-operation and support to the government for destroying the poppy plants in the area. He said that such initiatives are a sign of change in the State.

Stressing on the negative effects of prolonged celebration of Yaoshang, Lai Haraoba in the State, Chief Minister said that various civil societies have appealed the people of the State to lessen the number of days of Yaoshang celebration. It is indeed good to hear that around 36 local clubs from the Kongba area have decided to reduce the number of days of Yaoshang celebration to 3 days, he added. He also said

that Umanglai Kanba Lup(UKAL) has also appealed the public to refrain from using loud speakers during the Lai Haraoba celebration in the State.

Minister for Education Th. Radheshyam said that such College week is being celebrated after 20 years so it is a sign of change in the education system. He stressed that such celebration would develop and promote health and wellness of the students through participation in game and sports activities. It would also develop self-belongingness, good citizenship, spirituality and general awareness among the students, he added.

The College Week Celebration includes Annual Sports Meet, Book Fair, Science Exhibition and Food Court.

Principal Secretary (Planning and School Education) Vineet Joshi, Commissioner (Higher and technical Education) H. Deleep Singh, Principal of D.M College of Science Dr. N. Ibotombi Singh, Retired Principal of D.M College of Science Dr. D.S. Sharma, teaching and non-teaching staffs and students of the College attended the function.

Hardship faced by widows of armed conflict victims narrated

IT News

Imphal, Feb. 24: Various hardships faced by widows and children of armed conflict victims was highlighted today in a round table conference organised by the Centre for Manipur Studies on the topic "Conflict (armed/Ethnic) Affected Manipur and Peace Efforts with Womn in Centre Stage at Manipur University today.

Renu Takhellambam of the Extra Judicial Execution Victim Families Association

(EEVFAM), narrated her experience on how she struggled along with other like minded victims families to get justice. She said that she being a widow of alleged UG have been denied any government scheme which other normal widow use to get. The stigma, and discrimination that they faced after the death of her husband was no difference from other widow but she has been denied of any facilities because her husband was a rebel. Renu Takhellambam at

present is a law abiding citizen of this land.

Hutchin Haopik, a woman activist also narrated on how the widows in Hill area are suffering while trying to get the benefit provided for the widow under various schemes of the government of India. He said that as the government offices sometime remain close for reason best known to them they have to return empty hand. She also shared her experience on the problems faced by women of hill areas.

Separate treatment for widows of rebels and that of Security Forces – Is it justified?

IT Desk

Imphal, Feb 24: Chief Minister N. Biren Singh new initiative to stop all kind of mob violence which some even term it as mob justice is one of the most appreciating effort. He had rightly pointed out that no good is brought by mob violence as it would tantamount the existing law of the land as well as image of a good governance. Before, N. Biren Singh led government came to power, people in the state have been experiencing the souring and intolerable mob violence at many part of the state.

A house being burnt, a family being thrown out and even mothers, sisters, and father being thrown out of the locality for a crime committed by a person. Showing his concern the Chief Minister had time and again stated that why should the members of the family of those criminal be punished for the crime committed by a member of the family.

This is a common understanding and everyone of us knows that the Chief Minister is right and almost all people support any such measures to counter mob violence.

Well, when Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said that no family member should be punished for a crime committed by a family member, he meant to say that not everyone of his family is criminal. The Chief Minister is right. One family member's criminal act cannot make all the members as criminal.

Well there is government scheme for financial assistance to widows and children of victims of conflict. If a person, civilian died in cross firing between security force and armed insurgence they are entitled to get some amount of

financial assistance from the government. This scheme does not cover widows of alleged rebels or say terrorist in the language of the government.

Widows and children of insurgences or say terrorist suffer the same like those of the security forces or civilian. Of course the civilian victim if happen to be a government employee or the security force somewhat were left with certain facilities. But when it comes to the widows and Children of the rebels then they are left with no choice. These children and widow of insurgence even though have no connection with what their father had done, were treated discriminately with other women. They are left on their own to survive.

Something seriously is wrong the way that financial assistances are provided to victims of conflict.

On one hand if the widows and children of rebels are left with such attitude that there is a possibility that they felt discriminatory and are being punished for the crime that they have not committed.

What difference does it make for a mob punishing the family of a criminal and for the state government treating widows and children of rebels who were killed in encounter or alleged encounter as two separate categories? Widows are widow, no matter her husband was a civilian, security forces or armed rebel group.

The financial assistance provided by the government to widow should not be discriminated. The system need to be changed.

Its time to ponder in this specific issue as reducing crime rate is now priority of the government running the state.

RPF to observed 39th Foundation Day as Independence Demand Day

A peaceful and progressive situation can be achieved in Manipur only when the country becomes independent and freed from any foreign domination- I. Chaoren

IT News

Imphal, Feb 24: Proscribed group Revolutionary Peoples' Front, a rebel group fighting for restoration of the Manipur's sovereignty is observing its 39th Foundation Day as Independence Demand Day tomorrow.

"A peaceful and progressive situation can be achieved in Manipur only when the country becomes independent and freed from any foreign domination", Irengbam Chaoren

President, Revolutionary People's Front said in a message made available to media houses in connection with the Independence Demand Day.

The statement further said that the restive situation prevailing in the society and the shadowy development seen in our land are all results of living under the Indian colonial rule for many decades, and India is notorious for its teeming millions of poor and of course racism. The President's statement said, "The present degenerated situation is a consequence of overlooking our own identity at one historical point of time, the tendency to merge with India, its culture and traditions and subsequent surrender of our political and economic rights to the foreign power. Now Manipur has been enveloped with thick multiple layers of the Indian political system and its traditions. As a result we have forgotten our own identity and we are in a dream world of being genuine Indians. Such a way of living and perception of things is one fundamental factor for the

downfall of Manipur. We are a people drifting without any direction amidst the political turmoil. To free ourselves from this life of subjugation and servitude, and put Manipur on a new trajectory of freedom and progress, we must overthrow the Indian colonial rule.

"Some people have been blaming the revolutionary movement for the restive situation prevailing in the society and its economic underdevelopment. But this is a misplaced concept. Since the day India forcefully annexed Manipur, New Delhi completely took over all the administrative and political powers and all economic policies were designed to suit their colonial interests. Thus, the political and socio-economic life of the people of Manipur was driven in the direction they chose. The highly degenerated socio-economic and political condition seen today in Manipur is a direct product of the colonial policies of India. The chaotic situation prevailing in contemporary Manipur is an outcome of the colonial policies. There is no room for the revolutionary movement to intervene into this sorry state of affairs nor is there any question of the revolutionary movement posing hurdles to economic development. On the contrary, the revolutionary movement has been taking pivotal roles towards bringing a peaceful and progressive society.

"The understanding that economic development will have adverse impacts on the revolutionary movement is totally wrong. Economic development can never alter the idea of and commitment to the liberation movement.

The ongoing revolutionary movement of Manipur would be different from the many revolutionary movements seen in different parts of the world in 1950's/ 1960's. Freedom, Democracy and Development have become the fundamental parameters of defining a Nation in the 21st century where the light of unprecedented development has reached every corner of the planet. In this scenario, the classical concepts of revolution can no longer guide the national liberation movement of Manipur.

"We must have a clear understanding of the kind of peaceful and progressive society we are yearning. Our forefathers and ancestors laid the foundation of Manipuri nation on a solid and firm ground called freedom. To our forefathers, freedom is the soul of a Nation. "A momentary life of freedom is far better than living 100 years under bondage" was a common saying among our forefathers. Our attempts to foreground the 2000 years old history of independence to identify Manipur in the face of any formidable challenge are the basic elements which would form the foundation of future Manipur. Living a life of slavery while we are completely denied our freedom can never be called a peaceful life. There is no meaning to economic development when the political reins of the nation are controlled by foreign power.

"We are aware that the ongoing revolutionary movement against the colonial rule is related with

the economic development and social tranquility but we firmly believe that restoration of sovereignty should precede all other national duties. Even if the masses wish to stay away from the liberation movement, the idea of freedom galvanized by our long history will never fade and the revolutionaries, representing the people will write a new history of independent Manipur. "Some people have been working hard to project that the revolutionary movement and the masses are traversing on two separate, unconnected paths. This is one area of serious concern. Their understanding of education and their principles of pushing their sons and daughters into different professions are different from ours. All the educated sons and daughters and all those who have excelled in different disciplines invariably love Manipur. The future generations too will never study or interpret the history of Manipur in wrong light. Even if they cannot take active roles in the revolutionary movement at present, there will come a time when they use their expertise, knowledge, wisdom and physical resources for advancement of the revolutionary movement. Many sons and daughters of the soil who have settled in different parts of the planet will come back when Manipur regains its sovereignty and they will use their knowledge and resources freely for the welfare of our motherland. It is one phenomenon which was witnessed in many countries which had achieved independence from imperial powers. (Contd on page 2)