

Professor Felix Padel, the great great grandson of Charles Darwin, Suvojit Bagchi, Chief of Bureau, The Hindu, Kolkata and Jenifer, Community upliftment activist based at United Kingdom being facilitated at Imphal Times office.



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## Gunbattle at Imphal East

IT News

**Imphal, Dec 29:** A fierce gunbattle was reported today morning at Pukhoa Shantipur area in Imphal East at around 11.00 am between suspected underground groups and Manipur police Commando. According to first hand report a group of well armed unknown persons suspected to be cadres of rebel group were found loitering at Pukhoa Shantipur area early today morning. On getting the information a team of Imphal East Police commando rushed the spot and before reaching them the unknown armed militants fired several rounds of gunshot towards them. The Police commando too retaliated and the gunbattle lasted for around 30 minutes. Later, as more police force reinforced along with a team of 45 AR the armed militants reportedly fled the area. Combined troops of the AR and the Manipur Police cordon the site and conducted search operation till late hours today. There were no report of any fatal casualty at both side.

## Female Myanmar activist jailed

ANI

**Lahore, Dec. 29:** A court in Myanmar has sentenced a female activist to six months in prison for posting a satirical comment on Facebook about the powerful military. According to The Nation, the activist was arrested after Myanmar started its latest crackdown against free speech in the former junta-ruled country. Chaw Sandi Tun, 25, was arrested in October after a post on her Facebook page made fun of the army. The United States embassy has previously called for the release of Chaw Sandi Tun and Patrick Khum Jaa Lee, another activist who has been arrested over Facebook posts critical of the military.

## BJP is gaining more popularity then Congress – says Th. Chaoba

IT News

**Imphal, Dec 29:** President of the BJP Manipur Pradesh Th. Chaoba today assured massive victory of the party in the upcoming Municipal and Nagar Panchayat Election scheduled to hold on January 11 next year. “When BJP could field candidates in all the seats of the municipalities and Nagar Panchayat election, the congress party which is in

power for three consecutive term could not field candidates in all the seats”, said Chaoba mocking the congress party during a press meet held today morning at its head office at Nityapat Chuthek. He said that the congress party could not field even a single candidate in the local bodies election at Oinam Assembly constituency. “BJP has taught a lesson to the congress party in the last

by-election and now the party will again teach the Congress party a lesson in the upcoming election of the local bodies”, said a confident Chaoba. He further said that the Congress government led by Okram Ibobi Singh has not handed over the power to the local bodies even though there were many directives to devolve the power to the local bodies.

## CM inaugurates 2 power sub-stations

IT News

**Imphal, Dec 29:** Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh today inaugurated the 33/11 KV power sub-station at Sinoz in the border area of Manipur and Mizoram in Churachandpur district today amidst opposition from sections of community protesting ILP related Bills.

Okram Ibobi also inaugurated another 33/11 KV power sub-station at Sivapurikhal in Jribam sub division. Both inaugural

functions are being organized by the Manipur State Power Company Limited (MSPCL). Official sources said, Health Minister Phungzathang Tonsing, Chairman of Hill Areas Committee, Dr Chaltonlien Amo and Parliamentary Secretary Vungzagin Valte are reportedly attending the inaugural functions. On the other hand, the Joint Action Committee formed against the three bills passed by the Manipur Legislative Assembly, has

started blocking the road at New Lamka, Bungmol and Mission Compound at Churachandpur to prevent the Ministers and MLAs from the passing the road to take part in the inaugural functions today. Meanwhile, a large team of officials of MSPCL who are going to Sinoz for making arrangements for the Sinoz function have been reportedly stopped at Churachandpur and not allowed to go further since yesterday.

## Meira Paibi Numit observed

IT News

**Imphal, Dec 29:** 35<sup>th</sup> Meira Paibi Numit was observed today at Lamyamba Sanglen of Konung Mamang. The observance function was organized by All Manipur Women Social Reformation and Development Samaj (NUPi Samaj). President of Apunba Manipur Kanba Ima Lup (AMKIL), Ima Sakhi while

speaking on the occasion recalls on how the women of the region played their role in protecting the nations identity as well as protecting the youths from the invasion of drugs. The 35<sup>th</sup> Meira Paibi Numit is being observed in remembrance to the protest against the arrested of a civilian in year 1980 of December 29. President of NUPi Samaj

Keisham Taruni, advisor of NUPi Samaj H i d a n g m a y u m Brojeshwori, President of Tami Chingmi Soibam Momon, president of All Manipur Muslim Women Development organisation Aribam Sitara Begam, president of Kuki Women Union Manipur Rose Mangshi Haokip were grace the function as presidium members.

## Archive Weeks celebration: rare maps showcase

IT News

**Imphal, Dec 29:** The 36<sup>th</sup> Archives Week celebration cum exhibition of rare maps and archival documents was inaugurated today at Manipur State Archives Complex. Keisampat organized by Manipur state archives directorate of art

and culture of government of MANIPUR. As a part of the exhibition various rare maps and documents were showcase including 56 Map of 1901 to 1935, political agent file and resolution document pass by the state assembly. Reitd. Principal of LMS Law

College Padmashree RK Jhalajit singh, secretary, Art and culture IAS K. Radhakumar singh and director of college development council Yumnam Mohendro singh were grace the function as chief guest president and guest of honour respectively.

## Forest Department fails to control encroachers at Langol Reserved Forest areas

Laishram Ranbir

**Imphal, Dec 29:** Many people including eminent personalities, political leaders and high ranking officials have been encroaching on the Langol Reserved Forest areas which lie in Sadar West range and have been continuing to level the hill slope and construction of houses in the areas. Under these circumstances, the Forest Department has not been able to take any action to stop the encroachment or evict those houses which have already settled in the areas under the Reserved Forest Act 1980.

According to an information receive by our staff reporter, the Forest Department have served enormous number of notices on the encroachers but became ineffective as most of the encroachers turned out to be people and relatives of high position holder of the State. On the other hand, it has been

found that the Department of Revenue had already issued land deeds in the Reserve Forest areas. This was reportedly done without informing the Department of Forest. Besides, neither objection certificates were taken nor notices issued to the Department of Forest. However, there are rules under the Forest Rights Act 2005 which forbids encroachment in the reserved forest areas. Illegal encroachments of the reserved forest areas are punishable according to the Act. But the Tribal Welfare Department, which is the working agency, has not done anything to enforce it. As a result, the owners of the land do whatever they wish by keeping the land in the name of certain villager. No land can be allotted in the interest of any particular person. If clearance is not obtained, the Department of Forest can annul the deeds any time. If the land is within

one hectare of land, the department can issue approval. But if it exceeds the figure, the Ministry needs to be informed. On the other hand, it is reported that some people who possess land deeds are indulging in real estate business by selling the land. If the land deeds are before 1980, they would be valid, but if the deeds happen to have been obtained after 1980, then the Department of Forest would evict the occupants. While considering the influence of the powers that be, Langol Reserved Forest areas are being continuously occupied by the encroachers and many new villages have been set up so far. Langol Reserved Forest areas may vanished if necessary steps are not taken up in time including the endangered species which are taking shelter in the forest which are being hunted by the villagers of the areas, countless.

## Prof. Felix Padel given reception by Imphal Times team

IT News

**Imphal, Dec 29:** Professor Felix Padel, the great great grandson of Charles Darwin, who will be delivering lecture on Ojha Sanajaoba Memorial Lecture on the topic “Human Rights and Self-Determination as

Prerequisites for real development” arrive today at Imphal. Imphal Times team along with other academicians of the state gave a warm reception to the professor along with Suvojit Bagchi, Chief of Bureau, The Hindu, Kolkata and Jenifer, Community upliftment activist based at United Kingdom who is also attending the Ojha Sanajaoba memorial lecture programme. Text of the lecture to be delivered by the professor is produced here in today's edition.

## Assam BJP files FIR against Cong. leaders

ANI

**Guwahati, Dec 29:** The Assam wing of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) filed an FIR against seven Congress leaders for allegedly attacking party workers during a protest in Guwahati.

State BJP President Sarbanand Sonowal demanded action against them alleging that several BJP workers were injured in the incident. He further added that BJP

workers and supporters were attacked in front of the state Congress office in Guwahati when they were protesting against Congress leader Nilmani Sen Dekha's derogatory comments targeting the Prime Minister and Union Human Resource Development Minister. State Congress president Anjan Dutta, however, accused the BJP workers of attacking Congress workers. He said the party has lodged FIR against four BJP workers

after seven Congress workers were seriously injured. The Police has arrested four BJP workers. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi has disapproved the comments of his Agriculture Adviser Nilmani Sen Dekha. The BJP said that the party will file case against Dekha and Parliament Secretary Rupjiyoti Kurni for their derogatory remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Smriti Irani.

## Human Rights and Self-Determination as Prerequisites for Real Development

(Text of the lecture to be presented by *Felix Padel* on Naorem Sanajaoba Memorial Lecture to held on December 30, 2015 at MU)

Professor Naorem Sanajaoba was an active upholder of human rights, as well as an academician – a most significant combination. He drew frequent comparisons between the situation in Manipur and in other regions in the world where people are struggling for democracy and greater autonomy in the face of harsh repression. Fundamental to the challenges facing people in Manipur, and in so many other places too, is the question: What is real development? In the name of development, we see promotion of vast dam, extractive industry and infrastructure projects that certainly attract huge sums of money as investment, but do not necessarily raise most local people's standard of living at all. For large numbers of displaced people, quite the reverse, as they often insist. ‘Development-Induced Displacement’ is a therefore misnomer when projects are not bringing development for local people. The process is properly termed ‘Investment-Forced Displacement’.

The question I would like to focus on here, in commemoration of Sanajaoba, is just this – What is real development? This question confronts everyone actually, but especially in regions where new mega-projects threaten to displace people and monopolise their natural resources in the name of development. ‘What is Real Development?’ is the title of the Preface to my most recent book, *Ecology, Economy: Quest for a Socially Informed Connection*. The underlying question that fascinates me is – how have ecology and economy got so completely de-linked that environmentalism is often seen as a ‘roadblock to development’, and how can people go on believing in economic growth, when ecosystems are getting destroyed very fast, and the resource base is not there to sustain indefinite economic growth, and what the world really needs is people-centric development, combined with economic relationships with each other and with the ecosystems

that sustain us as our resource base, that can continue long-term, assuring abundance for our grandchildren, and their grandchildren? If one looks at the needs of communities, ‘the right to development’ boils down to food security, water security, security at work and security of livelihoods, right to sensitively managed education and health-care, and every aspect of security to life and dignity. Instead, displacement by a dam or negative impacts of a mining project destroy water and food security, as well as highly developed systems of symbiosis between communities and ecosystems. As for security of life – it's abundantly clear that security forces brought in to force the implementation of large ‘development projects’ that do not have local consent commit human rights violations with impunity, including here in Manipur, in the case of the Mapithel Dam and similar projects. It seems that security forces are not trained to safeguard

ordinary citizens' security, but rather the security of investors, corporations and the vested interests behind such projects. Manipur has a long history of abuses by security forces, highlighted in the recent case at the Supreme Court, where the Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi opined that ‘killings are part of the sovereign function discharged by the Union of India through the army’, and completely rejected the Justice Santosh Hegde report, inquiring into 1,528 extra-judicial killings during 2000-2012, and its finding that numerous people had been killed in false encounters. Out of many well-documented cases of rape, torture, violent harassment and unacknowledged killings of innocent people by security forces in Manipur (Begum 2010), which sociologist A.R. Desai tackled as a subject of greatest importance (1990), ‘the impunity project’ analysed at least 50 cases in *Landscapes of Fear*.

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