



UNC bandh affects traffic along NHs; UCM president surprises over UNC's justification

IT News
Imphal, Oct 23: The 48 hours general strike called by the United Naga Council (UNC) from Oct 21 midnight, amidst the 10 days economic blockade called by Kuki Peoples' Liberation Front/Army (KPLF/KPLA) in Hill districts of the state has severely affected normal traffic along both the National Highways connecting Manipur with the rest of the country. Report reaching here from Jiribam said that around 10 rice bag loaded trucks were stranded at Jiribam area however, shops and other business establishment both

private and government were open as usual. The report added that no vehicles were seen coming from Imphal side. Another report added that large numbers of bandh supporters were seen at Nungba and Oinamlong enforcing the 48 hours general strike of the UNC. Along the National Highway No. 2 (Imphal -Dimapur road) no passenger vehicles or goods ferrying trucks were seen moving on the high ways. Report said that almost all shops and business establishment at Senapati district head quarters were shuts and government offices witness thin attendance. However, schools and colleges were not affected. The UNC called the 48 hours total bandh in hill districts of Manipur in protest against

the passing of the 3 government Bills for implementation of Inner Line Permit System in the state. Meanwhile, President of the United Committee Manipur (UCM), Elangbam Johnson expressed surprised over the justification made by UNC over its 48 hours bandh against the passing of the 3 Government Bills by the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat. In post uploaded through social networking site Facebook, Elangbam Johnson said that the 3 Bills passed for implementation of ILP in the state is not anti-tribal. "Claiming the recently passed three ILP Bills as anti-tribal is totally baseless", wrote Johnson Elangbam. He urged the UNC to spell out any provision in the Bills

that hurt the sentiments of the public. Regarding the allegation about tribal leaders being not consulted to the making of the Bills, Elangbam Johnson wrote that the 20 tribal elected representatives of the Manipur Legislative Assembly were very much part in the making of the three Bills which took 3 years. And as for the consultation with the Hill Area Committee, there is a procedure, wrote Johnson. "The main function of the HAC is to see that any law made by the government doesn't contradict or infringed into the tribal customary law and in case if the HAC felt that the Bills violated tribal rights then HAC could have constituted sub-committee to look into the matters", Johnson wrote.

Is the 'peace talk' a permission to collect illegal taxes to NSCN-IM - Sovakiran

IT News
Imphal, Oct 23: Coming down heavily to the frequent collection of illegal taxes from individuals and looting of vehicles along the National Highways by NSCN-IM cadres, MPP president Sovakiran today said if the peace talk between the outfit and GoI is a kind of permission granted to the outfit. "Is the Peace talk between NSCN-IM and GOI a permission, provided to NSCN-IM to collect illegal taxes or loot on the National Highways", Sovakiran asked the Indian Government while

talking to media persons at his office room today afternoon. He said that the NSCN-IM has been openly collecting illegal taxes ranging from Rs. 5 hundred to above from every vehicle in between Noney and Khongsang of Tamenglong district. "In a survey conducted by a team of MPP under the supervision of Vice president Manitomba, the NSCN-IM cadres were seen openly collecting the illegal taxes amidst the various Security forces camps located at various locations", Sovakiran said.

He further added that Manipur state is like a Banana Republic or Banana State where life cannot be survived without other's help. The nearly 30 lakh population is depended on the two National Highways which is facing frequently bandh and blockade. He blamed the state government for not doing anything to stop the bandh or blockade called along the National Highways. While appealing the state government to act, Sovakiran said that SF should not remain as a decoration for the Chief Minister or Deputy Chief Minister.

MI man held for extortion calls

IT News
Imphal, Oct 23: A person working with the Military Intelligence of the Indian army was allegedly held by a team of Manipur Police while coming to collect ransom from a person at BT road Imphal. Source with the Imphal Times said that the person arrested by the police has been identified as one Joychandra, a knight subedar working with the Military Intelligence posted at M Sector. The man has been handed over to City police station and investigation is being carried out against him. Reported added that the person posed himself as a underground outfit and served extortion calls to individuals.

IMEU urges IMC Chairperson

IT News
Imphal, Oct 23: Imphal Municipal Employees Union (IMEU) has warned to launched various forms of protest demonstration if the Chairperson failed to prevent the state government from taking over land belonging to Imphal Municipal Corporation. During a press meet held today at Manipur Press Club, Ph Chaoba, Advisor of IMEU said that the government is planning to encroach some land of IMC for the construction of Tombisana Market. The union and its members are against the construction of building for the upcoming market.

SEACO thanks

IT News
Imphal, Oct 23: South East Asian Cultural Organisation (SEACO) has extended its greetings to all for celebrating the Ima Panthoibi Erat Thuram. In a release, SEACO also appealed the people of Manipur to celebrate Ima Panthoibi festival.

Wild life week observed

IT News
Imphal, Oct 23: The 60th wildlife Week Celebration at Lamyamba Sanglen of Palace Compound. Deputy speaker of Manipur Legislative Assembly, MK. Preshow Shimray attended the function as Chief Guest. In his speech the deputy speaker highlighted the importance for perseverance of wild life. He said that since time immemorial there has been

a tradition of fishing, hunting and cutting of trees but they are guarded by rules and regulation with respect to the natural resource. But now in modern generation anyone can cut any tree or animal at anytime's. This not only endangered the animals or the trees but also to human being due to degradation of environment. He further appealed the masses to protect forest and wild life for the betterment of human

being. As a part of the function a book called "Mahousagi Maithong" was also released and distributed prize of painting competition, essay competition and photo competition. Chief Secretary O.Nabakishore Singh and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Bala Prasad were also attended the function as President and Guest of Honour respectively.

KCP Poirei warns Tourism department on Sangai Festival

IT News
Imphal, Oct 23: Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) Poirei Meitei Lup has asked the officials of the Tourism department to publicly announce the details of the tender conducted in connection with the upcoming Sangai Festival scheduled to

be held from November 21-30. In a release, the banned armed outfit said the team Operation Mangal of the outfit has information regarding the involvement of corrupt practices while issuing tenders and work to companies. It also alleged the Department

of Tourism of collecting ten percent from contactors and private firms. KCP also warned the Tourism Department and others Departments to post the details of tenders for the festival at their respective notice boards within five days from October 23.

Sahitya Akademi urges writers to take back awards

ANI
New Delhi, Oct. 23: The Sahitya Akademi today condemned the killing of writers and urged those who had returned their awards in protest to take them back. Krishnaswamy Nachimuthu, an Akademi member and a Tamil

scholar, after the meeting urged the Centre to ensure that the apt action is initiated against the anti-social elements in the country. "We are all together, the decision was unanimous. The executive board of the Sahitya Akademi unanimously

condemned the killings of M.M. Kalburgi and also appealed to the state and the Central Government to take steps to prevent such happenings in the future," said Nachimuthu. "So, it appealed to the writers to take back the awards," he added.

Protest against UGC'S move to scrap non- NET fellowship

ANI
New Delhi, Oct.23: The students union on Friday protested outside the office of the University Grants Commission (UGC) against the commission's move to scrap non-National Eligibility

Test (NET) fellowship. Earlier, students from different universities protested against the decision of commission. Students came from across universities including JNU, Delhi University, Jamia Millia Islamia University and

Ambedkar University and joined the protest. After several rounds of meetings with the UGC officials failed to reach a decision, they decided to "occupy UGC" till the decision is withdrawn.

'Ministers Must be Careful,' Home Minister on VK Singh's 'Dog Remark'

Agencies
New Delhi, Oct. 23: Facing anger over union minister VK Singh's controversial comment on the killing of two young children from a Dalit or underprivileged family in Haryana, the government today delivered a stern message. "Ministers must be careful while making statements. We cannot get away by saying that the statement was misinterpreted," Home Minister Rajnath Singh said.

General VK Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs and a former army chief, had said yesterday: "If someone throws stones at a dog, the government is not responsible." The comment was seen as extraordinarily insensitive, as the minister was responding to questions on the killing of a two-year-old boy and his 11-month-old sister, who died after their home was set on fire on Monday, allegedly by

members of an upper caste, in Faridabad near Delhi. Asked whether the incident should be seen as a failure of Haryana's BJP government, General Singh said, "Don't connect the government with it. It was a feud between two families, the matter is under inquiry." The minister later tweeted: "My statement wasn't intended to draw an analogy. My men & I put our lives on the line 4th the nation irrespective of caste, creed &

religion." The attempt at damage control has failed to check the tide of condemnation. Delhi's ruling Aam Aadmi Party has filed a police complaint against the minister. Nitish Kumar, the Chief Minister of Bihar, said described General Singh's comments as "totally insensitive." "A central minister said the government is not responsible if stones are

thrown at a dog. Comparing the killing of Dalit children pelting dogs with stones, you can only imagine what kind of mentality they have," Mr Kumar, the BJP's main rival in the ongoing Bihar polls, said. In a sign that the controversy might sting the BJP in the middle of the Bihar election, its ally and union minister Ram Vilas Paswan had openly said on the minister's remarks: "I don't descend to such low talk.



Has never done it with any issue."