



Wanted man joining protest at Keishampat Leimajam Leikai Community Hall

## Najma Heptulla appointed Manipur Governor



**PTI New Delhi, Aug 17:** Former Union Minister Najma Heptulla was today made Governor of Manipur while ex-Rajya Sabha MP V P Singh Badnore goes to Punjab in new gubernatorial appointments announced for four states with all of them being associated with the BJP.

Banwarilal Purohit, a three-time former member of Lok Sabha from Nagpur and Managing Editor of Central India's daily 'The Hitavada', will be the Governor of Assam while Delhi-based BJP leader and former MLA Prof Jagdish Mukhi was made Lt Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, according to a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique.

Heptulla, 76, had last month resigned as Minority Affairs Minister from Union Cabinet. The resignation had come as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is believed to have set an unwritten writ of '75-year age bar' for ministers and had kept veterans like L K Advani and Murlu Manohar Joshi out of the Cabinet and co-opted them in 'Margdarshak Mandal'.

Meghalaya Governor V Shanmuganathan was holding the additional charge as Manipur Governor. 68-year-old Badnore, who hails from Rajasthan, will be the new Governor of Punjab, the communique said. Haryana Governor Kaptan Singh Solanki was holding additional charge of Punjab, which goes to polls next year, after Shivraj Patil's term ended last year. Nagaland Governor Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya was holding additional charge as Assam Governor, a post which will now be assumed by 76-year-old Purohit.

## Name correction

My real name Tabitha Pamei, D/o Sakhlung Pamei has been wrongly written as P. Tabitha R. Naga in all my educational documents. All names written in those documents should be corrected as Tabitha Pamei, D/o Sakhlung Pamei.

Sd/-  
Tabitha Pamei  
Namdung Stadium  
Road, P.O. & P.S.  
Porompot  
Imphal East District

## Wanted man Khomdram Ratan joins relay hunger strike

**IT News**

**Imphal, Aug 17:** The man who was declared 'wanted' by the state police department and which carries a cash reward of Rs. 5,00,000/- to any persons who can provide information about its whereabouts on June 2, 2016 - Khomdram Ratan today joined relay hunger strike protest being underway at Keishampat Leimajam Leikai Community Hall demanding implementation of the Inner Line permit System in the state.

Interestingly the relay hunger strike is being underway, since August 3, not only demanding the ILPS but also for removal of the wanted tagged labeled against the former convenor of JICILPS, who join the protest today.

Speaking to reporters, Khomdram Ratan said that he is not absconder neither an outlawed but a citizen of the state fighting for safeguarding the indigenous people of the state. He said he is challenging the charges labeled against him in the Manipur high Court and the verdict is reserved with the High Court he added. Meanwhile, Kh. Ratan came out and joined the relay hunger strike from 11 am today and till the filing of this story



no arrest has been made. MLA of Keishamthong Assembly constituency Laishom Ibomcha Singh today came at the relay hunger strike site and provided some drinking water for the agitators.

However, the MLA refused to give any comment regarding Khomdram Ratan as the matter is in the court.

"It will be subjudice to give comment on matters pending in the court", MLA Ibomcha said.

BJP MLA Khumukcham Joykishan also came at the site where Kh Ratan staged the relay hunger strike along with his supporters. The MLA too condemn the silence of the

state government over the demand of the people but refused to comment on Ratan's case as the matter is with the court. Joykishan however expressed the need for introduction of a legislation to protect the indigenous people of the state. Around 100 of supporters joined the protest today.

## Economic Blockade supporters burnt goods ferrying truck

**IT News**

**Imphal, Aug 17:** Volunteers of the All Manipur Written test Successful Candidates of Manipur Police Constable Male 2013 today burnt a beetle leaf ferrying truck near Noney along National highway 37 at around 11 am today. The weeklong economic blockade begins yesterday midnight.

Three persons including a truck driver was also injured after the economic blockade supporters pelted stones for violating the economic blockade at Karong area in Senapati district along the national highway no. 2.

According to report reaching here, over 40 peoples believed to be supporters of the economic blockade called by the Constable appeared candidates stopped around 40 vehicles at Gulathor area in Jiribam and pull down all goods transported towards Imphal at around 2 am today. Blockade supporters in

Senapati district pelted stones at Oil Tanker vehicles coming towards Imphal at Karong area.

In the attack, a driver identified as Ussam Gojen (age 20) of Khurkhu Sabok leikai sustained serious injury. He is undergoing treatment at Raj Medcity.

All Manipur Written test Successful Candidates of Manipur Police Constable Male 2013 called the weeklong economic blockade demanding declaration of the result which was conducted in 2013. A representative while speaking to media persons said that the candidate will continue the blockade until the government declared the result.

## Suspected IED turns out to be baby diaper

**IT News**

**Imphal, Aug 17:** Panic ridden security forces today blocked road for around 3 hours at Imphal-Ukhrul road after a box suspected to be IED was found lying at the roadside about 800 meters from Lamlai police Station. The suspected IED later turns out to a box containing baby haggis.

The incident happened at around 7.30 am today. A team of 45 AR troopers belonging to 'A' Coy posted at Leikoichang at the Imphal-Ukhrul road side. The road was open at around 9.30 am by the security force.

## MCPM extends support to CAF & PD labours

**IT News**

**Imphal, Aug 17:** Rebel group Maoist Communist Party Manipur (MCPM) has extended its support to the demand of the labours of CAF and PD for increase and clearance of their wages. In a press communique, the outfit said that the statement of the proprietor of M/S Yaifaba through media is unfortunate. The MCPM said that termination of the labour demanding their right is not justified and MCPM will always stand for the labour group. The rebel

group warned those individuals trying to suppress the movement of the labour class community saying that they should remember that the outfit has its army wing New People's Militia and there is no reason that the group will not show the existence of its Red guard and the urban guerrillas. The rebel group further stated that the MCPM may take similar action like the one terminating the labour class people agitating for their rights.

## MNPF warns contractors taking recommendation from NSCN-IM

**IT News**

**Imphal, Aug 17:** Armed group Manipur Naga People's Front (MNPF) has stated that it will start checking to the execution of development works in hill area of Manipur by contractors.

In a press statement issued by, Thomas Numai, Assistant Publicity Secretary of MNPF, the outfit questioned whether

the Manipur government is under the NSCN-IM.

"It is very unfortunate on the part of the Manipur government for accepting the NSCN-IM recommendations to award of any kind of work order", the statement said.

The outfit also blamed the NSCN-IM for spoiling 90% of the development works of the Hill areas particularly in the

ng Inhabited areas during the last 20 years.

The outfit further warned serious action to contractors if they are found taking any recommendation from NSCN-IM to award works. It also appealed the people to complaint to the party through media if any contractors are found neglecting the allotted works.

## V.K. Singh's wife registers extortion case

**New Delhi, Aug. 17:** The wife of Union Minister, General V.K. Singh, has accused a property dealer of trying to extort Rs. 2 crore from him by blackmailing her with audio and video clips that he had allegedly secretly recorded.

A case of extortion and criminal intimidation has been registered at Delhi's Tughlaq Road police station against the

accused, Pradeep Chauhan. Police said they were still in the process of questioning Mr. Chauhan and no decision on arresting him has been made yet.

The incident pertains to a conversation that Mrs. Singh had at her residence on August 6. Mr. Chauhan, a man known to the family, had allegedly secretly recorded

the conversation and later threatened to doctor it and share it on social media websites to harm the reputation and political career of the Minister and his family. To keep the recorded conversations a secret, the accused demanded Rs. 2 crore.

The Minister's wife approached the Tughlaq Road police station in New Delhi on

August 12 with a complaint. In her statement, the complainant also said that she feared for her life as the accused owned a licensed revolver and could use it to eliminate her.

The police have said they are treading very cautiously in this case as were still in the process of recording the statements of both the parties.

## Amnesty Intl. India issued a rebuttal of the charges against it

**By : Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar**

Amnesty International India, which was booked in a case of "sedition" and "promoting enmity" by Bengaluru police on Independence Day, has issued a detailed rebuttal of the allegations levelled against it. The organisation was booked for putting together an event on the violation of human rights experienced by families from Jammu and Kashmir. The organisation has said it was independent of any political, economic or ideological interests, stating that its vision is for every person in India to enjoy the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, other international human rights standards and those guaranteed by the Constitution of India.

Amnesty said the allegations levelled against it were baseless, pointing out that three of the families interviewed for a report titled, "Denied: Failures in accountability for human rights violations by security force personnel in Jammu and Kashmir", published in July 2015, were invited "to share their stories at the event".

Giving a "point-by-point rebuttal" to the allegations raised in the complaint, Amnesty said the first allegation was that "Sindhuja Iyengar, a political science lecturer at a private university in Bengaluru, Seema Mustafa and Roushan Illahi sang anti-national songs and raised anti-national slogans." To this the organisation responded saying, "Sindhuja Iyengar is an employee of Amnesty International India. She was not present on stage at any point during the event. Seema Mustafa is a senior journalist. She moderated a discussion with affected families at the event. Neither of them sang any songs or raised any slogans at any point. The only musical performance was a song by Roushan Illahi (also known as MC Kash) at the end of the event, about growing up amid violence in Kashmir."

Amnesty also said that the video footage of the event, which was recorded by it, had been shared with the police. On the allegation that "Sindhuja Iyengar, Seema Mustafa and Roushan Illahi... delivered anti-national speeches against soldiers", Amnesty India said, "The only speech delivered at the event was by Amnesty International India's Programmes Director, Tara Rao, which referred to allegations of human rights violations by security force personnel. These allegations are laid out in detail in Amnesty International India's 2015 report, and have been widely reported and discussed. The People's Democratic Party (PDP), which is part of the current ruling coalition in Jammu and Kashmir, had welcomed the recommendations of the report when it was published."

The organisation also stated that the families who attended the event spoke of their own personal stories of loss, as per the programme of the event. One of the families which attended the event was that of Shahzad Ahmad Khan. He was one of the men killed in the Machil extra-judicial execution, for which five security force personnel were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Amnesty International India said it had also invited R.K. Mattoo, a representative of the Kashmiri Pandit community in Bengaluru, to speak about the human rights violations faced by members of the community.

On the charge that "slogans were raised that Indian Kashmir should be part of Pakistan," it said, "no Amnesty International India employee shouted any slogans at any point" but did not comment on others present at the venue.

On the charge that "the event indirectly supported terrorists", Amnesty India said, "the only discussion at the event was about allegations of human rights violations and the denial of justice to families in Kashmir. These are issues that have regularly been discussed in the media. They have been written about at length by members of Parliament, politicians, judges and civil society. In July 2016, the Supreme Court, in a ruling relevant to the issues discussed at the event, stated that the armed forces do not enjoy impunity for human rights violations."

As for the charge that "the event... indirectly supported Pakistan and the ISI", it said, "the focus of the event was squarely on allegations of human rights violations and the denial of justice in Jammu and Kashmir. Amnesty International has worked extensively on human rights violations in Pakistan, including the enforced disappearances and unlawful killings of political activists in Balochistan, violations by security forces in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and violence against journalists by groups including the ISI."

Rebutting the allegation that "when ABVP activists tried stopping the attack, people tried to assault them," it said, "no Amnesty International India employee was involved in any form of assault against anyone." Again it did not comment on the conduct of others at the venue.

Towards the end of the event, the organisation did admit, as it had stated in its statement on Monday as well, that "some of those who attended raised slogans, some of which referred to calls for *azaadi* (freedom)."

Amnesty International India said it "considers that the right to freedom of expression includes the right to peacefully advocate political solutions." (Courtesy The Wire)