

Dr. Najma A. Heptulla sworn in as governor of Manipur

DIPR + Agency
Imphal, Aug 21: Dr. Najma A. Heptulla was sworn in as the Governor of Manipur on Sunday. Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur Shri Justice Rakesh Ranjan Prasad administered the oath of office and secrecy to Dr. Najma A. Heptulla at a ceremony held at the Darbar hall of Raj Bhavan, Imphal. She is the 18th Governor of Manipur.

The ceremony was attended by Chief Minister Shri Okram Ibobi Singh, Speaker, Shri Th. Lokeshwar Singh, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Gaikhangam, Ministers, Lok Sabha MP's Dr. Th. Meinya and Shri Thangso Baite, Rajya Sabha MP, Smt. M.C. Mary Kom, MLA's, Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, and other senior officials of the state government, police, Army and Senior citizens.

Soon after the swearing-in ceremony the Governor also inspected a guard of honour. In an interaction with media persons, the Governor said



"my first priority even before taking the oath as Governor of Manipur is to work for the people. Manipur is many miles away from Delhi, but they are not far away from our hearts. I will be working for the development of Manipur State. I would like to know first what are the priorities for the people of Manipur. Manipur is so rich in culture so, I would prefer to the rest of the country". People should know about Manipur, she added.

Dr. Najma A. Heptulla, who

resigned as a Union minister last month, was appointed as the Governor of Manipur on Wednesday. She received her Doctorate in Zoology (Avian Hearts) at the young age of 22. She also worked in the scientists' pool of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Government of India. Dr. Nazma Heptulla is also a former vice-president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and a five time member of the Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of the Indian

parliament, between 1986 and 2012, and Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha for sixteen years. She was a member representing Rajasthan from July 2004 to July 2010. She was nominated by the BJP for the Rajya Sabha in 2012 from Madhya Pradesh, and assumed her office on 24 April 2012.

She contested the 13th vice-presidential election held in August 2007 but lost to Hamid Ansari by 233 votes. She took oath as a cabinet minister in the Narendra Modi headed government on 26 May 2014. Heptulla joined Bharatiya Janata Party in 2004.

Heptulla's appointment as Manipur governor comes after her resignation from the NDA Union cabinet last month on "age" grounds. The government is believed to have set an unwritten "75-year age bar" for ministers and has kept veterans such as L K Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi out of the cabinet.

Cancellation of constable DPC wrath candidates; calls 24 hour Manipur bandh

ITNews
Imphal, Aug 21: State government announcement to cancel the DPC for recruitment 2000 constable in 2013 has ignited another hostile protest today afternoon from among the candidates who had appeared in the recruitment test. The candidates had called 24 hour Manipur Bandh from midnight today.

All Manipur DPC completed candidate of police constable male 2013 had been demanding declaration of the DPC result by undergoing various form of agitation including imposition of week long economic blockade along the National Highways since the midnight of August 17. Members of the constable appeared candidates today staged a rally at around 1 pm today and tried to storm to the Chief Minister bungalow. The constable appeared candidates gathered at Sagolband Bijoygovinda ground and proceeded towards Kwairamband Keithel and then later through towards wahengbam leikai roads. The candidates were however prevented from proceeding forward by a large number of security forces. As the protestors turn hostile and started confronting the police team, the police team resorted lathi charge and fire 6 round of tear gas shell to disperse them. Speaking to the media person spokesperson of the All



Manipur DPC completed candidate of police constable male 2013, Zahir Khan said that the cancellation of the recruitment of 2000 constable of 2013 is nothing but inviting youth of state to choose the wrong path by the state government. Around 10,287 had completed the DPC for recruitment of the 2000 constables. Zahir Khan said that the organisation of the constable appeared candidate had talk several times with the Principle Secretary Home, Home Minister and Chief Minister

and get assurance many times that the result would be declared by August 15.

Condemning the government decision, the spokesperson said that state government should revoke the cancellation notification within 3 days from today and the result should be declared on or before 25 of this month.

He further said that if state government fail to fulfil the demand than any untoward agitations follow by the candidates should be held responsible by the state government.

Mass tree plantation kicks off

ITNews
Imphal, Aug. 21: As a part of the Go green campaign, a massive tree plantation drive kicked off at Keirao Wangkhem village in Imphal east from today. BJP Manipur Pradesh Kishan Morcha Ningthoujam Itomba Meetei along with the youths of Keirao Wangkhem today launched the tree plantation

campaign at the village. BJP Kishan Morcha leader Ningthoujam Itomba Meetei said that around 2000 saplings will be planted in and around Wangkhem village and along the roadside of Imphal-Yairipok state highway. The saplings have been provided by the forest department, Manipur.

Naga businessman mishandled by NSCN(U)

ITNews
Imphal, Aug 21: A young Naga businessman was reportedly manhandled at gun-point by cadres of NSCN (Unification) for not paying the "yearly tax" to the underground group. The incident took place on Friday at Old Ministers' Hill Kohima, where the Proprietor of Seven Six sustained profuse bleeding after being struck with a pistol by a cadre of NSCN(U) for not paying the yearly collection, said officials of Naga Business Association Kohima (NBAA) in Kohima yesterday. NSCN (U) had reportedly given a demand slip in the name of yearly tax in March this year but in June another worker of the same faction gave a separate demand slip while also

directing that the "yearly tax" should not be paid to the first group. NBAA officials said that the proprietor reportedly paid five thousand rupees to the second group of NSCN(U) after negotiations. Nonetheless, three member of the first group of NSCN(U) on Friday barged into the victim's shop and physically assaulted

him while also threatening the workers at gun-point demanding payment of the yearly tax. NBAA while taking serious note of the incident has strongly condemned it and also filed an FIR at South Police Station Kohima demanding appropriate action against the accused cadres of NSCN(U).

Cataract detection camp

ITNews
Thoubal, Aug 21: National Programme for Control of Blindness, Thoubal district while speaking on the occasion said that under the National Rural Health Mission NPCB Thoubal has been conducting various free eye camp at many places in Thoubal district

District Nodal officer Dr. Ksh Memcha, National Programme for Control of Blindness, Thoubal district while speaking on the occasion said that under the National Rural Health Mission NPCB Thoubal has been conducting various free eye camp at many places in Thoubal district

Two bombs found

ITNews
Imphal, Aug 21: Police today recovered two hand grenades from two different places at Takhel under Lamlai Police station at around 11 am today.

According to report the first bomb was recovered from the residence of Thaoanaong Ongbi Priyo Devi (age 42) of Takhel Awang Leikai at around 11 am. She is the pradhan of Takhel Gram Panchayat.

At around the same timing another hand grenade was found at the residence of Sagolsem Dinakumar (Age 47) at Takhel Mayai Leikai.

Both the bomb were picked up by police team. Meanwhile, locals and family of Moirangkhom Gouro of Khongman Zone 3 West, spend sleepless night yesterday after unknown persons claiming to be members of armed group claimed to have placed bomb at their residence through cell phone. Gouro's wife Moirangthem Ongbi Nungisirei (45 years) is a member of gram Panchayat.

KSO condemn ZUF

ITNews
Imphal, Aug 21: The KSO General Headquarters has expressed serious concern over the gunfight that occurred at Molcham village in Henglep sub-division between 2/5 Gorkha Rifles and ZUF cadres.

In a press statement the KSO said that the ZUF cadres are using the Kuki villagers as human shield.

"It is being reported that in the course of the gunfight ZUF cadres fled to other Kuki villages in the vicinity and have been holing up inside

the villages ever since. This is amounting to using Kuki villagers as human shield at times of gunfight by the ZUF cadres", the statement added. The statement added that the presence of ZUF in the villages has posed a grave situation and threat to the villagers. It said the Kuki civilians have lost their lives in the past because of ZUF's misdemeanours.

The KSO also cautions all militant groups to refrain from making Kuki villages as battle fronts as enough civilian lives have been lost and that

innocent villagers have suffered enough because of them.

On the other hand the KSO appreciated the Gorkha Rifles for restraining by not attacking the militants hiding in the village as it has prevented the warring groups from inflicting heavy civilian casualties.

The KSO appeals to the Gorkha Rifles to further take all necessary precautionary measures so that the villagers are not subjected to unwarranted suffering during raid and operation.

MCPM boycotts MLA K. Meghachandra

ITNews
Imphal, Aug 21: Maoist Communist party Manipur today said that the outfit has decided to boycott MLA of Wangkhem Assembly constituency K Meghachandra for his aggressiveness towards the students of Yairipok Aided High School who were staging protest against the decision for construction of Power-Sub Station inside the school campus.

In a press communiqué the

outfit said that the MLA even after knowing the sentiments of the students as well as the people of the area have no respect to the people.

The statement also stated details on how the people of the area have been opposing the construction of the power substation by constituting a JAC when the students of the school carried out unabated protest. The Maoist statement also blamed students' bodies of

the state who have not expressed a single words regarding the suffering of the students of the schools who are from poor families.

"Had it been in some school here in urban area studied by high class people there will be many criticism as well as agitations", the statement added. The Maoist further warned serious consequences to anyone who violate the boycott called to MLA K. Meghachandra.

MARRIAGE- It's Rules and Practices in Meitei Society

By: Dr. L. Basanti Devi
Standard College, Imphal

In every society, whether primitive or civilized, marriage in much aspect is the most important social institution. Marriage is a socio-religious institution. It is a social contract for the satisfaction of physical, biological, psychological and spiritual needs of Man and Woman leading to the formation of a family. Thus the growth and development as well as the stability of human society depend upon this universal and primary institution. On account of this vital importance, the sanctity and permanence of marriage has been emphasized in most societies and the Meitei Society is not an exception in this regard. The paper tries to present the rules and forms of the marriage system which has been prevailed in Manipur from the very early times. The Meitei concept of marriage implies the sacred and ceremonial union of a man and a woman with due religious rites. The vernacular term for marriage is "Luhongba" which is a combination of two words, "Lu" which means "head" in archaic Manipuri and "Hongba"

to solemnize. Hence *Luhongba* is the ceremonial union of the "Lu" of the man and the woman implying the oneness of their heart and soul rather than the state of their being double. In the long journey of life the Meiteis believed that woman is called *oigilamdang* (left way) and man *Yei Ki lamdang* (rightway). Thus Meitei marriage is primarily conceived as lifelong physical and spiritual companionship between the wife and the husband. The Meiteis are generally exogamous but



endogamy was found in the early times. *Khaba Shokchremba* alias *Leirehnan* the father in law of Panthoibi (now worshipped as the goddess of Meitei) married a Women of his own clan (Panthoibi Khongul, M. Chandrasing, P.70, 1973). Actually this endogamous system is

prohibited in Meitei society but his practice is prevalent among the members of the hill tribes (T.C. Hodson, *The Meitheis*, Page 75). Politically, the introduction of the practice of exogamy can broaden and strengthen the power of the clans. Polygamy was also very popular. It was also prevailing custom among the Meitei that as a symbol of success in the war, the victor took the wife of the vanquished, weak rules or chiefs used to offer their daughter to the powerful king. Thus powerful kings had many

wives or queens. Their example was followed by the nobles and well-to-do families and lastly to common people.

In Meitei society both in early and present days there are certain taboos and rules connected with the institution of marriage. If anybody breaking the rules was expelled from the common society to *Haochongpal* or *Sanupal* which were known as *loi* areas (socially boycotted areas). The important rules to be strictly prohibited in marriage are 1. Yekthoknaba or Putinnaba (belonging to the same clan/kinship) 2) Shaieur tinnaba, 3) Pentinaba and 4) Mugnaba.

Yek thoknaba
Marriage within the clan or yek is strictly prohibited. This is a long time honoured custom in the Meitei society. Meitei are socially divided into seven clans known as salais or yeks viz, *Ningthouja*, *Angom Khuman*, *Liawang*, *Moirang*, *Khaba Ngaba* and *Chenglei*. Marriage within the same yek is forbidden as it is descended from a common ancestor. So yek *thoknaba* also known as *Pu-tinnaba* (Pu-forefather, tinnaba-same origin). (Contd. on page 2)