

Sharmila breaks fast protest; court release her on bail

ITNews
Imphal, Aug 9: The anti AFSPA crusader, who has been on fast-unto-death protest for 16 years today broke her fast and announced that she will contest election from the constituency of Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh in the upcoming general assembly election.
 "I will break my fast and contest election from the constituency of Chief Minister and if I win I will repeal AFSPA," said Sharmila in the crowded room of Legal Aid Clinic, inside Chirap Court Complex here in Imphal. The Iron lady had stunned the people across the country by announcing that she will end her fast-unto-death protest to change her struggle against the draconian act AFSPA on July 26. The announcement becomes a matter of everybody's concern. Since her announcement various civil society organizations had appealed her to once more think on her decision to contest the election. Some individuals and right activists however said that her



decision to change the strategy of her protest against AFSPA by contesting the election is a welcome step. Some are of the opinion that she was expressing her anger as not many people had taken interest to the protest she had been under way since the last 15 years. As usual from Sharmila was produced to the court of CJM Imphal West, Lamkhanpau

Tonsing. As she had expressed her desire to end the fast the Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP) pray the court to close the hearing. The CJM Imphal West later granted her bail on furnishing of PR bond of Rs. 10,000. She was once more ordered to appear before the court on August 23. During the course of hearing,

Sharmila pray the court to allow her sometime and a place to interact with media. Pack with media persons from across the country and aboard at the legal Aid Clinic room, Sharmila announced her decision to end the fast. She said her decision to contest election is on the sole propose of fighting against the AFSPA.

"If I win the election and become Chief Minister I can repeal the act", this was a statement which boom the crowd and but shock many well wishers. Later, after the court granted her bail, Sharmila was taken to JNIMS Hospital for check up.

State cabinet discusses for drafting of new ILPS Bill

ITNews
Imphal, Aug 9: State cabinet today discussed in depth for drafting of the Manipur Regulation of Non-local People Bill, 2016 to table at the upcoming 14th Session of the 10th Manipur Legislative Assembly Session. Mention may be made that the JCLPS which is spearheading the mass agitation for introduction of Inner Line Permit System for outsider in the state has been demanding speedy drafting of

a new Bill after the the Protection of (PMP) Manipur Peoples' Bill 2015 has been denied assent by the president of India. The Bill along with 2 others - the Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms (7th Amendment) Bill 2015 and the Manipur Shops and Establishments (2nd Amendment) Bill 2015 were passed by the Manipur Legislative Assembly in 2015.

When the PMP has been denied assent by the president the 2 other has been withheld for consideration of the experts. The state cabinet which began at 4 pm today also discussed to summon the 14th session. Other matter discussed in today's cabinet meeting are drafting of the Manipur Technical University Bill, 2016, direct recruitment of staffs at PWD and MI Control Department Manipur by relaxing the ban.

Sharmila supporters plan to meet her to discuss her new strategy

ITNews
Imphal, Aug 9: According to report supporters and women activists as well as member of Sharmila Kanba Lup is expecting to meet the Iron Lady to discuss on her new strategy. Agency report however said that her 84-year-old mother Shakhi Devi is not likely to meet her. "She will not go there to meet her. She is waiting for the moment of her victory which will come only when AFSPA is repealed," Singhajit, was quoted as saying. The family and her supporters, who have not been able to meet her since July 26 when she announced her decision to end her fast and enter politics to ensure that AFSPA



is repealed through political means, have no idea where she is going to stay from now on. Local activist Kshetrimayum Onil, who has been associated with Sharmila for a long time, said they tried many times but

failed to meet her to discuss the future strategy on AFSPA. Her brother also said he is waiting to meet Sharmila today to discuss future strategies. Doctors attending Sharmila said that she might have to be kept on a liquid diet for the next few days as her body might not be able to digest solid food all of a sudden. "Her condition is okay as she has been getting all nutrients. She can walk also," Dr Laishram Deben, director of Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital, told PTL. Sharmila's struggle has been the nucleus of all protests against AFSPA in Manipur and the neighbouring north-eastern states.

Painting Competition organised

ITNews
Imphal, Aug 9: 12th Bihar Regiment of Nambol Post has organised a one day painting competition at Naorem Junior School of Nambol Naorem Mayai Leikai of Bishnupur District today. In a press release, H Chandra Prava Devi, Head Mistress of Naorem Junior School, Bishnupur district states that the painting competition was organised under the sponsorship of Hari Ram Taram, CO of Nambol Post "A" Coy of 12th Bihar Regiment for the students studying at Naorem Junior School.

Book released

ITNews
Imphal, Aug 9: A poetry book written by L. Shyamjai Singh entitled "Punshi Seiroi" was released by Director of Arts and Culture, Dr. P. Shushilata at a simple function of her office chamber on 8th September. The book has contain 123 poems.

Drivers' body condemns harassment on fellow colleagues on NH

ITNews
Imphal, Aug 9: All Manipur Night Super Driver Welfare Association appealed concern authority not to harass the drivers on the National Highway. Speaking to the media person secretary of the association N Jotin said that All Manipur Night Super drivers have been serving the people since 1883-

84 coming across several odds on the high way. He appealed the people of the state to understand the hard times being faced by the drivers. He further added that the drivers who are working day and night are working for the survival of their family. He appealed to not to target or victimise the driver for any reason.

Sit-in-protest staged against IED blast



ITNews
Imphal, Aug 9: Local meira paibis' of Khagempali Huidrom Leikai, Imphal West today staged a sit-in-protest condemning bomb blast at the residential area. Speaking to the media persons, a women protestor showed disappointment over the blast and blames the responsible group or organisation for cowardly act. Such act of terrorism should be put up on innocent civilians, she added.

Appealing the concern group or organisation the women protestor appeals to clarify the reason of the bomb blast. The bomb blast occurred around 10:20 pm of August 8, at the residential gate of one Huidrom Chaoba (aged 42 yrs) s/o (L) Huidrom Nipamacha of Khagempali Hidrom Leikai who is currently working as OT Assistance at RIMS Hospital. No report of any casualty was reported at the time of the IED blast except for some damage at the nearby buildings.

Former Arunachal Pradesh CM found dead at his residence

Itanagar, Aug 9: Former Arunachal Chief Minister Kalikho Pul was found dead today at his residence in Itanagar. AIR News reports that the police is yet to confirm the cause of his death. However news reports suggests that he committed suicide at his residence around eight this morning. Reports said he was found hanging in his home. No one is still allowed to enter the bungalow premises and as police is investigating the scene. Angry mob in state capital has attacked Deputy Chief Minister Chawna Mein and Industry and textile Minister Tapang Taloh's resident and destroyed the houses and private vehicles in the premise. Angry mob demanding for proper enquiry and resignation of Chief Minister Pema Khandu, has also burned the coffin which

was brought for the late CM. The mob did not allow couple of Ministers to enter the bungalow premises and send them away, alleging them as the reason for his suicide. Kalikho Pul was chief minister from the period February to July 2016. He had come to power after 12 MLAs supporting then chief minister Nabam Tuki joined his camp. Late Pul has left behind his three wives and 5 children. President Pranab Mukherjee has expressed shock at the sad demise of Kalikho Pul. In a tweet message the President said, he is shocked to hear of untimely demise of promising young leader Kalikho Pul whose contributions shall always be remembered. Prime Minister has extended his condolences to the family and supporters of Kalikho Pul. In a tweet, Mr Modi said Pul's service to Arunachal Pradesh will be remembered.

Congress President Sonia Gandhi also expressed shock at the untimely and tragic demise of Kalikho Pul.

Extending her condolences to the family of Mr Pul, she prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

President of India condoles the passing away of Shri Kalikho Pul

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee has condoled the passing away of Shri Kalikho Pul, former Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh. In a message to his wife, Smt. Dangwimsai Pul, the President has said, "I am shocked and distressed to learn about the untimely demise of Shri Kalikho Pul. Words are difficult to give solace at this moment of deep loss to your family and you. Shri Kalikho Pul symbolized the hopes and aspirations of the youth of Arunachal Pradesh. He made significant contribution towards the welfare of the people of the State. In his death, we have lost a promising young leader who rose from a humble background and worked for the common man. His passing away is a loss for the State of Arunachal Pradesh and India. Please accept my heartfelt condolences and convey the same to the rest of your family members. I pray to the Almighty to give you, and the other members of your family, the strength to bear this irreparable loss".

End of Irom Sharmila's hunger strike an opportunity to repeal AFSPA

Amnesty International Prisoner of Conscience Irom Chanu Sharmila would end her 16-year-long hunger strike against the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) today. Amnesty International India calls on authorities to drop all charges against her, and take steps to repeal the AFSPA. At a hearing in a local court, Irom Sharmila said, "I have been fasting for the last 16 years. I haven't got anything from it yet. I am ending my fast today. I want to try a different agitation now. I will contest against the Chief Minister of Manipur in the upcoming state elections." The activist signed a bail bond and is likely to be released on bail soon. "Irom Sharmila's hunger strike over the last 16 years has been a testament to her passion for human rights, and her belief that a draconian law like the AFSPA has no place in any society. The government arrested her,

confined her to a hospital room and force fed her for 16 years, seemingly to break her will. There was zero dialogue. A peaceful protest was criminalized," said Abhir VP, Senior Campaigner with Amnesty International India. "Irom Sharmila's decision to break her hunger strike gives India another chance to start a dialogue and recognize how the AFSPA has alienated Manipur for over 35 years." The activist was arrested by the Manipur police after she began her hunger strike on 2 November 2000, and has been repeatedly charged with attempting suicide, but never convicted. She has pleaded not guilty to the charges of attempting to commit suicide, saying she is involved in a non-violent protest. Courts in Manipur have repeatedly ruled that her hunger strike is a form of peaceful protest, and not an attempt at suicide.

Although attempting to commit suicide is a bailable offence, Sharmila had earlier refused to sign bail bonds, maintaining that she had not committed any offence. The AFSPA in Manipur has provided impunity for perpetrators of grave human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, rape, torture and other ill-treatment, and excessive use of force. On 8 July, the Supreme Court, while hearing a public interest litigation filed by the Extrajudicial Execution Victims' Families Association of Manipur and Imphal-based NGO Human Rights Alert said that 1528 cases of alleged extrajudicial executions committed by security forces from 1979 to 2012 in Manipur needed to be looked into, and offences committed by security forces could be prosecuted in civilian courts. It asked for more information about the cases. Proceedings will resume

in September. The Supreme Court said, "If members of our armed forces are deployed and employed to kill citizens of our country on the mere allegation or suspicion that they are the 'enemy' not only the rule of law, but our democracy would be in grave danger." "The Manipur and central governments must heed the words of the Supreme Court. The ruling makes it clear that security force personnel accused of human rights violations must not be allowed to get away with impunity," said Abhir VP. The AFSPA is inconsistent with India's obligations under international human rights law to respect and protect the rights to life, liberty and security of person, to freedom from torture and other ill-treatment, and to an effective remedy. Several Indian and international bodies have called for its repeal.