

Tangkhal community preparing to leave Imphal to celebrate Christmas festival



## Curfew imposed

IT News

**Imphal, Dec 18:** District Administration of Imphal East has imposed indefinite curfew along Imphal Ukhrul road in Imphal East district from 12.30 pm today afternoon. Following the imposition of curfew no persons are allowed to come out of their respective home in the area and no persons from outside the area are restricted from entering the Imphal Ukhrul road without prior permission from the district authority.

## Vehicle of intending BJP candidate of Ukhrul AC vandalized



IT News

**IT News, Dec 18:** A group of persons had vandalized the car of intending BJP candidate of Ukhrul Assembly Constituency Asai Ngakuimiza at Lamlong area at around 9.30 pm yesterday evening. According to Asai Ngakuimiza, he along with two Assistant Professors from University of Delhi and two other villagers were on their way to Ukhrul after the 24 hour Manipur bandh called by women bodies of Khwairamband Keithel has been over. The 24 hour bandh was ended at 7 pm yesterday. What is shocking is that the Manipur police personnel who were on duty at the site did not stop those attacking them, Asai said. In the attack, Asai sustained minor injury. A complaint has been lodged to the DGP Manipur in the regard.

## Over 20 passenger vehicles vandalised and burnt at Imphal-Ukhrul road

IT News

**Imphal, Dec 18:** A total of 22 Ukhrul bound passenger vehicles were vandalised and some among them were burnt in between Khurai Konsam Leikai to Khurai Heigrumakhong area in Imphal-Ukhrul road today afternoon by a mob agitating against the UNC. Police team fire several round of gun shots in the air and tear gas shells to disperse the mob. Four persons including 3 male and a female were injured in the police action.

Report said that large number of people at Imphal Ukhrul road inbetween Khurai Lamlong till Khurai Heigrumakhong were seen waited since early morning today to impose counter blockade along the route. Vehicles passing through the area towards Ukhrul district had been checked and essential commodities found carrying were pull down and destroyed by the people enforcing counter blockade against the prolong economic

blockade of the UNC. All of a sudden around 40 passenger vehicles including Buses and other four wheeler vehicles were seen moving towards Ukhrul at around 11 am. When enquired about the reason for movement of such a large number of passenger vehicles it was told that those passengers were on their way back to their native village to celebrate the Christmas festival. The agitators imposing counter blockade reportedly halt the passenger vehicles and prevented them from proceeding forward asking them to return back and celebrate the Christmas at the place where they stayed. However, police team present at the site intervene and mob allowed the passenger vehicles to pass through. Following the move, the mob started pelting stones and started burning vehicles after pulling down the passengers. The mob even vandalised a police gypsy vehicle and a bus were burnt by the irate mob.



## Mass exodus or going back home to celebrate Christmas festival?

IT News

**Imphal, Dec 18:** After UNC had threatened mass exodus of Naga community from valley area against the state government for creation of the 7 new district in the state of Manipur, many Tangkhal community residing at various part of Valley area particularly those residing at Nagaram had started returning back to their villages since morning today. But report said they are returning back to celebrate Christmas festival and has nothing to do with the politics of UNC.

Ukhrul parking opposite to ISBT at Khuman Lampak was seen crowded with Tangkhal

people who were on their way to Ukhrul district. Source said that the UNC had arranged vehicles for the departure of the Tangkhal people. On the other hand when this reporter contacted some of the Tangkhal people, it has been told that it was co-incidence and not the mass exodus as announced by the UCM. "You see every year we return back to our village to celebrate the Christmas and New Year festival, this is just normal movement and has nothing to do with the politics of any organisation", the person who did not like to be named told this reporter.

## Counter-blockade at Jiri Parking Imphal



IT News

**Imphal, Dec 18:** The wave of counter-blockade against the indefinite economic blockade of United Naga Council (UNC), banning movement of vehicles bound to Naga tribe populated areas of hill districts seems to reach the capital city of Manipur. Around 150 people including youth and womenfolk of Sagolband area come out against the UNC sponsored economic blockade and blocked passenger and goods laden vehicles at Sagolband

Moirang Leirak area. Blocking the vehicles the counter-blockade supporters destroyed goods transporting to hill areas at the Imphal-Jiribam section of NH-37 from today morning. The counter-blockade supporters have also destroyed some vegetable items which were carrying in a hill bound autorickshaw. However, no casualties of people and destruction of vehicles were reported at the time of filing this report.

## MPPDU blames state govt. over inaction to UNC

IT News

**Imphal, Dec 18:** The Manipur Proletariat Peoples' Democratic Union (MPPDU) has blamed the state government over its inaction to the UNC who has been palying with the breathe of the people of the state. In a statement the organisation said that when civil society leaders who were demanding

Imer Line Permit Sustum in the state are detained under NSA it does not find any rationale to the detention of UNC leaders and keeping them in custody without taking up any action against them. the organisation said that the nature of keeping the two UNC leader showed that the drama is nothing but to suppress the ILP movement.

## Shops down shutters at Paona Keithel

IT News

**Imphal, Dec 18:** For reason not known to the media almost all shops down their shutters today. When enquired about the reason for shutting down of the shops a shopkeeper said that the shopkeeper down their shutters on their own due to the ongoing crisis in the state. There are no formal announcement but it seems like the shop owners association of the Paona keithel seem to have taken the decision to close the shops

in view of the prevailing situation amidst the cash crisis in the aftermath of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's demonitisation move on August 8. Shop keepers in Imphal particularly those in Paona Keithel and Thangal keithel are facing extreme harsh due to the cash crisis. Some running the business on rented shops are running the business at loss and some even were forced to close the shops due to financial crisis said a shopkeeper.

## Farmer demand to arrest those involved in the burning of farm house and robbing

IT News

**Imphal, Dec 18:** Thingam Tombi of Thoubal Khekman Mathak Leikai condemning the act of robbing his fish farm and burning down of the farm house located at the farm house located at the farm house of Maming Dolaithabi on the evening of December 14, demanded the concern to arrest those involved and award punishment as per the law of the land. Speaking to the media persons at Manipur Press Club, Majorkhul, Imphal, Thongam Tombi said that on December 14, around 4 pm one Muslim person from Nungei Khunou which was known to Tombi and his family member without any warning came towards his farm and fired 2 rounds of live bullet using double barrel rifle while they were collecting fish from the pond to handover to the buyers who will later sell in the market.

The bullet was fired directly towards one of his younger Thongam Shyam (45) of Nungei Makha Thongam Leikai who was looking after the farm along with Athokpam Tiken (38), son-in-law of Tombi, of Canchipur, he added. Tombi also said that who were at the farm fled the spot for safety. Taking the chance of being no one at the farm, the intruder took away all the

available items worth around Rs 70'000 from the farm house including a cash amount of Rs 2 lakhs which they have received from the fish they have sold, he added.

Thongam Shyam said that he and Tiken have been looking after the farm for the past 4 years but such incident is the first time to occur at their farm. Md Serakhan (28) s/o Md Samsour of Nungei Khunou is the person is responsible for the barbarian act and the one who have fired the gun directly at him. Shyam also said that a report has been file to Lilong police on December 15 but so far no proper action have been taken up by the concern department and Government except for the police personnel escorting them while confiscating their left items and vehicle from the farm.

Regarding the incident family members of Tombi appeal the concern department to take up necessary action and capture the responsible person Md Sarakhan and his party who came along with him on the day and the CSO of the state to look into the incident to avoid such unwanted incident in the future.

The day of looting Tombi farm was the same day of Lilong Nungai incident where 5 houses were burnt down and 1 grocery shop was rob.

## Significance of the Anglo-Kuki war 1917-1919 AD

**Dr. D. Lethojam Haokip**  
Assistant Professor, Department of History  
Gauhati University

**Introduction:** The Kukis who have inhabited the present North East India from the ancient times have shown one of the toughest wars to the British in India and its adjoining areas, particularly in the Myanmar region in the form of the **Great Anglo-Kuki war 1917-1919 AD**. Col. Shakespeare, who was personally involved in the battlefield, said that, of all the military operations in the North-East India, including the most talked about and dreaded **Abor Expedition** under General Symond, the Kuki rebellion 1917-1919 AD is the toughest.<sup>1</sup> There are writers who claimed the war as a part of the First World War. No doubt, this war was partly the result of the World War I that shook not only the Manipur hills but also some parts of Myanmar, Assam and also the Naga hills. We can rightly call it a part of the Indian struggle for Independence. The entire North east region at that point of time was under the colonial administration, under the Assam province. The Kuki who were independent from outside interference had encountered the British for almost one and half century from different locations or pockets of north east India including Chittagong Hill tracts. Like many other communities of the world, the Kuki were aware that intrusion of the British in the Kuki territory will replace or affect their traditional socio-political,

economy and religious institution. They were also certain that the influence of the British in the tribal society would erode their political institution especially Chieftainship. Interestingly, in all the wars which had been directed towards the British, the Kuki chiefs initiated their leadership. Before we make an estimate of its significance, we would like to highlight the course of the war and important events that took place in Manipur, the extent and magnitude of the war in brief.

**Course of the war:** In fact the First World War losses were very heavy on the part of the British. The British, who largely depend on the resources of the colonies, found lots of hurdles in managing and conducting the war. Being established rulers, they had every right to impose and also could ask any one of their colonies for any kind of service whenever the need arose or were called for. India being one of their colonies was also asked to contribute in men and material for conducting the War.<sup>2</sup> In this connection, the British Government of India made an appeal to supply labour corps. The North east region of the British India offered to raise five labour corps of two thousand men each. The Naga hill and the Khasi corps were raised and had accordingly left for France. This was followed by the second batch of the Khasi corps, the Lushai Hill corps and also the Garo Hill corps. The Raja of Manipur had contributed a Double Company of Infantry, five ambulances to St John's Ambulance Red Cross Fund and Rs. 2,81,860 plus

Rs.22500 (installments) for purchasing an airplane. In addition to this, he expressed his desire to send two more labour corps though he could not keep up his commitment due to technical reasons, i.e. the size and frequency of the draft required for the first corps of the Manipur hill men. He was ready to recruit from the valley and command personally if the need arose.<sup>3</sup> However, many leaders from the state and the Chief Commissioner, decided not to depute the Maharaja to Mesopotamia, on the ground that many hill men had revolted and military operations against them were going on and also instead asked the king to accept honorary rank of captain. In the mean time many Kuki chiefs started killing mithuns, distributing its flesh, warn their subjects not to go for labor in France. Similar to the Kuki chiefs, some Tangkhal started the same. The Kuki chiefs who were completely out of touch with the British officer prepared to resist the recruitment policy and at the end of the year 1916, four eastern Kuki chiefs started sending animal flesh to their junior clans or minor chiefs along with an order not to send labour corps to France.<sup>4</sup> The abortion of Higgins's mission to the Kuki chiefs by Ngulkhup, Chief of Lonpi, had plunged both entities to a War. Had the British pay respect to the religions of other communities and also ensure security to their family members, from the raids or attacks from their enemy, the Anglo-Kuki war of 1917-1919 AD would have been possibly avoided. (Contd on page 2)

A total of 28,000 are using Imphal Times Android APP to get access with the latest happening in Manipur. Stay in touch with Imphal Times by downloading our Android App. Just log on to www.imphaltimes.com.

