

425 loaded trucks including oil tanker escorted towards Imphal; Barak Bridge closed for 3 days

IT News
Imphal, Dec 8: Amidst the hardship meted out by truck drivers along the NH-37 due to lack of security escort, Barak Bridge has been closed for 3 days after the condition of the Bridge deteriorated and needed urgent repairing. Report reaching here said that a total of 425 trucks including oil tankers have crossed the bridge at around 4.45 am today and are heading towards Imphal under tight security measures. However, after the crossing of the trucks the BRO

authority had close the bridge as it needs urgent repairing. Source said it might even take longer than 3 days. Around 1500 loaded trucks are being stranded at Jiribam since the last 2 / 3 days due to security reasons as the UNC economic blockade had intensified on the high way following the arrest of UNC President Gaidon Kamei and Publicity Secretary Stephen Lamkang. Truckers had yesterday expressed their anger after the Manipur Police team which

took empty trucks allowed only 400 plus trucks giving priority to oil tankers. Meanwhile, an Oil Tanker truck met an accident at Latombai near Silchar and was caught in fire. The oil tanker truck belongs to Kakching Oil pump. On the other hand police had started taking up suo-motto case against the burning of trucks by supporters of UNC on Novemehr 25 this year. A truck carrying chicken feeds bearing registration number NL 01 N 4441 was set ablaze near St. Joshep School Tadubi.

Seizure of Rs. 9.32 lakhs in new currency notes reported State authority as well as AR remains tight lips

IT News
Imphal, Dec 8: Even as the Eastern Command of the Indian Army has tweeted about the arrest of a couple for carrying Rs. 9,32,000 in new currency note by Assam Rifles near Moreh in Manipur along the Indo-Myanmar border, the state government authority as well as the Assam Rifles authorities are not spelling out about the incident to media. The report about the seizure of the huge amount of Rs. 2000 denomination was tweeted amidst the hardship faced by the common people of the state

for getting Rs. 4000 from their bank accounts. The Eastern Command said that the arrested couple along with the seized amount have been handed over to Police. The same was reported in national Hindi News channel "Zee News" along with other incident of man arrested with huge amount of money in new denomination when common people are facing extreme hardship in getting just Rs. 2000 from account and that too after standing in queue for hours. Imphal Times inquired about the matter to the Moreh

Station through some channels, however, the authority of the Moreh Police station denied any such arrest or handing over by the AR. When inquired to the IGAR South PRO, he too said that that at the moment there are no reports of any seizure of new denomination however there are report about the seizure of around Rs. 40 lakhs some days back in demonetized currency notes. When Imphal Times digs the matter, I witness said that the Assam Rifles personnel who were on duty near Moreh had arrested a couple with huge

amount of Rs. 2000 new currency note on Monday, the 5th December. The eyewitness however said that the amount seized on that day was around Rs. 7 lakhs. The witness who did not want to reveal his identity said that the couple had a business of selling cows. Report further said that Government authority, bank authority here in Imphal as well as the AR are trying to conceal the incident as it would spark another crisis at a time when bank authorities are facing serious allegations and fury of the public.

NPF candidates decry arrest of UNC leaders

IT News
Imphal, Dec 8: Aspiring NPF candidates of Phungyar Assembly Constituency had decry the arrest of UNC leaders Gaidon Kamei and Steppen Lamkhang calling it as an act of autocratic government. In a statement the candidate E. Leishyo said that the UNC demand is justified.

Court hearing of UNC leaders begins

IT News
Imphal, Dec 8: Hearing of the United Naga Council (UNC) President Gaidon Kamei and Publicity Secretary Stephen Lamkang began today in the court of Justice Kotishwar at Manipur High Court today. The two were arrested by a team of Manipur Police from Pheidinga area on Novemehr 25 in charge of sponsoring violence in the name of

economic blockade. The Court after hearing the petition filed by the police today gave a chance for the offender to give thier counter affidavit in the next hearing. The two leaders of the UNC were framed charges for inciting violent activities to the supporters taking into account the burning of trucks along the National High ways.

Paytm means Pay To Modi, says Rahul Gandhi as Opposition holds Black Day against demonetisation

New Delhi, Dec. 8: Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi today called Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to ban old Rs 500 and Rs 1000 notes "foolish" and asked if the focus now on cashless transactions means "paying to Modi". "If I am allowed to speak in

Lok Sabha, I will show to all how Paytm means 'Pay to Modi'," Rahul told reporters outside Parliament, a jibe on Modi appearing in a front-page Paytm advertisement the day after the Prime Minister announced demonetisation in a televised address on November 8. Rahul called demonetisation a foolish decision. "This is not a bold decision, it is a foolish decision which has been taken without any due consideration. It has devastated the poor, the farmers, the daily wage workers. We want to have a discussion. We want a vote, the government doesn't," Rahul told reporters outside Parliament.

"The idea behind cashless economy is that a few people must get maximum benefits from these transactions. This has damaged the nation," he said. Rahul said it is perhaps for this reason that PM Modi is "running away" from the debate. "If he comes to the House for debate, we won't let him run," he quipped.

towards Mahatma Gandhi's statue in the Parliament premises to protest against the note ban. "It's been 30 days today since demonetisation was announced. We will not make any slogans today, only hold a Black Day. It will be a silent protest," Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad said. "Earlier, the Prime Minister asked for five days, then five weeks and now he wants 50 days. This isn't right as not even 50 per cent of the situation got better in the last one month," Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said. The government has rejected the Opposition protest. "This is not a Black Day. This is their Support to Black Money Day," Union Minister Venkaiah Naidu said. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar said the government is ready for a discussion in Parliament. "The Opposition is staging the protest only to garner media space. The government is ready for discussion in the House," he said.

One person found dead



IT News
Imphal, Dec 8: A person was found dead today morning at the road side of Mayang Imphal Bengoon Leirak Achouba Machine under Mayang Imphal Police Station. The deceased is identified as Moirangthem Thoiba Singh (53 yrs) of Sekmajin Awang Hangoon under mayang Imphal Assembly Constituency. Police had picked up the dead body and deposited at RIMS morgue. Cause of death could not be confirmed at the moment.

Maoist claims; says it is the last warning

IT News
Imphal, Dec 8: Maoist Communist Party, Manipur today claimed responsibility to the placing of the bomb at the residence of Thounaojam Choaba at Utlou. In a press statement issued today the Maoist said that the bomb was placed as a last warning to Thounaojam Choaba for his direct support to former DGP Yumnam Joykumar, who is responsible for massive extra judicial killings. According to report, a bomb, probably an IED was found at the residence of Thounaojam Choaba yesterday evening. Police team and bomb squad safely detonated the bomb at around midnight yesterday. The Maoist Communist party statement blamed Thounaojam Choaba for

providing sanctuary and refuge to former DGP Yumnam Joykumar and also for projecting him as a BJP candidate in the upcoming assembly election. The statement further said that Th. Choaba is currently camping at Delhi. It said even after knowing that Y.Joykumar is under the radar of the law because of the genocide he led and that of the 1528 cases of fake encounters currently under investigations and pending at the Supreme court of India Th. Choaba is defending him and is lobbying for him to the Central BJP leaders. Alleging Th. Choaba of collecting money assuring BJP candidates, the Maoist said that the bomb that was found yesterday evening was placed

by a unit of our urban guerrilla team of the outfit. The statement not only warned Th Choaba but also said that BJP as a hold should know that the Maoist may strike to all the BJP if Y Joykumar is sided by BJP. The statement said that Congress in alliance with CPI formed the Secular Progressive Front and it was during the reign of this SPF, that many mothers lost their son, many women became widows overnight while many children became fatherless or even orphans. It said the frontal organisation Manipur Forward Youth Front (MAFYF) which stood against the barbaric rule was force to turn as Maoist Communist Party, Manipur to fight the odds.

Film critic Meghachandra Kongbam becomes member of International Federation of film critics

IT News
Imphal, Dec. 8: The Annual General Meeting of the India organisation of the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI, short for Fédération Internationale de la Presse Cinématographique) approved the membership of four Indian film critics namely Siraj Syed, Narendra Bandabe, Meghachandra Kongbam and Minakshi Dutta. In an emailed message communicated by eminent film critic MK Raghavendra, the Secretary of FIPRESCI-India on December 7; the president and the executive committee of FIPRESCI India welcomed Meghachandra Kongbam as a member of the National Section of FIPRESCI International. Meghachandra Kongbam had the passion of cinema after he encountered the subject of film medium during his university days in Benaras Hindu University while pursuing Post Graduate Bachelor Degree in Journalism in 1978. In an educational tour of the journalism students in Mumbai in 1979, he along with some of his classmates led by Mohd Salim skipped the itinerary of the journey and visited the Mohon Film Studio, Andheri East in Mumbai where they interviewed legendary film maker Hrishikesh Mukherjee, met Amitabh Bachchan, Rajesh Khanna and Sachin, and watched the shooting of Sachin in a hotel

scene of *Satte Pe Satta*. After acquiring knowledge of writing on cinema from the Film Appreciation Course in FTII, Pune in 1985; he plunged into the profession as film columnist in leading newspapers and journals of Manipur including *Poknapam* since 1985, and contributes articles on cinema in national newspapers & journals. This year, he contributed two important articles- *Aribam Syam Sharma: A Genius of Indian Cinema* in the publication of the 80 Years of Assamese Cinema, Guwahati and *Journey of Manipuri Cinema* in the special publication of Indian Film Culture published by the Federation of Film Societies of India, Mumbai. For his contribution in writing on cinema, Meghachandra Kongbam was honoured with memento and certificate as film critic in the Silver Jubilee Celebration of Manipuri Cinema in 1997; awarded the Best Film Journalist Award 2010 by the Film Forum, Manipur, and the prestigious Best Film Critic Award of 63rd National Film Awards 2015. FIPRESCI and Manipuri Cinema: The organizations of professional film critics and film journalists, established in different countries for the promotion and development of film culture and for the safeguarding of professional interests, constitute the International Federation of the Cinematographic

Press (Fédération Internationale de la Presse Cinématographique - FIPRESCI) - an institution founded on the 6th of June 1930. At present it has members in more than 50 countries worldwide. The purpose of the Federation is to develop, on an international scale, the activities of its members, and particularly: To safeguard the freedom and ethics of film criticism and film journalism and of information. To promote and expand the idea of the cinema as a means of artistic expression and of cultural education. To discuss, define and confirm the specific rights and obligations of film criticism and journalism, and To encourage the exchange of ideas and experience among film critics and film journalists of all countries and thereby create, outside all ideological and political distinctions, a new foundation for a permanent dialogue. To promote film-art and to encourage new and young cinema; the FIPRESCI prize is awarded at international film festivals or at film festivals of particular importance. Haobam Paban Kumar, the Indian film maker is the only recipient of FIPRESCI prize from Manipur. He came into the limelight with his -AFSPA 1958, which won the International Jury and FIPRESCI awards at the ninth Mumbai International Film Festival 2006.

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