

Women activist imposing public curfew called by JCILPS against police excess



3 including 2 foreign convicts died clash inside Sajiwa Central Jail

IT News

Imphal, July 30: Lapses of security in Manipur's Sajiwa Central Jail is once more come to the notice of the people after 3 inmates including 2 foreign convicts died inside the prison at wee hour today.

One among the deceased is an undertrial prisoners belonging to Kuki Community of Manipur identified as Thangminlian Zou (29) s/o Late Kapkhanpou of Muallum Village, Churachandpur.

The deceased foreign convicts are identified as Yusuf (21) s/o Siddiq of Saudi Arabia Mediatul Manou Warh and Abdus Salam (22) s/o Abdul Ahad of Saudi Arabia.

Both were arrested from Indo-Myanmar border in July 2013 by Assam Rifles personnel after they failed to produce proper documents for trespassing the country. Both the foreigners were handed over to Manipur police and after producing to Judicial Magistrate they were convicted for one year and sent to Sajiwa Central Jail, Manipur on July 12, 2013. Their conviction ended on June 23, 2014, but as Saudi Arabian authority fails to responds to the government communication their detention continues.

Thangminlian Zou, the deceased undertrial prisoner from Manipur, has been in the prison since August 20, 2014 after he was arrested in October



2010 under section 302 of Indian Penal Code on charge of murder.

Speaking to the media persons, ADGP Prison P Doungel said that the exact reason of how the incident took place inside sector 1 cell 1 is not yet known. As according to him the incident happened at around 1 am today after the three engaged in deadly confrontation following a heated argument over some personal belongings. The Manipuri inmate was reportedly killed by the two

foreign convicts inside the cell. Following the incident jail inmates turn furious and started attacking the two foreign inmates. As the two locked the cell from inside the room the jail inmates vandalise the door and pulled them out. As some among the inmate started thrashing them, both made way towards a pond located inside the prison complex. The inmates then pelted stones and other sharp iron towards them resulting the two with serious injuries and latter died inside the pond.

On receiving the information, a team of Imphal East Police led by SP Angam along with IRB team rushed to the Central to control the situation.

Speaking to media persons ADGP Prison, P Doungel said the police team fire tear gas shells and also fired rounds of gunshots in the air to control the situation. The prison inmates too reportedly pelted stones towards the police personnel. Some among them sustained minor injury.

The unfortunate incident could have been avoided if the inmates were kept all together in one cell, he added.

P Doungel further said that as the two deceased are from foreign country, officials are trying to get in touch with the embassy of Saudi Arabia but so far no response have been received from their end.

If they could not get any response from the embassy of Saudi Arabia, the two will be disposed as per the law of the land, he added.

MCPM warns corrupt RTI activist

IT News

Imphal, July 30: Banned armed group Maoist Communist Party in a press release today reacted to the clarification made by one RTI activist identified as Kiran of Haobam Marak as shameful to counter argue on the facts published by the party after thorough investigation. The press release further stated that the so called Mr. Kiran from Haobam Marak who is staying at Hiyangthang with his last wife, self-proclaimed social worker had expressed was all false and deceptive. The outfit tried to communicate with him to his two cell-phone number 7085825623 and 8732896806 where no response was provided. It also alleged that Kiran withdraw an RTI request to Horticulture

department and questioned the reason behind it. Also it demanded a public apology and to stop further RTI activities. The outfit also stated that it is undergoing an investigation where some hill based armed group are found to be in connection with the said RTI activist. Further it also named one Keshorjit, an RTI activist about a case filed by him and was later withdrawn without judgment after taking a huge amount from Agriculture Dept where the hearing of the case was held on the 25th July, 2015 and concluded without next appearance under their internal mutual understandings. The party appeals those involved in such activities to tender public apology and it will not remain a silent spectator.

Foundation for longest railway tunnel laid

IT News

Imphal, July 30: Union Railway Minister Prabhakar Prabhutoday laid foundation stone for Railway station at Malom in Imphal West. The Union Minister also laid foundation for construction of the longest railway tunnel at Kotlien (Tunnel T/12)

Activists donate blood for minor cancer patient

IT News

Thoubal, July 30: Delhi team of Social Warriors Manipur led by N Sambhu and M Daina Friday rushed to AIIMS Delhi and donated three units of blood to Laishram Nganthoi Devi (4 years), D/o Laishram Premjit of Malom Tuliha, a blood cancer patient who is undergoing treatment at the premier medical institute. The minor patient required

four blood units for which the SWM team was ready to provide.

The team will provide the due blood unit today. The team also assured the parents of the minor girl that they would provide all necessary blood for the child. N Sambhu, A Anandajit and Dr Jonna gave their blood for the child. SWM activist N Rinakumari presented a teddy bear toy to the patient.

Natl. Seminar at RIMS

IT News

Imphal, July 30: A Two days National Training Programme of NACO-BD, CD4 on CD4 testing was inaugurated by the Director, RIMS Prof. Ch. Arun Kumar Singh yesterday at the Conference Hall of Jubilee Hall, RIMS, Imphal which is organized by NRL and FACS Count Centre, Department of Microbiology, RIMS in collaboration with MACS. Dr. Kh. Sulochana Devi, HOD of Microbiology, Dr.

Ibungochaoba Singh, Dy Dir. Lab. Services, MACS and Prof. H. Rebachandra Singh, Lab Director of NRL, ICTC and FACS Count Centre, RIMS, Imphal were also present in the inaugural function. The objectives of the Training Programme are to refresh and update the knowledge of the laboratory technician and also to monitor and initiate of ART. Laboratory technicians from different states attended the programme.

The Iron lady Irom Sharmila's meltdown drowns Muslims (Pangals)

Mohammad Intiyaj Khan

With the news of her contesting upcoming assembly elections after calling off about 16-year old fast protesting AFSPA1958, the movement that earned Irom Sharmila of Manipur the moniker 'Iron Lady', the biosphere and the social media is flooded with knee-jerk reactions and suddenly the human rights activist is reduced to just another case of 'fame by mistake'. What was the point in fasting at first place if electoral politics could repeal AFSPA? Is not joining politics a sign of failure of her movement and success of the present govt headed by O. Ibobi? Ms Sharmila's decision to end fast for contesting polls and getting married prompted Dina Oinam, a social media user, writing in Manipur, to condemn the decision by criticising the whole episode as '16-year long movie which we thought was patriotic, but ended up as a romantic comedy'. Amidst the outcry, mostly from Manipur and concerned Indian youths, the political parties firmly welcome her decision to join the mainstream of democracy: electoral politics.

Communal statement

While sifting through newspaper reports and unverified 'personal facts' being put out in the social media, I came across one report in the Huiyen Lanpao Manipuri edition of July 27. The report could be considered a grim reminder of Ronald Reagan's sarcastic bite on politics. "It has been said that politics is the second oldest profession. I have learned that it bears a striking resemblance to the

first". The oldest profession thrives on discrimination, chauvinism and misogynist passion. Similarly, the moment one talks about politics, communal tone/passion come out flying to sow the seeds of discrimination and chauvinism. In the said report, Irom Sharmila says that her support base is dwindling and tribes and Muslims (Pangals) did not come out to support her. Manipur is in the grip of a tension caused by hill-valley divide that was palpable in the opposition to the ILPS movement by hill-based groups. Her insensitive comment could further deepen the divide and invite criticism of her image of a rights activist. One can't help but say 'this is no way to start electoral politics by an activist'. Her comment is actually in tune with the latest trend in electioneering, i.e., social engineering. Let me elaborate it. Politics is in recent times increasingly done on identity, community and ultra-nationalist issues and passion. The most successful format is that majority and powerful community paint an ethnocentric and chauvinist picture that demean syncretism and marginalises minorities by questioning their loyalty and commitment in issues of state interest. To this end, different propaganda materials are distributed to unleash a wild run of passion in a section of society. Adopting such a format for anyone seeking a wild entry is not bad. So, what a better opening shot would be for a political career than speaking up for identity of a community while denigrating the minorities or relegating their position in the society. The report in

question indicates (or her advisors') communal assessment of her movement against AFSPA. However, AFSPA has never treated hills and valley, or Meiteis and Pangals differently. Many extra-judicial killings have been reported from every community and from every corner of Manipur. It is imprudent to stratify her supporters into core and peripheral; Meitei and Pangal/tribe. Every supporter has the same aversion to AFSPA and their collective demand has remained 'Repeal AFSPA, Save Sarmila'

I, for one, find her statement unbecoming of a Iron-willed woman who has shaken the mass and class, including the conscience keeper of India's constitution Supreme Court that ruled recently against excessive use of security force and the impunity with which security forces operate in areas under AFSPA1958.

Setting the record straight

Nobody is happy with AFSPA because it grants security forces the right to kill. Her statement is no less than a taunt on Pangals as it infers that Pangals are ready to be killed by Indian military by not supporting her movement to repeal the draconian law. Who wants to be killed, anyway? Before the dust settles on her whacky comment, it is worth taking a look, to set the record straight, at her movement and participation of Pangals. Miraj Shah, president of Manipur Students Association, Delhi (MSAD) feels seriously let down by the comment made by her whom he considers as

role model and had sat down on her side to protest several times in the past, in addition to organising a number of protest marches in Delhi supporting her fight for human rights

Here it is noteworthy that Ms Sharmila had been arrested a couple of times while protesting against AFSPA in Jantar Mantar and tried by Delhi metropolitan court on charges of committing suicide. In all her appearances in Delhi, apart from activists from Manipur accompanying her, MSAD has been instrumental. Apart from MSAD, various other rights activists also participated. One regular face on those protests was of Faisal Khan who revived Khudai Khidmatgar, a non-violent movement founded by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan popularly known as Frontier Gandhi, and an activist with National Alliance of People's Movement. In support of Ms Sharmila, Mr Khan had visited Manipur in 2014 and spent time taking part in her protest

In addition to this, Mr Khan had participated in a march of activists from Jammu and Kashmir, another state where AFSPA 1958 is imposed, to Manipur in 2011. The march was coordinated and received in Manipur by Manipuri Pangals representing Popular Front of India (PFI), Manipur chapter. It is apparent that Ms Sharmila's utterance has stunned members of PFI, which has been extending unflinching support and solidarity to her record-breaking fast. (Contd. on page 2)