

Khwairamband fake encounter case: Herojit turns up; next hearing scheduled on March 29



IT News
Imphal, March 21: Case hearing of the infamous Kwairamband Keithel fake encounter case of July 23, 2009 is being underway at the court of the District and Sessions Judge, Imphal West. The case is likely to be reopened after main accuse Thounaojam Herojit made confessional statement to media. Following the media statement mother of deceased Ch. Sanjit filed a fresh petition to court pleading to re-investigate the case. Accused Herojit, who

appeared before the court today is being represented by advocate Ibochouba while Advocate Khaidem Mani filed petition for Taratombi, the mother of late Ch. Sanjit. CBI Counsel P Ibochouba argued the petition for re-investigation of the case by CBI stating that it would be prejudice as hearing of the case in pending court. After hearing the argument district and session judge, Imphal West scheduled the next hearing of the case on March 29. Senior advocate Khaidem

Mani, who represented Ch Taratombi in the case said that Th Herojit filed an affidavit to grant him a confessional statement in front of the Magistrate. On the other hand Taratombi filed a petition to the court pleading to direct the CBI for re-opening of the case by re-investigating the case under section 173 (Code of Criminal Procedure) on the basis of extra judicial confession made by Herojit, the main accused of the broad day light alleged fake encounter killing.

Heroes of Kharam tribe on their mission to preserve folklore

By: Wahengbam Korrrkychand
Imphal, March 21: Kharam community of Manipur is one of the diminishing groups of people in the state. Kharam today inhabited in the seven villages of Manipur. Kharam Pallen village under Sapomeina Police station in Senapati district is one of the main settlements of the community. The word Kharam might have been derived from *Kha* (south in Meitei language) and lam (land) which the kharams used as ram (land) which means "Southland". They have a language affinity to Purum, Koireng, Aimol, Chiru, Kom, and Halam tribes of Manipur. The community has no written document to support their support for their history other than the folk songs, folktales and story which is passed on to generation after generation. Sensing the looming threat of extinction, two youths from the village have taken an unusual road to protect their year old tribal customary tradition, culture and folklore. Two students of Manipur

University namely Bosco Jaiche Karma (28) and Khamsosham Jaiche (27) have been visiting their hometown every Sunday to collect folk songs and tales from local elders. During their visit, they met with local elders and jotted down folktales and songs of Kharam tribe in a special book, which they used for the purpose only. Bosco is the first PhD scholar student from the village while, his friend Khamsosham, who is a Post-graduate student in Manipur University and also the President of All Manipur Kharam Tribe Union. The village has total number of 91 household and a population of 474 people including 257 male and 217 female, however only two persons namely Rengtankhel Jaiche (70) and Thanginsel Jaiche (65) are adopting their traditional faith while, others have embraced Christianity. There is a looming threat of dying out of folklore of the community after some years when elders have passed away and failed to pass on the



folklore to younger generation. Besides, another point of worry is that the literacy rate among the community is minimal, said the duo while speaking to representative of Imphal Times. Bosco said that they have started collecting unwritten lore of the tribal community out of love for their customary practices and culture. They have not asked nor received any financial help from the side of government and governmental agencies for their endeavor to preserve and protect the customs, folk tales and songs. Kharam Pallen is situated just around 40 KM from the capital city of Manipur; but it remains

as one of the most backward villages in the state without proper basic amenities. Presently the village has 9 (nine) graduate, 7 post graduate and one PhD student. It has 1 (one) MBBS, Bachelor of Theology student each and a female nurse. The female nurse namely Reineichim Rangla Khouching is currently working in a private hospital in Guwahati, Assam. The two youth also appealed the central and state government to kindly take proper initiative to protect the diminishing tribes of Manipur including the Kharam community and preserve their tribal folk legacies.

Chaoba to continue as BJP Manipur Pradesh President

IT News
Imphal, March 21: Th. Chaoba will continue as the president of BJP Manipur Pradesh until a new president is elected. During the national executive meeting held at New Delhi from March 19 and 20 there was no discussion about whom to be appointed or elected as the new president of the BJP Manipur Pradesh even as the matter is the talk among the party workers in the state. When contacted by Imphal Times Chaoba said that it does not matter if remain as president or not but what matters him is the strengthening of the party. Instead of the rumours its time that the party worker prepares to fight the upcoming Municipal election, Chaoba added.

TMDDC serves ultimatum to create Tongjaimarin district Warns to impose bandh along NH- 37 (A) from March 25

IT News
Imphal, March 21: While reiterating their demand to create separate district, Tongjaimarin District Demand Committee (TMDDC) has warned to launch intense forms of agitation if the demand is not granted by the State Government. Speaking to media persons at Manipur Press Club here today, Chairman of TMDDC, Abon Kamei said that the people who inhabit along the national highway are indigenous people of the state, who have been taking important roles from time immemorial. The demand for Tongjaimarin District is the most valid and has merit as the other groups demand for creation of districts where no historical support and no foundation basis to claim as genuine demands to create districts particularly Sadar Hills and Jiribam, such demands are sporadic and artificial. However, the step-motherly attitude of the state

government is condemnable. While stating that the Government of Manipur had given its assurance to consider their demand on priority basis, the Chairman of TMDDC has appealed for urgent action on the part of Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh, Deputy Chief Minister, Gaikhangam and Revenue Minister, Th Devendra Singh in their demand. Earlier, the TMDDC has submitted a memorandum to the then Chief Minister of Manipur, W Nipamacha Singh for the creation of the Tongjaimarin District covering about 150 villages in the

Southern Tamenglong areas to incorporate parts of Henglep Sub-Division areas of Churachandpur district, and Sadar Hills of Senapati District as a compact area of 950 sq. kms, he recalled. It is high time, the state Government takes up liberal and feasible political will to grant the creation of the Tongjaimarin District. Committee has no choice but to impose indefinite bandh along the National Highway 37 (A) from March 25 till to launch intense agitations till it achieves the aspiration of the people of the proposed Tongjaimarin District, warned the Chairman of TMDDC.

IT News
Imphal, March 21: Chanura Lamchinglel Kangleipak (CLK), a women organization today observed its 23rd foundation day at Panthou Esaikon, Wangkhei Hijam Leikai.

Heigrumjam Ibotombi Khuman, National Awardee and former convener of Joint Action Committee on Inner Line Permit System attending the function as Chief Guest praised the responsibilities taken up by the CLK in the

Accessing to safe drinking water is a basic right for every citizen, says Chandel's ADC member

IT News
Chandel, March 21: Accessing to safe drinking water is a basic right for every citizen but most of the villagers were still unable to get potable drinking water due to lack of awareness, says Chandel's ADC member. Speaking as the Chief Guest at the One Day Village Level Observation and Launching of National Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Awareness week held at Kanemram Village Community Hall in Chandel District today, Ksm. Mathew, Member ADC Chandel told that as a citizen of India everyone has the right to access to safe drinking water. And it is the duty of the government to provide safe food as well as safe drinking

water for its citizen, he added. He further maintained that the government has taken up several schemes including water supply to ensure its citizen stay healthy. However, due to lack of awareness, most of the villagers were unable to get potable drinking water and still used untreated water from river and stream which is the main causes of illness. Therefore, we should know our rights and extends co-operation while implementing government's developmental schemes so that we can get maximum benefits from it, said the ADC Member. In the technical session of the program organized by District Water & Sanitation Committee

(DWSC) Chandel, a demonstration of Field Water Testing Kit (FTK) was also done by K. Iboishak Singh, Chemist, Central Laboratory PHED Lamphelpat and Y. Basanta, SO, PHE Division, Chandel.

Memorandum submitted

IT News
Imphal, March 21: All Manipur Police Constable, Male 2013 batch has marched a rally from Tera Keithel and submitted a memorandum to Home Minister and Chief Minister today. Speaking to the media person one of the protester condemned that the government's decision for fresh recruitment of state police when the result for 2013 batch police constable recruitment is still pending. He further warned that they would intensify their agitation if the government failed to announce the result of 2013's police constable recruitment on or before 28 March.

CLK observes its 23rd foundation day

economic issues. Y Leirik leima, President, Kanglemei, RK Sanahanbi, President, Kanglei Ima Lup and among others attended the function.

He further said that CLK's role in preserving real Meitei women's identity in the contemporary society. And the women organization has been very active in facing any sort of social-political-

PM Modi categorically says that BJP govt won't scrap dalit quotas

TNN
New Delhi, March 21: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday sought to set rest fears that the BJP government will scrap reservations for dalits. "When Vajpayee became PM, sections of people started saying reservations will go. He was PM for two terms and nothing of that sort happened," Modi said after he laid the foundation stone of a state-of-the-art memorial for Doctor B R. Ambedkar in New Delhi. The PM said quotas for dalits, tribals and marginalized communities is their inalienable right. "Nothing has ever happened

to the reservation for dalits, tribals, where we are in power but still these lies are spread by opponents to mislead the people. This is a right that nobody can snatch," he said. PM Modi further said that BR Ambedkar is a world leader just like Martin Luther King. "To call Ambedkar the messiah only of the dalits is a great injustice to him. He raised his voice against any and all injustice," the PM added. Ambedkar should be seen as a 'vishwa manav' (world leader), Modi said. "We should not limit him to our borders. The way the world sees Martin Luther King,

Baba Saheb should be seen like that. He was the voice of the downtrodden," he emphasized. The Prime Minister also praised Ambedkar's vision for the development of the poor and the middle class. "He had a vision to realise India's maritime resources, power sector and many things... He always wanted people to be educated... Ambedkar gave inner power to people by compelling people to be knowledgeable," Modi said. Modi also talked about Ambedkar's efforts to empower women. "When the issue of equal rights to women came up,

Babasaheb was clear that if women don't get equal rights he can't be a part of the ministry," Modi said. Ambedkar did resign. "Few people know about the reason why Dr Ambedkar resigned from the ministry? This part of history is either forgotten or diluted," Modi said. The BR Ambedkar National Memorial will house Ambedkar's possessions and cover all the important aspects of his life and work. The government is also building an Ambedkar International Centre on Janpath, the foundation stone for which was laid last May.

"I am the first Prime Minister who has come to speak here. It is a matter of great fortune for me," PM Modi said. "I have got an opportunity to fulfil Baba Saheb's dream. He left us in 1956. Today, after 60 years, a memorial is being set up. Perhaps this was written in my fate. Perhaps I had the blessings of Baba Saheb on me," Modi said. PM Modi also announced that he also looked forward to inaugurating the BR Ambedkar National Memorial when it's ready. The Memorial is scheduled to open April 14, 2018. Modi said that the Memorial will be an iconic building for the world and an

EC to visit Guwahati today to oversee poll preparations

Guwahati, March 21: The full bench of the Election Commission will reach Guwahati today on a two day visit to oversee the poll preparedness for the forthcoming Assam Assembly Elections. Official sources said, the Commission led by Chief Election Commissioner Nasim Zaidi, will be meeting representatives of political parties. AIR correspondent reports that the team will also meet state election department officials and senior government officials. The Election Commission team will review poll preparedness and basic minimum facilities in

polling stations. Issues pertaining to enforcement of model code of conduct, seizure of weapons are likely to be highlighted. The Election Commission will also review the voters' awareness activities. The Commission will hold discussion with senior officials of 18 districts this evening in Guwahati. Meanwhile, today is the last date of withdrawal of candidature for the first phase of polls to be held on 4th of April. A total of 566 nominations have been found valid in this phase. Among them, 40 are women candidates.