

JCILPS supporters blocking road at Airport road as a part of its agitation



AMSU volunteers lock Edn (U) office; submits memorandum to PM

IT News
Imphal, May 31: Volunteers of All Manipur Students Union (AMSU) today locked the office of the State Education (U) office at Nutyapat Chuthek at around 12 noon today. Police who tried to prevent the student sprung into action letting injured to one of the student volunteers identified as Nongmaithem Yaiphabi, Secy, Girls' Common room of Oriental College. She sustained injury at her head. The AMSU volunteers were demanding the implementation of the ILPS in the state. Meanwhile, AMSU had

submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister of India through the Governor of Manipur regarding the issues and problems faced by the people of North East. During a press meet held at AMSU Headquarter, Manjeet Sarangthem, Secretary General of AMSU said to the media persons that representatives of 8 North East Students' Organisation (NESO) has staged a meeting on May 17 at Guwahati regarding the issues faced by the people of North East. During the meeting, members of

NESO came to the resolution and have submitted 8 issues proposed for consideration to the Prime Minister of India through their Governors, he added. Manjeet also said that representatives of NESO will meet the MPs of North East states very soon to talk about the issues confronting the region at present. Manjeet further said that representatives of NE students' union including Nagaland and Mizoram students union will support the agitation of ILP going on in Manipur.

JCILPS agitation continues

IT News
Imphal, May 31: Even as the IMC election has somehow slow down the series of protest being spearheaded by the JCILPS, supporters at various part of the state continue the agitation by staging protest as well as blocking road at various places. Large number of JCILPS supporters today staged protest demonstration at Uripok Kangchup road blocking one side of the road. The similar protest was held

at Awangpalli, Kongba Iriblung road, Airport road and other places like Checkon and Nongmeibung area. Supporters placed woods and poles to prevent vehicular movement. At Kwakeithel too supporters blocked the road by burning tyres in the middle of the road. Meanwhile, the 18 students detained by police for staging protest has been presently sent to Children Homes at Chingmeirong. They are expected to be sent to observatory home today.

Vote for a change

By: Shyamsunder Haobam

With just a few days left for the Imphal Municipal Corporation elections, it is the beginning of the clash of archrivals Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Indian National Congress (INC). The BJP and INC will be contesting in 26 of 27 Corporation seats. This IMC election will also reflect how much percentage of voters the BJP can eat into, from the ruling congress who is already dogged with dissidents within. BJP's Himanta Biswa Sarma, finance and education minister of Assam, who was a congress MLA for 15 long years and later joined and won as BJP Candidate is the chief campaigner of BJP in Manipur. He urged that the congress in Manipur should be annihilated the Assam way and oust the Ibobi led congress government. Himanta also claimed the willingness by ministers and MLAs from the congress to join the BJP and that he was frequently being called by them. Sarma had also extensively campaigned for the assembly by elections of Thangmeiband and Thongju assembly constituitions, BJP winning both the seats by a thumping margin. The verbal battle goes on with chief minister Okram Ibobi exhorting that the then BJP government at the centre had committed the blunder of adding "without territorial limits" to the ceasefire agreement between the BJP government and the Nationalist Social Council Nagaland (NSCN-IM) that literally burnt Imphal in 2001. Ibobi also further stated that as soon as the Narendra Modi led government came to power in 2014, signed the framework agreement with NSCN(IM), the contents of the framework shrouded in mystery. The Inner Line Permit (ILP), anti-ILP, Schedule Tribe and the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) that is in force in Manipur are the most discerning issues of the state. Both the BJP and the INC need to handle these issues with a dexterous approach. Interestingly both the BJP and INC are either not serious about these issues or want to play safe in the campaign for municipal corporation elections by avoiding any agendas with no pronouncement about the present imbroglio. Citizens are already bothered about problems like corruption, unemployment, rising crime rate, poverty and many more. Many questions have arisen whether the government is really functioning or even concerned about the people. We have already seen months long economic blockades with the government not taking up any enduring measures to unravel the problem, malfunction of the Public distribution system (PDS), maintenance and safeguarding of highways, flash floods caused by drainage system, providing potable water and the list seems never-ending. All of these have been going on, not for years but decades and the question crops up **what the government have been accomplishing?** Elections are the best opportunity to bring about the changes and vote is the biggest weapon for this change. Everybody should sensibly cast their votes as voting is not only our right but it is our responsibility as a citizen to select the representative of the people and flush out distorted leaders from politics. Especially the youths must understand how important and prized their vote is, which will help shape the prospect of Manipur. If we do not vote and select our own representative which we think will outperform than the present elected representative of our area, then not a soul does have any moral right to criticise the elected political leaders. Let us vote for a change, not to the ones who entice to get our votes. Let us unite and cast our votes with responsibility to bring constructive changes and build a better Manipur.

12 hours general strike on June 2

IT News
Imphal, May 31: Proscribed group KCP Poirai Meitei Lup announced a 12 hours statewide bandh starting from 6 pm of June 1 against the alleged negligence of the state government to the ongoing agitations for implementing the ILPS in the state while focussing their attention to the upcoming IMC election scheduled to be held on June 2. Moreover, Hotel Kristina has been closed indefinitely for carrying out immoral activities, it said.

PREPAK (PRO) to observe 6th Foundation day on June 1

IT News
Imphal, May 31: People's Revolutionary Party of kangleipak (Progressive) greets the people of the state on occasion of its 6th Foundation day which falls on June 1. PREPAK (PRO) is a component of the CorCom. In its message the outfit said that it will continue to fight the enemy under the collective decision of CorCom. The outfit highlighted the present crisis and its roots as a fall out of the merger to the Indian union. The division among the various communities is stated to have been engineered by the Indian Government.

Congress govt. is protecting gangs selling adulterated food items – KSA

IT News
Imphal, May 31: Earlier, the student body had not mentioned the name, but the government failed to listen the demand, the student body today revealed the name of those protecting the gang which supply and sell adulterated food items to the people of the state. In a pamphlet distributed to the people, the KSA stated that the person who was caught for selling adulterated Tata Salt packets identified as one Dasaraj Prasad had challenged the student body saying that he is a close associate of Okram Henery, the nephew of Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh and replied that he adulterated those Tata Salt packet and they cannot do anything to him. This was

a replied by the gentlemen, who seemed to have been protected by the family member of Chief Minister, few minutes before the arrival of a city police team on his rescue. The KSA said that earlier too on April 14 adulterated tea packet of Kaziranga salt were seized from a shop run by a person identified as Ajay Prasad at Khurai Tellipati. The shop also sold expiry edible biscuits. The KSA pamphlet read. The KSA Pamphlet also exposed circumstantial evidence of Okram Henery to be the person supporting the gang selling adulterated food items to the public. The statement also said that Okram Henery, the nephew of Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh, is also an accused who has been charge sheeted by the

CBI on the multi crore drug case seized from Imphal Tuihal Airport. The Pamphlet also threatened to ban all trading activities by non Manipuri if the arrested five volunteers of the student body have not been released

KSA volunteers obstruct vehicular movement

IT News
Imphal, May 31: demanding release of the five volunteers of KSA today staged protest by blocking roads at various place. However, police clear the roads by driving them out. At around 9.30 am today volunteers of KSA appeared at Keishamthong Elangbam leikai from various direction and started forming human

chain across the road obstructing vehicular movement. Traffic was put to halt for at least one hour until a team of police came and drive them away. Later, the another group of volunteers also block road by burning tyres at Yunnam leikai area along the Indo-Burma road. After some minutes the police cleared the road.

World No Tobacco Day, 31 May 2016: Get ready for plain packaging

IT News
Imphal, May 31: Recent moves to introduce plain (standardized) packaging of tobacco products can save lives by reducing demand for tobacco products, according to WHO and the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Secretariat (WHO FCTC). Plain packaging of tobacco products restricts or prohibits the use of logos, colours, brand images and promotional information on

packaging other than brand and product names displayed in a standard colour and font style. "Plain packaging reduces the attractiveness of tobacco products. It kills the glamour, which is appropriate for a product that kills people," says WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan. "It restricts tobacco advertising and promotion. It limits misleading packaging and labelling. And it increases the effectiveness of health warnings." Plain

packaging is recommended in WHO FCTC guidelines as part of a comprehensive approach to tobacco control that includes large graphic health warnings and comprehensive bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship. To mark World No Tobacco Day, WHO is launching a new guide to plain packaging of tobacco products, which gives governments the latest evidence and guidance on

implementing the measure. "Most governments are committed to curbing the tobacco epidemic and reducing tobacco-related harm, such as deaths from cancers, heart and lung diseases," says Dr Vera da Costa e Silva, Head of the WHO FCTC Secretariat. "It is vital they have access to evidence-based, effective guidance that can support their efforts to protect the health of their populations."

Manipur Government's use of water cannon against school students was illegal. Why?-(1)

By: Ningombam Bupenda Meitei

Supreme Court judgment on Ramliha Maidan incident case

"In the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment of *Suo Motu Writ Petition (Crl.) No. 122 Of 2011 - In Re: Ramliha Maidan Incident Dt.4/5.06.2011 V. Home Secretary, Union Of India & Ors.*, the Court has upheld the right to peaceful protest as a constitutional right. The Court observes: "Freedom of speech, right to assemble and demonstrate by holding dharnas and peaceful agitation are the basic features of a democratic system. The people of a democratic country like ours have a right to raise their voice against the decisions and actions of the Government or even to express their resentment over the actions of the government on any subject of social or national importance. The Government has to respect, and in fact, encourage exercise of such rights. It is the abundant duty of the State to aid the exercise of right to freedom of speech as understood in its comprehensive sense and not to throttle or frustrate exercise of such rights by exercising its executive or legislative powers and passing orders or taking action in that direction in the name of reasonable restrictions." It was also written in an article - "Can The State Restrict A Citizen's Right To Protest?" - by Arun Jaitley, who today is Union Finance Minister of India, in *Outlook India*, dated 28th February, 2012."

country but has expanded it to "people" in this democratic country. In the case of Manipur, the school students, who are juveniles, are also citizens of the country and therefore, they have every right to exercise all the rights of any citizen of India, as enshrined in the Constitution of India. The Court, in its judgment, also observes that

"the Government has to respect, and in fact, encourage exercise of such rights. It is the abundant duty of the State to aid the exercise of right to freedom of speech as understood in its comprehensive sense." Has the Government of Manipur - by using police's water cannon and police arrest of the two

school students, who were also exercising their rights as citizens of this country - shown any form of respect or encouragement to the exercise of such rights of the school students? Has the Government of Manipur taken into account the meanings and boundary of the word "comprehensive sense" in identifying the issues, which

according to the Government of Manipur could be an issue of law and order only, so that instead of having a dissected and myopic view of the issue the Government of Manipur could very well honour the intent of "comprehensive sense" being mentioned in the Apex Court judgment?

(Contd. on page 2)

The argument is, according to the judgment of the Court, it observes that "it is the abundant duty of the State not to throttle or frustrate exercise of such rights by exercising its executive or legislative powers and passing orders or taking action in that direction in the name of reasonable restrictions." But, what the State Government of Manipur, through its Home Department, has done is precisely to act in a direction using the shield of reasonable restrictions to throttle and frustrate the exercise of the rights of the people who were exercising freedom of speech, right to assemble and demonstrate by holding dharnas - which indeed are the basic features of a democratic system. The Court has not even restricted such rights to "citizens" of the

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