

## Oil tanker trucks drivers sustain bullet injury in militants attack at NH-2 of Kangpokpi area

IT News

**Imphal, April 30:** Three oil tanker drivers who were on their way towards Dimapur were seriously wounded after armed miscreants fired upon towards them at NH -2 in between Changoubung and Kangpokpi at around 5.40 am today.

The injured drivers have been identified as Raju Karki of a diesel tanker bearing MN-03-0911. He sustained bullet injury at his arm and around 6-7 rounds of bullets hit his vehicle. The other two drivers have been identified as T.B Singh of a diesel tanker vehicle bearing registration number AS-01-DD-4718 and Chandra of petrol tanker vehicle bearing registration number MN-01-8327. The tanker vehicles were also damaged after the gunshot hit at various part of the body.

Hearing the news of the attack on oil tanker police team under the supervision of Lupheng Kailun, IGP (Zone-II) & IGP(AP/Ops) rushed the site and immediately conducted search operation in and around the area.

The search operation was conducted after cordoning the Changoubung and Kangpokpi area by combine CDO team of I/E, I/W, Thoubal and Bishnupur. So far no report of any unwanted incident has been reported till the filling of this



report.

Mention may be that today's incident took place after the state police have claimed to crackdown a gang associated with non signatory organisations KCP (Lalheiba) and KNF (N) on April 21 who has been involved in various extortion related crimes including April 18 firing at two oil tankers at Kangpokpi.

On April 18 two oil tankers, petrol and a diesel carrier were shot and leaked by suspected militants at Kangpokpi area along the Imphal-Dimapur highway while on January 24 an attack also took place along the National Highway 37, Imphal-Jiribam highway, where one oil loaded truck ferrying towards Imphal was hit by bullets at Awangkhal

under Noney police under Tamenglong district. The oil tanker was hit by four bullets, in which its front tyre got punctured including damaged on the driver's shield.

Till the filing of this news report the combined police comando team continue the search operation, however there were no report of any arrest made.

## Maoist Manipur greets people on May day

IT News

**Imphal, April 30** Maoist Communist Party, Manipur today greets the people of the state on occasion of the May Day to be celebrated across the world tomorrow. In a statement the outfit said that Indian Maoist, Manipur Maoist and Nepal Maoist along with 21 other Maoist group from across the world greet the people on May Day.

"This year marks the Centenary of the October Revolution. Imperialists, reactionaries, reformists, and all kinds of opportunists are making efforts to delete, obscure, denigrate and sully this event, as they did last year with the 50th anniversary of the Great Proletarian Cultural

Revolution. They do so because they know that the great message coming from these events for the proletarians and the masses is more and more present. To get rid of imperialism, capitalism, war, exploitation and oppression of peoples we must make the proletarian revolution! The working class must tear off the political power from the ruling classes, establish its power, its state, the dictatorship of the proletariat, and construct socialism; it must develop and continues the revolution in each country and in the world to get rid of all the chains of imperialism and march towards communism world-wide. The imperialist system shows to be what

Lenin analyzed and described in his great work "Imperialism highest stage of capitalism"; a rotten and decadent system. Imperialism and its governments, at all latitudes, continue crossing a deep economic and financial, political and social crisis, and unload their crisis on the proletarians and the masses internally, and on the oppressed people nations and internationally. Imperialism is economic war, war of aggression and looting for a new division of the world. Imperialism is reaction and fascism. Imperialism is the last stage of capitalism and shows every day more the need to overthrow it", the Maoist statement said.

## Name changed

I, the undersigned, **Moirangthem Ibeiyama Devi**, of Moirang Lamkhai, Bishnupur, Manipur do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name **Moirangthem Menaka Devi**, as I have assumed my new name **Moirangthem Ibeiyama Devi**.

Sd/-  
**Moirangthem Ibeiyama Devi**  
Moirang Lamkhai, Bishnupur, Manipur

## Cyclonic storm destroys many houses, uprooted trees, electric poles in Imphal

IT News

**Imphal, April 30:** Several houses, trees, electric poles, wires were damaged and uprooted leaving many people injured in the cyclonic storm which hit the capital city at around midnight yesterday.. The heavy storm also blew away roofs of many houses in the Imphal valley including the rooftop of Imphal Times (Daily evening English newspaper). Houses built near the river side suffered the most in the storm. The storm was strong that, many big trees were rooted causing inconveniences to the commuters.

At Singjamei, long HD power line pole uprooted and laid along with the wires at the Singjamei Bridge causing inconveniences to the public, at Keisamthong Irompukhri Mapal, a house crush after an iron sheet felt on the rooftop and collapsed inside the house but fortunately no one was injured.

Similar scenes were witnessed at several places in and around the Imphal City.

Employees of the electricity department are working to restore the electric poles and the wires.



Reports from other localities were also reported of being hit by the heavy storm, however, there were no reports of human casualty so far. Meanwhile, report says that a minor boy was injured in the

head during the heavy storm when a portion of the Manipur Hindi Parchar Sabha building collapsed at Kongba Road, Imphal East yesterday midnight. The boy was admitted at a nearby hospital.

## IFCD minister inspects Pumlenpat/Khoidumpat

**Imphal, April 29:** IFCD Minister Letpao Haokip along with MLA of Hiyanglam AC Dr. Radheshyam Yumnam inspected Pumlenpat and Khoidumpat to assess feasibility of constructing water channel there on Saturday.

MLA Radheshyam Yumnam said that vast tract of agriculture land and many fishery farms in Pumlenpat/Khoidumpat area remained submerged during rainy seasons due to absence of water channel where the flood water can be released.

This has not only caused immense problems to farmers of the area, but also renders the farmers jobless. The area was once known as a potato bowl of the state. But many farmers lost hope as the area remains submerged during rainy season every year.

After the inspection at Tokpaching Bamon Leikai and Hanuman Chingjin, IFCD Minister Letpao Haokip said the government will take up every possible measure to redress the grievances of the farmers. He added that the department will first study the cost-effect

ratio and act accordingly. The Minister further assured that retaining wall will be constructed at some selected sites along the bank of Imphal river within the AC soon. The Minister and MLA was accompanied by Chief Engineer of IFCD Ksh Pritam Singh, M. Borchand Singh, EE (IFCD-III) and other engineers.

Earlier yesterday, IFCD and YAS Minister Letpao Haokip along with department officials inspected the ongoing construction of a playground at Khopijang under Chandel AC.

## Bomb used during 2nd World War found

IT News

**Imphal, April 30:** A rocket bomb commonly called Vestige bomb used during 2nd World War was found at Heirok Part 3, Lairouk Loukol during excavation works. The bomb was later disposed by a team of Bomb disposal squad at around 12.30 pm today near the hill side of Heirok Part 3.

## How Well Are We Caring and Protecting Our Younger Generation?

By: **Damudor Arambam**

The recent alleged rape of two minor girls by seven youths in Imphal on 14<sup>th</sup> April, has triggered widespread anger demanding death penalty of all the accused. A special court under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 has remanded the only adult accused to judicial custody while six other accused who are reported to be juveniles are still at juvenile home. According to recent news report widely published in the state, two minor girlstravelling along with their boyfriends on motorcycles to take part in the traditional ThabalChongbaon the day of Cheiraoba were allegedly kidnapped by a gang of seven youths when they reached at Khurai area of Imphal East. Later, they were taken to aderserted hilllock region in Phangkung area of Imphal East by the youths on their bikes and a car. Then the youths

assaulted the girls and beat up their boyfriends who protested. Though the unfortunate incident happened in the late evening of 14<sup>th</sup> April, the news was reported only when reports were filed at the police station after six days of the incident. Unfortunately, the media houses published the report dated 20-04-2017 widely where they revealed the names of the six alleged assaulters. After publishing identities of the accused youths without verifying the details, on the next day it was found that six out of the seven accused were juveniles as per the age proof certificates produced by their families. During a discussion session telecasted in local TV channel which was held aftermath of the incident, a woman NGO activist stated that the two minor victims are girls from Hill tribal community while the accused are from Meetei community in the valley. Such disclosure of

identities of both the victims and accused in sensitive criminal cases are nothing new in the state. This usual nature of identification of the alleged accused and victims on the line of community in the state obviously led to a presumption that the rape was being perpetuated by Meitei upon Hills thereby side lining the important legal question involved on juvenile. Thus, there lies a question on how well are we caring and protecting our younger generation who are found in conflict with law? As per the internationally accepted principle any individual who are below the age of 18 years are treated as a "child". After the popular outcry to reduce the age of criminal responsibility to 16 years post the isolated Nirbhaya Case, a new Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children), 2015, was introduced with remarkable changes in the

existing juvenile law. The new law on juvenile allows children between 16 and 18 years alleged to have committed "heinous offences" to be tried and sentenced as adult. According to the new JJ Act "heinous offences" as those "for which the minimum punishment under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) or any other law for the time being in force is imprisonment for seven years or more." The new JJ Act has been widely criticized by the rights activist across the country stating the fact that it completely destroys the rehabilitative principle by adopting a retributive approach. In the present alleged gang rape, the publications of identities of all the accused by the state media houses first and later claimed of juveniles by families of the accused led to appear at public an institutional attempt to cover up. This unethical practice of media further led an NGO

womeno claim without any evidentiary value in a TV discussion that on many instances in the past, criminals were freed in the state on the pretext of juveniles. Many people including women activists, journalists etc. have been asserting to discard the age proof given by the school and insisting medical test for verifying the age of the accused in the present case. In fact Justice K. S. Radhakrishnan and A. K. Sikri of the Supreme Court of India held that school certificate to be used as age proof of juvenile when the court allowed in an appeal brought forward by RanjeetGoswami who was challenging the Madhya Pradesh High Court verdict (2013). This is an outcome to the question if an accused is a juvenile or not. The Supreme Court held that an authentic school leaving certificate should be considered instead of a medical examination to conform the age of the juvenile. (Contd. on page 2)

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