

UKLF top functionary held with ammunitions at Imphal Airport

IT News
Imphal, Feb 11: A top functionary of UKLF, identified as Thangboi Haokip @ Jacob Thadou S/O Seijamang Haokip of Pheijang village of Chandel district was apprehended today at Imphal Tuliha Airport after CISF posted at the airport detected 4 live round of 9 MM pistol at around 11.30 am. The ammunitions were detected while screening his hand baggage. He was on his way to New Delhi on an Indigo flight. The CISF handed him over to Singmei police along with the seized ammunitions. He was later released by the police.

O Romen stands with commitment

Imphal, Feb 11: BJP intending candidate from Singjamei Constituency Oinam Romen, who was denied party ticket and allotted to Y Khemchand had today said that he stands with his words and will not contest the election but will support the BJP candidate as he had promised to the people of Singjamei AC

Topic on transport, rate chart discussed

Imphal, Feb 11: A meeting was convened today at 10 am at the office chamber of the DEO Imphal West C. Authur Worchuiyo and issues pertaining to duty exemption of Assistant Expenditure Observer, EVM and VVPAT Familiarization with new instructions, calculation of rate of construction of polling booths and transport bottlenecks were discussed. Talks were held by the DEO with the returning officer, Nodal officers, staffs of the G-15 election room and EO on making an approximate calculation of the rate incurred in the establishment of the polling booths and camps of the political parties. The DEO also stated that a new instruction from the CEO's Office regarding issue of new VVPAT machines to the district has arrived. About 73 new VVPATs have to be utilized for election purpose. Plan to take up more intensive SVEEP campaign was discussed. Strategies to encourage voters especially first time voters for the upcoming 11th State Assembly Election were also discussed.

Former Congress Minister Phunzathang officially joins NPP

IT News
Imphal, Feb 11: Former Congress Minister Phunzathang Tonsing, whose name has been included in the list of congress candidate for fighting the election in the upcoming 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly today officially, joined the National Peoples' Party. NPP today announced second phase list of 9 candidates and Phunzathang's name was included in as NPP candidate in Churachandpur Assembly Constituency. Among those announced includes, Vivek Raj Wangkhem of Kshetrigao Assembly Constituency, Letzamang Haokip of Henglep Assembly



constituency and Ng. Robert Singh of Singjamei Assembly constituency. Earlier, the NPP had announced list of 12 candidates in the first list. Now, the total candidates of NPP reach 21. Phunzathang was a cabinet minister of the congress government led by Chief Minister Okram Ibobi. His name was included in the list of Congress candidate for the upcoming election. There was

MPCC leaders puzzled

IT News
Imphal, Feb 11: The resignation by seior congress leader from the primary membership of the Congress party had stunned the congress leadership. His joining to the NPP had given a blow to the congress party. Source said that following the resignation of Tonsing an emergency CLP meeting was held today to discuss the development.

Manipur Maoist says they will not take monetary assistance from any candidate

IT News
Imphal, Feb 11: Armed rebel group Maoist Communist Party, Manipur today said that the outfit will not take any financial help from candidates of any political parties. In a statement, the outfit said that some people are using the name of its Comrade Nonglen Meitei of the outfit and send SMS through mobile phone to some candidates of Sekmai

and Lamshang Assembly constituency demanding money from them. The statement said that Maoist Communist Party will never make any such demand and if such demands are made it is not from the Maoist Communist Party Manipur, but from those who are trying to malign the image of the outfit. The statement issued by one

Kyonghan Mangang, co-ordinator standing committee of the outfit appealed all section of the people to award punishment to whoever comes for collection money from candidates of the upcoming election in the name of the party. The outfit however added that it will still stand on the decision against former DGP from contesting the election.

Folk dance festival kicks off

Courtesy: Pothashang

Imphal, Feb 11: A festival of folk dance of Manipur was launched today which was organised by Phouoibi Natya Institute of Khurai Thangjam Leikai under the aegis of ministry of culture. Pena Seihou, Maibi Jagoi, Thang Leiteng, Chakpa Jagoi, Kwakta Lamjel (Pena) and Kabui Jagoi Kitlam were lined up on the opening day held at Ima Khunthokhanbi Shanglein hall. The function was attended by Pena exponent Padmashri Khangembam Mangi Singh, folk guru Padmashree Elam Indira and JNMDA visiting Guru Oinam (O) Dhani. Pena Seihou, Maibi Jagoi, Thang Leiteng, Chakpa Jagoi, Kwakta Lamjel (Pena) and Kabui Jagoi Kitlam were lined up on the



opening day. The festival was organised with the motive to propagate the indigenous cultural folk dance and music of the state and inherit to the generations to come. In that note the festival also aimed to conduct folk dance and music workshops in the following two days at two different places in Imphal West

districts. Secretary of Phouoibi Natya Institute, L. Turist said, "It is quite reassuring and proud to have our folk dance and music performances in various cultural platforms over the globe and we must work hard to preserve and propagate our rich cultural heritage of Manipur."

NSCN-IM sets to open fresh battalion in Manipur's soil

IT News

Imphal, Feb 11: Even though the cease fire ensuing between the NSCN-IM and the government of India has not been officially extended to the state of Manipur, the rebel group today opens a new battalion of the group at Kangkum Village in Kasom Khulen Sub-Division today. A highly reliable source said that the newly established battalion of the NSCN-IM called Phungtha Battalion was raised today at around 10 am today near Kangkum Village. The village comes under the newly created revenue district Phungthar. The source said that one Joyful is the Commanding Officer of the Battalion which

had strength of 45 cadres.

It further added that the NSCN-IM planned to raise the battalion at Tasom village but due to administrative inconvenient the battalion is being raised at Kasom Khullen area.

As of now there is no official report of any such opening of battalion of NSCN-IM being open inside the territory of Manipur.

Mention may be made that in June, 2001, there was a mass uprising in Manipur in protest against the extension of cease fire between the Govt. of India and NSCN-IM to Manipur. 18 people died in the protest and the government of India withdrew the word "without

territorial integrity" rolling its decision on the extension of cease fire.

Recently, Minister of state for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju had stated that there are no reports from the state government about any crime committed by the NSCN-IM and also stated that any crime committed should be looked after by the state government authority. Now, the inaction or any clarification regarding the raising of NSCN-IM battalion in the territory of Manipur showed that the state government still remained inactive to any of the violation of cease fire ground rule by the NSCN-IM inside the territory of Manipur.

Black day observed by KSDDC

IT News

Imphal, Feb 11: To commemorate the day when the State Cabinet resolved to name erstwhile Thangting Sub-Division of Churachandpur district as 'Kangvai' by defying all logic and in total subjugation of the democratic voice of the people, a Black Day was observed today at Justice Square, Khouasabung DCC Headquarters, Churachandpur district under the auspices of Khouasabung Sub-Division Demand Committee (KSDDC). A statement said that over 117 village chiefs out of about 125

villages covered by the Sub-Division had appended their signature in favour of Khouasabung to be the subdivisional headquarters of the new sub-division. This collective decision/choice of the people, from all walks of life and representing all sections of society, is based solely on the perimeter that 'Khouasabung' is the most centrally located location for the villages covered by the new sub-division.

However, in total suppression of the public voice and in utter display of 'divisive politics' and in pursuance of parochial agenda, the State

Cabinet on Feb 10, 2016 decided to name the subdivision as 'Kangvai.' Besides, scores of democratic and peaceful protesters were left injured in brutal crackdowns on them by the State forces during the over one month long anti-State Cabinet decision of Feb 10, 2016 agitation spearheaded by the KSDDC.

The solemn Black Day observance programme today was marked by mass prayer, sharing and motivational speeches from public leaders, raising of slogans and a candle light vigil at Justice Square, the statement added.

RBI Guv nudges banks to reduce lending rates

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 11: RBI Governor Urjit Patel today exhorted banks to reduce their lending rates to push credit demand in lagged segments, saying banks have benefited from influx of low-cost deposits and its previous repo rate cuts. "One the amount of reduction in the repo rate that we have undertaken combined with the fact that banks have benefited immensely from the influx of deposits which are CASA deposits, that has come into the system. "And the weighted average lending rate reduction has been considerably less, given that we feel that there is some scope for further reduction in lending rates and if you see that for sectors like housing,

personal etc the reduction has been much more than for other sectors by the same bank," he said.

He expressed hope that there could be a cut in lending rates in some sectors where reduction has been relatively lower so far.

Earlier this week, RBI retained the repo rate, at which it lends to the system, at 6.25 per cent and the reverse repo rate at 5.75 per cent.

However, the central bank had reduced its repo rate by a total 1.75 percentage points between January 2015 and September 2016.

With regard to inflation, Patel said there is no change in stance as far as retail inflation targeting is concerned.

"The commentary in our monetary policy statement by

the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was the observation that inflation ex-fuel and fuel has hardly bulged since September and therefore if we want a further reduction in headline inflation it is going to be difficult," he said.

"So it is not a change of stance with respect to that at all, just a comment that since September CPI inflation ex-fuel and food has been difficult to bring down and going forward to go towards 4 per cent and away from 5 per cent on a durable basis requires that CPI ex-food and fuel to also come down," he added.

The MPC has been mandated to maintain retail inflation at 4 per cent (with plus/minus 2 per cent range) till 2021.

Sasikala vs OPS:

Officials meet MLAs in resort; legislators say they face murder threats

Chennai, Feb. 11: A team of police and revenue officials conducted inquiries with more than 120 AIADMK legislators staying in Golden Bay Beach resort+ near Mahabalipuram on Saturday.

The team led by Mahabalipuram deputy superintendents of police Edward, Kancheepuram additional deputy superintendents of police Tamilselvan, Cheyyar tahsildar Ramachandran and Chengalpet police split into four groups and conducted independent inquiries with each and every MLA staying in the resort since Wednesday night. The inquiries that began at 6.30am concluded at 11.30am. Tamilselvan later told reporters that they conducted independent inquiries with all MLAs following the high court direction. He said the MLAs were questioned whether they were confined in the resort and tortured or they voluntarily came here to stay together. He said the police and revenue teams obtained written statement from them. Tamilselvan said the teams would submit the individual written

statements of all 129 MLAs staying in the resort to the court on Monday. Later, two MLAs - Kalasapakkam V Panneerselvam and Cheyyar K Mohan - came forward to meet the journalists. Ramalingam said they not threatened or forced to stay in the resort. "We came voluntarily to stay together," he said. When questioned why they preferred not to stay in MLA Hostel, he said they faced threat from chief minister O Panneerselvam's camp. "We preferred to stay in the resort here for our safety. We face murder threats," he said. He claimed that Panneerselvam was never loyal to the party. "Panneerselvam is a betrayer and even his son was stripped off party posts," he said.

"We have not been kidnapped. It is Panneerselvam who was kidnapped by the DMK. Chinnamma will form the government as soon as the Governor invites her," he said.

When asked about the two AIADMK MPs - P R Sundaram (Namakkal constituency) and Ashok Kumar (Krishnagiri) - leaving the Sasikala camp and joining Panneerselvam camp, he

said Sundaram is a loyalist of Natham Viswanathan, who was stripped of party posts last year, and Ashok Kumar is a close aide of Aravankuruchi DMK MLA K C Palanisamy.

Cheyyar MLA Mohan declared that no one other than Chinnamma was qualified to lead the party and governance. "She has been devoted to Amma for 33 years. She will lead the party and govern with the same devotion," he said.

The legislators have been staying in the resort since Wednesday evening after attending a meeting convened by party general secretary V K Sasikala, who was elected as legislature party to be the chief minister of Tamil Nadu. The MLAs were taken to the resort in luxury buses, a day after Panneerselvam alleged that Sasikala had forced him to resign.

Panneerselvam, who met the Governor on Thursday evening, raised the issue forceful confinement of the MLAs. On Friday, the Madras high court observed that it was a serious issue if MLAs are confined. Two petitions have been filed in the court to trace two AIADMK legislators.