



KSA storms Congress Bhavan; demands justice for fake encounter victims

IT News
Imphal, March 1: Kangleipak Student's Association (KSA) along with Khwairamband Ima Keithal staged sit in protest at Khwairamband Keithellakpam Temporary Shed today, demanding justice for fake encounter victims including Ch Sanjit and Rabina who were shot on broad day light on July 23, 2009 at crowded Khwairamband Keithal here in Imphal.

Speaking to the media persons, Moirang them

Lakshman, President of KSA said that the protest is staged so that before the coming election the, the political parties and it's candidates could have their commitment to the people of Manipur that there will not be no more fake encounter and they will stand against it when they becomes Legislature/MLA.

Removal of Arm Forces Special Power Act (AFSPA) from the state is also their demands, he added.

Protestors of KSA and Khwairamband Ima Keithal Temporary Shed storm at Congress Bhavan with their demands for fake encounter.

A memorandum was also submitted to the concern head of MPCC so that elected candidate will not support any culprits involve in fake encounter or any related and give them fair punishment according to the law of the land.

Family alleged loots of over Rs. 3 lakhs worth properties with support of police; BJP candidate assures complaint to ECI

IT News
Imphal, March 1: A resident of Khangabok Meishnam Leikai, in Thoubal district has alleged state police team of guarding and allowing miscreants to loot over Rs. 3 lakhs worth gold and cash from their house. Laisharam Ongbi Basanti Devi, wife of Laishram Dake @ Dakeba, son of (late) Tomcha of Khangabok Meishnam Leikai of Khangabok Assembly

constituency in Thoubal district said that a police team led by Thoubal Police OC Tejbir came in search of her husband yesterday afternoon and while she was out for looking her husband and son the police team cordoned her house and allow two person to loot over Rs. 3 lakhs worth gold and other important document which she kept at her locker. Basanti further said that the Police team also force her to sign in a blank sheet.

Talking to reporters at the residence of BJP Candidate Th. Jadumani of Khangabok Assembly constituency, Basanti further said that the police team came to her house at around 10 am yesterday

when her husband had gone for taking bath after working in the field. The police allegedly asked her husband's whereabouts and allegedly force her to sign in a blank sheet using the male police. The OC of Thoubal police said that they came to arrest her husband for assaulting a person, she added. She further said that she left her house as she went out in search of her husband and son. And it was at that time (2.30 pm) that she heard people saying about the loot being conducted with the police team cordoning her house. Basanti alleged the two looters used by the police as Kh. Bobi, son of Maimu of Khangabok

Mayai Leikai and M Binodini of Khangabok Meishnam Leikai.

The looted articles also includes land Pata, Bank Account Passbook, ATM Card and certificates for her sons, she added.

BJP candidate Th. Jadumani, while speaking to media persons said that such atrocities committed by police commandos in Khangabok area are frequent. It is not only this time but at many occasion police has been harassing the people of Khangabok every now and then.

Jadumani further said that the matter will be put up to the notice of the Election Commission of India.

Thang Ta Festival

IT News
Imphal, March 1: The "11th Festival of Thang-Ta" was celebrated yesterday at the auditorium of the Kangleipak Thang-Ta Cultural Association, Lairenpat Yairipok Road, Imphal-East. The celebration was organized under the aegis of Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi and Department of Art and Culture, Manipur.

L Upendra Sharma, Director of J.N. Manipur Dance Academy, Imphal; Wareppa Naba, Director of Theatre Mirror and R.K. Achouba Singh (Padmashree), Former Pradhan Guru of J.N.M.D.A graced the function as Chief Guest, Special Guest and President respectively.

Thang-Ta demonstration by MEEHULS, Khongman Okram Chuthek, Imphal; Huyel Lallongh Manipur Thang-Ta Cultural Association, Irlibung; MISIKHOL, Khurai, Imphal; Performing Organisation of Art and Culture, Keirao Khunou, Ietc were also presented during the function.

CSOs of Kangpokpi decry deployment of CDO

IT News
Imphal, March 1: Civil society organizations of Kangpokpi area including Kuki Women Union, Kuki Women Association, Kuki Students' Association in a press meet held at Kangpokpi said that they strongly oppose the state government position to open posts of

Manipur Police Commandos at Kangpokpi area.

A spokesperson of the civi bodies said that as for the election central para military force and the civil police is enough. She said various form of agitation will be followed if the government fails to listen to the demand of the civil society body.

Poll violence

IT News
Imphal, March 1: Election related violence continue to haunt Mayang Imphal Assembly Constituency as there is no dearth for violent activism between groups of two rival group. As per report a group of people numbering around 100 stopped a vehicle which return back from Mayang Imphal Uchiwa and vandalized the vehicle besides assaulting those inside the vehicle. The incident reportedly happened last evening. The perpetrators alleged those inside the vehicles of distributing money to voters.

RS MP Haji Abdul Salam passes away

Imphal, March 1: Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Haji Abdul Salam passed away here last night following a brief illness, family members said. Raj Medicity Hospital source said that the MP was brought dead at the hospital at around 7.30 pm yesterday. Case of the death is suspected to be BP stroke.

He was 69. Haji Abdul Salam is the first Manipuri Muslim to be a member of RS from Manipur. He has been representing the state in the upper house since 2014, a Congress official said. Born at Heibong Makhong in Thoubal district, Haji Abdul Salam is survived by his wife, son and 5 daughters. He was elected to the 3rd, 6th and 8th Manipur Legislative Assembly from Wabagai assembly constituency.

MJA inspects oil depot

IT News
Imphal, March 1: A team comprising of senior Advocate Brajakanta Sharma and NG Kumar of the Manipur Judicial Academy (MJA) today inspected the stock

condition of the various oil depot her in Imphal. The inspection visit is being conducted following a court order to check the stock condition of fuel in various oil depots in the state. Senior Advocate Ng Kumar said that the inspection visit is being conducted as per the court directives as people are suffering due to scarcity of fuel.

He further added that stocks of other essential items will also check as the court empowered the MJA. The report of the stock will b submitted to the Manipur High court said NG Kumar.

Guv' condoles demise of Abdul Salam

Imphal, March 1: Manipur Governor Najma Heptulla today condole the sudden demise of Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Haji Abdul Salam who expired yesterday evening.

Time up for Manipur's 'Mr. 10 percent' chief minister, BJP says

By David Lalmsawsama

(Reuters)

Imphal, March 1: While the national media is focused on the assembly election in Uttar Pradesh, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi faces his biggest electoral test since coming to power in 2014, the tiny state of Manipur in India's northeast is gearing up for its most closely fought election in recent times. The far-flung state with a population of less than 2.8 million (compare that with Uttar Pradesh, which has 220 million) sends just two lawmakers to India's Lok Sabha, the lower house of parliament, but is strategically located as the gateway to South East Asia and is a traditional sporting powerhouse.

It is also an ethnically diverse, violence-ridden state with entrenched corruption and a weak administrative and judicial system. It has been in the news recently because of an ongoing blockade of two crucial highways in the hills by Naga tribes to protest the creation of new districts, which they say divides their ancestral land. This has led to a severe shortage of medicines, food and fuel in the valley, populated by the majority Meitei community. Presiding over all this is Okram Ibobi Singh of the Congress who has held the chief minister's post for the past 15 years. Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) wants to

change that.

The nationalist party, which had no real political footprint in the northeast in the past, started to focus on the region after coming to power at the centre in 2014. It formed a government in the northeast for the first time last year by winning in Assam. In the past few months it has captured power in Arunachal Pradesh and is also now part of the ruling coalition in Nagaland. Its next target: Manipur.

State BJP spokesman Nongthombam Biren Singh spoke to Reuters over the phone from state capital Imphal, and shares the BJP's vision for the state, the issues voters care about and why he thinks time is up for Manipur's longest-serving chief minister.

Interview with NONGTHOMBAM BIREN SINGH, BJP spokesman, Manipur

Q: How many seats do you think the BJP will win?

A: I am confident that not less than 34 (out of 60 seats).

Q: Why should voters turn away from the Congress?

A: Number one, there's the politics of the Congress. Sometimes the Naga card, sometimes they use the card of Kukis, sometimes they use Muslims, sometimes they use Meiteis. So people are fed up with this kind of ethnic/community line of politics. And

that's why Manipur is now almost divided.

Also, the government has become almost an individual, it's the minister's family in government. Also, governance is not there in the hill areas. Governance is there only in the valley, and even that not properly. So corruption, dictatorial attitude of the chief minister, and family-oriented.

Q: Can you elaborate on "family-oriented"?

A: The CM's sons have been given tickets [candidates put up by political parties in an election]. One Mr. Kennedy at Khangabok and one Mr. Henry at Wangkhei — his elder brother's son. And almost all contract work and development project works are taken up through his relatives.

Q: But the chief minister has retained power for 15 years. Does that say something about his ability to hold on to power?

A: He used to play the communal card all the time. Even last year, the centre allowed [Naga militant leader] Muivah to enter Manipur. But the Congress in Imphal banned him. The relationship between the Nagas and the Meiteis is totally broken. People have started knowing that Ibobi is playing the very dangerous card of communal politics. This time also he tried the same, creating seven new districts, bifurcating the Naga-inhabited areas for Kukis. So that will not be tolerated by the people. (Contd. on page 2)