



Struggle Committee Manipur also stage protest demonstration demanding justice for fake encounter victim

Sit-in-protest and rally stage against fake encounter, effigies of Ibobi, Joykumar and Jalajit burnt

IT News Imphal, March 2: The Extra-Judicial Execution Victim Families Association (EEVFAM) and Kandleipak Students' Association (KSA) jointly staged sit-in-protest demanding justice for the victims of fake encounter at Keisampat Leimajam Leikai Community Hall, Sega Road today. Speaking to the media persons, Edina Yaikhom, General Secretary of EEVFAM states that over the last 20 years in the shadow of AFSPA, there are 1528 cases of fake encounter from every district in Manipur and justice for the victims are still pending. Those who are involve in the fake encounter weather it was during the Congress or BJP government rule, with the coming assembly election, people of the Manipur will not cast vote to Ibobi, Joykumar

and Jalajit to elect in the election instead justice must be served against them for the victims of fake encounter including those who are involved in the 1528 cases so that they could be brought into punishment in the eyes of law of the land, she added. KSA President, Moirangthem Lakshman also states that with the coming 11th assembly election, all the political parties' leaders, members and candidates should assure to give justice for all the numerous fake encounter cases and also should assure that there will be no culture of fake encounter in the future before and after they become legislature and the sufferings of the people caused by the military in the name of AFSPA should be taken out completely from the state. The protest is against the pending cases of fake encounter to bring justice to

the victims and their families, not against any particular persons. Members of KSA will not cast their votes in the 11th state assembly election instead they will protest and continue their agitation until their demands are met, Lakshman added. The protestors of EEVFAM and KSA carried out a protest rally along the Keisampat with an aim to storm Cheirap Court at Uripok where Jalajit was produced in relation with the fake encounter cases but a team of police personnel arrived at the scene and stop them from proceeding further. Protestors hold placards displaying slogans to punish the mere killer, mass murderer CM O Ibobi, Former DGP Y Joykumar and Former Additional Sp Ak Jalajit. Effigies of Ibobi, Joykumar and Jalajit were burnt by the protestors over the injustice done against the innocent families and victims of the fake encounters.

Campaign for 1st Phase Election ends; 168 candidates including 6 women are in the fray in 38 Assembly constituencies

IT News Imphal, March 2: Election campaign of the 1st phase election of the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly ends scheduled on March 4 ends today as per directives of the ECI. The first phase election will be held at 38 assembly constituencies located at Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur, Churachandpur, Kangpokpi and Phezerol districts. A total of 168 candidates are in the fray in the first phase election. Among these 6 are women candidates. Total number of voters that can exercise franchise is 11,19,271. Among these 5,75,221 are female voters. Election commission had established 1,487 polling stations in the 38 assembly constituencies. In this first phase election BJP is fielding candidates in all the 38 assembly constituencies while the ruling congress could field only in 37 assembly

constituencies. One of the oldest regional party of the state, Manipur Peoples' Party which had even form government in the state this time field only 13 candidates. Lok Jansakti Party LJP, which had a legislator in last assembly election is fielding candidates in 12 assembly constituencies. Trinamool Congress field candidates in 10 Assembly constituencies, Manipur National Democratic Front (MNUF) field candidates in 10 assembly constituencies, North East India Democratic Party (NEIDP) field candidates in 8 assembly constituencies. Irom Chanu Sharmila's new political party (PRJA) is also contesting in 3 assembly constituencies however only one candidate will fight in the first phase. 18 candidates are fighting the election as independent candidates. Among those candidates contesting are congress candidate Th. Lokeshwar of

Khundrakpam Assembly Constituency, who is also the speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly, and other congress Ministers, I Hemochandra of Singamei Ac, MPCC president TN Haokip, Works Minister KH Ratankumar, Commerce and Industries Minister K Govindas, IFCD Minister Ngamthang Haokip and Social Welfare Minister AK Mirabai, who is also one among the two lady candidates of Congress party. Among the BJP, some of the prominent figures contesting this elections are Former Union Minister Th. Chaoba, former Minister Y. Erabot, former Minister N. Biren, Former chairman of the HAC V. Hankhalien, veteran politician Okram Joy. Former Minister in the Okram Ibobi Singh led Congress government Phunzathang Tensing of Churachandpur assembly constituency, who had joined the NPP after his

Govt. declares holiday on Poll day

IT News Imphal, March 2: All Schools, colleges, University, government offices, banks and financial institutions private sector undertaking offices has been declared holiday on March 4 (polling day of the first phase election) to ensure every voters could exercise their franchise.

name has been announced as congress candidate is also contesting as NPP candidate from the same assembly constituency, Former Minister L. Jayentakumar of keishamthong Assembly constituency who was denied congress ticket is also contesting as NPP candidates.

Polling station attack

IT News Imphal, March 2: Inflection of terror between the workers and different political parties intensify with the assembly election polling day gets closer. At the break of day today, some unknown miscreants fired rounds of bullet at one BJP polling station at Wangkhei Angom Leikai Hidar Lampak in Imphal East under polling station 15/50 in Wangkhei Assembly Constituency.

However no casualty was reported. According to a source, the firing took place at around 4:45 am today. Members of women social welfare association, Wangkhei Angom Leikai stage a sit in protest condemning the act. The association appeals the concern not to repeat such act in the public and residential areas and the idea of canvassing votes by inflicting terror must be stop as it will not bring good in the future.

MNRF Chairman greets people on 6th Anniversary of the outfit

IT News Imphal, March 2: Naga Revolutionary Front (MNRF) is observing its 6th Anniversary on March 3. Ahead of the 6th Anniversary the chairman of the outfit Atai greets the people of the region. In a lengthy message the president recalls the close relationship and co-existence with mutual understanding among the Meeteis and Meeti

pangals in the plains by respecting each other's culture and identity. King of Manipur allow each community to control their area under his supervision. The President said that the kings of Manipur were controlling the whole kingdom by thoroughly administering but giving most authority to the chiefs and village authorities of the hill people

and making practice their own customary laws in all judicial practices. Any conflict among the ethnics have been judged rightly by the kings of Manipur and made peaceful co-existence from time to time. The MNRF president also stated that the history of Manipur has proved that the Tangkhuls and the Meeteis have the family tie of being brothers from one family as till

today the Tangkhuls are compulsory to participate at Lai Haraoba of the Meeteis. The President of the outfit also blame the entry of Hinduism among the meitei community but said that Meitei are not responsible for the divisive among the people. "Though the Manipur Naga Revolutionary Front is based on the theme of the Nagas, its fight for freedom or sovereignty from

the India colonial rule is for the whole of Manipur and its people - Meeteis, Pangals, Nagas, Kukis and other minority ethnic groups. The front is taking part at the fighting for sovereignty by other revolutionary groups in Manipur and the WESEA region. The front is dedicated for the co-existence and integrity of Manipur, the statement added.

United Naga Council in Manipur Electoral Politics

By: AHEIBAM KOIRENG SINGH Assistant Professor Centre for Manipur Studies Manipur University
United Naga Council (UNC) came into existence with an objective to work as an apex organization of all the Nagas inside the territorial boundary of Manipur in 1992. UNC was also alleged as the over-ground wing of NSCN-IM by the Government of India when the Kuki-Naga clash was at its height. [Does Violence get a Mandate, GoI publications, 1993, P25.]. In the year 1993, NSCN-IM became a member of Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation (UNPO), an international organization which consist of members representing indigenous peoples, minorities, and unrecognized or occupied territories, with the objective of finding non violent solution to the conflicts which affect them. With it, the NSCN-IM was on the look for reaching out more and more to international communities. At such time, the Government of India (GoI) brought out publications exposing the pogrom carried out against the Kukis in Manipur allegedly by the NSCN-IM which could discredit the representation submitted by the NSCN-IM to the UNPO on the basis of which subsequently granted its membership for 10 years. This breeds enough reason for speculation that if ever, top rung leaders of NSCN-IM had intention to seek political asylum to other countries, it became near impossible after the expose of 'Kuki

pogrom' by the GoI. Coincidentally, NSCN-IM's involvement in the mainstream politics of Manipur started to increase in leaps and bounds. In 1994, NSCN-IM issued a diktat to all Naga MLAs to resign their respective seat by 31 December of the year. And the Naga MLAs sent emissaries to negotiate with the NSCN-IM (which included Mr. Arthur who had earlier been caught for harboring unlicensed weapons). This also shows that the NSCN-IM had a considerable hold on Naga MLAs. NSCN-IM boycotted the Seventh Manipur Assembly Election (MAE) and Twelfth, 1997 and Thirteenth Lok Sabha Election (LSE), 1999. The NSCN-IM's call for boycott was stringently observed by some of the over-ground Naga organizations, mainly the United Naga Council (UNC) under the banner, "We want solution not election". Later on 10 February, NSCN-IM issued note of appreciation jointly signed by both Isak Chisi Swu and Th. Muivah, expressing appreciation and thanks to UNC and others for "their outstanding decision to disallow the imposition of Indian election in Nagalim. It says, "The Collective Leadership acknowledges here its profound gratitude to the Naga people for their outstanding decision to disallow the imposition of Indian elections in Nagalim. We would particularly like to thank the Naga Hobo Summit, United Naga Council, Naga Peoples' Movements for Human Rights, Naga Students' Federation, Naga Mothers' Association, Naga Village Chief's Federation Concerned Citizen

Forum, Naga GB' Federations, political parties and the Church leaders for their decisiveness in asserting the national rights of the Naga people. ...". In the Seventh Assembly Election of 2000, the number of Kuki MLA's had outnumbered the elected Naga MLAs. In the 12th and 13th LSE also, Kukis got elected as Member of Parliament (MP) from the lone reserved Scheduled Tribes seat. With it, the top rung leadership in the NSCN-IM became more prominent than those Naga leaders in the mainstream politics. In the meantime, in the year 2000, NSCN-IM was able to spawn two more outfits among the Kukis. Mr. Thangkholem Haokip, left out in the run up to the elections, decided to oppose the KNO and KNA. He sent feelers to the NSCN-IM for an alliance. Thangkholem raised a new group called the United Kuki Liberation Front (UKLF). Chandel District, in the absence of any armed force support, came under the control of the NSCN-IM-UKLF axis. Likewise, Khulam Hangshing, who controlled the Sadar Hills of Senapati District, denied a chance of contesting the elections by the KNF-MC, rebelled and extended support to the ancient enemy. The fertile Saikul Valley was lost to the KNF-MC as a new outfit, the Kuki Revolutionary Army (KRA), was formed with NSCN-IM weapons in November 2000. In the 8th MAE, 2002 and the 14th LSE, 2004, NSCN-IM decided the fate of the Naga mainstream politics, right from the selection of the candidate to their election. Rishang Keishing, the longest serving Chief

Minister of Manipur before the anti-Defection act came into existence was defeated at the Phungyar AC of Ukhrul District. His defeat can only be understood in terms of the opposition to him by the Naga insurgents. With the submission of a signed Memorandum by Naga MPs/MLAs of the state to the Prime Minister openly supporting the aspired 'Nagalim' on 27 May 2005, the underground agenda of creating divisions between the various communities in Manipur synergized with mainstream politics. In the 9th MAE, 2007, UNC, while considering it as an opportunity of strengthening the 'Indo-Naga' peace process for securing the aspirations of the 'Naga people for a united Naga Homeland' involved in a big way. On the eve of 9th MAE, the UNC, its constituent Tribe Councils/Hohos and the Naga civil societies have decided to define the objectives with which the Naga people must approach the same for securing representatives through whom the voice of the Naga people can be articulated loud, clear and consistently. They are outlined as follows: 'to fulfill the inherent and democratic aspiration of the Naga people for unification of all homeland; to mobilize the peoples' fullest support of the ongoing Indo-Naga political dialogue for an honourable solution; to provide leadership to society in nation building; and to promote the common interest of all ethnic communities in the state.' (Contd on page 2)