



Chief Minister N. Biren Singh during a meeting with Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh at New Delhi today

## CM meets Rajnath

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 18:** Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today meet Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and apprised him for setting up of 5 more IRB Battalions in the state. During the meeting which begins at 4 pm today the Chief Minister also details about the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the JACATB Churachandpur and way forward for restoration of peaceful atmosphere as the JAC had agreed to settle the matter. The MoU signed between the government of Manipur and the JACAAB in the presence of a Central government had agreed to perform the last rite of the 8 tribal martyrs on or before May 25. On the other hand Chief Minister N Biren also apprised the Union Home Minister about the significance and importance of Shirui Festival which begins from May 16 this year.

## News Agency launched

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 18:** A new English News Agency called the Northeast News Agency was launched on May 14, 2017. Thongam Sunil Singh, a senior journalist is the editor of the news agency. The agency's commercial operations will be started from June 5, 2017. Based in Imphal, the agency's news bureaus will be present in all state capital of North East India.

## Bomb blasts

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 18:** Unknown miscreants blasted a bomb at the residence gate of Wahengbam Shamoo (60) at Liwa Lambi Ningthoujam Leikai under Singjamei Police station in Imphal West district at around 11.30 pm yesterday. There were no human casualty however, portion of the gate has been damaged by the impact of the blast. W. Shamoo reportedly is a real estate broker.

## Announcement

Imphal Times will have hard copy publication on May 19, 2017 due to technical difficulties. However, web edition will continue as it is..

Manager

## Don't Hang Kulbhushan Jadhav Before Final Verdict: UN Court

**New Delhi, May 18:** Pakistan was today ordered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to ensure that Kulbhushan Jadhav is not executed until it takes a final decision on India's charge that Pakistan violated its obligations under an international treaty guaranteeing diplomatic help to foreigners accused of capital crimes. "Pakistan shall take all measures at its disposal to ensure that Mr Jadhav is not executed pending the final decision in these proceedings," the top UN court ruled in a unanimous and binding decision. It also said that Pakistan should have given India consular access to Kulbhushan Jadhav, rejecting Pakistan's argument that a person convicted of espionage is not entitled to it. The 11 judges agreed with India that there was urgency in the case, and noted that Pakistan had given no assurance that Mr Jadhav would not be executed till its verdict. In an emergency hearing on Monday, New Delhi had called on the UN court to order Islamabad to suspend the execution of the former navy officer held guilty by a Pakistani military court of spying. Mr Jadhav, 47, was arrested in

March 2016 and Pakistani officials claimed he had confessed to spying for Indian intelligence services. He was sentenced to death last month. The president of the UN court, Ronny Abraham, read out the decision. The two countries faced each other in the international court amid a sharp escalation in tension over cease-fire violations by Pakistan, terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir and the recent mutilation of two Indian soldiers by Pakistanis. India has expressed fear that Pakistan may execute Mr Jadhav even before the UN court decides on its appeal. In the hearing, the government accused Pakistan of "egregious violations of the Vienna convention" by denying him access to legal counsel and consular access, and refusing to reveal the charges or evidence against him. The government wants the world court to decide whether Pakistan has broken the convention and international human rights law.

## NSCN-R celebrates of 2nd Foundation Day

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 18:** NSCN(R) celebrated 2nd foundation day today at their CFSB office in Mon Town in Nagaland under the leadership of Y Wangtin Naga President and P Tikhak Ato Kilonser. Addressing the gathering at the foundation day by Y Wangtin Naga President and P Tikhak Ato Kilonser

NSCN(R) stressed the peace and unity for the Nagas which both top leaders mentioned NSCN(R) is the strongest force to solution and uplifting the Nagas rites and cultures. They welcomed to the cadres those who joined recently in NSCN(R). Many of Officers, cadres and Functionaries were present at the said function.

## WW2 Imphal Campaign Foundation felicitated

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 18:** Akiko MacDonald, Chairperson of Burma Campaign Society (BCS) today felicitated members of WW2 Imphal Campaign Foundation in recognition for the work contributed by the team of WW2 Imphal Campaign Foundation till date since the

foundation was formed in the year 2013. Akiko MacDonald is here in the state to take part in the 73rd Commemoration of Battle of Imphal which is going to be observed on May 20, 2017 at Imphal War Cemetery and Maibam Lotpa Ching. The felicitation function was held today at Hotel Grande.

## Jwalamukhi battalion apprehends two insurgent

**Imphal, May 18:** In relentless operations carried out by troops of Jwalamukhi Battalion under the aegis of Senapati Brigade of Red Shield Division, two insurgents were apprehended on 14 May 2017 from Leimakhong Bazar. In the operation carried out on 14 May 2017, two KRA (U)

cadres were apprehended from Leimakhong Bazar. The cadres were identified as Kaminthang, Age - 26 yrs, s/o Songjalim Hangsang and Limalnal @ Reuben, Age - 26 yrs, s/o Thangiang, both are active cadres of KRA (U). Both the individuals were apprehended along with a 9mm Pistol, a 9mm Magazine and

four 9mm live rounds. Both the insurgents were involved in extortion, tax collection and other nefarious activities for KRA (U). A First Information Report has been lodged at Police Station Imphal West and the apprehended KRA (U) cadres have been handed over to Police Station Imphal West.

## Failure to acknowledge heritage site; WW2 Bridge faces threat of demolition

**Laishram Ranbir**  
**Imphal, May 18:** We have heard, witnessed one of the fierce battle fought during the WW2 in Manipur "Battle of Imphal, 1944" where thousands of lives were claimed, thousands of houses were destroyed during the battle of Imphal. During the War War II many roads, bridges were constructed and built by the British and Japanese forces for their movement which still exist in the state. But today due to the failure to acknowledge the importance of the war, structures constructed which should be rather a treasure seems to find no place in today's Manipur. "The Hamilton Bridge" built between Heingang and Achanbengi during the Second World War as a passage route by the Allied forces is likely to swept away from the soil of this historic war field. Till date, tales of "The Hamilton Bridge", bridge being built in one night is still narrated by our elders and passing down to the children, grandchildren. Unfortunately, some contractors or government workers have begun to tear

down the age old bridge. This reports witness the planks laid on the bridge for passage removed. Only the iron stretch of the bridge remains to be tear down sooner or later. When being enquired, none have the accurate reasons why the bridge have to be tear down while a proper modern bridge is already on use next to it. Does the state government not care about preserving the aged old bridge built in one night as a heritage site or they only cared about using fund in the wrong way by destroying what our forefather has left for us to witness how our state was in their time. "Over the past decade many priceless heritage sites and monuments have been destroyed, vandalised or desecrated in countries across the world while more than thousands of heritage sites could be damaged beyond repair if urgent action isn't taken to protect them." In today's generation, visiting the bridge, "one can hear the tale from the locals of the bridge built in one night of April 5/6 of 1944 by 56 British Engineers from 58 Company Royal Engineers under the

command of Lieutenant D G Jones. They were in Lion Box and were sent to a camp near where the bridge was erected. The Hamilton Bridge built between Heingang and Achanbengi also connects the Airfield at Koirengai with the IV Corps HQ at Keep or Mongjam/Heingang area." In the previous article by this reporter, Imphal Times had highlight the significance of the "Hamilton Bridge" as a heritage site for our state but no concern department or government have taken up any necessary steps to preserve the historic bridge. World Heritage sites are designated by the UN as places of outstanding universal value which should be protected for future generations but according to a study from the experts, urbanisation, farming, industry and deforestation are having an increasing impact on them. But in our state Manipur, it is becoming hard to find a heritage site or site where WW2 have occurred apart for few like known places like Nambol Nambam Lokpa CHing, Imphal War Cemetery, Kanglatongbi War Cemetery, INA at Moirang and Kangla.

## Cabinet approves pharma mission to develop bio pharmaceuticals

**New Delhi, May 17:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for Industry-Academia Collaborative Mission for accelerating discovery and research to early development for biopharmaceuticals.

The Mission will be implemented by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, a Public Sector Undertaking of Department of Biotechnology. It will be a Pan-India program and help in preparing India's technological and product

development capabilities in the bio-pharmaceutical sector to a level that it is globally competitive over the next 10-15 years. It is also intended to transform the health standards of Indian population through affordable product development.

## Triple talaq not integral to Islam, violation of rights

**New Delhi, May 17:** The Centre has told the Supreme Court that triple talaq is neither integral to Islam nor a majority versus minority issue. Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi, in his rebuttal to the arguments favoring the 1,400 year-old practice of triple talaq, said yesterday that the issue is rather an intra-community tussle between

Muslim men and deprived women. He also made a strong pitch for judicial scrutiny on grounds including violation of fundamental rights like right to equality and gender justice. The Attorney General reiterated that the top court was guardian of fundamental rights and has to see whether there was any

violation of such rights. A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice JS Khehar, asked the Centre as to why it did not legislate to regulate marriages and divorce among Muslims. The Supreme Court is hearing on a clutch of petitions challenging triple talaq, polygamy and 'nikah halala'.

## 3 decades after Bofors, Indian Army gets first artillery guns from US

**NDTV**  
**New Delhi, May 18:** For the first time in three decades, the Indian Army today received two new artillery guns systems. The M-777 ultra-light howitzers which arrived in India today are part of 145-gun order sealed in a government-to-government deal with the United States for 700 million dollars. The Army has massive plans to upgrade its artillery formations, and is in the process of acquiring five types of artillery guns under a 22,000 crore modernisation plan. The air portable guns that arrived today will be used to shore up defences in high-altitude areas against China. The 155 mm, 39-calibre gun will have a maximum range of 30 km. In all, the military will import 25 M-777s directly from BAE systems, the manufacturer of the guns. The rest will be assembled in India in collaboration with Mahindra Defence Systems. The last artillery guns that India bought were the controversial Swedish Bofors guns in the mid-1980s. But the US \$1.4 billion deal was mired in controversy after reports that the Swedish company had paid US\$ 9.9 million (Rs. 64 crore) in kickbacks to top Indian politicians. It cost then Prime Minister Rajiv

Gandhi a chance to return to power in the next election; it also slowed down defence procurement considerably. In recent times, there have been efforts to fast-track the acquisition of modern artillery guns for the army. Earlier this month, the Indian company Larsen & Toubro bagged its biggest defence order to supply another key system to the Army. L&T, which has partnered with the South Korean company Hanwha Tech Win (HTW) will be assembling 100 units of 155mm, 52 calibre K9 Vajra-T self-propelled howitzers. The gun being built in India has been modified to suit Indian conditions including desert operations. L&T won the 4500 crore order after beating three other competitors in a series of user trials and evaluations. Significantly, some of the most advanced artillery guns being acquired by the Army are the designed and made in India. One is the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) showcased for the first time during this year's Republic Day parade. Designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), the ATAGS is a 155 mm, 52-calibre gun which is towed by a

truck. The gun system has successfully cleared engineering trials and will be assembled in collaboration with the Kalyani Group and Tata Power. It features an all electric drive to ensure reliability and minimum maintenance and can strike targets 40 kilometres away. Back in the eighties, India had received the blueprints of the Bofors gun but manufacture of the weapon system never began given the controversy surrounding the deal. The Bofors gun has proven to be outstanding in service with the Indian Army and played a decisive role during the 1999 Kargil conflict. Ironically, a modernised and significantly improved variant of the Bofors FHB02 gun is finally being built by the Ordnance factory Board after the old designs were belatedly pulled out, dusted and put to manufacture. The Indian-made gun called the Dhanush has cleared trials with the Indian Army and has proven its ability to strike targets 38 km away as opposed to the original Bofors gun which has a range of approximately 27 kilometres. The Army plans to acquire 414 Dhanush guns with each gun reportedly costing 1.4 crore.