

## Bomb threats



IT News  
Imphal, April 21

A chinese made hand grenade was found today morning at around 7.40 am outside the residential gate of one khumanthem Tomba of Haoreibi Makha Leikai. He is a senior scientist at Manipur pollution control board under Wangoi P.S Imphal west district. Manipur police bomb disposal squad safely detonated the bomb. No organisation or individual has claimed responsibility so far.

## J&K CM welcomes ordinance on death penalty for rape of minors

Agency  
Jammu, April 22

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti has welcomed the Union Cabinet decision to bring an ordinance to award death penalty to those convicted of raping children up to 12 years of age. She also asserted that her government will bring a similar law in Jammu and Kashmir. Chief Minister also welcomed other stringent amendments brought in relevant laws by the Union Cabinet to ensure speedy investigation and trial in rape cases. She said that this will go a long way in curbing the level of harassment against women and girl child in the country.

## PM Modi urges people to work together to mitigate menace of climate change

Agency  
New Delhi, April 22

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged people to work together to mitigate the menace of climate change. In a tweet on the Earth Day today, Mr Modi called upon people to reaffirm the commitment towards creating a better planet for the future generations.

He said, it will be a great tribute to the beloved Mother Earth. The Prime Minister complimented all individuals and organisations working towards promoting harmony with nature and ensuring sustainable development. Environment Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said, Earth is the only planet in the universe where life is possible. He called upon

people to save earth and save natural assets to keep life going. Earth Day is celebrated worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental protection. The day was proposed at the UNESCO conference in 1969 and the first Earth Day celebrations took place in 1970. The campaign theme this year is, 'End Plastic Pollution'.

## State all set for Khongjom Day celebration

IT News  
Imphal, April 22

The stage is all set for the state Kongjom Day celebration tomorrow in remembrance of the first Anglo-Manipur war in which many patriots like Paona Brajabashi and Chinglensana and their troops laid their lives for sake of Manipur. Like every year a state function has been organized at the Kheba Ching in Thoubal district tomorrow, which will be attended in all likelihood by the Governor Dr.Najma Heptulla and the Chief Minister N.Biren as the chief guest and the president respectively. According to an official source, the formal observation will start from 9 am tomorrow with the arrival

of the chief guest and the president of the state function, which will be followed by the offering of floral wreaths at the Khongjom war memorial with a contingent of the Manipur Rifles maintaining the guard of honour general salute, Reverse Arms, sounding of last post two minutes silence, slope arms and order arms. This will soon be followed by the laying of floral wreaths at the Paona Brajabashi statue and the main observation of the function the offering of tarpan (religious offering) at the Khongjom river. Meanwhile, in view of the visit of the heads of state tomorrow, the state home department has made heavy deployment of state security forces along the route

leading from Imphal to Khongjom and the peripheries of the Khongjom Kheba ching since this evening. According to an official source maximum state security will be provided at Kheba Ching, Khongjom and its surrounding areas with the commanding officers of the IRB Battalions along with their respective JCOs and escort parties being deployed around the area. The same source added that the additional security of the CO 3rd IRB (commando battalion) with escorts, SP, Imphal West with escorts, SI/ASIs, Traffic Control Police personnel and Women constables under the command of SP Thoubal will be deployed along the VIP route tomorrow.

## Tree plantation drive

IT News  
Thoubal, April 22

In Connection with World "Earth Day" a tree plantation drive on "Plant A Tree Get Oxygen For Free" was organised by the Leo Club of Thoubal at the Kshetri Sanglen area Under the Leo District 322 D today. More than 100 seedlings were planted during the drive which was organised to conserve the environment.



## Mode of earning and way of living in rural India are transforming: PM Narendra Modi

Agency  
New Delhi, April 22

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said, the mode of earning and way of living in rural India are transforming and there is a need to connect the ground capabilities with mainstream economic systems. Interacting with BJP MPs and MLAs through the Narendra Modi App, the Prime Minister said, there is a need to focus on skill development. He said, Mudra Yojna is also helping people and 11 crore people have already been benefitted from the scheme. Mr Modi added that women in self-help groups are coming up with new employment

opportunities in various sectors. He said, BJP leaders should be involved in every work that is being undertaken in the society for the welfare of people. Speaking on agriculture, Mr Modi said, many farmers are unaware of a number of agricultural facts and schemes today and there is a need to organise campaigns to educate them. He asked the lawmakers to organise workshops on latest farming techniques in villages. The Prime Minister said, there is a need to highlight that the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission on Minimum Support Price have

been implemented so that the farmers can benefit from it.

## Combing operation

IT News  
Imphal, April 22

Thoubal district police team today conducted cordoned and search operation at Phundrei Awang Leikai in connection with the upcoming Khongjom War Memorial celebration to be held tomorrow. During the search operation conducted from 4.45 am to 6.30 am, 379 male and 540 female were verified and 2 persons were picked up for further verification

## President Kovind promulgates Criminal Law (Amendment) ordinance 2018; gives assent to Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance

Agency  
New Delhi, April 22

President Ram Nath Kovind has promulgated the Criminal Law (Amendment) ordinance 2018. The Ordinance amends the Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. Yesterday, the Union Cabinet had approved the promulgation of the ordinance for effective deterrence against commission of rape and instilling a sense of security among women, especially young girls. AIR correspondent reports that in case of rape of a girl under 16 years, minimum punishment has been increased to 20 years from the existing ten years.

It is extendable to imprisonment for rest of life, which shall mean imprisonment till that person's natural life. The time limit for investigation of all cases of rape has been prescribed, which has to be mandatorily completed within two months. Time limit for completion of trial of all rape cases has also

been prescribed and it has to be necessarily completed in two months. It has also been prescribed that there will be no provision of anticipatory bail for a person accused of rape or gang rape of a girl under 16 years. The move comes against the backdrop of the alleged rape and murder of a girl in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua and alleged rape of a girl in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao district. The rape of a minor in Gujarat's Surat district had also outraged the nation.

The President also promulgated the Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance 2018 that provides for confiscating properties of escapes. The ordinance lays down the measures to empower Indian authorities to attach and confiscate proceeds of crime associated with economic offenders and the properties of the economic offenders. It will deter economic offenders from evading the process of Indian law by remaining outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts. This will also help banks and other financial institutions to achieve higher recovery from

financial defaults committed by such fugitive economic offenders. The punishment is extendable to imprisonment for rest of life, which means imprisonment till that person's natural life. The time limit for investigation of all cases of rape has also been prescribed, which has to be mandatorily completed within two months. Time limit for completion of trial of all rape cases is also two months. There will be no provision of anticipatory bail for a person accused of rape or gang rape of a girl under 16 years. New fast-track courts will also be set up to deal with such cases and special forensic kits for rape cases will be given to all police stations and hospitals. The Union Cabinet had approved the Ordinance yesterday. It amends the Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. The move comes against the backdrop of the alleged rape and murder of a girl in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua and alleged rape of a girl in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao district.

## PPFA calls for genuine space to citizenship debates

By Our Correspondent  
Guwahati, April 22

Expressing concern over creating sentiments with unhealthy debates and aggressive attacks over the organizations, which reportedly supported the Centre's initiative to amend the citizenship laws at the Joint Parliamentary Committee hearing in New Delhi recently, the Patriotic People's Front Assam (PPFA) insists on rational debates over the pertinent issue. The forum, in a statement issued to the media, claims that a section of Assamese intellectuals and civil society groups have tried their best to project the citizenship amendment bill 2016 in a bias perception as if the whole initiative is Assam centric. "Those biased individuals have made the hue and cry that once it turns into a law, millions of Bengali Hindu people from Bangladesh would be dumped into Assam and the practice will continue for decades. So whoever supports the initiative (s)he should be termed as Jatidrohi (read anti Assamese)," said the PPFA statement. They cleverly avoided the fact that those asylum seekers are not merely Bengali Hindus, but also a mix of Rajbongshi, Hajong, Jayantiya, Bishnupriya, Chakma, Garo, Khasi, Adivasi etc people.

Moreover, all these people became the victims of Pakistan's partition game plan and had to live in a foreign land, for the creation of which they were not at all responsible, added the statement. It also clarifies that the initiative is meant to allow citizenship for those Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Christian, Jain and Parsi community refugees, who were persecuted because of their religions practices in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan and had already taken shelter in India prior to 31 December 2014, and there is no provision to bring more Bangladeshi (or Pakistani and Afghan national) after the said date. Extending supports to the initiative, the PPFA however demanded that the asylum seekers from the neighbouring countries must be distributed judiciously across the country. Moreover, those who prefer to stay legally in Assam, they should adopt the Assamese language as their medium of instruction, the forum asserted. "Adopting the Assamese language as the medium of official language by those settlers would help in promoting the Assamese culture and also contributing for a stronger and safer India. Their goodwill will also remove the linguistic threat perception hunting the indigenous populace of Assam," the statement pointed out. The PPFA also

reiterated its old stand to detect all illegal immigrants from the then East Pakistan (and later Bangladesh) with the cut-off year of 1951 as it is applicable to the entire nation. It argued that the spirit of Assam Movement (1979 to 1985) was to deport all foreigners since 1951, for which over 850 martyrs-Khargeswar Talukder being the first, sacrificed their lives. The forum also claims that the immigrants who entered India between 1951 and 16 December 1971 should be treated as East Pakistani nationals, as Bangladesh emerged as a sovereign nation only after 16 December (not 25 March 1971 as often reported in the media) following the surrender of Pakistani forces under the leadership of AAK Niazi to the Muktiyoddhas (forces of Bangladesh freedom struggle). It clarified that Bangla father of the nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman only declared the independence of Bangladesh on 25 March of 1971. But till 16 December of the year, the land was very much under the Pakistani authority and hence it cannot be termed as Bangladesh (so the residents as Bangladeshi nationals), the statement added. Finally the PPFA statement concluded that if the deportation of illegitimate immigrants becomes impossible (or very difficult) because of serious humanitarian and international crisis, the Union

government in New Delhi should think about offering work permits (without voting rights) for them to resolve the issue amicably. Endorsed by Rupam Barua, Nava Thakuria, Jagadindra Ray Choudhury, Pramod Kalita, Kishour Giri, Arup Koch, Anup Sarma, Dayal Krishna Nath, Azizur Rahman Saikia, Dhiraj Goswami, Upananda Katak, Oken Jeet Sandham, Bidhayak Das, Anirban Choudhury, Ujjal Saikia, Rubee Das, Prarthana Hazarika, Rhituparna Das, Manjori Borkotoky, Sonit Kumar Goswami, Bijoy Sarma, Bikash Kumar Das, Rajib Choudhury, Smriti Divya Barua, Namrata Datta, Bhaswati Sharma, Babita Sarma, Sewali Kalita, Kuntala Chakrabarty, Sanjeeb Kalita, Bhuvan Saikia, Anujata Talukdar, Pallabi Borah, Utpal Sarma, Pankaj Kr Borah, Simanta Sharma, Kaushik Chakrabarty, Prasanta Chakrabarty, Dhruva Saikia, Mridul Kr Chakrabarty, Navadeep Bharali, Kisor Sarma, Ghamdeswar Kalita, Mridul Kumar Handique, Manoj Khandelwal, Diganta Saharia, Minamung Buragohain, Sandeep Sarma, Chandra Kumar Saikia, Mitali Ozah, Padmini Hazarika, Niren Barman, Brajajyoti Sarma, Sewali Sarma, Upasana Sarma, Rashmi Sarma, Tarali Chakrabarty, Ajoy Hazarika, Parthapriya Bora, Nirod Kr Haloi etc for the PPFA.