

## NSCN-K lambasts GOI alleging attack to Churches in Nagaland by NIA

IT News  
Imphal, April 3,

NSCN-K today labelled serious allegation to the Government of India (GOI) alleging open attack to Christian churches in Nagaland using NIA. In a press statement issued by Issak Sumi, Dy. Kilonser, NSCN-K, the rebel said that the long standing Naga issue must not be dragged down or equated with the present corruption riddled electoral politics.

"It is indeed appalling to

witness that, instead of allowing the wounds to heal, the GOI by allowing the NIA to outlandishly attack even the Naga Christian Churches of extortion and criminal collaboration is forcing the festering of the old wound", the statement said. It said, "the NIA in its effort to scuttle the Indo- Naga political processes and to completely dented the Naga cause has went to the extent of making open criminal insinuations against the Churches and the Church leaders thus bringing back the horrifying memories of the past where raping of mothers and daughters inside the Churches and razing down of Churches after using them as concentration and torture chamber during 1955-1980's occurred all over Nagaland."

The open attack on the Church by the same forces in the form of NIA is an attack against the collective conscience and the whole

polity and faith of the Nagas and in a state of affairs where even the Chief Minister and top Naga bureaucrats of the state are being harassed and arrested with impunity by NIA spooks, where will the ordinary Naga people turn to for security but to resort to mass revolution and defiance as in the days of yore. The statement further added that the collaborating Nagas using NIA as double edged sword of political vendetta against their adversaries should not have taken advantage of the NIA led communal forces intent to crush the Nagas and NSCN in particular and to annihilate the Naga's struggle altogether. "It shall be recorded in the Naga history for posterity to credit even their progenies as traitors. Indeed a testing time for all the believers in Christ to demonstrate resilience and firmly uphold our faith by standing up to evil forces threatening our very belief and existence" it added.

## Union Government amends Guidelines for Accreditation of Journalists

IT Desk  
Imphal, April 3,

The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Monday night launched an attack on the spread of fake news, a global phenomenon that has leveraged the proliferation of digital technologies and has been accused of having led to a number of unforeseen outcomes. The guidelines for accreditation of journalists have been amended to contain deterrents to fake-news. The Press Council of India and the News Broadcasters Association (NBA) if it relates to electronic media, for determination of the news item being fake or not. Determination is expected to be completed within 15 days by these regulating agencies. Once the complaint is registered for determination of fake news, the correspondent/journalist who ever created and/or propagated the fake news will, if accredited, have the accreditation suspended till such time the determination regarding the fake news is made by the regulating agencies mentioned above.

The Accreditation Committee of the PIB which consists of representative of both PCI and NBA shall be invariably be reached out to for validating any accreditation request of any news media agency. While any confirmation of

publication or telecast of fake news having been confirmed by any of these agencies, the accreditation will be suspended for a period of 6 months in the first violation and for one year in the case of 2nd violation and in the event of 3rd violation it would be cancelled permanently. While examining the requests seeking accreditation, the regulatory agencies will examine whether the 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' and 'Conduct of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards'

prescribed by the PCI and NBA respectively are adhered to by the journalists as part of their functioning. It would be obligatory for journalists to abide by these guidelines". Following the announcement, the Congress' media in-charge politicised the move, making a 'Fascism' allegation at the Modi government. Citing an article, Surjewala wrote - "Fascism reaches its 'nadir' as a shaky Modi Govt, caught in its web of lies, seeks to muzzle all independent voices in media through fallacious rules!"

While any confirmation of

### PREPAK condole demise of its cadre



IT News  
Imphal, April 3,

Proscribed group People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) today condole the demise of its cadre Thouba @ Laithangbam Kabocha Meitei (35 yrs) son of (late) L. Rajkumari Singh of Heiranagoithong Jaganath AChouba Leirak in Imphal district.

A statement said that Thouba was a Sergeant Major of the Red Army, PREPAK and he died on March 30 at around 8 am in an unfortunate accident which happened at 707 Battalion of the Red Army. PREPAK and its army wing Red Army expressed their sorrow and pains in losing of their cadre stated that Thouba was an active revolutionary cadre and he received Basic Military Training in the 18th batch. PREPAK also shares the pain and sorrow of his family.

### Chess Tournament

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Kakching Chess Association is organising a chess tournament at Waikhong High School under Kakching district under the sponsorship of Manipur Chess Association from April 16, 2018. Interested players can contact the Secretary Kakching Chess Association.

## Local clubs of Singjamei condemn mob attack at students' boarding

IT News  
Imphal, April 3,

Four local clubs of Singjamei area - (YAWA) Youth Amateur Welfare Association, Singjamei Leishangthem Leikai, OLYC (Okram Leikai Youth Club), EC (Eikhoigi Club), Oimam Thingel and Soical Environment Development Organisation (SEDO), Singjamei Sapam leikai today condemn mob attacked to the students' hostel- L J Educare located at Singjamei Okram Leikai, Imphal West district under Singjamei Police Station by a group of

people after a hostelite identified as Thougamba Huiningsungbam, a student of Class 5 and son of H. Roshan, Kakwa Sairam Leirak, presently staying at Naoremthong Khulem Leikai died after he felt down from the staircase at around 11 am on April 1. Speaking to media persons at Singjamei Leishangthem Leikai today afternoon, L. Naobi, Secretary YAWA, said that he on behalf of the 4 club share the pain and sorrow of the family of the deceased students. "It was an unfortunate accident, if the cause of the

death is the fault of somebody then let the law takes its own course", Naobi said. He however said that he four clubs condemn vandalizing of the boarding and other properties. He appealed not to repeat such incident in future as there is no justice in mob action. The secretary was referring to the hostilities of the JAC formed against the death of student. The Secy. said that the four clubs also support any kind of action as per the law of the land and any act of mob violence will not be tolerated. While stating that only a

proper report of post mortem will let the people know the fact on the cause of the death Naobi questioned why the family of the deceased resisted in conducting post mortem of the child. The owner of the hostel, Love Joy Saikhom of Singjamei Leishangthem leikai, is still giving cooperation to the police. He said any action against the owner or anybody found guilty as per the investigation will be supported by the four club. He also appealed not to spread fault propaganda in such a sensitive issue.

## Cycle tour under the theme "Beti Bachao, Beti Padoa" flagged off

IT News  
Imphal, April 3,

Inspired by Prime minister Narendra Modi's initiative "Beti Bachao, Beti Padoa" - a scheme to empower girl child in the country, 20 years old Ji Ingobi Chingtham today kicks start a cycle rally from Imphal to New Delhi to spread the message and create awareness campaign about the scheme. The Marathon cycle rally was today flagged off by MLA Paonam Brojen from Western Kangla Gate at around 8.30 am. Beti Bachao Beti Padoa (BBBP) scheme was started on January 22, 2015 as a joint initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child



Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development under coordinated and convergent efforts to empower the girl child. First, it was initiated in

100 districts with low girl child sex ratio. Based on the child sex ratio, 100 districts were selected as pilot districts along with at least one district in each of the states/union territories covered by the

2011 census. In Haryana, Olympic bronze medalist Sakshi Malik was made the brand ambassador for 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padoa' scheme in August 2016. According to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "Our mantra should be: son and daughter are equal." BBBP scheme is true to its words. The scheme intends to improve the efficiency of services for the welfare of women and to raise awareness regarding women's rights. Under this scheme, the government focuses on low female sex ratio in different areas in nearly 100 districts. When women are educated and aware, it leads to empowerment of women.

### A tribute to Khelen Thokchom

By Shyamsunder Haobam



**Khelen Thokchom**, 58, a courageous, sincere and committed one of the most distinguished journalist suddenly left us for the heavenly abode in Imphal on Sunday April 1, 2018.

I was expecting pranks from some of my friends as it was April Fool's day and it was around 7 am when one of my friend enquired about the demise of Ta Khelen Thokchom. Though I didn't take it on a serious note, some intuition made my heartbeat rapidly getting faster, even though I still thought it could still just be a prank. I was dumbstruck when I rang Rinku Khumukcham, editor of Imphal times and confirmed the agonizing news.

My association with him was way back in 1996, first of all as he became a relation to me (my better half is his cousin) and also my association with print media. We became even closer from 2004 when he started his association with 'The Telegraph' and around that time we had a squad where we used to organise Lunch/dinner for at least two times in a month, venues included the partially built incomplete porch of his house.

My last dinner with him was on the 10th of February 2018 at my residence. He was late as we had planned to meet by 6.00 pm but was late by more than an hour. We had discussions on numerous topics before and after dinner including personal health issues, diets and foods and by 10:30 pm he left for his residence and that became the last time I met Ta Khelen Thokchom even though we call each other kept in touch with each other.

Khelen Thokchom with his broad and contagious laughter leaves behind a rich legacy of journalism that impacted people and was a not only a colleague to the media fraternity but was a dear friend, to many people even personally unknown to him. He believed the society can be transformed for the better, if only you speak the truth and always showed a continuing concern for the public interest and transparency. His insightful character can clearly be seen on television shows and radio talks.

A humorous person making everybody smile, his life was a work of art that has been expressed through his writing. Journalism would not have differed from its path into previously uncharted territories if it was not for the work of this man.

His works, always empathetic but strident in speaking truth to power, was driven by a clear desire to cut through as many layers as it took to get to the truth. He read voraciously, consuming everything he could on the subjects he loved, to ensure his work was as nuanced, insightful and well-informed as it could possibly ever be.

I believe everyone has a mentor. That individual, who guided and supported you, moulded you and most significantly the person whom you trust and would help you in your bad times and Khelen Thokchom is this sort of person. He would not criticise but rectify the mistakes that one commits, as a friend, as a brother, as a guide or whatever it may be, he is always ready to lend a hand and that is always for sure.

Khelen Thokchom is no more but will be a legend never forgotten. He was and ever will be a true journalist and his presence with the journalist fraternity will ever be remembered throughout and alas I have lost my mentor!