

## Bomb threats:

### Two hand grenade found at 2 brick field with extortion notes



IT News  
Imphal, April 4,

Unknown miscreants today placed hand grenades at two different brick fields located at two different places of Thoubal district under Khongjom Police Station. Extortion notes with written notes demanding monetary demand were also placed along with the hand grenades.

Police bomb disposal squads safely detonated the two bombs at a nearby field popularly known as Khongjom Sabal Leikai. The two brick fields where the bomb were placed are YMC (Yumnam Construction) located at the

road side in between Khongjom to Phundrei Village road and Arbindro Brick Field located near Khongjom Kheba Ching. The hand grenade at YMC was found by the labourers at around 7 am today morning. The owner of the brick field is identified as Yumnam Choaba also known as AE Choaba from Thoubal Athokpam Makha Leikai. The other hand grenade at Arbindro brick field was found at around 8 am today. The owner of the brick field is identified as Sapam Arbindro from Sapam Mamng Leikai in Thoubal district.

According to report from both the brick field, both the

owners had received extortion threats from armed group PREPAK (Nongdrenkhomba). The source added that the outfit had demanded a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs from YMC brick farm while it demands some monetary help to the AS Brick field. Meanwhile, workers of both the brick field staged a sit-in-protest in front of the brick fields. The workers condemn placing of bomb at the work place as it would result injury to the workers if blasted.

**On the other hand one old bomb was also found at Sora village under Kakching district while digging drains using excavator at around 11 am today.**

## I&B ministry withdraws circular on fake news after Modi intervention

Agency  
New Delhi, April 4,

Information and Broadcasting Ministry had withdrawn the punitive measures for checking fake news announced earlier as per intervention by the Prime Minister yesterday.

The withdrawal however wasn't an entirely celebratory mood among the journalist fraternity across the country. The measures, contained in a press release, "Guidelines for accreditation of journalists amended to regulate fake news", caused widespread outrage among media organizations and were withdrawn after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention.

The press release said that any complaint on fake news would be referred to the Press Council of India for print media and the News Broadcasters Association for electronic media. If confirmed as fake, the accreditation of the journalist shall be suspended for a period of six months for a first offence, a year if it's the second offence and permanently after the third.

"Through the circular, I believe the government was testing the waters. Social

media like Facebook and Twitter have much to answer for fake news as do websites which are often patronised by the government and are given a free run even though they are caught peddling fake news on several occasions," said Rajdeep Sardesai, television news anchor and consulting editor at the India Today group said in a meeting held yesterday at Delhi Press

Club. The government doesn't come into this debate with clean hands, he added. The consensus at the hour-long open meeting was that while fake news needs to be tackled with concrete strategies like naming and shaming and forming of apex bodies that comprise both legal experts and professional journalists, it is no way, the responsibility of the

government. Bodies like the Editors' Guild of India and the Broadcast Editors Association condemned the order, with the former calling it draconian and arbitrary.

"We can't let this (issue) go with mere withdrawal of the circular," said senior journalist Ravish Kumar. "Audiences will suffer this way."

## JFA bats for MCI to deal with fake news menace

IT News  
Guwahati, April 4:

Journalists' Forum Assam (JFA), while reacting to the recent debates over government initiatives to curb the menace of fake news in various media outlets, advocates for empowering the Press Council of India (PCI) comprising the print, electronic and alternate/social media and also renaming the quasi-judicial body as Media Council of India (MCI).

It may be noted that the information and broadcasting ministry lately declared that the accreditation of a journalist might be cancelled

if (s)he was found spreading fake news. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi directed the ministry to withdraw the harsh guidelines and commented that the matter should be addressed by the PCI.

According to the I&B ministry guidelines, the complaint of intentional false news published in newspapers were scheduled for referring to the PCI, whereas in case of television news contents, it was directed to be referred to the News Broadcasters Association (NBA).

"As there was no mention of alternate or social media in the I&B ministry order, which is

otherwise aggressively engulfing the Indian public domain, we urge the government to go for an empowered MCI to deal with the new found menace in a comprehensive manner," said a statement issued by JFA president Rupam Barua and secretary Nava Thakura.

The scribe's forum, in another aspect, however pointed that journalism should (must) go beyond the government recognition. Numerous committed journalists in rural India have been pursuing critical journalism without the accreditation and thus they have shown the real spirit of journalism, concluded the statement.

## "Pravish Chanam case handed over to CBI"

DIPR  
Imphal, April 4,

Family of Pravish Chanam along JAC executives, Meira Paibee leaders and Human Rights Alert Executive Director Babloo Loitongbam met the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in his office today.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister assured them that a concrete policy for the safety and security of Manipuris staying and studying outside the State would be framed.

The same policy would be sent to Union Home Ministry after a decision of the State Cabinet within a week.

Pravish family and the JAC urged the Chief Minister to personally speak to the Chief Minister of UP, Yogi Adityanath for handing over the Pravish Chanam case to CBI.

The Chief Minister had a telephonic talk with the UP Chief Minister in the evening in which the latter informed him that the case has already been handed over to CBI just after his letter dated 27.09.2017 addressed to the Manipur Chief Minister.

It may be recalled that the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had sent a reminder to the UP Chief Minister on December 15, 2017 regarding the case.

## Kidnapped labourers rescued

IT News  
Imphal, April 4,

Two labourers, who were kidnapped by suspected armed group on March 26 from the area between Lhahvom and Nabil Khuman village in Churachandpur district were safely rescued by a joint team of Churachandpur district police and Assam Rifles with the help of KNF (MC), currently under suspension of operation with the government.

The two kidnapped labourers - Nausomlian, 17, son of Tonzagin of Lingshiphai village and Khuppinlian, 20, son of (L) Pauncilun of Tuilileibul, Thanlon Sub-Division works for special contractor M. Dama of Lingshiphai village, Ccpur. Newspaper source said that the two labourers were



kidnapped for ransom of Rs.20.

The two labourers were handed over to their families today morning by the Churachandpur District Police. Family members of the labourers extended their heartfelt gratitude to Ccpur district SP & his team.

The joint security force also apprehended some persons who were involved in the kidnapping of the two labourers. Those apprehended are - Nemneilam Haokip (40) w/o Paolun

Haokip, Chief of Mongkong Village, Churachandpur, Leh Hatneikim Haokip (35) w/o Nehjang of Hengiang Village, Churachandpur, Nehminlen @ Joseph (26) s/o Letthong of Phoipi Village presently staying in K Mongjang, Churachandpur, Lamkholal @ Prem (36) s/o Hemlet of D Vaison, New Boljang Churachandpur and Chonminlal Manlun (37) s/o (L) Ngulmang Manlun of Songjang, a police source added.

## Stalemate continues in Parliament today; both Houses witness adjournments

Agency  
New Delhi, April 4,

The stalemate continued in Parliament today, as both the Houses witnessed adjournments, following Opposition protests on different issues including the nation-wide agitation by Dalits. The Rajya Sabha was adjourned till 2 PM, and the Lok Sabha till noon.

In the Rajya Sabha, members belonging to AIADMK, DMK, Telugu Desam, Congress and other parties forced the adjournment after trooping into the well raising slogans. Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu adjourned the House immediately after

administering the oath to 12 newly elected members.

Expressing grave concern over the repeated disturbances, Mr Naidu appealed to the members to allow the House to take up some of the important bills including the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment Bill) in the next two days before adjourning sine die on Friday.

Despite repeated appeals by the Chair, the agitating members continued to raise slogans displaying placards in support of their demands leading to the adjournment. Amidst noisy scenes, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Vijay Goel accused the Congress

of being anti-Dalits, saying that during its long regime, the party had not taken steps for the welfare of Dalits. Later, the Chairman adjourned the House till 2 PM.

The Lok Sabha was adjourned till noon amidst uproar by AIADMK members. As soon as the House met for the day, members of the party trooped into the well raising slogans in support of their demand of setting up of Cauvery River Water Management Board. Amid noisy scenes, Speaker Sumitra Mahajan adjourned the House minutes after it met.

## Narendra Modi slams Congress for politicising BR Ambedkar's legacy, says no other govt honoured him as BJP did

Agency  
New Delhi, April 4,

Lashing out at the Congress for practising politics over BR Ambedkar's legacy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that no government has honoured the Dalit icon the way his government has.

Speaking at a programme to mark the inauguration of a building of Western Court Annex in Parliament complex, Modi said it was the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government that decided to have two memorials installed at two places in the capital.

The 26, Alipur Road house where Ambedkar died would be dedicated to the nation on 13 April on the eve of his birth anniversary, Agency reported.

Without naming the Congress-led UPA, Modi said it could not happen as the governments that followed Vajpayee showed little interest and ignored Ambedkar and his contributions.

"After that, the governments ran like that... Everybody is always ready to do politics in the name of Babasaheb. But nobody gave him the kind of respect and paid tributes to him as much as this government did," IANS quoted prime minister as saying.

He said his government was walking the path shown by Ambedkar and asked every political group to try and do the same for the country's development.

"At the core of Ambedkar's ideals is harmony and togetherness. Working for the poorest of the poor is our mission," Modi said.

Modi's remarks come soon after widespread protests over a 20 March Supreme Court verdict putting in place safeguards to prevent misuse of a law to prevent atrocities of SCs and STs.

While campaigning in Karnataka, Congress president Rahul Gandhi had accused the Modi government of attacking Ambedkar's Constitution. "We will not allow the BJP to change the Constitution. How much ever BJP forces its way to change the Constitution, we will make sure that the Congress protects the work of Ambedkarji," he had said at a public rally on 24 March.

In a series of tweets on Tuesday, BJP chief Amit Shah highlighted Congress "negative politics" over Ambedkar and praised the NDA government for its "commitment" to Ambedkar's vision.