

## Newly elected office bearers of MSF administered oath

IT News

**Imphal, Jan 23:** Newly elected office bearers of the Manipuri Students' Federation today take oath at Manipur Press Club today. The oath of office was administered by Senior Advocate Khaidem Mani. N. Mutangamba Mangang, President of the MSF and Kh Serajuddin, ex president of the student body and returning officer of the MSF Election Committee also attended as dignitaries on the occasion.

## AR conducts interaction prog on health issues

IT News

**Imphal, Jan. 23:** 12 Assam Rifles of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) conducted a lecture on health and hygiene for local populace of Shaibol village on 21 Jan 2018. The programme was conducted by Medical team from 12 Assam Rifles. During the lecture villagers were explained the importance of Personal hygiene and sanitation, causes of different lifestyle diseases and remedial measures to be adopted in order to maintain good health. A total of 30 persons attended this interaction. This initiative of unit was much appreciated by the locals. Such initiatives of Assam Rifles addressing relevant issues of the people have received overwhelming support and appreciation from the locals.

## Fitting tribute paid to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on 121st Birth anniversary

IT News

**Imphal, Jan 23:** People across the nation today paid fitting tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 121st Birth Anniversary. At INA Complex in Moirang of Bishnupur district the day was observed by unfurling the Indian tricolour flag. This is the place where the Indian National Army (INA) under the leadership of Subhas Chandra Bose first hoisted the tricolour flag of the country. A memorial function was also held at INA Memorial Hall Moirang with MLA P Sharatchandra as Singh as the Chief Guest. Director of Arts and Culture Dr. K. Sushila Devi presided over the function. Other top government officials of the Education Department and district police also attended the function. At Manipur Press Club here in Imphal, All India Forward Bloc, Manipur State Committee observed the day. Dignitaries present on the

occasion paid floral tribute to the portrait of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and recalls the ideology of the great leader who had sacrificed for the cause of the Freedom of the country. Khomdram Gyaneswor, Secretary, All India Forward Bloc, Manipur State Committee, speaks on the topic "Political Thoughts of Subhas Chandra Bose and its relevance in today's political situation. "Political corruption is very much against the thought of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose", Gyaneswor said. He added that Subhas Chandra Bose not only fight for political freedom but also to ensure a total freedom socially, culturally and economically. He was very much against casteism and Communalism, Gyaneswor added. Kshetrimayum Shanta, Secy CPI (M) MSC also elaborated on the vision of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

## Arrested ASHA workers produced at Court; ASHAs thronged at court complex demanding immediate release without condition

IT News

**Imphal, Jan 23:** The nine ASHA workers who were arrested by the state police in connection with the protest at Khuman Lampal on the launching day of the Chief Minister's Haksel Tengbang (CMHT) were produced before the court today. The police first brought the nine arrested workers at Cheirap Court complex however had to take them to Lamphel CJM Court as large number of ASHA workers gheroa in front of the court. The ASHA workers shouted slogans demanding immediate release of the nine arrested ASHA workers without any conditions. Till the filing of this report (4 pm) the ASHA workers were in the court and large number of ASHA were waiting for the verdict. Meanwhile, some of the ASHA workers who came at Manipur Press Club at around 2 pm while talking to this reporter said that they will stop all



works assigned to them as a mark of protest. Premita, an ASHA workers said that yesterday's protest was prompted by the organisers of the inaugural function. She said they were ordered to attend the function and treated like commodities. She said they were not even mentioned by the Chief Minister or the Health Minister while delivering their speech when others like nursing student were praised. She said unless the 9 ASHAs are released unconditionally they will stop performing their work.

## CM inspects construction work of Civil Secretariat and Rani Gaidinliu Park

**Imphal, Jan 23:** Chief Minister N. Biren Singh made a surprise inspection of the on-going construction works of the Civil Secretariat Buildings located at Mantripukhri today. On the occasion, Chief Minister also inspected the construction of Rani Gaidinliu Park which is located adjacent to the Secretariat Building. He also directed the concerned

officials to expedite the construction work of the Park and to complete it before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit in March, 2018. MLA Lamlai AC Ksh. Biren Singh, Chief Secretary R.R. Rashmi, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Dr. J. Suresh Babu and officials of PWD accompanied the Chief Minister during the inspection.

## AAP files fresh plea in Delhi high court against disqualification

IANS

**Delhi, Jan. 23:** The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) filed a fresh plea in the Delhi high court on Tuesday to challenge the decision to disqualify 20 party MLAs in an office-of-profit case. The move comes after the AAP MLAs withdrew on Monday an earlier plea in the HC, which sought a stay on the Election Commission's (EC) recommendation to President Ram Nath Kovind to disqualify 20 MLAs for holding the office-of-profit as Parliamentary Secretaries in Delhi.

On Friday, the EC made the recommendation, since approved by the President, for the disqualification. On Sunday, the Law and Justice Ministry issued a notification that the President has held that the 20 MLAs stand disqualified under Section 15 (1) (a) of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) Act.

On Monday, AAP Chief Spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj told IANS that the ruling party will file the fresh plea on Tuesday. Earlier in the day, Justice Rekha Palli of the High Court said the plea moved by six

AAP legislators had become infructuous as the President has already issued a circular to disqualify all 20 MLAs. The MLAs' counsel said they wanted to withdraw the plea and will examine the EC orders.

The court then ruled the "plea is dismissed as withdrawn". The 20 MLAs disqualified are Alka Lamba, Adarsh Shastri, Sanjeev Jha, Rajesh Gupta, Kailash Gahlot, Vijendra Garg, Praveen Kumar, Sharad Kumar, Madan Lal Khufiya, Shiv Charan Goyal, Sarita Singh, Naresh Yadav, Rajesh Rishi, Anil Kumar, Som Dutt, Avtar Singh, Sukhvir Singh Dala, Manoj Kumar, Nitin Tyagi and Jarnail Singh.

Earlier in the day, senior AAP leader Ashutosh attacked the President over his decision. "(President) K.R. Narayanan acted as the guardian of the Constitution, and returned the recommendations of the Cabinet not once, but twice. He (Narayanan) was not a rubber stamp President, was a working President, a great President," Ashutosh tweeted. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, in an open letter, sought public support against the disqualification decision.

## UNLFW boycotts Republic Day celebration

IT News

**Imphal, Jan 23:** A conglomerate of rebel groups operating in North East India called United National Liberation Front of WeSEA (UNLFW) has called boycott of the Indian Republic Day of January 26. "The UNLFW appeal to every freedom loving people of the region to refrain from partaking in any manner during the celebrations of "Indian National Days" particularly the upcoming Indian Republic Day on 26 January 2018 in our ancestral homeland which the UNLFW boycotts for 24 hours throughout WeSEA region", a statement issued by Chairman of the body, Lt. Gen (rt'd) Khongo Konyak said. The statement further said

that western South-East Asian region had never been a part of India historically, politically, racially and culturally. Until the advent of Indian neo-colonization, the people of the region had been living peacefully, sovereign and independent as had been since time immemorial. However, since 1947 the Government of India had systematically been waging various forms of war to destroy the history, culture and rights of the ethnic people of the region besides unkindly exploitations of the land and resources of the ethnic WeSEA people, it added. Heavy influxes of illegal foreign immigrants to the region to supplant and dominate the indigenous

ethnic races economically and politically is being term as a deliberate policy of the GoI since 1950 by the UNLFW. It said this issue has become the biggest threat to the very existence of livelihood of the WeSEA people. "Against the multi-pronged programs of the Indian Government and with no guarantee to safeguard the ethnic identity and rights anywhere within Indian Union or Indian Constitutional framework, the WeSEAN people had been forced to defend their ancestral homeland and to restore the age-old Sovereign independent existence", the statement added. It said that various liberation movements have been enticed

to get assimilated to Indian constitutional bound and corresponding Accords on the pretext of peace, progress and development.

"Agreements have been arrived at but to no avail the issue persists and peace remains a far cry. The indigenous people of WeSEA remains highly discriminated in India in all the spheres of life including social, political or economic and India continues to use her terror agencies including her Army, para-military and Intelligent wings to terrorize, hunt, arrest and kill the WeSEAN people indiscriminately and randomly without any regards for universal human rights or rules of engagement", the statement said.

## "Battle of Imphal- Catalyst to India's Independence"

By: Rajeshwor Yumnam

The Indian National Army was defeated in the Battle of Imphal in March- June 1944. On August 15th 1945, with the Japanese surrender in the 2nd World War, the INA was left with no option but to surrender. Almost all of them surrendered after their retreat from the Indian Border.

It became one of the most important and difficult post war problems for the British Empire to decide how to deal with 19500 former I.N.A officers and men who participate the Imphal Campaign. The disposal of the question might well decide the success or failure of the British control of post-war India. The trial was the most ominous event since the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857. Its outcome would produce enormous impact and have a decisive influence on Indian officers and men in the British Indian Army, the watchdog for the administration of the British Empire over India.

The British government of India thought it would demonstrate the prestige and power of the British Empire by executing betrayed INA officers following a military trial and by attempting to teach the Indian people, particularly Indian officers and men of the British Indian Army, a lesson in order to establish an unshakable control of India. The British thought it could be done. The decision produced a consequence

opposite to their wishes; the British miscalculated and blundered despite their unrivalled experience in the administration of Indians, and their implementation of policy.

Gandhi, Nehru and other leaders of the Indian National Congress seized opportunity on the blunder of the British Empire. They took advantage of the trial whereby the British were determined to punish severely 20000 INA officers and men, whose relatives and friends were also serving in the British Indian Army. Congress leaders tried to win British Indian Army officers and men to the Congress side and to mobilize the Indian masses in an anti- British movement. The trial was a God- given opportunity that would tip the scales of the movement decisively. It was as if Congress had laid a snare and the British Government had been caught.

On September 14, Congress held an executive Committee in Poona and adopted and declared the resolution that I.N.A. officers and men are heroes who fought for the independence of India and they should be released at once.

The mass movement had started by then. In December 1945, Col Dhillon once said, "Don't worry. India will gain independence within a year. If they execute any one of us, no Englishman will leave India

alive."

Netaji Subash Chandra Bose's discretion had enabled the INA to take part in the Imphal Campaign and had brought the INA within reach of Independence. Though the military campaign had ended in a fiasco, the political war of anti-British and pro-Independence agitation as a result of INA brought to victory.

With the progress of the first INA court martial, the Indian people's anti-British and pro-Independence agitation spread like a fire, gaining in intensity. India turned into a raging elephant. The court-martial, originally intended to consolidate British control over India, turned into a trial to pass judgments on the criminal act of British control over India for 200 years and to give it the coup de grace. Transcending differences in religion, race, class, language, political affiliation, and military-civilian rivalry, 400 million Indians, with their wisdom, talents and energy, were united together in rebellion. It was an unprecedented spectacle in India's history. It was truly a great national war of the Indian people in which their destiny was at stake.

Violent mass protest movement erupted in Delhi, Calcutta, Lahore, Madras and other principal cities on 15th November when the trial re-open. On the same day, in Calcutta where Netaji Bose was born, 100000 people staged a huge demonstration, carrying with them

placards bearing slogans such as 'Save INA. National Heroes', "Suspend the INA trial and release the defendants Immediately" - British Go Home from India at Once'. They clashed with police everywhere and bloody tragedies spread in the city. Also there were riots in Madras resulting in countless number of casualties.

Every newspaper including The Hindustan Times (supporting Congress), the Dawn (supporting the Muslim League) and the Statesman (supporting the government) gave extensive news coverage to the INA trial and carried editorials about it.

The first court martial entered its final stage in late December. The prosecution tried desperately to establish the case of treason against the British Crown by the three defendants and of Murder and tortures by INA officers and men. The defense and the defendants counter-argued, 'The INA war of liberation is similar to the American War of Independence which fought against British control and exploitation' It was a justifiable act, acceptable amongst the military establishment of an independent nation, for the defendants to have executed men who violated wartime military discipline in the battlefield, according to the principle of the INA's military criminal codes'.

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