

## Last rite of Jetlee to be performed today

IT News

**Imphal, Jan 17:** Family members today collected the mortal remains of Jetlee Khumukcham s/o Kh Mangi of Kakching Khullel Moirangthem Leikai to perform his last rites from RIMS today. It may be mentioned that Jetlee was hit by a speeding Maruti Swift Car coming from Imphal toward Chandel at Heikakpoki Power Station along National Highway 102 (Imphal-Moreh road), Kakching district. Situation was tense after the incident and there have been report of angry protestor blocking Highway and storming Kakching Police Station.

## Security tightened after Bomb blast

IT News

**Imphal, Jan 17:** Manipur Police beefed up security in vulnerable pockets of the city following the blasts which led to injury of an IMC worker. Police personnel were seen posted at strategic locations near Kangla, Raj Bhavan and other locations in and around Imphal.

A woman sweeper of the Imphal Municipal Corporation (IMC) was injured in the blast, Yenshembam Sobita Devi (50) suffered minor injury and was admitted at the Raj Medicity.

## Manipur Paddler won Gold

IT News

**Imphal, Jan 17:** India's international paddler Onam Jamesboy won gold medal in 28th National Canoe Sprint Championship 2018 in the event of men's canoe single 200mtr. The paddler represented Services team. He was a member of the Indian team which won bronze medal in 17th Asian Canoe Sprint Championships 2017, China.

## Auction Notice

IT News

**Imphal, Jan 17:** 1634 numbers of standing trees of different species and sizes growing within the right of way from Km. 451.00 (Uluou) to Km. 412.00 (Torbung) of NH 150 will be auctioned on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at 11.30 am in the office of the Division Forest Officer, Bishnupur. The auctioned is due to the proposed widening of road by PWD, Manipur. Details including the terms and condition of the auction sale may be obtained from the office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Bishnupur Forest Division during office hour on any working days.

## 1<sup>st</sup> birth anniversary of Heisnam Kanhailal observed Theatre brings out the traditional richness and beauty of the people in a society: Dr. Heptulla

IT News

**Imphal, Jan. 17:** The first birth anniversary of renowned playwright, director and actor, Padma Bhushan awardee Heisnam Kanhailal was observed today at Maharaj Chandrakirti Auditorium, Palace Compound, Imphal. The observation will be held for three days i.e., from 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 and is being organised by Kalakshetra Manipur in collaboration with Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, Department of Art & Culture, Government of Manipur and Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy. Speaking as the Chief Guest at the inaugural function, Governor, Dr. Najma Heptulla said that literature and theatre are truly indicative of the society and their studies provide not only a cultural and traditional glimpse of that society but also reflect its vast multi layered identity. Theatre brings out the traditional richness and beauty of the people in a society through the language of the common and unassuming people. She added that theatre, like other art forms, aims at propagating and reinforcing deep-rooted principles related to the religious and ethical life of the people. And yet the same art forms can serve just as effectively as instruments of change, adjusting messages to suit new sets of realities and changing value systems. She further said theatre can be thought provoking and a strong catalyst for change as evident in the Kanhailal's genre. Preservation and sustenance of a Nation's identity and heritage are the fundamental duty of a citizen. She expressed hope that through the medium of theatre the traditional amity, national unity and harmony will be reinforced apart from providing entertainment to the people. Manipur being a culturally rich state, there are ample scopes for extensive works and research in the field of theatre and Kanhailal occupies the pole position as a torch bearer, she added.



Lauding the works of Late H. Kanhailal, the founder-director of Kalakshetra Manipur, she said that he dedicated his life doing research on native theatre, responding to the contemporary socio-political turmoil. She also said his invaluable contribution in making Manipuri theatre known to the world with his innovative creation of a new medium in the tradition of psycho-physical acting must be acknowledged by every citizen. He is the lone theatre practitioner in the contemporary Indian theatre who provided theoretical and practical knowledge of his own individualised theatre which caught the attention of theatre practitioners and researchers across the globe. She said that the observation will foster the Manipuri theatre in its pristine purity and to further develop and consolidate the composite Manipuri culture by carrying forward the legacy of Heisnam Kanhailal. The celebration which will be marked by memorial lectures, discussions, and three theatre shows of his direction namely, Tanna Lai (1972), Pebet (1975) and Dakhgar (2006), will highlight the historical milestones of Kanhailal's theatre journey. The memorial lectures scheduled as a part of the celebration will also

mark the beginning of a critical engagement for Kanhailal's works. Governor said she is happy to learn that the theatre group has been sharing a substantial role in the growth of his genre of theatre. It is heartening that Kalakshetra Manipur believes in the notion of a workshop that is a laboratory or a research theatre open to critical engagement as well. It is a remarkable journey that the group has produced 20 plays since inception including several outstanding plays directed by Kanhailal, she added. President of the function Health Minister L. Jayantakumar expressed his happiness over the Governors' keen interest to promote Nat Sanskrit in the State. He said that from his association with the Late H. Kanhailal, he learnt how to interact with the people, and increased his inquisitiveness in observing the surroundings. Late H. Kanhailal himself is an institution in the theatrical movement and discussing on his life and concept is not a simple task but needs to be learnt by the aspiring scholars in the field. His life as a whole needs to be discussed to know his place in the theatrical field. He further said that he will try to

involve the department in observing the Golden Jubilee of Kalakshetra Manipur next year in a grandeur way. In his memorial speech Professor N. Tombi Singh recounted the life events of late H. Kanhailal in becoming one of the renowned theatre personality with determination and dedication after facing many challenges. A souvenir was also released in memory of Heisnam Kanhailal by the Chief Guest and the President of the function. The inaugural function was attended by theatre personalities and many art lovers of the State.

## 9 Oil Tankers Set Ablaze in Assam, NSCN(K) Suspected for the attack

**Guwahati, Jan 17:** Ahead of Republic Day, miscreants set ablaze nine oil tankers in Assam's Tinsukia district at around 4.30 pm on Tuesday. The attack took place near Namphai Reserve Forest along the Assam-Arunachal border. No casualty was reported.

Assam DGP Mukesh Sahay said the attack could have been carried out by NSCN-K militants. Fire tenders from neighbouring areas in Tinsukia were rushed. Additional DGP RP Meena also moved to the site to review the situation. The Army, assisted by Assam Rifles and Assam Police, has launched area domination operations in and around the border areas. Meanwhile, security forces of Dao Division in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam apprehended one NSCN-(IM) member on Tuesday. Based on specific inputs about the presence of an over ground worker of NSCN-IM at Niasa village, an operation was launched in southern Arunachal's Longding district. The suspect, identified as Wangnyai Wangsu, reportedly revealed the outfit's plan to recruit more cadres. Rs 3240 and multiple mobile phones were seized from him.

In a separate operation in Tinsukia, a self-styled sergeant major of NSCN-K was

apprehended at Ledo along the Assam-Arunachal border. The arrested cadre admitted to being part of the Himalayan group of the banned outfit, and had undergone weapons training in Myanmar. His wife is also believed to be an active member of the outfit.

"In view of the upcoming Republic Day celebrations, Pangsau winter festival and panchayat elections in Arunachal, constant vigil is being maintained. All the units are on alert," said Defence PRO, Col Chiranjeet Konwer. In January last year, two jawans were martyred when militants attacked an Assam Rifles foot patrol escorting tourists to the annual winter festival at Pangsau along Indo-Myanmar border.

## I-League: Neroca FC Blank Indian Arrows

IT News

**Imphal, Jan 17:** Neroca FC scored a goal in each half to beat Indian Arrows 2-0 in an entertaining match of the I-League at Tilak Stadium in Vasco on Tuesday.

The win took Neroca's tally to 18 points from nine matches, one point less than East Bengal who are second but have played one more game. Indian Arrows remained on 10 points from 11 matches to be at seventh position.

## JFA appreciates Chennai journalists for their show of solidarity

**Guwahati, Jan. 17:** Journalists' Forum Assam (JFA) appreciates the united strength shown by the Chennai based journalists against a politician's unprincipled demand and urged the media fraternity of the country to stand behind them.

It may be noted that Jignesh Mevani, a newly elected legislator from Gujarat in a press meet on Tuesday in Chennai objected the presence of Republic

Television reporter and then put condition that even if the reporter stay there, he must not ask questions. Angered with the condition, the television journalists decided to walk out of it as a show of solidarity.

The young legislator commented that he would not speak to the Republic, the news channel led by Arnab Goswami as a policy. However, a Times Now reporter Shabbir Ahmed firmly encountered him saying that the legislator

must not demand which channel should be there or which not in a press meet. "We denounce the mentality of Jignesh Mevani to dictate the media. If he prefers to avoid any media outlet, he can do that, but he must not practice it in a press meet. Moreover, if he feels being abused by the coverage of a particular media outlet, he can go to the court," said a statement issued by JFA president Rupam Barua and secretary Nava Thakuria.

## US, UN for safe and voluntary return of Rohingyas to Myanmar

PTI

**Washington, Jan. 17:** The United States and the United Nations on Wednesday insisted on safe and voluntary return of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh to Myanmar. Over 6,55,000 Muslim minority of Myanmar fled across the border to Bangladesh since the Myanmar army launched a crackdown on Rohingya rebels in northern Rakhine state on August 25. Though Myanmar authorities said that the campaign was aimed at rooting out Rohingya militants who attacked police posts on August 25 but the UN and the US have said the violence amounts to ethnic cleansing. According to the Red Cross estimates there are only about 3,00,000 Rohingyas in the entire state. "The timeline is less important to us than the ability for people to safely and voluntarily go home when it is safe to do so," state department spokesperson Heather Nauert told media at a news conference. She said that the US does not want people to be pushed back into their homes or their communities when they do not feel that it is safe. "That's completely counterproductive," Nauert said while responding to a question on the agreement reached between Bangladesh and Myanmar on the repatriation of the Rohingyas.

Myanmar and Bangladesh have reached a deal on the return of hundreds of thousands of Muslim Rohingyas that sidelined the UN refugee agency.

According to the agreement, which was finalised in Myanmar's capital Naypyidaw this week, a two-year deadline has been set for the repatriation of the Rohingyas.

"They don't want that, we don't want that, the nations don't necessarily want that either. So it has to be safe and voluntary," she said.

Nauert said religious freedom, which is taken for granted in the US is under serious attack throughout the world.

"In Myanmar, Rohingyas have been victims of ethnic cleansing at the hands of Myanmar's security forces and also local vigilantes.

"Across South Asia, members of religious minorities experience societal discrimination and violence which is exacerbated by laws and policies that punish speech, restrict religious conversions, or ban certain beliefs," she said, adding that protecting and promoting religious freedom is a priority of this Trump administration.

Meanwhile, at the United Nations headquarters in New York, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres also insisted on safe and voluntary return of Rohingya refugees.

"What is essential on this is to make sure that the return is

voluntary; it is in safety and dignity and that people are allowed to come back to their places of origin, which means that the huge effort of investment, because there is a lot of reconstruction to be done, and a huge effort of reconciliation is needed to allow it to take place properly," Guterres told reporters.

The worst, he said, would be to move these people from camps in Bangladesh to camps in Myanmar, keeping an artificial situation for a long time and not allowing for them to regain their normal lives.

"We will be, of course, ready to do everything possible, to support a movement taking place, as I said, based on voluntariness, safety, dignity, and in respect to international standards," he said, adding that the UN or its UNHCR was not involved in the agreement between Bangladesh and Myanmar on the issue.

In relation to the agreement, the UN Secretary General said, usually, this is dealt with in trilateral agreements between the two states concerned and the UNHCR.

"The UNHCR was not involved directly in the management of the agreement even if they were consulted. And we believe it would be very important to have UNHCR fully involved in the operation to guarantee that the operation abides by international standards," Guterres said.