

Students continue protest over MU fiasco; 2 more students picked up

IT News
Imphal, Sept 26,

Amidst Chief Minister N. Biren Singh called for dialogue to find a solution to the ongoing crisis at Manipur University, students, continue to protest against the Sept. 20 midnight crackdown at the MU and also against the arrest of the 6 faculty members as well as students.

At around noon today large number of students

staged protest inside the DM College campus and tried to burn effigy of the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. Police who have already been alerted rushed the site and tried to stop them from burning the effigy. A minor scuffle occurred and later police fired several tear gas shells as well as mock bomb to disburse them.

Admission procedure which has been underway for the DM University

have also been put to a stumbling block due to the firing of tear gas shell and mock bomb. A staff of the DM University said, "We are left with no choice as we heard gun shots which later was known as tear gas shell, but to shut the counter and run for life". He further added that those students standing in queue for their turn to collect forms have also been taken to secure room. Meanwhile, the police team picked up 2 more

student today. Identities of the student is not known at the moment.

Meanwhile, more civil society organisations have extended support to the bandh called by the Joint Students' body even as government is taking up extreme measuresto foil it. Administration authority had issued orders to all employees as well as private bodies to make sure their attendence.

CM disposes huge quantity of drugs

DIPR
Imphal, Sept. 26,

A huge quantity of drugs seized by Manipur Police in connection with 24 FIR cases was disposed off at Pungdongbam Khanglahoubi Lampak in Imphal East District today, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh set the drugs on fire in the presence of Ministers, MLAs, high ranking police officers, media persons, villagers and local leaders.

The contraband items which were consigned to flames today were 11,302 kg and 647 gm of Ganja, 3,97,740 Pseudoephedrine tablets, 2,63,600 Respifed tablets, 90,174 Spasmo Proxiron (SP) capsules, 228 WY tablets, 6633 number of Nitrosun (N-10) tablets and 27 gm of No. 4 heroin powder.

The drugs were seized by the Police Stations of NAB, Lilong, Jiribam, Bishnuapur, Moirang, Lamlai, Churachandpur, Porompat and Nungba. Speaking at the occasion, N. Biren Singh

said that the impact of drugs and intoxicants to the society is so huge. It can even damage a whole generation, he opined. That is why, the Chief Minister said, the BJP-led Government announced war on drugs soon after it assumed power.

He also informed that from March last year to August this year, Manipur Police registered 483 drugs related cases and arrested 636 persons including 126 women. The total quantity of drugs and contraband items seized during this period was over 19 kg of No. 4 heroin powder, over 5,031 kg of Ganja, over 243 kg of Opium, 3,88,342 Capsules of Spasmo Proxiron (SP), 23,480 tablets and 31 Strips of Nitrosun (N-10), 10,83,283 WY tablets, 4,697 bottles of Cough Syrup, over 17 kg of Brown Sugar, 29,000 Ephedrine tablets and 30,800 Alphawin tablets. All these contraband items would also be

disposed off later after completing due procedures and formalities, he added.

In addition to taking up stringent measures to check trafficking of drugs from other States and countries, the State Government had also destroyed poppy plantations of around 1852 acres in the State so far. Villagers who used to plant poppy had been provided alternative means of livelihood of Agarwood, lemongrass and avocado cultivation, he said.

The Government had also set up a Fast Track Court to exclusively deal with Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) related cases only, the Chief Minister informed. Around 8 kg of heroin could be seized in 2016-17, however this figure was increased to 19 kg in 2017-18 after declaration of war on drugs by the new Government, Shri N. Biren said.

He also lauded the MLAs who are taking

active part in checking drug abuse and peddling. Anti-Drug Committees had also been constituted at different localities, he added.

The Chief Minister said that for the first time in the history of Manipur Police, the new Government recommended Gallantry Award for a police officer, who took active role in checking drug menace. It clearly shows Government's strong commitment of controlling drug menace, he added.

N. Biren thanked police, media, local club volunteers and Meira Paibee organisations for extending support and co-operation to the Government's anti-drug campaign.

CAF & PD Minister Karam Shyam, Tamei AC MLA Awangbou Newmai, Kshetrigao AC MLA N. Indrajit, Khurai AC MLA L. Sushindro, DGP LM Khaute and high ranking police officers were also present.

Raid at MU campus an act of a heartless ruler : Gaikhangam

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Former Deputy Chief Minister Gaikhangam had stated that the mid night raid in the campus of Manipur University by security personnel was more dangerous than the attack on students in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. The fate of the nation was at stake at China and the students were on the streets but in the MU the students were studying and they were attacked at the hostel campus, Gaikhangam stated while speaking during the felicitation function of Huidrom Vikramjit, the businessman turn politician, who recently enrolled in Congress Party. Digging at the ruling BJP, Gaikhangam said that the BJP wants to infuse the ideology and thoughts of few fanatics to the whole nation which is a land

famous for its diversity he added. Anybody not subscribing to its ideology is dubbed as anti national and actions taken up he added.

The schemes announced by BJP have no follow up action plans, it is just like offering some sweets to children he said. If the trend continues the identity of the people may be compromised he said. He appealed to all to save Parliamentary democracy and to stop the undeclared emergency which is imposed now. Go to the Hill or Village campaigns are all hollow programmes without proper action plans and the government is simply perform in the works supposed to be done by the local bodies he said.

Vikramjit speaking on the occasion said he will not divide the people into my people of his people as it is done now. All will be

treated equally and his focus will be in the development of his constituency that is Yaikul. He was shocked when MLAs and police intervened when localities tried to repair a drain during the flood and why many areas were left out during the works taken up in Yaikul Kendra.

Ak Mirabai, MLA said what we are seeing today is a form of dictatorship where all oppositions and voices were silenced. RK Anand Spokesperson, Congress said the meeting was supposed to be held in a grand way in a peaceful manner at Kongba Soudongbung Lampak but the government did not allow even a felicitation function to be held. Freedom of expression has been curtailed; it is nothing but tyranny he added.

"We have seen dictators during WW-II but they all

fell down, fascists will fall on their own he said. The government is asking the politicians not to politicise the issue. When the government does not act or perform its duties the politicians have to come up to the occasion to save the state and the people", he said.

Dr Ng Bijoy asked where the rule of the law is. The administration is in a chaos as seen in the University. Congress Spokespersons S Manaobi, Hareshwar Goswami appealed to the people to support the Congress in routing out the BJP. Ph Guneswar Sharma, President, Yaikul Block Congress and leaders of various other frontal organisations also attended the function. Hundreds of people from the surrounding areas attended the function even though the main function was cancelled.

284 eminent personalities including professors of different Universities from India and Aboard, Renowned playwright, filmmakers show solidarity to MU community's demand

IT News
Imphal, Sept 26,

Two Hundred and eighty four (284) eminent personalities from across the country and aboard serving at different University has shown their solidarity to the demand of the Manipur University community and expressed condemnation to the arbitrary arrest and incarceration of six teachers and nine students of Manipur University. Six teachers and seven students have been sent to judicial custody for fifteen days, and the remaining two students for five days. Two more were picked up today.

The statement signed the 284 personalities stated that the arrests have

been made under sections of the Indian Penal Code that invoke 'an attempt to murder', 'wrongful confinement', 'extortion', 'kidnapping' and 'criminal conspiracy' on the basis of a complaint made by Manipur University faculty, K. Yugindro Singh (and the suspended registrar M. Shyamkesho) on charges of attempt to murder and kidnapping. The six arrested professors — Dr. N. Santomba, (Dept. of Manipuri), Prof. Chungkham Yashawanta (Dept. of Linguistics, also Dean of Humanities, and in-charge Dean of Students Welfare), Prof. Sougajam Dorendrajit (Dept. of Physics and Registrar-in-charge), Dr. L. Bishwanath Sharma (Dept. of Philosophy),

Prof. L. Sanjukumar (Dept. of Biotechnology and Secretary MUTA), and Dr. Yengkhom Raghmani (Dept. of Earth Sciences) have also been suspended with immediate effect. Following these arrests, the Manipur University campus has been turned into a cantonment, the boys hostel has had tear gas shells and mock bombs rained down upon it all of Thursday night (20 September), Internet services shut down, and all normal academic life has come to a complete halt.

"Manipur University has witnessed a peaceful (in the face of great police brutality) 85 day long united agitation by its teachers, students, and staff asking for the removal of the Vice-

Chancellor A P Pandey, and the constitution of an Independent Enquiry Committee to look into the allegations of his administrative and financial lapses. This agitation was successful, with a probe being announced on August 16, 2018 and the VC being placed on suspension pending inquiry on 18 September 2018. The details of the egregious misdemeanours of the suspended VC that have formed the basis of agitation by the greater student and teacher communities and have been the cause of disruption of academic activities, are to be found in the news item links provided below.

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