

Babysana's death case:

19 hour bandh paralyses the state; police clash bandh supporters; 10 agitator began mass court arrest agitation

ITNews
Imphal Aug 9,

The 19 hour bandh called by JAC formed in connection with the mysterious dead of Babysana has put the valley areas of the state into a standstill. School, college and university were all closed. Government institutions witness deserted look, banks and all economic activities were halted for the day. Passenger vehicles including buses, auto, wingers and private vehicles stay of the road. Inter state and inter district vehicles stay off the road supporting the bandh called demanding justice for Ningthoujam Babysana. The bandh hit almost all district headquarters in the valley region of Manipur. In



Imphal almost all Shops in and around Thangal keithel, Paona keithel were also closed. Roads were blocked at several places in all valley districts. Bandh supporters burnt tyres in the middle of the road, placed poles to prevent

passerby. While controlling the bandh supporter police resorted lathi charge and fire several round of tear gas shells. At least three lady protestors identified as Hijam Usharani W/O H.Dhanachandra, Nongmaithem Sunita W/O

N.samananda, and Okram Santi W/O O.Pakpa all from Thangmeiband Hijam Diwan leikai sustained injury in the police action. Meanwhile, Ten members of the Thangmeiband United Club (TUC) including the convener of the JAC formed against the mysterious death of Ningthoujam Babysana, Thingnam Chittaranjan Singh and General Secretary of TUC Heishnam Phoren today began the mass court arrest agitation. Police team picked them but whether they are officially arrested or not has not been confirmed as of now. Talking to media persons the JAC convener said that they have started mass court arrest agitation from today and it is expected that the people of the state will come forward to

support the agitation demanding justice of N. Babysana who was found death with rope tied on her neck in a suspicious circumstances. The mass court arrest began today after the police team arrested and remanded JAC Convener Pratap and TUC member Joy for 14 days. Meanwhile Sit-in-protests were staged at various places. At some places human chain were formed to protest the delay in delivering justice to Babysana. Human chain supporting the bandh were formed at Khurai along the Imphal-Ukhrul and Imphal-Pangei road. At some places of Uripok, Thangmeiband, Namdulung, Keibi etc. bandh supporters turns hostiles.

Another boarder died amidst mass protest against the death of Babysana

ITNews
Imphal Aug 9,

Amidst hue and cry demanding justice for Ningthoujam Babysana even by shutting down the state another boarder of a hostel was found death today by drowning at a pond near the hostel he was staying. The deceased student is identified as Thounaojam Ronaldo (17 yrs), son of Th. Manglemba from Wangoi Thounaojam Leikai studying Class 10 at Royal Academy of Advance Learning situated at Yumnam Huidrom Lakshmi Bazar. He stayed at the hostel run by the hostel. The deceased student was reported missing at around 7.30 pm yesterday and had been searching since then.

Today around 7.30 in the morning the slippers of the deceased was found at a pond just outside the school campus. And after searching in the pond, the dead body was found from it. "My brother died because of the negligence of the hostel authority", Manilbasha said. He further added that the competent authorities should look after the regulations of the hostel. The boarding of the Royal Academy of Advance learning has around 61 boarders and the deceased stayed at Room 33. He recently joined in the boarding last Saturday, the 3rd of August. The dead body was later bought to RIMS for post-mortem.

Guest Lecturer in Manipur University terminated for his political affiliation ; FEDCUTA term the action as "arbitrary"

ITNews
Imphal, Aug 9,

Ningombam Bupenda Meitei, a guest lecturer in Manipur University's philosophy department, was asked to make his political affiliations clear by the head of department. In a letter dated July 23, head of philosophy department asked Ningombam Bupenda whether he is a primary member of a political party and whether he is a designated spokesperson of any political party. Ningombam Bupenda Meitei, who has appeared on many occasions in public spaces as the spokesperson of Congress in Manipur, was asked the similar question again on August 3 as he did not respond to the earlier enquiry from the head of philosophy department. Ningombam Bupenda Meitei did not respond again. Given this, the administrator of

Manipur University terminates the service of Ningombam Bupenda Meitei as guest lecturer in the department on August 6 in the second month of his appointment. In the termination order, it is mentioned that Ningombam Bupenda Meitei was terminated for disobeying the orders of the superiors as he did not reply to the enquiries of the head of the department. It is not clear whether the termination is over his failure to respond to a clarification sought by HOD and the Administrator (i/c VC) or his political affiliation with Congress party. But questions being asked by everyone are - Why was Ningombam Bupenda asked

those questions? There is no clarity on the purpose of asking the questions when one cannot be discharged from a teaching position given his political affiliation. Moreover, many eminent scholars such as Prof. Khogen, Prof. Joykumar and Prof. Gangumei have been very active in both academics and politics too. A learned member of the academic community in Manipur, when contacted by Imphal Times on matter, said that there are no such rules that being a member of a political party disqualifies one from teaching positions in the university. Federation of Central University Teachers Association (FEDCUTA) has called the termination of

Ningombam Bupenda "arbitrary" and has condemned the action of MU authority on this matter. The teachers' body called the termination an imposition of the ideology of the ruling BJP government in Manipur University. The FEDCUTA statement stated that such actions spring out of attempts to impose CCS rules in universities which are contrary to building a free and fair academic atmosphere in a university. "Indeed in the past and even currently even full time teachers in the universities have exercised this freedom and even contested elections on the tickets of various political parties. Academic freedom has meant the freedom to carry

through one's beliefs and convictions in the political arena. The FEDCUTA believes that this termination of Bupenda Meitei, who belongs to a different political party and ideology, comes out of an authoritarian imposition of the ideology of the ruling BJP government in the Manipur state on the Manipur University. The termination of Mr. Meitei is meant to stamp out all constitutional freedoms from the University and carry out a politically vindictive agenda.", the statement added. The FEDCUTA appeals to all the democratic forces in the country to come together and vigorously oppose this move and demands the reinstatement of Bupenda Meitei.

Anal Women's Union assures all support to agitations demanding justice to Babysana

ITNews
Imphal, Aug 9,

The Anal Sinru Rowl (Anal Women's Union) an apex women organisation of the Anal community, expressed strong condemnation to the death of Ningthoujam Babysana, under mysterious circumstances on the 18th of July, 2019, inside the boarding of Standard Robarth Higher Secondary School, Canchipur. A press release by the secretary information and the publicity of the Anal Sinru Rowl, today, appeal the state

government and the authorities concern to deliver justice to N. Babysana at the earliest. The Anal Sinru Rowl, while offering its deepest condolence and sympathies to the bereaved family, it assured that the organisation will always support and stand together with the other organisations to bring justice for N. Babysana, as it concerns women and child rights. It further pray for peace and tranquility to prevail in the state especially amongst the students community.

Turn own localities into green zones: Biswajit

DIPR
Imphal, Aug 9,

Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh led a mass tree plantation drive inside the premise of Manipur Trade & Expo Centre located at Lamboikhongnangkhang, this morning. The drive was also attended by Director RD & PR Heishnam Balkrisna Singh. The plantation drive, during which more than 300 tree saplings were planted, was organised by the RD&PR. Officials of RD&PR and SIRD and Panchayati Raj Institution members participated in the drive. Addressing media persons on the sideline, Minister Biswajit said that the tree plantation drive is aimed at bringing down the impact of global warming. He said the drive was organised under the instruction of Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari and as a part



of the Centre's programme of Mission Green India, with an aim to create awareness among the people for conservation and preservation of forests. He added that today's drive is a continuation of Van

Mahotsav which is held around June-July every year, and the government's objective to bring back a greener environment in its fight against climate change. Biswajit also said that the plantation drive is being

organised with the firm belief that every individual and government department has a responsibility towards forest conservation and that it is not the sole responsibility of the officials of Forest and Environment. Stating that the initiative will continue in the future, he added that BDOs have also been instructed to take up initiative in their respective blocks. He also added that local representatives including the Zilla Parishads have also been urged to initiate the plantation drive in their respective zones with the sole objective of making the kendras a green zone. He also appealed to all individuals including the local club bodies and elected representatives to take up their own initiative in making their respective zones greener. Biswajit also urged those from the vicinity of the location to help in maintaining and nurturing the plant saplings until they attain maturity.

NEFIS criticizes scrapping of Article 370

ITNews
Imphal, Aug 9,

North-East Forum for International Solidarity NEFIS has criticized the recent decision of BJP led government at the centre to amend article 370 of the Indian Constitution. A statement by Chinglen Khumukcham, Member Convening Committee NEFIS said that the organization believes that this decision would elicit sharp reactions from the people of Jammu and Kashmir, since it has been taken without consultation with them. This will also further worsen the situation in the region and would cause further alienation of the people of Kashmir. The statement further said that even before the amendment to the article 370,

Jammu and Kashmir constituted an integral part of India. Many special privileges akin to Kashmir are also implemented in many other areas of the country, and are not restricted to the region. Also, the unconstitutional and undemocratic step of downgrading Jammu and Kashmir from a state to a union territory and its bifurcation would intensify people's distrust and would also cause people of Kashmir to feel betrayed. With the present decision, the people of North-East are also apprehensive that the step is only a prelude to the revoking of the special status given to them as well. While criticizing the BJP government's step stated that the NEFIS stand in solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir in this grave hour.

'Fogging please'
ITNews
Imphal, Aug 9,
Local club of Phaknung Awang Leikai has appealed the state government authority to take up measures like fogging for prevention of mosquitoes carrying JE virus in the areas as people are panic after a person has been confirmed Japanese Encephalitis. Phaknung Social Youth Club (PSYC) in a statement said that the volunteers of the club will extend all support to the concern state government department in taking up measures to prevent spread of the dreaded disease.