

Police started hunting for anti-CAB protestors; After Veewon Thokchom another picked up

IT News
Thoubal, Feb 17,

Two days after advisor of the Manipuri Students' Association Delhi (MSAD), Veewon Thokchom, who was instrumental in the mass protest against the passing of the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016 has been arrested on sedition charge; another team of Thoubal Police arrested a volunteer of the Manipur Peoples' Against Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016 (MANPAC) who took main role in the protest against CAB early today morning from his residence at Lamding Nasikhong Leikai in Thoubal district. The police teams are reportedly searching for more protestors who had raised their voice to the passing of the CAB.



Report reaching here said that Charlesh Thangjam (34) son of (Late) Thangjam Shyamo of Lamding Nasikhong Leikai was picked up by a police team from his residence at wee hour today. As per family source, police arrested him for demonstrating protest against CAB at the residence of MLA Paonam Brojen and also attacking the Wangjing BJP office.

Irate locals blocked NH-102 at Wangjing
Following the arrest of the CAB protestors, large number people came out at Imphal -Moreh Route (NH-102) and blocked road at Wanjhing Keithel (Market) area since early morning today. Traffic along the route has been disrupted as the protestors stopped by forcing u-turn from the area.

S. Konica, a leader of the women body term the arrest of the CAB protestor even after it has been calm down following failure to present the Bill Rajya Sabha, as most unfortunate. She demanded unconditional release of Charlesh Thangjam and threatens another uprising if the police team continues searching the volunteers of MANPAC who had took part in the mass protest.

MPP office turns battle ground over claims of ownership by workers

IT News
Imphal, Feb 17,

Manipur Peoples Party (MPP), the oldest regional political party of the state which had once formed government in the state today is becoming a hot spot, as the office complex turns as battlefield over claim and counterclaim of ownership between groups of party workers. As per a letter from the Election Commission of India, status of the oldest regional political party MPP is "a registered unrecognized Political party under Section 29 A of RP Act, 1951 due to internal party dispute. A group of political workers

challenges N. Sovakiran's appointed as President of the MPP some years back and the matter was brought to the notice of the Civil Judge Senior Division, Imphal West on May 16, 2017, challenging the rival claimed his appointment as illegal. But as the case remain pending, MPP is unrecognized but registered political party. At around 10.30 am today MPP workers of different groups gathered at the office located near pologround and started confrontation over the ownership of the office, as one group derecognized the members of the Central Committee of the party. The confrontation turn hostile and

there was a scuffled going on between the two groups. However, police team which rushed that spot timely intervene the situation. The root of the scuffled between the two groups arises over financial irregularities by party workers and office bearers. MPP is the only regional Political party in the state which have huge revenue as they have rented huge number shops and hotel. The income per month is calculated over Rs. 5 lakhs (subject to correction) per month. As of now the party have no MLA in the current state legislative Assembly.

Bad image of Health Dept. as officer abstains from office for two months

IT News
Imphal, Feb 17,

Image of the Directorate of Health Services, Govt. of Manipur is once more being maligned as authority concern for issuing of drug license stop working for around two months as the concerned officer responsible for issuance of the license remain absent for 2 months. Report with the Imphal Times said that Akoijam Singhajit, who is the competent authority for issuance of license for whole sale and retail drug pharmacy stopped attending office from December 12, 2018 till February 16, 2019, without submitting any application for leave. As of now Imphal Times could not access information on the kind of action initiated against him for maligning the good image of State Health Department.

Bank pass book lost
I have lost my bank pass Book of SBI Thoubal Branch bearing A/C No. 32565783671 and IFS code No. SBIN0004461 on the way between Thoubal Melaground to DC Office gate Thoubal on 5th February, 2019. Finders are requested to hand over the same to the undersigned.
S/d-
Mainam Arun Singh
Thoubal Melaground
#9366005805,
#8794678556

Veewon was secretly produced in Saket Court – AUDFA

IT News
Imphal, Feb 17,

Veewon Thokchom, who was arrested on sedition charge from his rent room at Delhi was produced to Saket Court secretly in the morning before protestors and activists reached court premises. This was stated by a statement of Faculty Association of Ambedkar University Delhi (AUDFA). The AUDFA further stated that. Until 10 pm on Saturday, February 16, 2019, there was no confirmation that he was given access to any lawyer nor have we received any details on what he has been charged for. SP of Imphal East in a press briefing stated that Veewon was arrested on grounds of making 'anti-national' statements on social media and was remanded to four-day custody at Saket PS. Veewon Thokchom, who was a former student of Ambedkar University Delhi.

He was arrested by a team of Delhi Police and Manipur Police from his rented house at Saket in the presence of his siblings on the evening of Friday, February 15, 2019. There was no warrant issued at the time of arrest and not a single reason provided thereafter. The manner in which he was taken to Janakpuri Police Station has led to concerned lawyers suspecting that he could have been charged for 'sedition', based on his Facebook status against the newly drafted Citizenship Amendment Bill (2016) and his active involvement in protests against the same. He had also actively participated in protests against the arrest of a Manipur journalist in November, 2018. The nature of his arrest once again draws attention to the government's disgraceful record in defending freedom of speech and expression. His Facebook status on 12th February, 2019 revealed that

police has been harassing his parents and family members by raiding his house in Imphal and checking his room in his absence. AUDFA expressed strong condemnation to the arrest of Veewon and demanded that he be given access to lawyers so that his case can be defended under the purview of the law of the land through proper scrutiny of evidence placed against him. "As faculty and researchers, we express our outrage at this most blatant violation of rights to dissent enshrined in the Constitution. It would be no exaggeration to see this act as a blow to India's claim as a democracy and the increasing hold of right-wing paranoia that has gripped the nation-state. AUDFA welcomes all concerned forums, rights bodies, individuals and the international community to come together and defend Veewon's democratic rights", AUDFA said.

CM launches Senior Citizens' Forum

DIPR
Imphal, Feb 17,

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh launched the Senior Citizens' Welfare Forum in a function held at Khabam Lamkhai in Imphal East District today. Speaking at the function as the chief guest, N. Biren Singh said that the State Government would try to bring out a legislation to penalise those who do not bother to look after and give care to their elderly parents. Stating that Manipur is a State which has a tradition of giving high respect to senior citizens, the Chief Minister observed that every person ought to put aside at least a little part of their total earning as maintenance amount of their elderly parents. Regarding people's apprehension of bringing an



ordinance by the Central Government on the backdrop of not tabling Citizenship Amendment Bill in the Rajya Sabha, the Chief Minister urged the public not to worry stating that Centre would never take any decision concerning the North East region or Manipur without consulting or taking consent from these States. The Chief Minister said that people should always think twice and restrain themselves as far as possible from selling their valued ancestral lands.

To conserve diminishing paddy fields and wetlands, the State Government has taken up steps to effectively enforce the Manipur Conservation of Paddy Land and Wetland Act, 2014, he added. N. Biren Singh said that construction of public parks having outdoor gym in 17 wards of Imphal Municipal Corporation had already begun. He also said that outdoor gyms would be installed in two places each of all the Assembly Constituencies of the State.



DIPR
Imphal, Feb 17,

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh handed over 179 Nepali citizens including 147 women rescued from different places of the State to the officials of Nepal Embassy led by its Counsellor Shri Prakash Adhikari at Khuman Lampak Indoor Stadium in Imphal East District today. It may be mentioned that all

of them were rescued from different hotels of Imphal, Moreh and other places in the early part of this month. They have been staying in eight different Centres run by different NGOs since then. After a letter from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs was received on February 14, the State Home Department issued an order on February 16 to pave way for their deportation/repatriation to

Nepal. Consequent upon this development, the Chief Minister formally handed over all the rescued persons to the officials of Embassy of Nepal today. They will be taken in eight buses and escorted up to Panitanki - Kakarbhitta border by eight officials of the State Social Welfare Department and two Sub-Inspectors and one Constable of the State Police Department.

STDC to organise mass rally on March 3

IT News
Imphal Feb. 17,

Schedule Tribe Demand Committee (STDC), a body spearheading the movement for inclusion of Meetei/Meitei in Schedule tribe list of Manipur declared today that the said committee will organise a mass rally on the 3rd of March to make heed to the government that their demand is a serious issue. Speaking to media person General Secretary in-charge of STDC Keithelakpam Bhogendrajit said that series of talks had been done with the Chief minister and also in most talks he have given verbal assurance time and again though failing to give

a written assurance about it. He further said that the government is now using delaying tactics to suppress the movement. He added that the inclusion of Meetei/Meitei will give a constitutional safeguard to the Meeteis in protecting its culture and identity. It can be mentioned that the said organisation has even called bandh and to obstruct the ongoing process of railway construction even though delayed after talks with CM assuring it once more. Bhogendrajit said that there demand is a rights given under the constitution. So a normal procedure would simply add the Meetei in ST

list as they fulfilled the criteria of being a tribe to be enlisted. And this inclusion will lead to bring constitutional safeguard for the Meetei community. He further appealed the people of the state to join the mass rally for the protection of culture and identity of the Meetei and also added that they made to fall the rally on Sunday not to hamper the school goers. Bhogendrajit finally warned that the bandh and the obstruction of Railway construction which was called off is not completely withdrawn and such act will also be done if the government fails to consider it as a serious issue.