

Protestors burnt Arunachal Deputy CM's residence, one killed, one injured in police firing

Agency
Itanagar, Feb 24,

The residence of Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein was burnt down by angry protestors in Itanagar today. During the protest, one person was killed and another

injured in police firing. Itanagar has been witnessing violent protests for the past four days against the state government's move to grant permanent residence certificates (PRC) to six non-tribal communities.

The protestors also torched and vandalized two police stations in Itanagar and adjoining Naharlagun, while a Superintendent of Police officer was reportedly injured.

Authorities on Saturday imposed an indefinite curfew in Itanagar and Naharlagun as demonstrators protesting against the government's move to grant PRCs to non-

Arunachal Pradesh Scheduled Tribe communities went on a rampage, indulging in arson and stone pelting.

Mein was moved out of Itanagar and shifted to his native place Namsai early Sunday morning. Earlier, the protestors had threatened to bury the body of a man, killed in police firing during the anti-PRC protests on Friday, at his house. Another protestor, who sustained bullet injuries that day, succumbed to his injuries on Saturday. On Sunday, thousands of protestors assembled at a place in the heart of Itanagar and marched to Mein's house. They burnt down the house

and some vehicles there.

Later, when they were marching to the house of Chief Minister Pema Khandu, the security forces opened fire in which at least one protestor was killed and another injured.

Earlier in the day, the protestors destroyed a police station and seized batons, helmets, shields and other equipment. When reports last came in, shots were being fired by the security forces intermittently. The violence first broke out on Friday on the second day of a 48-hour bandh called by 18 organisations protesting against PRC to six non-tribal communities.

Saffron party expects more from Assam

By Our Correspondent
Guwahati, Feb 24,

As the anti-citizenship amendment bill row in Assam is temporarily settled, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) starts expecting more seats in the forthcoming general election. When the State's Brahmaputra valley was almost boiling over the proposed citizenship bill, the saffron party was trying to maintain their existing seven seats.

However, the bill row had suddenly defused as the BJP led government could not table it in Rajya Sabha on 13 February putting the initiative to almost die naturally and taking advantage of the situation, the BJP has hoped to gain at least three extra Lok

Sabha seats namely Silchar, Barpeta and Kaliabor, which are now the possession of the Congress and AIUDF.

Addressing a rally in eastern Assam recently, Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal in presence of BJP's in-charge Mahendra Singh and State finance minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, argued that people of the region have accepted the saffron party as their own.

After years of Congress's misrule, the BJP has shown the region a ray of hope, claimed Sonowal. "People will vote for BJP for good governance. We will win with a thumping majority and form the government at the Centre for a second term under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Our party believes in the mantra

of collective efforts and inclusive growth (Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas) for the progress of the nation," added the young chief minister. He also narrated the performance of the BJP led government in Dispur that came to power in 2016 saying that it has given land patta (document) to landless people (over 11,700 families) and small tea

growers of Assam, which was never done by the Congress in seven decades. "Moreover, we made Assam Public Service Commission (APSC) corruption-free and transparent. Earlier the Congress government was involved in corruption in the APSC exams. During our tenure, we have given appointment to 55,000 people in a completely transparent process," asserted

Sonowal. Meanwhile, an anti-influx body named Prabraj Virodhi Manch (PVM) has been actively considering to join the electoral politics and proposing to put their leader Upamanyu Hazarika as a candidate from Guwahati Parliamentary constituency, which is presently under BJP's possession. "For more than six years, we have been fighting for the cause of the protection and identity of the indigenous people, we are now making our entry into electoral politics in the ensuing Lok Sabha polls," said a media statement of the forum. It had repeatedly urged the government to enact a legislation protecting land rights for the indigenous people of Assam.

General Body meeting of CADA

IT News
Imphal, Feb 24,

General body meeting of Coalition Against Drugs & Alcohol (CADA) was held today at its Head Office at Palace Compound today. Dipanjit Ningthoujam - Secretary General, CADA presented its annual report while Takhellambam Geetchandra - Secretary Finance, CADA read out the account statement. Executive Committee 2019 - 2022 was also elected. Hijam Priyokumar - Wangjing SK Leikai, Thoubal District has been elected as the new President while Takhellambam Geetchandra - Chingmeirong Leingkhoh, Imphal East District has been elected as the

Maoist says they will unfold truth about the rampant corruption

IT News
Imphal, Feb 24,

Armed rebel group Maoist Communist Party Manipur (MPCM) today stated that they will investigate the multi crore scam at which around rupees 20 crore has been misappropriated by supplying sub standard G. I Pipe under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme. In a statement released today the outfit said that they will investigate on how a company called Jindal based at Kolkatta was awarded the supply works, who are involved? Who are those involved

trying to be protected and who they are making as scapegoat by the current regime will be made public. The outfit further said that the present BJP led regime is being known as regime of 15%. Some days back a video of an EE of PWD accepting bribe went viral on social media. This is the real picture of the BJP led government of the state, the Manipur Maoist charged. It says no changes is seen even after the changed of guard in the government. Once upon a time it was Thoubal which is known as the centre of corruption now it is Heingang and the

Thongju which is the epicenter of corruption. These two constituencies are left as the only two places where the Vigilance or the Anti Corruption cell cannot touch. Corruption now is spread everywhere in all the government department, the Maoist statement said adding that people now knew that everyone goes either at Heingang or Thongju for getting government jobs or contract work but due to fear people's mouth remain shuts. The statement further added that the outfit had already made public about rampant corruption being

underway at MSPDCL. Those day the MSPDCL tried to prove themselves clean saying that there is no process of recruitment being taken up. But now the department is in the process of mass recruitment in the MSPDCL and for getting the Job a BJP woman worker from Heingang has been collecting large amount of money for giving jobs, the Maoist statement added. The Manipur Maoist said that the truth regarding the supply of sub standard GI pipe under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme will be unfolded very soon.

A R Maj Bob Khathing Tournament 2019 Culminates

IT News
Imphal Feb 24,

8th edition of the Assam Rifles Maj Bob Khathing Tournament culminated on 23rd February at the TNL ground, Ukhrul with the final of Men's Football. The final match was played between Ukhrul United Football Club (UUFCL) and Ukhrul Football Club (UFC) and was won by Ukhrul United football club (UUFCL). Earlier on 21st February, the Choir competition saw Phungyo Baptist Church emerge as winners.

Women Volleyball Trophy was lifted by Chameleon which defeated Evergreen in the final match played on 22nd February. Apart from team prizes that were presented during the closing ceremony, individual prizes were given to Miss Rineichon Shang as best spiker in Volleyball, best player Miss Thangmeiwon Lashing (Volleyball), best scorer in football Mr Khanngam Horam (UUFCL), best goal keeper Mr Ngarannan (UUFCL). The awards were presented by Brig Mohit

Seth, DIG 10 Sector Assam Rifles. Assam Rifles extended its thanks and appreciation to the TNL, TSL TKS, TNWL, TNML, Ukhrul media, Ukhrul Referee Association, Tangkhul Gospel Music Forum, Hao Services and the people of Ukhrul who were a constant support in ensuring success of the tournament. The six day mega event has become a huge symbol of togetherness and collective pride for the Tangkhul legend that is Maj Bob Khathing Ralengnao.

RPF to observe 40th Foundation Day as Independence Demand Day

President Irengbam Chaoren hits hard on Indian diplomacy towards South East Asia

IT News
Imphal, Feb 24,

Proscribed group Revolutionary People's Front (RPF) is all set to observe its 49th Foundation Day as Independence Day on February 25. In connection with the Foundation Day president of the proscribed group in his message hits hard on the Indian Diplomacy towards the South East Asia saying that **India has established friendly diplomatic relations with South East Asian countries particularly Myanmar and India has been using its Act East Policy as an effective strategy to block Manipur from looking to the East. Irengbam Chaoren also lambasted political leaders** of Manipur who have devoted themselves to Indian politics for the past many years for paying no attention to the relationship Manipur ought to be sharing with South East Asian countries. President Irengbam Chaoren's message also pays revolutionary salute to all the freedom fighters who had laid down their lives for the cause of the revolutionary movement. The message further stated that, "Although people of the land do not fully understand the strategic and advantageous location of Manipur, many countries see the location of Manipur as highly strategic. After complete domination of mainland India in 1858 by British colonial rulers, and since British India and Manipur

established friendly diplomatic relations, British India was able to set up a formidable defensive line against possible invasion by Myanmar. During the 2nd World War, Allied forces and Japanese forces fought the most ferocious battles at Imphal and it serves as an incontrovertible testimony of how strategic the location of Manipur is. Again, Lord Mountbatten in connivance with Congress leaders annexed Manipur into the Indian Union and thus Manipur became a roadblock to the armed Communist movement then raging in South East Asia from spreading to South Asia. After the India-China war of 1962, Manipur is being developed as a defensive fortress to protect mainland India from any possible invasion by China. This can be attributed to the strategic location of Manipur. In the name of promoting trade and commerce between India and South East Asia under its Act East Policy, India is poised to transform Manipur as a transit route and a frontier military zone.

"All these advantages offered by the strategic location of Manipur are being reaped by other countries since 100 years back but the people of Manipur have gained nothing out of it rather they are suffering on account of the State's strategic location. As a result, Manipur has seen little change notwithstanding the rapid changes seen across the world, and we are following policies and programmes formulated by foreign countries particularly India,

unable to expand our outlook and thinking.

"Political leaders of Manipur who have adopted Indian politics as their own politics of the land with a belief that Manipur cannot develop without India's blessing have been obdurately working to keep Manipur as a subordinate nation of India. As a result, all of us are living a subservient life with outsiders dictating the pace of development of Manipur and the way we live. Thus we are projected as an underdeveloped nation which cannot even determine its own position. "Nevertheless, the birth of many revolutionaries has revived the hopes of freedom and independence. With the rise of the all pervasive revolutionary movement, people now feel and talk openly that the **forcible merger of Manipur into the Indian Union has no validity and annexation by India is the fundamental cause for Manipur's downfall.**

"Had India respected the rights of Manipuri people and the history of Manipur, it would have left Manipur like Singapore was separated from Malaysia Federation soon after explosion of just 42 bombs. Though people of Manipur and India have been suffering a lot because of the liberation movement, Indian leaders see Manipur as its eastern fortress which can never be separated from India. Given this disposition of Indian leaders, India must follow the path of US and Indonesia which withdrew from Vietnam and East Timor respectively under heavy pressure and sharp criticisms from their own citizens and the

international community.

"Well known Indian politician George Fernandes once described his own country as a country which has been sailing against the tide of time and he even wished to be born in Vietnam if there is a second life. As such, looking to or imitating India as a model of development is utterly misplaced. Our disposition, at one point of time, to live together with Indian people who are quite different from us in all aspects in place of the people of South East Asian countries who are quite similar to us on several aspects is one primary factor for the downfall of Manipur. King Kullachandra knew that our outlook and thinking would not be in harmony with those of India and the western colonial rulers who taught their craftiness to Indian leaders. The king also knew that Manipuri people and Indian people cannot live together with mutual respect. We need to recall that after the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891, King Kullachandra planned to go to China with around 200 people. But British colonial rulers exiled Kullachandra and around 14 others to Andaman with a warning to all future Manipuri generations that they should not look to the East. The same warning was inherently perceptible when Yubaraj Tikendrajit and General Thangal were hung to death in public. Had King Kullachandra and his followers reached China, Manipur would have been definitely an independent, progressive and egalitarian country in South East Asia.

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