

Influential persons attempt to occupy portion of land allotted to RIMS at Lamphel

IT News
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Some influential persons are making all attempts to occupy a portion of land measuring 33.78 acres inside the premises of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) Imphal. The matter came to light after one Imphal-based newspaper reported about the presence of a pond inside RIMS complex. When a team of Imphal Times grill the matter as follow-up story, almost all the report seems true except the fact that it was

not the RIMS authority that has been digging the pond, but a group of influential persons who are members of an NGO called The Popular Pisciculture Association that has been trying to occupy the land belonging to RIMS. On the morning of July 23, the Director of RIMS along with all the head of Departments met the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh to discuss over the issue. Some members of the PPA were also present on the occasion the source from the Chief Minister's office added. The details of the

conversation that took place in the presence of the Chief Minister could not be known. However, as per source, the members of the PPA drew the attention of the Chief Minister and tried to convince him that the 33.78 acres of land inside the RIMS belong to them by showing some documents and presenting a slide show. But then the Director of RIMS flatly rejected the claim saying that the state government had allotted 108.384 acres of land already in the occupation of RIMS and another 93.46 acres of

state land (including 65.64 acres of Pattaland of Mechanised Farm) in favour of the Director RIMS for upgradation to the status of AIIMS, New Delhi in 2007. The Chief Minister and other officials of the government departments seem to understand the problem with the issue raised by the RIMS team. RIMS, at present, is under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and no land can be acquired without proper order from the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Police revisit Babysana's hostel room along with JAC members

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In order to clear the doubt of the people, JAC along with the police revisited the spot to reconstruct the events leading to the death of Babysana at the hostel of Standard Robarth School. JAC demanded the visit to the site. IGP Clay Khongsai, Imphal West SP K. Meghachandra, Special Investigation Team, Forensics and JAC visited the school. K. Meghachandra, SP Imphal West said that they consider the death as an unnatural one

and there is negligence from the part of school authorities who are taking care of the children in the hostel. In relation to the matter, SP Meghachandra said that Special investigation team has picked up Pheiroijam Robinson, son of the founder of Standard Robarth School. Robinson was remanded to police custody for 7 days. SP Imphal West said that "several theories have come out in the social media but most of them have been found to be completely baseless but police has incorporated many theories in the investigation making all the option open and

the investigation free, fair and transparent as much as possible." He urged the people not to create rumours and added that people can come to them and clear their doubt. More people were also examined by the police as a part of the investigation, he added. A man and a woman were also picked up by the police and examined for posting inciting comments on social media in relation to the case of Babysana. Meghachandra added that people who can be the witness should come forward and help the police in the investigation.

How the police in Manipur are adapting to the evolving challenges posed by trafficking - CRY

IT News
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Ravi Singh was part of one of the teams that rescued 128 people just before they were about to be trafficked to Myanmar en route Moreh, a dusty border town in Manipur. Having been part of quite a few anti-trafficking operations before, Singh is well aware of the menace that has gripped this tiny north-eastern state and converted it into an easy

transit point for cross-border flesh trade. In a bid to understand how the police in Manipur have been battling trafficking and how much do they really understand it, CRY- Child Rights and You and Manipur Alliance for Child Rights spoke to around 110 men and women in uniform from 14 stations, spread across eight districts in the state. An analysis of their responses provides us insights into how the police now view the phenomenon of trafficking in comprehensive totality, a perspective that has helped them to crack down harder on the traffickers.

Numbers tell a tale
Data available from a trafficking study done by the Women and Child Development department, Government of India, says that from 2008 to 2013 (August), there were 39 cases reported, involving 486 children. From November 2013 to June 2016, five cases were reported, involving 80 children. Around 530 children have been rescued, repatriated and rehabilitated into the mainstream, says a government report on child trafficking.

Rescue operations that have taken place over the last 3 years, since 2016, indicate that the police have raised the ante against trafficking. In February 2016, 29 children

from Churachandpur, Ukhrul and Meghalaya. Only two months later, 17 children from Thoubal district were intercepted by Sekmai police along the National Highway 102 (Imphal-Dimapur road), on their way to Tamil Nadu. In June, another 12 hailing from Churachandpur district, were rescued from Tamil Nadu. In September 2017, eight girls, also from Churachandpur district, were rescued from the clutches of traffickers in Myanmar.

Earlier this year, 128 people were rescued in raids across Moreh town and Imphal following a tip-off from Nepal about a group being trafficked across the border. In all, 310 cases of trafficking of trafficking have been reported in the first seven months of this year and there have been 179 rescues.

What can we infer?
The number of rescues steadily on the rise can perhaps be linked with the understanding of the police about the different nuances of trafficking, which has also come to the fore in the responses of the police to the questionnaire shared with them. The responses also provide us insights into the root causes of trafficking and why it has spurred in a state like Manipur over the years.

While 53 per cent of the respondents have said they understand trafficking and why it happens, astonishingly high 45 per cent said that for them, trafficking is synonymous with cross-border smuggling. The parcel drawn here can probably be considered unique for a state like Manipur, which, by virtue of its geographical location (a state with international borders), has always been a hotbed of smuggling in items like contraband, arms and others.

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MLA Joykishan blames the government for trying to carpeted Babysana case

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Expressing apprehension that the case of Babysana, the 12 years old minor girl who was found dead in mysterious condition could have been carpeted by the authority, MLA Joykishan today said that there seems to be a powerful force that can shut the mouth of the government. Speaking to media persons at his Thangmeiband resident, Joykishan said that the authority had put under-carpet the case of Manipuri student Parvish Chanam by not

handing over the case to the CBI on time and the similar thing is happening in the case of Babysana. Justice is still not delivered to Parvish Chanam and likewise the justice will be kept pending for a longer time until people forget to the case of Babysana. The MLA said that after the JAC urged the government to hand over the case to CBI, they have stated that the case has been handed over to the CBI. But they only sent proposal to take up the case with the CBI and that too by taking up an FIR under section 305 of the IPC. Later again on the

pressure of the learned advocate who are among the members of the JAC Section 302 of the IPC was inserted again, Joykishan added and said that how could the government sent proposal for investigation again and again under different sections. "The case has not been handed over to the CBI and I appeal the government not to cheat the people of the State", Joykishan said. The MLA also lauded the AMSU and other students' bodies as all as civil society organisations for struggling to deliver justice to Babysana.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Children Award 2019 conferred to Licypriya Kangujam

Agency
New Delhi, July 30,

Prestigious "Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Children Award 2019" was given to Ms. Licypriya Kangujam, a 7-years-old child climate activist from Manipur on 27th July 2019 with the occasion of the 4th Death Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Former President & Missile Man of India in recognition of her courage to fight to pass the climate change law in the country. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 3,00,000 with a citation and a memento encrypted with the face of the Former President. The award was handed over to her by the Founder of Khwaab Foundation, Munna Kumar, a renowned social activist of the country from Bihar who is the donor of the prize along with Prof. Dr. Archana Bhattacharjee, a well known academician from Assam in a glittering ceremony.

Maoist Communist Party Manipur shuts down Standard Robarth till August 4

IT News
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Maoist Communist Party Manipur has imposed a shut down of Standard Robarth School since 22nd of July. The decision of the outfit to shut down the school came after the death of Babysana in the school hostel on the 18th of July. The outfit said it has to deal with the matter. The question that the party was looking into is whether it is a case of suicide or it is a murder. If it is a case of murder then there must be

reason behind her murder. If it is a case of suicide then there needs to be a reason behind her suicide, the statement of Manipur Maoist added. The party also stated that they are facing difficulties in their investigation given the presence of security forces. Moreover, the girls who were staying in the hostel with Babysana are mostly below 16 years. Given this in mind, the outfit said it has to deal with them very sensitively. "Police and Women Against Crime have investigated the matter and interrogated these young girls who were staying with

Babysana. The manner in which they interrogated the children has violated the acceptable norms with which we deal with children in such context and has affected the lives of these children. There act shows that they were not applying their minds on the matter," Manipur Maoist said. Manipur Maoist, however, is in touch with the relatives of the children so that they can get the truth from the children with sensitivity, the statement added. The outfit appeals that guardians of the children that they must help to find out the truth of the matter soon given

that children are involved in this case and if this case drags on then it will severely affect the emotional well being of the children. So the outfit appeals the parents that they must find out the truth soon and inform the JAC about it. The party stated that till now the outfit is able to find out that she came back from summer vacation and was happily staying in the hostels. After returning from the vacation on July 16, she had a verbal fight with a school authority which the students living with Babysana are aware of. The fight was due to some personal matter, according to the children in the hostel. After two days of this fight Babysana died. On that day, the hostellers saw Babysana for the last time in the dining hall and no one is aware when she returned and slept in her room. There is unclarity on when she went to sleep that day. The question remains on where she died, whether she died in the room or outside her hostel room. On the top of that, no CCTV footages of what went on outside the hostel were available, the outfit claims. The outfit has decided to extend the shutdown of this school till August 4 and it will see the situation till August 4 and will decide whether it will continue the shutdown of the school or not, according to the statement of Manipur Maoist.

Front Line Defender calls on India to ensure safety and protection of Rights defender Sobita Mangsatabam

IT News
Imphal, July 30

Front Line Defender, an international body formed for protecting human rights defenders at risk based in Dublin (Ireland) has expressed serious concern to the series of threats to Imphal base Rights activist Sobita Mangsatabam, and calls on the government of India to Guarantee all human rights defenders in Manipur and India a safe and enabling environment in which to carry out their peaceful work.

On 24 July 2019, an off duty police officer brandishing a firearm, visited the office of Women's Action for Development (WAD), a women's rights organisation based in Imphal City, Manipur, and inquired about the whereabouts of its secretary, **Sobita Mangsatabam**. The same police officer had visited the WAD office on 21 July at around 8.30 pm, but failed to gain entry to the compound. It is believed that the threats against Sobita Mangsatabam and WAD are linked to their



intervention in a domestic violence complaint filed against the said police officer by his wife in June 2019. Sobita Mangsatabam is a human rights defender in

Manipur who has been working for the rights of women and girls in Manipur for over two decades. Her organisation, **Women's Action for Development** aims to promote and protect the rights of women and girls, especially survivors of violence, including sexual violence. Sobita Mangsatabam is also the Convenor of the District Women Committee (DWC) of United NGOs Mission Manipur (UNMM). Sobita Mangsatabam is a strong advocate for accountability

and justice for crimes of violence against women and girls. She provides support and protection for survivors and their families and has been vocal in her call for criminal justice reform to end impunity for violence against women. On 24 July 2019, the police officer entered the compound in civilian clothes. He pulled out his firearm, held it close to his waist and questioned the caretaker about Sobita Mangsatabam's whereabouts.

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