

## President Rule is the last option and that is what dissidents BJP MLAs want – Political observer

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With news about some candidates started campaigning for State Assembly General Election at some assembly constituencies of Hill districts, political analyst now speculates that dissident MLAs who are presently camping at New Delhi would have change their strategy of removing N. Biren Singh from the post of Chief Minister and are lobbying the central

leadership for dissolution of the 17th Manipur Legislative Assembly.

Source said that Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, still have the blessing of Home Minister Amit Shah and some BJP high profile leaders, however, as the dissident BJP MLAs continue their demand the central leaders now starts rolling their head as sidelining the voice of dissident BJP MLAs may sabotage the strategy to strengthen the BJP in the state of Manipur. The source

also added that the central leaderships of the BJP are in dilemma in making a decision to choose a BJP MLA who could replace N. Biren Singh. Moreover, N. Biren Singh still has 30 MLAs to his side even though those MLAs includes defector MLAs from other political party. N. Biren will have the number unless the Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly interferes. The Central leadership having aware of the political situation of Manipur is likely to wait until September 20 and it is likely

that the State Assembly may be put under animated suspension by imposing president rule.

"It is possible that the centre may put the state assembly under animated suspension as this is the right time", a political observer told Imphal Times saying that two unsettled issues that might burnt the state is still pending.

Terming the Prime Minister Narendra Modi as one of the most committed prime minister

of India, the political observer who did not want to disclose his identity for security reason said that a solution to the vex problem of NSCN-IM and also introduction of the Contentious Bill 'CAB' will best when the state is under president rule. "Who knows the dissident MLAs are provoked by some architecture of high profile BJP leaders to fulfill their causes", the Political observer said.

## Four persons released through bail by CJM Churachandpur still in judicial custody till date

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In a surprising incident four accused persons which were released on bail on 5th of July 2019 by the CJM Churachandpur were still in jail till date, a source with the Imphal Times said.

Five insurgents two UNLF and 3 PREPAK were arrested by Assam Rifles from Singhat Border Area on 2nd June 2019, and were later handedover to Singhat police station. The said arrested persons were sent to police custody for 13 days.

After the completion of the custodial remand, the accused were brought before the Chief Judicial Magistrate First Class, Churachandpur in charged Lekho Kipgen and thus further remained into the judicial custody by the said court. Out of the five arrested persons, four were handled by the Legal Aid Counsel (LAC). The standing LAC applied for the bail on July 2, 2019 and the bail was heard on 5 July 2019.

Further the four accused were granted bail by furnishing a PR bond of Rs 60,000 each with a surety of the like amount

and the surety was furnished by the two LAC standing counsel representing two accused each by a counsel.

The required bonds were accepted by the court on July 5, 2019 thereby released with a directive to appear the court on July 19, 2019.

But still the four accused which were granted bail are behind bars till now though released on bail.

According to reliable source another two counsel met the said judge and requested him to issue the release order but the judge refused by saying whether the two counsels have filed 'Vakalatnama'.

And further asked to meet the said LAC who are the standing counsel of the four accused.

The said judge directed the two counsel to bring the families of the accused, the source added.

The source stressed that on further enquiry by the said two counsel it came to learnt from one of the staff of the said court that they were not released for not paying the amount demanded by the two LAC and added that there is a need to meet the said standing counsel.

## Internet Impact: Newspaper hawkers worry of losing jobs

By - Rabi Takhellambam  
Thoubal, Sept. 12

Even as the internet is a blessing for the modern world, it is not so for newspaper hawkers. Reason – most people get newspapers before the hawkers brought them to their doors. After all people don't have to pay the bill in reading newspaper on cell phone or computer which have internet connection. Almost people today can access to internet with a simple smart phone which is affordable by even a person who live on hand to mouth and the newspaper are available through various social networking site as well as apparatus designed for news portal.

Newspaper subscribers has tremendously reduce in the last couple of months particularly in rural areas,



Tomba a hawker in Tairenpokpi in Thoubal district told this journalist.

"Earlier I use to have nearly 200 subscribers now the number is reduced to almost half", Tomba said adding that he is worried that by next year he might loss more subscribers.

"I think I better change my job as I have family to feed", he added.

Newspaper hawkers are the most important component of print media industry particularly in the state of

Manipur. They braves cold winter season, summer heats and the rainy days and distributes the newspaper to subscribers and that too by buying on cash payment from the newspaper houses. One time the hawkers are so important that media houses were left with no choice but to stop publication if they announced holiday for themselves. Print media use to stop publication during Yaosang festival for five days (the longest Holiday of newspaper) as hawkers refuse

to distribute during the festival.

When asked what make them think of losing their job when print media are advancing more with the advent of the internet, Tomba's simple answer – "It is the App call 'Telegram' in the Whatsapp". Almost all newspaper are available in the Telegram App and that at the time newspaper was dropped to their doors some simply said that they had read it.

"May be hawkers in Imphal area won't have that much

problem that we in the rural area are facing as they can distribute it earlier, however as for us we received the newspaper for distribution in late evening", Tomba said.

Tomba is an educated person and he knew the benefit of internet. He don't have any problem with media houses opening web portal but what affect his work is the uploading of full page e-newspaper in PDF format which can be shared in social networking site.

Tomba said that if newspaper houses can put a restriction to the uploading of newspaper even by taking photo at early hours then somehow the hawkers could be saved.

There are many ways that web portal can generate revenue, but the revenue that they generate from web portal can't be compared with the income they generate from hard copy print newspaper. Before both the hawkers and media houses lost their way of earning it is time that the media houses owners frame strict regulations not to allow people to share their newspaper through social networking site using any means.

## UPACO plants sapling commemorating Anniversary of Hijam Irabot

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As a mark of tribute to the pioneer leader Hijam Irabot, United People's Administrative Council (UPACO) Manipur today planted 750 sapling including 400 (four hundred fruit bear) trees at Wabagai Buffalo breeding farm.

The plantation programme was attended by around 80 volunteers including 12 years old brand Ambassador of Go Green Mission Manipur Valentina Elangbam and the president of UPACO M. Premjit.

September month being a significant month of the pioneer leader Hijam Irabot, the UPACO said that various other programme to commemorate the leader will be organised at various places. On the September 30, UPACO will organize the Birth Anniversary of Lanyanba Hijam Irabot at Wabagai Lamkhai.

By - Sh Ajit

The ongoing Naga peace talk brings many new dimensions in the political scenario of North East India in general and Manipur in particular. The long process of Naga peace negotiation shows its ups and downs, commission and omission as reflected in various media. All the reports may not be correct, but one thing is certain that Naga negotiators are fighting their last battle with a commitment and determination. They sometimes say Sovereignty will not be compromised, for which they coin certain political phrases like shared sovereignty. Sometimes they demand a Naga Flag and a separate constitution to become a new Kashmir in North East India. The Government of India does not deny their demands in black

and white. One art of negotiation on the part of the Naga is keeping Shillong Accord aside, not even mentioned in the series of talks. The present talk is not continuation of the Shillong Accord which is assumed in the talk as a non-existent document in the eyes of both the Government of India and NSCN (IM). At the initial phase, some Nagaland leaders pointed cautioned that what better negotiation would the non-Nagaland leaders in the Final agreement would make. The goals and efforts of the then NNC is now overshadowed by the political gimmicks of new Naga groups. Naga cause is more diluted as it expanded more and more areas from Naga Hills to Chandel District to eastern parts of Arunachal Pradesh where there were a number of ethnic groups who had not had

any interaction in history, but had a commonality only in the contemporary myths. However, the Naga negotiators fight its last battle for a Naga Flag, a symbol of unified Naga, whatsoever it is far away from present day reality.

Manipur had a long history of her flag. The evolution of Manipuri flag passes different phases of history and ideology. The historically evolved Manipur, in N Biren's word, oneness of Manipur is reflected in different shapes, designs and colors of the flag of Manipur. The historical debate over the Flag is still going on. Which flag was used on the day of Independence? Which one was the real symbol of Manipur's escape from colonial yoke? Every year, two flags were used by two camps in celebrating the

Independence of Manipur, a nation state in post-colonial world. Manipur wants to show the world that though tiny in area, its political life is so complex and its existence did not come only in the colonial period. It was one of the ancient kingdoms in Western South East Asia (Wesae) or Indo-Burma Region. It has a deep cultural root in time and space. Our flags over time shows us that the State is home of ever evolving civilization, not a land mass where primitives tribes live. We are the mature people who ruled the State and are capable of participation in the world political system. We have flags and flags.

In the Naga negotiation, Flag is one of the main issues. Constitution is another. For Manipur, on the day of her merger with India, her hard earned constitution was lost in

the interest of Indian Republic. Manipur could not regain two-third of her landmass which was kept under puppet king during Indirect Rule of British colonialism even in the post-colonial period. Hill-valley divide is still visible in India's Manipur. Naga is fighting for a separate Constitution in the long drawn negotiation with India.

The best irony of History is that different tribes under the banner of Naga are visualizing a Nation: a great leap in history from Naked Naga of colonial imagination to a newest Nation in the world, defying all the historical laws. On the other hand, a section of the society demands that the Meitei who lead the peoples in this corner of world for centuries should be listed among the STs of India. Though we have a long literary history, they think we are primitive. Though we have

a complex history of arts and culture, they consider we are happy to be called a tribe. Though we are politically mature with independent flags, they opine we are fit forclassifyingus as men having primitive traits. Though our religion has a state office and officials, SidabaMapu is considered to be God of a primitive people. Though we shine in India's medical science, science, space technology, mathematics, fashion designs, computer science, literature, games and sports, dance and music, etc, they claim that we are weaker than average Indians. Though we could evolve our own Manipuri Vaishnavism, they say that we are well behind in the philosophical knowledge. In short, is the demand for ST status consensus in the State as well as among the Meitei?

## Minister Nemcha Kipgen lauds 181-Women Helpline Manipur

DIPR  
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Social Welfare and Cooperation Minister NemchaKipgen lauded all the officers and officials of 181 - Women Helpline, Manipur unit for taking up swift action in rescuing a woman and her 4 year old son from ThüngeiMayaileikai. She is suspected to be a victim of human trafficking for organ

harvesting in Chandigarh recently. Minister also extended her gratitude to the Manipur Students' Association Chandigarh and Women Helpline, Chandigarh. NemchaKipgen also stated that the Social Welfare Department is working in close coordination with the state police and Women Helpline, Chandigarh for repatriation of the mother and child at the earliest.

## Story of two Demands: Flag for Naga and ST for Meitei