



United Zou Organization reacts to CSOs, Activists and others for targeting Lhukhosei Zou

IT News
Imphal, Dec. 23:

The United Zou Organization (UZO), while welcoming the historic judgment on the 17th December, 2020 regarding the multi crore drug case after two and half year, expressed dissatisfaction to the reaction of some section of student bodies and civil organizations raising 'suspicion of serious lapses' in the prosecution of the case.

A statement by Information and Publicity Secretary of UZO, GHQ, M. John said that UZO has been a staunch supporter of 'War on Drugs' campaign and will always be in the days to come.

"There have been multiple high profile drug seizures in Manipur including the present case. But, none have been targeted as much as the case involving a minority tribe leader Lhukhosei Zou. Neither student organization nor civil

society has enquired or take interest in the other multi crore drug cases in the state. It is worth reckoning if these organizations are behind the demand for payment of Four Crores in Indian Rupees from Lhukhosei Zou while in NAB custody but which was denied or if they are not interested in the other drug cases because they belonged to larger ethnic groups in the state", the statement added.

The UZO points fingers to the different CSOs and said that the then ASP of NAB Th. Brinda demanded Rs. 30 lakhs from Haji Masled of Lilong, Thoubal for his release from the custody of NAB.

"She was also found taking undue advantage of her position as a police officer and was implicated in a corruption case as an accuse in special trial case No. 13 of 2020 at Special Court, ND & PS, Thoubal. Contempt of court case and defamation case are

also still pending against her in session and high court", it added.

The statement further said, "Mr. Babloo Lotongbam and his cohort should also demand an appeal to the cases against Th. Brinda. Why should respectable citizens who are waging war against corruption, drugs and illicit trafficking of drugs remain silent on Ms. Brinda but make a hue and cry on Mr. Lhukhosei Zou?"

It also added that some valley based CSOs have maligned the reputation of Lhukhosei Zou multiple times whereby his image is adversely affected. The UZO said that no individual or organization, be it a student organization or civil society, is above the law.

The UZO appealed to the people who are trying to ransom justice at the cost of someone's dignity not to interfere in the functions of the judiciary and respect the judicial system of the country.

HM Amit Shah's visits to Imphal and Guwahati

IT News
Imphal, Dec 24:

Union Home Minister, Amit Shah will be visiting Guwahati and Imphal from December 26 to 27. His programmes in Guwahati on December 26 include a function at 1 PM at which he will distribute financial grants to 8,000 Namghars (traditional Vaisnavite monasteries of Assam) under the Assam Darshan programme, laying of the Foundation Stone for the development of 'Batadrava Than' as Cultural and tourist destinations, laying the foundation stone of the New Medical College in Guwahati (the 2nd medical college in the city) and nine Law Colleges to be established across Assam. On December 27, at a function in Imphal at 11.15 AM the Union Home Minister will lay the foundation stones of the Churachandpur Medical College, the State Govt Guest House at Imphal, the Manipur Bhawan, Dwaraka located in New Delhi, the IIT at Muongkhong, the State Police HQ at Imphal, and the Integrated Command and Control Centre City in Imphal.

"Covaxin" phase II trial data show it develops long-term antibody: study

IT Correspondent
New Delhi, Dec 24:

India's first Make in India vaccine candidate, "Covaxin", against the COVID-19, being produced by Hyderabad based Bharat Biotech can keep the patients safe for nearly an year, since it develops long-term antibodies as per a research paper published after Covaxin phase II trials.

"After two doses, local and systemic adverse reactions observed in both vaccine groups were minimal. Majority of them were resolved within 24 hours of onset. No serious adverse events were reported in this study," the experts said in their research paper uploaded on "medRxiv".

"The most common adverse event was pain at the injection site, followed by headache, fatigue, and fever. No severe or life threatening (Grade 4 and 5) solicited adverse events were reported. After any dose, the combined incidence rate of local and systemic adverse events in this study is noticeably lower than the rates for other SARS-CoV-2 vaccine platform candidates and comparable to the rates for other inactivated SARS-CoV-2 vaccine candidates," the paper said.

For Phase I trials, the results show "Covaxin" develops long-

term antibody and T-cell memory responses (three months after vaccination). Whereas the Phase II study shows there are "tolerable safety outcomes with enhanced humoral and cell-mediated immune responses".

T-cell (thymus gland) plays a vital role in developing immune response. In a double-blind, randomised, multi-centre, Phase II clinical trial, a total of 380 healthy children and adults were randomised and administered two intramuscular doses of vaccine candidate. The dose were given four weeks apart.

In a follow-up of the Phase I trial, "Covaxin" reportedly has produced high levels of "neutralising antibodies" that remained elevated in all participants three months (at day 104) after the second vaccination. Based on these results, researcher believe "Covaxin" can generate antibodies that may persist for 6-12 months.

However, this research paper is yet to be peer-reviewed. As such, its findings are provisional and the conclusions/final results may differ. Covaxin is currently under Phase III human clinical trials. These trials began in mid-November and nearly 26,000 volunteers across India are likely to be involved in these trials. The Bharat Biotech has announced the successful

recruitment of 13,000 volunteers, and continued its progress towards achieving its goal of 26,000 participants for phase-III clinical trial across multiple sites in the country.

"This is India's first and only Phase-III efficacy study for a Covid-19 vaccine, and the largest phase -III efficacy trial ever conducted for any vaccine in India. Covaxin has been evaluated in approximately 1000 subjects in Phase I and Phase II clinical trials, with promising safety and immunogenicity results, with acceptance in international peer reviewed scientific journals," said the company in a statement.

Bharat has already produced about 10 million doses of its still-in-trials Covaxin shot, ahead of an anticipated roll out by the middle of next year. It has a current annual capacity of 300 million vaccines and expects the first 100 million to be deployed by India, which has partly financed the development.

In its bid to halt the spread of the world's second-largest coronavirus outbreak, India will likely initially lean on the two-dose vaccines manufactured by "Bharat Biotech" and the "Serum Institute of India Ltd". The latter has partnered with AstraZeneca Plc. to make at least one billion doses of their shot, half of which have been earmarked for India.

NIMAS completed record breaking water rafting expedition in Arunachal Pradesh

IT News
Imphal, Dec 24:

A month long epic white water rafting expedition covering all the major seven rivers of Arunachal Pradesh has been successfully conducted by a team of National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (NIMAS). Labango Singh, from Manipur walking as Water Sports Instructor in

NIMAS also joined the expedition.

A statement by Col Safraz Singh, Director NIMAS, who led the epic white water rafting expedition, said that the expedition began on November 22 and concluded yesterday (December 23). The team comprises of 10 local youths of the state and 15 army personnel from NIMAS, it added.

The expedition set a new National Record by covering a total distance of 720 kms on Seven Rivers namely kameng, Dibang, Nao-dihing, lohit, subansiri, siyom and siyang.

After this record breaking expedition team NIMAS Dirang will now launch first Winter Trekking Expedition on the famous Bailey's Trail in the month of Jan 2021, Col Safraz Singh said.

IMA Manipur state branch issues advisory to surge COVID-19 during festive season

IT News
Imphal, Dec 24:

While appreciating the initiative taken by the state authority as the cases of COVID-19 has been decreasing in the last few weeks Indian Medical Association Manipur State Branch issues advisory as a surge is the COVID-19 cases cannot be ruled out during the upcoming Christmas and

New Year festival. The advice of the IMA are as follows-

- 1) Gathering of large number of people should be avoided at all cost.
- 2) Crowded places should be avoided.
- 3) Individual who are more than 60 yrs of age with comorbidities, pregnant women, and children below the age of 10 should stay at home.

- 4) Social distancing protocol should strictly be followed.
- 5) Proper wearing of facial mask should be made compulsory at public places.
- 6) Frequent hand washing should be practiced and facility for hand wash or hand sanitizer should be made available at places.

A statement also added that in view of the upcoming

festival, Indian Medical Association Manipur State Branch is also broadcasting a Facebook live program in collaboration with SHIJA Foundation on the topic "Emerging Trend of COVID-19 and Precautions for Christmas and New Year". The program is being broadcast at www.facebook.com/shijahospitals on 24th December, 2020 at 2 pm.

National handloom Expo Concluded

IT News
Imphal, Dec. 24:

The national handloom expo 2019-20 which was organised in connection with Christmas festival was concluded today at the urban Haat Nilakuthi Imphal east . The handloom

expo was organised by the Manipur Apex Handloom weavers and Handicraft Artisan CS Ltd(AWAS) under the sponsorship of the office of the Development commissioner for Handloom Ministry of Textiles Government of India .

Mutuwa Bahadur Dspoked on the need of maintaining documentation of Manipur handloom and design records . S Bhubol board of director of AWAS highlighted the importance of organising handlooms exhibition

Chronicle of Repression of Pre Statehood Days through the Prison Diary of Lamyamba NK Sanajaoba

By- Ahebam Koireng Singh

Celebrated writer and scholar C.S. Lewis once wrote, "Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny". But Late Nongmeikakpam Sanajaoba popularly known as Lamyamba Sanajaoba who is without question accepted by one and all as the pioneer of investigative journalism in Manipur is no ordinary man. He took active role in the formation of Pan Manipur Youth League (PANMYL) in the year 1968. In 1969, he became the founding editor of the monthly journal, 'Lamyamba', brought out by PANMYL. The pages of Lamyamba, as a powerful mouthpiece of PANMYL having political overtones under his firebrand editorship were replete with series of write-ups against the wrongdoings and regularly exposes of both the misdeeds and corruptions indulged in by high ranking officials of the government both at the Centre

and the State, and also the atrocities of the armed forces. The journal also endeavours to inculcate the spirit of nationalism and patriotism among the youths of the state. One very notable and sensational report of Lamyamba which shocked the sensibilities and very much talked about with great notoriety by the Manipur masses which can be mentioned was the rape of Miss Rose Ningshen¹, a 20 year old Tangkhul girl by BSF personals and her agonies revealed in her suicide note. Later, after that brutal incident became public knowledge as reported by Lamyamba, eminent dramatist recreated it in his play 'Chanu Rose Sadum Phakhrabee Nupi Amagee Tantha' (tr. Chanu Rose Lamentation of a woman flesh-feasted).

The translated suicide note of Miss Rose Ningshen addressed to her boyfriend, Mr. Stone is reproduced herein: "Most beloved... In a world seeded with envy, our

love shall never bloom together like those lovely flowers in the same stalk but we will bloom radiantly in that pure everlasting place of our true love. That I am leaving this world should not bereave you to utter melancholy. A life driven by gale of sorrow and unrequited words mortify my soul and leave me to choose only this lone way. For the days to come, we made promises to be one and together in our lifelong journey. But oh! My love I could not made for that moment! Oh! My life none is there to receive your lot. What a pity! Oh! My vanquished soul every second bear the brunt of bereaved feelings, bringing me to the threshold of defeat. Even the tears which flow like an eternal spring now dries up. Those tears were the only image of my life. I will be remembering in those looming darkness of hell the tale of you and I. From dust to dust let this body embrace its birthplace; let the earth dissolves my remains. Oh! How

enviable for that last glance, to see one last time of my image in your eyes, but alas! Fate deceives me at this last hour. I choose my own disgraceful death and lo! I will walk as an outcast forever. My love when you remembers me, turn your eyes to those darkest horizon for I reside forever in the abyss of darkness. There, you will find me treading all alone with a heavy sigh of regrets in that long darkness. Love of my life! Feeling of sweet remembrance of those long hearty laughs and sharing each other woes fills my memory. At the dead of this night, far from here my love a deep slumber will be taking you to pleasant dreams. My last wish to see your visage shall ever remain unfulfilled as you are far from me... far across these ranges of hills. For my lovely friends, though I am unable to write each a parting letter I plead to you to tell them my last farewell. In this

early morning, I am glancing over the distance of your lovely place Bungpa. Remember, my love how I wish to shower all my feelings and love, all I have for you like a cascade flowing down in your ocean of love. Have you ever received the letter I sent to you on 6-2-73? What could have happened for not returning any reply from your side? I have waited long and I am still waiting, but at the moment life seems away stealthily. Why and how did we ever get parted will never be known after you escape from this world. Oh Hell! Oh! Abyss of Darkness! I loathe going that dark passage. No one shall ever know who betrays whom. The secret is entombed forever. The life of a maiden dries up from blooming into a lovely flower and lays in the heathen... unadorned, unaccepted, untouched. Only regrets on my part for I am choke with words which I unable to tell you everything at this moment. What

remains of the sad tale I will narrate to you closely in another lifetime, in another eternity. I will end with this note my love! That the only words that erupt from the truest, innermost part of me is the saddest part of our parting, the story of our failure to be together again. Your Rose.²

Lamyamba emerged as a total diversion from the existing publications and periodicals of those times, as it pioneered the investigative journalism in Manipur. He was imprisoned in August 1969. Many said, he was arrested on charge of sedition for lampooning the then Chief Commissioner of Manipur, Baleshwar Prasad as 'Looter of Palace Gun', 'Amruraba Alibaba' (tr., Blackie Alibaba) in his write-up at Lamyamba Journal, and a publication brought out by PANMYL titled, 'What is wrong in Manipur'³. Athokpam Tomchou, a well known playwright, who was with him together at the prison said, all of

them, who got arrested in the same month of August, were charged under the same First Information Report (FIR) charging them with various sections relating with 'sedition' and 'waging war against the state'. They all got arrested under FIR 350 (8) 69/UC 397/431/436/120B/IPC and 11 West Bengal Security Act & 25@Arms Act. NK Sanajaoba, along with some of those arrested in connection with sedition and waging war against the state was accommodated at Room No. 1, 'Raghu Gunda' of Singjamrei Kshetri Leikai, greatly famed for his notoriety, imprisoned in connection with the criminal activities, was a ring-leader of all the prisoners. All of them fear him and was under his control. Even those who were years senior to him reverently called him 'Tamo' (meaning Elder Brother) out of fear. It was in his room that Sanajaoba and Tomchou together were accommodated. (Contd on Page 2)

★ Editorial

Still murky news from Manipur University

Before Prof. AP Pandey, there was never good news from the Manipur University even after it was converted into central University in October, 2015. The air was thick and it finally turned to a hurricane, putting all sort of academic activities in Manipur University after almost all communities of Manipur University raise against the then VC Prof. AP Pandey. The matter was latter intervene by the Manipur High Court and Academic Atmosphere at Manipur University slowly resumed after the High Court appointed an Administrator on interim basis. A highly experienced administrator who had served the PMO under 4 different prime Minister, and who also had year long experience in the field of administration in Manipur at the capacity of Chief Secretary, Dr. Jarnail Singh finally stream line the functioning of the Manipur University after the Manipur High court ask him to run the office of the Vice Chancellor until normalcy is restored.

During his period many advertisement for appointment of faculties, non teaching staffs , among others has been published and following that many vacant seats of the Manipur University has been field. But there were critics to the appointment of staff at his capacity as he was appointed just as administrator and in charge of VC of the Manipur University. In a letter written to almost all the Central University of the Country, the Deputy Secretary of the Government of India , MHRD, Mr. Pramo Kumar Saha , on October 9, 2014, it was stated that the acting VC can perform the routine nature of works of the University, which includes appointments on temporary basis and convening the meetings of the committee like Finance Committee, Executive Council and Academic Council. The letter also stated that decision like amending the statutes, bringing new ordinances or amending the ordinances, appointment of permanent teaching and non teaching staffs, creation of new posts etc. should not be taken up by the acting VC.

So one wander why the registrar of the Manipur University issued an office notification ordering all Deans of the Schools of studies and Heads of departments to complete the screening process of the faculty applications of the already advertised , for completion of faculty recruitment process , when there is no permanent VC in the Manipur University. Every Manipuris, were happy when Prof. Amar Yumnam has been appointed as the incharge VC of the Manipur University assuming that the corrupt practice that has been allegedly going on in the Manipur University will be corrected even though he had only 2 months left to serve the office. People were expecting him to clean the dirt of the MU and not expected to have interest in either appointment of faculty or staffs as it is also conventional that head of an institution don't inked any such when his office term is around 6 months to end. Let us hope everything goes well in the functioning of the Manipur University.

The Government revises guidelines for providing DTH

By Raju Vernekar
New Delhi, Dec 24:

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the proposal for revision of the guidelines for obtaining license for providing Direct-To-Home (DTH) broadcasting service in the country on Wednesday.

As per new guidelines: License for the DTH will be issued for a period of 20 years in place of present 10 years. Further the period of License may be renewed by 10 years at a time. The license fee has been revised from 10% of the gross revenue (GR) to 8% of adjusted gross revenue (AGR), which will be calculated by deduction of GST from GR. License fee will be collected on quarterly basis in lieu of presently annual basis. DTH operators shall be permitted to operate to a maximum of 5% of its total channel carrying capacity as permitted platform channels. A one-time non-refundable registration fee of Rs. 10,000 per Platform services (PS) channel shall be charged from a DTH operator. The Platform services (PS) are programmes transmitted by Distribution Platform Operators (DPOs) exclusively to their own subscribers and do not include Doodarshan channels and registered TV channels.

DTH operators, willing to share DTH platform and transport stream of TV channels, on voluntary basis and distributors of TV channels will be permitted to share the common hardware for their Subscriber Management System (SMS) and Conditional Access System

(CAS) applications. The cap of 49% FDI in the existing DTH guidelines will be aligned with the extant Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)'s policy on FDI as amended from time to time. The decision will come into effect after revised DTH guidelines are issued by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The proposed reduction is intended to align the license fee regime applicable to Telecom sector and will be prospectively applied. The difference may also enable DTH service providers to invest for more coverage leading to increased operations and higher growth and thereby enhanced and regular payment of License Fee by them. Registration fee for Platform Services is likely to bring a revenue of approximately Rs. 12 Lakh. Sharing of infrastructure by the DTH operators may bring in more efficient use of scarce satellite resources and reduce the costs borne by the consumers. Adoption of the extant FDI policy will bring in more foreign investment into the country.

The DTH is operable on pan-India basis. DTH sector is a highly employment intensive sector. It directly employs DTH operators as well as those in the call centres besides indirectly employing a sizeable number of installers at the grass-root level. The amended DTH guidelines, with longer license period and clarity on renewals, relaxed FDI limits, etc., will ensure fair degree of stability and new investments in the DTH sector along with employment opportunities, official communication stated.

.....Prison Diary of Lamyamba NK Sanajaoba

From page 1

Prisoners were served fish curry every Friday. The fishes meant for jail inmates, before being taken to the Kitchen room of the prison, considerable quantity of it used to be part off by Raghu and stoked alive for his personal consumption and nobody objected. He ate it daily either fried or cooked at the kerosene stove in his room. NK Sanajaoba, being his locality elder, also, at his insistence used to have meal with him sharing his prepared fishes. All of them were freed after spending about 15 days in Jail. One Sanasam Joychandra from Chingamakh was killed in firing by Central Reserved Police Force (CRPF) personnel in connection with the agitation for demanding statehood during the visit by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. In its immediate aftermath, all of them including Sanajaoba who recently got released, were again arrested under non-bailable warrant. Most of them were accommodated at Room no 12 together with some of the convicted Meitei State Committee rebels. Since Raghu was no longer in the prison, they also ate what was being served for all. The meal served was pest ridden badly odoured filthy Usna Rice for storing long in the godown. Fish curry was served every Friday. Otherwise it was 'Dal' most of the time though vegetables were occasionally served. If at times, new prisoners were sent in at the evening, the cook of the prison, just to make it sufficient, poured water at the vessel of the cooked dish. At that time, Ibomda 'Mijaba' (tr. Man-eater) of Meitei State Committee, along with some other convicts cooked food for the prisoners. The quantity of meal for a prisoner was just a bowl each of rice and dish. It seemed after having such food in the prison, a strong motive for protest and reformation was born in the minds of Sanajaoba. It afterwards came to greater light in the subsequent events. As first step, uncooked rice was distributed to each room in the morning before cooking.

That was done so that prisoner could screen out the stones and pest from the rice grains for their consumption. Sanajaoba stored those stones and pests screened out from the rice in an empty Vicks Can and kept it safely with him. He later showed those pests and stones to the Jail superintendent when he came for the inspection visit and protested with a demand for providing quality food. The Superintendent, before he went, assured stating, 'Yes, I'll look into the matter'. Even then, nothing happened and there was no improvement.

At that time, there was a trend of abusing the new-come prisoners by asking their reason of imprisonment or by giving any flimsy ground. In the process, new-comers were physically assaulted, made to sweeproom and wipe the room and clean the toilet. Sanajaoba objected such act and afterwards it was no longer done. All the prisoners respect Sanajaoba. Those others imprisoned in connection with 'revolutionary case' were also respected. Tomchou and Sanajaoba, together decided to try writing by bringing in pen and paper, since they thought, they were going to serve jail time long term as they got arrested under non-bailable warrant. At that time, prisoners were forbidden from writing and possessing pen and paper. There was a criteria for providing specific number of blank paper to 'A' and 'B' Class political prisoner. But they were classed in 'C' category together with the ordinary prisoners. So, pen and paper was forbidden to them. So, Tomchou and Late Sanajaoba decided to write secretly. Writing had been the heart and soul for both of them. At that time, Tomchou, as scriptwriter, had already to his credit about four stage plays and ten courtyard plays. Sanajaoba treated Tomchou with great affection and love. The pseudonym used by Tomchou in his writings as pen name, 'Atom Luwang' was coined by Sanajaoba while they were together in the prison. That way, they started well set for the writing. One ink fountain pen was brought for him. And the paper was brought in by the convicted prisoners who were less censored by the jail staffs. As for Tomchou, at the day of his appearing before the court, some ball pen refill were brought in by inserting it inside the fly-chain of his pant. And a pen was made by putting the refill inside a 'Langchak' (tr. Bobbin for the weaving shuttle). But he still doesn't have any paper. Somehow, he had to find ways. He wrote a script of the play diagonally superimposedly against the parallelly printed letters of the Science Reporter copy with a red colour refill. That script titled, 'College Girl' was (Court yard) played by the yesterday's famous comedian, Oinam Babu and his party. After that, another play titled, 'Ningsinbidaba Ningshchaba' (tr. Forgotten Ningshchaba) was on the life

of Ningham Herachandra was scripted. Another Drama titled, 'Keishumshang' based on his experience in the prison was also scripted. So, he altogether wrote three scripts during his prison life. Sanajaoba too wrote many essays for his 'Lamyamba' periodical. Sanajaoba and Tomchou slept together in the same bed. Their bed was laid cornermost so that it would not be sighted at the vigil of the jail staff. They also persuaded the fellow inmates for not disclosing about their writing to the jail staff. They also distributed cigarettes and bought tea at the canteen for the fellow inmates to win over them.

After some days, Late Nongmaithem Pahari, who needed no introduction and Late Dr. Maninmoh also joined in as prison inmates. They were arrested under FIR 350. That time, N. Pahari was still an employee of All India Radio. Dr. Maninmoh runs a homopathic Clinic named 'Rapid Care' at Masjid Road. Dr. Maninmoh was a person who played a major role for the emotional integration among the people (hill-valley) of Manipur as an activist of Manipur Cultural Integration Conference (MIC) under the leadership of Late Maharajkumar Priyabarta. Pahari and Maninmoh was also accommodated at the same room, Room no. 12 with Sanajaoba and Tomchou. Pahari, since already well acquainted with Sanajaoba, three of them including Tomchou share the same bed. At that time, Pahari must be around 35/36 years of age. He seemed slightly senior to Sanajaoba. Pahari also treated Tomchou endearingly after knowing that he is a playwright and also sings popular song in his college life. In the night time, Pahari spend his time singing at the request of the fellow inmates. Songs sung by Pahari at those times were: 'Ho Ema Poknafam Ema Nangumbi Yaode Ema', 'Khonglang Laman Singamloi', 'Ahingda Khonghi Ho Tamna', etc. There was one humorously interesting anecdote about N. Pahari. The prisoner inmates in the jail were paraded and herded like poultry and let to enter one by one, after noting them, by the jail warden. That day, the total inmates for Room no. 12 was 28. The following day, the warden, Luangam came and unlocked the key. He was a havidar belonging to the native hill community. He started parading some prisoners and counting them. Those arrested in 'revolutionary case' were excluded from the parade. They were counted in their respective bed. That day, the total number count was only 27. Havidar Luangam must have panicked as one number of inmate was less from the preceding count of 28. The difference in the number count was because Tomchou with his diminutive physical stature went unnoticed as he laid down between physically broad statured tall Pahari and Sanajaoba. Luangam from the doorstep of the room said, 'Ojha Pahari, the number of prisoner inmate is less'. It seemed Pahari must have realised the situation. He instantly stated, 'Eigi nakandeis sirane' (whether the one, besides me). Tomchou also just pulled out his head from inside the blanket. Seeing that, the Havidar went saying, 'ok, ok, everyone please take rest'. Afterwards, they laughed remembering the incident. There was one jail staff whose name is Kondam. He worked as a typist clerk. In the night time, he used to share the meal and slept together with the prisoner inmates. Sanajaoba persuaded Kondam to secretly bring out a copy of jail manual from the staff cupboard. It contained the rules and regulations which were to be followed in the jails of Assam and Manipur. Tomchou and Sanajaoba hurriedly hand copied the contents of the manual in a night and returned to Kondam. Sanajaoba became more agitated and dissatisfied after reading the jail manual. More importantly, the manual clearly mentioned the quality and quantity of food to be provided to the prisoners. Sanajaoba clearly noticed that all those provisions in the manual were not complied and followed by the Manipur administration. To sum up, a prisoner should supposedly be given a meal costing only Rupees Seven at the rate of those times. But it seemed, they were served with a meal costing only Rupees Three. It came to know that the prisoners were deprived of their due rights. Earlier played to the Superintendent also doesn't pay any heed. This time, also, some of them led by Sanajaoba made a verbal request to the jailor. But it proved futile. From that, Sanajaoba decided to take steps for hunger strike. That day, they (including some RGMs) were to produce before the Lamphel DC Court for remand. That morning, they, all have decided to not have meal. Doing so, they all have turned up to go court without having meal. They all have walked out of the jail inner gate and paraded near the

outside gate for boarding the vehicle. Since, those who went to court the previous days said they were not properly checked, Tomchou also joined in the parade, tucked in two completed scripts in his stomach. But that day was so unfortunate that, Jailor Saranthem Nodiachand was found sitting in a chair taking sun-bath near their parade. Since he was present, jail staff started screening them one by one. Tomchou suddenly got alarmed, thinking that he would surely be caught this day. Continuingly thinking, what means should he find, he tried to stand at the last. Just at his back, there was one cupboard for keeping keys. He then steadfastly pulled out the scripts and kicked it underneath the cupboard. Nobody took notice of it. Then, all of them after getting thoroughly checked, lifted the vehicle. After the vehicle started, he could still properly see scripts. Anxiously thinking whether it was him alone who was seeing it, they reached the court. After reaching the DC Court, they all sat together in a room. In the meantime, Yambem Tijendra, the editor-in-charge of 'Lamyamba', a monthly periodical of PANMYL was just sighted outside from window. Sanajaoba steadfastly pulled out a bunch of paper and throw it outside the window. Tijendra picked it up and went away. Tomchou was awe struck thinking how Sanajaoba managed to brought it concealed despite the rigorous check. Just after Tijendra went, Jailor came in a Jeep vehicle and Sanajaoba was isolated in a room and thoroughly checked. From that, it could be comprehended that, either there was something in relation to the hunger strike going on in the jail after they went or it was suspected that Sanajaoba possesses something in writing about the misdeeds of the government. And Tomchou, thinking of the scripts he kicked in underneath the cupboard, spend time anxious and restless. After they were remanded at another date, they returned to jail. Tomchou felt a sense of relief when he found the script still there lying intact. During that moment, clerk Kondumba just came out. Tomchou then terrifyingly told Kondumba to collect the scripts and bring in when he comes. Saying so, he passed in the inner gate and enter the jail. After reaching jail, they could feel that something had happened. The authority already have come to know why the prisoners were fasting and who their leader was. Also, it came to know that the authority recovered some of the writings of Sanajaoba which he kept in hiding. It later came to light that it was due to the undercover jail staff among the fellow prisoner inmates. That was a very shameful day for Sanajaoba and other prisoners. It was because all hunger strikers were herded to the kitchen and made to have their meal. They all ate unwillingly. Sanajaoba was publicly shamed for instigating hunger strike in the prison and also for writing 'Larei Lathup' (tr., Inconvenient Truth) in the 'Yukhal Marunda' column. He was shamed by herding to every room of the prison with two prisoners respectively pulling his long moustache from either side. One of the two who pulled his moustache really cried with shedded tears. While he pulled Sanajaoba's moustache, he wiped his own tears with the other hand. That day, Chief Warden hued and cried angrily with red-eye using the most degrading foully language. Sanajaoba doesn't utter any word other than, 'hujir' nangsu Meitei machan ko', meaning Hujir, You too are Meitei. These few words sum up the inner thought of them all. While Sanajaoba was publicly shamed by herding to each room, Tomchou was worryingly bothered to makeshift the concealed written papers. Finally, he properly swalpapered it with a plastic and kept inside a broken commode of the toilet. And some 'muktamun' (tr., solid ink), he put it inside an empty packet of the Panama and after squeezing it deposited among the waste piles in the jail yard. But one Mangi who was in the jail at Room no. 13 in connection with the murder related case from Poirou had picked it up and taken to his room. Tomchou went after him and told him that there was bomb in what he picked up. Poirou then with a shocking surprise gave it back to Tomchou with bewilderment. Then after collecting the ink, Tomchou returned the empty Panama packet to him. Inside the jail, empty cigarette packet was much sought after as the aluminium foil inside it were used for roasting 'Ngari' (Fermented Dry Fish). Mangi picked it up also just to take that aluminium foil.

After Sanajaoba was publicly shamed, he then was kept in isolated cell without having contact with any other. His room was not so far from the one he earlier reside, but his compound was fenced with iron barbedwire from the other. In the nightfall, he was seen trodding in his compound. They saw each other, but didn't have the chance to talk. Sanajaoba no longer had pen and paper. They were left with no means to communicate with Sanajaoba. But he throws out a thing above the barred wire passing over it. It turned out to be a squeezed empty panama Cigarette packet. Tomchou picked it up pondering there must be something in it. To his surprise, he found a letter neatly written with a bottom of the match stick at the aluminium foil of the cigarette packet which was clearly legible. Seeing it, Tomchou was surprised at the presence of mind and wit of Sanajaoba. He writes: 'Let the outside world know, there is atrocities going on inside the jail'. But there were no means to fulfill what Sanajaoba decreed. Shortly after that incident, Manipur Government had enforced Orissa Preventive Detention Act, Sanajaoba, Pahari, and Dr. Maninmoh, some RGM members were all relocated at the new jail situated at the back of the Nambul River where Jadonang was hanged. Major Akiojiam Nilakamal, who was in the list of suspected RGM was also imprisoned along with them. Maybe because specific charges could not be framed against them, Tomchou and some four-five of them remained as ordinary undetained prisoner. It had been lived so till the end of March 1970. Sanajaoba and others, who have been imprisoned under Preventive Detention (PD) Act, after they have been shifted to new jail, enjoyed the status of 'B' class. And accordingly, it was heard that they were allowed to write and their quality of food considerably improved. A get-together for the detainees was organised at the new jail on March 1970. Sanajaoba reminded Tomchou and summoned him to attend by sending one warden. Tomchou also happily attended it. That was the last day for Tomchou to meet Sanajaoba and his other inmates in the jail. That programme was also attended by most of the jail staffs and wardens. The opening song was 'Khonglang laman ...' sung by Pahari without any orchestra. When, Pahari, in the climax, sang his heart out with the song, 'Chingheibakki Ema Manipur, Nedom ngilulu, makhom saltu', everyone remain silent and unmoved. Most detainees also sang the song of their choice. Sanajaoba also showed his magical skills on the occasion. The magic he did was very simple. He took a 10 Paisa coin from someone and disappeared it. Afterwards, he claimed the disappeared coin was in the right pocket of the Chief Warden's coat, who was there among the guest. It turned out true. Then from among the crowd, started uttering that Sanajaoba engaged a young detainee to insert coin in the Chief Warden's pocket in advance. Tomchou, after sharing the jail life of happy-sad moments with the other inmates, got eventually released on April 1970. Sanajaoba, along with others were still in detention. Tomchou then collected his scripts, and tried to meet and interview Sanajaoba before leaving. But unfortunately, he had heard that Sanajaoba had been relocated at Jiribam Jail and kept alone in solitary confinement. Later, it too was heard that, Sanajaoba was relocated at Jiribam Jail due to his keen sense of observation, sensitiveness and readiness to protest injustice and any wrongdoing. After a long spell, Tomchou met Sanajaoba after he was released following the granting of general amnesty to all the political prisoners by the newly formed local party led government when Manipur attained statehood in 1972. In the said, he was alone in Jiribam Jail. His only friend was a 'Mongba' (tr., Greenish Leaf Warbler) sheltered there in a nest at a corner of the roof. After living together for long, that tiny bird came down and rested on his shoulder. At that, he remained silently still and unmoved so that the bird would not fly away. After releasing from Jiribam Jail and returned to the societal stream, he again started penning for 'Lamyamba'. His journalism became more impactfully powerful. Sanajaoba was truly a revolutionary nationalist and an activist who coveted for nurturing and preserving the ancient cultural heritage of Manipur. He didn't reside in tin roofed or concrete structure but in thatched roofed traditional house. The roofing changes after a gap of two-three years and his friends from the hills and far wide brought thatch in bullock carts for the purpose. His house and the traditional artifacts adorning it resembled a miniature museum. He very much loved the stories in the 'Puyal' (tr., Ancient Meitei Treatise), 'Chainaral' (tr., Laws Governing Combat). He scripted a play, 'Chainarung' (tr., Warlike) which was aired from the Imphal Station of All India Radio is based on the story of combat between two warriors, Khaman Chakha Moiremba and Heiren Kangshibu in which the latter usurped victory through deceit but succumbed due to strange illness five days after the combat. (Endnotes)

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