

CM vows to curb favoritism and nepotism in the state

IT News
Imphal, Jan 13

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said that the government would never encourage favoritism and nepotism. This was stated by him at the distribution of uniform items to Manipur Police personnel held at 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles Parade Ground today. Speaking as Chief Guest of the function, Chief Minister said that since its inception, the government is committed to deliver transparency and corruption free governance in the State. He appealed to the people of the State to support the government in curbing corruption in recruitment, promotion, transfer and postings of various departments. He maintained that law and order has also tremendously improved under the present regime. The Chief Minister informed that today's such programme



is simple yet very meaningful. This programme provides an opportunity to give due respect to the police personnel for their remarkable duties towards safeguarding our lives and property and maintaining peace in the region. It is due

to the commitment and hardwork of the police department, the government has been able to combat drug menace in the State, he added. Recalling the paper belt scam of police department, Chief Minister said that

earlier, the police personnel brought the uniforms by themselves as standard uniforms were supplied them in the past. The present government would never let such scandal happen again and the government would provide branded and



standard uniforms to all the police personnel, he added. Chief Minister and his Cabinet Ministers distributed the uniform items to the respective SPs and COs of different districts and units during the function. Deputy Chief Minister Y. Joykumar; Minister for PWD, Commerce and Industries and IPR Th. Biswajit; Minister for Health and Family Welfare L. Jayantakumar; Minister for CAF and PD Karamshyam; Minister for PHED LosiiDikko; Minister for Fisheries N. Kayasii; MLAs; DGP and top civil and police officials also attended the function.

In Itam Village of Imphal East, No villagers are allowed to follow religion of their choice

IT News
Imphal, Jan 13

When there is much debate over the issue of secularism enshrined in the Constitution of India across the nation, when voices of dissents for protection of all citizen's life as per article 14 and other provision of the Constitution of India, a village called Itam Nungoi Village in Imphal East district under Lamlai Police station which is around ten kilometre towards north from Imphal do not allow any of villagers to chose religion of their choice. October 18, 2019, a local body of the village called Itam Nungoi Village Development Committee published a leaflet which content which religion should be followed by the villagers of the village. An interesting point written in the leaflet - "Any villagers who were found following religion like Islam, Christian, Bodha etc. Itam Nungoi Village other than the religion followed by ancestors including Meitei/Meetei and Hindu

religion will not get support from the village at time of performing rituals in connection with death or any other event." The committee said that those followed other religion will not be allowed to cremate in the village. There are other strictures impose to the villagers on what to do and what not to do which are total violation of the provisions provided in the constitution of India. What is more interesting is that a Church called 'Itam Nungoi Babtish Church' constructed at the village remain guarded by some police personnel as there are apprehension that the villager may demolish the church. A Pastor of the Church who used to attend that church have also been drive out of the village recently and the villagers threaten to ostracize anybody who violate the restriction impose by the Village Committee. Around 5 kilometer from the village is Lamlai Police Station. And the provisions provided in the constitution of India seems to have no values in Itam Nungoi Village.

Security beefs

IT News
Imphal, Jan 13

Security arrangement has been beef up in the state ahead of the Republic Day of India. With just 13 days to go the security forces has been conducting various search operation at various part of the state. Early today morning a combine team of Manipur Police and the Assam Rifles troops apprehended 3 Underground cadres from various part of Thoubal district, a police source said.

MUSU form committee to restructure crumbling Academic Environment of Manipur University

IT News
Imphal, Jan 13

Manipur University Students' Union (MUSU) had constituted a Development Committee headed by Kh. Nabakishwor Singh, Finance Secretary MUSU to restructure the crumbling academic atmosphere in the University by abiding the constitution of MUSU. A statement of the MUSU said that some individuals violated the constitution of the MUSU

and renders services at their own personnel interest which ultimately shattered the sanctity of the academic environment of the Manipur University. It said that if students are found violating the constitution while taking up works in the Manipur University in the own interest then the committee will urge the authority to take action against him or her. This committee will have eye on every kind of works being taken up in the university to

make sure that the wrongs committed inside the university could be corrected. The committee said that they will look into the matter of illegal foul play during the recruitment of teaching and non-teaching staff of various department in the Manipur University. It appealed the authority to be sincere while recruiting staffs. Qualification, experience and other eligible criteria advertised in mass media (newspaper) for the job

should not be corrected in favour of students of their choice. The Committee also appeal the authority to hand over the recruitment process to the recruitment committee while appealing the members not to render their duty on personal interest. The Committee further appealed the recruitment committee member not to go on pressure. It also urge the authority to investigate the misappropriation University fund.

Pro CAA demonstration staged at Khangabok

IT News
Thoubal, Jan. 13

BJP Khangabok Mandal today stage a rally at Khangabok Assembly constituency as a part of Sampark Abhiyan Program Jana in support of the Citizen Amendment Act (CAA).

The rally cum public meeting was attended by former Vice President of BJP Manipur Pradesh Thokhom Jadumani Singh, Yumnam Kumarjit Singh, President, BJP Thoubal District. Deven Singh, State Enrollment In-charge BJP and various others workers of BJP Khangabok Mandal.

Villagers extinguish forest fire

IT News
Thoubal, Jan. 13

Villagers of Kairembikhok Awang Leikai in Thoubal district timely extinguished a forest fire at Gwarok Reserve Forest on Sunday night. The Forest officials suspected miscreants led in the burning of the forest. Biren Appealed people to be cautious of such people and appealed to inform

official led by M.Biren under the supervision of Divisional Forest Officer of Thoubal district Debala Laiphrakpam today morning conducted an enquiry on the burnt site to find out the cause of the fire. The Forest officials suspected miscreants led in the burning of the forest. Biren Appealed people to be cautious of such people and appealed to inform

DFO Thoubal if any information about them is known. Over 500 trees and saplings had been destroyed during last night fire. The Forest officials said that even though they had been working whole heartedly to protect the environment and wild life, it would be next to impossible hadn't they get support of the people.

POCSO court convicts molester

IT News
Imphal, Jan 13

RK Memcha Special judge POCSO Imphal west today convicted Laishram Ratanakumar @ Akash 40 s/o Nunghshithoi of Thoubal. The convict is presently staying at Uripok Polem Leikai He is a biology teacher and is teaching at a Coaching center. The POCSO judge convicted Ratanakumar under section 12 of POCSO Act and fixed January 15 for sentence hearing to announced the

quantum of punishment. The convict committed sexual crime to a minor victim taking advantage of isolation inside a room in his coaching center on September 6, 2017. The incident took place September on 6, 2017 in a coaching institute by taking advantage of isolated room on pretext of giving medicine and committed the crime of sexual assault the minor victim. The court judgment order was announced today after the final hearing of the case.

Phamsak: An intimate collaboration of strings, drums, storytellers, and listeners in an indigenous ambience

By Cicil Thounaojam
Imphal, Jan 12

At a time when people's voices are constantly suppressed, Phamsak at The Foothill - A Community Art Space in Khongampat on 11th January, 2020, comes to the rescue as a breath of fresh air as two folk-rock bands - Pebet and Imphal Talkies - get together, bringing back the culture of Phamsak while the fear of losing the indigenous culture is taking its seat. According to the organizers: "Derived from 'Pena Phamsak' which is a way of storytelling-performance we bring you back the culture of Phamsak for the new generation. Phamsak are by nature intimate. And here we

plan to bridge the gap between artists and audience." At a foothill, with fields and lush greenery on the outside, the space has a setting with indigenous cultural ambience. The interior has small yangkok on the windows as backdrop complemented with long and slender longup capped with yempak. Four low height tables form an arc for the artists to sit down and deliver, facing rows of phak for the audience to sit down and absorb. On the side, there is a memorabilia - a board from the age-old adult movie cinema hall Imphal Talkies - a reminiscence for many. Some letters from the board are missing yet its essence is intact, like how the cinema hall does

not exist yet it does exist. The audience and artists all arrive and as the clock hits around 4 pm, Akhu Chinggangbam of Imphal Talkies calls everyone to come inside as the storytelling-performance is about to begin. Opening the session, Pebet delivers stories of the working class life and struggle, just like what the organizers say "to give you an idea of contemporary music scene of Imphal and the politics within the bands." Strumming their guitar strings, beating the pung and cajon drums, and teasing with pena and shakers, Pebet sings songs of their struggle for wanting to be artists yet being born in a



poor family, experiences of police harassment as they go for their gigs (khat hekia thangallo hairak-e, camera hekia kapke hai), wishes to

continue singing and tell stories of indigenous class struggle that Lamyamba Hjam Irabot initiated (sur yaadrabasu sakke esei taru laowo), critique

of the leaders (noidi houdong lamboiba oihoure, meeyanchana pebet ollaga paikhre), how family members have told them how good is chengi chabon among many stories of the working class. Every song has an echoing sing-along from the audience, making the story echo in all corners of the hall. Following this act is Imphal Talkies with their seasoned performances. Apart from the pena, guitars, and drums, they also have a refreshing voice of Chaoba Thiyam with his folk singing. They narrate stories of Manipuri diaspora in Assam from their last visit and a different perspective of Manipuri patriotism. With songs like Barak turel

torband da Singerband gi khulda ningkhairaba torbanda khangpoksang sing (khou-e, Imphal Talkies tells stories of the lives on the river banks of Barak, their hardship, and how they still preserve the indigenous way of living. Picking up the beat and energy in the room, they revisit some of their songs like Qutub Minar, When the Home is Burning, Lullaby, etc. that speak volumes of the struggle and suffering of the people of Manipur because of mass militarization and killings. The audience cheers upon and echo along with the artists every word of the songs, which seems like syncing the emotions. (Contd. on page 2)