

Chief Minister lays foundation stone for lokayukta office building

IT News
Imphal, Sept 14:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh laid the foundation stone for the office building of Manipur Lokayukta at Lamphelpat through video conference from Chief Minister's Secretariat today.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister informed that the government is trying its level best to deliver transparency and corruption free governance in the State. Mentioning some of the initiatives taken up by the BJP led government in the State, Shri N. Biren Singh stated that the government had established Anti-corruption Cell to check and investigate the malpractices in the public service. After setting up the Anti-Corruption Cell, the erstwhile Vigilance



department has been upgraded into Vigilance and Anti-Corruption department which is headed by Director General of Police. The Chief Minister also mentioned that the government has initiated 'Meeyangmi Numit', which is being held every month, to address the grievances and problems faced by the people of the State. The government has also adopted e-office so as to

maintain transparency in governance, he added. During the function, he advised the PWD officials to complete the construction work before the stipulated period. Chairperson of Manipur Lokayukta Justice T. Nandakumar said that Lokayukta is just a tool to strengthen democracy in the country. He appreciated the government for establishing Manipur Lokayukta and is a landmark

achievement of the present government. He appealed to the people to come forward and utilize the services offered by the Institution.

Minister for Law and Legislative Affairs L. Jayantakumar Singh, Member of Manipur Lokayukta Ameising Luikham, Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Administrative Secretaries and others were present during the function.

Student body wrath over inaction to officials of Education Dept. Engineering Wing

IT News
Imphal, Sept. 14:

Students' body AIMS (Apunba Ireipakki Maheiroi Singlup) today threatened serious form of agitation over government inaction to the officials of Education Dept. Engineering Wing who were caught red handed while trying to misappropriate huge amount of government fund.

In a statement signed by Khumujam Romen,

President of AIMS, it is stated that both AIMS and another student body DESAM had highlighted huge misappropriation of fund by the officials to the construction of DM infrastructures for DM University and Engineering College at Heirok. The Education department Engineering Wing had use the name of BCS architect for misappropriation of huge amount of fund and this has been clarified by the Principal Architect of BCS,

Benson Chabungbam stating that they have no hands in the drawing of the building infrastructure of both the buildings. The AIMS statement said that even after pin pointed those responsible to the misappropriation of fund and other irregularities committed in the department no action has been taken up till now. It added that the matter has been put to the notice of the vigilance department and concern ministers.

Khango Konyak urged to revoke decision to expel Isak Sumi

Agency
Kohma, Sept. 14:

An emergency meeting of NSCN/GPRN (Khango) held on Sunday has appealed to president Khango Konyak to immediately revoke the decision to expel general secretary Col. (Rtd.) Isak Sumi in order "to initiate

internal reconciliation as well as to avert mistrust and defiance of NNPG covenant."

A decision to this effect was fully endorsed by a full quorum of the Council of Kiloners headed by general secretary, 80% of secretariat staff, CFSB secretary and members and majority of the civil set-up and Naga Army, said a statement issued by the MIP NSCN/GPRN-K.

"In the context of the spurt of unwarranted situation within the NSCN/GPRN (Khango) recently due to unilateral action of the president Khango, who appointed Newell Naga, a renegade Kiloner expelled by NSCN-R finally on

murder charges beside preceding expulsion from every Naga political groups for criminal conduct by expelling Col. (Rtd.) Isak Sumi, the general secretary and also the co-convenor of the NNPG working committee representing the NSCN-K. "It has been established that Mr. Khango Konyak has violated the anti-defection agreement signed between the seven NNPG's which has been reaffirmed four times by all the entities," the statement said.

The meeting today "unanimously" resolved to condemn the "dictatorial action of Shri. Khango Konyak" and appealed to immediately revoke the

decision. The statement said the functional/existing regional authorities including Angami Region, Sangtam Region, Sumi Region, Chakasang Region, UT-1, Lotha Region, Khiamnungan Region and Yimchunger Region endorsed the decision and earnestly appealed to the president to revoke the decision "since Newell Naga is a pariah with no space in any Naga National Organisation where as Col. (Rtd.) Isak Sumi's credibility as a patriot and a Naga leader, well educated, intellectual and a visionary cannot be dis-owned or dis-credited under any circumstances."

MARC and WinG demand speedy justice to minor rape victim

IT News
Imphal, Sept 14:

Manipur Alliance for Child Rights (MACR) and Women in Governance (WinG) Manipur had submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister of Manipur demanding for fair and speedy justice on brutal Gang Rape and murder of a 14 years old girl from Mayang Imphal area of Imphal west.

The memorandum to the chief minister also urged for institution of State Rape

Victim's Fund in the memory of the Victim etc. The two bodies also urged upon to ensure the police investigation is expedited and made complete within 15 days w.e.f. 12th September, 2020.

"Considering, six accused / perpetrators are already in judicial custody, statement of two accused have been taken, there has been confession by the surrendered accused persons, besides the dying statement of the victim was already recorded. Now,

there is no other visible reasonable grounds, which would necessitate the police to take more time for submission of Chargesheet later than 15 days.

It also demanded to ensure that the trial is completed by the concerned Special POC SO Fast Tract Court, within the prescribed six month period as per the provisions of The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2019.

6-7 months without electricity during this pandemic Covid -19

IT News
Imphal, Sept 14:

A joint press statement of Rirram Area Maring Organization President Ch Mourung and General Secretary Kc Hopson of Tangnoupal District had stated that the repeated appeals to look into

the non-functioning of Electricity in Rirram Maring Area, Tengnoupal District, Manipur went in vain as the concern department failed to take necessary action so far it said.

The statement further appealed that the following villages such as

Sharon Village, Saiboi Village, Yongkhul Village and Sairel Saishim Village have been living without electricity during this pandemic Covid -19 for last 6-7 months among these Molrenghel Village and Atou Sairel Village not yet connected power line.

Delhi riots case: JNU's Umar Khalid arrested under UAPA

By Raju Vernekar
New Delhi, Sept 14:

The Jawaharlal Nehru University student leader Umar Khalid was arrested by Delhi Police on Sunday, under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in connection with Delhi riots, in which around 53 people were killed and over 400 were injured in February this year.

Khalid, the main conspirator of the Delhi riots, was summoned on Saturday and asked to join the investigation at the Special Cell office in Lodhi Colony. He arrived around 1 pm and was questioned during the day before being arrested in the evening, a police officer said and added that a

charge sheet will be filed against him in the coming days. He will be produced before a Delhi court on Monday.

An FIR was registered against him on March 6 based on information provided by an informer to Sub-Inspector Arvind Kumar of the Crime Branch. As per the FIR, Kumar said that the informer had told him that the Northeast Delhi riots in February were part of a "premeditated conspiracy" allegedly hatched by Khalid, one Danish (a resident of northeast Delhi's Bhajanpura) and two others. By now Khalid, Jamia student and RJD youth wing president Meeran Haider, JCC media coordinator Safoora Zargar, and Danish, have

been booked under the UAPA. Khalid was earlier questioned on July 31, when his phone was seized.

That FIR against Khalid states: "Khalid allegedly gave provocative speeches at two different places and appealed to the citizens to come out on the streets and block the roads during the visit of US President Donald Trump to spread propaganda at the international level about how minorities in India are being persecuted."

Kumar alleged in the FIR that as part of the conspiracy, firearms, petrol bombs, acid bottles, and stones were stored at homes in Khandampuri, Jafrabad, Chand Bagh, Gokulpuri, Shiv Vihar and nearby areas. Danish, was

given the responsibility to gather people from different places to take part in the violence. Women and children were made to block the roads under the Jafrabad Metro Station on February 23 to create tension amidst the neighbourhood people. The same day, schools of minority children were vacated under their premeditated conspiracy. In a charge sheet filed by the Delhi Police Crime branch against suspended AAP councillor Tahir Hussain, the investigating officer has alleged that on January 8, more than a month before the riots, Hussain met Khalid and Khalid Saifi of 'United Against Hate' at the Shaheen Bagh anti-CAA protest, and Khalid asked

Hussain to be prepared for something big/riots at the time of Trump's visit and that he and other PFI members would help him financially. That charge sheet was filed in Karkardooma court. On August 3, Hussain, had reportedly confessed to his crime and told the police that he was given the task to collect as much glass bottle, petrol, acid, stones as possible during the violence.

At a press conference on September 4, Khalid had said there were two kinds of law being followed - one for supporters of the ruling party and another for the common people against whom evidence was being manufactured. There is an attempt to rewrite history of the past

six months in front of our eyes and give it an official stamp, he had said.

Khalid was charged with sedition and arrested in February 2016 too, for allegedly shouting anti-India slogans inside the JNU campus along with former student union president Kanhaiya Kumar and others. Khalid's lawyer Trideep Pais said that the allegations against Khalid were completely false, fabricated and procured illegally through duress. Since December, Delhi was brimming with tensions after the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) was passed. Protests against CAA started in various parts of the national capital, including near Jafrabad metro station in North East Delhi.

HAC Chairman

IT News
Imphal, Sept 14:

Member of the Manipur Legislative Assembly Awangbou Newmai has been appointed as the presiding officer of the Hill Area Committee to elect its chairman. The HAC Chairman seat has remain vacant after TT Haokip resigned from the membership. There is no Vice Chairman of the HAC and thus the HAC remain functionless Election for Chairman of the HAC will be held on Sept 16.

IPSA observes 22nd Foundation Day

IT News
Imphal, Sept 14:

International peace and Social Advancement (IPSA) today observed 22nd Foundation Day. Unlike other years, the IPSA observed its foundation day by organizing feast by organizing feast for the frontline workers who have been dedicating to fight the COVID 19 pandemic at the respective COVID Care Centers.

★ Editorial

X-factor rise: Beware BJP

Three years and a little over 6 months, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh manage to protect his chair amidst various kinds of attacks to topple or to replace him.

The air that was blowing in the government led by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh that was formed from support from other members political parties - NPP, NPF, LJP, TMC, and the lone Independent MLA plus a defected MLA from the opposition party Congress, was not friendly since its beginning. The opposition Congress party which won the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election with 28 seats but could not form the government was the first to shake the CM Biren Singh government by using the tool of 10th schedule of the Indian Constitution. However, for reason best known the Congress party, the matter was silence and more MLAs from the Congress party defected and joined the ruling BJP under the Chief Minister. The expectation among the BJP workers initially was that the Coalition government under the BJP will be strengthened and more stable. But things did not happen as expected. The position of the Chief Minister remains just as namesake as there are only 4 Ministers from his party in his ministry even though they won 21 seats. It is human nature that everyone wants a better position and for those BJP MLAs who fail to find a ministerial berth started tickling to make themselves to a better position.

It didn't take a year for political drama to appear in the public domain. It was when the N. Biren Singh led government completed one year and some months that talk about dissident BJP MLAs started campaigning for replacement of the Chief Minister started unfolding to the public domain. Most of the time the Chief Ministers and other Ministers in the government remain busy planning and setting a strategy to make sure that their position is safe and secure. Somehow - either with the blessing of the Central leadership or due to prolong the experience, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh somehow manage to put the situation under control.

When the government completed 3 years the coalition political partners started again. The 4 NPP members who are all Ministers in the N. Biren Singh government resigned and withdraw support from the government putting the government at stake, a few days before the Rajya Sabha Election. The NPP may have its agenda of such moved. And it appears true as the NPP now is becoming a more powerful X-factor that can control the government or make any decision after the matter has been settled with the intervention of their central leadership. Matters regarding NPF and LJP can be discussed later.

After the matter between the BJP and the NPP settled, the NPP becomes more powerful than it has started taking decision without consulting its major political partners.

The post-Rajya Sabha election at which BJP candidate Leishemba Sanajaoba has left 13 state assembly as vacant seats. The ECI is all set to announce the notification for the by-election of the 13 vacant assembly constituencies.

Here, almost all people of the state who are aware of the political drama in the N. Biren Singh government knows that winning the vacant seat is not only to strengthen the N. Biren Singh government but also the BJP needs to show its popularity. After all the 12 state Assembly election is just a year left.

The announcement by NPP Chief Conrad Sangma on the filling of candidates at the By-election in the vacant assembly seat is a sign to show that NPP still is far powerful than the BJP as the existence of the government lies in the hand of the party even though it has only 4 MLAs.

Filing of NPP candidates in the state byelection will be an obstacle to the N. Biren Singh government as winning of all the vacant seats is the only way to prove himself as a capable leader.

The privilege given to the NPP should be pondered on before the by-election if BJP thinks that they should get all the seats. After all much have been talking about a major reshuffle in the cabinet ministry.

By - Communication Cell
Rongmei Naga Youth
Organization.

Rani Gaidinliu joined the struggle against the British at the young age of 13. Born on 26th January, 1915 at Longkao Village, Taosem Sub-division of Tamenglong District, Manipur, she belonged to the Rongmei Tribe (a cognate tribe of Zeliangrong). Her journey as a revolutionary began in 1927 as she joined her mentor Jadonang, who led the Naga Raj Movement. He enlightened the cult of Heraka an Indigenous Religions also known as Tingkao Ragwangh (Heavenly God-king) which later developed as Heraka Religion of the Zeliangrong people.

Rani Gaidinliu valiantly fought the British military forces and became a target of the British India. She persuaded her people and led Non-Tax Movement against the rule of the British. She was jailed to be hanged along with Jadonang for the cause of involvement and participation with the Naga Raj movement. However she could miraculously escaped and disappeared from the British Jail. She was hunted in all Rongmei villages and areas. She under-went underground and hid in Zeme areas and confronted armed forces against the British in Cachar Hills on 16th Feb, 1932 and against Assam Rifles at Hangrum Village (18th March, 1932). There were other events of unrecorded confrontations against the British which had led the British to pass a life imprisonment order against her. The British forces launched a man hunt for her, which force her to go underground. She moved across villages of Assam, Nagaland and Manipur. The British Government declared monetary rewards for any information of her whereabouts, including 10 years tax exemption for the informant. Her growing popularity gained momentum that has made the British authority to employ a special Assam Rifles contingent under Captain Mac Donald to capture Gaidinliu and all her followers. On 17th Oct, 1932 the British forces launched a surprised attack on the village, and at the age of 17 she was arrested and taken to Kohima on foot and later to Imphal for a trial. She was convicted on charges of murder and was sentenced to life-imprisonment in numbers of jails at Guwahati, Shillong, Aizawl and Tripura jails. Jawaharlal Nehru visited Gaidinliu in jail in 1937 and he promised to pursue for her

Justice for Rani Gaidinliu

release. He gave the title "Rani of Naga Hills" Rani Gaidinliu spent in jail wasting her bright young womanhood in dark cells and solitude. After 14 years in prison, Rani Gaidinliu was released in 1947 on the order of the then Prime Minister of free India, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. In 1952, she was allowed to return to Naga Hills five hundred miles away from her Native village. It was in 1953, when the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru visited Imphal and met Rani Gaidinliu. Her contribution was accorded as a Naga Freedom Fighter of India. Therefore India considered that Nagas deserved to be granted a state in the name and credible status of Rani Gaidinliu being a Naga Freedom Fighter of India hinted in the letter of Nehru to the Chief Minister of Assam Shri. Bishnu Medi. However, her deserving credibility was diverted to the creation of the present Nagaland State with the formation of Naga People Convention in 1958-59. Therefore, the Zeliangrong People continue to fight for a separate Zeliangrong Statehood under Zeliangrong People Convention led by Rani Gaidinliu. All the status and awards credited to her remain only a paper certificates and granting statehood in her name for her people remains unfulfilled. She deserved to be awarded Bharat Ratna as she was a brave daughter of India for her most extraordinary courage displayed against the most powerful world power of the time. Therefore, India with her noblest pride should grant a state in her name under the Indian Union. It is painful to state that she was laid to eternal rest with her aspiration left unfulfilled on 17th Feb, 1993 at her native soil. It may be recalled that the Rani Gaidinliu Birth Centenary Celebration was inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 24th August 2015 at New Delhi and the Prime Minister emphasized that India must remember the glorious heritage of the freedom struggle, and ensured that the legacy of the struggle and achievement of our freedom fighters is passed onto succeeding generations. Speaking after launching of a Commemorative Coin to mark the inauguration of the Birth Centenary Celebration of Rani Gaidinliu. The Prime Minister said "It is our misfortune that people such as Rani Gaidinliu (Rani Maa) have either not been remembered adequately, or have been deliberately forgotten". It is a well known fact that there is no other prominent tribal woman freedom

fighter in Manipur other than Rani Gaidinliu who has been awarded Padma Bhushan, Tamra Patra, Swami Vivekananda Seva Award, Birsamunda Award. In her honor, the government of India has also released commemorative Postal Stamp, Commemorative Coin of Hundred Rupees, circulation coin of Five Rupees and Indian Navy has also launched Rani Gaidinliu Vessel.

Significantly, in pursuant to the Birth Centenary of Celebration of Rani Gaidinliu, the Hon'ble Prime Minister had made an announcement in the Independence Day Speech on 15th August 2016 for setting up Tribal Freedom Fighter's Museums to give recognition to the sacrifices and contribution to Country's freedom by the tribal people. The aforesaid work or setting up tribal freedom fighter museum was entrusted to the ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. A National Level Committee (NLC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs was constituted to appraise and approve the proposal of various states. The NLC in its meeting dated 30.07.2018 had directed the State Government of Manipur "to focus on the women freedom fighter character whose contribution is widely recognized cutting across States". Thus, the intention of NLC (Central Government) has been candid enough that the museum to be constructed in Manipur is to give recognition to the sacrifice and contribution made by Rani Gaidinliu in the Indian freedom struggle. Therefore, the parameter for construction of museum in Manipur has been succinctly stipulated by the NLC and the State Government or any individual should not go beyond the parameter laid down by the Central Government. Most importantly, the NLC in its meeting, dated 12.02.2019 has categorically stated that the government of Manipur has made a presentation on "Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum" and shared the project status in which it was clearly mentioned that "The Museum will be named after the woman freedom fighter, Rani Gaidinliu". The NLC has approved the proposal of the State Government of Manipur and consented for extending the financial support in the tune of Rs. 15 Crores (Rupees Fifteen Crores) by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India and Rs. 1 Crore (Rupees One Crore) has already been sanctioned to kick start the process. Clandestinely, after obtaining the approval of NLC or the construction of Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum, the concerned Ministry of the State Government had laid the foundation stone on 13.09.2019 for constructing "Tribal Freedom Museum" at Makhel in Senapati District by deleting the name "Rani Gaidinliu". Thus, the State Government has not only done injustice to the veteran tribal freedom fighter but also hijacked the dream project of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. Due to lack of vision to honour the only veteran tribal freedom fighter i.e. Rani Gaidinliu, the State Government has given an opportunity to raise and claim by the Kuki Community (Kuki Inpi Manipur, letter dated 31.08.2020 addressed to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur). As stated above, the instant project is for the "Women freedom fighter

character whose contribution is widely recognized cutting across the state" and there is none from the KUKI community to named any prominent woman freedom fighter and therefore, they have no locus standi to claim on this project. Further, it is pertinent to mention that under the tribal Freedom Fighter's Museum Project, the state like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram have been named after their veteran tribal freedom fighter's Birsam Munda, Veer Narayan Singh, Ramji Gondu and Ropuliani respectively. Therefore, the Tribal Freedom Fighter's Museum in Manipur should be named after Rani Gaidinliu as approved by the NLC meeting, dated the 12.02.2019.

The National Level Committee (NLC) in its meeting held on 18th February 2020 had considered the proposal of the state Government and directed the State Government of Manipur to review the site selection of the museum at Makhel. The NLC had laid down parameters for construction of museum that the facilities such as regular power supply, Police Station, Fire Brigade, ATM and Banking services, Market, Hotel and Restaurant, Public Health Centre has to be available at the site and not only that the site has to be close to the State Capital and District Head Quarter. The Rongmei Naga Youth Organization supported by Zeliangrong Civil Organizations have been closely monitoring this museum project of Rani Gaidinliu from the very beginning and we had visited the site of Makhel and found that none of the parameter laid down by the NLC are available at the proposed site. The proposed site at Makhel is situated in the remote paddy field/forest area of Makhel Village about 120 Km from Imphal. Perceived that the Government of Manipur have been manipulated by unscrupulous persons with a concocted report submitted to the NLC (The Central Government) which may have adverse implication on the genuine program plan of India projected under the visionary Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modiji. Therefore, the concerned youth organization may be compelled to file a case under proper section of law basing on the NLC's minutes of the meeting, dated 18.02.2020 and 12.02.2019. However, the organization believe that the State Government will do justice to Rani Gaidinliu and shift the location of the museum site from Makhel to Noney District Head Quarter where all the facilities laid down by the NLC are readily accessible and available with National Highway No. 37 and Railway Station connectivity. The proposed site, Noney is just one and half hour drive away from Bir Tikendrajit International Airport, Imphal and the land can be acquired free of cost without any incumbencies. Therefore in the event of denying the legitimate appeal of Rongmei people and Zeliangrong Nagas in general, the aggrieved people will consider it as an insult and humiliation to Rani Gaidinliu. In view of the reasons and circumstances stated above, we appeal to the Government of Manipur to select Noney District, Head Quarter for the proposed museum project so as due justice is delivered to the veteran freedom fighter Rani Gaidinliu and her people.

Two employees suspended for victim's body swap

IT Correspondent
Mumbai, Sept 14:

Two mortuary employees of the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) run Sion Hospital were suspended on charges of swapping the dead body of an accident victim, even as the relatives of the victim created a ruckus at the hospital late Saturday night.

The youth Ankush Gautam Suravade (27), who had met with a road accident at Wadala in Central Mumbai was receiving

treatment in the hospital since August 28. He succumbed to injuries on Saturday evening. However when his relatives reached the hospital to collect his body, they noticed that it was already handed over to some other family.

The mortuary staff told the parents of Ankush that it was already collected by the family of one Hemant Digambar, who had died due to suicide. Since it was fully covered and packed as per the prevailing protocol, those who collected the body also did

not notice it. Even before the hospital staff could reconcile the situation and get in touch with Hemant's family, the body was already cremated. Then the relatives of the deceased Ankush, reached Sion Police Station in large number demanding action against the hospital. They also accused that the hospital staff had removed the kidneys of the deceased. However hospital administration dismissed the allegation. The police had tough time pacifying the people. The crowd dispersed only after an offence was registered.

As per the COVID-19 protocol stipulated in a circular of the Maharashtra Government, dated May 02, the dead bodies of suspected or confirmed

COVID-19 patients are required to be handed over to relatives within 30 minutes of death. Most of the times, the relatives are not available to collect the bodies and eventually the hospital authorities are required to inform the police or BMC's disaster control room. The unclaimed bodies are shifted to mortuary after completing formalities.

Because of large number of COVID-19 patients, the hospital administration is already under enormous pressure, treating the patients, including conducting various tests and consoling the relatives. Besides shortage of staff, including nurses is another problem faced by the hospital administration.

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