

Elangbam Dinamani addresses a seminar on 'Contemporary Manipuri Poetry & Its Perspectives' held at

Minister V Hangkhanlian presents trophy and certificate to a winner of inter nursing institute sports meet

State body builders bag two medals

P10

WEATHER FORECAST					
Periods of clouds and sunshine with a shower or thunderstorm around	Max	Min	Rainfall	Wind	Gust
	29°C	18°C	12 mm	9 km/h	13 km/h

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ACC examining 25 corruption complaints
 IMPHAL: After issuing suspension order for seven personnel on Wednesday, the Anti-Corruption Cell (ACC) established at the CM secretariat has screened another 25 complaints filed to the cell along with evidences. A meeting of the ACC held on Thursday at 12.15 pm checked the complaints concerning 25 government officials along with video or documentary evidences and made certain recommendations. Though The People's Chronicle could not get the exact details of the recommendations, it is learnt that follow-up action would be initiated after seeking approval from the Chief Secretary and the Chief Minister respectively.

CM briefs Rajnath on unsafe NHs, CCpur pact

STAFF REPORTER

IMPHAL: Chief minister Nongthombam Biren met Union home minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday and urged the latter to set up five more India Reserve Battalions (IRB) for creating job opportunities for unemployed youth and plugging the security loopholes in Manipur, especially along the two national highways that connect the state with other parts of the country.

Briefing the Union home minister about the latest development on the long standing Churachandpur issue, CM Biren conveyed that an MoU has been signed to bring a logical conclusion to the imbroglio by performing the last rites of the eight remaining bodies.

Assuring Union minister that the last rites of mortal remains of the tribal martyrs will be performed soon, Biren also informed about launching Shirui festival on May 16 to bring the hills and valley people closer as well as to promote eco-tourism in Manipur.

Sources from New Delhi said CM Biren during the meeting that began around 4 pm drew the attention of



Rajnath to the fact that Manipur has been facing insurgency and other related issues for a long time and stressed on the importance of increasing the strength of state security forces.

Biren sought the approval of creating five new IRB battalions for tackling insurgency and other security issues from the Central government while stressing that this will mitigate the unemployment issue of the youth to some extent.

It may be recalled here that soon after he was sworn in as chief minister,

N Biren assured transporters in April this year that the Union government has approved creation of four IRB units to secure the highways.

He also assured to broach the topic of establishing four IRBs to Union home minister Rajnath Singh during the chief ministers' meet of all north-eastern states held at Guwahati.

In his assurance to the transporters, CM Biren said IRB and Manipur Rifles personnel will be deployed along national highways to prevent frequent harassment and assaults on

transporters.

Meanwhile, CM Biren informed the Union minister about the MoU signed between the state government and representatives of JAC against anti-tribal bills and that the last rites of eight out of the nine people killed while protesting against the alleged anti-tribal bills will be performed.

Biren also informed that the last rites of the eight persons will be performed by May 25.

Tension has been gripping the hill district town ever since nine people were killed in alleged firing by the state police to control agitators who went on the rampage on August 31, 2015 to protest the passing of three bills by the Manipur Legislative Assembly on the same day.

Even though an MoU was signed with the JAC-AATB recently in the presence of a Central government, the pact has been opposed by All Tribals Women Union (ATWU) and the All Tribal Movement Lamka (ATML). Protesting the deal, they decided to shift their protest venue from the hospitals mortuary to a place at Beulahlane.

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NE states seek more central forces to end insurgency

AGENCIES

GUWAHATI: States in the north-east have asked the Union home ministry to step up the presence of central intelligence and security forces in five contiguous districts in Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland adjoining Myanmar. These districts, they said, have emerged as the hub of the last remaining militants in the region.

"We have apprised the home minister of the security situation in the northeast and informed him that all militant activities are being controlled from Arunachal's Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts, and Nagaland's Mon and Tuensang districts," said a top security official who participated in the recent north-east security review meeting by Union home minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi. "We requested him to increase the

presence of central intelligence agencies and security forces in these districts," the official added.

According to the MHA report at the review meeting, the security situation in Arunachal Pradesh (the three districts) and Manipur remains a subject of concern, though relatively less than it has been in the past.

These five districts also border as many districts of Assam on the other side, including Tinsukia district, where the anti-talks Ulfa (I) is active and has been carrying out strikes jointly with Meetei outfits of Manipur. "The biggest advantage of these five districts is their proximity to the NSCN (K)-controlled areas of Myanmar and their highly difficult terrain, which makes patrolling a difficult task for security agencies," the official said.

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SnapShot

Local body decries bomb blast at residential gate

IMPHAL: Organisation for Social Advancement (OFA), Singjamei Chingamaksa Liwa Lambi Ninthoujam Leikai has strongly condemned the bomb blast triggered on Tuesday midnight at the residential gate of Wahengbam Shamu Singh of Chingamaksa Liwa Lambi Ninthoujam Leikai. P3

Meira Paibis demand MLA to recover lost PDS rice

IMPHAL: Claiming that the people of Naoriya Pakhanglakpa assembly constituency have been deprived of PDS rice provisions for eight months, Mongsangei Apunba Meira Paibi Lup has appealed to local MLA Soibam Subashchandra to recover the lost rice provisions and distribute them to the beneficiaries. P3

MPTO bids farewell to 29 retired personnel

IMPHAL: Manipur Police Telecommunication Organisation bid farewell to 29 officers and personnel. P3

Discourse on India-IM peace talk held

IMPHAL: A day-long public discourse on "Possible Impacts of Indo-NSCN (IM) Peace Talks on the Integrity of hills and valley of Manipur" was held under the aegis of Khagemphal Huidrom Leikai Yumjao Lairembi Meira Welfare Association at Yumjao Lairembi community hall, Thursday. P3

Seminar on contemporary Manipuri poetry commences

IMPHAL: A two-day seminar on "Contemporary Manipuri Poetry and Its Perspectives" commenced under the joint aegis of Sahitya Akademi and Cultural Forum Manipur at Dev Literature Centre, DM College campus here on Thursday. P8

DCs told to evict UG cadres from Govt quarters in hills

STAFF REPORTER

IMPHAL: Taking serious note of occupying government quarters illegally in different parts of the state, including by NSCN-IM cadres in Tamenglong district, works minister Th Biswajit has instructed deputy commissioners of all districts to complete verification and identification of occupants of government quarter within a week.

The minister gave the instruction during a meeting held at the conference hall of Old Secretariat here on Thursday. The meeting which was attended by all DCs with exception to Imphal East and

Imphal West was conducted to identify the condition of government quarters located across the state and to chalk out strategies for resource mobilization.

Addressing media persons after the meeting, Biswajit noted that there have been various instances where government employees were forced to return home from their place of posting after finding that there is no government accommodation allocated in the area. This has led to serious setbacks in performing their duties and also hampered the works of their respective departments. Continue on page 8

Govt planning to set up science centres in Ukhrul, CCpur

STAFF REPORTER

IMPHAL: To create scientific awareness among the masses, the state government is planning to set up one science centre each in Ukhrul and Churachandpur districts soon, Science and Technology director Uttamchand Laishram said on Thursday.

He was speaking as chief guest at International Museum Day cum 12th foundation day celebration of Manipur Science Centre held under the theme 'Museum and Contested Histories: Saying the Unspeakable in Museum' at Manipur Science Centre auditorium, Takyel.

Informing that the gov-



Dignitaries during the international museum day function

ernment has sanctioned the proposed two science centres in the two hill districts, Uttamchand said that similar science centres would also be set up in other districts in due course of time. Regarding the contri-

these principles. Moreover, the department has been conducting annual study tour for students reading in class 9 (nine). This year, several students were taken to Guwahati, during which they visited different science centres there. In a good move, National Innovative Foundation has started giving recognition to scientific ideas created by students from class I to X. Students with such innovative ideas could send even a pencil sketch of their ideas to the foundation, which the latter will study and develop if selected while giving due recognition to the students along with awards. CONTINUE ON PAGE 8

tribution of Manipur Science Centre to the students, he noted that the stalls in the centre give a brief idea about scientific principles to the visitors while encouraging them to come up with their own creative ideas by using

CID likely to probe fake driving licence case

IMPHAL: The transport department has so far detected 93 fake driving licences during the course of verification which began Tuesday.

Taking serious note of the matter, the state administration has also asked SPs concerned for conducting similar verification drive. On the other hand, the state government is considering to handover the case of possessing fake driving licence to CID/Crime Branch for a thorough enquiry and follow up action at the earliest, informed Transport commissioner M Lakshmi Kumar Singh.

The verification drive was conducted to check road accidents in view of rising fatalities in recent past under the directive of the Chief Minister, who is also holding the charge of Transport.

Tripartite talks all set to resume today

NEWMAI NEWS NETWORK

SENAPATI: Representatives of United Naga Council (UNC), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Government of Manipur are all set to resume the 'tripartite talks' centring on creation of new districts on Friday at Senapati town, some 70 km north of Imphal.

According to sources, an 11-member UNC team will be led by its president Gaidon Kamei while MHA joint secretary (northeast in-charge), Satyendra Garg will head the Central delegates. It is not clear who will represent or lead the Government of Manipur.

In view of the talks scheduled to be commence from 10.30 am at the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Sen-

apati, security measures have been taken up in the district headquarters since Thursday evening.

Meanwhile, Gaidon reiterated that the UNC's position is clear on the issue. He also asserted that "whatever may be the reason there is no question of compromising our stand and position".

The last tripartite meeting held March 19 endorsed that the 'grievances of UNC that led to the imposition of economic blockade was due to non-adherence to the four Memorandums of Understanding and the Government of India's assurance'. The state government had also agreed to start consultation with all stakeholders to redress the issue of revolving around creation of the new districts, based on

UNC meet reaffirms stand to 'sever ties'

SENAPATI: Presidential council meeting of the United Naga Council (UNC) has 'reaffirmed' the July 1, 2010 Naga People's Convention (NPC) declaration on 'severance of political ties' with the Government of Manipur.

According to the publicity wing of the UNC, the 'presidential council' meeting which held on May 17 at Senapati town, deliberated on issues 'confronting the Nagas in the south'.

Continue on page 8

which the UNC lifted the four and a half months old economic blockade from March 19 midnight.

Peace, sanity call galore at KNF raising day celebration

CORRESPONDENT

KANGPOKPI: Kuki National Front (KNF) Thursday celebrated its 30th raising day at Ebenezer Camp, Natheljang in Kangpokpi district.

The celebration was attended by top members and cadres led by KNF president ST Thangboi at its Peace Camp Ebenezer, Natheljang with Rev Th Kipgen, ex-Chaplain of the Peace Camp as event minister.

Speaking on the occasion, Thangboi, recounting history, cause and aspiration stated that KNF is the oldest militant group among Kuki community.

He also called for peace and unity among all Kuki outfits and the people stating that disunity has destabilized the society. CONTINUE ON PAGE 8

Based on the inspirational letter of Major Sullivan Balou of the 2nd Rhode Island Infantry Regiment to his wife Sarah, leaving for the first Battle of Bull Run on July 21, 1861 during the American Civil War, KNF general secretary, Aaron Kipgen enthused the gathering to be committed and render sincere duties to the society.

Speaking to media persons after the event, Aaron confided that the government has committed to appoint an interlocutor for the tripartite talks at the earliest and expressed his hope that such move will definitely resolve the vexed political issues of the Kukis at the earliest.

He further said that the third round of talks is likely to be held in August.

KNF-N asks Kuki women to stay 'aloof'

KANGPOKPI: The Kuki National Front-Nehlung group has imposed certain restrictions against having relationship with members of any other community in offices, schools, colleges and worksite by Kuki girls/women. The restriction was announced during the raising day celebration of the outfit held on Thursday.

Issuing the directive, the outfit said that it had placed 'watchdogs' in all institutions for collecting information and cautioned that violators as well as their parents will have to accept the degree of punishment, decided by the Front.

It also asserted that no outsiders, individual (gangster) or groups (militants) should create fear psychosis or carry out their activities without obtaining prior permission from KNF-N; even if the case is genuine and needs to be carried out under any circumstances, to avoid unwanted consequences.

The raising day celebration was participated by front leaders as well as intellectual, chiefs, patrons and church elders.

Its information & publicity secretary, Gogou Vaiphei said that KNF was established on May 18, 1987 at Molno village on the Indo-Myanmar border with the vision of creating a state within the framework of the Constitution of India. CONTINUE ON PAGE 8

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Friday fun

Where have all the Doctors and Staff gone?!



Foes-turned-friends on highway of hope

OINAM SUNIL/TNN

IMPHAL/KOHIMA: For many months preceding the Manipur assembly election in March, Ibungo Singh found it almost impossible to eke out a livelihood driving passengers along National Highway 2, something he had done for many years. The highway, the main supply line connecting Imphal valley with the rest of the country, was blocked by the United Naga Council (UNC) for over four months.

The Nagas were angry with Manipur's Congress government as it had divided the hills, where the Nagas and other tribes live, to create new districts. "Until two months ago, I thought NH 2 had become a highway to hell," the 30-year-old driver said, recalling how the blockade, which began on November 1, had choked his state and the highway, his source of livelihood. Prices of essential goods had spiralled. An LPG cylinder



cost around Rs 3000. Petrol sold at Rs 350 a litre in the grey market. Medicines and medical appliances had to be flown in from other parts of India. The construction industry had come almost to a standstill.

With a change of guard in Imphal - the election saw BJP's N Biren Singh triumph over his former mentor, Okram Ibobi Singh - the highway again became a symbol of peace and hope. The UNC promptly lifted the blockade after the Biren government held talks with it, as promised by him before

the elections. "If the two states improve relations, NH 2 can become a highway of hope," Mulato Sikhu, a doctor in Dimapur, said.

Biren Singh, a former footballer, played his political card deftly. He made Naga People's Front (NPF), in power in Nagaland, his ally in his home state. To win the Naga heart, he coined a catchy slogan - 'Let's go to the hills'. Manipur heaved a sigh of relief as the highway blockade ended on March 19, 139 days after it had begun. CONTINUE ON PAGE 8

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