

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



Koite RELIEF CENTRE

Koite JB School, Lamka

Managed by
Kuki Khanglai Lawmpi
General Headquarters (KKL GHQ)

Total Inmates Registered: 254*

■ Male: 126

■ Female: 128

*As on 7th August, 2023



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 25.11.2023



153
DEATHS



200+
VILLAGES BURNT



7000+
HOUSES BURNT



360
CHURCHES &
SYNAGOGUES BURNT



41,425
DISPLACED
PERSONS

Thingkho Le Malcha (charred wood tied with chilli): A war symbol; a pre-arranged secret code agreed upon by the Kukis to inform the people about the commencement of war and on receiving this, one has to remain alert and be ready for the battle.

PRESERVING HUMANITY IN TIMES OF WAR: KUKIS RELEASE TWO INDIVIDUAL FROM VALLEY DISTRICT



In a powerful display of goodwill gesture amidst the ethnic violence, two individuals from the valley district who crossed the buffer zone on the midnight of 11th December were safely returned back to their homestead today at around 10 am by Kuki village volunteers.

The Committee on Tribal Unity, Spokesperson Ng Lun Kipgen, urged the current administration under N Biren Singh to stop wagging 'war of hatred' and as a goodwill gesture on part of the Kuki-Zo community the said individuals were unharmed. He further stated that wars are fought on battlefields between men with arms; not with civilians. Kuki-Zo always maintains rule of law, civility whether in times of war or in times of peace. He quips that this civility is perhaps the reason why the Kuki-Zo are unique.

The COTU, chairman, Thanglen Kipgen, Secretary, Lamminlun Singsit and the executive members handed over the two trespassers to the 22th Assam Rifles and Kangpokpi Police.

The details of two individuals are Lata Laishram from Sekmaijin Mohammad Hussian@Ningthem from Kwakta Moirang Kendra and their Auto number is AS10C7922.

It may be recalled that the Kukis, in the past, on August 26 also released five Meitei individuals who had been in their custody. The apprehension of the five Meitei individuals, who were mechanics by profession with alleged links to the Arambai Tenggol, took place on June

1 in Gwaltabi, under the jurisdiction of the Saikul Police Station in Kangpokpi district. According to the volunteers, these individuals had ventured into the sensitive area of Gwaltabi Kuki village with the intention of gathering intelligence. However, they were successfully apprehended by the Kuki volunteers.

However, the Kukis humanitarian and goodwill gesture never resonates with the Meitei community. The Meitei community never spared Kuki innocent civilians including, women and children, who are in their custody. Being in the custody of Meiteis is akin to death for the Kuki community.

Contrary to what the Kukis did against war captives belonging to the Meitei community, five Kuki-Zo people, including two women, were allegedly "forcibly taken away" on November 9 by a Meitei mob near Kangchup Chingkhong village checkpoint in the presence of the police and central security forces. They were travelling towards L Phaijang village for a wedding function. Their alleged abduction led to firing incidents and fresh protests in Manipur. Among the five individuals, two has been mercilessly killed while a 65-year-old man, who was injured, is airlifted to a military base hospital in Guwahati on the next day. The whereabouts of the other two remains unknown till today. They are presumed to be killed by the Meitei militias.

MEITEI MAN FOUND DEAD IN BIREN'S SUMMER CAPITAL

The dead body of a 60-year old Meitei man was found at Konghang Ngayi in Ukhrul on Tuesday. The place is in close proximity to the main town — about 1 km from Ukhrul town and half a kilometer from the Ukhrul-Jessami National Highway-202. As per preliminary reports, the man's left chest, in what seems to be a from a bomb, was shattered by the impact of an explosion.

The deceased has been identified as Rajen Konsam (60), s/o Chaoba Konsam of Leitanpokpi Pukhao, Imphal East and presently staying at Khayiashat Ukhrul. Arun Kumar, Church Secretary of Meitei Baptist Church, Ukhrul informed that "Rajen Konsam is a member of MBC Ukhrul and has been staying at Ukhrul for the past 20 years as a concrete mason." Ranjen Konsam's sister confirmed over the phone that the last conversation between them was made at around 5:30 pm on Monday. Rajen has been married thrice, informed the church elder and was under disciplinary action by the MBC, Ukhrul. A case has been registered at Ukhrul PS, UD. Case No. 03/UKL-PS/2023, U/S 174 C.r. P.C. "So far there is no suspicion of foul play," police said.



A five-member team led by Bilashini Chanu, Scientific Officer, Mobile Forensic Unit, Imphal East carried out necessary investigations. During the investigation, another object, covered in a light blue striped cloth wrapped with a jute rope, suspected to be an explosive item, was found in the right pocket of the deceased.

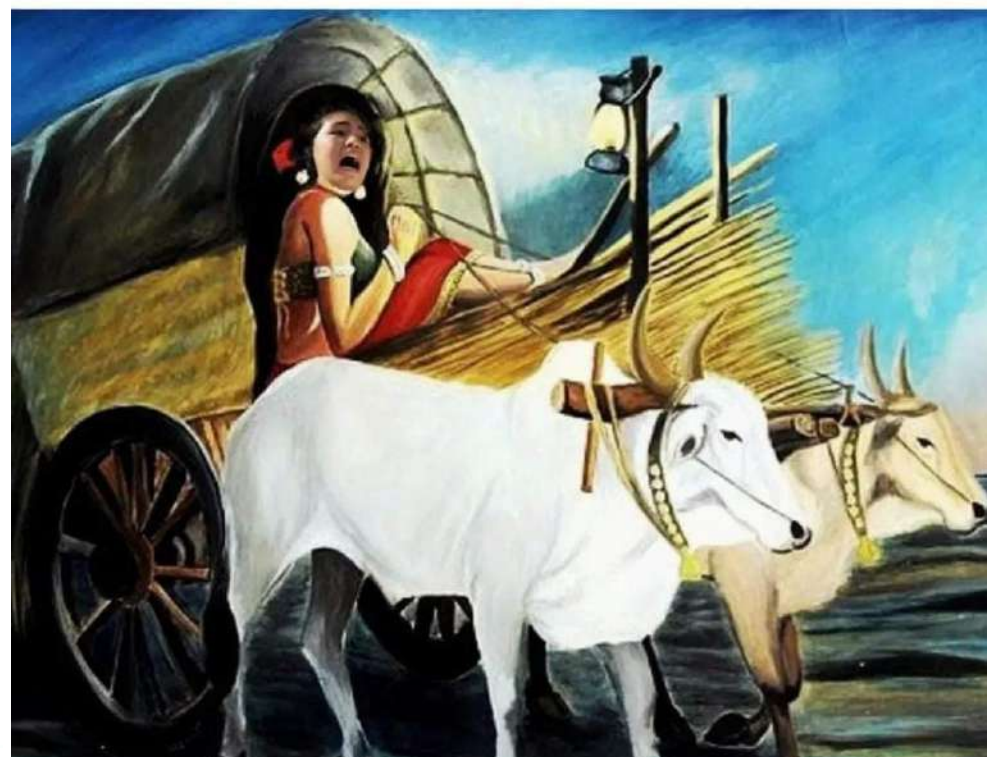
THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ



Naga Hills

Ben Andrew · 1m · 👤

Licypriya Kangujam coming back to India, after storming the stage at the United Nations COP28 climate summit, to end fossil fuels and to save our planet and our future.



DEADLY GUNFIRE ERUPTS AT ASSAM-MANIPUR BORDER: NNC LEADER KILLED, CACHAR SP MEETS JIRIBAM COUNTERPART

In a shocking turn of events, the tranquil landscape of the Namdinglong area in Cachar district, under the jurisdiction of Jirighat Police Station, was shattered by gunshots, claiming the life of a prominent figure and leaving another severely injured.

The gunfire, which erupted this evening, resulted in the tragic demise of Gaidin Chungpao, approximately 50 years old, identified as a leader affiliated with the Naga Nationalist Council (NNC). He succumbed on the spot, while Kahnlun Gai, around 60 years old, sustained injuries and was swiftly transported to Jiribam Hospital for urgent medical attention.

The incident prompted a swift response from law enforcement authorities, spearheaded by DIG Southern Range Kankan Jyoti Saika, accompanied by Cachar SP Numal Mahatta, who swiftly mobilised a considerable police contingent to the Assam-Manipur border following reports of the fatal shooting.

Cachar SP Mahatta, briefing our correspondent, shed light on the distressing episode, stating, "The deceased, a resident of Kohima and a significant figure within the NNC – an organization with its headquarters in Kohima and known for its ceasefire agreement – was present in Jirighat due to familial connections."

Mahatta elaborated further, revealing insights into the preliminary investigation, stating, "Based on the information gathered thus far, a meeting took place



earlier today at a local church where internal disagreements among the NNC cadres escalated, culminating in one member opening fire on another. We are actively investigating the matter and have apprised the Director-General of Police (DGP) regarding the situation."

In response to the escalating tension, Cachar SP Mahatta engaged in discussions and collaborative efforts with Jiribam SP, who swiftly joined the investigative efforts at the scene of the incident.

The circumstances surrounding this tragic event remain under intense scrutiny, with law enforcement agencies committed to unraveling the complexities of the confrontation that led to this regrettable loss of life and the injury of another individual. The community remains on edge as investigations continue into this distressing episode at the border of Assam and Manipur.



A revolution is not a bed of roses. A revolution is a struggle between the future and the past.

– Fidel Castro

ARMS LOOT CASE AT IRB NARANSEINA: NIA COURT GRANTS LEAVE APPLICATION FOR 5-DAY CUSTODY OF ACCUSED K. DHIREN TO CBI SIT

The Court of Special Judge, NIA Imphal West today granted leave to an application filed by the CBI SIT Manipur camp office, Guwahati for taking custody of 41 years old Khumukcham Dhiren from Manipur Central Jail, Sajiwa for interrogation and investigation in connection with the arms snatching case from 2nd IRB Naranseina under Moirang police station in August first week.

The CBI IO filed the application against Khumukcham Dhiren alias Thakappa (41) s/o (L) Nilamani of Nambol Phoijing, praying for taking physical custody of Dhiren.

In pursuant to a notification issued by the Government of Manipur and Govt of India, CBI took over the investigation of the FIR registered at Moirang police station on August 3 and re-registered the case for investigation, the IO said.

The accused is now in judicial custody at Manipur Central Jail Sajiwa in connection with the FIR case registered against him in Singjamei police station.

Further, in compliance with the order passed by the Supreme Court of India, the CJM Bishnupur transferred the case record/documents to CJM Kamrup (Metro), Guwahati, Assam.

On December 9, the CJM Kamrup granted CBI five days custody of Kh Dhiren till December 13 and directed CBI to inform the Special Judge NIA, Imphal West and obtain due permission.

The Court, after hearing the submission of the IO and in view of the direction passed by the CJM Kamrup (Metro), allowed the CBI to take custody of the accused from December 9 evening till December 13 in connection with the case.



Notably, Khumukcham Dhiren alias Thakappa (41) s/o (L) Nilamani of Nambol Phoijing and Laishram Prem (33) s/o Shantikumar of Thoubal Okram were arrested by a team of Imphal West district commando personnel on November 22 along with arms and ammunition.

Prem was remanded in judicial custody on December 2 while Dhiren was formally re-arrested by Heingang police station in connection with another FIR case registered at Heingang police station and remanded in judicial custody on December 8 .

Laishram Prem was taken into CBI custody on December 6 after taking due permission from the same Court and was in CBI custody till December 9 in connection with the same case of snatching arms from 2nd IRB.

EVERY MEITEI YOUTH CAN BECOME POLICE PERSONNEL OVERNIGHT IN IMPHAL VALLEY

In “undisturbed valley” of Manipur, the Meitei militants with sophisticated weapons run the show and every youth can become a state force personnel overnight. Civilian youths can become cadres of the proscribed Meitei militant groups and also personnel of police commando units in government’s Police Department.

In the ongoing state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom on the minority Kuki-Zo community, almost every Meitei young man has been radicalised, recruited as cadre of Arambai Tenggol, Meitei Leepun and worse, recruited for the proscribed militant groups just for waging war against the Kukis. Those radicalised youths and the state police commandos have become two sides of the same coin. If and when required, every private militia cadre can become police personnel and vice-versa. There is no differentiation between the groups of surrendered militants, radicalised youths and police commandos. Such is the law and order situation under N. Biren Singh and his political cohorts.

There are many instances of unemployed youths wearing Police commando uniforms while attacking the Kuki-Zo villages in peripheral areas. The young Meitei men disguised in camouflage uniforms even attacked the central security forces who were manning the buffer zones - the Line of Control, between the warring parties.

Social media users often identified several young men from the Meitei community who were never employed as police personnel before the violence but are now disguised as police commandos during the ethnic violence. In one of the past exposes, TLM had published one Meitei chicken seller in Moreh before the violence, now seen wearing police commando uniform and being a part of the commando team still staying in Moreh. The commando team had been indulging in atrocious activities towards the Kuki civilians in Moreh.



PIC: Nganthoi (Left) and Ojit (Right)

Another expose is made again today. Social media users pointed out that one Nganthoi Meitei from Andro Torengthel near Kamu Tampak, Imphal East, who worked as a helper in Shija Hospital Canteen before the mayhem is now seen on social media platforms, donning police uniform with sophisticated weapons. He became a police personnel overnight without recruitment processes.

A bus conductor between Imphal and Motbung before the violence, namely Ojit Meitei, is also spotted by social media users wearing police uniforms with sophisticated weapons.

It is clear that there is no law and order in Imphal valley and constitutional machinery has collapsed under the present regime.



The chief architect of Manipur violence N. Biren Singh has once again shown his partisanship and nepotism to the world by urging the Meitei community to identify “friends and foes” in his speech at Nupee Lan Day Observation in Imphal.

Indicating the Kukis as the Meiteis’ enemy, the chief divider Biren Singh fervently appealed to the Meitei community not to attack or harass the Naga community, indirectly hinting that attacking and harassing Kukis was okay.

While mentioning the recent, two separate incidents of Tangkhul Naga men and Rongmei Naga women who were physically assaulted by Meitei goons, Biren Singh said that while checking vehicles passing-by, the vigilantes should not give harassment or resort to physical assault to any individuals if their identities reveal that they belong to Tangkhul or Rongmei Naga community. “Don’t try to bring more havoc to the existing violence. Try to identify our friends and foes,” he said.

An analysis of his speech only validates his deep involvement in the state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom on the minority Kuki-Zo community in Manipur and also his continued hatred towards the community. The partisanship and prejudicial leadership of Biren Singh strengthens the need for “separate administration” of the Kuki-Zo people.

The Chief Architect of Manipur violence, Chief Minister N Biren Singh also took strong exception to Mizoram’s new CM Mr. Lalduhoma’s comments and said his remarks were beyond his constitutional rights.

During his speech, N Biren Singh also urged the newly elected Chief Minister of Mizoram not to interfere in the internal matter of Manipur but rather extend support in restoring peace in the state.

“Unfortunately, the newly-elected chief minister of Mizoram has commented that Manipur police shouldn’t harass people at Moreh. His remark is beyond the constitution because it is an internal matter of the Manipur state government,” said CM Biren Singh while speaking to media persons on the sidelines of the Nupi Lal Numit 2023 observation in Imphal.

Singh, in his reaction, also said the new Mizoram CM did not know the ground situation at Moreh. The border town is home to diverse communities, including Meiteis, Meitei Pangals, Tamil, Kukis, Thadou etc, so the place cannot be a one community area, he added.

It needs to be pointed out here that it is rather him, the Manipur CM, who is either ignorant or connived in deliberately ignoring the ground realities. The deployment of State Commandos in Moreh has done more harm than good to the

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locals. There have been many instances of locals being harassed by the State Commandos on the pretext of frisking and combing operations.

Since the outbreak of violence in the state, the State Commandos have been acting proactively against its own people, whom they are supposed to protect. The state police atrocities on innocent civilians of Moreh in the aftermath of the killing of SDPO Anand is a well-known fact, accompanied by their harassing and ransacking of properties. This fact was corroborated by Tengnoupal district Superintendent of Police Luikham Lanmiyo's statement. The SP said that some cases of harassment and ransacking of properties have been reported. "But no incidents of molestation of women have happened." All these facts were pointed out by the new Mizoram Chief Minister which the Meitei CM Biren considered as an opprobrium or disgrace.

Citing one of the comments expressed by the newly elected chief minister of Mizoram,

N Biren Singh appealed to his neighbouring counterpart to lend his support in returning normalcy in Manipur instead of expressing views which is beyond his constitutional obligation.

Here, Biren should know that "Blood is thicker than water". While he has abdicated his responsibility to guarantee the safety and security of the Zo ethnic people living in the geographical boundary of Manipur, their blood-brothers' leaders in the neighbouring state have come to their rescue. Chief Minister of Mizoram Lalduhoma is neither interfering in the internal matter of Manipur nor violating his constitutional obligation, but raising his voice for the oppressed Zonakthlak (Chin-Kuki-Mizo).

It is known to the world and Mr. Lalduhoma is right in saying that Manipur is not the sole property of the Meiteis. The Hill areas of Manipur are the ancestral lands of the tribals and Meiteis' Maharajas too had no control over the hills in the past.





The election season comes to a final halt with the declaration of Mizoram’s Legislative Assembly election result. The Zoram People’s Movement (ZPM) party won 27 seats out of 40 and is set to form the government. ZPM’s achievement is truly noteworthy, showcasing a remarkable surge as it managed to boost its vote share from 22% in the 2018 election to an impressive 37% in the 2023 election, just within a span of 5 years. This upward trajectory underscores the party’s growing influence and support among the electorate.

Electoral Performance and Trends of ZPM in Mizoram Constituencies

Delving deeper into the statistics, in most of the constituencies where ZPM won the seats it manages to get an average of 46.4 % of the vote shares. Serchhip’s ZPM candidate Pu Lalduhoma manage to get 45.86 % of the vote share while its MNF counterpart received only 29.41%. In some constituencies it even crossed the 50 % mark. Take the case of Aizawl West -III, where the winning ZPM candidate Lalnghinlova Hmar got 10398 votes accounting for a whopping 58.95% of the vote share. While its main opposition Lalruatkima (MNF) manage to secure only 31.63 % of the vote share. Even in constituencies where ZPM lost, it managed to acquire a strong percentage of the vote share. Vanlalsailova, the acclaimed gospel singer and ZPM’s candidate for Dampa-2 A/C, experienced a close electoral contest, narrowly losing to his MNF counterpart by a mere 292 votes. Despite securing a substantial 33.97% of the vote

share, Vanlalsailova faced stiff competition. In contrast, Lalrintluanga Sailo of the MNF emerged triumphant with a slightly higher vote share of 35.65%. The closely contested election underscores not only the competitive dynamics within the political landscape of the Dampa-2 A/C constituency but more significantly the increasing sway that ZPM holds over the Mizo electorate in most of the constituencies.

Professor Kham khan suan from the University of Hyderabad attributes several factors on the ascent of ZPM as a ‘viable and attractive’ alternative to MNF. Firstly, ZPM successfully positions itself as the government representing rural communities, particularly those reliant on agricultural income. Its endorsement of a minimum support price for rural cash crops has garnered widespread and positive reception. Secondly, ZPM has strategically fielded a diverse lineup of candidates, including individuals with experience, education, and star power. This includes Pu Lalduhoma, a decorated IPS officer with a history of brokering peace in Mizoram during the 1980s, Jeje Lalpekhlua, a national football player, Baryl Vanneihsangi, a Radio Jockey and municipal councillor, and the renowned gospel singer Vanlalsailova. Armed with young, educated, vibrant and experienced candidates, ZPM manages to grab the attention of voters especially from the younger generations.

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The principle of 'Tlawmngaihna'

The fabric of Mizo society is woven with the idea of 'tlawmngaihna' principle that can be translated to always being prepared to assist others while ensuring not to burden them. It encompasses qualities such as courtesy, courage, humility, and a constant willingness to stand up for the collective well-being of the community. ZPM persistently endeavours to provide support to the Chin-Kuki-Mizo group, also known as the Zo ethnic tribes, hailing from Myanmar, Manipur, and Bangladesh who are facing untold hardships. Prof.J.Doungel from Mizoram University was asked in an interview why Mizoram is taking keen interest in the conflict in Manipur, to which his response was, "If your own brother and sisters are killed, would you not react? That is the reaction of Mizoram". ZPM effectively positions itself as a party that comprehends, acknowledges, and is committed to upholding the ethnic ties that the Mizos share with the Chin-Kuki people. This, subliminally, sends a direct message to the Mizo electorate, affirming that ZPM respects and will honour the principle of tlawmngaihna. A principle which is admirable by all Mizo. A comparable principle, aligning with the essence of 'tlawmngaihna,' is evident among the Kukis as well and is referred to as 'Khankho' in the Thadou-Kuki dialect and denoted differently among other Kuki tribes.

What can we learn from Mizoram?

First and foremost, it is imperative that the principles of tlawmngaihna or Khankho govern our lives, molding our values and aspirations. These time-honoured practices seamlessly complement the teachings and theology found in Christianity.

Second, Elections in Mizoram are usually free from the dramas we associate with. It is largely peaceful and generally is free and fair. This show case the level of political maturity both the politicians and the masses exhibits. Moreover, Elections are not only arena of political competition, but also for candidates and parties to communicate with the public.

Third, the elites, political parties, CSOs and the society

at large must cater to the aspirations and voices of the youths. They should not be perceived solely as instruments for election campaigns. Today, youths are well-informed and understand developments not only at the local level but also on a global scale. With proficiency in modern technologies and the intellectual capacity to navigate the information age, youth can conceptualize visions and plans for a brighter future. However, this emphasis on the role of youth does not imply the obsolescence of the older generation. Rather, the suggestion here is that of a healthy mix of the young and the old in the political landscape.

Fourth, our right to vote must be exercised in the utmost discretion. It must not be influence by our tribe, clan, or our village. As voters we must learn how to think for the good of the community and make decisions based on our conscience. We must not view candidates as Santa Claus bringing presents for individual or to particular communities. Important issues such as construction of all weathered roads, proper drainage system, an efficient and eco-friendly waste disposal system, exam centres for SSC, Banking, NET and other core social services which enhances our quality of life must be at the forefront.

Finally, it is paramount that we choose leaders—whether they are politicians, representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs), or village authorities—who genuinely cherish the welfare of the community and work for the benefit of all. Mere education and qualifications, while valuable, do not ensure the success of a leader. What we require are individuals with wisdom, understanding, and a comprehensive vision for the society, transcending the interests of specific communities.

The political landscape is changing, ZPM wave will have an impact on how we conduct our politics here. It will inspire the youths to a new way of politics. Should the community's political elite fail to embrace these shifting circumstances, there is a looming risk of fading into obscurity, jeopardizing not only the welfare of the common people but also endangering the preservation of our customs, traditions, and, critically, the sanctity of the land bestowed upon us by Providence.

(Kamkholal Sitlhou, Asst.Prof. Dept. of Political Science, Rayburn College)

The War Bells Rang

The war bells rang
In the beats, madness sang
The valley that prides
2000 years of Culture
Demolished itself that night.

First, they call to attack the Church
An abode for all those who seek
Open to all castes and creed
Bet the attackers at least once broke bread
In the Church, they match light.

Over the valley where madness descended
Smoke filled the sky, red haze illuminated
The Churches were all razed
They thought they had destroyed our faith.
But our faith within us, indestructible.

Inside Army camps, We were still hopeful,
The sky our roof, The grass our mattress.
Mothers prayed, the men never slept
The innocent children played gleefully.
Every hour, news of killings poured.



Our final days in the valley
We helped each other save the stranded
We experienced solidarity.
We couldn't be more unified.
How could you unify more if you are one?

Lamka lost a brave lady, a tigress.
Kangpokpi, with their bare chest.
The blood spoke, with all its might.
At the gates of our hill country,
Many broke down and for many,
the show just began.

- Seikang Haokip