

Shet,Phet...!

**Makhol ama takhi.Yamna houraba makhol ama khangta takhi.Miyam pumba
ngakchannei.Khonthangna paokhum pirak e –“Shet,Phet...!”**

Miyamna koihang hangnei –“Esh! Kari makholno...?”

**Bambula thabagi makhol natte.Poklaobi kappagi makholso natte.Nongmei
makholni.Tasengba nongmei makholni.Maruna kadaida ? Tokningna kadomda ?
Kanana kanada kapliba ?Kari maramgi ? Mapham kadaida ,Karamba Matamda...?**

Numidangni.

December 24,1980

Lamdong khunou,Lei engkhol.

**Meinam pareng muthatnei. Nongmei makhol youkhiba keithelsing ,wa wa kaikhi.
Dukan (Potchoi Yonpham) achouba , dukan macha thong lonkhi.Dukan phamba
kharana chennakhi.Mapot machei thousanade.Mathawaina maruni.Mee kouba
jibasing mihool ting ting chongnei . Loina ngamna pakhatnei.Wakhal Loina
leitanei.Ashibatani mangjaba . Mapham khuding mongphamni.Mikup khuding
nongmeini. Maruna mee tannei. Maruna mee hatli. Eegi mamal hongngi.Chak(yuk)
ashi eegi chakni.Mapanda kumhei yengduna leiba yaba matam natte . Lambida mee
chennei . Tung Hanna yengnade. Wahang paokhum pinade . Chennei , pangchenda
chennei . Tushinnei,hougatli , amuk chelli. Shiba Loina kinei. Hingba Loina pamme.
Shidanaba chenbani.Hingnaba lotpa tai. Mapham kadaida ? Lei, lotpham ama lei.**

**‘ka’ da lotlu hinggani.Puyana haiba wani. Laiphao ashi thajanei . Lamdam ashighi
miyamna. Matam ashi leibana nongmei makhol hek takhibaga loinana lambidagi
mipum khudingmak loina ngamna chennakhi . Magi magi ‘ka’ manungda . Mamana
macha konshilli . Madusu ‘ka’ manungdani .Mabokna mashu lotshinnei . Angakpani !
‘ka’ gi nunglon ! Wahei konkhei pak chao e . Magi magi thajaba**

**. Kanana kangkhada, kanana kangkhal manungda , kanana kotta ,kanana komda ,
kanana korphu(Angang macha) manungda, kanana konthong lonshinnei. Kanana kok
lotshilli. ‘ka’ amadi ‘Kangla’ ashira ? Natte , ‘Ka’ gi nunglon amadi ‘Cashar leibak’
haibani. Mashina luwang maichougi nunghanthokni. Etihashna kasham! Ningthem**

kaya Cashar da lotlaga hingkhi . Chumgadaba malli. Maichou kharana amuk hai – ‘ka’ da lotlu haibagi ‘kok lotlu’ haibani.

Mashini, ‘ka’gi nunglon (artha) lui. Houjikki kanglei chak ashidasu tongan tonganba mot kaya pinari. Eikhoigi lamyamba kabi Khwairakpam Chaoba su ‘ka’ gi nunglon thirammi . Mahakna hairammi –“ka”na houba maphamda leirabadi khudong chaba phanggani , hinggani. ‘ka’na houba haibadi kom manungda leiba amasung lotpa haibani.”

Kabi Chaoba su ‘ka’ da lotlu haibagi asengba Mapham takpa ngamkhide . Kabina amuksu makha tana hairammi –‘ka’ na houba haibadi kangkhada nattraga kangkhal manungdani.”(Nabamalika chemai 150). Maichou kharana amuk hairi – ‘ka’ da lotlu haibadi ‘konthong wangma langanu’ haibani.

Amuk oire,karamba ‘ka’da lotlaga thawai hinggadage ? Houjikti laibao ashi taiyonnare. Kangkhal manungda lotchariba kanglei chanura kayabu chingthoklaga sarak tamkhibagi pao Tai amasung pao cheda phongkhi. Houjikti ‘ka’ manungda nongmei changlak e .Konthongna nongmei maru thingba ngamdre. Yumda leire , kotta lotle , thiraga hatlare. Lamda chatle hatkhi. Mee hatnei , sunei- ‘ka’ manungdasu ‘ka’ mapandasu. Pakhang kaya kouthoklaga pukhi. Shina phangba kayani. Phangdabasu mayaori. Lamdeng khunougi ‘Khomba’ kouba pakhang amasu ‘kah’ mapan lankhre. Houjik phaoba phangdari. Hingba Shiba khangdari . Khombagi mamadi kamdouri ? Ngashina,amuk kanagi ‘ka’ manungda nongmei...?

2

Nupi ama tengthari. Lamsang keithelgi lairembira? Natte. Shakudabi lairembina kappa hounabra? Mama amagi mikap miraokholni. Hikna tengtha wakatni. Houna nakna tarakle. Thamoi phukna laojari –

“Echabu hatpiganu ! Echabu thambirammu. Echadi michamni. Echagi mathawai kanbiyu. Kana, kana leibage... echagi mathawai kanbiyu. Leibakshibu mapi mapa leitrabra? Miott minei ,mihat mipundagi echabu kanbiyu. Echabu kanbiyu. Echa anishu mangkhre. Echashimadi hinghanbiyu. Echashimadi hatpiganu...! Echashimadi hatpiganu... .”

Shet,phet...!

Amuksu blank fire, houraba nongmei makhol Mana mensinnei , mee ayamba. Mama amana miyamgi mateng niduna kouri. Nunghikna kapli. Mikap miraokhol tai, mee ayambana. Adubu kanasu changlaktre. Macha machagi thawaina marunu. Macha machada thoktraga loire khannei. Lai thajadaba meesu lai khurumnei. Macha machagi thawai nizei. “Ka” manungda swar pikna pikna honnei. Thamoï panba mee khudingmak cheinakhol phaodabadi natte; phaoneï. Takshi shonnei. Esh ! Lakchadou, “Ka” manungdasu hingloidouri.

Luribadi kanada maral sirugani ? Amana chummi haibasü ngamde. Amana lalli haibasü ngamde. Matam ashida P.R. thamli. Pendabagi cheina cheitheng – khangba tabani.

Mama amana machagi mathawai kanbinaba laojari. Mating leiba kayana makhayat chiktuna khangnari. Lotna thupna, lei engkholgi thoudok ado yengnari.

Lei engkhol haiba mapham ashi Lamdeng Khunougi tha machet saba chingya leikaidani. Chingthek kochinda leiba maphamni. Engkhol ashida leihao leirel pambi achouba ama houri. Laioiraba tala pamelni. Leihao engkhol hairaga khangnakhre. Ningthijaba maphamni. Pak chao e . Lou pari mangamukki lamni. Louphamga engkholga pulli. Maikei marida upal kaya hou e. Mapaldagi yengbada umang macha ama oina ui. Adubu ningthijaraba Meitei yumjao ama lottuna lei. Yumdompokni haiba yai. Engkhol ashibu “Leihao Engkhol” koubagi maram amasu lei. Yumburembigi mamingsu “Leihao” kou e.

Leihaogi sumangdani thoudok ashe. Shet Phet makholgi marakta Leihaona kapchei. Laojei chongjei. Kanasu changbiraktre. Mamagi makhuttagi macha pakhang munkhre. Makhut animak tungbunnakhre. Mathabakta nongmei machindi nambidri. Nanthoknabagi khudong chabasu phangkhidre. Tuminna leptuna lei. Mamabu munna yengjei. Makhayat chik e . Shiphai amana makhongdonda netshilli. Pakhang adu khongupp bhootki cheinakhol khangli.

Meepha khutpu adugi luchingba oiriba inspector Ranjitna purakpa maikhum khumba mamit anidang hutpa nupa aduda hanggi –“Mister Joro ! mishak ashi soidreko ?”

Pakhang lanhouba lanmee kaya, mathang mathang surrender tounakhre. Mei chukhatluraga khutlai thadoknakhre. Madugi maram kaya kaya leiramgani. Makhoibu leingak khutpuna (sarkarna) amuk khutlai oina sijinnakhre. Maikhum uphalli. Mashak maming kanadasu khanghande. Mee phaba chatpada koipu pui. Makhoibu “Joro” natraga “Joro saba” haiduna khangnakhre. Joro kouba english film amadagi matou tamhoubani. Makhoïna lalhoulup amada punna yaominnaramba pakhang kayabu phahanbada achouba thoudang ama loirakle. Makhoïna chumna mashak maming

taklibra haiba adudi chingnaningai oidaba natte. Makhoiga maram amagi (nupikoibagi oiro, amagibu oiro) ungkhatnakhiba Mee kayabu mashak maming taksinduna phahalli hainabasu tai. Maduna makhoida kari tongjaba leiriba ? Maram amadi soidana leipham thok e . Mei muthatpa yade. Hainaba lei-mei yangsinba tai. Makhoigi (Jorosing adugi) ushin (mahut)ama nouhoua chingsillaga piramba tai. Madu natrabadi makhoi nanthokpa yade. Maram ashi leibana Joro saba adu mangak nommi. Wa ngangde. Wa ngangbasu yade. Makhol khanghanba yade. Mangak nomba, mangak haiba, khudombina thinba ashitani makhoigi mathou. Robotkumbani. Mee ama hinghange, sihange haiba ado makhoigi makhuta leirammi. Ashumna Joro adugi shaktak khutthingi matung enna Leihaogi macha pakhang adu thadokpirambagi mami udre.

“Hei hanubi...! E chongni handok u .” Meepa khutpu adugi atoppa luchingba ama oiriba inspector Ram Prasad (mayang siphai) Yadav na khanghai hairak e-“Nachase maha takuni”. Joro ashigi ming parengda yaorabani. Nachagi khutlaidi kadaida lotli ? Puthorak u, puthorak u.”

“Nongmei puthoraktrabadi nayum mei thagani.” Inspector Ranjitna amuk pangsillak e –“ Haiyu kadaida theidokkhre ? Nangna luchingduna lakkeha nongmei singdo puthorak u natrabadi... .”

“Sir! Pao adu aranbani.” Leihaogi macha pakhang aduna wakatchei-“ Eidi lamdam ashigi michamni. Social worker ni. Miyamgi thabak toujabani. Ekha thaba leikaigi echin enaosing punsinduna sana khotnabagi club lingkhatchei. Lairik takpi tambijei. Nesha chaba, thakpa yonba, thingnaba hotnajei. Ahing ahing rong chattuna huran chinthi thingnaba hotnajei. Eihak khutlai paijade. Pakhang lanmeega mari leinajade. Emada tainabiganu. Emungda thibiyu. Loumeegi emungni. Yotpak thangjoudi phanggani. Nongmeidi phangbiroi.”

“He social worker athoiba !” Meepa khutpugi luchingba inspector Ranjitna hairk e – “ Nangondagi nongmei ama phanghanba haiba ashe laikharaba wani.” Eina pairiba nongmei ashi mahakna munkhibani, nayumdagi amuk phangngi haiduna report ekhatkhibada kananasu chumde haiba ngamloi. Ukill, judge maya adum kumgani. Nangna jailda khangledana. Aphaoba saganu. Eikhoisi miyamna kinariba “Antri goonda police wing” haibaduni. Hatpa tuppada eningni. Goonda kaya, taku kaya mamu yeithatkrabani. Kameng camp takkhaikhibagi pao taredana...nangsu houjikmak kapthok ura ?”

“Sir ! Madu toubiganu. Eidi Lairamachani. Michang shangga leijade. Eibu namduna mathou sangbiganu.” Leihaogi macha pakhang adu makha tana hairak e-“Joro ashi

kanano... mashak amuktang yengjaba yagadra ? Hei Joro saba ! nangbu Ngaithem Ngaibara,nattraga kanano ha ?”

“Hei aphaoba saganu.” Inspector Ranjitna marak thatchinduna hairak e – nangna mashak yengba yaba natte. Nangbu mashak munna khangduna taklibasini. Kanglup chingnungda nangna pakhang kaya khomjinduna training toubagi pao lei. Lonna namhouba photosu leire.”

“Pao adu achumbani Sir.” Leihaogi macha aduna echang thouna khumlak e “Chingkaroi singgi traning ni .” Social service campni. Pakhang lanmeegi traning natchade. Eibu thajabiyu.”

“Kangchup army camptagi nongmei lakhiba khutpu adugi luchingba adu nahakni haiba uhouba mee lei.” Inspector Ranjitna makha tana hanglak e –“Nongmeising kadaida thammi ? Sengna khummune... nattrabadi kapthatlage.”

“Pao adu aranbani, Sir !” Leihaogi macha pakhangna hairak e-“Thoudok adu ujahoude . Konna pao tajei. Eihak natchade. Eibu thadokpiyu.”

“Thoudok adu hek thokpa matungda nakhosu chenkhi. Maduna takpadi nakhoiga pakhang lanmee khutpu aduga mari leinei haibasi mayek senglabani .” Inspector Ranjitna makha tana notsillak e-“Atei pakhangsing adu kana kanano ? Mashak maming tak u . Nangga loinana pharaga yeithatlabadi achumba likhun khanggani .”

“Sir, eikhoi nongmei lakpa yaojade. Maral leijadaba eigi marup mapangsingbusu phabiganu. Mashak mamingsu takcharoi. Mashina eigi aroiba phirepni. Makhut challabani hatke hairabsu hatlo.”

“Yamna lingbei wanine... .” Inspector Ranjitna khangnot notsillak e –“Nang nang... namagi mamangsida kapkhaiyura... ha, kapkhairage, one two... .”

“Natte natte, ebungo inspector saheb...!” Leihaona ashi hairaga macha pakhanggi mamangda chensillktuna thatle aduga makha tana hairk e –“Lanjadaba echana wangang khara kamjao hunkhibagidamak ngakpiyu. Echabu thadokpirammu. Mahak heiyengdagi mapallamda M.A. tamba chatkadouribani. Buski ticket kakcharabani. Amuksu haijari echabu thadokpirammu.”

“Yaroi yaroi case ama chennari... .” Inspector Ranjitna takhatlap touna makha tana hairak e-“ jailda oina M.A. tammu. Nongmei sanggu ama huranduna theidokkhraga karigi mapanda chatpa...! China yougera... Bangladesh chatkera ?”

“Natte,natte sir ! Leihaogi macha pakhangna yamna mating leina makha tarak e- “Pao chumna loiraga thabak chatthabiyu. Nongmei utlaga micham eibu tuhatpiganu.

Ngammi haiduna nashikhongda tainabiganu. Nongmei lakhiba pakhangsinggi khongul chumna libiyu. Ei kanagasu mari leinajade. Eihak karimta khangjade.”

“Nangna eingonda paotak piribra ? Nang nang... .” Inspector Ranjitna saorang touraduna makha tana hairak e-“yamna echang thouwe haina tai. Kapkhairage, kapkhairage... .”

“Sir... .” Inspector Ranjitpu nollukna kouraduna magi tungda lepliba S.I. Thambouna makha tana hairk e-“Mamagi mamangda machabu hatpadi tougumshira haina khanjei... .”

“Thambou !” Ranjit sahebna Thamboubu kouraduna hairak e –“Mama ashe emungda pushinkho. Phanasu naha oiri, mayang siphai loinakho, combing operation tousallu,loiraga kapkhairammu.”

“Sir !” S.I. Thambou swai lao e, mamit langkhatlap touna hairak e- “madumakti... .”

“Tangaiphadrabdi... .” Inspector Ranjitna ngaihak lakak touraga hairak e- “Touheiba touheidaba pambei kaya sijinnaduna mioot minei touraga crime amagi likhoon thiba tabanine, Thambou.”

“Yes Sir.” S.I. khummi makhadi tarakte.

“He, Adam khan !” Inspector Ranjitna magi khutchabi daruka amabu kouraduna khol kallapna thoudarak e –“Pakhang ashe mamit punsillu. Mama chingthokkho... .”

“Echabu thadok u eibu hatlu... .” Leihaona asumna hairaga angaobigi matougumna inspector Ranjitnatagi nongmei pistol mullage matagum chensillak e.

Inspector Ranjitna aphing aphai oina laorak e-“Adam khan... .”

“Yes Sir.” Adam khan kouba daruka macha aduna Leihaogi khwangchet machi laktuna chingthok e. Mamagi mamal yamlaba khwangchet aduna pakhang adugi mamit punsinkhre. Mamabu laktuna enthokhre. Leimaida tusinkhre. Charei namkhwang komgomnei. Leihaona phuk amuk hougatlak e . Pakhatna amuk laorak e-

“Eibu hatlu ! Echabu hatkanu. Eibu hatlu... .” Leihaona ashi hairaga nongmei mullage matagumna chensillk e.

“Salaki ma!” mirol ngangba siphai amana Leihaobu khonggup bhootna kaothubikhre buriya, tum phi marjao... .”

Hek thangnaba mikupta, dong shet phet...! Leihaogi macha pakhangna leijabi tharaduna laojakhi –“Ema... ho ema... .”

Paokhum phangkhidre. Ema Leihao ekk laona swar thinglap toukhi.

3

Punshi ama, dong ama...!

**Ngasigi punshigi mamal ! Punshi amagi hingnabagi matam, kariga changdamnagani ?
Thamna thakki laijara ? Ngayok chapu manunggi lemlei ngara ?**

**“Boinao !” inspector Ranjitna khol hourapna Boinaobu kouraduna nganglak e –
“chatshi gari thouro .**

“Kadaida pugani, sir ?” Boinao driverna hanggatli .

“Mirot chingda... .” Ranjit sahebna khummi .

**“Phani sir, lenglashi.” Boinaona ashi hairaga mipha mipun punaba gari (dok van) adu
ngangi.**

“Emagi mani matum ! Emagi mani matum !”

**Ema leihaogi aroiba tengthani. Mapi sinthei. Thamoi sokna mating phudokchei.
Ranjit sahebki makhongda leijabi thaduna kolli. Sumangda uppna sitna chingbiri.
Sambul thokna leihaogi samlangna leimaida soro soro chingli. Angaobiga pangkhakni.
Laojei kapchei cheirak e –**

“Nakhoibu meera sara... nakhoidi namana poktabara ?”

**“Abhitak zinda hei .” Mirol ngangba siphai aduna asumna hairaga Leihaobu khonggup
bhootna kaoshinbirammi –“marjao... .”**

**Leihao wanthakhre. Utup tabagum yatakhre. Ekk laoba makhol amuk takhi. Leng -
otpa toukhidre. Laibak thirabi Leihao hinglibra sirabra...?**

**Leihaogi macha nupa pakhang pukhre. Gari thoukhre. Englaba lei engkholgi sumang
mayaida e matum matum tahou e.**

**Numidang adu seiouni, macha amagi. Leihao pambibu ena eshing chairabadi egi
leihao satloidra...?**

Ashumna thoudok kayani. Khul khudingda. Macha amagi seihou. Mama amagi seiroi. Macha kainakhrabi mamagi masing nongma nongmagi hengatlak e. Mama kainakhraba machagi masingsu nongma -nongmagi hengatlak e. Mapagi khonggul machana linarak e. Mayambagi khonggul manaona linarak e. Kadaida ? Karigi ? Sikhiba kaya, lotkhiba kayani.

Asumna, chahi mathang mathang houkhi.

Micham ama phakhi. Pakhang lanmee onkhi. Kok kun soidatkhi. Chongkhatli... .

Madugi maram lei.

Manigi leibak, Manipur kouba leibakna ngashi karamna palliba ?

4

Numit thorak e.

Anoubi aribi numit ani khutsamnakhi. Asumna pantha ama houkhi. Pantha ama lak e. Kumon ama loikhi. Kumon ama hourak e. Mahousagi khongchatsu ahongba nai. Aduga leibakki oiba chaokhat khongthangdi kamdouri ? Mai amanba , mai anouba – sarkar ama kaikhi . Sarkar ama photchilli. Mantri mandal ama tukhi. Mantri mandal ama sinkhi. Chegap chongba heibabu rajniti heiba kouneido. Tangta leitana palli haibadi yade. Leibak miyam pumnamak mihool chengum chenganaduna hingli haiba tai. Nong amuk nganba, numit amuk taba, ahing amuk oiba – matamgi Katup ahumna tharo tharo onthakhiba khanghoude. Pantha amadagi pantha ama... .

Ayukni.

Anouba ayuk ama amuk saphonglare. Ningtham thagi anouba ayuk. Ayingba nungshit sitli. Leichil kungna thari. Mamme, maikei khudingmak pumam – mamme. Numit mashak ude. Yahou nganba ucheksing – sangu sangu pairi. Amamba marakta makhoi mashen thenggainade. Chek chak khongbagi nungshiraba khonthangna taibang meebu hoidokli. Ayukki esei sakli haibasui yai – kabigi londa. Ucheksinggi esei – namu taibangsingna tabasu yao e. Tadabasu konggaini.

Yum yumgi nupising hougatnakhre. Yum yumgi nupasing ningthamthagi lumlaba pomphi manungda keidouri ? Ayukki (chin sengdrabasu thakchinba yaba) cha pusillakpa ngaibabu oiro, natraga ayukki yakairol, ngaibabu oiro mamit laona laona pangthoklaga longhipnaduna leinari.

Ekhang hek khanghoudana yum yumgi nupa makhei kouthorakpa yai. Nupi makheina yum sanghouba tai. Yum yumda nupa naha amatta leiba yaroi. Leibak ashigi wayel pathap keida amani. Nupina siphai thengnaba tai. Madugi maram lei. Ngashisu makhol ama... .

Heh kangleinubising ! Likkol, sana lupa lotsillu. Charei namkhang komhanganu ! Khwangchet chetna lakshillu. Combing operation tourakpa yai. Houdokune nachasing, nashusing, nasabising. Sakhenbi namomsing heina singna kanjahou. Angaobi sahallu. Mamaida hamuk teisillu. Thatkhre, munkhre, sarak tamkhre – pao kaya ashe nungtigi tariba nattra ? Taone, makhol ashe – lapna amasung nakna –

Brat brat ! Brat brat brat ... Brat brat.

Dong dong bong bong shet phet... .

Ashinachingba makhol kaya lapna amasung nakna mathang mathang khanghoudana sandorakle. Minute kunmuk chatthakhi. Maikei kadomda... ? Maphamna kadaida. Combing operation chatthariba ? ‘Combing’ haibagi nunglondi kokta leiba hik (mahik makhal ama) makheibu samjet aringbana khottharaga phak settuna, handuna thiba haibani. Maram ashina ‘combing operation’ chatthariba police amadi siphaisingna phak settuna thiba humbada kananasu thingluba yetluba ngamba natte. Kari amuk hairugani sokheidaba ‘chingnung sana loknung’ youna thibasus thokkhrabani.

Toh toh tao, enak hek nakna laorakle – “combing operation chattharagani. Yumthong khudingda leiriba nupa pumnamak lamhang lampakta thokpirak o, nupi Angang thambirammu . Nupi police yaori karisu mipaibiganu. Heisnam Manglempi yumda lalhoubap pakhang khara lotli haiba pao phangle. Maikei marimakta sougri houbadouna police amadi siphai kayana langgoi chanduna leikhrabani. Nupakhei thorak o, thorak o... .”

Shet Phet, dong dang... .

Mapham khudingmakta nongmei makholna (blank fire) ayukki esenia. Ayukki yakairol I. Mashina yumgi nupasing houdok e. Numit khudinggi nongmei makhol tai. Numit khudinggi bomb pokkai. Houjikti angakpa kumhei ama oirakle. Michamgi punshi tangdu leitadre. Mipaiba hengatlakle. Hinglibase nongmei maru anigi maraktani.

Nongmei chindon utlaga lotpa lak e. Nongmei utlaga lu kaiba lak e. Nung anigi marakta ha natte. Nongmei maru anigi marakta yerumni; michamgi punshi !

Manigi leibak Manipur – mihat pung onkhiba kuire. Numit khudinggi mee shi. Numit khudinggi mee hatnei kapthatnei. Numit khudinggi mee pharaga pukhi. Thiba phangdaba mee kaya, numidangdi kadaida ? Hospital gi mogueta nattraga policeki sarangda ! Ayukta school college kakhibagi satri – ashiba hakchangna Nambul nattraga Imphal turelda nattraga loubuk – lamhangda amadi pathi komthida... . Mihatpangi sinpham yamna lemnarakle.

Mihatpa phabagi pao – suktabu takhidre. Pharabasu nattraga phage tourabasu machin hekta menkhi. Lupa khaojaona chum namkhi. Thoudokta chennaba mihatpa kaya – mantrigi machani, adugi mashuni adagi manaoni ashinachingba kaya ngangnarammi. Nongma nini leiraga chek mok laokhide. Wakat kayani, khollao kayani. Kanana tabigani ? Leibak miyamgi mihutna semba sarkar lei. Tangaiphadana nongmeina leingak sashan tou e. Siphaina, policena micham panghatta hatli. Lalhoubada maral thangjilli. Nongmei yaorammi, shen lakpada chennaba mini, bomb phangngi, chechang phangngi ashi ngaktani.

Pakhang lanmeenasu siphai, police kaya bombna lang thaktuna hatli. Nongmei kaya munkhi. Maramdi makhoigi khutlai watli. Soibadagi micham kayasu lalhoubasingna hatli. Siphaina micham amuk tannei. Awanglomda chenkhiba pakhang lanmee – makhoiromda tannei. Nongchup maikeida combing operation tou e. Micham phuthei. Chingnabasingbuna pharaga pukhi. Hingba Shiba khangkhidre. Nongchup maikeida gari, cycle check tou e. Angakpangi matouni. Mihat punngi matouni.

Numit khudinggi sarkarna laothok e – ‘Law and Order’ phibam phagatle. Lanmee mapei mapei chenthokle. Lalhoubagi erang laksille. Adubu lalhou khutpu masing hengatlak e. Asumna ‘Pakhang lalhou lup’, ashambada ‘pakhang lanmee’ haiduna khangnaraba lalhou lup ama mathi phonglakle. Yamna mating leiba hutphet toudaba amadi mashinja leiba kangbuni. Maral leijadaba pakhang kayabu sarkarna namduna lalhoubada oihankhibasu yao e. Maram ashina miyamgi punshi, leibakki phibam tang tadaba yamna kuire. Pambei thinari. Pambei puthokpa ngamdri. Ngainari, ngaibagi ashada. Ngaibagi panthung ani – kayada, keidoungei unagani ? Chahi amagi mathangda chahi kaya... chak amagi mathangda chak ama – houjikna kari mang mangnariba ?

Heh laibak phabi chingleibak ! Nanggi tunggi kari asha leiri ? Nacha kaya ama chatkhre . Nacha kaya ama lakli. Nanggi chaokhat khongthangdi kamdouri ? Houjikna kari thak youre ?

Manipur kouba leibakki ningthou kaya tukhi. Ningthou kaya lak e. Mantri ama honngi. Mantri ama tukhi. Nung ama yunglammi maming ama haktuna thamlammi. Sarkar ama kaikhi. Sarkar ama photchilli. Sahid ama tukhi. Mongpham ama thamlammi. Zero zero amhani. Mashina wa machangni, Manipur kouba leibakki. Awonba ahongba thoina lakte. Lairik heibagi masing esing echaogi matougumna jiri jiri hengatlak e. Thabak phangdabagi masingsu nongma, nongmagi jiri jiri hengatlak e. Senja thumja, wachet – wanomba heitaba pakhang kayadi nongmei laklaga lalhouba onkhrabani. Lou engkhol yonthoklaga thabak leibagi chatnabi amasu nongma, nongmagi masing hengatlak e. Mashibu kanagi aranba asoibano ?

Micham kayana laojai, wakatli. Pendaba mapei mapeini. Maikei khudinggi khollaoni. Kananabu tariba ? Chaokhat khongthang zeroni. Manghanbagi mathelni. Thugaibagi mapeini. Mashi pumnamak wa machangni. Manipur sana leibakki.

Pakhang lalhoubasingna awonba leibak ama semba ngamdri. Semnabadi hotnari. Palliba sarkarna lalhoubasingbu maru phangna muthatnaba hotnari.

Ngashi anouba ayukki shet phet... maikei kadomdano...? Michamsingna tharak hungatnei. Maikei salai khangdana chennei. Bombla... nongmeira...? Poklaobira... kanadano, kadomdano ? Kaya sokkhre, kaya hatkhre ? Wahangtani. Khudakta kanana paokhum piba ngamgani ? Phanadi yamna siramlagani.

“Esh ! Karamno leibak ashe !” Miyamna mathang mathang laonei – ‘Ka’ da , ‘Ka’ da lotlo. Echasa eshusing ‘Ka’ da. ‘Ka’ da...!”

Pheijup manungdagi nupasing – phuk phuk hougatnei. Machasing masusing kangtholdagi kangkhada ensinnei. ‘Pakthou pakthou’ laonei. Mapasing ahalsing – mapanda chenthoknei. Wahang kaya hangnei. Engak ngakna yengnei. Mihool ting ting chongnei.

Lambida, leirakta, policeki gari, armygi van – maikei salai khangdana thoujillak e, thoudorak e. Sairen houna houna khongngi. Ayukki hotel thong lonnei. Mahei mahei pangchenda chennei. Macha masu mangkhraba mamasing, machemsing, ebensing, mayumdagi thorak e. Leikai khuding, yumthong khuding, Khul khuding, lambida leirakta meira paibi sallup sallup khundinnei. Ayukni . Meiradi paide. Punna punna wa tannei. Nongmei makhoh takhiba maikeida mana thanggatnei. Paokhum phangdri. Pao ngainari. Pao tannari.

School college suti laothokkhi. Ayukki paoda. Ojasing haraonei. Satrasingsu haraonei. Satra kharadi saonei. Lambi lamkhangda, achat awoksingbu kamlaga check toubu hougatlak e. Keithel thengna tinkhatlak e. Thengna thengna office kanarak e. Kadaba meesu keisu toude. Thagi talap soide. Nongmeigi, bombgi wari – officeta

chakngai wari oinei, thabak sunade. Dak chatte. Matam ngainei. Leinagakpasingna keidouri ? Pao amuk louba tai. Nongmagi pao thoudok kayani.

Numit takhre.

Numidang oire. Yumthong khudingda Radio thagatnei. Tumbak tumbak phamnei. Macha mangakhrabi mamasing – mihool ting ting chongnei. Thamoigi meichak phajinnei. Macha machabu ningsingnei. Chingnajei mapukning khudingda. Lai khurumnei. Macha machabu kanbinaba. Nason tapna tapna swar honnei. Tumin – tuminna pao tannari. Lonna pirang sinthanei. Chinbaldi momon toujari. Mangkharaba macha pakhangsing hallakhini thajanei. Meeshi meena, kapthatnabada maming laothorakpa pakhang kayagi maming tagadabagi ngainari. Meira meibul paibi nupi sanggu sangguna koichat chattuna magi magi macha mashu phaba laktanabasu hotnari.

Asumna khul khudingni. Asumna leikai khudingni. Asumna meitrabakki yumthong khudingni. Houjikti numidanggi pao amuk tarashi.

5

“Atiyabani, kangleiyon !Ashem Anitana pao pajari – Nagshi ayuk pung taramathoi taba Matamda sana leibak Manipur, kangleipakki chief minister shreeare. Keishingna Lamdeng Khunougi lei engkholda paper mill ama sanabagidamak yatra hunkhre. Foundation stone mapak adudi mantri Koklengi maming phajana haktuna yaoramba adu yengjaraga shree Keishingna momon toujakhi.

Irom Ibohalgi mamingda leiba lei engkhol ashi houjik mapu amatta leikhidre hairi. Maram ashidagi sarkarna khopchinduna chegi mill lingnaba thourang loukhatkhibani. Chahi kayagi mamangdagi mee tadaba lamhang oina leiraklaba engkhol ashe khunjasingna khopchinaba kiduna leirakpani. Madugi maram kayamarum leikhre. Adubu leibak miyamgi yaiphanabagi thourang ama sarkarna loukhatlakpa ashida khunjasingna apenba phongdoknakhi. Urep uyung tambagi, ngakpigani. Foundation stone yungbagi, heibagi thouram aduda sarkargi makok thongba phamnaiba officer amadi angam athou kaya tinkhi. Miyamgi khubak makhol yamna houkhi. Houjik leijare ekai khumnajaraba chief minister gi chinthangdagi phajilhoubu ahongba paodam, marak thatna madu amuk tabirashi... .”

Chief minister gi yawa khonjel, atiyabani oina thadorak e – “Ningsingba yai, mamanggi chahi kayadagi hoiraduna mamanggi sarkar pairamba mantri kayana sana

leibak Manipur, kangleipakki tongan – tonganba mapham kayada lingkhatkadaba, saroidaba loishang, school, pothashang, lamdan shang haibadi atithi sala asinachingba kayagi sanglen, sangnao, sangjao kaya sanaba yatra hunkhrabani. Houjik phaoba mantrising adugi maming kompak thetpa, nattraga hakchillamba nung yumbisingna tumbak tumbak machi lengdana leiri. Maming hakchillamba mantri kayadi swarga youkhrabani. Amuk vote leppa kumtharaklaroi. Adubu thamjaningliba waphamdi, saroidaba leirabadi name plate yaoba foundation stone keidoubei yungsiinduna thambiramliba leimising koina chattuna yengbiyu. Amana nung yumbi kayana delhigi maikei yengladuna O – khongna kapliba. Plangi senpham theirakpa ngairibani. Nung yumbisingnadi khangjade. Delhiansingna keidoungeidasu nung yumbising hingatnaba senpham thadarakloi. Paperi planda saba loire haiduna adagi thadarakpa senpham pumnamak mayamna thumgaikhrabani. Eitadi phangjahoudeko.”

[Pao marak thatna babok mayamgi khubak khubagi makhol thadorak e. Mayamsu wa laona nonknei.]

“Aduga, leibakmachasing !” chief ministerna makha tana hairak e – “Miyamsu ningsingbiyu. Nakhoisu phatmande. Lamdeng Khunougi prajasingbu natchadeko. Atei atei lamda thengnajakpani. Lamhang tuhangda yungkhiba nung yumbi, foundation stone kaya kaya leimisingna thudeklaga lamkhopchinbaga loinana mantrisinggi maming matha hakpa nung yumbising ado matum mayumda pusillaga churi taphamda, manung achoubada khongnetpham oikhrabani. Haijinba natchade. Koina chatpa paomisingda hangbiyu. Makhoina photo kaya namkhrabani. Ngacdi mashimasu haininngi. Manigi leibak kangleipakki leimi praja civics sense leite, public property mashak khangde. Khwai tara saobiganu, achumba kharadi matang charingeida haijarage. Yengbiyudo, lambida thanba bijuli thaomei mangalda keithel nubidagi sel lakapa nungngaite haiduna bulb thugaido. Makhut sangba kharana bulb phaklaga matum mayumda pusinnei. Lambida khinduna thamba koilash drum huranduna pusinnei. Bijuli tara kaklaga korphu heinei. Lambida u thabagi sambal phuklaga chak thongnaba sing oinei. Lambi lamjao, leirak konsangda peiduna thamba nung, leingoi, chek, nungkup matum mayumda phongna hekta pusinnei. Mayum sanei latrine sanei. Eina haijariba ashe achumba ngaktani.

Saikhom khutsangbasu yaobiri. Aduga atei leimising ngasidagi lambi sorokta peiduna thamba potlam huranbagi thabk tokpiro... .”

Pao marak thatna kakthathoudaba Saikhom khutsangbagi wangang ama pao sandokpada khangyao yaorak e – “A : mantriji ! nanai eibu apannana huranba sibibadi

toubiganu, eidi leingoi bora macha amatangni... leimee ateidi maha ngaktani, ahing tumdabani.”

[Leimee mayamna nok kheduna khubak podrok podrok khubagi makhoh radiogi pao marakta thadorak e]

Chief minister shree Keishingna miyangi meenil namhatladuna nganglak e –
“Ngakpigani Saikhom khutsangba ! Aduga leimee pumnamak ! Nung leingoi amadi semgat sagatpagi peiduna thamba potlam huranbagi thabak ngasidagi tokpiro. Amuksu hangatchari. Houjikti pukchel sengnarasi. Anouba, pumnou nouba Manipur sana leibak ama semnaba hotnabada leimeesingsu angamba mateng pinabiyu.

Mamanggi sarkarna yunglamba nung yumbising ukhongna kaptuna adum leijarasanu. Sasu saroidaba sanglen kaya amadi thongjao kayagi foundation stone name plate thetchinduna thamlamba kaya ubiredana... phuktokpiyu.”

[Miyamna haraoduna khurakpa khubak makhoh thado rak e.]

“Ngasigi waphamda amuk lakcharage. Kangleipak Manipurda karigi paper mill lingdouriban ? Matang ashida wapham kharadang amuk thamjage. Meitei aseiba kabi Khwairakpam Chaobagi laiphao matung enna Meitei kabi yamna lak le. Mahakna hairammi ‘Lairarabi erolni Meitei kabi lakkhini. Khangdabana haibani’. Houjikti sapa khana yamna marang kaire. Seirenngi lairikna esing echaogi matougumna loinarolgi haibadi sahityagi tabu pathorakle. Apandagi pusillakpa chena lairik namlabadi cost of publication gi mahut hanjinde. Madugisu mathakta chemai anidang panba nungtigi phongba paochehi masingsu nongma – nongmagi masing hengatlak e. Chayol ama phonglamlaga maming mutkhibasu konggaini. Adu oidunasu mutkhibagi masingdagi nouna phongatlakpa pao chegi masingna adum hengatlak e. Chayolgi, thakhaigi, thagi, chahigi chefong kayasuni. Tasengnamak meitrabak asida chegi mathou ashi asukki matik yamna leikhre. School college ta tamnariba lairiksinggi guide book, text book notebook macha macha nambadasu cheigi mathou ngaktani. Phagi oina matek amatang panjarabada, esing marang kaina thambibada school college ta satra - satrisingna manung achouba changbada chegi mathousu yamna leiribani. Leibidrabrane ?”

[Mayam khubak khubagi makhoh thadorak e.]

“Wapham amana soibum, soidol soiduna manghalliba wapal mayam ashi ayamba sarukna chegi millda sijinnarabadi sarkargi sengaoda i yamna karakkani. Loinana thabak phangdaba mee lishing amukti thabak phanglagani. Houjikti potthok puthoknaba hotnaduna mill, factory lingkhatpatana leibakki, leimisinggi yaiphaba oiragani.

Nungsiraba prajasingna masimasu khangjinbiyu. Loitang khunouda lunggi mill ama leikhibadagi pheesabishingda lung hongna phanghanba ngamle. Lunggi mill aduda mee lishing amukti thabak phanghankhre.

Lamdeng khunouda linggadouriba Manipur paper mill ashimasu eina luchingjariba sarkar ashibu sougatpiriba M.L.A. singgi thoujaldagi chahi manga mapung phana chatlabadi soidana loisanjaramge. Karigumba khujin khunanthoktagi ngashi hayeng ashida ekhang hek khanghoudana sarkar kaikhrabasu eming yaona yungjallamliba nung yumbi ashitangdi adum leihanbiyu. Mathanggi mikhalda amuk karaklaba Matamda mill ashimadi loishinjagani. Masi eigi ahakpa pheerepni.”

[Miyamna khubak podrok podrok khurakpagi makholna pumnil nilna, atiya paojelna sandorakpa tahallak e.]

“Atiyabani, kangleiyondagi pao tabiri.” Pao paribi Ashem Anitana makha tana pao amuk patharak e –

“Numidang mei mutkani. Manipur apumbagi oina numidang khudinggi [kangleiyon nattana] mei mamgani. Mashi bijuli loishangna thadorakpa cherol amana haibani. Mamanggi sarkarna mei chalainaba engine amanba leirambadagi soikhibani haiduna mamanggi sarkar pallingeigi Matamda power bibagh pairamba houjikna chongsillaktuna education pairiba Kakyenpaibam Amudon mantrina warol amasu thadorakli. Mantri masamakti scandal aduda yaojakhide haiduna sengdoklakladuna matam kharadi numidangda mombati thanbiyu, podon amadi chemni thaomei thanbiyu, haidunasu apeal touri. A.O.C., B.O.Cdagi terosing phangdrabasu blacktagi leibiro hairi. Blackki potyon thingnaba pambeisu leijade hairi.

Ngashi nungthil pung ani taba Matamda tulihal aeroplane taphamda nesa phaba policeki team amana thiba humba chatthabada number four Kg 200, ganja kg 500 rom phakhre. Potlamsing adu mei thadoktuna manghanba pammubadagi makok thongba officer kharana thumgainaraga magi magi garida punakhre haiduna eikhoigi radio aerodromgi paomeena pao pirak e. Atiyabani kangleiyondagi pao tabiri.

Hayeng ayukki pung 6 tagi houraga pung 48 gi Manipur bandh ama tougani hairi. Bandh ashi esing loishanggi thoumee amadi sinmeesingna makhoigi dabi taksilladuna pung 24 bandh koujabani. Maru oiba dabidi talap hengatpa, office thengna karaga nganna office kumba yahanbiyu haibasus yaori.

Amaromda, toti esinggi stock loikhibaga loinana bus sagardagi anouba nonggi consignment laktriphaojadi esing thajaro. Pukhri, turel amadi khongbalgi esingna hotnabiyu haiduna esing lakpana thadokrakpa cherol amana apeal touri. Loina – loinana esing loishanggi thoumee singna koiriba bandh sougatpiyu hairi.

Tongan – tonganba lup kayana makhoigi dabi kaya taksilladuna pung 24 gi bandh amasu samtharaktuna pung 48 gi bandh ashibu leibak miyamna mapung phana sougatpiyu haiduna pressnote kaya thadorakli. Keithel kwayonbi phurupna makhoigi kwa yonpham shang tonganna sabinaba taksinbagi bandh kouri. Ateidi Meitei mayek committee, rikshaw driver union, san gari association asinachingba kayasu makhoi makhoigi dabi taksilladuna bandh fangjinbani hairi.

Pung 48 gi Manipur bandh manungsida dukan, keithel, cinema hall, school, office thong hangba yaroi, ashok apan yaoradi masa masagi maral oigadabani haiduna bandh lup singna makha tana hairi. Adubu, tangai phadana luhongba, heijingpot puba, nupi chenba, nupi haidokpa chatpa, ushop mela amadi sorat chatpa asinachingba kayadi komthokkani. Tougatabu mangjounana kanglei satra luptagi ayaba loubiyu hairi. Loina – loinana labida, keitheda, bandh yengba chatpagi permission mangjounana ayabasu loubihou haiduna apeal touri.

Atiyabani kangleiyondagi pao tabiri –

Pung 48 gi bandh asida office kadabasinggi talap kakni, suti loubu yaroi haiduna sarkarna thadorakpa cherol amana hairi. Bandh houdringeigi ahingda nupi karmacharising, chajenbising oirabasu macha piyasak puraga masa masagi beddingga loinana office karakkadabani haiduna cherol aduna makha tana palli. Officesingda ahing yarekpagi, acha athakki senpham chaona chaona kaithokpa yagani haidunasu palli.

Atiyabani kangleiyondagi pao tabiri –

Senapati jilada leiba police satationda lalhoubani haiduna chingnaba pakhang manga khakna gunpointda nongmei, three note three 20, nongmei maru 750 henna pukhre hairi. Houjik houjik thiba humbagi thabak chatthari. Ahenba force thomjinkhre. Loinana police chok adugi O.C. Nongnganjao Meitei khudakta suspend toukhre hairi.

Ngasi ahing michik miraokhol tadraba matamda Konthoujam yumphamgi sanglen manungda shree Keishingna luchingba mantri mandal da anouba mantri 6 hapchinduna chaothoklagani. Nouna washak lougadouriba M.L.A. sing ashe handakta nouna ema leibak partydagi humdoraklaga delhian partyda humjinkhibani. Shree Keishingna luchingba sarkar asida nouna washak lougadouriba mantri 6 asi tharaga apunba mantri 35 suragani.

Cheirak asida birodhi dalgi luchingba shree Meitram Dashu meiteina anouba sarkar ama semgani haiduna luwang shanggolda camp touduna toukhre hairi. Rulling partydagi M.L.A. chingthoknaba shumhatyai chenba helloi 25 rulling partygi

amphitheatre da thomjinkhre. Nongthang leimagi matougumna heeyai chenbisingna ngamdaba leite hairi.

Manipur sana leibakki saknairaba pung esei, sahitya amadi oja pandit Ningthoujam Sagor Singh, ngasi nungthil masagi mayum top khongnangkhongda leikhidre. Masagi chahi 84 sukhre. Saknairaba oja ashina leikhidabada kala sanskritigi lup kayana minute 2/2 tuminna sor honduna awaba phondokpagi pao kaya leptana tharakli. Shree singhna touramba apdan kayabu singtharaduna mahak leikhidaba ashi mishak amana hekta mensinba yarabasu, jatigi lan amadi mangjarabani hairi.

Atiyabani kangleiyondagi pao tabiri –

Ashem Anitana amuksu haijari, tabiyu nungngaibiyu –

B.k. Mansei Luwangna kanglei londa bangla mayekna eba “Huranbagi leibak” kouba novel ama luwang maichou Laibana langjeiphamba oiduna ngasi ngasi nungthil Koubru chingdolda phongkhre hairi. Lairik asi mathang chahida ‘Kanglei award’ phangba yabani haiduna Langjeiphamna phongdok warol piraduna laothokkhre. Lairik ashida huranba heiba tannabagi tongan – tonganba wari yaori hairi.

Ngashi numit taramdaigi chiraba matam amada paona keithelgi usha cinema hall mamangdagi cinema ticket kala bazar toujabi mou naha, mouyai 9 khak city city police ki team amana pharaga arappa lamhangda thadoknaba pukhre hairi. Macha pishak chenbi mounao amasu machaga loinakhi hairi. Kala bazar toubi mousing adu houjik phaoba mayum mayumda youraktri haiduna magi magi nupana pao pirakli. Nongngandringeida thinbiraknabasu apeal tourakli.

B.T. roadta leiba hotel hotel lekthabi mamangda cycle lakpa pakhang ama Miyam changduna phubadagi khudakta e oduna mathwai thakhre. Asiba hakchang adu post mortem tounaba hospital da pusinkhre. Police tagi phangba paogi likhoon amagi matung enna mathwai thakhraba naha aduna masagi cycle prap prap louthokcharaga makhong hamninglaktuna chenjabada meeyamna huranbani haiduna hatkhiba oiramle hairi. Matungda asigumba thoudok amuk hanna thoktanaba cycle khudingmakta number plate thetlasi haiduna city policena thadorakpa cherol amana leingak mapugi mityeng chingsillakli.

Manipuri, meiteilon, nattraga kangleilon bharatki 8 suba sheduleda channabagi changsilliba khongjanggi mathel ama oina tongan – tonganba lup kayana hangchittagi mapal kangjeibungda khuthang chara henna adu siramdaida tokkani haidunasu palladuna leibak meeyam hupna saruk yabinabasu apeal touri.

Atiyabani kangleiyondagi pao tabiri –

Mamanggi thada koirenggei godowndagi cheng, chini, bilamati stone lising masing khangdana mangkhibagi chennaba miyoising adu maming laothokkani touramba adu laothokpa yadaba matrinachingba saknaiba kayagi khujil thourang oirambana matam kharadi oina yeithokle hairi. Adumakpu godown panaba kerani choukidar kharadi thabaktagi louthokkhre.

Kangleiyonda yoongang yonbagi athingba leiraro hairi. Adumakpu kabui khulsingda changduna yoongou sungba amadi thakpa phabagi thabakti adum chatthakhigani hairi. Wapham ashe yoopha loishanggi machin chatpa meeshak amana eikhoigi paomeeda phone tourakli.

K.P.S.C.na thabak khanbada, happada post postki matung enna leiba yonbagi rate ama lonna lei haiduna pao che kharada phongkhiba pao adu yumpham yaodabani haiduna commission asigi choukimeena thadorakpa cherol amana sengdokli.

Keibul Lamjaogi Sangai 4 mangkhiba adu sayok loishanggi officer kharana chakpi karongda picnic chatpada pukhibani haiduna choukidardagi phangba pao amana hairi. Sangaigi machising adudi mamal kana yonkhre hairi.

Umang loishangna kumsisu wakchinggi oonn marakta lambi sorok lamhang tumpangda officesinggi akoibada u char lakh mangarom thagadouri. U thaba mee meegi maming thetkani. Thourang asigidamak lupa crore anirom kaithokpagi ayaba pikhre hairi. Ningsingba yai. Hannasu pao pijakhre. Hakum thakhiba u charsing lona sikhre. Esingsu chaibikhide. Sambal akoibasus khabikhide haiduna leimeesingna phongdoknei. Adu oidunasu umang loishanggi machin chatpa mishak amana lambi sorokta amadi sarkargi officesinggi compoundda sa – san thadorakpa sanbusingna jatigi lan oigadoiriba u charsing chathokhankhibani haiduna maral sikhre hairi.

Thabak phangdaba naharolsingda selgi mateng pigani haiduna paikhatluba thourang adu sarkarga bankka yanadabadagi toklagani haiduna ngasi kangleiyonda phamkhiba D.R.C.gi press conferences amada laothokhre. Ningba kairaba thabak phangdraba naharol kayadi pakhang lanmeeda ming chanba chatlagani haiduna mayum mayum thadoktuna chatnakhre hairi. Ningsingba yaba amana ngasi phaobada lairik heiba, laisu khangba, adumnadi oiraga thabak phangdaba meei lakh mari hengadouri. Leibakki saknairaba economist kharana school college ki factory sing asi khara makhei lock out touraga yamna thuna are lakpa yaba oak, yen, nganu, rabbit loibagi thabak loukhatpana pharagani haiduna ngasi pangthokhiba economic growth ki seminar amada rai takhre hairi.

Kangla asi leisemngeidagi esing thumdana leirakpa kangal tongbidagi nattraga kangla sangolda yamna thuna hongdoknaba Delhi da taknarugani haiduna rajyapalna paogi sabha amada phongdokkhre. Assam rifles ti Kanglada adum thamkhini hairi.

Kangla thanggapatta thadakhiba lupa lakh 10gi aphaba nga macha, marum ngasi C.B.I. gi dumsingna check toubu matamda ngamhai ngakta leiramle hairi. Thoudok asigi matangda case ama register toukhre. Touegumbasung nga machasing adum kangla manunggi surungdagi thorakpa ‘Leinung lonja Pakhangba’ na chathokhiba oigani haiduna ngapha ngayok loishanggi machin chatpa phamnaiba amana sengdokli. Kalam machin theidok theijin heiraba accountant officerbu thagatkhre hairi.

Manipurgi athoiba pukei ama oiriba Kakchinggi loupam kaya namduna khopchillaga esei nongmai, jagoi shang achouba ama saragani haiduna Shree Keishingna luchingba sarkarna warep loukhre. Khunjasingna yaroi haiduna thingbagi ehon laktuna loupam aduda dara 144 thamjinkhre. Yatra hunbagi nung yumbi yungbagi thouramdi C.M. bangglo manunggi londa oina pangthoklagani hairi.

Education department na lairik leigani hairi. Lupa ama piba form ama leibiraga thajinbirakkadabani hairi. Tougadabu chahi mangagi mamangda phongkhra lairakta sok tarik nuna semdoklaga thajillakpadi yaroi hairi.

“Kanglei khorinol apunba lup” asambada ‘Kanglei khorinol lup’ mapok kum onga mari leinana may thagi 14 da mipham ama pangthoklagani. Thouram asida chaklen fee lupa 40 piraga seminar ama yaobiya hairi. Seminargi heeramdi ‘Chaoba, Kamal, Anganghal’ – hanjin hanjin neikhaiba, asini. Sahitya, loinarol, loinasillon, pudin amadi khorinolgi doctor kayana che pagani hairi.

Ngasi numityungba pung 1 tabada paona keithelda leiba U.B.I. banktagi shakkhangdaba naha anina toy gun pointta lupa lakh 2 rom lakkhre. Bank guardki nongmeisu munbikhre. Policetagi phangba paogi leekhun amagi matung enna lootersing adu phaba ngambagi leekhun khangdabana thiba humba tokhre hairi. Bank cassierdahi phangba paogi leekhun amagi matung ennadi lupa lakh 3 ni hairi. Houjik houjik kalam machin theidok theijin gi langla langjin chatthari hairi.

Ngarang numidang athengbada khongmandagi armyna phakhiba pakhang ani adu ngasi numidang wairamda khurai keithelgi khong makhada sina phangle hairi. Pakhang ani adugi khudang gari ani amadi mangak mangakta siba lupagi mari, sanagi yantradi yaoramdre thatkhibagi mameedi leirammi hairi.

Manipurgi law and order gi phebam phagatle. Houjik houjik nungtigi kapthatnabada michambu oiro pakhang lalhoubabu oiro nongmagi mikok 10/20 sirabasu lalhoubagi

mamu yeithekle hairi. Ching tamgi marisu phagatle haiduna home loishangna thorakpa cherol amana hairi. Ching tam ningol chakoubana sakhini hairi.”

“Dung dang... bong bang... shet phet... .”

Ekhang hek khanghoudana ahouba makhol ama tarak e, pao marakta. Masina numidanggi seiroy eseira ? Houjikna amuk mapham kadaida ? Miyam pumbagi angakpa wahangni. Asumna khannei – soidre atiyabani office thugaikhre. Bomjao langsinkhiba malli. Nongmei maru kayasu kapsinkhibagi makhol amuk tarak e. Miyamna khannaba wakhal adu chumdre. Mapham amada piramba yai. Chingmeirong oirapna takhi. Maramdi pao makha chathari. Ashem Anitagi taba nungairaba khonjel lepkhide.

“Atiyabani kangleiyondagi pao tabiri –

Houjik houjik undergrounda leiriba pakhang lalhoubasing over grounda thoraklaga yannaba heeram amada wari sannasi haiduna Manipur sana leibak, kangleipakki chief minister shreeare. Keishingna aroiba oina amukkasu apeal toukhre. Lalhouba pakhangsingbu jatigi echelda tilhanbaga loinana khunda leitahanbagi mateng oina singgatlaktrasu yaba loangi mateng piragani haina laothokhre.”

Mei phut mutkhi. Paogi nungairaba matang asi yourakpada atiyabanigi pao khangtat tatkh. Leimising khoisaonei.

“Ngakpigani atiyabani leimayongi pao tabiri” –

Mikupta kharagi matungda pao paribi Ashem Anitagi khonjel khangta tarak e. Kangleicha pumnamakna koirao laonarak e – “mei laktre, mei laktre... Ashem Anitagi waya makholjel tarakle... tak tao... .”

“Atiyabani kangleiyongi pao tabiriba pumnamak ngakpigani. Pao tahanjaringeida mei laktabana maram oiduna pao eba chemai ama khanghoudana paithokhre. Houjik loubirasi sanabagi pao –

Mapan kangjeibungda chathariba senior division gi football matchta Traoga Nakoga sannaba adu loisindana tokhre. Sanaroi singna referee khongba phurubadagi matam kaktana yeithokkhre.

Bamon kampugi duri mandapta chatthariba Panthoibi kang tournamentta nagsi Mahadeva kangkhutna Pakhangba kangkhutpu maithiba pikhre. Hangchit Sanamahi kangkhutka Mahadeva kangkhutka final sanaragni.

Wangkhei konung lampakta chatthariba Marjit polo tournament ki final sanaba adu loisindana tokhre. Wakchinggi nong khiktharakpada oon mapak yaoraktuna sangol makhong tekpa yaorakpadagi tokhibani hairi.

Houjikta thengna pisillakpa pao amana hairi – ngasi ayuk anganbada nongmei sangu kapnabagi amadi bomb mapei pokkhaibagi takhiba makhol adu Uran chingnungdani. Police commando singga pakhang lanmeega achouba lanpham ama thengnakhre. Nakan animakki lanmeesing tora tuna sire hairi. Pakhang lanmeegi aronba lanshang thugaikhre. Pakhang lanmee ahumdi Hingna phahoure. Maming mathadi laothoktri. Pakhang lanmee 6 ti nanthoktuna mirot chingdolda chensinkhre. Ngasigi lanpham aduda pakhang lanmeegi luchingba Nong...dren...!”

Atiyabanigi pao paribi Ashem Anitagi hiklap tou e. Ekhang hek khanghoudana mathanta nganglak e – “O: Nongdren tukhraba...!”

Pao chap lepkhi. Pao paribi Ashem Anita – khanghoudana kaplak e. Supnatanggi mikup amatangni. Mahak masamak, mass mediada pao pari haiba kaojakhibagum toukhi. Magi marannaigi khonthok ama yaorakpa asina lengdraba khudamni.

Yumthong khudingda pao tanariba mipum khudingmak ngaknei. Meeoi kharana mahei mahei ngangnei –“ Nongdren haisibu Ashem Anitagi kanao ? Mabungla moupwara natraga...!”

Leibak miyamna atiyabani pao makha tagadabagi khoirangna ngainari.

Ekhang hek khanghoudana radio officeki pao papham amadi operating room manungda ngangnaba wapham ama radio waveta khangta tarak e, nupagi khonjelni –

“Anita ! Keidoure ? Control yourself. This is mass media. Pao makha chatthou. Hurry up...!”

Thoudok asi mikup kharadanggi manungda thokkhibani. Soiba haibasi tamba ngamba matang natte. Switch muthatnabagi matam phangba natte. Phanglabasu ngaihakti chamamnakhi.

Nupagi khonjel adumakna pao paphamda chensillaktun pao makha samtharaduna houhouna amuk patharak e –

“ Ngakpigani. Atiyabani kangleiyon. Houjik aroibada maru oiba pao amuk leijare –

Ngasi ayuk Lamdeng khunouda chief ministerna paper mill ama sagatnabagidamak nung yumbi yungduna name plate thetkhre. Manipurgi law and order gi phebam phagatle. Hayengdagi chief minister numit mangani khongchatta Delhida koiba

chatkhragani. Mantri mandal kharasu chaothoknaba Prime minister da taknarugani hairi.

Pakhang lanmeegi luchingba Nongdren, ngasi ayuk leingak lanmee tenggolga kapthunabada Uran chingdoldagi longna haithakhre hairi. Mahak siramlagani haiduna thajanari. Mahakki leekhun linaba huijao kaya mangjil thaduna thomjinkhre.

Ningsingba yai, Nongdren hingna nattraga sina pharaga sarkarda sinaba ngamba misakta lupa lakh 1 mana pigani haiduna laothokkhrabani.

Pao loijare... .”

Thanunglongi cheinakhol phajinba ngamhoidrabi Ashem Anitagi khonjel khanghoudana amuk laorak e – “Nongdren... nangbu kadaidano...? Nahakpu hinglibra, sikhrabra ?”

Ashem Anitagi seitharol malang epakta sandokhre. Hek thangnaba mikupta sarak sihanba toudana programme conduct touduna anouncer oiriba Telem Tonaona makhagi programme louthaba oina khanglao laothorak e –

“ Atiyabani kangleiyon,

Houjik leijare Pebam Epachougi khonthokta B.K. Manseina seirengba, houjik chakki esei ama tabirasi –

[Esei ama thadorak e, leimee pumnamak pukning khoijangna tannei...]

Esei

Sanou naha kanglei pakhang !

Semlasi anouba leibak

Linglasi anouba leingak

Lirasi khongul athoubasinggi !!

Punshise sinthani

Punshise lanphamni

Mingchatni mangdaba

Hakchangdi tumkhini.

Miyamgi marupsing

Chingnunggi nongsasing

Nongthanggum khaklamba

Thawaina pontha oikhrasu

Mar khongguldi lirak u... .”

Esei loisinkhi. Ngaihaktang interlude music matek ama pirak e. Laibak miyamna makhagi thouram tagadabagi khourangna ngainei.

“Atiyabani kangleiyon... .

Telem Tona paomeena makha tana nganglak e –

Pebam Epachougi khontokta B.K. Mansei Luwangna seirengba esei ama tabikhre. Mathangda amuk shreemati Lairem Tombi Devina sakpa Radha Khrisna anina thabal pharaba ahingda Yamuna turelgi toreida taothabagi nungairaba nouka bihargi nat ama.... Leijare loubirasi –

Yamunagi epakta, thabal epomlakta

Shreemati Radha Khrisna anina

Nouka bilashki khongchatta

Nouka bihar sanarido... .”

Atiyabani kangleiyon gi pao taramba, chakki esei taramba naharol ayambana matang asi yourakpada tek tek tok tak radio muthatkhi. Ahal lamansingna hoina houna laonarak e – “Eseido muthatkanu tharak u, Ebungo ebemmagi nouka bilash tasine... .”

Macha masu oibasingna yarabasu radio thagatnaraktre. Khunpham amadi pumchik chikkhre. Kanasu radio thagatnaraktre.

Madugi maram lei.

“ Emagi Nongdren...!”

Nupigi khonjel amana arappadagi tengtha naooiraduna laokharlak e – “Emagi langjei ! Emabu karo oirasige. Nanggi khonggul emana karamna ligani. Nangbu houjik kadaidano... hinglibra sikhrabra?

Esh ! Nongdren mamabu hingliba ?

Atiyabani loishangdagi Antita thorakle. Lamjao lampakki thonggalda leplei. Koiyeng yenglak e – lambigi kha wangda. Matam khara chontharaga car ama awanglomdagi yangna thoudarak e. Anitagi manakta khangkham khamlei. Driver kumtharak e. Cargi maningthong hangdoraklei. Manakta chap leplei.

“ Medam echemma !” cargi driver aduna makha tana hairak e – “ Ngasidi khara thengdokkhre.”

“Thengdeda, nangdi chap chanabu thunglei.” Anita na khummi amasung hairak e – “Imocha, nakhoi sirdi kadaida leihoure ? Thabak chilhoubra ?”

Imocha driverna shat hekta khummi – “Operation ama chatkhri... .”

“Operation...!” Anitana khanghang hanglak e – “mapham kadaida, houjikpo ?”

“ Mapham taklamde, khudakta lakpa paoni.” Imocha driverna samtharaktuna hairak e – “ Echemma louraga yumda hallammo hairammi.”

“ Adudi chatsidana... .” Anita na asi hairaga car maungda kakhatkhre. Thong thingjillaga amuk hairak e – “ Nakhoi tamose onthokna khambal chaokhra potni. Eibu yumda handrabadi kadaida chatkhini haiduna mipairijatno khangde.”

“Echemma matam phattaba asida chumnata pakhatchaduna hairambani.” Imocha driverna khummi.

“Hoine, adubudi chummida.” Anitana makha tana hairak e – “ phare, gari thouro. Pairaga thouganu. Karisu touroi pakhatlunu.”

“ Phagani Echemma.” Imochana asi hairaga car thoukhre.

Mapu nanai ani chek mok laonade. Amana men tana, changchat amada gari thouro. Mabemma Anitana mamit tarungda pangladuna oongjanari. Mahak car tongduna chatli haiba haiphet kaogum tourak e. Mahak masamak atiyabani kangleiyongi pao paphamda leiribadouna khanjei. Ekhang hek khanghoudana machindagi haidorak e – “ Oh ! Nongdren tukhraba...!”

Hek thangnaba mikupta wahei asibu tahouraba driver Imochana khanghang hanglak e – “Medam ! Atei lairi, Nongdren hairisibu echemmaga kari mari thoknabage... ngasaisu atiyabani pao marakta...!”

Anita khangprek khng e. Mahak lousing lak e. Mamit khangkup kuplak e. Hannagi phibamda hanjillaga hairak e – nahaksu numidanggi atiyabani tahouboireko. Yengoi Imocha, mei mutlingeida paithakhraba chena ama enakta phamliba assistant news editorna khungatлага khangpi pisillak e. News reader singna matang matanggi oina

masagi oiba pairakki lousing sijinnaduna sarak sihandanaba hotnaba tai. Eidi adumak touduna ‘ Houjikta thengna pisillakpa pao amana hairi’ haiduna wathouraba pao adu jer jer parui. Pakhang lanmeegi luchingba ‘Nongdren’ haiba adu hek thengnabada lawai satkhi, esapumba tujungkhi. Eihak esamak mass mediagi cell manungda pao pari haiba ngaihak kaothoklui. Adeidi khol hikna ngangthokkhi – “Oh ! Nongdren tukhraba...!”

Anitagi wangang makha taba toudana chap lepthokhi. Ningsa swar sangna hondoklaga tuminna leikhre. Mamaida kariba humang anappi pheejina teithokchei.

Driver Imochana khanghai amuk hairak e – “Medam Echemma, wahei adumadi eigi nakongda takhi, radio machada mayek sengna tahou e. Ado, Nongdren haisibo...?”

Driver Imochana makha taraktringeida meetek meerou munna khanglabi Anitana khangnot notsillak e – “Imocha, nangna eingondagi khangba pamlibase Nongdren eigi kanano haiba asi oirini, nattrado ?”

“Ahoi.” Driver Imochana khummi amasung hairak e – “ Kamdouna Medam echemmaga Nongdrenga kainakhibano haibadu khangningi.”

“Heirene nangsus... .” Anitana nokphet touna makha tarak e – “Policeki drivernina, seihoudi hangdana seiroida kit hekta... .”

“Ehe ! Thongal youre.” Driver Imochana asi hairaga gari khammi.

“Atei lairi Imocha.” Anitana sarak sihanba toudana khanghang amuk hanglak e – “ Nakhoigi sirdi pao matek ado takhi lakkhibra...hah ?”

“Ah.... Taramdou mandeda, madam!” Imocha driverna makha tana hairak e – “Atiyabanigi numidang pao laktringeigi mamangda sirkhoidi S.P. sahebki chamberda leiminnari. Pao loikhraba matungda eikhoigi D.S.P. sahebna chenthoraklaga nateima madam lourucho, eihak operation ama chatpa tare haiduna takpirakhi.”

Anitana makha samjina oina hairak e – “ Adeidi... nahak gari thourak a, nakhoi sirna Nongdrengi maming takhidabado pharabani. Onthokpani ! Chinglen Nongdren khombagi emung manunggi wari. Thoidokna Nongdrengi maming ashe nakhoi sirgi maphamdadi hek tabaga tilaikhombi chubadouna nongmei hekta satpani. Atei lairi, Imocha ! Horon Khongngu, bahadurdu eikhoi lak e khangdrajatla... kouna, pakhang lanmeena langgoi chankhrajatlane, kumthou, thong thillucho... .”

Driver Imocha kumthakhre. Yotki thongjao thilladuna kourak e – “ Bahadur ! Bahadur...! Keidoure, thong hangngune... . Atei santridi kadai, kadaida chatnakhre...?”

“ Hoine, check post mathakta santri amatta udene... .” Anitana asi hairaga cargi thong hangdoklaga thorakle tou e.

“ Medam echemma... .” Imocha driverna pakhatna kouraduna hairak e – “ Adum leibiyu, pakthabiyu... kanana khangni manungdagi thongjao hangdoklaga nongmei ayangbi khapchillaklabadi.... Paktharaga leibiyu... sirabasu eihak thengnajage.”

“Hoinehe... .” Anitana mathanta sonjei – “Nongdren hatkhre haiba pao hek tabaga magi pakhang lanmee khutpuna mathong maram sukkhang hek khangdana eikhoi yumda hotchillaktuna raid touramdanako... .”

Ekhang hek khanghoudana manunglomda mee chenthorakpagi khonggup makhol ama khangta hek tarak e.

“Imocha... .” Anitana tankou loiraga hairak e – “ nanggi service pistol satlaga nakchepta leiyu eidi pakthare... .”

Imocha driver, [Constable] akhannaba maram kharadagi masa ngakthoknaba amadi magi sir D.S.P. sahebki bodyguard amasu oina nongmei atenba pai amasung matam khudingmakta thadokte.

“ Chingnabirunu medam Echemma.” Imocha constable driverna magi oirom thangba makhwangda yalliba pistol adu sat satlaga pheebam semduna lumlaga leikhre.

Ekhang hek khanghoudana yotki gatechao sabak phakna hangdokpaga loinana laorak e – “ Medam ngakpigani... manungda mei muttuna changlure, toubasu... .”

“Aehra, salla !” Imochana asumna hairaga makha amuk tana mathanta ngangnei – “ Epa hek pakthathalli. Nangdum soiramganido, Bahadur.”

“Ta – Imocha !” Bahadurna taphingna kourak e.

“Hoine eisu ngaihakti luton satlure.” Car manungda pakthariba Anitana chepkhatlaga makha tana hairak e – “ Toubasu haibana karino Bahadur ? Santri anina kadaida kumthakhre ? Yoo thakpa chatkhriba, hah ?

“Meekup kharagi mamangda sirna phone touraklammi... .” Bahadurna wapham asina wamang yanba oina magi madam gi asaoba phathakhirammi.

“Nakhoi sirna kari kari haina phone tourak eba... ?” Anitana pakhatna amasung khangningna notsillak e – “ Houjikna mahak kadaida leiri haige ?”

“Madam pakhatpiganu.” Bahadurna neh tana hairak e – “ Aduga, Ta – Imocha, gari thoujinbirak o. Pakhang lanmeena khanghoudana yumda attack tourakpa yaidi hairak

e adubu karisu chingnaningai leite, gari thoujinbiraklo. Lanmee mapei ama tharaktuna yumthakta, akoibada leirare.”

“Khangdeda tourise... .” Anitana engtharap touna mathanta sonjaraga hairak e – “Keidoungei loigani nongmeigi lan amasung kalamgi cheirak !”

Imocha driverna panghaba toudana chensillaktuna car maungda changlakle. Khudakta start touraga manungda thoujinkhre.

Hek thangnaba mikupta Bahadurna yotki thongjao gham laona yeisillaga thingjinkhre. Waikhu sho lonsinkhre.

Mikup khara chontharaga D.S.P. sahebki masaigongi akoibada wangna thalliba bijuligi ngallaba meingal pumnamak phut phut mutthokhre.

Chingmeirong Sinam leikaigi chingyada yumdompok oina leiriba mapham adu pummam mamkhre. Thawoina mei muthatkhiba natte. Mei khanglak lakhidabani. Mei mutkhibaga loinana mapham ado chek mok laokhidre.

Ashem Anita oongjannari. Atiyabani kangleiyonda mahakna pao pathokkhibada numidang mei mutkani mombati natraga chemni thaomei thanbiyu haikhi. Amamba marakta Anitana koima – maraduna meikhet amadi mombati thiri. Manai mashak kaya leiribani. Amattasu kourakte. Manai nupi Memtonsu chensillakte. Emungda leiriba mee pumnamak amamba marakta adum chamamnaduna leihourasanu. Cheirak asida, yourusi amuk, Lamdeng khunou Lei engkhol.

7

Lei engkhol...!

Lamdeng Khunougi lei engkhol maming mutlurabani. Adubu, ngasi ayuk chief minister shreeare Keishingna paper mill lingkhatnabagi foundation stone yungkhibaga loinana ikhang hek khanghoudana maming chatpa mapham ama amuk oirakkadoure. Ashem Anitana pathokkhibi atiyabanigi maru oiba pao adu leibak sara sanna sandokkhrabani. Tahouba meei kayana harao – nungngaiba phongdaktuna khubak khunei. Madugi maram kayamarum lei.

Moubiwa marang kaina houriba lamdan asida tangai phadana paper mill ama lingkhatpadi hendokna maram charabani. Jiribamgi mataida leiba ‘Kadamtala’ kouba mapham amada ‘Manipur pulp and allied product limited’ haiba bamboo chipinggi unit

ama lingkhatkhrabani. Trial production houkhre. Machinena takkhairaba wakupsing adu heejao mapot kaya – kayada pik thanna haplaga Jiri tureldagi Barak turel landuna puthokki. Yumlonnaba leibak Assamgi paper millsingda machak hunbatamak oiduna leirakli. Tasengnamak paper mill ama mapung phana lingkhatpadi nattri.

Masibu munna khangbiduna shreeare Keishingna luchingba choikhom sarkarna [collision government] Lamdeng Khunougi leiengkholgi pak chaoraba lamhangda paper mill ama linggadouriba asi yamna thagatningngaini. Tougatabu ngasi ahing asimaktada foundation stone ado phuktokkhibasu kanana khangba ? Maramdi Leiengkholgi mapu ama echao chaona chongthorakpa yai. Yumbi adu thudeklhiba yai. Mapu aduna mapukchel chaothoraktuna leibakki oina kanagadaba leibadagi lamhang lamjao ashe katthokcharage haiduna laothorakpasu yai.

Atei lairi, enak nakna lotliba Lamdeng khunou – mapham kadaida leibage haibadu takchakhidri. Location khangdaba meei kaya leiramkhigani. Maram aduna Lamdeng khunou Leiengkholgi leipham adu amuktang takchakhige.

Eikhoigi keithel achouba [Khwairamban keithelbu khangnei] asiga Uripok lamlenga samnahanduna naga turel mathakta sariba ‘Maharani thong’ [Maharani kanagi mamingda sakhibano, hongkhibano haiba chap chaba likhoondi phangba ngamdri. Kanana hai, Gomti maharanigi mamingda sakhibani. Meei kharana amuk hai, Maharani Dhanamanjurigi Matamda sakhibani. Oiningba oirasanu.] Makhongdagi nongchup pangna, khongnabu oiro, chaka ani panbanabu oiro, chaka ahum panbanabu oiro, chaka mari panbanabu oiro, chumdring chumna hekta yangthabirak u. Thoina lappa mapham natte. Lambi lishing chatpa nungngainaba maru – maru oiba mapham kharadangdi panjarakke. Swa... hainabu lamtharasi.

Maharani thongkhingdagi kharadang chattharaga oirom thangba lambigi chidaida laikhurembi emagi masaigol leire. Emabu khurumbirammu. Tung hanna yengbiraklaganu. Adum chatthabirak u. Khara chattharaga awang pangna chatkhraba leirakto haiphet yengsinbirammu. ‘Ka’ da lotlu hairamba kabi Khwairakpam Chaobagi poknapham Sorobong thingel haibadu leibani. Leirak manungdudi changbirunu. Matungda amuk changbiro. Mapham adu khangjinbiraga chumdring haithabirak u. Leihoire laphubon lampak, mathangda Iboton Sana Girl Highschool. Adeidi youre, naorem phaibok thong – Nambul turel mathakta saba thong. Uripok amasung Sagolband anibu thong asina samnahalli. Thong ashi wari leiba thongni. ‘Lammitlon’ kouba lairikta asum hainaba latchalli –

“Meidingu Urakonthoubagi macha nupa Hongnemyoi khunjaona khrista 663 da poirei Meitei leibakki ningthou oirabada ukrong hongnaba Moirangdagi eroi Taipombi louruduna

pamel uchingbada lamkhangda loidam thasing surabi mabuk kangbi nupi ama thengnarammi. Meidingu Hongnemyoi Khunjaona Luwang kuru Punshibagi masaikol kadaino hangbada nupi aduna mabu amukta makhongna kanbiyu takchage hairammi. Hongnemyoi Khunjaona pukkangbi nupi adugi mabuk adu makhongna kanthokpada macha phaibok ani pokle. Maduda nupi aduna haraona haikhi, Lairem meidingu Luwang ningthou Punshibagi masaikoldi asidani haina khudombina thinduna takpa matung enna Hongnemyoi Khunjaona yengkhi haiduna ‘Shak yeng’ haibadagi mapham adu ‘Takyel’ kounakhi. Macha pokpa ngamdrabi pukkangbi nupidu Hongnemyoi khunjaona mapham aduda kanbadagi macha pokkhi haiduna nupi adugi mamingsu ‘Takyel pukkanbi’ nattraga ‘Takyel pukkangbi’ kounakhi. Khoiyum lai nubinis hainei. Macha phaibok pokkhiba mapham adubu houjik ‘Naorem phaibok thong’ kounakhi.”

Takyel pukkanbigi nao arembana pokkhiba machana ‘Naorem sagei’ oikhi. Ningthouna kanthokpadagi pokhibani haiduna Naorem sageibu Ningthouja salaida changkhiye. Mapham asidagi Naorem sageichasing khunkheibana maram oiraduna ‘Phaibok thong’ haiduna khangnarakle. Puwari amaga sagonnariba Naorem phaibok thong leihoursanu. Tung hanna yengbiruganu. Kharadang chattharaga awang pangna chatkhriba lambi adu haiphet yengbirammu. Lamphel pat taba lambini. Adudeidi chumdring kapthabirak o. Asum asum yangthabirak o.

Wari leiba mapham ama youdoure....youbu youre. Ngaihaktangdi leppikho. Uripok kangchup lambigi nak yetta khongnang manga houriba adu yengbiyu. Awang thangba lambigi chidaida khongnang bhot pambi amaga sana khongnang pambi amaga houri. Makha thangba lambigi chidaida khongnang bhot pambi amaga sana khongnang pambi ani houri. Khongnang pambi mangagi sandorakliba masa marengna lonshinakhiduna phajaraba mapham ama oiri. Umang macha amadouna emang mangbadouna uriba mapham asibu ‘Lamboi khongnang makhong’ nattraga ‘Lamboiba khongnangkhang’ haina khangnei. [Houjikti lambi pakthokpada khongnang mangamak yanthatkhre. Makharom thangba lambigi chidaida electric transformer amadi khinduna leiri. Maduda signboard ama thetli. Maduda eri ‘Lamboi khongnangkhang’. Mapham asigi lammitlon echam chamna thonkhiba natte. Wari ama leiri. Meitei hindu laining chatpa kangbugi chatnabida mayum makei thadoktuna nam ollaga (khudam oina gouradas, cheiteinyadas) lamboiduna chatkhraba misingdi maymda hanjallakpa yadre. Shreeram nabadweepta nattraga shreeram brindabandhda lai ningduna bikhya niduna chara nongkhannaduna hingnei. Atou asumna, meiteigi lamboiba babaji ama mayum thadoktuna shreeram brindabandhda chatluraga leiba heinadabadagi hallaktuna seidangpham thirakpada Uripok kangchup lambigi khongnang manga houriba mapham asida seidangpham oire. Mayumdadi changba yadrabanina hingnaba pambei ama thiba hourakhi. Kanagumbanadi lamboiba amatta natte, lamboiba sanggu ama leirammisu

hainei.] Lamboiba masingdi oiningba oirasanu. Mapham asida lamboiba amagi lotpham nattraga seidangpham oirammi haiduna ‘Lamboi khongnang khong’ thonkhibani hainari. Masida yetningngai leite. Laibak thibadi lamboiba adugi tasengba maming mathadi phangba ngamdre.

Nungngairaba chinthang wari amasu leiri. Lamboi khongnangkhong mayada yum pankhiba Yaiskul ningol amana lirambani. Sampatna kharadang panjage.

Khongnang pambi mangagi makhongda nattraga matonda kakhatlaga seidangpam oiramba babaji adu potlakpa taku, tamnalai haidunasu khangnarammi. Mayumda changbasu yadraba, yumthong khudingda bikhya chatpasu ekairaktuna sayon lang on sanaba hourakhi. Mahakna ayuk nungthilda mamit chejet uisillaga khongang makhong hong – hongduna lai ninglammi. Matou aduda lambi achat – awoksingna bhakti kattuna khurumnarammi. Kana kanagumba kharana peisa achoiba pai, matek langsinbirambasu yao e. Kanagumba thabak suningdaba, emung manung thakningdaduna lamboikhibani haiduna cheinarambasu yao e. Thui haiduna matil sitlambasu yaorak e. Adeidi, babaji aduna numidang numidang khudinggi khongnang masada tonglaga keithel kumlakpi nupising tamnaraga kihallammi. Keithel nupisingna babajini haiba khangkhi. Magi chakthak hunbige hairaga tamnaba tokhankhi. Mahakna nonggakhraba matungdagi houraduna houjik phaoba Lamboi khongnangkhong maming leihouri. Pot lakpa, maha takuni haiba adudi kananasu khangnakhidre. Thoidokna anouba lammitlonda maming chatlaba mapham ama oihouri.

Maming leiraba Khongnang makhong ashi tung oibiramlaga nongchup pangna adum yangthabirak u. Kharadang chattharaga thengnarani samu shang. Thainangeida Kanglei ningthousinggi samu thampham oirammi haiduna lamlen matek adubu samushang koubani. Houjikti mamingdang oiheure, samudi leikhidre. Mapham ashigi pankhei hek loibaga Eroishemba lamlen heure. Mathai mathaingeida eroi sempham haibadi hatlaga thongnaba sempham nattraga eroisenpham (thadokpham) oirammi haiduna Eroishemba koukhibani hainei. Uripok kangchup lambigi makharom thangba alakabu Eroishemba mamang leikai, Eroishemba mayai leikai, Eroishemba maning leikai haiduna khaidok e. Lambigi awanglom thangba leikaibuna Moirangthong leikai haiduna khaidok laga leikhri.

Tu ! Mangda leire... luwangli mathakta saba thong. Loina – loinana Langol chingi masa mareng oiriba chingdum achouba awangba ama. Masibu Eroishemba chingjil haidunasu khangnei. Ching napomda lambi anikhak awang pangna khaikhre. (Lambi amana houjikki zoological garden taba lambini.) Thong landringeigi makharom thangbada kapthakhriba lambi aduna Eroishemba maning leikai taba lambini.

Lamlong mari phangba mapham ashe yengbada mitpham hongna yadana phajei. Ngaihaktang leplaga koilei leiduna yengbirammu. Adeidi thong lanthokpiro. Nongchup pangna chumdring amuk yangthabiraklo. Uripok road leihoure. Kangchup roadna chumdring amadi khajik khajiktang thekkoinaduna kapthakhri. Lambigi makharom thangba, Nambul turelgi torei thekphamda umanglaigi masigon ama leiribadu ubigani. Masibu Eroishemba erong laiohamlen koubani. Umang laibu miraiba yade. Kok nonduna lamlai khurumbirammu. Adeidi awanglom thangba wanglaba chingmairomda amuk mityeng thambiyu. Luwangli turel mapalgi chingkhong adudagi Lamdeng Khunougi alaka houre. Lamdeng khunou thaba signboard ama chingkhongda yungduna thetlibani. Ching napomda thekkoi nakoina changkhriba lambi aduda manung youna changsinnaba ahanba lambini. Lei engkhol taba ashamba lambiromda changsinbana henna nungngaigani. Aduna yangthabirak o. Makharom thangba erong laiphamlengi maikidasu haiphet yengbirammu. Taothong khunjao, khudeiban, Taothong maning leukai haiduna leikhri. Khul ahum ashiga maiyoknaduna awanglomda leiriba khunjao ashini Lamdeng khunou.

Adungei, Chingkhong Poireiton amadi Leinaotabi anina ehan hanna khunthoklaktuna khundakhiba maphambu Lamdeng kou e. Lamdeng mapungdagi Lamdeng khunou ashi chongthorakpani. Hannadi umang oina, mongsong achouba oina leirammi. Taothong awang leukai haiduna khangnarammi hainei. Ebungsi pheiraba kouba Ningthemcha amana matam khara khundaraga leirammi. Adudagi 'Lamdeng khunou' koukhibani hainei. Kainathangda Lamdeng khunjaodagi chongthoraktuna khundakhiba nupa adugi maming Irom Itobi kou e hainei. Lamdeng khunou manungda changsinnaba lambi natraga leirak asangba ahum lei. Ehan hanba lambidi mathakta pankhiba luwangli turel mapalgi chingya aduni. Mapham adudagi khara chattharaklaga khunyai taba lambi (Thamnapokpi hairaga khangnaba mapham) ama leikhri. Maduda chumdring chingkhong youna changsinba yai. Taothong lamkhaidagi awang pangna kapsillakpa lambi aduda changlabasu khul manung youna changsinba yai. Lamdeng Khunoubu khunthak, khunyai, khundon (Lamsang youramdai, Taothong lamkhai phaoba) haiduna khaidok e.

Khunyaigi lambi asangba, thekkoi nakoiba asigi manungda kham thengna changsinbirak u . Langol chingdagi haidorakpa tha machet manba chingthek amana lei engkholbu konsinduna thamliba ado mityeng tabirasi. Yamnamak ningthijaraba maphamni.

Matam amagi maming chatlaba lei engkhol – mee tadraba lamhang oina leiraklabani. Emung ama mutkhrabani. Maram ashidagi shreeare Keishinggi palliba sarkar asina

namlou lousinbamak nattrabasu mapu leitraba lamni haiduna Manipur paper mill
lingnabagidamak ayukta foundation stone khinkhibani.

Adubu kadai... ayukta khinkhiba foundation stone thugairamle. Machet makai
amaphaoba leiramde. Atiyabani kangleiyonda Ashem Anitana maru oiba pao oina
laothokkhraba matungda thoudok ashi thokhiba oigani. Kayada thukhraba ! Angakpani
! Numidang ashida kana laktuna thugairamliba ! Amukka henna ngakpa amana
foundation stone leiramba mapham aduda enou nouba signboard ama yunglamle.
Khwai mayamsu mityeng tabiro.

Tu yengbiyu ! Lamdeng khunouda angakpa thoudok amasu thoklare. Foot taretmuk
wangba ukhong amada kongngou machet ama frame challaga rung angangba
machuna mayek khara eraga thetlamle. Uchuk makhong aduda mutshi mutshiraba
mei Kambi macha ahumkhak katlammi. Angakpangi matouni. Ayukta khinkhiba,
heikhiba ‘ Manipur paper mill’ gi foundation stone – chamlaba uchuk ukhong amana
mahut sindoklamle. Aduga enou nouba signboard ama... mei tek ! Lighter mangalda
thariba mayek ado taseng tasengna ure. Asumna thari

SITE FOR

CHINGLEN NONGDREN KHOMBA

Esh ! Tu khwao chongningai oiraba minglen ama... kangleida pankhiba matik mayai
leiraba ningthourel amagi name plate, nameplate ama kanana karamba Matamda
thetlamliba ? Mapu amadi leiramba yari. Engkhol ashiga ningthourelgi maming asiga
kari mari leiriba...? Mapham ashida Meidingu Gambirsingh, Chinglen Nongdren
khombagi achouba sakmee (murti) ama khindouribra ?

Hendokna khinba yai.

Eningthou Chinglen Nongdren khomba adugi sakmee (murti) ama, lei engkholda
khinba yai. Adungei chahi taret khutakluraba meitrabakpu ouwagi makhuttagi
handoktuna ningtamba phanghankhiba ningthourel Gambirsingh, Chinglen Nongdren

khombagi shakmee – meitrabakki mapham khudingmakta khinba yai. Loinana manao Ebungo Meidingu Narsingh Nonglenkhombagi shakmeesu mayambunggu manakta khinba yai. Ningthou machin manao anigi manakta Herachandragi shakmeesu maton anigi manakta khinba yai. Ningthem machin manao ani amadi macha Ebungo Herachandra poklamdrabadi meitrabak Manipur ashe houjiksi Ouwagi loilam oiduna leiramkhiba yai. Tunggi meerolda, eikhoi ningtamna hinggadabani haiba ado ningsinghounaba athouba kayagi shakmee khinduna thamlamba haiba ashe yamnamak tangai phadabani. Thoidokna, Lamdeng khunou Lei engkhol, Meidingu Chinglen Nongdren khombaga mari leinaba wari ama leiri. Mapham ama kansindua site for name plate thetchillhouba yai. Mapham ashida Chinglen Nongdren khombagi mamingda school ama saghatlakpasu kanana khangba.... . Houjik Matamda school lingkhattuna karbar toubagi ehon ama leirakle. Thabak phangdraba adumnadi oiraga mating leiraba naharol kayana aphaba school lingkhattuna masadasu nattana ateibusu thabak pijanabagi araiba pambei ama thinarak li. Asidasu nattana mapal lamdagi khundarakpa Christian missionary kayanasu lamhangbu urabadi mantiknaba toudana lamhang – tuhang kaya khopchinba houraklabani. Localgi toubu ngamba meei khara sel pisinduna neklaga namphu haphuda lam khopchinaba nameplate hanna yungsillaga angam athou tannaraga lamgi mapu oinaba hotnarakli. Asigumba maramsing ashi leibana Lamdeng khunouda khanghoudana yunglariba nameplate ashi yamna chingnaningai oiri. ‘Chinglen Nongdren Khomba’ hairiba main caption ashigi makhada mission natraga english school ama khanghoudana thokchillakpa yai. Chinglen Nongdren khombagi mamingdabu oirabadi kananasu karimata hainaroi. Thugai khotkaibasus touraroi. Leiminsingna Eningthou ashigi maphamba houjiksi ekai khumnari. Loina – loinana shakmee ahumkhak khinjillakpasu yai. Emung mutkhraba Irom Etobigi chada nouda amadi soidana hinggatlakpa yai.

Irom Etobigi hourakoham – Chingakham Irom leikaidagini. Adungei, ebungshi samu phaba Gambirsinghna Masina Kumudinigi sanggaida yaong ennduna matam khara leirammi. Etobigi ebungshi samu phaba khangnakhi. Nongma ahing athengbada, matam adugi kangleida ningthou oiduna pankhiba Meidingu Marjitna manao ebungo samu phaba hatnaba lanmee tharakhi. Ebungshi samu phabaga konunggi lanmeega lan macha ama soknakhi. Maikei animakki oina meei 24 sikhi. Kangabam kshetrigi kouba ahal amana ebungshi samu phababu mateng pangduna nanthokhankhi. Ebungshi samu phabana sagol thoudokhi. Mahakna sagol thouna thouna laorammi –

“Etao, Irom Etobi ! Eihak lan handokle. ‘Ka’ leibakta chatlage. Nahakna nachal nupi Maisna Kumudinigi emung manungbu casharda khara thinbirak u, yambung Marjitki arongnai lanmeesingna landarakle... eihak chelleko... .”

Ebungshi samu phaba Gambirsinghi khollao ashi Irom Etobina tahou e. Phuk hougatлага mayumdagi chenthorak e. Adubu tanaba phangkhidre. Hek thangnaba mikupta thoudok thokpham lampak adu tamna chellakhi. Meeshi meenagi oiramliba matou aduda Etobina pakhatladuna Maisnam Gourashyamgi emungda chensinduna houdoklui amasung Cashar maikei pangnaba hairui. Mahak masamaksu panthaba toudana mayumdagi sagol thoudokлага ebungshi samuphabagi khongul likhi. Magi matu macha kanasu loinakhide. Chinga makhada leihou e. Toubasu mama mapa machin manao leihouri. Adunabu mayum thadokpa ngamkhibani.

Cashar leibakta Etobi amadi ebungshi samu phaba leiminnakhi. Etobi hallakpa yakhidre. Kainathangda Ouwana landaraktuna meitrabak khuntak lansire. Chahi taret khuntakpa yourakle. Ebungshi Gambirsinghbu mayambung Chourjit Marjit anina meitrabakta hallaga ningthou oijaruro haidana thadorakhi. Ebungshi Gambirsinghna lavy semduna Manipur kanba thorakkhi. Manao ebungo Narsingh amadi atei Ningthemcha kayagi matengga loinana Manipur Ouwagi makhuttagi kanduna chahi 7 khuntakpaga pandup loisinhankhi. Matam aduda Irom Etobidi pham amatta loudana leirakhi. Ebungshi samu phabagi marup oina, manai oina loinarakhi. Matam aduda Etobigi emung manungdi chahi 7 khuntakpa matamda mangkhrabani. Etobigi matu Lamdong ningolni. Chingamakha machana Lamdeng ningol louba thoina ngakningai natte. Onthokna lapna louna – leinarammi. Laida tainaba nattraga laina sinbani haiba tai. Thainadi pakhang leisabising ashe lam lapna – lapna, thamchet chaba, lai khurumba chatnarami. Numidang likol sanabasu adumangai. Sallup – sallup nongmaijing kaba, lairembe lairembe khurumba ashinachingba kayani. Matou asumna Irom Etobina mamannaba aniga loinaraduna Eroishemba chinggolgi Mahadeva khurumba lakhi. Ebelleisu mamannabi aniga cheirao ching kaba lakhi. Maduda Etobi amadi Ebellei shak khangnakhi. Ashibu laina tamba natte, karamna haigani. Mabani nungshi waithungnakhi. Chingamakhada leiminnarami.

Adubu, Irom Etobi amasung Akham Ebellei marakta kainakhi. Kangleida Ouwa langi ewai enil leirakpaga loinana mawana hundokpiramlabi Ebelleibu mapabungna puduna chatkhi. Mamak nupabu yamna chei thangkhi.

Chahi 7 khuntakpaga cheina cheitheng, sanam meenam tadaba Lamdengda Etobigi matu Ebellei neh tana leikhi. Ebungshi Chinglen Nongdren khombagi matung elluraba Irom Etobina matu ningsinglaktuna Lamdengda leiramgani khanduna nongma lakhi. Thoina ngakningai natte. Chiklaba mapham aduda (Nupi mapam) Ebellei adu tekta – kaidana leirammi. Mamagi pibuknungda leihouba macha adusu poklamle. Chahi 7/8 lom suramle.

Etobina nupi mapamda changluba matamda makubok Akham Kanthijaona mahakpu cheiduna tanthorakkhi. Taheidraba meecheini. Asumna cheirakhi –

“Meethibong ! Meenaimacha ! Meerollabi natubu hundoklaga chenkhiba nangdi mapham ashida leiba yaroi. Chingamakhagi nayumsu meena munbikhre haidai... nabungo Chinglen Nongdren khomba meidingu Gambirsinghda nanggi leipham piyu hairucho... chatlu maithaba.”

“Phei phei ekubok, Kanthijao .” Irom Etobina asumna hairamlaga nupi mapam thadoklaga lakhi.

Magi nupi Ebellei amadi macha nupa anibu munna yenglaga hairammi – “Ebellei, aduga echa ebungo... namingdo kari haiba...?”

Machanupa pungkak chaoraba aduna khumlak e – “Koijomba nangbu kanano ?”

“Hei napanine, napa, nangi napubok Kanthijaogi mayanupa aduga nangi namagina... .” Etobina makubok takhatpagi mamangda haige yaona haikhiba wangangni.

Macha nupa aduna khangningna hanglak e – “Nahakpu emagina kanano haiba...?”

“Namada hangu.” Irom Etobina ngaihak leplaga hairak e – “Ehe, nangi maming adudang epasu khanglaga chatkhige.”

“ Eigi emingdi Akham Kambaton kou e.” Etobigi macha aduna eting tingna khummi – “Epuna eigi epadi sikhre hai, mikithi michennisu hai.”

“Kari Irom macha nangbu Akham ! Nangna Iron sagei khamba yaroi. Epana nangi naming Irom Echel thollabaniko.” Irom Etobina saorapna hairak e. “ Ningthou kanba yaoruba eibu michel, mikithi haiba. Epagi Echel nahak Irom machani. Akham macha natte. Phei khangni, eningthou Chinglen Nongdren khombagi matik khanghange. Akham sagei neikhaihange... . Chatle... .”

Ebelleina mitlu era Chennai laorak e – “Moi baji ! Hingna hanbirakpagi nungaijare. Ningolna mapamda leiheide, nungshi heina tungenjaraklage... ngaihakta ngaibikho... potyon khara purakhige.”

Tanja aduda Ebellei mama Amubina prap prap thoraklaga hairak e – “Heima ! Etobi nang hingliboireko. Phareda, echase pukhro pukhro. Adugane, Ebellei ningolna mapamdagi pot puningbasidi kari hairuni. Puningba pukhro. Nang bajigi kangkhadagi pal mayol chongbadudi pukhinuhe. Emagi Ebellei, aduga eshu ebungo khudongchaba manghanganu... chelhouro, chathouro.”

Mikup khara chontharaga Ebellei mama macha mapuroiba Etobigi matung enduna chatkhi. Lamden khunjao thadokhi.

Matam ado ayukni. Maching phattaba Irom Etobina matu macha puraga chumdring kangleiyonda chattuna meidingu Chinglen Nongdren khomba Gambirsingh khurummi. Matu machasu khurummi.

“Aeh : Eigi channaraba echuma !” Meidinguna Etobibu harao tayamna okladuna hairak e – “ Chahi 7 khuntakluraba matung emung manung thengnaredana... .”

“Eibu lairaba leimaba, Etao.” Etobina hangatchei – “ Nongdambana echaga, mamaga ekubok Kanthijaogi masaida lantheiduna hinglamle. Adubu eibuna tanthokpirakle. Chingamakhagi engkholsu meena munkhre. Houjik leipham leijadre. Leipham amatang pinabiyu.”

“Etao ! Konungda pham ama pairaga leiraro.”

“Ngakpigani eningthou.” Etobina nollukna hangatchei –“ Nanaidi malem emagi mapal tangduna hingjaningi.”

“Haibadi...” Meidingu Gambhirsinghna ngaihak kallaga hairak e –“ laoumee oina hingge haibanine ?”

“ Ahoi... .” Etobina khummi.

“ Etaona pamba mapham ama Haiyu.”

“Eningthouna soidana pibigadra ?”

“Etao, Chinglen Nongdren khomba eidi echil ani longde. Etaona khunthokpa nungaigadaba mapham ama hekta haiyu. Madu pibagi yathang eina pairi.”

“Etao ! Adungei Chingkhong Poireiton amadi Leinaotabi anina nouna khunthokkhibagum...” Etobina ngaihak leplaga hairak e –“Nanai eisu eigi Ebelleiga echa echelga nouna khunthoktuna khundage khanjari.”

“Ado,Lamlen ado takune, etao.”

“Eigi ekubok Kanthijaona leiriba... .” Etobina ngaihak khallaga hairak e –“Lamden khunjaogi tainabada chaoraba mongsong taothong awang leikai haiduna khangnaba chingyai mayaida chaoraba lamhang ama leiba ujarammi. Mahousa ebungshi pheirabana ‘Lamdong khunou’ kouraga matam khara leirammi hainei. Maduda khuthok khundabagi ayaba pibiyu eningthou.”

“Etaodi lamhang tuhang thiba yamana heina.” Meidingu Chinglen Nongdren khombana ngaihak khallaga hairak e – “ Irom Etobi, Akham Ebellei macha nupa Echelga loinana Taothong awang khunjao aduda ngasidagi khunthok khundaruro. Enai eshal mayam thaduna yum sarunaba mee tharagani. Etaoda pire haidunasu laothokhalluragani. Kanasu thingba ngamlaroi.”

“Etao ningthou thagtchari.” Etobina asumna nollukchei.

“Ado, Etao Etobi !” Meidingu Gambhirsinghna ngaihak khallaga hanglak e –

“Lamlen adugi anouba mamingdi kari thondouri ? Haibadi Taothong awang khun koudouribra ?”

“Nanaibu loiba leimaba !” Etobina nollukna hairak e – “ Lallabasu ngakpigani. Akhamgi ekubok Kanthijaobu singnaba oina handak nouna Etobi Ebelleina khunthokkadouriba mapham adugi mamingdi ebungshi Meirabana thollamba ‘Lamdeng khunou’ hainaduna adum thonjaningi.”

“Aeh: Lamdengdagi Lamdeng khunou ama...!” Meidingu Chinglen Nongdren khombana harao nungaiba uttladuna laothorak e – “ Etaona tholliba khungi maming ado yare. Chatlo khundaruro. Taothong awang leikaibu ngasidagi Lamdeng khunou koure haiduna leibak punggao thinduna laothok halluragani. Kana kana lei, tanyeiba paokholloi... Chatlu houjikamak... Chinglen Nongdren khomba eigi yathang ashi laothokluro... .”

“Etao. Ningthou.” Etobi, Ebellei, Echel ahummakna amukkasu khurumlaga hairak e – “Eigi echa eshu suthang surol pumnamakna eningthougi maphamda matam chuppagi toubimal khangba oina shanggai yumpham aduda eningthougi ningsing khubam amadi soidana thamjaramge... .”

“Etao ! Eibu ningsingduna thambinaba lam piba natte.” Meidingu Gambhirsinghna makha tana hairak e – “Etaona adungei eigi ebai achouga loinana Maisnam Kumudinigi emung manungbu Cashar youna pubirakhibado kaojadri. Madugi laman koknarasi.”

“Etao ! Madudi toupham thokpa ethouni.” Etobina makha tana hairak e – “Khullang laman thoujaba natte. Leipham leitabagi lam nijabani.”

“Amabu oirabasu... .” Meidingu Chinglen Nongdren khombana ngaihak khallaga hairak e – “ Enai eshal mayamga khunthok khundaruro. Malem emagi mapal tangduna nungngai yaiphana hingnguro... .”

“Phagani, chatchare.” Etobina khanghai amuk hairak e – “ Etao ! Eihak leikhidraba matungdasu Lamdeng khunou shanggai yumpham lamhang lamjao aduda Meidingu

Chinglen Nongdren khombagi ningsing khubam thamnaba charon suron meethang meerol lanna paomenjaramgani.”

“Etaona pamajaba adumak thungjaro.”

“Etao ningthougi chinkoi adumak ngakpa ngamjage. Nanai chatchare.”

“Thungjaba oiyu. Chatlo chatlo.”

Matou asumna Irom Etobina, Akham Ebellei, machanupa konnung thadoklaga Lamdeng khunouda khunthok khundaba lakhi. Khunda leitaduna leirak e. Meetop meenou kayasu mapham aduda khundakhi. Lamdeng mapungdagi meei kayasu chongthorakhi.

Etihashki wari leiraba Lamdeng Khunougi Shanggai yumpham, houjikna lamhang lamjao oiraba mapham ashida ‘Site for Chinglen Nongdren khomba’ haiduna nouhoua yunglamba ashi hendokna maram chai.

Manipurgi chief minister shreeare Keishingbu singnaduna Manipur paper millgi foundation stone thugairaga ‘Chinglen Nongdren khomba’ nameplate thetlamliba ashi kanabu oirigaba ?

Echam chamba meecham amadi oiramdou mandri. Adubu mahak kanano ?

Lamhang ashida houjik kanasu leiba udri. Adubu, nongmei paiba ama ekhang hek khanghoudana chonthorakpasu kana khangba... !

9

Mathang mathang...!

Meeron amagi mathangda meeron ama !

Irom Etobi amadi Akham ningol Irom ongbi Ebellei anigi chada nouda – Erom (Khambaton) mapana nouna thonjakhiba mamingna Echelgi e mari mathang mathang chentharak e. Chaorakna chahi 24/25 na meeron amamam sanei. Mahousadi chahi nouna nouna mayum makei pannei. Lamdeng Khunougi Irom Etobigi e mari yamna lik e. Sagei asida ningol amatta pokhide. Sagei muttanaba sagei, thaomei oina piba amamamtang poktuna meeron kaya kaya chatharakhi. Kainathangda Irom Ibohal kouba ama pokkhi. Mama sanagi macha ahal Irom Ibohal etop toppi. Mapa

mapusingga khara mannade. Lou u sing u touduna punshi lenba pamkhide. Lairik laisu tamninglak e. Matam ado, meitrabakta lairik laisu tambagi ehon ama leiraklabani. Lamdeng khunouda mapi lairik tampham shang leitri. Mamanaba khara Imphalda leiraga lairik tamnarammi. Maduda mahaksu Imphal karaga lairik tamluge haiduna mapabung Irom Ibochoubada ningai toukhi. Mathanta pokchaba macha Ibohalbu mama Ibethoina thadokningkhide. Mameidadi, machagi ningai khangba ngamdraduna Uripok sorbon thingelda leiba mamagi mapamda leihanduna machabu lairik tamhallak e. Matam aduda lawaidagi Imphalda leiduna lairik tamnaramba singna leiriba emung aduda chahi amagi oina acha athak maru oina phoubot 12 tambagi chatnabi amasu leirammi. Marak marakta mama mapa oibasingna macha machana leiriba mapham aduda matam matamgi mana masing, ensangnapi, nga ayaiba, atekpana chingba thillakpasu chatnarammi. Ngai sengi oiba nungai leepunsu leinarammi. Mari mata thoknadaba emungdasu satra kayagi saidangpham pibagi mama mapa oibasingsu eta, etao sanarammi. Macha machasu etao sanarammi. Lawai Imphalgi khetnaba thoina leiramde. Kari amuk hairugani. Lawaidagi Imphalda seidangduna lairik tamlambda nupasingna leikai adudagi natraga emung (saidangpham oiriba) adudagi ningolga nungsinaraktuna louna -leina khibasu kongaini. Ibohaldi kamdoukhi ?

Irom Ibohal mapu mabengi manakta leiduna ningthina lairik tamlak e. Lairiksu kabak pharak e. Kolkata Universitygi makhada matric pass toukhi, second division da. Matam aduda D.M. college lingkhattri. Lairik heibasus masing yamdri. Mapanda chatlaga lairik tamnarammi. Ibohalsu Guwahati da chatlaga lairik makha tamlage haiduna khallammi. Mahakki wakhal tongalli. Lou u bagi machadi langol paigadabani, Lou u ba oina hinggadabani haibasi mahakna yaramde. Adum oinamak mahak sampot langol khoiduna Lou u sing u heitabadi natte, yamna phajana hei. School suti thaba matamda Imphaldagi Lamdeng khunouda haitharaktuna mama mapagi mateng pangkhi.

Nongmasu, matric parikha hek thadokpagi fal phangbaga Lamdeng khunouda laktuna mama mapa khurumlei.

Mapa Ibochoubana machabu makokta nanthabiraduna hairak e – “Nungngaire, echana matric parikha pass touduna mayek chatpa ama oirakpa ashe.”

Ibohalna mapada hanggatchei – “ Paba ! Eihak lairik makha tamluge khalli. Emanaba kharadi Guwahati da chatnakhre. Eisu chatluge.”

Ibohalgi wangang loiphattringeida mama Ibethoina marak khangthat thatchinduna hairak e – “Hum ! Oak ada ebungo ! Nathanta pokpani. Lairik heiraga sarkargi talap chaba thabak toudrabasu nanggi kari watli...?”

“Ema ! Eidi khorjei paiba thabak touningngi. Langolsu paini.” Ibohalna makha tana hairak e – “Yengoba, Uripokki idhoudo ojani. Magi sinphamdo yamna pamme. Idhounasu eibu lairik makha tamthakho nama napagi ayaba louru haina lakpani.”

Ibethoina ningsa swar ama hondoklaga hairak e – “Khangdeda ebungo ! Meerol leitabasida... emadi nangbu thadokningdre. Moi pabadi kari haibiri...?”

Ibochouba pak khumde. Ngaihak khallaga hairak e – “Echanadi langol painingdre, kalam paininglabanina chatkanu haina thinglurasu mapukningda nungngaikhiroido... .”

Mapuroibagi wangang loiphattringeida Ibethoina khangphen phenjillak e – “Moi paba ! Eidine, emitta eshu uninglabani. Moirangthemgi Keinedo... emou oige haiduna khanba kuire. Mapanda lairik tamba chattou saruk luhong khongdongbanadum hanna toubana phagadra khallido... .”

“Aehra, Ema... .” Ibohalna mamagi waphamdo yaningphattana uttladuna makha tana hairak e – “Meegi macha nupido haijillukhinuda chopchani. Ei ngamkhiroi... eidiko.. .”

“Eidiko hairaga makha tadrabadi...?” Ibochoubana chingnarap touna kotsillak e – “Natte nangbu Imphal nupi louge khallibrane...?”

“Ahh.. .” Ibohalna khudhakta sarak sihanba toudana khumlak e – “Lairik tamba chatluge hairaga nupi thibagi wado ngamkhiroi haibanida paba.”

“Atei lairi, Ibethoi.” Ibochoubana hanglak e – “Moirangthemgi Keinodo haibadi tada ahaljaogi machanupi Nganbi adurane ?”

“Hoine, hoine, Nganbido... .” Ibethoina makha tarak e – “Eidi onthokna pamjakhre. Masanasu yaningba uttlabani. Mamanasu yarabani. Echa Ibohalna suti thoraktuna nongphadok khulda lakpa matamdasu Nganbina sambal marumda lonna – lonna yenglaga leijahou e hairipotni.”

“Ema ! Namoudo pusillaga leiminnahouro, ei chatle... .” Ibohalna asumna hairaga phuk hougatlaga mangoldagi kumthakhre.

“Ngaikhone nangbo, epagi Ibohal... .” Ibochoubana machabu themjinba oina hairak e – “Echagi apambada epana thingloi lairik makha tamthabado chatlo... .”

Mapagi wangang loiphattringeida Ibohalna mangolda amuk kakhatlaklaga sangdrong sangna upptharaga mapagi makhong sokladuna hairak e –“Paba ! Nang kuina punshikhoko. Aduga emasu.”Mamada amuk khurumlaga hairak e –“ Aduga ema ! Moirangthemgi Nganbido mangak tenmalli, ei pamde. Nachana B.A. pass touraba matungda Imphaldagi namou ahumdum pubirakke, ehe... .”

“Kari haiba... .” Ibochoubana mamit langkhatlap touna nganglak e –“Emou ahum ! Natte, nangbu nupi longe hairibrane Ibohal.”

“Ung... .” Ibohalna engna tapna makha tana hairak e –“Paba ! Lairik tamba chatlu haibaduda nungaimankhiduna haidokkhibanida... .”

“Chummine echagi wakhal.” Ibochouba sonthangnana sonjaraga makha chattharaduna nganglak e –“Eigi ibhudou purel Irom Etobidagi houraga nupi lonba amatta yaokhide. Aduna Lamdeng khunou taba Irom sagei ashe mutshi mutshi mombati amamamdang poktuna chattharak e. Sagei mutkhigadra haiduna nungnangba poklak e. Echana nupi longe khallibado epa yare... mama nangdi kari khalli, ha ?”

“Charoda,eidi pamjade.” Ibethoina machin peirap touna samtharaduna nganglak e – “Ningthemsinggi turonbisingna pokpa machin manao, macha mashusing hatna – sunabagi thoudok adugumba thokhaningde, eikhoigi sageida.”

“Ibethoi !” Ibochoubana magi lumlenbibu ngakpana koujaraga hairak e –“Nahakna ningthemsing hairaga khangning ningsinglakpa wapham amadum leiredo.”

“Kari matangnina moi paba ?” Ibethoina khangningna hanglak e.

Ibochoubana hairak e –“Yengoi epagi Ibohal. Namana ngasi po ama kangthoklibase yamna matang chare. Lamdeng khunou taba Irom sagei eikhoigi kaophadraba wapham ama nangonda amuk chinthang landuna hairamlage.”

“Takpiyi paba.” Leimaida phamlambadagi Ibohalna mora amada phamlaga khangningna amuk hanggatchei –“Kari karamba warino ?”

Ibochoubana hairak e –“ Eikhoina ngashi khunthok khundaduna leiriba Lamdeng khunou ashi eningthou meidingu Chinglen Nongdren khomba Gambirsingh samu phaba haidunasu khangnaba mahakna eikhoi meerongi Ibhudou purel Irom Etobida pirambani haiduna meeron chinthang naiduna libirammi. Eningthou aduda toubimal khangba uttpa oina mapham ashida ningsing khubam ama thammu hairammi. Mathang mathang sinnarammi. Thabak oinadi panthoklamde.

Ibohalna ngaihak khallaga hairak e-“Paba ! Eningthou adugi shakmee ama saraga khinshi yabra ?”

“Nangna pheii haibado touro.”

“Phare, eihak lairik tamba chatlukhige, hallaklaga touba yaba nattrado.”

“Yaida, yaida.” Ibochoubana makha tana hairak e –“Matam chuppada Meidingu Chinglen Nongdren khombabu kaoganu. Epagi chinkoidagi nahaksu eningthou Chinglen Nongdren khombagumna matik mayai leiraba nacha nupa ama phangjaba oiyouko.”

Ibohalna mapabu khurumlaga hairak e –“Pabagi yathang adumak ngakchage. Chinkoi adumak phangbasu oijage.”

“Phare phare... lairik makha tamthaba chatluro.” Ibethoina machagi makokta nanthabiraduna amuk hairak e –“Adugane, nupamacha, nangna Moirangthem Chanu Nganbi pamde hairabanina lairik tamba loiraga changkhollabi emou amadi emitsina ujaraga nang pabagi mamang thana laireipakta chatchakhige.”

“Soidanamak... .” Ibohalna khummi.

Ibochoubana nokphet touraga hairak e –“Adugane, epagi Ibohal. Eikhoigi sagei ashe mutshi mushi meikhet maru amatanghdouna touraga meeron kayadagi chattharak e. Adunane, sagei muttanaba, sagei chaothoknaba thourang touba ngamba oijouko.”

“Yathang adumak... chinkoi adumakpu... . Ibohalna momon touna khumkhi – “Eningthou Chinglen Nongdren khombabu ningjage. Matam khudingmakta kaojaroi. Echa eshugi meerondasu chinthang landuna wari lithajaramge.”

“Nungngaire... matik chaba echa nahakpu phangjaba.” Ibochoubana tensinba oina samtharak e –“Nangondagi houraga Lamdeng khunou taba Irom sageigi meithang meeron muttaba oirasanu. Shangai yumpham ashe keidoungeidasu khutthang lathanba yadeko.”

“Ahoi paba... .” Ibohalna khummi –“Keidoungeidasu Chinglen Nongdren khombagi minglen muthanjaroi.”

“Ningjaba adumak thungjaba oiyou !” Ibethoinasu machagi makokta nanthabiraduna waroisin pirak e –“Emanasu bor piribasini nacha dhara panduna sageigi meira matam pumbagi oina muttaba oisanu !”

“Chatlo chetlo... .” Ibochoubana amuk oaksainduna hairak e –“Napuga tannaraga tamningba nahei tamluro. Langol paibagi macha oirabasu kalam khorjei paiduna meethoi meehenba ama oirak uko.”

“Ahoi paba, ema... .” Irom Ibohalna mama mapabu amukkasu khurumlaga tung hanna yengthoklamba toudana Lamdeng khunou thadoktuna chatkhi.

10

Meena ningbana ama... laina tambana ama !

Ningba anttraga ningjaba pumnamak mapop amatta kaidana thunggani haiba leite. Laina tamba nattraga matam yaongi matung enna taiyonnarakpa kayasu leitaba natte ; lei. Mee amagi punsida mathak makha onthoktuna thoudok kaya thokhiba lei. Mee amagi punsigi aka – akum, thokliba thoudok wathok pumnamak hanna sem saduna leikhrabani. Nongdamba haiba lai amana pumnamak tamduna leikhrabani hainei. Oigani khallamba ama, oirakpana ama – yamna toina, mee khudingmakki punsida thoklibani. Thoktuna adum leikhigani. Asumna thok u. Asigumba matamda asumna thok u haiba asi tamba ngamba natte. Irom Ibohalgi punsidasu asumna thok u haiba thoudok kaya thengnarakhi. Mahak Guwahatida lairik tamba chatkhi. Cotton collegeda I.A. ahanba chahida tamba heure. Matam khara leibaga chenthorakhi. Assamgi mapham kayada Guwahati yaona Plague hairiba leina adu sandoraktuna Ibohaldasu nattana Meitei macha satra kayasu college hosteldagi tanthorakhi. Laina laichat adu pharaga amuk lak u haiduna thorakpa takhibani. Ibohaldi matungda amuk changkhidre. Madugisu asum thok u haiba thoudok ama Manipurda thoklare.

Prithibigi anisuba lanjao, khwainadi Japan lan haina khangnakhiba adugi ewai enil Imphal thoraktuna bomb thadarakhi. Imphal mayoldagi mee pumnamak magi magi mari mata, marup mapang leiba maphamda lan chennakhi. Lawai thawaida leiragana henna saphagani haina khannaduna maikei salai khangdana pangchenda chennaba takhi. Asumna Ibohalgi mapu mabel, emung manung huppna Lamdeng khunouda lan chellakhi. Makhoidasu nattana yumthangnabada (Ibohal mapugi) leiba emung amagi leisabi ahumkhaksu lan chenba aduda loinarakhi. Leisabi ahumgi mama mapadi yaorakte. Mamana Khwairamban keithelda pheeyonpham phammi. Mapana thong nambonbi makhongda khurum yonpham phammi. Keithel kaibada ka – wai khangkhidre. Mama mapa ngaiba toudana Ibohalgi mapu mabelna leisabi ahum ado lan chenphamda pubirakhibani. Leisabising adu Ibohalga munna khangnarak e.

Mache ahal adugadi Ibohalga hanasu nungai mari leinajarak e. Lairik tamba loiraga yumbannajage khanduna leijarak e.

Lan loikhrabasu leisabi ahum adugi mama mapa thiba khangkhidre. Lanjennabada siramlani khankhi. Ibohalsu lairik makha tamthakhidre. Mama mapanasu chatkhranu haiduna thingkhre. Ibohalsu laibakta tamdrabadi phare haiduna lairik makha tamthabagi asha thadokhre. Adubu mahak kalam paiba thabak amadi touninglammi. Mahakki mapubok Ningthemcha Noyon maming chatpa sanga leiba oja amani. Mahakna thi humjaraba mashu nupa Irom Ibohalbu sarkargi loishangda thabak ama phanghankhi. Matam aduda lairik laisu heiba mee yamna tanglammi. Lairik phana hourakpa pakhangsingdi sarkarna koithi thiraga thabak haplammi. Irom Ibohalsu yamna laina thabak ama phangkhi. Toubadi mahakki thabak ado nongmeisu kalamsu paibani. Mahak Manipur police departmentta A.S.I. oina thorak e. Yamna mating leiba police ama oina maming chatli.

Ibohal thabak karaba matung khara leiraga mayum makei panninglak le. Mama mapanasu taksillak le. Ibohalna magi matamda Lamdeng khunou taba sagei ashe khangchao chaothokhallage haiduna wakhal ama khangkhal khallak le.

Nongma, nongmaijing numit amada mayumda seidangduna leiriba leisabi machin manao ahum adu Eroishemba Mahadeva khurumlusi haiduna puthokhi. Leisabi ahum adusu echam chamna yaraduna chatminnakhi.

Mama mapana macha nupa Ibohalna touriba thoudou adu munna yengduna leihou e.

11

Lei engkholnungdagi... .

Leisabi phajabi ahumna mang thaduna thoklak le. Matung ennarak e, Irom Ibohal. Makhoi mari chingkhong chingyangi luwangli turel mapal taba lambi yourakle. Phana kuina wa machet amatta ngangnade.

“Ta – Ibohal !” Awang thangbi leisabi aduna khangkou kouraga hairak e –“Ngasisibu Mahadevagi mapok numit yabra ?”

“Hoine... .” Mayai thangbi leisabi aduna amuk oaksinduna hanglak e –“Eikhoibu Eroishemba Mahadeva khurummusi hairisibu... ?”

Leisabi ahumgi matungda ngak senbabu oiro, mee ateina meesou changlaktanaba oiro, wakhal nungngaina chatliba Ibohalna khanghai hairak e –“ Ngasise... Mahadevagi

mapok numit natteda. Khrisnagi mapok numit lei, Radhagi mapok numit lei. Atei lairi, Mahadeva haibasibu karamba kumsinggi numit thabanda pokhibajatno ngasi phaoba thengnadri. Mahadevadi khurumningba numitta hekta khurumba yai. Ngasi chayolgi ahanba numitni.”

Makharom thangbi mangak sanglap toubi leisabi aduna khanghang hanglak e –“Ta - Ibohal ! Mahadeva khurumlaga kari nidouribano...?”

“Aduburo... .” Ibohalna ngaihak chingtharaga khumlak e –“ Horen Mahadevagi laimang touraga haige.”

“Houjik haibadi yadabara ?” Awang ethang thangbi leisabi aduna notsillak e.

“ Ngasise... .” Ibohalna ngaihak leplaga khanghai amuk hairak e –“Nache ahalga eiga hainakhiba ama leiye... .”

Ibohalgi wangang loiphattringeida makha ethang thangbi mache ahan aduna khangphen phenjillak e –“Ngasise Taibohal ebani laimangda sari washaknasi hainakhi. Enaopi nabanina sakhi oigadabaniko.”

“ Echehal .” Awang thangbi aduna machembu nungsina koujaraga hairak e –
“Mahadevagi mamangda amuk sari washaknadrabasu ngasi hekta lei pareng anikhak lenglaga kok kok huknaraga loisinbadi yadabara ?”

“ Tash ! Kamdou e.” Ibohalna haraoba uttladuna hairak e –“Irom Ibohalgi haigat langda thuredana.” Eina hek pamjabasu maduni. Mahadevagi laikolda lei haiba makhal mathel kaya houri. Nabanina lei pareng lengba taido.”

“Yai yai.” Manaonupi animakna khummi amasung hairak e –“ Eche ! Nangdi kari khalli. Nasana yaraba nattr ?”

“Eibo... .” Machet ahal makha thangbi aduna ngaihaktang pantharaga khanghai hairak e –“ Keisu kandeda. Haibadi eyada yajare. Toubadi, nabanina kundo pareng taruk khak lengba taido.”

“ Kundo pareng taruk..!” Manao nupi animakna mamit langkhatladuna amuktangda hairak e –“Kundo pareng taruk ?”

“Echena nabanibu thadokpa ngamloi.” Mache ahal aduna makha tana hairak e –“ Irom Ta Ibohalgi thougal echin enao akhoi ahumna punna phangminarasi haibabuhainabu... .”

“Eidi nahalna wapham adu houdokninglabani... .” Manaonupi atombi aduna yaningba uttladuna phenjillak e.

“Eisu eche matung enba tabani.” Manaonupi yaimana amuk mateng pangsillak e.

Angakpani ! Irom Ibohalgi kumhei. Pung animuk leiraga leisabi ahum ado kundo pareng amamam mangak - mangakta tholladuna changlak le. Ibohaldi changlakte. Matou aduda Ibohalgi mama mapa animak pungak ngaklammi. Mamit kuppa toudana leisabi ahum adubu yengduna sumang mayaida leptuna leirammi.

Chingngeina, Ibohalsu prap prap chensillak e. Magi mangaktasu kundo pareng ahum thollak e. Mahakna khanglao laorak e –“ Leihao, Leiren, Leinambi ! Nakhoi ahumak hounabi matung enna emaga pabaga khurummune. Ngasidagi Irom ongbi mou oiragadabanine.”

Ibohalgi mama mapa animak nungaibana luton satlammi. Ahal anina pamjaramba adumak engit khanglaba macha nupa tompokna thunghankhre.

Meekup aduda aheibam chanu Leihao Leiren Leinambi machin manao ahumakna nontharaduna maku manem anigi makhong sokna khurummi. Leihaona hairak e –“ Kana leijadrabi echil enao ahumbu ngasidagidi namou oina shakkhangbiro, lousinbiro. Tollabi eikhoi echin enao ahumbu yokpirakpi ema paba anibu eku enem amuk oina thoul phangjarage.”

Maku manem anina mamou ahumda yaipha chinkoinakhi –“ Nungai yaiphana pallu. Emou ahummak.”

Ibohalna mama mapa anibu khurumlaga hairak e –“ Paba aduga ema ! Phangledana Leihao, Leiren, Leinambi. Namou oina ahummak.”

“Nattene nupamacha nakhoigisibu... .” Ebethoina khangningna hanglak e –“Nasa nasana kundo pareng huknaraga hekta loisinba yarabra ?”

“ Yare yare... .” Ibohalna hathu hathu hairak e-“ Eroishemba Mahadevagi eigya Haridashna Mantra yantra ningthina sonbiduna luhongbikhrabani. Thabak chaothoklagumsi.”

Ibochoubana amuk nokphet touraga hairak e-“Epagi Ibohal ! Houjikti epa sirabasu yare. Eigi sageigi meithang mutlaroi.”

“Aeh: siba yakhiroida paba.” Ibohalna makha tana hairak e –“Nasusinggi kumei amuk yengkhoda. Ollakpa chahidadine... .”

“Ollakpa chahida... .” Ibochoubana nunglon khangna khangna machagi matou yengningduna makha taba hanglak e –“Hah, keidouba...?”

“Amatta natte ahum... .” Ibohalna khummi amasung khutsa ahum uttlak e.

“Hoine hoine, ngaiba taidana.” Mama Ebethoina tensillak e –“Heh eswar ibungo ! Kubiya thoujanbiyu. Ahanba eshudi nupa ngakta oihanbiyuko.”

Tallak aduda Ebethoina kha wanggi nupi khara koikou kouraga laokhi –“ Hai Kanyahanbi, Kanyayaima, Kanyatombi... makhoibu laone, emou ahum oakpa yaoru laone... .”

Meekup kharagi matungda mounaha, mouyai, leisabi kaya Iromgi sumangda chensillakhi. Mayam aduna mou ahumbu kolladuna emungda pusinkhre. Ibohalsu changkhre.

Ibochoubana nongthakta yengkhatlaga thawai mee kouthabadouna khuya anina yaraga thounijakhi. Magi thounirol kanasu tahankhidre. Machin lenglhi, khonthokti tahankhidre.

12

Houkhiba khanghoude. Nongmadagi numit kayani houkhiba khanghoude. Phairem thada punna luhongkhiba Irom Ibohalgi talloi lumlenbi ahummak, mama oigadoure haibagi enggit phangkhre. Mapu maben oigadouriba, oigadouribi animak haraoba nungaibagi ngamkhei leikhidre. Mama oigadouribi mamou ahummakki toupham thokpa erat thouni, sagei apokpa asinachingba lairemba, lairembisinggi maphamdasu soida - ngamdanana thounije. Kari amuk hairugani maben oidourabi Ebethoina makhut yet – oigi khutsa thek thektuna numit, thasing pabana nongmagi toudaba yadaba mathou oirakle.

Nongmadi thunglakhi, numit ado. Mera heeyangei ahing mameida meekup khara – khara khetnaraga Angang nawa ahumgi yawa meekap khon tarakle. Irom Ibochouba masa pumba harao tujungkhi. Leiyeng phairapna hanglak e –“Eshu ahummak nupara... nupirane... thun a pao pirak une.”

Paokhum phangkhide. Maibi amadi mayok yabising yamna mathou chinba matangni. Mou ahumgi tongan – tonganba ka khaidoklaga tonganna sakhiba chabokshangi mapanda mapu maben, mapa atei ateina paokhum ngaiduna leinakhi. Hannga seihou ahummak matam khara – kharadi kannakhi. Kanana ahal, kanana yaima kanana atomba ? Maibi amadi mayok yabigi paokhum ngainakhi.

Matam khara chontharaga mayok yabi ahummakna ningthijaraba pheengou ningthana yomsillaga pokpa kuidriba Angang ahum puthoraklaga mapubok Ibochoubagi mamangda lepladuna hairak e –“ Mapu machum taro, ting ting chaoro...

mapubokna chingu nongdambagi mingkhei kambiro... seh seh yengo nupa ngakta nashu ahum !”

Ibochoubana pakhatpoi haraoboi masa niklap touraga hairak e –“ Nanaina nijaba thawai maru achangbado eshu ahumdum phangledana. Kadai kadai... chummi chumde yengene...”

Mayok yabisingna ningtha anouba haidoklaga Angang nawa ahumgi nungsiraba sinung uttli.

“Esh ! Amana ahum !” Irom Ibochouba mashu nupa ahum adu mathang manao yengluraga hairak e –“ Ibudhou purel Irom Etobina ningjaramba aduga mashuna thounijaba ado penbiraboi. Amana ahum thokna anouba mapok ama oina taibang phaoraklaba. Khwai mayam tabiyu... ngasi eina phangjariba eshu ahumgi maming houjikmak thollage.”

Macha nupa Ibohalna khangningna hanglak e –“Paba ! Nashu ahumgi maming kari kari haina thondoiba... thonbiro.”

Ibochoubana hairak e –“Sanglaba ming amatangna eshu ahumbu amamamtang oina khangnanaba thollagani. Seh seh, tao – eigi eshu ahumbu Chinglen Nongdren Khomba kourabaniko. Eningthou Chinglen Nongdren khombana mishak ahum thokna Irom Etobigi sageida poklarabanine... eina nijaba thungledana houjikti.”

Mayamna harao nungaiba phongdaktuna khubak khunarak e. Mapu Ibochoubana mashu ahumbu mathang manao naiduna nongthakta katladuna minglen kambibaga loinana laothorak e –“Emou ahal Leihaona pokpana Chinglen, emoi yaima Leirena pokpana Nongdren aduga emou atombi Leinambina pokpana Khomba. Eigi emou Leihao, Leiren, Leinambina, Chinglen Nongdren khomba amuk hanna pokle. Nongdambagi angakpa kubirol amani. Eshu ahummakpu mama mamana tonganna nungshi minggou koujarabasu eshu ahummakki apunba mamingdi “ Chinglen Nongdren khomba” thonduna meidingu Chinglen Nongdren khomba eningthougi ningsing khubam amasu mapham asida thamgadabaniko, epagi Ibohal. Aduga khunjasingju tabihouro. Lei engkhol ashe yonthokpasu yaroi, kanagumbana lam ashe khopchillakpasu yaroiko. Engkhol ashigi puwari epagi Ibohal nangna nachasingdasu chinthang landuna amuk liduna tahalluko.”

Irom Ibohalna khumkhi –“Yathang chinkoi adumak nachana ngakchagani, paba .”

Mashini Lei Engkholgi nunglot wari. Adubu chahi kaya, lamhang oiduna amuk leirak e. Lamdeng Khunougi Lei engkhol ashida pokhiba mating leiraba machin manao ahum ‘Chinglen Nongdren khomba’ – ngashina mapham keida leikhraba ?

Chahi kharagi mamangda, nongma ahing police inspector Ranjitna phaduna mamit khumjillaga pukhiba pakhang ado chinglenni. Mahak hinglibra natraga sikhrabra ? Aduga manao Khomba amadi Nongdren anina kadaida...? Uran chinggolda nongmei maruna panduna Nongdren sikhre hairi. Ngasi numidanggi Atiyabani paoda, Ashem Anitagi chinthagda laothokkhre. Meepum tingna tanakhre. Aduga phaduna pukhiba Chinglendi kadaida...?

Ngashi ahing ‘Manipur Paper Mill’ gi foundation stone thugairaga ‘Chinglen Nongdren khomba’ haiduna thaba nameplate ama yunglamliba meeshak adu kanabu oirigaba ? ‘Chinglen Nongdren khomba’ machin manao ahummak hinglambasu kanana khangba !

13

“Site for...

Chinglen Nongdren khomba.”Asum haina thaduna yungsinllamaba nameplate natraga name plate – echam hekchamna amadi oidre. Lamhang tuhangbu meehouba, lam khopchinganba meeyoi amana yunglambadi oiraroi. Chaoraba wari ama lottuna leiramle. Yamnasu thamo i nunghikna nungsiraba emung amagi wari yaoramli.

Mingnairaba Meitei ningthou amagi mamingbu ahum thokna thadatlag a tholladuna mapham ashida kari karamba wakhal ama natraga thourang ama leikhriba ? Meidingu Chinglen Nongdren khombana sagol sanabi mathakta tonglaga bajrasingh thangsang paiba shakmee (murti) achouba, awangba ama khinduna thamningi haibagi enggit ama haiphet uba phangngi. Masi nattana pandam amasu Irom Ibochoubagi wakhalda nongma khanghoudana poklakhi. Numit ado mashunupa ‘Chinglen Nongdren Khomba’ ahumgi chakumna numittani. Tangaiphadana chakumba thouramgi machang oiba kharadang panba tai.

Meitei natraga meeteigi chatnarolda pokpadagi siba phaobagi erat thouram amadi thounirol kayamarum lei. Hindu laininglongi chatnabi kayasu yetsillakpaga loinana meiteigi thouram parengdasu henna henna pak chaothorakle. Anouba anouba kayasu hapchinnarakle. Pourapna chaumba natraga chagumba hairaga angang amagi chak enbib a natraga chak umhanbabu khangnei. Angang nupa oiragana tha 6 surabadi chaumbagi thouram pangthoknei. Angang nupi oiragana tha manga suradi chak umbagi thaouram pangthoknei. Natki oina erat thouni kaya touraba matungda angang adu mamana matambakta pamlaga mum – mum – mum haiduna chak enbigani. Ku – ku – ku haiduna chak enbigani. Kuk – kuk – kuk ahumlak sollaga lai a esing pithakkani.

Chak enbagi thouram pangthoktringeida athemba kaya, ekoi koina thenduna thamlaga (Pheeseng, la tanggagi mathakta) angang adubu uphalli. Angang aduna mamangda thamliba potlamsing adu ehan -hanna pairuba potlamgi matung enna Angang adugi oirakkadaba sinpham leppasu chatnarak e. Mashidi anouba chakki wani. Khara makheidi chummi hainei.

Irom Ibohalsu masi munna khangngi. Mahakti angak – angakpa thabak thouram ngakta touduna hourakpani. Kari amuk hairugani. Nongmada nupi ahum (madusu machin manao) pullap luhongkhribaduni. Macha nupa ahumsu nongmada pullap pokkhi. Angakpani, angakpa ! Khunmeesingna magi macha ahum asigi matamda karigumba thoudok wathok khara thoklagani hainakhi.

Macha nupa ahummak nongmada chakumba adusu leikai kumhei oikhi. Angang chakumbada angangna painana potlam matha ahum ekoi koina tharaduna Angang ahumna kari potlam hanna paibage haibado tilliba meeyamna mikup nahum singna yengnarammi.

Angang ahumgi mapubok oiba phangjaraba Irom Ibochoubasu hainingai leitana nungngaijaraduna laorak e –“Athempot mayada esu ahum thajillaga upphallu... munna munna yemguko kanana kari hanna paibage yenglasi... .”

“Ngaikho ngaikho paba ! Potlam khara watle...” Ibohalna asumna hairaga Athempot ahum thariba aduda chap chap mannaba ahum thamlaga amuk laorak e – “Swa ! Echasa nangna nangna paining – painingba potlam paiohei. Madugi matung enna nakhoi Nakhoigi sinpham leplasanu.”

Ibochoubana macha angaobagi matou aduda potlamsing adu yengluraga hairak e – “Aeh: Eigi echa Ibohal asidi ngaosananidana. Yengsi, yengsi. Epa epugi haktaktagi chattharkpa thouongni. Eigi chakumba phou paikhi hairammi emana. Aduna lou uba oiribani. Kharakheidi chumna jatni. Eshusing kari kari potlam hanna Paige haibado munna munna yemguko. Mama ahum ! Nacha nachado magi magi Athempot manak nakna upphallo.”

Chinglen Nongdren Khomba - pokchabi mama Leihao, Leiren Leinambi ahumna macha machabu Athempot mamangda hek upphankhibaga mapubok Ibochoubana amuk laorak e – “ Swa ! Epuna amuk swa thare... lammo lammo...”

Iromgi shangai yumjao mangolda tilliba keiroi leikaigi leimising yaona thouong ado kumhei oina yengnaduna leirammi. Kari potlambu angangna hanna paigadage haiba ado yengnabada mama oibisingdi mehul ting ting chongnarammi. Masidi mama oibi khudingmakta thokkhrabani. Thoklibani. Thoktunasu leihouragani.

“Leihao, Leiren, Leinambi mama ahum !” Irom Ibohalna hairak e –“ Mama mama minam chaduna nakhut sangdoktuna sana, lupa, namduna paihanba tounuko. Yengkhom etao Chaobado chakumbada mamana namduna sana paihalli haikhi. Aduyadi sana yamna leikhiba meedi oikhidre. Kari oikhi mayam khangbibra...?”

“Hoine hoine... .” Chirom Manileimana khangning ningsingliraga hairak e – “Sana thatpa oikhiko, sana sabasu oikhide, sana yamna leibasus oikhideko... yengu yengu eshusing kari lamkhre !”

“Aeh: paikhre, lamkhre... .” Mapubok Ibochoubana hanna uhouba ama khanghai amuk hairak e –“ Eshu kokhan laihandi lairik mathakta thamba kalam khorjei paikhrene... mayamsu ubireko. Mayada mayada umdoure.”

“Ure ure... .” Mayamna laorak e.

“Epagi Chinglen, nanga ama yare.” Mapa Ibohalna kalam paikhiba Chinglenbu loukhatlaga mapubok Ibochoubada pisilli –“ Paba, nashu ahal ashe lairik tamhansi. Eina marakta ehei tamba tokkhibado pende. Aduna echadi lairik laishu ningthina heiraba shaknai – mingnairaba meeshak ama oirashanu. Epanashu chinkoi piri. Napunasu pirasanu !”

“Echana ningjaba adumak eshu ahal Chinglenna pangthokpa ngamba oirasanu.” Ibochoubana ashum hairaga mashu ahalbu nungshina matambakta hiphallaga makhutna makokta nanthabikhi.

“Aeh: Aeh: yengune yengune... .” Laishram Laihorina khanghai hairak e –“Nongdren langjei ashidi lairoidoiriko... potlamsing koyeng yengduna leirene, pot amta paidene .”

Nongdren pokpi Leirena khanghai hairak e –“Heh apang ! Nakhutta sana mapak paiyune. Oina lupa mapak.”

“Mouyaima... .” Manempok Ebethoina hairak e –“Makhutto enthorakkanu namduna paihanganu . Eshuna pamba pot paisanu... .”

“ Abok ! Eihak yaojade, yaojade ekhut tungbunnajare.” Mou yaima Leirena khummi. Machabu yengduna leije.

Ekhang hek khanghoudana Ibohalna laorak e –“ Tash ! Adunidana. Keina tokpa pokpa hounabra haibado chummidana... .”

Ibohalgi wangang loiphattringeida Thoudam Indramanina marak khangthat thatchinduna hairak e –“Hoinehei Ibohal ! Eshu Nongdrendi nongmei atenba paikhrene.”

Chingngeina, angakpa thouong ama thokle. Atei natte ahumsuba angang Khombana pikliba makhut macha ani aduna athempot ado ngamnamak khomjillaga sannakhre. Mahakti kari hanna paikhibage haibado men tahoudre. Mayamdo Nongdrengi matouda henna pukning lupsinnakhi. Aduna kanasu uhou khanghoudre. Sakhi maymgi chayetnaba oirakle.

“Hah Leinambi !” Makubok Ibochoubana hanglak e – “Nangdi mamani, upham thok e, nachado kari potlamda hanna makhut thakhi... .”

“Aduburo paba... eidi tasengna ujahou e.” Leinambi heisingbina makha tarak e – “Hairak ura ?”

“Hairak une asengba hanna uhoubado... .” Makubokna khangningna makha tarak e – “Nachagi punshi sinpham leptouribanine.”

“Tallida ekubok... .” Leinambi asumna hairaga sonthangnana sonjei – “Khangdeda echase mihatpa oidouriba keino, khangdreda !”

“Hah ! Echabo meehatpa...!” Ibohalna pakhatpoi kariboi hanglak e – “Khombabu kari paikhibagene... kati pairadi la yatpa arangpham oiba natraga phurit tuba, phuritkhao chappa. Soibra yengu.”

“Kati paikhideda... .” Leinambina hairak e – “Tu ! (Makhut thillaga) Mangang salaigi thang ‘Chak thang’ ashi hanna paikhi. Makhok angangba teiba ashe yamna pammale madi... .”

“Aeh: pakhatlunu Leinambi.” Makubok Ibochoubana swar asangba ama hondoklaga hairak e – “Eshu atombana mangang salai thang hanna paikhrabako.”

“Ahoi paji !” Leinambina khumlak e amasung samtharaduna hairak e – “Echasibu mangang ningthou oidourijatla ?”

“Pakhatlunu pakhatlunu... .” Lamdeng maiba Maingouna hairak e – “Ebemma Leinambi, nangi nachasina ningthoumak oidrabasu sageigi piba shaktuna tasin khomjinduna pallagani. Khombadi sin kaya heiraba yai. Meekhonbasu heiba meeshak ama oigadra khallido ekuna.”

“Adu ada khangde... .” Irom Ibohalna khanglao laorak e – “Chinglen Nongdren Khombana yaiphare. Mayam shangaida lengsillaga luklen khunbirasi... chakpao takchari.”

“Mayam lengsinbiro, eidi yumbuni konna phangjarage.” Irom Ibochoubana hairak e – “Kadai kadai, Leiren, Leinambi, eshu anidusu pirammu, etampakta punna amuktang pamjahouge. Eshusinggi hakchang manam ado hakchangda chuhallage.”

Mou yaima Leiren amadi mou atombi Leinambi anina machanupa Nongdren, Khomba animakpu mapubokki matampakta sinnaramle.

Mayam pumnamak mamang shangoida luklen khunba changnakhre. Chak chaba hounakhre. Mapubok Ibochoubana mashu ahummakpu matampakta hiphalladuna seishakli –“Ting ting chaoro, numitna karingei kahouro, napu machum taro, napa machum taro... .”

Lamdeng maiba Maingouna su yaipha paojel ama ashumna pirammi –“ Lamdeng khunou shangai yumphamda Chinglen Nongdren Khomba ahumgi meeron meithangsu muttaba oihourasanu. Amuksu hairi mingchatki urong khillak u. Epu chatle, chatl, chatle... aduga Ibochouba, nangsu kuina punsikhoko.”

“Tarun ! Nanao leijahoure.” Ibochoubana makok nollap touna khurumlaga mashu ahum pamladuna leihou e.

“Epal ! Nacha eisu leijahoure .” Ibohalna Lamdeng maiba khurummi.

“Leihouro leihouro... .” Lamdeng maibana makhwang kollap toubadu tingkhatlaga ngaihak leple, aduga makha samtharaduna hairak e –“Adugane Ibohal ! Ngasi nangi nacha Chinglen Nongdren Khombana paikhriba potshakki matung enna sinpham chumna lamjing lamtakpiyuko... atomba Khombado... .”

“Atomba Khombado keidouba epal...?” Irom Ibohalna Lamdeng maibada yamna khangningna hangngi.

Lamdeng maiba Maingouna hangkhiba wahanggi paokhum piramdana chatkhre.

Irom Ibohal changaknaduna leihou e.

14

Nong amuk ngankhi.

Numit amuk takhi. Matou ashum touraduna thasi kumsing marol marol – tharo tharo onthakhi. Chinglen Nongdren Khomba – minglen amada ahum punba machin manao ahumsu nongma – nongmagi hum hum chaokhatlak e. Nupamacha khangde, nupimacha khangde palem mamagi chingnung sana loknungdagi taibang phaorakpadagi houraduna meei meetou pharakpagi khongchat – sanglaba kumsing kaya changlibani. Lamkhangda mapung marei phadana sikhibasung konggaini. Iromgi machin manao ahumdi tinjang kaijangba yaokhide.

Meeoibagi punshi khongchatta ari – anou sinnaba haiba amasu leiribani. Tangkak mari thokna meeoibagi punshi da khaidoklibani. Ashum angang oiduna leibas yaba natte. Ahal oijaroi haibas leithokpa yaba natte. Matam asumna Irom Ibochouba khangson sonjillak e. Chahi yamna libadi natte. Lawai thawaida Lou u singu touduna Hingna ayambana mapunshi tengalli. Poklabadi chahigi wapham khannadrabasu nongma siba haibasi soiphadrabani. Laibakta tamduna leikhrabani. Heisingngika haiduna litthaduna leihoubaka ngampot natte. Matam amada maiba doctornaga kanba ngamdaba leina khara leirammi amasung narammi. Lainasing adudi esing pukchat (Diabetes), Kolera, (Anaba achouba, pukchatpa) T.B. (Thabombi chapatpa) ahum asini.

Laina makhal ahumak akibagi mashakni. Kum amana esing pukchap neinada mee kaya sikhi. Masidi lounaganbi natte. T.B. ashi lounaganba leinani. Laiyengnaba hidak langthak leiramde. T.B. bu narabadi sigalli haiduna pakhatnarammi. T.B. thungba meedagi lapthoknarammi, maiyoknaduna wa ngangnabada chil naton khumnarammi. Leina ashi paklabadi nupa nupi yumbanba yaramde. Esing pukchat amadi T.B. ani asidi khudakta laikannaba ngamdana sigannba lainadi oiramde. Adumakpu kinarami. Amasung yamna cheksinnarammi.

Cholera hairiba laina asibu anaba achouba, pukchatpa haibadi thingba ngamdana khong hamthaba, thi phaithababu khangnei. Emung manung khudakta lounaganba laina ama oina kinarammi. Khul amada, leukai amada tora tuna sinarammi. Ashiba ama potloiringeida asiba ama puthorakpa, mathangda ama amuk sirakpa asinachingba kaya thokkhiba laina makhal amani. Lan chenbadouna mayum makei thadoktuna khul hongba, amaga amaga changnadaba phaoba yaokhi. Emung kaya sagei mutpasu yaonakhi.

Anouba chakki(yugki) laina laiyingda doctor kaya thoraklabasu cholera hairiba tamthiraba mahik asibu maru phangna muthatpadi ngamlamde. Laina ashe haksel kanglongi mangal phangdaba khunghangi maphamdana henna thoklammi. Maru oina esing phattaba thak chaba, amotpada leiba ngakup chakup chaba asinachingba kayadagi sandokpani haiduna thajanarammi. Laina asigi laiyongdi mapham khangdana masa sagatpa, ohba – phaiba, animak matam amattada thokpa asina khangtapta swar thatpa asini. Amukka henna sathiraba anabagi amang asoi, aohba sengdokpa meedasu choleragi mahik chongsinduna sandokpa asini. Laida tainaganba meiteina laina ashe lai phattabana thokhanbani haiduna thajanarammi.

Kum ama, Manipurda namphu saphuda haibadi bharat bhumida tillaba matungdani. Lamdeng Khunougi akoibada pukchatpa (Cholera) laina ashe khanghoudana sandorakkhi.Yumthong khudinggi mee si meena mathang mathang thorakkhi. Landagi

henna sathiba lainani haiba ashe kunmee ayambana khangnarammi. Magi magi emungda laina ado changbiraktanaba lai khurummi. Laida phanamak erat thouni tourabasu kanba ngamba lainadi oiramde. Nongmagi ama nattraga ani ahumdi Shiba lepkhide. Anaba changlaktriba emung kharadi mayum thadoktuna mari mata leiba maphamda chennakhre.

Laina ashi maningdagi, mamangdagi, awangdagi, makharomdagi asum asum taksillaktuna Iromgi shangai yumphamda su khanghoudana paisillakhi. Irom Ibochoubagi emung manung yousillak e. Mahakki mamou nupi ani haibadi Leirenga Leinambiga anaba achouba ashi mayoknaduna leikhidre. Nongma nini kannarga Irom Ibochoubaga magi nupi Ebethoi anisu hounaraga chatminnakhi. Akibagi mashak oiraba thou ongni. Ebethoina hanna sikhi.

Ibochoubana charamgi swar tatning tamang touraba matam aduda machanupada pukmen paomenlammi –“Epagi Ibohal aduga emou ahal Leihao ! Nabanimak houjik nacha ahum puraga chenkhathkro... Irom sagei muthalnaba yadeko. Adugane, engkhol ashe khutthang lankhibasu yadeko. Epana hairambase kaoganu, Chinglen Nongdren Khomba... !”

Ibohalna hangkhi –“Paba ! Nacha chatkhrabadi kanana chitada mei chubihougani?”

Irom Ibochoubana machana hangliba wahanggi paokhum piramdana nonggakhi. Matam aduda Lamdeng Khunougi yumthong khudingmak thong lannakhrabani. Asiba potloibinaba khunmee leitrabani. Meitei leibakki meiteisinggi marakta tengbang lup kaya akoibada leirammi. Makhoi aduna machin makha amadi manatonnachingbada khudei angangba yetsillaga Lamdeng Khunougi thawai thakhraba meeoikayabu mawong maril chumna potloibikhi.

Ibohalna tengbang lupki luchingba kakyenpaibamgi Keiren kouba ahal aduda khurumduna haijarammi –“Taingi Keiren. Pabana eibu tanbadagi chenba tare. Ema pabagi chinta manidi loubiraga cheksinna thambirammu... seh taret senja kharadang katcharamge... .”

Keirena haikhi –“Chatlo chatlo, enao ebungo ! Adugane, ebemma Leihao ! Meeron taphattriba ‘Chinglen Nongdren Khomba’ ahummakta nabuk thokki nachangaktani khanduna naokolluko. Nongdren Khomba anida nangse poktabi mamani khanghanganu.

Leihaona khumlammi –“ Ahoi taingo ! Enaonupi anina poklamba echa anisu eigi echani. Chinkoi adumak nachalna ngakchagani. Eina yokchagani. Chinglen Nongdren Khomba echa ahummakpu.”

Keirena amuk hairak e –“Ibohal, Leihao chatlo chatlo. Laichat ashi pharaga lamdam asibudi kaoganu. Waikhu so londuna thamlamba Iromgi yumjao ashe nabanina nacha ahummak puraga thong hangba lak uko.”

Ibohalna khummi –“Epa epuna thamlamba engkhol asida soidananakki lakchakhigani. Khwai mayambusu khurumjari.”

Ibohalna asumna khwai tarabu nollukna khurumlaga Lamdeng Khunou thadoklaga san gari tongladuna Imphal karakhi. Uripok sorbon thingelda leiba mapubok Ningthemcha Noyongi manakta thunglakhi. Matam khara leiraga yumthangnaba waikhu so londuna leiriba Leihaogi mapamgi yumda hongjinduna leikhi. Lan chenkhiba Leihao, Leiren, Leinambi ahumgi mama mapagi leekhundi lanlakta mangkhre.

Matou asumna, Leihaona ‘Chinglen Nongdren Khomba’ machin manao ahumgi apunba mama oiduna naokollakhi. Khwaina hainei, laibak pheida Irom ongbi Leihao !

Lamdeng khunou khuntak lanshikhi.

Anaba achoubagi laichatta mayum makei thadoktuna chenkhiba khunmeesing hannarakkhidre. Akoibagi khunmeesingna kalak pellida haiduna takshi sonnaba kayani. Ateigi natte, samoksinggi sanjabung oiduna leijaramba mapham amabu Chingamakhadagi lakhiba Irom Etobina ningthou khanba oiduna khunthokhiba ado khunmeesingna pennakhide. Mathai thainadagi ningdon pomduna leinarak e. Adubu, cholera mahik leiramkhini khanduna pak hekta changsinbadi kinnarammi. Maiba maibi tannakhisi haiduna leirak e.

Chahi ani houkhre.

Lamdeng khunou umang wamangdouna amuk tourak le. Nongmadi ayuk anganbada Soibam Soidon kouba Eroishemba erong chithekta leiramba nupa amana matu macha puraduna Lamdeng khunouda changlak e. Mahak ashi taku tarang touba meeni. Mayum makei jwarda thadoktuna leipham leitrada Lamdeng khunouda hotchillakpani. Mahakpu khwaina kinei. Ayamba matamda thangpak ama phongna yanduna pui. Khwai pumnamakna mahakpu kinabagi mathakta nungsinade, tukkathei. Mabuk chatpaga laina loukhrabadi phanida haiduna lai khurumnei.

Adubu mangondadi pukchatpagi mahik changba ngamkhidre. Toubasu mahik matai ngamnamak siramlagani. Kokyenpaibagi Keirenkhoigi tengbang lupna khongbal luklang sengdok – khottokpaga loinana phatta haodi mei thadokpa, khoiju laikham mei thaduna phattaba lai tin kaya tanthokhrabani. Keirenkhoigi kangbudi lam khopchinbagi wakhal leijaba natte. Pukchatpa laichatta chennakhiba khunmeesing koubirusi haiduna khanaringeigi cheiraktani Soibam Soidonna changlakhiba ado.

Soidonna ngamlibasu angakpani. Matu khara sonba yum amada changsillaga leigedi haidraga Irom Ibohal policeki shangai yumjao adugi so phakkairaga namphuda matune, macha nupa khubilongne hekta leisillure. Pao ashe tengbang lup Keirengi nakongda thungkhre.

Keiren ashisu maikei ngakpa meeshak amani. Taku tarang toubu meedi natte. Meena utshit – thaoidaba yade. Meeyamgi meeni. Keirenga Soidonga turel wangma – wangma leinarabasu munna khangnei. Soidonna nahani. Adu oirasu Keirena karisu utshitpiba natte.

Soidonna khunthokpagi mangani suba numitki ayuk amada Keirena magi tengbang lupki naha ani puraga Iromgi Shangai yumphamda thunglei. Aduda Soidonna engkhol matonda yotpak pairaduna leitou leiyanduna leirammi. Mahakna Keiren lakpa ado urammi. Yotpak thamlamlaga prap prap chenthorak e aduga khanghai hairak e –

“Aeh : Taibungo lengbirakpa nungngairedo. Nanaosu amuktang unajaningduna leijarambani. Hai, Mukaklei, Taibungo Keiren lenglakli. Khuda ahumkhak puthorak une. Chekla anisu loinarak e.”

“Ebungo Soidon !” Keirena khol kallap kouraga makha samtharaduna hairak e – “Irom Ibohalna engkhol asibu nangonda yonthoklabra ?”

“Taibungo, mapu leitraba engkhol ashe matam khara sum sangbige toubanida.” Soibam Soidonna kotharaduna nganglak e - “ Toubasu laichat kiduna chenkhra Ibohaldo hallaklaroida. Arembada lamyon asibu manghanba pammudra ? Taibungosu aduga tengbang lupki echin enao kayasu mapham asida nouna amuk lam khopchillhoubana phaganida. Ethanta leibasunungngaite.”

Keirena khummi –“ Ebungodi wakhal nungngairine. Eihakti Lou engkholda meekajade. Taothongda leiriba eigi engkholse charon suron kaya phaobada leihouba yaragani.”

“Ado, nanaobu alaka lansinba yaroi ashira ?” Soidonna muksillak e.

“Nangbu ngambu ngammine. Mapu leitaba yumgi waikhuso phakkairaga hekta nayum saduna leisinba adubu chumlibra haiba ? Yumbu adusu police officerni. Ibohaldo phagi yadabaniko.”

“Aehra Taibungo. Mayum ashe matam khara sangbige toubanida. Khol waokhatpirakkanu. Nanao eise... .”

“Aeh: eibu phuge hairibrane ? Keirennas saorapna chatharak e –“Eibu kakyenpaibamgi Keiren nine. Nayum nakei yonthokhraga meegi mayum engkhol mullariba adubu chummi khanbra hah ? Nangna matam khara leige hairagana mapudagi ayaba loiruso.”

Soidonna usit thaoidana hairak e –“Taibungona eigidamak wabirunu. Ibohal babuna hallaklaga eina thokpa toujarage. Toubadi masu pak hallaktou mandreda. Magidi nupi mapamgi engkhol chaoraba amasu lempam phangkhe. Mapu enak khunba Noyonsu macha nupa pokte haidaido. Engkhol asidi eingonda pithok o dum khara haibiru – pakhol sibadi natchadeko.”

Talak aduda Soidongi matu Mukakleina mora macha ahumkhak puraduna prap prap chenthorak tuna khuda tharei aduga hairak e –“Taibungo echa khubilongna makhubi kakthatlu haiduna ningai toubagi themlingeida khara thengdokkhre, waroubiba yade ngaihaktang lengsinbikho.”

Kakyenpaibam Keirennas saona hairak e –“Ebemma nawaga phamminnarga hik hek kainahouro. Ebung chatle.”

Keirennas marengbanda yalliba khudei kallamlaga thokkhi. Naha anisu matung enkhi.

Soibam Soidonna kallak penna laohoue –“Thou leitana thou thiba. Natic leiraga tallarao. Soidon etik khanghange.”

Keirennas amuk oaksinduna khumlak e –“Hoi, chellakpi macha ! Nangbu Soubamla Soobamla... yani machasiga, phei phei yengsido. Nangumbanasu Kakyenpaibam Keiren eibu singnaba sai.”

“Chellakpi macha’ haiba mingthol ashe Soidongi kham thenghna asaoba mingni. Mahakki hoirakpham nongpok lamda leiba ‘Angom khunou’ haiba mapham asidagini. Mahak Soubamchani. Mamagi puknung tharo oina puraklaga Soibam Kalejaogi macha oina taibang phaorakhibani. Mamagi mamingna Ebecha kou e. Soibam Soibana thikadar Ebitongi uyanba chatpada Ebechaga nungsinaraktuna lonna mironkhibani. Ujaona nantheiktuna Soibam shikhi. Magi marup Soibam Kalejaona Ebechabu louraktuna mapa yakhibani. Soibam da pok e. Soibadagi mayon chongkhibani haiduna ‘Soidon’ koukhibani. Aronba wari ashe Kakyenpaibamgi Keirennas Kalejaodagi tahoubani. Kainathangda, Soidon mama Ebecha siramdaida asengba wari ado

lithoklambani. Adubu Soidonna magi wari kanadasu lithokkhide. Magi ashi puranbu Keireнна khanglamba aduda ekaiboi saoningboi magi khutsu thangpak adu pairaga laoraduna chenthorak e –“ Leirammudo, Kakyenpaiba ! Nakhut kakthatledo.”

Soidongi nupi Mukakleina prap prap chensillaktuna Soidongi khudei machin laktuna khanghching chingngi. Khudei nanthoktuna leimaida takhre. (Khudei setpa Meitei ayamba pheenuungda pheega nattraga underpant thonba chatnaramde.) Soidonna ‘Hai ! Lamsai macha’ hairaga phamthakhi. Khudakta magi machining kumthakhi. Mukaklei lousing leibini chensinduna mawada khudei lanhsilli, thang muli. Mukakleina mawabu asumna hek hek khammi.

Kakyenpaibamgi Keiren amadi khongloi ani hottana chenkh. Mayum mayumdadi changkhidre. Imphalda pirunaba haigatkhi.

16

Mathou nattana thou thiba haigadra nattraga khunmee amagi toupham thokpani haibas yai. Kakyenpaibamgi Keireнна luchingduna chatkhiba makhoi ahum nongdam naidaba laina buska ngaide Imphal kaba san garis ngaide. Cyclesu tongde. Makhongna khongkap laona laona thangladuna Uripok Sorbon thinghelda leiba Ibohalgi mayumda thunglure. Makhoi ahum humangna tap tap tai. Onthokna yangna hawa chaba chatpa khongchatkummi. Makhoi ahum Ibohalna leiriba engkhol sumangda leplei. Mee kouba khotpa toudana adum lei. Emungdagi mee thoklakpa ngaibagi matouni.

“Moba, Mobi !” Keireнна maga loinaraduna lakminnariba naha pakhang ani adubu kouraga hairak e –“ Eikhoina tourisibu dushman lepsinba taragadrane ?”

Mobana khumlak e –“ Epal ! Adumna khanbiganu. Eikhoidi khwaigi tengbang lupki meoini. Ninghannabiganu.”

Mobina pangsillak e –“ Epal ! Eyamba Mobana hairiba ado achumbamakni. Eikhoina matam chana pao pihoudre, Eton Ibohalna warougadouribani. Toubasu, ate ama oirabadi kharasu maphagadaba. Ta Soidon haiba mahik asidi changhandabana phagani. Tanthoksi.”

Keireнна hairak e –“Epalna khallibas maduni. Marol maral taklaga sat hekta chongsillakebadu ngakkhre haimi. Matam khara leiraga mahakna lam machet machet

yollakadra haibagi meepaiba pok edo. Mahakse magi hourakpham makhulda tankhinaba touhoubana phagadaba malli.”

Makhoi ahumna asumna wari saringeida emungdagi policeki dress setlaba Ibohal mangoldagi sumang youna kumtharak e. Matung ennarak e Leihao. Pumngak ngakna ngaihak yengnei.

Ibohalna hairak e –“ Haima ! Taibungo Nanaona khurumjari. Kadomdeino ? Kayam kuire ?”

Leihaona amuk oaksallak e –“Taibungo onthokna thajadana... nachalsu khurumjari.”

Ibohal amadi Laihao anina khurumba oaklaga Keireнна hairak e –“Yaiphaba oiyu ! Nabanimak .”

Ibohalna hairak e –“Thunglaba kaya kuirabage, hekta koubiba yadro ? Sumangda leplibasi kuiramdou malli. Ebungo anisina Saikhom Saibagi macha phaibokto... .”

“Manni manni Eton !” Mobana khummi.

“Nabanidi onthokna yengba nungairedo.”

“Keireнна marak thatchinduna hairak e –“Atei wari konna tousi enao Ibohalsu office thengkhini.”

Ibohalna khumlak e –“Adugidi karisu kaide. Taibungona lakthoktana lakpasibu... ehe ! Mora louthok uso Leihao.”

Leihaona hairak e –“ Taibungo aduga Moba Mobi mangolda lengkhatlaga ne tana wari sabiyudo. Moi pabasu sumang matonda hobe hobe toubinuda.”

“Hoine hoine Taibungo, mathakta lengkhatsi.” Ibohalna hairak e.

Keireнна khumlak e –“Enaogi office kaba thengkhigadra khanjabani.”

“Aeh: Adugidi karisu khanbirunu. Lengkhatlasi.”

Ibohalna asumna hairaga mangolda kakhatkhre. Lamdeng Khunougi anouba pao puduna lakliba ahum adusu mangol youkhre. Mora achouba awangba thaduna makhoi marimak ekoi koina phamminnakhre.

Keireнна ne taraba aduda engna tapna hairak e –“Ebungo Ibohal ! Khuntak lansiduna leiraba Lamdeng khunoudo houjikti Choleragi mahik leitredo. Eikhoigi tengbang lupna eram nala phatta haodi ngamnamak shit sengdokhre. Akoibada leiba lam mikaba Cholera mahiktagi henna sathiraba Soibam Soidonna prap prap changsillaga shangai yumjaogi waikhu so phakkhairaga leisinkhre. Eikhoina mapu leitaba yumda mapugi

ayaba yaodana waikhu so phakkhairaga leisinba hounade haiduna tanthoknaba hotnarui. Maduda mahakna thangpak paiduna natik leiraga tallurao haiduna kihallakle.”

Irom Ibohalna phrang laona saoduna hairak e –“ Aeh : Huranbado ! Madi keidoubei lam khopchinba changlak eba ! Eigi yumbu waikhu so phakkairaga leisinkhre haiba ! Emungda kollik, atei atei yamna leihouridu yonduna chathokpa lak eba oirini. Madi phanadum lingine. Policeki yumda phongna hekta singnarabako.”

Mobana marak phenjillak e –“ Etongidi Uripokta engkhol chaona leikhre hallaklaroidum haihou e Soidonna.”

“Phei khangni ngasimak police sangu ama tharakke aduga mahakpu neikhaihange.” Ibohalna ashi hairaga emunglomda onsinduna laorak e –“Hai Leihao ! Nangbu keidourige ? Taibungo khoigi cha, khudong puthorakune.”

“Hoi hoi.” Maungdagi Leihaona khumlak e –“Echa Chinglen Nongdren Khomba school chatnaba awat apa yengjari thoraklage... yaradi taibungokhoido chak chakhisi haibirammu. Eikhoise taibungona hinghallakpanido.”

Keirennna khumlak e –“ Aeh : Aeh : Ebemma cha, khudong chak langbirunu. Nakhoina Lamdeng khunouda amuk hongdaraklaga chaminnasi. Nakhoi engkholdo... .”

Keirenngi wangang loiphattringeida Leihaona macha nupa ahummak mamang thana puthoraklaga khanghang hanglak e –“ Taibungo ! Eikhoi engkhol keidouraba...?”

“Keisu toudeda, nakhoi hongdarak o haiba lakpani. Matam khara leirabadi mangkhragani.” Keirennna asi hairaga angang ahumda munna yengluraga watheiduna amuk samtharak e –“Eh : Engkholgi wa amuk lairi. Chakumba numitta ukhiba Chinglen Nongdren Khomba ! Karinone shakpham asibu phaibok nam – masu nattana chap chap mannarisibu... mamadi... .”

Ibohalna Keirenngi wangang makha taba nangdringeida notsillak e –“Mama mapa amattagi machanidana.”

Meetek meerou khangba Keirennna khummi –“Hoine hoine... laimachadungai. Mama nangdi Kamdouna mashak maming khang e, hah ?”

Leihaona nokphet touraga hairak e –“ Taibungo, shakmannaba echa ahum ashe mama eitanadi khangba ngamnaba khudam leije. Madumadi takthokchararoi.”

Keirennna khummi –“Hoida Hoida... ngamnamak mapa amattagi machanina shakphamsu pamanba hek pokedako. Heikhredako Ibohal nangse.”

Mayamdo ngaihak nokminnei.

17

Leihaona macha nupa ahummak puthoklaga thokkre. Mahakna chatna chatna hairammi – “ Taibungo ngaihaktang leibiramkho. Enak nak e eikhoi mamang lampakki school asidani. Ngasidi tengbangbisu laktre.”

“ Chatluro chatluro... .” Keirena ngaihak swar hondoklaga amuk hanglak e – “ Ehe ! Nachasingdi kari class tamle, hah Ibohal ?”

Ibohalna khummi –“ Nongmada pokpanina class su chap mannei, three tamle.”

“ Matam haise houkhiba khanghoude, ngarang nahaldang oiraboi ninglure, Lamdeng Khunougi laichtto.”

“Achumbani Taibungo.” Ibohalna khummi amasung hairak e –“ Soidonga makha tana wangangnabirunu. Eisu epa epugi engkhol ado manghanjaroi. Houjikti suti thokpa khudingi lakcharage. Hek hongtharkpasu angangsingi lairik tampham leitabasida khanjanabani. Soidon nattana mee amadi thamba tare. Aduga makhul thadoktuna chenkhibasingsu taibungokhoina matam khara kaithokpiraga kouthabiro. Eisu laklagani haibiro. Echakhei Imphalda leihourasu nachalga eigadi laknaba toujarage.”

Mobana marak thatchinduna hairak e –“ Eton, Soidondi Eikhoina pao pirui haiduna dushman oidourabanido.”

“Adugi karisu khallunu Moba ! Nakhoina pao pubirak ebasi pharabani.” Ibohalna makha tana hairak e –“ Magumbana kari touba ngamgani. Mapu leitaba yumgi so phakkairaga potchei hurankhre haiduna maral thangjillaga jailda kok hek namsillaga loire.”

“Ho ho, enaona pheii haibado toubiro. Eyambakhoi youkhrage.” Keirena hairak e –“ Eikhoina hankhibada thongjaoda ngaiduna leirambrasu khangpot nattedo. Adubu thengnaruba tabani. Eyamba khoi chatlage. Konna amuk chamin thakminnarasi.

Ibohalna ngaihak wakhal khanjaneii. Engna tapna hairak e –“ Taibungo maga makha tana wa ngangnabirunu. Hayengmak ei hek lakpadi thumalli. Chayol amuk leiraga phung phaorakke. Tengbang lupki kangbuna pao piba malhallaroi.”

Keirena hairak e –“Phare adudi eikhoi youkhrage. Ebemma Leihao ngairaroi, masu hobe hobe macha thinkkhibado khurou thanghalle.”

“Nanao leijahourage.” Ibohalna Keiren khurummi aduga hairak e –“ youbiro youbiro. Adugane Moba Mobi ! Napaldo ningthina pukhoko.”

“ Phani, Eton !” Mobana khummi.

Keiren amadi Moba Mobi machin manao Ibohalgi mayumdagi thongal wangma landuna chatkhre. Ibohalna ungjanduna leihou e.

18

Ibohalna ungjanbagi maram, Soibam Soidon kibagi natte. Mahak Lamdeng Khunouda haitharaga mapa mapugi engkholda leiningdabasu natte, yamna leijaningi. Adubu mapham aduda lairik tampham (school) leitri. Mahakna magi machanupa Chinglen Nongdren Khomba ahumbu meethoi meehenba, lairik laishu heiba meeshak amamam oihanningi. Adum oinamak Lou u sing ubagi sinphamsu heihaningi. Houjik oiriba phibam asida mayum amuk hongthaba haiba ado punshi maong ama pumhong hongkhiba tabani. Mahakna magi macha nupa Chinglen Nongdren Khomba ahumda thamjariba tunggi oihanningba wakhal pumkai kaikhiba yabagi mami ama uraklammi. Mahakna Chinglenbu Professor nattraga Barista, Nongdrenbu army officer, Khombabuna doctor oihanningi. Khombadi chakumbada mangang thang paikhi. Madu operation toubagi thangni haiduna Ibohalna khankhi. Mamitta machasingdo sinpham pheejol thilladuna ujakhi. Hek thangnaba meekupta usit thaoidaba Soibam Soidonbu soitharuge khallak e. Phuk hougatli.

“Heima taibungokhoi chatkhraboi... .” Leihaona wahei ashi hairaduna Ibohalgi manak yousillak e aduga samtharak e –“Eisu echasing thadoklaga pak hek lakpa yakhidre. Nungtigi thengba heinaba ojasingdo houjik phaoba lakhoudri. Choukidarsu leihoude. Echasingdo choukidar aduda sinnaramlaga chellakpani. Onthokpanida, taibungokhoido karisu pija pithakkhidredo.”

“Leihao Adugidi araibani.” Ibohalna hairak e –“Makhoisu pakhatpoi kariboi konna chamin thakminnasi hairamlaga chatkhrabani.”

“ Makhoidi karigi pakhatliba ?”

“Maha taku Soibam Soidonna makhoibu thongkhongda ngaiduna leiramgadra haibagi pakhatpa amasu yaona hankhrabani.”

“Aehra makhoi ahum suribu... Taibungo Keirensu thainagi keini haidaine ?”

“Leihao ! Amabu oiro, eihak houjikmak Lamdeng Khunouda chatlaga Soidondo soidaruge.”

**“Amuktang phinggapikhinu, moina.” Laihaona engna tapna hairak e –
“Taibungokhoido karisu touramlolda. Makhoina pao pibiraba pharabani. Eikhoigi mit
nakong sing le. Adui saruk matam khara huranbada so sinnaba haibado toubana
phagadra khalli eigi wakhalda.”**

“Haibadi Soidonbu leohanba ?”

**“Hoine, themduna nouduna matam khara echasing mapung marei phadriphaobadi
yum sanghanba, engkhol koihanduna thambana phagadra khallido.”**

**“Aeh : Aduma hairakkanu.” Ibohalna ngaihak khallaga nganglak e –“Eina
taibungokhoida Soidon tanthokkani haidokhre. Eihak erei ani longbadi pamde.**

**“Adudi... .” Leihaona ngaihak khallaga hairak e –“ Asum lusillak eda. Imphalda leire
kada, ada hongthare echasingse lairik tamba tokpa tabanido.”**

“Aduni, eina ngasaidei ungjanariba.”

“Moiba ! Khunmeesing tannaraga Soidondo machi amada leihanbadi kari kaibage ?”

“Hum ! Mahak pusilluba yaba natteda. Cholera mahiktagi henna sathirakkani.”

**“Phare, Moiba sumdourasi... mathanggi nongmaijingda echasingga loinana eikhoi
hongtharakle haiduna chatlasi. Matam kharasu leirurasi. Mabou themduna nouduna
chatkhro hairurasi. Toubadi police kharadi pushi.”**

**“Adubudi ngasaidagi khallamlibani. Phunna cheinabasu hek thokhanningde.
Phattaba minina tungda keiningchit lakkadra haidunasu khalli.”**

“Keisu ki mathisu libadi yararoi.”

**“Leihao ! Nangna eisibu yamna pangdabani khanbei wara... .” Ibohal phuk
hougatlaga mangoldagi kumtharaga amuk laorammi –“ Phare ei chatle, Soidon
soitharurageko.”**

“ Ngaibikhoda amukta.” Leihaona laojei.

**Ibohalna paokhum piramdre. Cycle thoudoklaga thokkre. Lamdeng khunou romdadi
haithakhidre. Police station lomda cycle thougatkhre. Achumba loishangda wakatpa
chatkhre.**

Nongmaijing numitni. Chayol ama houkhraba matungdani. Irom Ibohalna matu machaga loinaraduna police constable taruk puraduna zeep ama Lamdeng khunou maikai pangna thoutharakle. Mahak police officer amagi phijol setli. Garisu mahakna thou e. Mamanggi seatta macha ahum phammi, mataida Leihaona ngak e. Matunggi seat nak yetta police cheitup paiba ahum ahum phammi. Mahakti nongmei atenba yeppi. Mahak wakhal yamna nungngaina gari thou e. Esei ngangjei. Mayekti yaode. Yathak yakha chinbal umsilladuna nganglaga naton makhul anida thadorakpa khonthok amadi thorak e.

Maningdagi head constable Chandan Chaibana khanghai hairak e –“Eikhoi sirdi esikasu yamna heiboire... .”

Leihaona nokphet touraga oaksillak e –“ Heibani heibani. Mayek thoktaba esei yamna ngangba heibani. Eibudi mayek marol khang.”

Constable amana amuk notsillak e –“Eteimbem ! Sirna ngangngiba eseigi mayek mason ashi khangjaba yagadra ?”

Leihaona khumlak e –“ Nakhoi sirga eikhoi echil enao ahumgha punna yengminnakhiba nagin filmgi ‘Manh dohle mera manh dohle’ haiba phajakhraba eseido yanungda umduna sairibani.”

Tungda phamliba constable tarukto amuktangda khangnok noklak e. Khamglep amuk lepkhi. Mathak thongba officer ama yaori. Thaksi khasidi ngakpa tabani. Picnic chatpa natte. Meepha meepum touruba yai.

Head constable Chandan Chaibana wahang ama khangning hek hangninglak e, Shat hekta hangbasu hanglak e –“Eteimbem ! Echin enao haisibu... .”

Ibohalna marak khangthat thatchillak e –“Chaiba makha taraklanu. Namit nana singngu. Mangda leire Lamdeng Khunou. Thongkhongda sign board thetlise uredana.. .”

Leihaona khanghai hairak e –“Moiba ! Chingkhong lomda chatkumsiba, Thamna pokpida phaojinbana pharoidra.”

Ibohalna khumlak e –“Taibungo Keirenkhoida Thamna pokpigi lambi thatlammu haiduna pao thakhibani.”

“Aeh : Madu toubinuda, ningthina themduna nouduna chathankhisi. Mee amada mayam changduna phu cheibadi tougumsi.” Leihaona paomenjei –“Nangsu khallune, Chaiba.”

Chaibana khumlak e –“ Eteimbemma ! Eikhoi mabu phuba lakpa natte. Phaba lakpani. Mapu leitaba yumgi waikhu so phaklkaiba haiba ashe huranba changba makhal amani. Phuba cheiba toujaroi. Karisu pakhatpirunu.”

Constable Ngangbana pangsinba oina hairak e –“Eteimbemma ! Karigumba Soidonna hanna makhut tharaklabadi eiga thenggainajage.”

“ Hoi hoi, eikhoisu angangsingga kalen suti thabasida tha amadi leiruge lakpani.”
Leihaona samtharaduna hairak e –“Makhoisu mamang shanggoida matam khara leihanbabudi... .”

Leihaogi wangang loiphattringeida Ibohalna nganglak e –“ Leihao ! Meetusi hougatlunu. Mameida hingchaba oirakkani haibado kaoganu.”

Ekhang khanghoudana gari khangkham khammi. Ibohalna khanglao laorak e –“Kadai eigi shangai yumjao... ?

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Yum leiramdre... .

Irom Ibohalgi ena kuppa shanggai yumjao leiramdre. Khunmee mayam ekoi koina leirammi. Yumpham ado tanggoi mapei mapei peiduna leirammi. Esing heijinbagi meikhu meinil wangna karammi. Khunmee kharana yotpak, cheisangna meithum kotli, manungda thilli.

Ibohalna garidagi kumtharaga meeyam marakta chensinkhi. Constable taruk adusu matung ennakhi. Leihaona garidagi kumtharaga macha nupa ahumga laptak yengduna lei.

Meeyam maraktagi Keirena hottoklaklaga hairak e –“Eyambagi Ibohal ! Eikhoina yum ashe kanba ngamhoudre ?”

“Yumgi wa lairi... .” Ibohalna pakhatlap hanglak e –“Soidongi emung manungdi kamdoukhre ?”

Keirena khumlak e –“Enao ebungo, mee phattabagi heedak leite haibado chumkhrajatni. Naharolsingna meikhap meithum ottuna thiriba asini. Mei ashe yumthaktagi hourakpa natte. Emung manungdagi akiba mashak oiraba maongda mejao hourakpani. Petrol pipa khara heidoklaga thaba malli. Yum asi haira meichak pharaba uchangi ukhong achouba, pheiren, asinachingba kaya yaobanina yumthakta

meiri meijao urakpada mayam mei kanba chensinnarak e. Adubu, yumthak kintharaktuna uppsinkhre. Touriba thouong asi Soidonna hingnguduna kanade haiduna matu macha anibu hanna hattoklaga masamakpu meinungda siramgadra haibagi chingnaba leiduna masa thiribani.”

Ibohal tuminna lei. Wakhal kaya khanbagi maongni. Mahakna khalli (Oithokpadi yai. Aduda, eihak ngasi ayuk emung manung puraga thunglaragani haiba asidi kanana Soidonda pao pirigaba ?)

Constable Chaibana hanglak e –“Taibungo, Soidon hairiba meephatta aduna mayum mei tharamlaga chenkhiba oiramlabadi kamdouna ?”

Keireнна khumlak e –“Daruga babu, madusu khannaba yaba waphamni. Enao Ibohalgi emung manung hayeng nongmaiinggi ayukta thunglaragani haiba eikhoi kanasu khangjade. Mahakna hanna kanadagi taribano haibasus eikhoi khangjade.”

Ibohalna marak thatchinduna hanglak e –“Taibungo ! Magi emung manung hupna masasu yaona siramlagani haibasidi mayamna thajariba asigi sashi sabon leibra ?”

Keireнна naha amada makhut thilladuna hairak e –“Chamba ! Soidonna hairammi haiba waphamdo yumbuda tahalludana. Eikhoidi nangi yawagi matung enna masa thibani houjik phaoba phangdri.”

Chambana khumlak e –“ Sir, Taibohal aduga tinbiriba mayam pumnamak ! Eihak achumbadang haijage. Ngakpigani, eihak chinjak khara kamjei. Ta Soidon ebani numidang khara pulli. Ngarangsu mayumda ebani thakmin chaminnei. Eina puraga changbani.”

Tasoidonna hairak e –“Enao ebungo chamba ! Eyamba hingba ware. Sirage khalle. Echaga etugasu punna chatkhage khalle... natte, nahak nateimase louhourodana, echa khubilongsu haplage.”

Eteima Mukakleina khanglao laorak e –“Karinone, moi pabana ngangbiridubo.”

Tasoidonna khummi –“Heih Mukaklei ! Hayengdi police mayam putharaga eibu neiba laklagani. Adubu, eidi meinungda sirage khalli, nanga, nachaga anidi hinghannigngi.”

Masu tabada eteimana khumlak e –“Moipaba sikhrabadi eikhoisu hingbagi kari kannari. Siminnarasi punna.”

Tasoidonna amuk notsillak e –“Mukaklei, nasana yareko.”

Eteima Mukakleina echang thouna oaksillak e –“ Yare. Asuk pidonna hingdou saruk punna siminnarasi. Thao yonsi haiduna eteima Tathottagi sotluba pipa marisu leire.

Hayengdagi lambi chidaida thao yonba hourasi haibado tokpa tare. Sibagi meichamdu oirasine.”

Tasoidonna amuk hairak e –“ Hehra Mukaklei nungshibi. Phagi toubanida. Hayengdi nganta hougatlaga thao yonba hourasiko.”

Eteima Mukakleina penjaba matou utladuna nganglak e –“ Hoh adumna haiyudana. Nang eigi amatta pokchaba echa ashe Soibam Khubilong haiduna aphaoba ama oinaba sembiramba tabani.”

Tasoidonna amuk hairak e –“Chamba chatlo, eikhoi siraroi. Hayeng ayukti nateima thao yonba thoklagani.”

“Hoh adumna hingngune.” Eina ashum hairamlaga yumda hallakhi.

Chambana liriba wari ado mayamna yamna thajana tarammi. Constable Chaibana Chambada hanglak e –“Chamba nanggi leiphamdi kadaidano ? Aduga ahing mei chakpadi uhoudro ?”

Chambana khummi –“Nanai eidi asom sorok wangmagi Taothong maning leikaida leijabani. Ei yum younaba hairang turang chatle. Yum youraga pradak adum tare. Nongngallaga Tasoidongi mayum mei chakkhre, masa yaoramani tabadagi pakhattuna chenjarakpani. Aduga houkhiba numidangi warido mayamda toujarambani. Tasoidongi emung manung soidana utt ollamlagani.”

Irom Ibohalna ekom hek komna hairak e –“Houjikti eyumsu mei thadokpiramle. Lila loire haigatlas. Meikhak meithum, uru waru tumnaba chakcharasanu. Khujil manungda changba tum amadi mathanta tumjakhre.”

Keirena hairak e –“Ebungo Ibohal ! Meichak meithum mapei asibu ashum thamlagadrane ?”

Ibohalna hairak e –“ Taibungo eidi mapham ashida leirurage haiduna lakpani. Echasinggisu tha ama suti thare. Tonganba yum ama konna sarage. Nongmadi ei leirani mapham asida.”

Constable Chaibana hairak e –“Sir, eina ashum khanjabada, Soidondi nanthoklamgadaba malli. Magi matuga machagadi makhut tungbunnaraga maya pheebul namlaga namduna mei chakhankhiba oigadaba malli. Saru – sayang ngamna tumlamlaganida.”

Ibohalna khummi –“Madusu oithokpa yai. Phatkhydraba mahikni. Mathantagi khanbani. Mahak hingkhre khallasi adubu houjikti kadaida thirugani. Report amadi piruba tabani. Khunmee mayamsu eigidamak yamna wabikhre. Ashum thok u haiduna

thokkhrabani. Mayam wanabani thabak leppiro. Matam khara peiduna leijakhisanu. Machi lengbiruranu. Ethak thongba police inspectorsingna amuk thiba humba tounaba sinjarurage. Eihak haigatcharage. Adubu nongmadi anouba yum ama amuk saraga leirakhigani. Mayam chatchare.”

“Lengbiro lengbiro... .” Khunmee mayamna khummi.

Ibohalna magi nupi angang amadi police constable tarukka loinana Imphalda amuk haigatlakshi. Mapukningda khalli (Namphu meehatla ? Namthak meehatpu oirigadra ? Amabu oire. Epa epuna thambiramba lam asidi manghankhiba yade. Thunamak yum ama saraga leihoudrabadi chaoraba engkhol mangkhigani. Lamlen ashe mee taba khara leire. Soidonna yu ngaoraga ngangthoklamba wangangsing ado lonna tahouba meei kharana khudong chaba loubu oirambasu kanana khangba... ?)

Ibohalgi nung wakhal kanadasu haidokkhidre. Hobe hobe thoutharuba police gari Imphal maigei panglakle. Lamdeng khunou amasung Uripok thoina lapnaba mapham natte. Matam kharadangi manungda mayum youre. Matu macha thamlamlaga Imphal police office stationda report pirunaba chatkhirammi.

Leihaona Chinglen Nongdren Khomba ahumbu pusilladuna mayumda changkhi. Matou ashum touraduna phana kuina amuk Uripok sorbon thingelda leiba takhi.

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Chahi ama houkhi.

Thoudok asigi matungda, chahi mathang mathang amuk houkhi. Soibam Soidon emung manunggi mawa mapao amatta takhidre. Yum mei chakpada utt oina tumkhre haiba ado achumbani haina lounakhre.

Matamgi khongchatka louna – loinana thabak yamna phaba Irom Ibohal A.S.I oirambadagi S.I. adudagi inspector karakle. Maming yamna chatpa huran chinthi taku tarang toubu kayabu phaba, thiba humba heiba ama oinasu maming chatkhre. Khwaina kinaba police officer amasu oikhre. Uripok Sorbon thingelgi mayum bara sandokkhre. Mapubok Ningthemcha Noyongi yum engkholu magi oihoire. Madusu bara sandokkhre. Makhoi Imphal karaga lekpham chaphamdi thammi. Makhoigi emung mapungdi Lamdeng Khunouda anouba yum saduna hongtharakle. Magi machanupa ahummaksu pakhang sarep pharakle.

Chinglen Nongdren Khomba machin manao ahummak yamna nungsinei. Ayamba matamda thadoknade. Nongmada pokpa oirabasu matam khara – kharadi kannei.

Aduna maram oiraduna mama asuppi Leihaona thaksi khasi amadi akon ahang
matung enna mingouron takpi tambikhi. Chinglenda manao anina ‘Tachou’ nattraga
‘Echou’ koujei. Chinglen Nongdrenna manao Khombada yamna nungsina ‘Ton,
Enaoton, Komheiton’ haiduna koujei. Khombana mayamba yaima Nongdrenda ‘Eyai’
‘Tayai’ ‘Talangjei’ asum haina koujei.

Makhoi ahum ayamba matamda thadoknade. Kana kanagumbana makhoi machin
manao ahumbu pullap uba matamda ngaktuna yengnei. Kanagumbana nakhoi nachin
nanao ahumdi naming kari kari kou e hek hangba matamda amana shat hekta
khumlakkani –“Chinglen Nongdren Khomba.”

Matou asumna Lamdeng Khunougi Chinglen Nongdren Khomba – Imphal mayondasu
maming yamna chatlak e. Lairik laisu heibadasu singthanarak e, sannakhotnabadasu
maming leirak e. Landu sendu touduna meephunna – cheinabadi kaya yaogande.
Makhoida lallubadi yaba natte. Makhoi ahummak wangba mannei, shakmannarabasu
khetnaba kharadi lei. Madudi mama Leihaona khang e. Kanadasu haidokte.

Mingphamgi matung ennasu machin manao ahumgi khetnaba khara lei. Chinglenna
engngi tappi, chinglemmi, momon momon tougalli. Maching mason phattaba matou
ado mapan thongda uba phangde. Maringjel khabagi masingga ama lotsinduna
thambadouna uii. Nongdrendi khara langba khotpa pamjaba, urao tharaoba, mee
usittaba, masong phallap touba oina uii. Mingonda aran ahuidi toude. Mapham matam
chana nollukpa, thaksi khasi khangba meeoini. Mayambana haiba elli. Heh tongba
matou ude. Maril kharap touba, meena lakchakhiba yadabagi matou amadi uba
phangngi.

Khombana mong hade. Hoi, mai haigande. Wa yamna nganggande. Molai lubasu
natte, ethak erang thangduna kethok mouthokpasu toude. Mayamgi, leikaigi thabakta
mahakna hanna hekta chongthoklakli. Mayamba anisu magi matou aduda mateng
pangna thoklak e.

Chinglen Nongdren Khomba machin manao ahum punna yaoshang thabal chongba
chatminnei. Nungsi nungolgi wari wataisu ekom komna sadoknei.

Nongma Khombana houdorak e –“Echou, aduga eyai ! Eikhoi echin enao ahum
hayeng tung koina kainaba yadanaba... .”

Nongdrenna manaogi wa loiphattringeida phenjillak e –“ Ung ung ! Nupi phaibok
ahumpokpi nattraga mathang mathang machin manao pokpi nupi lousi haiba oirini ?”

Chinglenna khumlak e –“Eigidi eyada yai. Adugumbi nupibu phangbu phanggadrane,
Ton ?”

Khombana khomjillak e –“Eigi khangnajabi nupi ama leire. Mache anisu leiye. Eina hoidoklubada, manao nupisu yarak e. Mache anidasu haiphet kangthoklui. Makhoinasu echouga eyaiga khangnasi hairak e. Yaningbagi matou amadi urak e.”

Chinglenna hairak e –“Eh ! Khomeiton nangdi matou mandana yamna khumang chaosillamida.”

Khombana karisu ekaiba toudana khummi –“Echou, tangaiphadana eikhoigi sagei chaothoknaba ngallingeidagi hotnaba phabra khanjei. Meesinga, lou engkholna pak chaoba hendokkhidoure.”

Nongdrenna oaksillak e –“Yarene, nongmada eikhoi ahum sumang amatangda luhongsu ngai. Ado, nupi mayumdi kadaidano, kanagi machanupisingno ?”

Khombana khummi –“Sagolband salam leikaida leiba S.P. Tolensinghgi machanupi ngaktani. Toubadi mama ahumna pokpini hai.”

Chinglenna khangprek khanglap touna hairak e –“Aeh : Nangdi thiba humbadi heida. Eikhoi pagaba S.P. Tolengasu yamna channabani.”

Nongdrenna hanglak e –“Nupi machin manao ahum adudi maming kari kari kou e.”

Khombana khummi –“Eiga khangnabi aduna Anuja, mache ahal aduna Amita aduga eyaigi oidouribi aduna Anita. Yunakna Asemni, yek thoknade.”

Chinglenna waroi pirak e –“Phare, nongma unnarusi.”

Mei phung ngallak e !

Ngasai numidanggi pung 8 khara hellakpadagi mutkhiba bijuli, mamit khangpang pangthorakle. Mombati ashangba amagi mutshi mutshiba meingalda mangduna leiruba Ashem Anita, pao pabido, mamit laona pangthorakle. Machinda ekhang hek khanghoudana sonjei amasung nungkhannei (Oh : Nongdren tukhraba ! Karamba Nongdrenbu oirigaba ? Lamdeng Khunougi Irom Nongdrendum oiramdanabako. Kuikhre mapao takhidabasu, kuikhre, chenglou ukhidabasu. Adubu kaobadi ngamdari. Magi shakmeena (Murti) emangda chap leplabagum touri.)

Esh ! Police C.S.P. Ranjitta mayum pallabi Ashem Anitana houjksu Nongdrenbu kaodriboi. Karmnasu kaorugani ? Anitagi nungmitta uriba thoudok wathok nattrega nungsi kumhei phan – phan chingthorakle. Hanggatna amuk yengminnasi.

Ahanba numitni. D.M. college dani. College ahanba kaba numit hainaribani. Nungngaibagi, haraobagi mathum marang hounaribani. Nupadasu nupidasu. Amuksu magi magi classroom thibada koingaonaribani. Mahei mahei koichat chattuna koithi thinaribani. Amana ngangba, amana tannapot natte. College officeki sign board yengluraga thorakpada satra satri mayamna magi magi subject ki nattrega stream gi block thira – thiraduna college ki corridor da koilang langnaribani.

Class ten pass touraga college nouna karaktuna P.U.C. tamgadouriba satrasinggi marakta ‘Chinglen Nongdren Khomba’ machin manasu yaori. Makhoi machin manao ahum asigi atomba Khombana khara mamit mana singba haigadra khara atol atagi haigadra machin makhasu yang e.

Khombana hai –“ Echoi Chonglengi arts blockki kana room 6 tani. Eyaigi amuk thiba oina amuktang koithokkhisi hainabu eyamba anina kari khanbiriba ?”

Chinglenna khummi –“ Eton ! Nangidi ahanbagi oina room number kayadano ?”

Nongdrenna oaksillak e –“ Eigidi room number 1 da leihourene. Etongi ka thiba oina science block lomda chatlo. Asum koirusi.”

Chinglenna amuk hairak e –“ College anouba kabanina kadai kadaida kari kari leibage haibado lina yengthoklasi, class hougadaba matamsu watli.”

Nongdrenna amuk oaksillak e –“ Phei yengthoksi, awangthangba asina science blockni haidai, asomda chatsi chatlu.”

Machin manao ahum shakmannarabasu magi magi subject mannade. Mapa lbohalgi ningjaba amagi makhada macha ahummak tongan – tonganba streamda tamnaba makhongdagi semlakhi haiba tai. Chinglenna arts, Nongdrenna commerce aduga Khombana science tamgadouribani.

Chinglenna chatna chatna hairak e –“ Atomba, nangbu hanna nanggi kada thinbirlamge awangdadi lamhang ure, lambi khamle, corridor ama leiba malli, maduda leisillo. Room number 33 adomda leiramlage.”

Nongdren na khumlak e –“Room number 32 leihoure. Room number 33 ado physics class toupham oiramlagani.

Chinglen Nongdren Khomba machin manao ahum asum wari sara saraduna yamna nungngaina ‘U’ turnda khangthek hek thekchillak e. Supnatanggi meekup amatanggi

manungdani. Mamang pangna room number 33 thiraga haigatlakpi leisabi sanggu amasu yamna lang – khotladuna thekchillak e. Blind coner haibaduni. Mangjil thanglakpi leisabi (Satri) ahumkhakka mapa mapa Chinglen Nongdren Khomba ahumda ghang ghang thengjinnakhre. Pakhang ahumgi saphuna khara henkhibana leisabi ahumdo longlap touna haithakhi. Adubu mamannabi mayamna hotchillaktuna ngakhoure. Leimaidadi takhidre. Chap chap leptuna leikhi.

Chinglenna khudakta haikhi –“Sorry ! Ngakpigani. Corner asida uhoudre.”

Leisabi shanggu maraktagi noibi amana hairak e –“Nupi shanggu ama lakli haibagi ewai enil amatta tabikhidaraba ?”

Thenggainakhibi leisabi ahum adudi mamit kupkhide. Shakmannaba ahumna mamangda leptuna leiramba aduda mamit kuppa kaoba makhei yengduna leiba takhi. Meekup kharadanggi matamni.

Khombana hairak e –“ Anuja ! Ngasisu ebanidi amuk thenggainaredo. Eina haikhiba eyamba anido nanggi nache aniga mapa mapasu thenggainakhre. Eyaiga eche Anitaga ! Eche Amitaga echouga ! Esh ! Kanana khangba. Nongmadi oirakpa yai eche anina eigi eteima.”

“Heh Angang mingamba.” Anitana khanghai hairak e –“ Nangdi thaoina thenggainaba yabagi angle semliboi. Nangne, nangne khangnidana.”

Nongdrenna hairak e –“Ngakpigani. Thaoina toukhiba natte. Nakhoisu college anouba karakpagi charangnabada mang tunggu maikei uramdaba yai. Eikhoisu aduni. Shakudaba khoiyum amana sillakpa malli. Mandrane Anita ?”

Anitana khumlak e –“Aeh : ngakcharedo. Eyai, shakudaba khoiyumda tainaraga hekta yabra ?”

Khombana oaksillak e –“Eche Anita ! Soikhibani haikhredana. Eikhoisu maithakpani. Nakhoi nachin nanao ahumsu maithakpini. Pasin mannare. Toknarasi.”

Amita na hairak e –“Heh ! Angang mingamba ! Nangna silliba oirinine.”

Khombana khummi –“ Amabu oire eikhoi shakmannaba echil enao ahumbu shakmannadabj nachil nanao Amita, Anita, Anuja ahumna munna yengjahouro hayeng soinaniko.”

Chinglenna hairak e –“Ngakpigani. Soikhibani ko tasengna. Chatlasi, yaima. Ton nangdi science ki satrani leihouroneko.”

“Phani, echou, eyai.” Khomba khummi.

Satri leisabi mayamgi maraktagi machin thoubi noibina amuk hanglak e –“
Shakmannaba nakhoi ahumbu phaibokla, namingna kari kari kou e. Nakhoigi maithong
ahumda kari identify mark leibagene... ?”

Machin yangba Khombana khummi –“Eikhoi echin enao ahumgi ming Chinglen
Nongdren Khomba kou e.”

Anitana hanglak e –“ Aeh : Nakhoi ahumbu Meidingu Chinglen Nongdren Khomba
Gambirsingh gi anouba sayolla ?”

Nongdrenna khumlak e –“ Adumna khanbirasu yai. Makha taba e pao pumnamak
enaoton Khombada thabirak u.”

Chinglenna amuk nokphet touraga oaksillak e –“ Leipop kaidribi singgel leirangsing
thenggaikhibagidamak ngakpiba oina houren off leibada wakongba oina canteen da
kari karino khara chaminnarasi.”

Nongdren na amuk khapchillami –“ Soidana lengbirak u. Echouga eigana
ngaijaramge.”

Khombana khomjillak e –“ Eche echal mayamsu yaobiyuko. Eiga chatminnasi.”
Mayamna khumlak e –“ Yare yare.”

College ahanba kaba numitta, ahanba thengnaba mikupta, nungsinaba haiba ashe
adum nupa nupi, pakhang leisabi kharagi punshida thok e. Thaoinabu oirabasu,
soibadagi oirabasu satra satri thengjgainaba haiba asisu asum thok e. Amana amadagi
matou tamlubani haibadi langani. College ta natrabasu lambida, leirak konsangda
maithakpa maithakpi leisa pakhang pik thanna thengainakhre. Asumna
khanghoudana thenggainaba asi nungsinaba houbagi kumhei natraga thoudok amani.

Nungsi pungba oirakkadouriba, oirakkadouribi, Chinglen Nongdren Khomba amadi
Amita, Anita, Anuja makhoigi tamgadouriba streamdi karal Loina chatle. Irom machin
manao ahumgidi mathakta pankhre. Ashem chanu Amitama medical line chatkani
haiduna science class ta tare. Chinglenga class pundre. Iromcha atomba Khombadi
chakumbada thang paikhi haiduna mapa lbohalna doctor tamhangani khanjakhi.
Aduna Amitaga class pullamle.

“Eteimaga... i mean eche Amitaga eiga... .” Khombana hairak e –“Stream mannaramle.”

“Khomba nangne, nang... .” Amitana hairak e –“ Enao nupi Anujagi marum thuplaga kumhei sannajanuko... kanana khangba pumnamak taiyonnakhrabadi.”

Khombana karisu ekai eki uttpa toudana hairak e –“Never ! Eigi direction I mean to say, nongdambagi khutshem soihanba yaroi. Adubu amadi soire.”

Anitana khangningna hanglak e –“Kanagi kari soiriba, hah Khomba ?”

Khombana khummi –“Aduburo... eche Anita ! Anujaga eikhoi echou Chinglenga arts streamda taminna khre... aduga nangdi laibak phabi oirene... .”

Anitana khangningna hanglak e –“ Keinano, Khomba nangna hairidubo ?”

“Aduburo... .” Khombana nokphet touraga hairak e –“Eikhoi eyaidi commerce streamni, room number 1 da punna lengminna khro.”

“Haima ! Khombabei mayambasu commerce oireko.” Anitana kotharak e –“Sibu kamhai mannaruriba ?”

Nongdrenna top thattuna khumlak e –“Anita haiduna hekta kouba houreko. Eikhoi pabaga nakhoigi fatherga haiphet wakhal manneiko. Emung amada doctor ahum, oja ahum, police ahum pungba pungba leidou saruk amamamtang leihanbana phei haibado nakhoi emung amadi eikhoi emung ani asida uba phangngi. Eh..eh.. eche Amitana doctor oiragani nongmadi soidana... .”

Amitana marak thatchinduna hairak e –“Eh ! Nongdren nangbu panjirane ?”

Nongdrenna amuk phujillak e –“Panji oiba oidaba soidana oiganida.”

Amitana nokphet touna hairak e –“Eikhoi pabunggi aningba apamba ado soidananakki thungnaba hotnajage. Aduga Nongdren nangdi kari ashada commerce streamda changdouriba ?”

Nongdrenna khumlak e –“Eikhoi pabana echou Chinglenbu Berister nattraga Professor oihanningngi. Eibuna nongmei paiba army officer nattraga businessmen oihanningngi. Aduga enao Khombana doctor oihanningngi. Mahakti tan chadranga thangsaba nattraga thanggi oja oirakpasu yai. Mahakti chakumba numitta mangang thang hanna paikhi haiye.”

“Aduga Nongdren nangdi kari paikhi ?” Amitana khangningna hanglak e.

Nongdrenna khummi –“Eibo... Khut yetna toygun hanna paikhi hai aduna khut oina sana lupa paikhi hai. Aduna animak channagani hai.”

Amitana ekairap touna notsillak e –“Echou Chinglendi chakumbada kari pot paibikhiduna arts streamda changbiraklibano ?”

Chinglenna nokphet touraga hairak e –“ Eibu kalamga lairik athabaga hanna paikhi hai. Aduga nangdi kari paikhi Amita, doctorgi meehul yengnaba khutlaido paikhibra ?”

Amitana yamna heisingna khumlak e –“Eidi khanghoudre, emada hanglaga hayeng pao handokcharage. Toubadi eikhoi pabungga nakhoi pabungga wakhal manneiko.”

Kumhei yenglibi satri mayam maraktagi noibina hairak e –“Wah, Made for each other haibaduniko. Magi magi matambu youraklabadi think – lakpa ngampot natteko. Meegi machadi college ahanba karakpa numitta thengnajei pungba pungba.”

Nongdrenna notsillak e –“Somgi ming kari koubibage ? Noibi koubibra ?”

“Heima ! Mr Nongdren nangdi kamdouna khangliba ?” Noibina hanglak e amasung hairak e –“ Eigi eming Nayani kou e, mit phajei haiduna koukhibani.”

“Hoine, mittado phajei.” Nongdrenna khummi –“ Sajigi mittamakti manphatte. Adombu mixedla haibadi emado... .”

Nayanina khumlak e –“Amabu oirabasu eibu noi haiduna Noibi koubire. Maduna henna pakchare. Noibi adum koubiro.”

College ki chithekta tilliba mayam ado hoina nokkhatlak e. Ngaihaktangdi corridor ado pumnillilli.

Ekhang hek khanghoudana pung 10 tabagi amadi ahanba class houbagi kangsi houna amasung mari mangarak khinglak e. Ahanba oina shakkhangnaba satra satri mayam ado magi magi room tamna chatnakhre. Anakpada leiriba physics class ki room aduda Amita, Khomba, Noibi hoigi kangu ngamna changnakhre. Makharom thangba corridor tamna Chinglenga Anujaga chatminnakhre.

Mabanigi matung oirapna Nongdren amasung Anita room number 26 tamna khambrang changminnakhi. Maning pangna haithakhri.

Anitana chatna chatna hairak e –“Eyai, nakhoi nanao nupa Khombasi lairoidouri. Madi eikhoida chaksu chakhrabani. Emanasu yakhrabani.”

Nongdrenna hairak e –“Eibu eyai kounu. Minggou adudi Khombana koujabani. Nongdren adum koubiyu. Adum echam chamna classmate oina loinasi.”

**“Ado eidi... .”Anitana haige khanbaduna nungda thamlaga watheiduna nganglak e –
“Commerce tambase heigadaba mande. Yamna dry oi hainei. Pabunggi apamba aduda
aduk tamba tabani.”**

**“Nanggi apamba subject ti karino ?” Nongdrenna hangngi amasung hairak e –“
Nongma nini yaoduna yengo heinadrage hek onthokpa yabagi matam lei haibani.”**

**“Eidi literature yamna pamjei.” Anitana khumlak e –“Arts stream changlaga manipuri
louningngi.”**

**Nongdrenna hairak e –“Adudi commerce ki classto ngashi yaoraga yengngo
heinadrage hayeng che ama tharaga onthoknaba tousidana.”**

**“Ado nangdi... .” Anitana ngaihak khallaga hairak e –“Eihak yaodrage nathanta
nungaigadrane ?”**

**Nongdrenna nokphet touraga oaksillak e –“Adu oiragana eisu nangna loubu subject
to onba taidana ?”**

“Awoibrane... ?” Anitana notsillak e.

**“Tu mangda leire eikhoigi ka.”Nongdrenna makhut thillaga hairak e –“Aeh : Nupi
amasu yaorehe.”**

**Anitana thongnaoda yengluraga hairak e –“Phareda, nupi ama yaoramba. Eihak
phouman yanbadi taidredana.”**

**Anita amasung Nongdren class aduda changminnakhre. Anitana nupi ama mathanta
Awang thangbada phamliba adugi manakta changsillaga phamkhre.**

**Commerce class ado yamna chaoba class natte. Satrasu 15 mukta phamlammi.
Nongdrenna mayaida leplaga mamitna masing thijei. Machindagi haidokhi –“satra 15
dang. Tamba tannei, meitei machagi subject natte hainabado khardi chumba taidana.
Adubu tamba taidana. Thunghanba tai epagi ningjaba.”**

**Satra amana hairak e –“Hai Nongdren. Eisu yaorine, enakta phamminnasi laoda.
Nangdi ngantana girlfriend amasu... .”**

Nongdrenna hanglak e –“Aii ! Manjit nangsung dry team ashida yaoramli.”

**Manjitna khumlak e –“Baina khangliduni eikhoi emungdi karbargi makolnina
tamdaba yade haiduna changlakpani.”**

“Heinanaba tamminnaba taredana.”Nongdrenna khummi amasung makharom thangba gi mamai Awang onba phampham aduda changsinkhre. Anita amadi nupi satri amaga phamliba aduga phajana maiyoknakhre.

Ka asidi mayon maning olli. Phaklangda black board achouba nappi. Platform amagi mathakta table choukri duster, chalk lei. Maning thangbada bench mari mannga thai. Awangdana ahum makharomdana ahum. Satrasingdi panjabi, marwari, bengali kaya maninglomda phammi.

Manjitna hanglak e –“Bai Nongdrenna lakminnaba nupi ashibu... ?”

Nongdrenna yamna heina khummi – “Imphal S.P. Tolensinghi machanupini. Emung manung munna khangnei. Streamsu mannaramle.”

“Hoine hoine... .” Manjitna notsillak e –“ Baikhoigi fathersu police inspector oiro haidai.”

“Hoi, mapa epa office pulli. Luna tinnei. Rank and Status ti mannade... .” Nongdrenna khummi.

Manjitna notsillak e –“ Anyway, mameida... oirakpa yabagi keino ama leibra ?”

Nongdrenna khummi –“ Manjit ! Tunggi wabu kanana khanglugani.”

Manjitna amuk notsillak e –“ Mamingdi kari kou e ?”

Nongdrenna takhatlap khummi –“ Horen ojana maming amadi roll kourakpada taro, pathou.”

Manjitna nokphet tou e –“ Maming phaoba takningdaba ! Bai chaklukta khujai thangjinjaroi. Eina mittajabadi mache Amitaduni. Anita ashi natteda. Manaonupi Anuja koubi amasu leibani.”

Nongdrenna nokphet khumlak e –“ Hah ! Amita, madi science class ta leihouredo.”

Manjitna nokthorakle aduga hairak e –“ Eidi mark yamna phangdabana science tagi khattorakle. Eikhoi pajinadi haraojahou e. Eidi tanbana loira potni.”

Nongdrenna yamna marou leina notsillak e –“Science pambirabadi Imphal college tadi mark suphattribaju yai haibani, nouringeida try touhoubasu yai, yadrane ?”

Manjitna khummi –“ Yai, adubu mapham adudadi Amita leitedana. Mapham ashidana class pundrabasu college ti pulledana.”

“Oh : Amita... .” Nongdrenna makha takhidre.

Class aduda khanghoudana oja ama changlak e. Mabanigi wari leppa takhi. Satra satrising ngamnamak lepkhattuna ojada houna – lonchat uttnei.

Ojana hairak e –“ Please seat down.”

Satra satrising ngamnamak phamthakhi.

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Nongmadagi numit kayani houkhre.

Chinglen Nongdren Khomba machin manao ahumgi kumhei angakpani. Shakmannaba satra ahum class amttada yaoba nattabanina satra satri kayada chamamnaba kaya thokkhi. Lengtheinaduna ama chatkhibado, maiyoknaduna ama amuk thengnarui. Chuthek amada ama amuk leptuna leiramle haibanachingba kaya ngangnarakle. Makhoi machin manao ahum, amadasu amadasu uru – uru leiduna leibagum tounarakle. Chinglenda Nongdren kourui, adum khummammi. Nongdrenda Khomba kourui adum khummammi. Khombada Chinglen kourui adum khummammi. Toubasu maphee marol chap chap mannana set – chai. Shakmannaba machin manao ahum collegeda tamli haiba khangliba ashi mee kharadangni. Adusu, makhoi ahumna pheejol chap mannana leplaranadi Chinglenna karambano, Nongdrenna kanano, Khombana ashini haibada lurap thokpa matang kaya thokkhre. Chap mannaba maithong ahum aduda khetnaba puthokpa lurap thok e. Mamatangdi khang e haijei. Mee ateidadi ngakchannaba adum oiribani.

Nongmadi Manjitna Nongdrenda houdorak e –“Nakhoibu name clip amamam phurit khao mamangda thetpa yadro. Nashaksu mannare, nakholso chap mannare. Wangbasu chap mannare. Class asisu onthang onsin touduna yaoramalleda... .”

Nongdrenna nokphet touraga khummi –“ Pathou Manjitna khallibado achumbani. Eikhoi subject khudingmak heinaba onthang onsin tounai.”

“Awoibrane, Nongdren ?” Manjitna khangningna hangngi.

Nongdrenna khummi –“ Ngarang book keepinggi class yaoduna nanakta phamlaba ado ei natte, eikhoi echou Chinglenni.”

Manjitna mamit langkhatlak e aduga amuk chingnarap hanglak e –“Ngasigi Nongdren saduna phamliba nangna Khombara ?”

Nongdrenna nokthorakle, aduga hanglak e –“Eibo, Khomba manbrane ?”

Manjitna ngaihak khallaga hanglak e –“Atei lairi, ngarang Amitaga canteenda achapot chaminnaduna leihouba adubu Chinglenla, nangla ?”

Nongdrenna hairak e –“ Ngaranggido... . Ebanina changkhibada karisu nachungdana leihoubado... .”

“Hoine, makhoi anindang mamai mamai onsinduna leihoubado... ?” Manjitna pakhatchana hanglak e.

Nongdrenna khummi –“ Eikhoi echou Chinglendi adumnaka touba natteda. Ngarang Amitaga chamin thakminnaduna phamhouba adudi Khombani. Mabani class pullidana.”

Manjitna pakhatna hangngi –“Pathou ! Nakhoi nachin Nanaona tourisibu karinone ? Nanao Khomba atomba asina helloi ahumgi ahal mache Amita ashi koiribra hah ?”

“Pakhatlunu pathou Manjit. Eihak horen yumda hangge.” Nongdrenna asumna khummi. Aduga mathanta hik hik nokchei.

Manjitna khanghai amuk hairak e –“ Tu tu amasu amuk thunglare, yengngune.”

Nongdrenna mamai leithoklaga yengngi, phat amuk leisillak e. Mathanta ngangjei – “Keino tourisina, Echou Chinglenga Anujaga potpa oiduna amuk changlak le. Mabanisu nungshinarajatla ?”

Chinglenna manaonupa Nongdren amadi Manijitki manakta changlaklaga hairak e – “Aeh : Manjit, eyaiga nabanisu cha thak e boire.”

Tallaktuda Anujana hourapna hairak e –“Eteichou somda seat ama hangle... Aeh : etei yaisu leibiramli aduga ta Manjitsu.”

Manjitna mathanta nungkhannei (Eteichou, eteyai, minggou asibu) aduga chinbal thongda khumlak e –“Anuja ! Nakhoigi minggousingdubu waroipot punakhraba jatla ?”

Anujana khummi –“ Tamanjit, adumna khanbasu yare. Ema anisu pao phaodoknakhre. Toubatabu... .”

Manjitna khangningna hanglak e –“ Toubatabu haidi... mapa mapadi yanadribra ?”

Anuja Manijitki nunglon enggit haiphet khangngi. Aduna yamna kallak penna khumdorak e –“ Eikhoi esa esa Loina yanare. Toubatabu eche Amitana doctor tamba loidrikheidi yaroidouri. Eikhoisu M.A. tamkhiba tai. Sel changdanaba nongmada pullap sumang amattada luhongphal ahum tharaga montek ahum tharaga pangthok si hainari.”

Anujagi wangang tabada canteen manungda phamlamba satra satri kayado wa wa laona nokkhi amasung laorak e –“ Balohe, Anuja !”

Meeyamgi nokpa adu nemtharaga nupi amagi khonjelda hairak e –“ Eidi luhinglaba matungda college karakpani. Eingondadi kaihourakkanuko.”

Nongdrenna hairak e –“ Aeh: Kachinda lotlibi Subadhani.” Nongdrenna makha tana hairak e –“ Nangbu luhonglabi leisabi ? Esh ! Soiramnida.”

Subadhanina khumlak e –“ Ethanta maikhal marumda phamjaba natte, amado yaoriye... .”

Nongdrenna hanngi –“ Amado haidi kananina...? Nangbu sangba lakliba mapudura ?”

“Natteda... Anita yaoriye.” Subadhanina khumlak e.

Manjitna paokhum ado tai. Mahak ekai nungshi yanarap tourui. Mahakna asa touruba pumba thengmankhre khanjei (Phei khangni, Amita, Anita, Anuja machin manao ahumgi manungdagi amadi phaduna chingduna lougani. Toubadi Amita.)

Matam aduwaida nupi pharaga, chinglaga loubasi akal athouni haiduna yamna lemnarammi. Police taktuna mapa phaba punba kayasu tounarammi. Nupi chingbagi jailda leiba yaokhi. Adubu jaildagi thoraklaga chingluba nupi aduga tangaiphadana leiminnakhibasu yao e.

Manjitki nungwakhal kanadasu haidokkhide. Helloi ahumgi maraktagi amadi chinglagani haiduna mathanta lepkhi. Toubadi Amitani magi target.

Manjitna magi nunglot wakhal kayabu nungda thamlaga hairak e –“ Pathou Nongdren, nahak amuk Anita amuk phamminahouro, Subadhanisu yaori. Eihak thoklamlage.”

“Chatminnasi keino ? Class ama houbagi pung tabu tare.” Nongdrenna asi hairaga amuk laorammi –“ Subadhani aduga Anita ! Nabani billsu piramlage.”

Anitana laorak e –“ Piramganu Piramganu. Eikhoigi bill pibinaba canteendagi nakhoibu koujakhiba natte.”

Nongdrenna hairak e –“ Pharene adudi eikhoigisi nakhoi hek pibihouro... .”

Manjitti kaya heinaphattana hairak e –“Ngasigi oinadi eina punna pijaramlage.”

Anitana echam chamna hairak e –“ Tamanjit ! Eikhoi adum pijageda, yaoshanggi potpham natteda.”

Anita, Subadhani hougatlakle. Counter tamna changlak le. Adubu Nongdrenna pullapki oina pithoklamle. Mapan thokkhre. Aduga laorammi –“Eina piramlabani. Hisap pasillu. Commerce ki satrani. Eingonda nanggi credit entry ama pass tousillo.”

Subadhanina oaksillak e –“ Hoinehe, Nongdren account debited to Amita account haiduna journal entry ama pass tousillaga hek thammo. Hayeng amuk reverse entry ama pass touthoknaba yai, yadrane ?”

Manjitna oaksillak e –“ Nabanidi commerce ki satra oibanina debit credit touraga pot yamna chadourine.”

Subadhanina khumlak e –“ Matang matanggi haiduni Manjit.”

Makhoi mari punna thokminnarak e. Class yaoba amuk changminnakhi.

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Nongma nongmagi khongchat yangsillak e.

Punshi khongchat, matam khongchat houkhiba khanghoude. Nongmagi manungda tougadaba sillam sintha emana mannei. Pourapna punsigi routine ama lei haiba tai. Satra satrisinggi punsidasu routine ama lei haiba tai. School College kaba kumba, marakta nongphadok suti leithoklaga nattrabasu off leiba matamda nungshi nungngolgi mathel amasu panthoktaba yadaba matang lak e. Leisabi pakhang oiduna mahei masing tamlingei matamda tangaiphadana nungsi nungngolgi subject asimasu satra satrisinggi maphamda khanghoudana paisillak e. Ayambana mai changbirakkhinu haiduna thingba ngamde. Maru oina (Nupi Nupa punna mahei tamminnaba co – education leiba school collegeda) nungsi pungba thinaba, marup masen muksinnarakpagi yengthinaba asinachingba kayasu thok e. Matou eman mandaba, mandabi satra satri kayasu lonna thupna mari leinarambasu konggaini. Nungngairaba wari sapham amuk enak hek nakna leire.

D.M. college mamangda leiriba ‘War Cemetery’ ! College asida lairik tamba lakliba laklibi satra satrisingna off leiba numitta nongmatang oirabasu manungda (War Cemetery) changduna prithibigi anisuba lanjaoda, Manipurda sikhiba lanmee kayagi name platesing adu yengba chatnei. Manungda phajaraba leikol amani. Ngaihak potharaga wari watai saphamsu oiribani.

Nongmadi, War Cemeterygi manung asida etha hek thajadana pungba anikhak changlak e. Pungba ani asi atei kanasu natte, Chinglen amasung Amitani. Classu pundaba satra satri ani ahanba thengnabada ngakchannakhi.

Chinglenna hanna leirammi. Lanphamda thawai thakhraba lanmeesing adugi name stone mathang mathang pabaduna yengladuna chatli. Mahakna makha pangna asum haitharaklammi.

Amitana mayoknabada leiba name plate row amada asum mathang mathang yenglaga Awang pangna haighatlak e.

Makhoi anigi mityeng lurak – lurakna name isplatesing yengduna chatli. Mamit jura ani ado mayai challakpa matamda khanghoudana stonesing point amada mitloknarui. Mamai shat shat hek haighatnaba matang ama thoklui. Kana amatagi direction yaoba scene natte. Channarubani.

Amitana engak ngakna kourak e –“ Hoima echou ! Yamna thajadana, nathanta... ?”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Ami ! Eibu echou kounu hairaga... .”

Amita : Sorry sorry. Chinglemba koujou haibra ?

Chinglen : Chinglendamak koubiyu.

Amita : Echoudi yamna lemba aduda... .

Chinglen : Amuksu echou.

Amita : Adum kourageda. Nahakti khwaigi echouni. Nangsu eibu ming machettang kouridudi.

Chinglen : Kouninglabadi kouro. Ado, nangsu yamna thajadana nathanta... ?

Amita : Chahisu loisillakadoure, final exam kuidre. D.M. Collegeda lairik tamlaklaga War Cemetery gi leikol yenglakte haibado thokhanningdaduna ethanta thorakpani.

Chinglen : Eisu adumna khanduna thorakpani.

Amita : Eigi enaonupi heisingbi Anujana sillakpadi natteko ?

Chinglen : Aduga, nahakpuna eigi enaonupa pomit khangba Khombana thadorakpadi natteko...?

Amita : Adu oirasu... .

Chinglen Amita mitloknaraga nokminnei.

Chinglenna nokpa ado khanglep lepthokluraga hairak e –“ Sorry ! Mapham asi nok khepham natte, Ami !”

Amitana khumlak e –“ Echougi wakhaldo eisu yajaningngi.”

Chinglenna amuk hairak e –“ Nungsidra amar oiduna leihouraba lanmeesinggi ningsing khubam ! Name plate.”

Amitana khumlak e –“ Um ! Nungsi. Mareibak majatigidamak mathwai thakhraba singgi mamingda amar oiduna adum leihouragani... .”

Chinglenna marak thatchillak e –“ Ami ! Eidum lanmee oininglak e.”

Amitana mamit langkhatlak e –“ Lanmee ! Name plate ama thamlage haibagi wakhal ama khanglak lakpra ?”

“ Natteda.” Chinglenna makha tana hairak e –“ Eihak leibakki oina nupa thokna thabak khara touninglak e. Amar khubam thamba pamlubagi wa natteda.”

Amitana nokphet touraga hairak e –“Echou ! Nahaksu nongma murti khinba yaba meeshak ama oirakpasu kanana khangba... .”

Chinglenna nokphetna oaksillak e –“ Eibo ! Murti khinba yaba meeshak ama... .”

“ Hoi.” Amitana ngaihak khallaga hairak e –“ Eidi nahakpu leibakki athoiba luchingba ama oihanningi.”

Chinglenna nokphet touraga hairak e –“ Eihakpu leibakki athoiba luchingba ama oihanningi haibadi vote leppu, mantri oiyu asida ?”

Amitana khumlak e –“ Eikhoi leibakki houjik oiriba rajnitiwalasingna tourisi yamna pendre. Nakhoigumba mating leiba khara thokhanningi.” Chinglenna hairak e –“ Eigidi lairi nangdi doctor tamni haibanina final parikhya loiraga mapanda chatkhrani. Ei ethanta kamdouna... ?”

Amitana khudong chaba ama lousinba oina hairak e –“ Ado, marak marakta chithi thadok – thajin tounasiko. Aduga echou nangsusu... .”

Chinglenna oaksillak e –“Hoine, hoine, eisu B.A. pass hek toubaga Guwahatida law tamba lakpa taidana. Eikhoi pabagi ningjabadi thunghanba tai.”

Amitana amuk phenjillak e –“ Law tamba loiraga matam khara ukil oiro, maming chatnaba hotnaro adeidi Rajniti yaoro, vote leppo, mantri makok oiraga leibak ashe maong maril tana amuktang semnaba toubiro, yaodana ?”

“Amita ! Nupa amana rajniti yaoduna leingakpa ama oiraknaba hotnabada nupa adugi marumda athoiba nupi ama leitaba yaraktre. Nupi phattrabadi rajniti touba yapot natte.”

Amitana khanghai hairak e –“ Ado, I am ready to be your... heima heima, War Cemetery manungda haidokheidaba wapham adumadi eina doctor oiraga hairage.”

Chinglenna khummi –“ Yaida yaida. Eisu ngaiba taidana.”

“ Eikhoi anina tahouba, khanghoubaniko.” Mana punglaba lei pambi achouba amagi marumdagi mashakti uhandana nganglak e.

Chinglenga Amitaga khangprek khanggum ekairap toubagum toukhi. Mapham adudagi wa makha taramdana prap prap thokkhi.

Makhoi ani chatkhraba matungda Khombaga Anujaga lei marumdagi thoraklaga Chinglen, Amitagi pungbabu yenglaga noktuna leihou e.

Nokpa nemtharaga Khombana notsillak e –“ Anu ! Eche Amitana doctor tamba chatlamdaida, nakhoidara eikhoidara chaklen amatangdi ebanina sinnaba tousiko.”

Anujana hairak e –“ Chaklen amatta natte. Eikhoida hanna chasi aduga nakhoigi asengba leipham Lamdeng Khunougi shangaida amuk chabadi yadabara ?”

Khombana khummi –“ Yaine, nakhoina lawaini haibirakkadra khanbei wani.”

Anujana hairak e –“ Chinglen Nongdren Khomba machin manao ahumna lawai aduda anouba Kanglei (Sahar) ama semni haidaine ?”

Khombana khummi –“ Soidanamak mangphaonaba oisanu.”

Anujana oaksillak e –“ Soidanamak, Chinglen Nongdren Khombagi marumda Amita Anita Anuja ahummakna punsisimagi lengdana leigani. Ehe ! Khomba nangsu doctor tamni haidaine ?”

Khombana khumlak e –“Anu ! Eigidi men tadrada. Eidi chemistry ashe yamna heinade. First division da lakkadabasu mandre. Eigi wadi konna khannarasi.”

Anujana khanghai amuk hairak e –“ Phare, college ta changlasi. Ebani chenkhradum hainaramba yaiko.”

Khombana khopchillak e –“ Ngasise ningthoukabani, chendum chellasira hah ?”

Anujana khummi –“ Ngamkhiroi ngamkhiroi, P.U.C. dangdi pass toukhisida.”

Khombana hairak e –“ Nungsinabasi kuimallabasu thungnaghandabaniko. Aduna eikhoi ani eyambasing echasing ngaigimshiko.”

Anujana khomjinba oina hairak e –“ Phare P.U.C. parikhya loiraga khannarasi. Matungsidadi unnararoisi lairik paraga leinarasi.”

“Phare, ebanigi thourangsu mai pakle.”

“ Eikhoi echin enao ahumsu emung amattada mou oijaningbagi apamba ama leije.”
Anujana khummi.

Khombana waroisin pirak e –“ Nakhoi nachin nanaogi aningbasu eikhoigi echin enao Chinglen Nongdren Khombagi aningbasu nongdambana kubiba oirasanu !”

Anujana amuk oaksillak e –“ Soidanamak kubiganida.”

Khomba amasung Anuja warepnaba loiraduna War Cemeterydagi mapan thorakle. College maikei pangna amuk changlak le.

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Engkumja 1976 !

Kum adugi D.M. collegeda nouna P.U.C. karakpa satra satrising lamhen tuhenba kaya yaokhide. Lairik tambada mapukning lupsinnabana ayambani. Ojabi ushit thaoidaba karem kathainaba, taku tarang toubasatra yaode. Adubu kanana khangba... . Khat khat laobi satrisu yaode haiba tai. Ngaihak off leiba matamda pungba pungba koithokchaba aduda yengsilluba yaba natte.

P. U.C. course ki stream ahummakta commerce ki nattana ateidi (Satra satri yammanbadagi) section ahum khaidoklammi. College ki ojasina (Professor Lecture, Demonstrator) meechang meekhai naiba toudana yamna phajana – phajana lairik takpi tambirammi.

Highschool da textbook phaktoklaga ojana paraga sadoktuna takpana ayambani. College tadi oja ayambana lecture tou e. Satra satrisingna munna taraga makok manungda hanjinba tabani. Satra satri kharana ojana piba lecture adu esinbasu yao e.

English amadi Manipuri Meiteilon takpadadi ojana textbook paraga macha khaina khaina sandoktuna taknei. Lon tambagi subject ani asida unseen haibadi preci writing, essay writing yao e. Panthei paorou (Proverb) khara piraga sandokna tak u, eyu

haibagi saruk amasu number 10/15 piduna yaonei. Madugi textbook leite. Hangning hangningba hanglak e. Ojasingna international gi oiba proverb khara khanghatlaga sandokna takpi tambirammi. Yamna toina parikhyada hangganba kharadi Rome was not build in a day. Slow and Steady wins the race. Empty vessel sounds much. The pen is mightier than the swords asinachingba kaya ashi yao e. Ojasingna proverbising ashigi nunglon yamna mamut tana sandoklaga satrasingda tambirammi.

Nongmadi, P.U.C. science section 'A' da english ki professor Rajmani Singhna class louba changlak e. Mahakna ayamba english paper amagi maru oiriba, essay writing, letter writing, preci writing, phrase and idioms amadi amplification, (Panthei paorou, proverb sandokna takpa) hairiba machalsing ashi takpi tambi.

Professor Rajmanina satra satrisinggi roll called toubu loiraga hairak e –“ Satra satrising ! Houjikti final examsu kuidabanina english papergi nakhoina yamna toina hundokkanba number 30 gi unseengi sarukto khara makhei takke. Essay kharadi chinpha pusillu, maru oina, Student and politics, Your aim in life, Women education in India, Democracy and Autocracy, Discipline in student life, asinachingba. Preci writing ashima namduna erammu, letter writing hundokkanu. Khwaidagi number loubu nungngairaba amplification khara chinpha pusillu. Yamna toina hangganba singgi manungda matam pumbadasu chumdunata leihouragadaba proverb ama ngasi takke.”

Science class ki maning ethang thangba, khwaidagisu wanglaba belconyda phamliba Irom Khombana lepthatlaga hanglak e –“ Sir, ngasi takpigadoubu proverb adubu 'Plain living high thinking' haiba adu yaobra ?”

“Mister Khomba.” Oja Rajmanina e karap touna hairak e –“ Madugi nunglondi nang khanglabara ? Madusu yamna hangganbani.”

Khombana shat hekta khumtorak e –“Sir ! Plain living high thinking haibadi chinggi echil enaosingna tamda lairik tamduna leiraga ching awangbada haibadi mayum chatningbagi wakhalbu khangnei.”

Satra satri mayamdo wah laona noklak e. Class aduda yaoribi, mamangda phamlibi Salam Amitadi nokte. Khombana karal tasillakpa ado madi pakhatchei. Khombadi mayamba anidagi khara pheidok e. Thaoinebu touribra khangdadanabu touribra haibado chamamnaba poklak e. Matang aduda mathakta kakhattuna cheiruba yabasu natte. Professor Rajmani asisu usit thaoidaba yadaba mishakni. Shak takhatpa ojasinggi manungda amani.

Professor Rajmanina saorapna oaksinduna nganglak e –“ Mister Khomba, adudi napana takpi tambirakpra ?”

Khombana mapa pallakpa aduda phrang laona saoninglaktuna hairak e –“ Aera ! College ki ojanabu pibal pabalnaduna ngangba hounadeda. Any way, tamda leiraga chinggi wakhal khanbabu ‘ Plain living high thinking kou e’ haibada karibu lanningai leibage ?”

Satra kharana pangsillak e –“ Chummi chummi ! Khombana hairiba ashi eikhoisu yaningngi.”

Amitana phuk hougatlaga hairak e –“Sir, ‘Chamna hinglaga awangba aphaba wakhal khanbabu plain living high thinking’ kou e. Tamda leiraga chinggi wakhal khanba aduni haiduna artha hannadi langani. Khomba, marei touganu. Sirda apology toujou.”

Professor Rajmanina hairak e –“ Amita, you are right. Aduga mister Khomba ! Do you green (Nang shangbra) Blood paper stone die (Eche nunghshibi) Don’t drink your face (Namai thakkano) ashinachingba Manipuri english mayam leibaniko. Makha asidi ‘The pen is mightier than the sword’ haiba ado takke. Masidi yamna toina toina hangbaniko, handaksu lakkani.”

Khombana hairak e –“Toto, eigi asaobi panthei paoroudo amuk hoirakkadoure. Oja madu takpiganu. Proverb ado eigi asaobini. Ngasisu eihak yaningdri.”

Oja Rajmanina ngaklap touna hanglak e –“ Mister Khomba ! ‘What is the reason behind ?’

Khombana khumlak e –“Sir ‘ The pen is mightier than the sword’ hairiba proverb nattraga panthei paorou ashi England lomdagi hourakpani. Masibu meiteilonda ‘Kalamna thangdagi henna thou e’ haiduna mahousadagi eikhoigi oina adum sijinnark e. Sir, Eikhoina class six seven tamlakpa matamda ‘Meitei panthei paorou’ kouba lairik macha ama meiteilon Manipuri subjectki saruk ama oina tamjarak e.”

Professor Rajmanina makha tana hanglak e –“ Sir, nongma eikhoigi classta oja Tolhan kouba amana ‘Kalamna thangdagi henna thou e’ haiba panthei paorou ado takpa hourakpada eina phuk hougatlaga ‘Oja, kalamna thangdagi henna thou e haiduna eikhoida Lanna takpiganu hairui.”

Professor Rajmanina marak thatchinduna hairak e –“ Loirabra, makhadi kamdoukhi ? Nanggi warido nungngaidou malli, chattharak u.”

Khombana makha tana khumlak e –“ Kalamna thangdagi thouba helli haibiganu ‘Thangna Kalamdagi thouba helli haibiyu haiduna oja Tolhanga phana kuina marei yetnakhi.”

Professor Rajmanina marak amuk thatchinduna hanglak e –“Khomba ! Nakhoigi oja Tolhanna proverb ado phajana takpikhidabara ?”

Khombana khummi –“ Oja Tolhanna haikhi, Thangna mee hatpa ngammi, Kalamdagi thorakpa phajaraba wareng seirengna meegi thamoibu sumhatpa, joy toubu ngammi. Mashi eina yaningkhida. Oja Tolhan adusu khara maching phattaba meetani. Mahakna amuk hairak e –“Khomba ! Nangna hek lanjaro, mapan thokkhro, chatlo haikhi.”

“Phei phei oja leiramkho” Eina asumna hairaga mapan thorakkhi. Eikhoi yumga school ga yamna naknei. Eina yumda prap prap chellaga ‘Mangang thang’ ama machadi oiraga lumtakpa ama pairaga class manungda changlakle aduga oja Tolhanda hairui –“Ojagi muktabi kalamdo pirak u.”

Oja Tolhanna ngaklapna touna magi kalam (Dorik fountain pen) piraga hairak e –“ Seh seh keidoudouriba yenglasi.”

Oja Tolhanna ashi hairaga magi fountain pen ado satra mayamsu unanaba desk mathakta thammi. Eina khutta pairiba mangang thang aduna lakam adugi mabukta kakthatli. Kalam manungdagi chongthorakpa muk mahi (Supra blue) aduna maida chongkhatlak e, pumtei teikhre. Satra mayam noklak e. Eina karisu thousaba toudana haikhi –“ Thangna Kalamdagi thoubu helli” haibado ubiredana ? Numittu eigi eyamba Chinglen Nongdren anidi masa ngamdaduna school kade.”

Professor Rajmanina makha amuksu tana hanglak e –“ Khomba ! Makhadi ?”

Khombana khummi –“ Sir ! Eibu oja Tolhanna lukhamda khubakna tharaga hayengdagi school karaklaganu haiduna tanthorakkhi. Eihak school hongduna tamlak e.”

Professor Rajmanina mangak nomna nomna hairak e –“ Khomba nanggi wari ado tabada yamna nungngai. Nangsi mameida keino ama oirakpa yai. Mayamga mannadaba ama nangonda yaori. Ngasidi nahak thang yaorakpra ? Yaoramdou malli. Houjik matamgi satra kharadi thang, suri, jipo puraga school, college kanare haina tai. Eigi kalam asisu mangak kakthatlaga nanggi proverb ado chumhallasi seh seh... .”

Professor Rajmanina magi phurit khaoda thetliba Indiana saba ‘Parker Pen’ ado louthoklaga table mathakta thammi. Kalam amadi adum thetli.

Khombana khumlak e –“ Sirgi wapham adubu eingonda singnabiribra ?”

“Hoi adumna khanbasu yai.” Professor na yamna nokkhrem haighremnaduna hairak e –“ Nangdi nachil nanao ahumgi manungda khara sathibani haidunasu tai. Laone, kalamga thangga kanana thoubage haibado ngasidi eihak phajana utlage.”

“ Phei phei Sir.” Khombana magi lairik khao manungdagi ‘Mangang thang’ (Mahousagido) pairaga mathaktagi chentharak e.

Amittasu mataida phamba nattabanina chenthorakpa nanghoudre. Khombana table mathakta leiriba Professor Rajmanigi fountain pen ado magi thang macha lumtakpa aduna mangakta thabat kakthatkhre. Chaithorakpa mukna mamaida chongkhre. Pumtei... . Satra satri mayam ado chek mok laonade. Professor Rajmanidasu muk khara mamaida chongkhi. Mahak tuminna momon touna lei. Ngaihak leiraga engna tapna hairak e –“ Mister Khomba ! You are right. The sword is mightier than the pen, but...”

Professor Rajmanina wahei makha tadana plateformdagi kumtharaklaga mamangda phamliba Amitagi mamangdagi notebook ama khanglou loukhatkhi aduga magi atoppa kalam angangba ado (Muksu angangba happa) shat shattoklaga kari karino khara ena ena mamai tahounaba hairak e –“ The pen is mightier than the sword is a metonymic adage, penned by English author Edward Bulwer Lytton in 1839, indicating that communication (particularly written language), or in some interpretations, administrative power or advocacy of an independent press, is more affective tool than direct violence.

According to the administrative power conferred by the adage itself, Mr. Irom Khomba Singh may be suspended from the college for his direct violence in the classroom for cutting the pen by the sword.

Submitted to the Principal D.M. College for final decision”.

Sd/-

Prof. RM Singh

Professor Rajmanina waheising ashi machinda hourapna ngangla – ngangladuna report ama eba loithokkhre. Amitagi notebook ki chemai adu mapham chana settatlaga mahakna sahi youkhre. Aduga magi phuritkhaoda hapchillaga amuk hairak e –“Mr. Khomba, Do you realise the inner interpretation of the adage. The pen is mightier than the sword. You cannot escape from the administrative power hidden inside the proverb by using your Mangang Thang”.

Amitana lepkhatlaga hairak e –“Sir, Khombabu ngakpiyu. Report adu Principalda pibirukhinu. Schoolgi Ojasingna ‘Kalamna thangdagi henna thou e’ hairaga manungda

lottuna thamliba shakti nattraga power adud yousinna takpiramdre. Ngasidi eikhoisu mamut tana khangle. Khomba nangsung henmalli, sirda lankhre haijou.”

Khombana nokphet touraga hairak e –“The pen is mightier than the sword. But no match for the gun. Now, I much say, the gun is mightier than the pen and the sword. I will prove it. Thank you all !”

Khombana ngakpiyu khotpiyu haiba wapham amatta hairamba khotlamba toudana classroom dagi mapan thokkhi. Aduga mapandagi amuksu laorammi –“ Nongmei Amasung Kalam ! Anouba meerolgi khutlai ani, kanana ngambage yengnaba taidana.”

Professor Rajmanina Khombana laoramba adu munna taraga satra satri mayamda mityeng thamlaga hairak e –“My dear students, nakhoi houjikti khangledana proverb singgi hidden. Nattraga inner meaning. Thainagi ojasina ‘Kalamna thangdagi henna thoubha helli’ haiba proverb ashi sahityagi oiba wareng seirengna meeoibagi thamoibu joy toubha, nattraga phajaba wareng seireng taraga thang thadok e hainei. Kalamgi potthok oiba esina thang paibabu sumhatpa ngambi haiduna takpi tambirambana Khomba Khombagumna satra kharagi maphamda kakngaonahalle. Khombadi houjiksi yaningdri. Mahakna amuksu laorammi, “Gun is mightier than the pen and the sword.” Ngasigidi matang asida loisillasi.”

Amitana lepkhatlaga nollukna hairak e –“ Sir, final parikhya maya asida Khombabu tanthokpiganu. Mahak lalle haijanaba sirgi nakta thajaraknaba hotnajakhige.”

Professor Rajmanina hairammi –“Eisu meena singnaba yadaba ojani. Adumakpu hayeng phaobagi manungda mahakna lankhre hairadrabadi Khombabu parikhya thahalloi. Tungda lakkadaba satrasinggisu oina record amadi thamlamba tai.”

Professor Rajmanina class adudagi thokkhi. Mahak hek thokkhibaga Amitasu Khombagi mayamba Chinglen, Nongdren thirunaba D.M. Collegegi makharom thangba blockromda khongsankhi.

Amita thunglare.

D.M. College Arts and Commerce blocklomda thunglare. P.U.C. Artski class kanna touriba ka amagi thongnao amadi thongjao mapada hanggat handa chatlare. Magi mamit anina Chinglen thiri. Manungda political scienceki class lecture tariba Chinglenna Amitabu ure.

Chinglenna manunglomdagi mamit ellap touraga mamit khatlak e. Adubu Amitana hanggat handa chattuna leikhibanina enggit ado channakhidre. Nongmatasu Amitana Chinglengi class mapada monglakhidabani. Chinglenna kari tourabano haibagi pakhatchei. Mahak phamduna leiba yadre. Mahakna phuk hougatлага leppi. Lecture touriba Professor aduda disturb touningkhide.

Magi matou ado Professor Churamani Singhna uraduna hanglak e –“ Chinglen, any question... ?”

Chinglenna hanggatchei –“ Sir, ngakpigani, mapanda amuktang thokcharuge. Karigumba pao ama leire.”

“Yes, you may go.” Professor na ayaba pirak e.

Chinglen mapanda thorakle. Amita machi amada leptuna leirammi. Chinglenna changsillaga hangngi –“Ami ! Nongmatasu mongladabi nangna... keidoure, kanana nangonda keidouba yaore ?”

Amitana hairak e –“ Pakhatkhinu, phinggatkhinu. Eingonda keisu toude. Yengngoba, Khombado Professor Rajmaniga marei ama yetnabadagi tanthokkhrr. Hayeng phaobagi manungda masa laktuna lalle haijadrabadi chahi parikhya thahalloi haiduna Principal da pinaba report ama eraga classtagi thokkhre. Ebani hanna chatlaga haijarusi.”

Chinglenna pakhatna hanglak e –“ Khombadi kadaida leihou e ?”

Amitana khummi –“ Khomba udre. Cycle thoudoklaga chatkhraba malle.”

Chatna chatna Chinglenna khangningna hanglak e –“ Ami ! Wahoubu kari matangdeino ?”

Amitana hairak e –“ Eidi nahalkhei khangde, Khombadi kok bera khara leibadouna tou e. Magi lairik khao manungda ‘Mangang Thang’ amasu yaorammi.”

Chinglenna Amitagi wangang marak khangthat thatchinduna hanglak e –“ Khombana ojada Thangna yallamlabra haimi ?”

Amitana ningsa swar ama khanghon hondoklaga hairak e –“ Adugi natteda, Sir Rajmanina ‘Kalamna thangdagi henna thou e’ haiba amplification ado takpa hourakpada marei yetnarakpadagi... .”

Chinglenna marak thatchillak e –“ Ash ! Panthei paorou ado Khombagi asaobini. Angang oiringeidasu Oja Tolhangi kalam Thangna mangak kakthatkhi. Wathok oikhi.”

Amitana amuk khapchillak e –“ Ngasisu Khombana Sir Rajmanigi paker pen mangak kakthatlamlaga chatkhre. Khombada psychi problem ama leire. Thuna laiyenghoudrabadi mahak keino ama tourakpa yaiko.”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Ami ! Eina kayarak hanna ‘Kalamna thangdagi henna thou e’ haiba asigi nunglon kaya ado sandoktuna taklabani. Mahakna supya yade.”

Amitana khanghai amuk hairak e –“Ung ung, classtagi tanthokhraba matungda Khombana wahei kharasu laorammi.”

“Kari kari amuk laorammba ?” Chinglenna khangningna hangngi.

Amitana hairak e –“Khombana englishta phajaraba wahei khara hairaba matungda meiteilonda amuksu laorammi –“Nongmei Amasung Kalam ! Anouba meerolgi khutlai ani kanana ngambage haibado yengnaba taidana... .”

Chinglenna mathanta sonjei –“Ash ! Adungei Lamdeng maiba Maingouna Khombase... dhang hairaga wahei makha taramdana chatkhi haiduna emana wari toukhi. Kari thoklagaba haiduna ema pabana wajak e.”

Amitana khangningna amuk hanglak e –“Kari karamba matangda tungtakwa khangba maibana kari haikhribano khangningngi.”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Eikhoi meiteigi chatnabida angang chakumba numitta angangna ahanba paikhiba potlamna sinpham leppi hainei, haidrane ?”

“Hainei hainei.” Amitana ngaihak leplaga hanglak e –“ Nangondagi hanna hourak u. Nangdi kari hanna paikhi.”

“Eibo... .” Chinglenna nokphet touraga hairak e –“Lairik athabagi mathakta Kalam hanna paikhi hai. Aduna pabana eibu Ukil nattraga English ki Professor oihangani khankhiduna arts streamda changlibani. Eigi enao Nongdrenna toy pistol hanna pairaga sana lupabu makhut oina lammi haiduna police nattraga karbar wala oihange khanduna commerce streamda tamhallibani. Aduga Khombana mangang thang hanna pairaga athempotlam mayamdo pullap khomjinkhi haikhi. Matou aduda Lamdeng maibana ‘Nacha atomba Khombase’ asidang hairamlaga makha taramkhidre haikhi emana. Magidamak eikhoi khwaina pakhatpa ama mahousadagi leirak e. Mahak thangna mee hattouribra, nattraga thangsaba oidouribra ?”

Amitana phenjillak e –“ Nakhoi nachin nanao ahumgi warise yamna nungngairi. Matungdasu keino ama tourakadaba malli. Khombase men tana warak watembihoudrabadi mameida mangang thang thadoklaga nongmei pairakpa yaiki.

Mahakna “gun is mightier than pen and sword. I will prove it”... haidunasu laorammi. Classtagi thokkhraga thibasus hekta khangkhida.”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Amabus oire, Sir Rajmanida hanna amuktang haijarukhisi, youbu youre. Professor commonroom.”

Amitana ka adugi pheeyan (prada) shat haidoklaga ka manungda koiyeng yengsillui. Kadai, Professor Rajmani leiramdre. Mahak kadaida chatkhraba ?

Manungdagi peon Manijaona hanglak e –“Ebemma ! Kari thabak leibage, kana unagadabano.”

Chinglenna oina khumlak e –“ Sir, Rajmani amuktang unnajge toubani.”

Manijaona hairak e –“ Sirdo ngasidi e kaba thoudok ama thokle, Principal da complain touruni haina chatkhibanine.”

“Hah Principal unnaba !” Chinglenna makha tana hairak e –“ Ami ! Nang chatlo, Nongdrenda pao piru, Khomba thiraga ahing oirabasu purak u hairi. Sir Rajmani amadi Principal anida ngakpiyu haijahousi. Adugane, Ami ! Nongdrensu beraniko, men tana haiyu. Action thubadi masu ayoubini. Eikhoitana langani.”

“Hoi hoi, ei chatle.” Amitana ashi hairamlaga Nongdrenkhoigi class tamna prap prap chatkhre.

Lamkhangda Anujana Chinglenga maiyoknei –“ Echou keidoure, echena kouthokkhribado karigi oiramle ?”

Chinglenna Principalgi office tamna khongsankhre.

“Nachedagi tahouro. Eyaigi manakta chatkhibani.” Chinglenna ashi hairamlaga pantharamba toudana chatpoi chenboi touduna Principal gi officetuda thungkhre. Chinglenna thongjaogi pheeyan (Prada) haidoklaga changge touringeida Professor Rajmani thorakpaga changak maingaknaduna chap leplaga hanglak e –“ Nangna karambano ? Nahak Khombadi natte. Mahakti ngasi phurit angangba litpani, nangna angouba ! Eidi nakhoi shakmannaba nachin nanao ahum suri haiba eidi ngasidangbu khangngi. Chinglen Nongdren Khomba kouesu hai. Nakhoiga Meidingu Chinglen Nongdren Khomba aduga kari mari thoknaduna thonkhribano ?”

Chinglenna sir Rajmanigi makhong sokna nontharaga hairak e –“ Sir, eihakna Chinglenni. Kok bera khara leiba eigi enao Khombabu ngakpiyu. Mahakpu tanthok – khottokpa toubiganu. Eina angaoba enaogi mahut sinjaraga khurumjari.”

Rajmanina hairak e –“Oh ! Nangna mayamba ahal oire. Yengngoi Chinglen ! Eisu meena singnaba yadaba meeni. Eikhoisu echin enao ahum nupa ngakta pok e. Nupi yaode. Aduna... .”

Chinglen engngi, tappi, ching lemme haidunasu meena henjinba, usit thaoidaba, singnaba yaba natte. Professor Rajmanina utthorakeba matou aduda Chinglenna nokphet touraga hairak e –“ Sir, eigi enaobu ngakpiyu haijaba lakpani. Eikhoi echin enao ahumga sirkhoigi echin enao ahumga phugainasi haiduna barton touba lakchaba natte.”

Professor Rajmanina ekairap toue. Engtharap touraga hairak e –“ Oh sorry ! Eisu saoningbadagi wangang kanjao hunkhre. Sumdousi, Chinglen... .”

“Takpiyu sir.” Chinglenna hanggatchei.

Professor Rajmanina hairak e –“ Eina Principapalda wari touramle, aeba report piramlabani. Eina ngasai hayeng phaoba matam tharambani. Hayeng nanao Khomba puraga apology touru lao. Adugane, nakhoi shakmannei haiduna Nongdrenna Khomba saraga lakpadi yaroiko. Pheerolsu chap chap mannana setlakpa yaroi. Nakhoi ahummak lakkadabani. Adusu yumda. Adugane, Athempot purakpa, Principal unnaba kanaroi. Ei unnou hairakkani. Phare, numitsu tadoure. Chatlo nanao thiruro.”

“Phani, sir. Thagatchari.” Chinglenna asumna hairamlaga Principal office thadoklaga manao nupa Nongdren amadi ‘A sisters’ (Salam chanu machin manao ahum Amita, Anita, Anuja ahumbu mayamna ‘A sisters’ haiduna khangnei.) Thiba oina cycle set maikei pangna khongsallak e.

Cycle set mayada Nongdrenna loinana ‘A sisters’ leptuna leirammi. Mayamba lakpa ubada Nongdrenna tanhang hanglak e –“Echou, Principalna kari haire ?”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Principal unnarakte. Sir Rajmanina thorakpaga maiyoknaduna haijarure. Principal unnaba kanaroi hairak e. Hayeng phaobagi manungda Khomba puraga nangsua yaona eikhoi ahum mayumda lak u, athempot purakpa yaroi. Eikhoi ahumsu phurit pheerol chap mannaba setlakkanu hairak e. Houjik Khomba thirusi. Aduga Amita, Anita, Anuja nakhoi thenglani chatkhro.”

“Hoi echou !” Amitana khummi.

Anujana hodorak e –“ Echou ! Principal Lalmaniga eikhoi pabungga munna khangnaban. Houren phone touhallura ?”

Nongdrenna marak thattuna khumlak e –“Anu ! Pabungda nakong wai chilhanganu. Eikhoi Khomba phangnaba thirurage. Nakhoi hankhro thenglani.”

Anitana hairak e –“Eyai, Khombasibu houjik matamgi pakhang lanmee kangbuga khutsamnaramdanako.”

Amitana pangsillak e –“ Eisu adumna chingnarak e. Ngasai mahakna laoramba slogan aduga hairurabadi... .”

Anujana machegi wangang loiphattringeida notsillak e –“ Echehal ! Khombana kari haiduna laorambage ?”

Amitana khumlak e –“ Khombana Now, Gun is mightier than pen and sword. I will prove it asum haina laorammi. Classroom dagi mapan thokkhi. Eisu pak hek chenthorakpa yakhide. Eina thorakpada thengnadre.”

Anitana amuk oaksillak e –“ Phare yum chatsi. Pabungda hairaga police thadoktuna mahakpu phangnaba thihallaga hayengmak sir Rajmanida apology touhodrabadi maong tadou mandre.”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Hum ! Ani, nanggi wakhaldo phadi phajei haibabu... taiyonnaba maong amada chatkhidra haibagi chingnaba ama lei, haibadi college authorityna policeta pao piduna mabu thibani haiduna khankhrabadi mahak namduna underground da takhiba yai, yadrane...?”

“Hoinehei echou. Madu oithokpa yai.” Anitana waroisin pirak e –“ Khombabu phangnaba thibiruro.”

Nongdrenna oaksillak e –“ Phare, nakhoi hankhro. Echou ebani mabu phangnaba thirurage. Yumdadi leiramdou mandre.”

Chinglen Nongdren cycle louthokpa changkhre. Ashem chanu ahum hanna cycle louthoklaga leirabani. Machin manao ahum cycle louthokkhre.

Anujana laorammi –“ Echou,eyai ! Khombabu phangnaba thibiyuko.”

Nongdrenna khumlak e –“ Hoi hoi youkhro. Houren phone tourakke.”

‘A sisters’ cycle thouraga chatkhre. Chinglen Nongdren anisu cycle thoudorakle. College maning, Thangmeiband taba hojang tamna cycle khambrang thoudokhre.

Chinglen Nongdren machin manao anina manao Khombabu ahing chuppa thiba yaba mapham kadaida koithi thikhi. Kari amuk hairugani, mayamba anina manaogi maming pan – panduna koikou kouduna thiba hourakle.

“Khomba, Irom Khomba ! Nangbu kadaidano ?” Nongdrenna asumna koue.

Chinglenna amuk koue –“ Eyambagi Khomba ! Khomheiton, nangbu keidano ? Amuktangdi khumlak uda.”

Matam ado Chinglen Nongdren Khomba machin manao ahummak Uripok Sorbon thinghelda leiba matamni. Makhoi Nongmaijing khudinggi Lamdeng khunouda haitharaga mama mapagi manakta thabak engkang suba yao e. Ningthoukabagi ayukta mamana thongba chakngan charaga college tamna karak e. Masi makhoigi chatnarolni. Imphal mayolda Khombaga tinnaba marup mapang kayagi mayum mayumda mayamba anina thiba hounaba thiraba matungda Uripokki mayumda hanjillak le. Aduga mabani watanei. Nongdrenna hairak e –“ Echou, Lamdengda haitharaga karisu thousadana leiramba yaiko... .”

Chinglenna khummi –“ Eisu adumna amuk khallak e. Adubu houjikmak chatlubada emaga pabaga kari khankhigani.”

Nongdrenna oaksillak e –“ Emadi kharabu phari. Pabana magi mai chophalli, magi ningjaba manghandoure haiduna Khombabu ngakpibei wadi leiraroi.”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Ado, houjik kari tousi haibano ! Nong ngallaklagani. Khombabu puraga sir Rajmanida lalle haijarudrabadi mahak soidana tanthoraklagani.”

Nongdrenna ngaihak khallaga hairak e –“ Eihak Khomba saraga chatlage. Eyamba anina ekai chatminnasi yadre haiduna khurumlaga haijarubadi kamdou e ?”

Chinglenna ngaihak khallaga hairak e –“ Hoinehe, Nangga sir Rajmanigadi hakthengnana unnadribanina Khombagi style touraga changlubadi yai haibabu.”

“Echou kari chingnaba leibagene ?”

“Nongdren, madu toksi. Namthak tougumsi aphaba oiroi.” Chinglenna ngaihak khallaga hairak e –“Nahak mamlingeida hougatlaga Lamdengda haitharo, magi marup mapang khara unnaragsu hangngo eina sir Rajmani unnaraga nongma ninida ngaibikho haijaruge.”

Nongdrenna khumlak e –“ Yarakkadoubadi mankhidreda.”

“Ado haijadunadi yengba taidana.”

“Echou, eina sum ningphung ningphung taba wapham amadi leido.”

“Kari waphamno haiyu tasi.”

Nongdrenna munna khallaga kharasu lakak touraga hairak e –“ Sir Rajmanise pakhang sari oiramalle... .”

Chinglenna marak khangthat thatchinduna nganglak e –“ Karinone Nongdren nangna hairibadubo, mamei makok samnadrene.”

Nongdrenna engna tapna hairak e –“ Echou, nakoinana mari ama leinagani. Noibidagi taba wani. Sir Rajmanina Amitabu mitajei khara haibiyu haimalle. Wapham amana Khombaga Amitaga ngaihak leitana chatminnaba, canteenda phamminnaba kayasu sir Rajmanina ukhra malli. Amaromda Amitabu mateima oigani khanjariba Khombana Sir Rajmanibu nungsiramdaba yai. Mata chadrabadi Khombase nongmei pairakpa yaiko. Mahakna ekhang hek khanghoudana sir Rajmanibu nongmei maruna kapthuraga hatlakpasu yaiko.”

Chinglenna marak thatchinduna hairak e –“Nupi nupi ! Nupigi wathok ashe lai haktaktagi , meehouron haktaktagi adum leirakedako. Nongdren nangna hairiba aduna chumba tarabadi eihak Amitagi wakhal thadoklage. Mahak Sir Rajmanigi oijakhrasanu. Hayeng, ayuk nahak oina Rajmani unnaba chatlo, eina Lamdeng Khunouda chatlage. Aduwane, nangsung action tourunuko. Nonjaba tabaniko.”

Nongdrenna ngaihak khallaga hairak e –“ Echou ! Amitaga Khombaga onnage haibagi wakhaldi khanbiganu.”

“Onnabagi wapham natteda.” Chinglenna ngaihak khallaga amuk hanglak e – “Amitanadi sir Rajmanibu yaningngi haibagi enggit leirabadi eihak lapthokchage haibanida. Khombadi kandaba yade.”

Nongdrenna hairak e –“Phare, echou, nongnganba ngairasi. Aduwane keidoungeidasu Amitabudi Rajmanigi oihalloi. Masi, Nongdren eigi warepni.”

“Nongdren engthakho.” Chinglenna ngaihak khallaga hairak e –“ Nupi wahoudagi wathok chaothokpa eyamba pamde. Manungda malom amada leibadagi Khombana apang thouna ama phudokkhibado aranba khongthangni. Thaoina toukhibani. Keiningchit lakkadaba malli.”

“Phare echou, eihak hayengdo chatlaga hairurage.” Nongdrenna khummi.

Tallak aduda nupi amana mabanigi kagi mapandagi laorak e –“ Chinglen Nongdren Khomba ! Nakhoi nachin nanaobu ngasi keidourabage houjikphaoba chak chaba laktabasibo. Satra ateidi ngamnamak chaba thakpa loinakhre.”

Nupi ashi Apambi koue. Bara yumgi chakthongbi oina leibani. Magi kanasu leijadrabini. Khwaigi leikai eneni.

Nongdrenna khummi –“ Ene, lakcharage Khombado ngaibani.”

Apambina hanglak e –“Aeh : Khombadi ngantana laklamlaga ngasi numidang khara thenglakkani, echou eyaido chak chathoklo hairammna. Mabu laktribane ?”

Chinglen Nongdren mapanda thorakle. Mabani men tarap toue. Chinglenna hairak e – “ Ene, Khombana ateidi kari kari hairammi.”

Apambina khummi –“ Thenglakkanida hairammi, nabani chak charabo.”

Chinglen Nongdren ningsa hondokle. Mapan thorakle.

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Ahing houkhre.

Enung ngalle nongngalle. Anouba numit thorakle. Anouba numit ama amuk thorakle. Taibang meeoiba khudingmakna numit khudinggi hanjin – hanjin toudaba yadraba sinlam sintha kaya pangthoknakhre. Ayuktagi houraga numidang phaobagi manungda chap chap mannei haiduna toudaba yadaba thabak sintha kaya marum (Mayam) amasu lei. Asum khallurabadi kanagumba kharadadi tansillakpa poknei. Aduna, meeo kayana mayum thadoktuna lainingba chatnakhi.

Matam asigi Manipur kouba leibaktasu pakhang kaya mayum thadoktuna lonna lonna mangnakhi. Kadaida, keidouba chatkhribano haiba kananasu khangnakhide. Aduga Irom Khombadi ?

Irom Khomba ahing thenglakkanidi hairamlaga adum hallaktre. Mayamba ani yahou nganta houraga eru – maitharaga kanadasu karimta hairamdana cycle amamam thoudoklaga mayumdagi thokkhre. Chinglenna Lamdeng Khunou romda manaogi khonggul liba chatkhre. Nongdrenna Thangmeiband Chingkhong leikaida leiba professor Rajmani unnaba chatkhre. Uripoktagi Thangmeiband Chingkhong yamna lappa lam natte. Nongdren thungkhre. Lambi achat – atatta, hangla – hanglaga mapham chumna yotki thongjao amagi mamangda mahak leplui. Thong namduna yenglui. Manungda lolli. Mahakna thang thang thilli. Manakta calling bell pallamde.

Mikup khara chontharaga yotthong hangdorakle. Manungdagi naha nattraga pakhang ama thorak e. Nongdren swai lao e. Ateigi natte, thorak eba nupa ado ate natte, maga

class amattada tamminariba Manjitni. Nongdrenna khudak aduda mashak maming lotninglakkhi.

Manjitna yamna ngaklapna hanglak e –“Etao, Nongdren ! Yamna thajadana kari... ?”

Manjitki wangang laodringeida Nongdrenna shat hekta oaksinduna khummi –“ Eihak Nongdren natte, Khombani, Chinglen Nongdren anigi manao atomba. Eikhoi ahum shakmannei.”

“Aera, nahakpu Khomba !” Manjitna ngaihak khallaga makha tana hairak e –“Eihak bap tare, ngarang eikhoi tachou Rajmaniga classta marei yetnabadagi Khombana thangna kalam yanthatlammi haibagi paodi tajare.”

Khomba sariba Nongdrenna hairak e –“ Ngarangdo eihak lanjakhre haiduna amuktang khurumba lakchabani, sir amuktang unnahanbiyu.”

“Eikhoi tachouna ngasi ayukta shakmannaba machin manao ahum lakkani phajana kousillaga phamhallammu haikhi. Ado, Chinglenga Nongdrenyadi kadaida leihoure ?”

Khomba sariba Nongdrenna khummi –“ Eyamba anidi chatsi yadre, eibu yamna saore. Aduna ethanta lakchabani. Sirdo amuktang unnahnbiyu. Ei amuktang khurumjage.”

“Khomba, nakhoi tayai Nongdrendi eigi classmateni.” Manjitna mashak takchei.

Khomba sariba Nongdrenna Khombagi style khara muklap khummi –“ Khangjei, ei yamna munna khangnei. Taton khoisu echin enao ahum sui haina tajei. Yamnasu khutlingngi hainei.”

Manjitna nokphet touraga hairak e –“Khomba, nangdi nayamba aniga mannade, khara wild oi hainei.”

Khomba sariba Nongdrenna hairak e –“ Taton, eise marak marakta mapham marang khanghoudana hourakpa maching ama lei. Ngarangdo numit thokluduna aranba ado toujakhibani. Eihak lankhre khangjarak e. Ahing tumba yakhidre. Chanbiduna sirga amuktang unnahanbiyu.”

Manjitna hairak e –“ Changhlasi lak o. Nayamba anido ekai haiduna chatsi yadre haiduna khummuko. Eikhoi tachousu phabanida. Toubadabu singnabadi yadabaniko.”

Khomba sariba Nongdrenna khummi –“ Eihak khangjarudre. Tatonna amuktang mateng pangbiyu.”

Manjitna hairak e –“Aeh : Tachoudi thorakle. Changsillaga hekta khurummu. Eisu nateng pangsinba oina tachou themba yabra yengjage.”

Professor Rajmani prap prap thorakle. Khomba saba Nongdren amadi Manjitki mamangda leplare. Wa machet amata ngangba toudana Khomba sariba Nongdrenbu mamit kuptana yenglaga adum lei. Mahak haiphet chamamnei. Khombana houkhiba numitta setkhiba pheejol adumakni. Karimta ahongba leite. Ngaihak khallaga hanglak e –“ Nayamba anidi chatsi yadrabra ?”

Khomba sariba Nongdrenna khumba nangdringeida Manjitna heipa saduna khummi – “ Tachou, mayamba Chinglen Nongdren anina chatsi yadre, ekaijei haiduna leihoure haiye. Khombagi mayamba Nongdrensu eigi classmateni aduna Khombabu ngakpiroda.”

Professor Rajmanina hairak e –“ Manjit ! Maral leiba, machongpak naidaba meebu sougatkanu. Nangdum chatkhro chatlu. Aduga, Khomba ! Nangbu Chinglenla Nongdrenla haiba adusu khangde. Nakhoise chap mannei haine.”

Khomba sariba Nongdrenna khummi –“ Sir eihak Khombani. Eigi oi thangba narumgi sambru asina sakhini.” (Sambru thungphamdo uttli).

Professor Rajmanina engna tapna hairak e –“ Phare, chatlo, houren college da nakhoi nachin nanao Chinglen Nongdren Khomba Principalgi kada eiga unnarasi. Eigi complain report pikhatkhrabani. Ngarang numidang athengbada Amitagi pabung S.P. Tolen Saheb nasu phone tourak e. Principal dasu phone touramba yai. Aduna houren laibak yenglasi. Chatlo. Aphaba satra oinaba hotnouko.”

Khomba sariba Nongdrenna hairak e –“ Sir thagatchari. Eibu chahi manghanbiganu. Eihak lanjakhre. Eingonda leiriba psychi problem ashe koknaba hotnajaruge, thank u sir. Ei chatchare.”

“Chatlo chatlo.” Professor na yathang pirak e. Mathanta amuk khanjei (Nangbu Khombara, Nongdrenla).

Nongdren pantharamdana thorakle. Manjitna thindokpa oina ennak e. Matou aduda Professor Rajmanina laorak e –“ Manjit ! Nang thokkhinu. Hanjillak u.”

Manjit chap leppi. Nongdren mapan thokhre. Yotki thong gham laona thingjinkhi.

Nongdren pantharamdre, cycle thouna thouna khallak e (Amita Amita ! Sir Rajmanina Amitagi mapagi phone lak e haihou eko. Amitanabu hairabadi yadourine. Mahakna Amitabu khambanbadagi Khomba yeithatnaba hotnabani haibase kharamakheidi chumba tai. Amitabu keidoungeidasu magi oihalloi. Eigi eteima oigani soidana. Onthok edako ! Eigi enaodo. Eina mahak saduna changluba mission amadi mai paklap toudoure. Amaromda Khomba puthoktuna eikhoi ahumgi eshak Principal gi mamangda uttlidrabadi yaroidouri. Sir Rajmanina eihak Nongdrenni khanglambasu

yai. Masu phajana pong kangsillak e. Luida, tougadaba ashe. Phare, Echougi pao loururage. Khombado Lamdeng khunouda leiramle haiduna puraklabadi nungngainidako.)

Nongdrenna asumna wakhal khalla – khalladuna cycle yangna thourakle. Thangmeiband Chingkhongdagi lambi ashamba thira – thiraduna cycle thouraktuna Sorbon thingelgi bara yumda thungkhre. Kadai, magi mayamba Chinglen thungladari. Mahak mihool ting ting chongladuna mayamba hallakpa ngaiduna koichat chatladuna leire.

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Ningbana ama !

Thoklabana ama. Mee meegi mayeeda ashum thok u haiduna leikhraba pumba kananasu semdokpa theidokpa ngamde. Asumna hingngu asumna siyu haiba adusu tamduna leikhrabani. Mee meegi laibakta, chahi matang matangi oinasu, nungngaiyu, awaba maiyoknou haiba pumnamak adusu theidok theijin toubaka yaba natte.

Irom Khombagi laibakta kari tamligaba ! Mahakna Professor Rajmani ga singnaduna toururiba thabak ado ngaosinnarubadagi soikhibara natraga thaoina touge hainabu toukhraba ? Masigi achumba paokhumdi mahaktangna khumgadaba mangaire. Magidamak pakhatcharaba mayamba Nongdren ningba kaiduba hallak le. Thonggal mayada mayamba Chinglen ngaiba oina thorakle. Mahak wakhal khanjanei. Mahakna Khomba saduna laibar chatlubagi kannaba kharabudi phanglak e. Khomba puthokpa ngamlabadi ngakpigani haibagi thajaba ama Professor Rajmanina pirakli. Adubu, Khombadi kadaida ? Nongdrenna Lamdeng Khunougi pao ngairi.

Chingngeina, Chinglen thunglare, cycle thoujillak le. Khombadi yaorakte. Nongdren khangngi. Mayambagi manakta changsillakte. Khomba thengnarkte haibado adum khangle. Pao hangningba poktre. Mahakna uttpat touduna chatluba khongchatki paosu mayambada tamningdre. Ngakpige haibagi enggitti pirakle. Adubu, Professor Rajmanigi pheerepti handokte.

Chinglensu Nongdrengi matou ubada adum khangngi, hamu hamu oiramgani haiba khangngi. Adumakpu mayamba ama oina hanglak e –“ Sir Rajmanido khara engthahourabra ?”

Nongdrenna khummi –“ Echou, kharadi engthahoure. Amitakhoigi pabungnasu phone tourak e hairak e. Adubu, Principal gi kada eikhoi echin enao ahumgi shak uttlaga apology touragadabani haihou. Eina Khomba saraga eyamba anidi yarakte haiduna ethanta changlubaka yaroidouri.”

Chinglenna hairak e –“Eisu adum tousira khanduna lakpani. Khomba thengnadre. Ema pabada asengba wari lithoklamle.”

Nongdrenna khangnot notsillak e –“ Pabadi kari haihou e.”

Chinglenna khummi –“ Mei houna saohoure. Khombabu echa natte, thiruranu haihou e. Police thadoklaga thihangani. Khombagi lusham pairaga oja Rajmanida lalle haiduna khurumhangani haihou e. Emana pajibu engthanaba themhour. Kharabudi nemthahoure. Khomba yumda hallak u haiduna khabarda happu, karisu phucheiraro hairak e.”

Nongdrenna ngaihak khallaga hairak e –“ Echou, khabarda happagi waphamdo ngaikhisi. Sir Rajmanidi sikhang hekta khangduna leikhre. Principal unnarubasu kannararo. Khomba purak u adum hairagani. Eidum maching karakke tourak e. Pattingeida hayingda nonjou haibado nanaodi yajaningdabani.”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Nongdren eyambasu lrom machani. Matang chadana nungshit kangba yaba natte. Anirak hannadi haijaranusi. Eikhoigi final examgi form fill up tougadaba matam kharadi watli. Sir, Rajmanida haijaranusi.”

Nongdrenna khapchinduna hanglak e –“ Ado echou, houjik keidousi haibano ?”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Ngasi ebani college karanusi. Imphal college ta Khomba parikhya thaba yanaba pambei ama thirusi. Khomba mangkhre yumda hallaklo haiduna khabarda phonglubaga yapot natte. Phagi phagidagi underground takhini.”

“Imphal collegedadi echouga khangnaba kana leibage ?” Nongdrenna mayamba Chinglenda khangningna hangjei.

“Imphal college student uniongi general secretary thiraga mateng pangbiyu hairusira khallibani.”

“Eikhoi D.M.C. gi general secretary unnabadi yadabra ?”

“Yai, Adubu Khomba puthorak u apology touhallu hairakkani.”

“Phare, echou nongma nini ngaikhisi.” Nongdrenna ngaihak khallaga hairak e –“ Ebanisu ngasi college adum kasi. Tuminna adum leithok lasi. Amuk hanna haijanonjaba hounade. Khombagi chahi manglaga mangle. Adugane echou tamgadaba

ama chitthahoure. Sir Rajmanido eigi classmate Manjitki mayambasu oiramle. Manjitna mayambada haijabani. Adubu manaobu cheithattuna tansinkhi. Eisu ekairap touna hallakkhi.

Chinglenna saorap touna hairak e –“ Aera, adudi ngasaina haiba yadro.”

Nongdrenna khummi –“ Manam manam ngaihak kaothok ure.”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Phare, mahakna touning touningba tourasanu. Eyai, atei lairi, sir Rajmanido, makhoisu machin manao ahum suika haiduna masong phallaktro ?”

Nongdrenna khummi –“ Echou, eingondadi madumak hairakte. Manjitna manao atombani haibadi khanglak le.”

Chinglenna mathanta sonjei –“ Manao ama adudi kanano, maming kari koujatno ? Mashak maming khangjinba pheiko.”

“Echou, ei houren Manjitta hangge.” Nongdrenna khummi –“ Chourjit, Marjit nattrega Ranjit kouramba yai.”

“Phare college kanabadum tousi.” Chinglenna makha tana hairak e –“ Tongisu maraibakta asum thok u haiba ama tamduna leiramgani. Punshi haibasidi thoklaba thoksanu, thengnaba tabani, mairong yaba tabani.”

“Echou, nanaosu adum khanjei.” Nongdrenna khummi.

Chinglenna Nongdren machin manao ani mayum manungda changminnakhre. Meekup khara chontharaga ayukki chak chathoklaga manao Khombado phut hek phaorakpasu yai khanduna ngairaga leikhi. Numit khudinggi Chinglen Nongdren Khomba machin manao ahum cycle amamam tongladuna college kaminnei. Asukki matik nungsinnaba machin manaoni. Nongmana, Nongdrenna cycle thouraga mayamba Chinglenna mamanggi frameda tonglaga, manao Khombana maninggi carrierda naphallaga punna chatminnabasu yaokhi. Khwaina kumhei oina yengnei. Thaoina meeyamda uttpadi natte. Nongphadok cycle bera touba, nungshit taba matangda toukhibani.

Chinglen Nongdren anigi mamit mamitta manao Khombaga punna college kaminnabado ningsing ningsing ngairi. Makhudanggi ghari yengnei.

Matamdi houkhi. Khombadi thungladare. Meekup kaya tek tek, mathang mathang houkhi. Matamgi khongchat Chinglen Nongdren machin manao anina phaduna thingba ngamkhidre. Tangai phadana college ti karak e. Machin manao anina manao Khombabu hainakhiba pungpham khenphamgi manungda puthoktuna apology touba ngamkhidre. Mabanimak Principal amadi Professor Rajmani unnaramdana, class loinasu hairamdana collegdagi swai swai mangkhre. Makhoi makhoigi girlfriend singdasu wa machet amata nganglamdre. Thoidokna, Khombagi pungba oiribi Tanujadi collegetagi nganta hankhi. Kanagasu wa machet amata ngangnaramde. Mahak Khombagi leekhun kharadi khanglamgadaba malli. Kanana khangba, mabani chen – chonglambasu yai. Mache ani amadi matei oirakpa yariba Chinglen Nongdren anisu Anujada karigumba amtta wahang paohangkhidre. Toubadi, mathwai nungngaikhiroi haiduna toubasu oiramba yai, oinasu oigani. Anujana college tagi swai mangkhibasi kanasu khanghouba natte.

Numit adugi nungthilda D.M.collegeki principal Achoibam Lalmani Singhga Professor Rajmani Singh phamminnaduna ngaikhi. Oja ateisu yaokhi. Principalna ahanbamaktada houdorak e –“ Oja Rajmani, houjik keidouse haiba ? Chinglen Nongdren Khomba ‘Three Murti’ machin manao ahumdi houjik phaoba laktre. Ngasibu makhoi college karambra ?”

Professor Rajmanina khumlak e –“ Sir, ngasi ayukta Khombado mathanta yumda laklammi. Ngakpiyu haijarammi. Mayamba anidi ekaijei, chatsi yadresu hairammi. Khombadi college karaktre. Mayamba anidi college karaklamlaga hankhre haiduna tajak e.”

Principal na ngaihak khallaga hairak e –“ Mayamba aninasu Khombana toukhribado yaningdre haina uttpanine.”

“Sir eisu adumna khanjei.” Professor Rajmanina ngaihak khallaga makha samtharak e –“ Houjik phaoba laktrabanina tanthokkhibana achumba warep oigani khanjei. Satra ateisu lamhellaktanaba kharadi kihanbasu chumgani haiba ashi thamjaningngi.”

Principal na ngaihak khallaga hairak e –“ Toubasu houjik matamgi satrasing ashe thaksi khasi yamna yaodre. Mama mapana haibasus endre. Oja gurusu usit thaoidre. Matam chana action louhoudarabasu satrana oja phurakkadouri. Aduna tougadabase ludi lukhre. Makhoi three murtigi mapa adusu police inspector, kharasu sathiba oira malle. Machana lankhrabadi haijaroi nonjaroi haiduna leithokkhre haibagi pao amasu phangle.”

Amitagi mapa S.P. Tolen singhna Principal amadi Professor Rajmanida phone tourakhrabani. Wapham ashi khumjinduna thamlaga Rajmanina hanglak e –“Sir, pao adubu kanadagi tabibage ?”

Principal na khumlak e –“ S.P. Tolendo munna khangnei, marupni. Mahakna Khombabu ngakpiyu. Mapadi wachat wanomba toujaroi haiduna leithokkhre hairak e. Board membersinggisu mod phondokpiyu. Eigi marup Tollena hairak e haidunasu eina college ki Principal ama oina hekta veto toubasu pamjade.”

Senior Professor Churamanina hairak e –“ Principal sir ! Houjik phaoba Khomba mathanta oirbasu apology touradare. Mayamba aninasu manaogidamakta mahut sinduna laktre. Toubadi, Khombado thiba khanglamlaroi. Ngasai ayuk Oja Rajmani khoida laklammi hairiba Khomba ado shakmannaba mayamba amana sabadum oiramdanako. Manao puthokpa ngamdaduna mayamba ani mangkhiba oigani.”

Commerce department ki Professor Nabakumarna khanghai hairak e –“ Principal sir, aduga board member pumnamak ! Sir Chiramanigi wapham ashi eihak khangningngi. Eigi commercial arithmetic classta yaoriba Nongdrenna Khomba saramdanako.”

Professor Rajmanina chingnarap touna ngaihak khallaga hanglak e –“ Oja Nabakumarna takpiriba wapham ado kharamakheidi chumningngai oiri. Einasu khara chingnaduna takchakhi. Maduda Khombana, magi oithangba narumda sambru thunglibasi yengbiyu haiduna utlammi. Phajana ujahou e.”

Professor Nabakumarna ngaihak khallaga hairak e –“ Oja Rajamani ! Yetthangba narumdi yengbihoubra ?”

“Ehe madumadi yengjahoudre. Anamba oiramdanako !” Professor Rajmanina khummi amasung hanglak e –“ Yetthangba narumsu sambru thungbra, oja ?”

Professor Rajmanina marak thatchinduna hairak e –“ Ojasing ; Eina khangjaba amatang marak thatna haijahouge. Shakmannaba machin manao ahumgi manungda Chinglendi mong hade, engngi tappi. Nongma makhoi ahum pullap lakpada eina thaoina khamlaga maming matha hangbaga loinana makhoi makhoigi masada lonna thupna leiba identity mark khara khanghouba uhoubalei. Maithongdi chap mannei, aduna lukham onthoklaga yenghoubagi khangbani. Khombagi oi thangba narumda sambru thungngi haibado chummi. Nongdrenngisu yet thangba narumda sambru thungngi. Aduga Chinglengidi narum animakta sambru ani thungbani.”

Principal hairak e –“ Esh ! Oja Churamanidi yamna kupsinna yengbirammda.”

Professor Churamanina hairak e –“ Makhoina college karakpa nouringeida class hong hongduna kharasu yaorammi. Magic physic kharasu sannabadouna tourammi. Aduna

ngasai oja Rajmanikhoida laklammi hairiba oigi narumda sambru thungngi haiduna mashak taklammiba ado, yetki narumda uhoudabanina Khombani haiduna lourasi.”

Professor Rajmanina ngaklap touna hairak e –“ Aeh : Makhoi machin manao asidi tarai taraiba oiramdredana. Marum mayada leiba khudam adudi kanana khanglugani.”

Principal na hairak e –“ Toubasu, makhoi machin manao ahum ashe Meidingu Chinglen Nongdren Khombagi anouba lang onn oigani haiduna thajanei haine. S.P. saheb Tolenna hairakpaniko. Phaibok natraga trisul haibado tarene. Any way, ngasai ayuk oja Rajmani khoida oigi narum uttlammi hairiba ado, yetki narum uhoudrabanina eidi Khombani haiduna loujei. Mahak lankhre haiduna khurumbadi laklamli. Maram aduna mahaksu college tagi tanthokpa asimakti toujaningde. Oja mayamgi apamba aningbasu haibiyu. Chinglen natraga Nongdrenna Khomba saraga lakkehibani haibagi praman leitre haiduna loubu yai. Mayamna kari tousige haibado leppiro.”

Ojasing tumin tumin leinakhre. Kisillakpa yaonare. Lusillakpa matangdadi kanasu chinphen phana khumdokningdre. Rajmanisu khoutak tou e. Adubu, mahak maithiraga tokkadaba meeta natte. Magisu machin manao ahumni. Tangaiphadrabadi chainarage haiduna nungkhannei. Mayambu koiruk koiruk yenglaga hairak e –“ Oja mayamdi makhoi machin manao ahumna kari tourakkadage haibagi kiramba yai. Eidi kijade. Makhoi machin manao onthang onsin touduna kumhei sannaramba yai, sannaramdabasu yai. Adubu, college karakpada mangang thang achouba natrabasu mee hatpa yaba khutlai ama puraga college karaklamba, eigi kalam thangna kakthatlamba, adudasu nattana thanggi mahutta nongmeisu pairakpa yai haiduna laoramlaga chatkhiba meeshak amabu lemnadi thadokningde. Tungda lakkadaba satra kaya amada para ama tambinaba tanthokhourasida.”

Professor Nabakumarna hairak e –“ Samna hairabada Irom Khombabu maming chatpa meeshak ama oiduna leihounaba magi photo amadi bio data ama assembly hallda phaklangda thetpasu phe. Eigi waphamse karem kathainaba natchadeko. Satra lamhenba yade haibado khanghanbagi waphamniko.”

Principal na waroisin piba oina hairak e –“ Ekai khumnajaraba, D.M.C. advisory committee gi ojasing ! Professor Rajmanina pikhatlakpa report amagi matung enna D.M.C. P.U.C. science section A – da tamliba Irom Khomba Singh maral leiba meeshak ama oire.”

Mahak lalle haiduna houjik phaobasu haijaba laktre. Maram asina, Irom Khomba Singh bu D.M. college tagi matam pumbagi oina tanthokpa haiduna ngasigi meetingda amatta oina warep loure.”

Professor Rajmanina nokphet touna hairak e –“ Principal sir, tangaiphadana houjik matamgi satrasingna ojada usit – thaoidaba amadi singnabagi thabak touraktanaba Khomba tanthokpagi warep ashe paochedasu phongdokpa phagadra haiba wapham amatangga thamjari.”

“Yai yai.” Principal na mangak nomna nomna makha tana magi P.A. Rameshta amuk onsinduna hairak e –“ Mister P.A. meetinggi proceeding do phajana, marik chumna membersingna pukhatlakpa warolsu esilluko. Khombagi mapado hala yade haina tai. Case tourakpa yai adubu ethantagi rai natte mayamgi warepni haibado khanghanba tabani.”

P.A. Rameshna khumlak e –“ Sir, member khudingmakna propose tourakpa wapham pumnamak amatta chitthadana note tousinnari.”

Principal na amuk hairak e –“ Phare, makha tana asimasu esillu madudi - Irom Khombabu tanthokpagi warol yaoba, order copy mayumda thabaga loinana paochedasu phongdokpa, notice boardta thetpadasu nattana college ki class khudingmakta tanthokpagi order adu pathoktuna tahanba haidunasu ngasigi meetingda warepnare haiduna eyu.

Atei thoidokpa khannagadaba hiram leitabana ngasigi meeting asi matang asida loisille.

Professor Nabakumarna hairak e –“ Principal Sir, thenglabasu thengna Khomba tanthokpagi order adu ngasimak mayum youhanbana phagadra khanjei. Ahing hek lenkhibada mantri mandalsingdagi athingba lakkadra haibagi chingnaba khara leijej.”

Principal na hairak e –“ Oja Nabakumargi wakhaldo yamnamak chumba waphamni. Houjikmak thoknaba touragani. Oja Rajmani, P.A. ga phamminaraga dismissal order ado amukta nambirak u.”

“Phani sir !” Rajmanina asumna hairamlaga P.A.ga loinana ka adudagi mapan thokkhre.

Atei advisory boardki membersingdi phamduna leihou e. Peon Imobana acha athak pusillaktuna thunglei. Mayam ado achapot thak chaduna order namba loiba ngaiduna leinakhi.

Matam yamna kuina loubu toudana Professor Rajmanina P.A. Rameshka Principalgi kada changlakle. Irom Khomba tanthokpagi order copy ado signature paid fileda haplaga P.A.na Principal da lansilli. Makhol thoktuna munna pare. Sahi toure aduga hairak e –“ Oja, Rajamani mayam tanaba nahak amuktang pathok ushe.”

“Phani sir.” Professor Rajmanina asumna hairaga dismissal order ado mayam tanaba pathorak e –

Chitigi marol

To,

Irom Khomba Singh,

Lamdeng Khunou

Present Address Uripok

Sorbon Thingel, Imphal.

Subject:-Dismissal Order

Dear Pupil,

In accordance with the decision taken in the meeting of the advisory committee of the D.M. College, Imphal held on today the 8th January 1977, this is to inform you that you are hereby dismissed from the college from this day for you misconduct attitude towards senior Professor.

This order is issued with my Signature and Seal.

Principal

D.M. College

Collegegi senior Professor Churamanina order marol ado munna taraga hairak e –“ Professor Rajmani, misconduct attitude haibado khara macha khaina haibadi ‘Thangna Kalamdagi thouba helli’ haiduna kalambu thangna yanthatlammi haiduna palhoubana pharoidra ?”

Principal na marak thatchinduna khumlak e –“ Oja Churamani, madu pallagumsi. Karigumba Khombana ukil nektuna case tourakpra haibado yengnaba oina thamlasi.”

“Phare phare, houjikmak chithi thabikhro.” Professor Churamanina yaningba utladuna makha tana hairak e –“ Chatliba peon aduda chithi louhouba meegi sahi loubiraknabasu sinbikho, takchabadi natchadeko.”

“Ramesh, peon Yaimada munna sinnakhoko.” Principal na magi P.A.da thoudaraduna makha tarak e –“ Oja, Churamanina hairibase achumbani. Chithi phangde haiduna onkhatlaktanaba cheksin wani.”

“Phani Sir, phanaba sinjarurage.” P.A. Rameshna ashi hairamlaga chithising ado puthoklakle. Mapan thokkhre.

P.A. Rameshna official niyam matung enna thagadouriba chithi ado ‘Peonbook’ chansillaga peon Yaimada munna sinnakhi –“ Tayaima ! Khomba tanthokpagi chithi ashi numit tadringeida mayum Lamdeng khunouda thillugadabani. Chithi ashe pirammu, peonbooktusu sahi lourak uko. Hayeng yaba natte.”

“Ash ! Houjikpu... .” Peon Yaimana hairak e –“ Mayamba ani leiba Uripokki bara yumda thillubadi yadabara ?”

“Madu yaroi, Tayaima ! Principal na ngasimak numit tarabasu thillugadabani haihou e.” P.A. Rameshna makha tana hairak e –“ Chatlo chatlo, pantharanu.”

“Ado... kharadi piba yabaniko.”

“Adudi Principal da hek hairi.”

“Chatta chatcharage.” Yaimana tande mande thokkhi.

“Hayeng yaroiko, ngasigi tang thahallakkadabaniko.”

“Hoida Hoida... .” Peon Yaimana asum hairamlaga peonbook puraduna mapham adudagi thokkhre. Office mamangdagi cycle thouraga chatkhre.

Matou asumna, D.M. College tagi Irom Khomba tanthokkhi. ‘Kalamna thangdagi thouba helli’ haiba ado Professor Rajmanina yamna phajana utkhi. Mangang thangna order adu kakthatpa ngamkhigadra ?

Kalamgi cheirak phanglaba Irom Khombadi mapham kadaida leikhraba ?



Nongmei Amasung Kalam

Anisuba katup

Nongmeina amuk kalambu ngammi,

Kalamna amuk nongmeibu ngammi.

Loiba khamba naide,

Nongmei Amasung kalamgi lan !

Chithi phangkhre.

Irom Khomba Singh, D.M. College tagi tanthokle haibagi chithi (order copy) mayumda phangkhre. Chinglen Nongdren Khomba machin manao ahumgi satiraba mapa Irom Ibohal Singhna chithi ado yamna munna paraga phajaraba wahei pareng khara englishta marjinda erak e –

“Received a Similar copy and accepted the decision taken by the College authority.

Irom Ibohal Singh

F/o Irom Khomba Singh

Lamdeng Khunou.”

Irom Ibohal meeta amani. Magi designationka (I.O.P.) tharakte. Achumba yamna pamjaba meeni. Machanupana lankhibana, wachat wanomge haibagi wakhalsu leikhide.

Matung asida onthokna thajaramdaba thoudok amasu thokle. Atei natte, Ekai nungshi yannaraba Chinglen Nongdren anisu (Manao nupa Khombagi wahoudagi) college karakkhidre. Chayol amagi matungda, Irom Ibohal Singhna magi machanupa Chinglen Nongdren anigi mamingsu collegegi register dagi kakthatpiro, lairik tamhallaroi, lou uhangani haiduna aerol ama collegeda thajillakle. Chithi adu hek phangbaga college Principal lawai satkhre. Karinunggi Khomba tanthokurabano khallakle. Khudakta, magi advisory boardki ojasing kouduna wa tannei.

Senior Professor Churamanina ahanbamaktada houdokpa oina hanglak e –“ Principal sir, board meeting ama amuk koubirisibu... kari karamba agenda leibirabage ?”

Principal na hairak e –“ Ojasing ! Linsu sire, cheisusu tekle haibado thoklare. Sumdoubani, Irom Ibohal Singhna magi machanupa Chinglen Nongdren anigi mamingsu collegetagi kakthatpiro, lairik tamhallaroi, lou uhallagani haiduna aerol ama thajillakle. Houjik, eikhoi kari tousige haiduna khannaba ama changduna mayam koujabani.

“Onthokeda !” Professor Nabakumarna ngaihak lakak touraga makha tana hairak e –“ Chinglen Nongdren anidi P.U.C. final examda position lourakpa yariba satrani hainei mayamna, aduga... .”

Physicski Professor Saratna marak thatchinduna hairak e –“Khombasu yamna changkhonba satrani. Mahaksu position leplakpa yabani aduga dosa apaiba ama phujillakpa ashi laibak thibani.”

Principal na tubat samjillag hairak e –“ Amabu oiro, eikhoi houjik kari tousige ? Khombagi dismissal order adu kakthatlaga esamak chattuna makhoigi mapa unnarusira khalli, masida mayamgi kari wakhal leibibage ?”

Professor Rajmanina ngaihak munna khallaga hairak e –“ Principal sir, maham taba thabakti touhanjaningde. Wapham amana, Khombadi mayumda hanjillaktre haiduna pao ama tajei. Aduna magi order revok tourubada thoina mai pakningngai oiroidra haiduna khanjei.”

Professor Churamanina ngaihak khallaga hairak e –“ Principal saheb, mayumda chatpa khotpa tougumsi. Echam chamna, Chinglen Nongdren anidi college tagi tanthokkhide, college kahanbirak u haiduna chithi amatang tharaga yengbibana phagadra khanjei.”

Principal na hairak e –“ Phare, phare, oja Churamanina houdokpirakpa wapham aduda final oirasiko.”

Professor Rajmanina kalak pellaapna hairak e –“ Principal sir, Chinglen Nongdren Khomba ahum tokkhibada D.M. College mutkadabasu natteda. Cheng chagring amana mathanta mangjakhibani haiduna khandoklasi. Chengkok ama kalhousi.”

Principal na hanglak e –“ Oja Rajmani, atei lairi, Khombagi paodi amatta phangbidabra ? Khara cheksinbiyu, keiningchit lakkaniko. Khombado makok bera khara leiba malli.”

Ekhang hek khanghoudana Professor Rajmanigi thabak mihul chonglak e. Adubu, mahak paokhum pikhidre. Mamitta pistol urak e. Pistol makhuldagi maru paithorakpa urak e. Makok shat leithok e. Mahak lousing lak e, machinda sonjei –“ Khomba nangbu keidano ?”

Mapao takhidre.

Irom Khombagi mawa mapao amatta takhidre. Mahak hinglibra, changlibra haidusu khangkhidare. Mahak siramgadabadi mande. Kadaidano mapham amada lottuna leiramgani haibagi thajaba yaba leekhun amadi leiri. Mahak mangkhibaga loinana Anujasu thiba adum khangkhidre. Khombagi matung enlamgani haina thajanakhi. Khomba amasung Anuja anidi yamna hakchinnana nungsinakhrabani. Mabani chellamgani haiba thajaba asida laining oiraga emung anigi mama mapana, macha machagi, macha mamougi nattraga maya mamougi maikei yengduna ngairak li. Emung anigi yamna naksinnaramba marisu khara komthoknarakpagum tourakle. Ahal laman masen, macha macha louna – leinahanbagi pourappa wapham amadi leikhrabani. Toubatabu, mahei masing tamba loiraba matungdani. Chinglen Nongdren anidi college karakkhidre haibagi pao ashe Amita, Anita anigi mama mapasu pao takhrabani. Aduna ngaisen oininglamba wakhal ado, khara phak chatlakkadoure.

Amita Anita anigi wakhaldi hongde. Mabani pakhatchei. Mama mapa khanghandana nongmadi Uripokki bara yumda lakkhi. Chinglen Nongdrendi leiramdre. Barayumgi care taker oiribi Pemtongi mamangda leplei.

Ahanbamaktada, Anitana Pemtonda hairak e –“ Ene, wa amata hangjageba.”

Pemtonna ngaklap touna yenglaga hanglak e –“ Ebemma, nabanibu kana kanano, kari haige haibano ?”

Amitana khumlak e –“ Ene, eigi emingna Amita kou e, eigi enao nupi asina Anita kou e. Ebani Chinglen Nongdrenge college tamminnaba marupni.”

Pemtonna nokphet touna hairak e –“ Nupaga Nupigabu marup oiba yabrane, angaobi ani, eseng hek sengna nungsi pungbani kok haiba yadabrane ?”

“Ekaijabado aduda lakak toujabani.” Anitana khummi.

“Ene, bap tare, manungda phamlaga netana wari sarusi. Nabani lakpa yamna phare.” Pemtonna ashi hairaga Amita Anita anibu emungda pusinduna phamminakhre.

Amitana echam chamna hanglak e –“ Ene ! Chinglen Nongdren anisibu Lamdeng Khunouda leikhibra ?”

Pemtonna khumlak e –“ Ebemma, machin manao anido Lamdeng khunouda leiramdou mandeda, manao atomba Khomba phangnaba thiruni hairammi. Nabanina Lamdeng Khunou youruge hairagadi chatluso. Eisu leitapham khangdre. Taibungo

Ibohalna macha macha anigi mamingsu collegetagi kakthatpiro haiduna che thajinkhre haiduna taredo.”

Anitana khummi –“ Ene, aduni Eikhoina pakhattuna thiba lakcharibase. Chahi parikhyagi form fill up su tounarabani.”

Pemtonna ngaihak khallaga amuk hairak e –“ Khombagina thokpa ama lakcharani. Nabanina Chinglen Nongdren anisi sahi saraga parikhya thanabagi form fill up tousinba yabra yengo, ene sen puthokkedana.”

Amitana hairak e –“ Sengi wadi araibani. Eikhoi adum puthokchage. Toubatabu college officena yarakkadra haibado yengjage.”

Anitana oaksinduna khummi –“ Ene, yarakpa yaida, principal na pabung Ibohalda macha nupa anidi tanthokte haiduna chithi thakhre haibani.”

Amitana yeningna utladuna khummi –“ Ngasimak tuminna hotnaba yabra yenglusi. Eikhoi pabung S.P. Tolengi maming pallaga kharasu kihallurasi.”

Pemtonna haraoba uttuna hairak e –“ Hoine, nachin nanaona yanaba khara hotnabiro. Enesu machin manaodo phangnaba thige. Leipham, lotpham hek khangbaga nabanida pao pirakke. Nakhoi pabunggi phone number eraga thamlammu.”

Anitana che machet amada phone number eraga pire, aduga hairak e –“ Ene, youjakhrage. Chinglen Nongdren anigidamak eikhoi echin enao Amita Anita anina matam pumbagi lepli haidunasu khara tambiyuko.”

“Hoi hoi, chatlo, mabanibu laklabadi enena phanaba sillakeda.” Pemtonna ashi hairaga leihou e.

Amita Anita anina bara yumdagi khongsankhi.

Mapao ngairi.

Chinglen Nongdren Khomba ahumgi mama Leihaona macha Khombagi mapao ngairi. Khombagi maikei yengli.

Ngaiba ! Ngaiba ! Ngaiba... .

Meeoibagi punshi khongchat, matamgi khongchat, keidoungeidasu khak thadoknaba yade. Thoidokna meeoibagi punshi hek hourakpadagi siba numit phaoba ashi makhal mathel kayabu ngaibagi ngaibamaktani. Nonganbadagi numit taba ngaiba, numit tabadagi (Ahingdagi) nonganba amuk ngaiba – matamgi Katup ahum asida masing lakngamdraba ngaiba kaya ama leikhre. Siba ngaibana punsigi wamachangni. Sidringeida sinlam sintha kayamarumdi touramba tai. Lairaba emungna nungngairakkhini haiduna matamgi khongchat ngaiduna leithokpadi yade. Hotnaba amadi changngi. Atei ateisu kayani.

Ngaiba koubana matam khongchat pudi keidoungeidasu phaduna thamba ngamde. Asumna, nongmadagi numit kayani houkhiba khanghoude. Irom Khombagi mapao ngaibada emung ani haibadi Ashem ga Iromga ungkhatnarakle. S.P. Tolen amasung Inspector Ibohal ani officeta minggou ama kounarambasu mabanidang leibadadi “Esen, ebai” haidunasu kounajei. Macha macha louna – leinahanbagi wapham yannakhrabani, waroipot pudri haibadang mangairabani. Marak asida Khomba amadi Anuja ani mangkhibagi wahoudagi emung ani khamuk khamuk tounarakle. Amita Anita anina Chinglen Nongdren anigi chahi parikhya thahannaba form fill up tougani haiduna hotnabasu college authorityna yakhidre. Masa masa lakhallu haire. Chinglen Nongdren anisu chekmok laorakkhidre. Esing manungda leitum thadakhibagum leikhre. Amita Anita aninasu Chinglen Nongdren unnaruge, thiruge haidunasu khallaktare. Toubadi mama mapana thingbani. Pumnamak asigi wahoudi Khomba amasung Anujada hekta tarak e. Kari amuk hairugani... mapa anina punna macha – machabu thiminnarammi. Phangkhidre. Manipur manungda leiramgani haiba thajanaraktre.

Nongma ayuk anganbadani. S.P. Tolen Singhna magi ngaksenba police kharaga loinaraduna Lamdeng Khunou, Irom Ibohalgi thonggalda zeep gari ama khamlei. Horon houna houna khinglak e. Ibohal amadi Leihao emungdagi thorak e. Thonggal tamna thorakte. Tulsibung mayada leptuna lei. Tolensu garidagi kumtharakte. Adum phamduna lei. Mahousadi asum tounaramba natte. Chenthorakpaga chensillakpaga ‘Ebai,esen’ kounajakhi. Mameida sir, saheb kounabasu kayani.

“Ibohal !” S.P. saheb Tolen singhna mahousaga mannadaba maongda houna kouraduna hairak e –“ Echanupi Anuja puthorak une. Nachanupana chenduna pukhre hainarene.”

Ibohal,pak paokhum pide. Mathak thongba officer ama lak e haidunasu chenthorakte. Mahaksu meeta amani. Mahakki matou ado Leihaona pakhatchaduna thonggal tamna prap prap chentokkhi aduga S.P. Tolen Singhbu oakpa oina

hanggatchei –“ S.P. Saheb, lengsinbirak u. Moi pabase ekaiduna thonggal wangma phaoba lanthokchadrabani. Sutisu... .”

Tolenna khummi –“ Um ! Ibohal babugi sutisu loirabani. Makok thongbasingna thorakpa order amasu leihoure, eimakna hek pirakpasu eigi thouensing oigadra khanbadagi pairaktre.”

Leihaona pakhatlap touna hangngi –“ Kari karamba ordernina, ebungo ?”

Tolendagi Leihaona halli. Ibohalnasu Tolendagi halli. Lairikta, classta henba Tolenna parikhya achouba yaoraga police changlakpani. Aduna pham chaokhibagi wani. Ibohaldi I.A. pass toukhide. Matric passtangni. Service kuibagi inspector karakpani. Tolenda Sir kouba takhi. Konnabudi esen ebai kounakhi. Houjikti ngai sen oikhigani, haibasus tamba ngamdrabani.

Inspector Ibohalna khanglao laorak e –“ S.P. Saheb. Eigi echa Khombana nahakki nachanupi Anujabu phaduna pukhibani haiba asibu kanana, uhoubage ? Nachanupido, atoppa nupa haibadi goonda amana phakhiba oiramlabadi kamdouna... ?”

Leihaona etap hek tapna amuk oaksinba oina hairak e –“ Hoine, moi pabana hairiba asisu chumlamba yaiko, S.P. Saheb ! Ebemma Anuja khangde, mache ani khangde makhoi leisabi machin manao ahumgi manungdagi amadi soidana pharaga chinglaga lougani haiba nupa ama lei haiduna nongma, echa Khombana eingonda hairamba ama khangning ningsinglak e. Collegetagi tanthokkhiba mikup aduda eigi echa Khombana Anuja puraga chellamgani haibase thajaningngai oidedo, S.P. Saheb.”

S.P. Saheb tetharakle, hairak e –“ Eche Leihao, nangna hairibado chumningai oiba wapham ngaktani. Echanupi ama hekta pharaga louni hairiba nupa adugi maming mathakadi khangbibra ?”

“S.P. Saheb !” Leihaona ngaihak ningsingbagi maongda khalluraga hairak e – “Mamingdubu... ningsingba thoktre, Dhanamanjuri College ki satranidi pallammi. Thangmeibandda leibanisu hairammi. Kharasu maming chatpa goondanikasu pallammido... .”

“Ado,eche Leihao ! Nahalkheidi haiba yadro...?” S.P. Tolenna khol kallapna laorak e.

Leihaona engna khumlak e –“ S.P. Sahebnadi hangkhibasu toukhide. Ekhoida echa puthorakuda haiduna meebu tharakpa o, phonebu tousillakpa o men takhide. Moipabasu, ekai nungshi yannakhiduna mayamba anisu college kaba tokhankhre. Houjikna moipababu kari lamda posting amuk thabiraba ?”

“Eche Leihao, eina sinbadi natteko.” Tolenna engtharap touna hairak e –“ Nongpok lamda nouna hangba Lairenpokpi kouba police station amagi O.C. oina chatlu haiduna order leihourabani. Peonna thillakpa yai. Phare, eihak changlaroi, ekaire. Echanupido, Khombana puramdabasu yari. Houjikmak Thangmeibandda leiba, maming chatpa goonda makhei pharaga wahang paohangluraga konna amuk lakcharage. Chatleko, Ibohal babu.”

Ibohal paokhum pirakte. S.P. Tolensu makha taramdana gari mamai leiraga hankhirammi.

Leihaona khalhou e (Onthokedako ! Eigi eraibak ! Ema epa anisu Japan lan manungda mangkhre. Houjik phaoba siba changba khangkhidre. Aduga enao nupi anisu ngantana macha amamam sinnaramlaga leikhidre. Echa Khombasu mangkhre. Chinglen Nongdren anina manao thirubasu phangkhidre. Aduga, eigi epuroibabu Lairenpokpida amuk thabikhidouraba ? Houjikpu eina kanada wakatlugani ?)

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Meeoibagi punsida thajarudaba thoudok wathok kaya khutsamnaraga mari mari lakpa hounasani. Awabagina waba, nungngaibagina nungngaina, pumnamak ado thengnaba tabani. Iromgi emung amadi Ashemgi emung anida oirakliba maong matou kharadang amuk palhoudaba yade.

Ashem emungdagi Amita Anita P.U.C pass toukhre. Mapanda haibadi Guwahati da lairik tamba chatkhre. Amitana Guwahati Medical College ta premedical tammi. Anitana Ulubri girls College da artsta ontharaga B.A. tamkhre.

Irom emungdana kamdoukhi ? Chinglen Nongdren anigi mapa Ibohalna saoba themtharaktuna macha anibu Imphal College ta added touraga P.U.C. parikhya thahankhi. Kanadasu mana manil naihankhide. Animak first division da pass toukhi. Position leppadi ngamkhidre. Mabanina manao nupa Khomba thiba hotnaringeida lairik ourainaba matam leikhidre. Ojasingna classta takkhiba para, lecture mayam ado ningsinglaga parikhya thakhibani. Machin manao ani D.M. College da amuk hanjinduna makha tamthabagi wakhal leikhidare. Mapa Ibohalna machanupa anibu mapanda thaduna lairik tamhanningkhi.

Mapanda thaduna lairik tamba haiba ashi matam aduwaida Guwahati natraga Kolkata anina mapung oirammi. Guwahati da Amita Anita chatkhre haiba tabadagi

Irom Ibohalna macha nupa anibu Kolkatada thaduna lairik makha tamthahanninglammi. Magi aningba ado macha anida phongdokkhi –

“Epagi Chinglen Nongdren. Nanao nupa Khombagi wakhal khallaroi. Epana nabanibu Guwahati da thaduna lairik tamhanningi. Adubu Amita Anita machin manaodo Guwahati da thakhre haiba tarakle. Mabani leiba maphamda nabani amuk thajinbadi epa pamde. Makhoigi mapa thekkatpa ado nongmadi thektharakkhini. Matam aduda Amita Anita anibu emou oirabasu yai, oiradrabasu thoklaba laklasanu. Nabani Kolkatada chatlo, lairik makha tamtharu haibabu kari khalli ?”

Chinglenna khumlak e –“ Pabana takpiriba ado eikhoigi laibak phabani. Adubu B.A. B.Com. loiba phaobadi Imphal College ta adum tamtharage. Emaga pabaga thadoktuna chatningdre. Pabasu Lairenpokpida posting tare. Ema mathanta kamdouna lamjaosida leihougani.”

Nongdrenna amuk pangsinduna nganglak e –“ Paba, echouna hairiba ashe achumbani. M.A., M.Com tamlamdaida khannarasi. Houjikmakkidi swaida leiba course loisinbana phagadra khanjei.”

Ibohalna hairak e –“ Phare, phare, Imphal College ta naming challaga makha tamtharo. Adugane Amita, Anita machin manaoga chithi thanabadi yadeko.”

Chinglenna khummi –“ Pabagi yathang adumak ngakchagani. Chinglen Nongdren hingli, lairik makha tamthari haiba phaoba Ashemgi emungda tahandanaba hotnajage paba.”

“Tash ! Adunidana, Irom Ibohalgi macha nupa haibado.” Irom Ibohalna apenba phondokladuna makha tana hairak e –“ Aduga, Leihao nangsou houjikti chinta puraganu. Eihak marak marakta lakkani. Nacha Khombasu nongmadi nasu nupa ama puraga hallakpadum yaiko....”

Leihaona mamit langkhatladuna hanglak e –“ Ho ! Haibiridubu Khombaga Anujaga chenminnakhi haibasibu soidrabane ?”

Ibohalna khumlak e –“ Thangmeiband dagi goonda aphaobasing machin hangbada Anuja phaba punbagi pao amtta phangdre hairi. Aduna Khombaga Anujaga machi amada soidana lotlamgani khalli.”

“Echaga emougado soidanamak hinglamba oisanu !” Leihaona asumna phongdokladuna haiphet harao mathoi kajakhi. Hek thangnaba mikupta Leihaona amuk khanjei (Mabanidi kari kamdouna hinglamgani ? Moigi nongmei paiba naharol yaoramdanako ! Onthokna pakhatcheida !)

Chahi marol marol... .

Ngaibagi pankhei manungda chahi marol marol houkhiba khanghoude. Thoudok wathok kayasu marol leikhre. Mee lak e, mee chatkhi, mee pok e. Manipur kouba leibaktasu aonba ahongba kaya leikhre. Leingak wayendasu ahongba kaya lakkhre. Mai amanba, mai akhuiba leingakpa kaya, mai anouba amuk onduna thorak e. Leibakki chaokhat khongthangdi hamu hamuni. Mai anouba, pumnou nouba luchingba kayasu chanappi khoinappi onduna karisu touba ngamkhidare. Leingakpadi ngaihak leitana hongkhi. Leingak kanglondi hannagi hanna adum lengdana leirakli aduga leibak meeyamgi punsiroldi (Hingbagi maong matoudi) ahongba leitana adum chattharakli.

Ekhang hek khanghoudana anouba chak (Yug) ama hourakle. Thanggi matam loikhre haiba tai. Thang kinaraktre. Matam amada, Mathai thainadagi houraduna thang yamna kinnark e. Ningthourel kayagi maming chatlaba thang kayagi wari, kananasu taninglaktre. Leikai leikaigi maming chatlaba, thang paiduna aphaoba herobu oiro, phattaba goonda takubu oiro, kananasu kinnaraktre. Makhoibu ngamba anouba meerol ama thorakle.

Shet Phet... !

Nongmeigi chak (yug) hourakle. Suri, katari macha ama utpada kinnaramba pumnamak suri ubada noksillakle. Thangbudi nongmeina ngamlakle. Nongmeina ngamdaba leiraktre. Nongmeina kalambu ngamlak a. Adungei, Irom Khombana laoramba 'Gun is mightier than the pen and the sword' haiba ado achumbagi shaktam louduna mapham khudingda leirakle.

Lairik tamluraga thouram taraba, sarkarna training makhal mathel thabiruraga hallakpada thabak pibidraba pakhang kaya, naharol kaya kayagi lalhou lup kaya mathang mathang lingkhatnarakle. Thabak changbada wanom sel yaodrabadi merit leibana chatnadre. 'Poverty is the parents of Revolution' haiba ado achumbagi shaktam loubu hengatlakle. Leikai leikaidagi pakhang kaya mangnakhre. Kadaida keidouba chatkhribano haibado wahangtani.

Meitrabak Manipurgi etahashta khutlai paiduna lalhoubagi thengkhang kaya leikhi. Ahanbada, Meitei leibak Manipurna bharat bhumida tinkhiba (Eng kumja 1947) matungda Hijam Irabati Singhna luchinglaga 1950 dagi 1951 phaoba ningtam lalhou lup ama hougatlammi. Eng kumja 1951 September 26 ta Irabat nonggakhi. Magi matung enbasingna eng kumja 1953 phaoba lalhoubagi eyai enil kharadi leirammi.

Matung tarakpada, prem bhakti raslomda lupsinkhraba meiteising meenai naithang purabasu amiya kaduna hinglakkhi. Eng kumja 1954 – 55 gi matung tarakpada pakhang lalhouba kaya lonna amasung phongna mathi phongba hourakle. Eng kumja 1959 -70 gi matamda lalhou lup khara mayol chongkhatlak e. Pakhang naharol kaya phagattuna Tripuranachingba mapham kayada theidoklaga bandhi thamkhi. Lalhoubagi mamu yeithekkhi. Eng kumja 1971 – 72 Manipurna mapung phaba statehood phanglaba matungdadi lalhousingbu louthokpiraga khunda leitahankhi. Selgi mateng pikhi. Makhoi masel selgi chakthung yennabada chayetnaba leibadagi Nongmeina kapthatnaba amuk hourakkhi. Adum oinamak lalhoulup kharadi lonna lonna leinarammi. Anouba – anouba lalhou lup kaya amasu mayon chongkhatlaktuna mongba hourak e. Eng kumja 1978 dadi lalhouba pakhang kayaga leingak lanmeega khut thoknaduna anouba etihaski chemai ama amuk hangdokpa hourakle. Pheengang lanmee, ngabong lanmee, ningtam lanmee, kanglei lanmee, Meitei lanmee, Pakhang lanmee asinachingba lalhou lup kaya mathi phongbasu hourakle. Lalhoulup sing asigi khutsu khutlai ningthou pallingei matamgi thang – ta, ten, gada amasung singjang adu natte. Nongmeini, maru yaoba nongmeini. Thouna pharaba pakhang lalhouba lanmeesingna policetagi, siphaidagi nongmei munba lakpagi thoudok kaya thorakle. Nongmei munnabada leingak lanmee kaya hatlamme.

Lanmee tenggol semgatpa haiba asida changdaba yadaba potchang kayamarum lei, maru oina sen thum, chana – thaknaba potlam, hawai chengwai, mana masing asinachingba kaya kaya leikhre. Lotpham leipham, lanbal sem sabada yarakte. Pumnamak adugi marudi taret senja, sana lupa changba tark e. Lairaba leibakki leibakmacha kananasu pukchel chaona lalhou lup lingkhatpada senthang puthokningde. Tasengnamak lalhou lupsingda funding touningba leirabasu phongna hekta thilluba yaba natte. Amaromdadi lalhou ama puraknaba hotnabada tangaiphadana changdaba yadraba ‘Mass consession’ haibadi meepum tingna khanghanbagi paojel sandokpagi khongjel ado khara khit thinbagum tourammi. Leibak meeyamda kihanba pokhalloidabani. Chamamnaba amasu pokhanbagi thouong kaya thorakkhi. Lalhou lup amadagi luchingba munnabagibu oiro, atei atei maramgibu oiro, Maimu faction, Maningou faction asum haina machet machet tarakpagi thoudok kayasu thorakhi. Leingakpasingna fraction kayabu khutlai oina sijinnaraga lalhou lup kayabu mutthatnabasu hotnarakhi. Joro saba kaya thorakkhi.

Adum oinamak, meitrabakki kachin koya kayada khutlai paiduna (Nongmei, bomb, rocket) lalhoubagi erang nongma – nongmagi hengatlakkhi. Nongmeina ngamdaba leirakte. Nongmei chindolda sel lakkhre, nongmei maru yaodaba utlabasu kidaba mee leite. Nongmei pairabadi manungda maru yaoramgani haiduna meeyamna

thajanei. Kari amuk hairugani, phattaba toubu kangbuna nongmei asaba pairaga kihanduna nupi kayasu sabaibikhi haibagi pao leikhi.

Lalhoubagi erang marakta taku tarang, huran chinthei toubu kharana loot pat touduna khudongchaba loubagi pao nongma – nongmagi masing hengatlakke. Counter revolutionary kayana machi machida monglakpa asina mareipak ningjaba, mangkhraba ningtamba hanjingadabani haiduna lanthengnariba kayabu mingchat thihambasu hengatlak e. Leibak meeyamda meepaiba kayasu pokhallakle. Kanabuna asengba lalhoubano, kanabuna sengdabano haibado taraina khandokpa ngamlakkehidre. Lalhou lup kaya kaya lingkhatlaga sendan lambi oina chattharaba haibagi wakhal ama leibak meeyamda pokhanba hourakle. Lalhou lup lingkhattuna masana masabu thabak pijabani haidunasu khannaraba ? Wahang kayasu hangnei. Paokhumdi kanana pirakkani.

Marak asida Nongmei Amasung Kalam thadoknaba yadaba marup amuk oirakle. Amukna yeknaba hekta oirakpasu yaodaba natte. Kalam machin theidok – theijin, semdok semjin touraga manungda senmit yennaba kayasu thokkhi. Khudam oina office amagi talap yenphamdagi nongmei chindondagi lupa lakh 10 lakkehiba ado kalam machin athoubano lupa lakh 15 lakke haiduna report tousinbasu yaokhidaba natte. Aphaadasu, phattabasus nongmei Amasung kalam thadoknaba yaraktre. Nongmata kangdana nongmei Amasung kalamgi lan chattharakkhi. Angak – angakpa e pao kayasu tarakle. Nongmei chindonda check ehanba, nongmei chindonda nupi phaba munba, nongmei chindonda namduna vote thadahanba asinachingba kaya kayani.

Nongmeina ngamdaba amatta leiraktre. Mathai thainagi ‘Kalamna thangdagi henna thou e’ haiba ado matamga chunaraktre. Irom Khombana matam amada magi oja professor Rajmanida singnaraga laorammi ‘Gun is mightier than the pen and sword’ haibado tasengnamak chumlare. Kalamna khutlai oijaba wachumsuba editor amadi paomee kayasu nongmeina kapthuraga hatkhre. Kalamgi shakti asibu leitaba ? Nongmeibu utlabadi (Maru yaodraba) wanomsen tingdraba thabak phangba yare. Appointment order kaya semdokpa yare. Kari amuk hairugani, courtki order phaoba semdokpa ngamle. Tasengnamak meehatluraba meeshak amabu kanba ngamdaba leiraktre. Angakpani ! Nongmei Amasung kalamgi lan !

Angakpa pao ama... .

Nongmadi ekhang hek khanghoudana paoche amagi ahanba chemaida phonglakle –

Ningtamba

20/7/1985

Soidon amasung khubilonggi lalhou khutpu ama lingkhatkhre hairi.

- Akhannaba paomee

Imphal, July 19 : Meitrabakki kachin koiya kayada nongma – nongmagi lalhou lup kaya lingkhatlakpagi khonghou leppa leitri. Mareibak ningba, ningtam lanmeegi mamingda taku tarang touramba meei kayasu khudongchaba louduna lalhou lup ama hekta lingkhatlaga sendol lambi oina chattharkle haibagi thajaba yaraba pao kayasu pressna phanle. Sasinnaba lalhou lupsing asina ‘Demand letter’ kaya yumsingda, emung kayada, office kayada thajinduna rensome tanbaromda henna khutmang chaosille hairi.

Ekui kuidana lambi achat – awok kayadagi nongmei chindon utlaga loot path touramba Soibam Soidon amadi magi machanupa Khubilong kouba anina meei kaya khomlaga lalhou lup amasu lingkhatkhre hairi. Loot path thokchare haiduna laothokkhibaga loinana meitrabakki ningtamba hanjinnaba hotnabada lalhou lup kayada mateng pigani haiduna laothokhre. Loinana chingkhei chingkhongda tariba khunmeesingda mateng pibiyu haiduna chejai amasu thadorakle.

Ayuk anganbagi maru oiba pao ashi hek thengnarubada, police inspector Irom Ibohal swai lao e ! Mamit langkhatli. Ningsa swar hondoklaga nungkhannei (Accha ! Eibu thok touramba mapa machado hinggatlabako ! Khangnidana ! Madi macha pakhang phaba ngaiduna nahalkhei lotliboina.)

Soidon amasung Khubilong atei kana natte. Chahi kayagi mamangda Lamden Khunouda leiba Irom Ibohalgi sangghai yumjao manungda emung hupna (Matu machaga loinana) yum mei thadoktuna sikhre haiduna leikhraba Soibam Soidon amadi magi macha Khubilong – mongphamdagi khanghoudana hinggatlakle.

Irom Ibohalna khabar pariba ashe Lairenpokpi police stationgi outpost office manungdani. Ayuk anganbagi paoche mapham asidadi line busna purakpani. Imphal mayolda chajik taraba pao ado mapham asidadi anouba paoni. Pao ashi hek thengnarubada mahak leitapham khangde. Mihul kangkak e. Khudakta mathanta chatlaga Soidon mapa macha unnaruge khallak e. Ninglakpaga thingba ngamdaba mihul ama Ibohalda lei. Khudakta khanglao laorak e –

“Ngangba ! Hoh, habildar Ngangba.”

“Sir, tajare.” Mapaldagi asumna khumlaga Ngangba ka manungda changlaktuna leplei. Thougallonga loinana makha tana hairak e –“ Sir, kari takpigadaba ?

Ibohalna hairak e –“ Ngangba maphamsidagi chingkhei ching haisibu kayam lapke ?”

“ Sir, kari karamba thoudok wathok leirabage ?” Ngangbana khangningna hanglak e.

“ Nangbu swaideini haidai, eina hanglibasi khummu. Ngangna amuk eingonda hangjillakkanu.”

“Sir, laikon surung manaktani.”

“Eigi mahousagi yeknaba Soidon mapa machagi maming ngasigi khabarda thengnare. Lalthou lup ama lingkhatlesu haija sari, asiba saduna chahi 20muk lotluraga leibak ningba... ! Phei khangni leirammudo.”

Ngangbana hairak e –“ Sir, amuktang engthabikho mapham aduda taha taha lengbikhinu. Eisu yaojage. Aduga atei atei police team amana koisillaga phanaba hotnaba tabani. Eikhoina surung manungda changluba ngamloi. Manungdagi attack tourakkani.”

“Ngangba pakhatlunu, lousingna samu phagadabani.” Ibohalna khummi.

Ngangbana hangjei –“ Atei lairi, sirga Khubilong mapa machaga nungngainadabagi maram kharadang khangjaba yagadra ?”

“ Sumdoubani Ngangba.” Irom Ibohalna mamangngeida thokkhiba thoudoksing ado sampatna liduna Ngangbada tahalle aduga waroi oina hairak e –“ Eigi eyum mei thadoklaga asiba saduna lotkhiba mapa machado khutthinaba thabak amadi toudaba yade. Eikhoi manga taruktang chatsi. Meechamgi pheejol setkadabani. Eikhoisu lalthou lup anoubani punna leiminnasi hairaga saidangpham louduna khudongchaba louraga phanaba singadoubani... .

Ngangbana marak thatchinduna hairak e –“ Aduda, sirdi shaklotpa yaroi. Eikhoi naha taruktang chatchage.”

Ibohalna oaksillak e –“ Hum, Ngangba ! Nakhoi ngakta thadokpa yade. Soidon haibado meesingni. Nakhoibu policena lalhoubas araga lakpani haibasukhanghanba yaba natte.”

Ngangbana hairak e –“ Sir ! Policetagi nongmei laklaga chenthorakpani haiduna changjapham lourubadi yagadra khanjei.”

Ibohalna yaningba utladuna hairak e –“ Phare, houjikmak chatnaba tousi. Eina mapham chaba amada lotlaga leige. Nakhoina nongma nini makhoiga torot khodannanaba hotnaraga koiba puthorakpa ngambra yengo. Maha taku mapa machado hingna pharaga sarkarda sinnaningngi. Tangai phadrage kapthuraga loisinba tai. Makhoi hatpada karisu yadaba leiroy. Meina chaktuna sijakhre haiduna khabarda phongkhrabani. Police enquiry report amasu mahousa leikhrabani. S.I. Ramjayda charge sinnaramlaga chatnaba tousi.”

“Phani sir, maha taku Soidon haibado handakti soithabara kapthubara tousi.” Ngangbana ngaihak khallaga makha tana amuk hanggatchei –“ Toubatabu sir, khongbu oigadabasing adudi sirna khabibana phagadra khanjei.”

“ Ado nangdi mapham asigi ariba Darukani, echang thoubas constable kharagi maming hairak u ei kouge.”

“Sir, Lairenpokpigi Ngangba ei ama leijare.” Ngangbana ngaihak khallaga samtharak e –“ Keibigi Ngouba, Sektagi Rabei, Pungdongbamgi Khamba, Lamlaigi Kharou, Tangkhamgi Tanglei makhoi manga asi koubiba yai.”

“Ngangba, nakhoibu mahousagi meitei state committee haiba lup aduda yaorambra ?”

“Ahoi sir, kabak kabak samnarammi. Meeting ahum marirak yaorammi. Naga lalhou lupki matung enba oina leibagi wapham lakpadagi eikhoi tokhoubani. Matungda lamdamsigi netagi worker oiduna police oiba phangjakhibani.”

“Phare, chak esing charaga engna tapna chatsi. Nang ama yare. Ateido eina lak u hairuro. Kharouga Tangleigadudi kharasu sathiramdousu malli. Ahanbada Ramjay kourak u.”

“ Sir, ngamnamak sathiba ngaktani.”

“Aduga nangdi...?” Irom Ibohalna nokphet touna hangngi.

“Sir, esagi wadi haijararoi. Houren mayamda hangbiro.” Ngangbana asumna hairamlaga ka adudagi mapan thokkhre.

Inspector Irom Ibohal nokphet touna leihou e. Mamitta Soidon Khubilong urak e.

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Lairenpokpi police outpost ki second O.C. oiriba Okram Ramjay Singh thunglare. Mapandagi yathang loubu oina khol hourapna hairak e –“ May I come in sir !”

Inspector Irom Ibohalgi mamitta uramba Soidon Khubilong mapa machagi shakmee mangkhre. Aphing aphai oina manungdagi nganglak e –“ Ramjay, changlak u changlak u.”

S.I. Ramjayna ka adugi thongda kanna houna – lonchat ngakpa oina khalliba phekhal(prada) adu makhut yetna haidoklaga changlakle. Mathak thongba officer da salami tou e. Aduga hai –“ Sir, eibu koubibabu... .”

“ Ramjay, ne tana amuktang phamkho.”

“Yes sir.” Ramjayna ashi hairaga phamthare.

First O.C. oiriba Irom Ibohalna ngasi ayukki thengna phangba ‘Ningtamba Paoche’ ado Ramjayda lansilladuna hairak e –“ Ngasigi headline ado amuktang hanna pabikho.”

Ramjayna makholdi thokpa toudana paoche ado mamitna wahei pareng amatta chitthaba toudana pathokle aduga khanghai hairak e –“ Sir, Soidon amasung Khubilong mapa machagi maming tajaba kuirabani. Khunmeesingna report kayasu tourakkhrabani. Eina luchingduna kayarak chatcharure. Nongpok maikei ashe mapa machagi taku khutpuna palli haiba tai. Nongmana Angom Khunouda leire haidana chatluraga hekta leiramde. Maring Khuman youkhre hekta hairak e. Khunmeesingna su kidadagi lotpham tak u haiba yadaduna leirakpani. Meehatpa, taku tarang toubu mapa macha aduna leibak ningba lalhoubu onduna saphonglakpa asina kari karamba lallong oidourijatno ?”

“S.I. Ramjay, Anti revolutionary oinaba sarkarna lup kaya thadorakle haibagi report lonna phangkhikha leibra ?” Ibohalna hanglak e.

Ramjayna khumlak e –“ Lalhou lup kharadi fraction takhre haibagi pao phangkhre. Sarkarna manungda sillibra haibagi leekhundi phangjadri.”

Ibohalna hairak e –“ Any way, eihakki yeknaba Soidon chahi 20gi matungda hinggatlakle. Eihak Lairenpokpida transfer lakle haiba mahak taramba yai. Aduna mabu thirak u haibagi barton, ngasigi paocheda phonglakle. Eihak mabu phaba chatluge. Nahakna office ashi cheksinna ngakpihou haibabu... .”

Ramjayna hairak e –“ Atei lairi Sir, chahi kungi mamangda Soidonbu sikhre haibiriba adu maram kharadang hanna khangjaningi.”

“Sumdoubani... .” Inspector Ibohalna asumna wahouraga Lamdeng khunouda thokkhiba thoudok wari ado pourapna liraduna Ramjayda tahalle.

Ramjayna wari ado munna taraba matungda khanghai hairak e –“ Sir, maha taku mapa macha ado loisinnabagi operation ado eihak chatchage. Sir lengbikhinu. Lanaigi wapham ado lapna thambikho. Lalhoubagi mingchat thinaba maongda khudong chaba lounaba hotnariba Soidon Khubilong anibu Hingna phaba ngamdrabasus asiba hakchang ado purakpa ngamnaba hotnajage.”

“S.I. Ramjay !” Inspector Ibohalna ngaihak khallaga hairak e –“ Eina nangonda thajaba thamjei. Eina, Ngangbana luchingba makhoi tarukpu meechamgi pheejol da tharaga makhoigi lalhou lup aduda yaohallaga phanaba hotnasira haidunasu khalli.”

Ramjayna oaksillak e –“ Sir madu touragumsi, matam changgani. Ngangba, Tanglei, Kharoukhoibu mashak maming khangba oiramlabadi operation adu mai pakningngai oiroy.”

“Adudi eisu yaona chatlasidana. Eibu singnaduna hinggatlak eba mapa machabudi maru phangna mutthatningngi.”

“Sir, head quartergi ayaba ama louraga akoibagi chingkhong chingya yaona combing operation ama chatnaba tousira ?”

“Ramjay, nanggi waphamdo yamna chaothokkhidoure. Eina asum khanbada Soidon mapa machagi lup ado eigi ephamda keku phongbadanggi paocheda happa malli. Wapham amana tasengba lalhou lup singna makhoibu changjapham pibinaba khadrak toubani.”

Ramjayna khummi –“ Sir, madusu oigani. Sasinnaba lalhou lup kaya asengba lalhou lup kayana hatkhre.”

“Ramjay, tasengbadi chahi kayagi matungda Soidon mapa macha hingli haiduna laothorakliba ashi eingonda tasengna singnabani, makhoibu ngamlaga hatcharulao haiduna barton touribani aduna eihak chatpa tabani.”

“Phare sir, lenglasi. Head quarterda message amadi thajaramge. Eikhoigi outpost station asida mee khara yamna thabiraknaba haijaramge haibabu... .”

“Ramjay, nangna pheii haibado touro. Eidi thekkatpa sir adugadi wa ngangningdre.” Ibohalna khummi.

“Sir, thekkatpa sir haisibu... .”

“Ramjay, houjik head quarter pairiba nakhoigi sir Tolendo eiga mai channadre, houjikti.”

“Sir, eihak bap tajare. Ngai sen oinabagi wapham ama leirambado houjikti toknabirabra ?”

“Ramjay, toknare haiba tare. Magi machanupi Anuja mangkhibado eigi echa Khombada chenkhiani hairi. Khanghou uhoubasu leiba natte. Machanupido meetop amana pharambasu yai. Echa nupa Chinglen Nongdren aniga machanupi Amita Anita anigasung pungba oigadaba mandre. Eigi echa anisu mapanda leikhre. Echa amana thipham khangkhidre. Tolengi machanupi ahaldi doctor oikhre. Machanupi yaima Anitadi M.A. tamloi haiduna Imphalda thoraklaga Atiyabani loishangda pao pabi oina thabak changkhre. Pao amana ehe, warise pheireng chatkhre, Ramjay.”

“Pheireng chatteda sir. Emung manunggi nungngaina e pao kharasu sum khangjilhouba phaba khanjei. Sirgi echanupa Atomba Khombagi e paodi amtta tabikhidrabra ?”

“Takhidre... .” Inspector Ibohalna ngaihak khallaga makha tana amuk hairak e –“ Adubu, mahaksu lalhou lup amada yaoramgadra haina chingnabadi lei. Ngasi phaobadi paocheda maming phonglakpa thengnadri.”

“Kanana khangba sir !” Ramjayna ngaihak khallaga hairak e –“ Kangleikhomba kouba lalhoulup amagi luching purelgi maming ama taribase... .”

Ramjaygi wangang loiphattringeida Inspector Ibohalna khanghai hairak e –“ Hoine, hoine, Ramjay ! Oiramba yaine. Makhoi lalhoubasing asidi ayambana maming matha onthang onsin touneiko... .”

“Tounei sir... matou adumna Soidon amasung Khubilong ani adusu meetop anina thainagi mapa machagi mamingduda taku tarang sannarambasu yaiko... .”

“Madusu oithokpa yai.” Ibohalna mamit langkhatlak e.

“Amabu oirabasu sir, opretion di chatpa tai.” Ramjayna ngaihak amuk khallaga makha tana hairak e –“ Thiriba tabani, Soidon Khubilong amadi Kangleikhombagi lalhou khutpu.”

Inspector Ibohalna phamlambadagi phuk hougatli aduga hairak e –“ Chatsi houjikmak. A.S.I. Homenda charge sinnarammu. Eidi thok ako.”

Ibohalna wahei khara asi hairamlaga ka adudagi mapan thokkhre. Ramjayna machinda “Sir Sir” hairaga matung ennakhre.

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Chingkhei chingkhongda thungkhre.

Inspector Irom Ibohalna luchingba police mapalgi khutpu ama Chingkhei Chingkhongda thungkhre. Makhoi yamna cheksinna, heisingna changsillak e. Makhoigi thungpham forest bit amada oirui. Lalhoubasinggi leipham lotpham haiba asimaktabu umang wamang, chingnung manungda oigalli. District khudingda leiriba D.F.O. singgi office ayambada lalhoubasingna namphu haphu touraga saidangduna leiba yao e. Karigumba da lalhoubasingna forest guardki pheejol setlaga lotna phongna leibas yadaba natte. Reserve forest manungda lalhoubasinggi camp oibas yao e. Mathi phongdoknaba yabadi natte. Adum leiminnabasu yao e. Amagi marum amana thuplaga, mathou mathou pangthoknaba hotnei haiba tai. Khutthoknaruba yabadi natte. Chingkhong chingyada leiba umang wamang ayambadi lalhoubayagi lotpham oiri haiba sarkar pairiba kangbuna khang e. Thadoktuna thambani. Masi punnamak Inspector Irom Ibohalna khangngi, yamna munna khang e.

Ibohalgi khutpuna thungluba matam ado, nungthilgi matamdani. Chingkhei Chingkhong mayagi forest bit manungda leiriba forest guardsing adu thoina thabak achinba leitabana chena satpi sannaduna leirammi.

Inspector Ibohalna aham ahaga amatta toubatoudana office manungda mathanta changlaga chena satpi sannaphamda leplui. Mayam adunadi Ibohalbu ukhide. Makhoi loinamak ekoi koina phamladuna magi magi chenada mityeng thamnarammi.

Ibohalna khanghai hairak e –“ Show ! Show tounaroda... mapham asi forest breedla natraga juwar khep lingphamla...?”

Forest guardsing ado khangprek khangprek khangladuna mamai shat phat haigatlaga yengthoklak e. Police officer ama leptuna leiramba adu ubada mayam ado phuk phuk hougatnei. Juwargi che lotsinnei. Salam kotnei.

Forest guardsing adugi marakta ngakchao theklap touba ama yaori. Mahakna Inspector Ibohalgi lengbanda tongduna leiriba star ahum adu munna yenglaga hanglak e –“ Sirbu asengba police inspector oibirabra ?”

Ibohalna takhatlapna hanglak e –“ Hei nangi naming kari kou e ?”

“Kondum kou e !” Ngakchao thekpa forest guard aduna khummi.

“ Inspector Irom Ibohalgi maming karigumbada takhibra ?” Ibohalna khangnot notsilli.

Kondumna tetharaduna hairak e –“ Tajakhi sir. Houjikna Lairenpokpi outpostki O.C... ”

“Nakhoigi forest, Ranger nattraga A.F.O. di kana, kanana oiri ?” Ibohalna takhatlap adum hangngi.

Atoppa forest guard amana heipa saduna khummi –“ Sir, Ranger sahebto mayumda chatkhi. Bit asigi in chargedi Kondumni.”

Inspector Ibohalna nokphet touraga hairak e –“ Ranger ado maming kari koubage hangbani.”

Kondumna oaksillak e –“ Ngakpigani sir. Maniratan kou e, eikhoigi Ranger.”

“Phare, nakhoigi mateng khara pammi.” Inspector Ibohalna ngaihak khallaga makha tana hairak e –“ Sumdoubani, Chingkhei Chingkhonggi alaka asida Soidon amadi Khubilong kouba anina luchingduna lingkhatpa lalhou lup ama leire haiba nakhoidi yarabra ?”

Kondumna khumlak e –“ Soidon amadi Khubilong mapa machagi maming tajei, mashaksu khangjei. Mapa machabu khwaina kinei. Makhoidi taku tarang touba huranba, meehatpa oina khangnei. Lalhoubu oinadi khangnadedu, sir.”

Ibohalna hairak e –“ Nahalkhei taku tarang touramba ado ngasidagidi lalhou lup ama lingkhatle haiduna pao cheda phonglak e. Eikhoi mabu thiba, phaba lakpani. Ngasidagi chahi 20 gi mamangda Lamdeng Khunougi shanggai yumjao manungda matu machaga loinana mei thadokchaduna sikhre haiduna leikhrabani. Houjik hingatlak le. Tangdangba ama khangnaba thidoktaba yadre. Aduna nakhoigi mateng khara pammi. Leipham tak u, aduga wapham amana eikhoigi forest guardki uniform

setningni. Police oina changsillabadi makhoi chenkigani. Nakhoigadi marak marakta unnadana shakhang maikhangnaramgani khalli.”

Ngasaidagi wa machet amatta ngangdana leirakliba S.I. Ramjayna khanghai hairak e –“ Sirna operation asida manggil thaduna changlurabadi makhoi nanthokkhiba yai, aduna eihak mang thajage.”

Kondumna marak khangthat thatchinduna hairak e –“ Sir, eihak mang thajage. Eiga munna khangnajei. Eihak kouthokchage. Nahalkhei ethou natabanina khut thakhidabani. Houjikti, leibakki, meeyamgi yeknababu maru phangna mutthatpada pangba yaba mateng pangjage. Toubadadi Inspector saheb lottuna leibiyu. Meeshak chummi, chumde haibado munna yengbiraga enggit pibirak u. Shoot haiduna laobirak u.”

Ibohalna khumlak e –“ Makhoibu Hingna phagadabani, Kondum. Makhoina hanna khut tharaklabadi kapthatnaba yai.”

“Sirgi apamba ado thungnaba Eikhoina ngambamakheidi hotnajage.” Kondumna makha tana hairak e –“ Mayam forest guardki uniform hongdokpiro. Numidang wairamgi round chatpa matam yourakkadoure. Makhoisu mongba thorakpa yai.”

S.I. Ramjayna mamit langkhatlaga khanghai hairak e –“ Aeh : Nakhoidi nungtigi thengnabra, Kondum ?”

Kondumna khummi –“ Sir, leibak anigi ngamkhei ngakpa lanmeesing nungtigi thengnabagumbani. Hek ubada khut thanei, kapthatnou haibagi orderdi leitabanina achat awokta thengnabani.”

Inspector Ibohalna ngaihak khallaga hanglak e –“ Kondum, eikhoibu zeep pusira ? Khongna chatsira ?”

Kondumna khumlak e –“ Sir eikhoi kharadi khongna adum chatpana phagani. Laptakna zeep ennabirak u.”

Ibohalna khummi –“ Phare nangna pheii haibado adum touro, pambei amana oirabasu Soidon Khubulong anidi phadaba yadeko.”

“Sir, karimta chingnabiruganu.” Kondumna thajaba piraduna hairak e –“ Leikai leikaida Soidon Khubulong anigi khutpuna nongmei maru yao e yaodesu khangdaba nongmei amamam paisillaga lekchaduna leirakpasi kuirabani.”

Inspector Ibohalna khangningna hanglak e –“ Atei lairi Kondum, Soidongi makhwangda thangpak sangtakpa ama yanba adudi karigumbada ukhibra ?”

“Sir !” Kondumna khara ngaklapna hairak e –“ Thanggi Yug loikhiduna nongmeigi yug houraba matamsidabu kadaidei thangnoda... .”

“Kondum, Soidondi moirang thang tokpanba murang haibado matam pumbada thadoktabani. Khwai mayam usanu haiduna pheethakta thanghai makhumba loinana khwanglak ama phaba ukhbra ?”

Kondumna khummi –“ Thang yanbadi nongmatasu ujakhide.”

Ibohalna chingnarap touna amuk hairak e –“ Adudi kondum, Nangga mashak khangnei hairiba Soidon ado meetop ama oiramdou malleda. Mahakna magi salai thang keidoungeidasu thadoktabani. Phare, matamga chunnadre, sattok satchinda pangani haiduna mayumda lattuna thamlambasu yare.”

Ramjayna hairak e –“ Sir amabu oire, anouba lalhou khutpu nattraga taku kangbu oiro takkhairurasi.”

Ibohalna hairak e –“ Phare chatsi, zeep animak thouro.”

Hek thangnaba mikupta, policeki amadi forestki team punsillaga Chingkhei Chingkhong taba ashamba lambi amada zeep animak thoujinkhre.

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Chingkhei Ching... !

Imphal mayoldagi nongpok chingkhei pangbada lei haiduna chingkhei ching kounei. Lairenpokpi hairaga nouna khangnariba police station asidagi thoina lappa mapham natte. Chingkhei chinggi akoibada nongpok kameng, nongdam, phaknung, sawombung asinachingba khul kaya takhre. Aphongba, aronba lambi achouba, lambi macha kaya lei. Chingkhei chingdagi phaodok phaojin amadi chenthok – chensin tounaba umang wamang, mongsok kayasu leikhre. Lalhoubabu oire, taku tarang toubameerotpu oiro, makhoigi nungngairaba makol amani. Chingkhei chingdagi leplaga ekoi koina yengbada chingnaningai oiba police ki gari nattraga armygi gari thoujillak e haibanachingba kaya uba ngammi. Maram asimaktana mapham asibu lotpham leipham chaba camp ama oiribani. Toubatabu chingthakta amadi chingmaigi akoibada saidang shang saba, leiba identity. Makhal mathel kayagi ujao pambi kayana ekoi koina houkhri. Chinggi umang amani haiba yai. Chingkhong chingyagi pak chaoraba leikoi rel adusu umangni. Maram aduna forest bit ama thamlibani. Mapungda Chingkhei ching asi achouba lanban amanihaibamak yai. Chingmaigi umangda amadi

chingdongi umangda lotliba lalhoubabu oiro, taku tarang toubabu oiro, meerotsing adionadi mathaktagi yengtharakpada pumnamak uba phanglamgani. Makhadagi mathakta yengkhatpa matamdadi karisu, kanasu uba phangde. Aduga Kondumnachingba forest guardsingga Soidon, Khubilong khutpugi lalhoubaga kamdouna koithokpada unnariba ? Masi nattana wahang amasu chongthorak e. Mapham asida pressmen singbu kouraga yamna thouna leina Soidon mapa macha saphongle haiduna phonghalliba ? Makhoibu, natik leiraga policena, armyna phabirulao haiduna singnaba ngamliba asina takpadi karigumba aronba lallong ama leipham thoktabra ?

Chingkhei ching operation gi luchingba oiduna lakliba (houjikna forest rangergi uniform tholliba) inspector Irom Ibohal momon momon tou e. Wa amtta ngangde. Mathanta wakhal kayamarum khalli. Tupi aphanba ama laibak phaoba chingtharaga uppi. Sunglass amuba amasu uppi, mashak lotnaba hotnari. Manakta phamliba S.I. Ramjayna magi sirda wahang kaya hangninglak e. Machin hek kangthokpasu hanggoirammi. Mahakna operation ado, mai pakkani haiba thajaramde. Khabarda pao phonghillaga thamlamlaga chellamgani khalli.

Tanja aduda Kondumna thouriba forestki zeep khamkhre. Ngangbana thouriba policeki zeepsu khamkhre. Mahei mahei kumthanare. Follin touduna lepnakhre.

“Kondum !” Inspector Ibohalna hourapna kouraga hanglak e –“ Keidoure ? Swaida khamlaga changsi haibra ?”

Kondumna khumlak e –“ Sir, chingkhong youna gari thoujinba nungngairoi. Khongna umang manungda changsi.”

S.I. Ramjayna nokphet touraga hairak e –“ Kondum, nangna tourisibu... nangbu thajadabadi natteko, Soidon Khubilong hairiba mapa macha ado leiramdou mankhidreda ! Khabarda thouna leina pao phongdoklamlaga mapham amada chellamdou mankhreda. Mandrane, Kondum ?”

Inspector Ibohalna khanghoudana oaksillak e –“ S.I. Ramjay, nangna khalliba wakhal ado eisu ngasaidagi khanduna laklibani.”

Kondumna hairak e –“ Sir anina khanbiriba wakhal ado chummi. Lotpham leipham khabarda phongdoklamlaga mapham amada leirampham thok e. Adubu Chingkhei ching lanban asigi khwaina khangnadaba aronba ama lei. Aronba ado eitanadi lonna thupna uruduna khangjaba khara lei. Police amadi armygi combined forcena landaba ngammoi aduna khabrad pao phongdoklibani.”

Inspector Ibohalna hangngi amasung hairake –“ Aronba ado karino ? Houjikti haidoklodana. Taku tarang toubabu yokkhattuna thamlagumsi.”

“Phani, sir changsillasi.” Kondumna hairak e –“ Eihak mang thajage. Eikhoi mapham amada transfer chattoure. Anouba khutpu ama thunglare, nakhoi meerotsingga shakhang maikhangnaru lao haina kouthokchage. Makhoi soidana thorakkani. Matam aduda khutlai thaba toudana khut soknabiyu. Makha tabasi Sir anina pheih haibado toubiro.”

Inspector Ibohalna ngaihak khallaga amuk notsillak e –“ Kondum nangi plan ado eikhoi yare. Ado, nangna Chingkhei ching lanban asigi aronba ama lei haibado, karino ? Madusu eikhoida khanghallo. Pambei amanabu oirabasu Soidon mapa machabudi hingna phaningngi.”

Kondumna chatna chatna hairak e –“ Sir ! Chingthakta chingkhei ningthou haiduna khangnaba laipham, laishang ama lei. Chingkhadagi yengkhatpada mashak uba phangde. Chingthak ashe songlaba umangni. Laishang asida lai panaba ahal, masam khakpa makoi marang yamna chomba ama mamit uisalladuna leiramgani. Laishang manungda tabak paiba laigi murti ama latli. Laigi phambak ado leithok leisin enthok ensin touraga manungda kumthapham thak lei. Ching manung ashe mahousdagi leirakpani. Aronba surung kupha achouba ama lei. Laipu aduna thiduna puthokpani. Maduda lottuna leikhraba lalhoubabu oire, takubu oiro kananasu phaba ngambagi wapham leite. Adunabu pao phongdoklibani.”

“Ado, houjikti Chingkhei chinggi aron athup pumnamak khanglabanina... .” Inspector Ibohalna ngaihak leplaga khanghai hekta hairak e –“ Laipu ado hanna pharaga thamlasi. Laikhum surung thong hangdokhallaga handgranade mari manga pin satlaga manungda langthabadi kamdou e ?”

S.I. Ramjayna khapchillak e –“ Sir, maduna khwaidagi laiba pambeini. Houjikti ‘Shoot at sight’ touro haibagi act amana eikhoida power amasu piduna leirabanina panthaba touragumsi, hekta loisinbana pharagani. Mata charingeida eikhoi mayam pham mathang mathang kakhathounaba toubasu phabra khanjei.”

Inspector Ibohalna amuk oaksilladuna hairak e –“ Hoidahei, nongmeina tora tuna kapsillaga kupha surung manungda lotliba mayamdo hottoklasi aduga makhoi hanna attack tourakpadagi police force na ngakthoknaba khut hanbada makhoi sikhiani haiduna F.I.R. phajaba ama kalamna esu ngaidana.”

S.I. Ramjayna amuk yaningba utladuna hairak e –“ Sir ! Nongmei Amasung kalamgi lan, adumna loisinbatana araiba pambeini.”

Kondumna pakhatchana hairak e –“ Sir, animak madutadi toubiganu. Makhoiga munna shakkhang maikhangnakhoda... kanana khangba, meerotsing adugi marakta Inspector sirgi echa ama mangkhi haibado yaoramjadi kamdouna ?”

“Kondum !” Inspector Ibohalna ningsa swar asangba ama hondoklaga makha tana hairak e –“ Mapham matamgi matung enna, police officer amana maral leiraba macha amabu nongmeina kapthuraga hatpa yai. Echabu kankhatlaga meechabu hatpadi eihak yaningde. Amabu oiro, houjikti chingkhong youre. Nangna pamlibado touro, eihakti mongsong marakta lottuna leirage... .”

“Phani, mapham chana leibiro.” Kondumna makha tana hairak e –“ Eikhoi changsillage.”

Kondumgi paotak matung enna Inspector Ibohal mongsong amagi manungda changsillaga lotkhre. Kondumna luchingba khutpu aduna chingkhong kham thenгна changsillaga leptuna leikhre.

Kana amtta chek mok laokhidre.

41

“Hoh laipu maiba !”

Forest guard Kondumna machinbalda makhubak anina khomjillaga hourapna kou e amasung makah tana hanggatchei –“ Hayengdagi eikhoi taruk thabak mapham hongba tare, anouba khutpu ama thunglare. Etao, Khubilong gi khutpu aduga shakkhang, maikhangnahoubadi phabra khanduna lakchabani, amuktang pao pibiyu.”

“Kondum !” Chingdongdagi Kondumbu kouraduna hairak e –“ Sarkargi thabaksi thuida. Lakesingdubu police natraga armydi natteko... ?”

“Hoh epu ebungo laipu ! Einabu oidaba nganggadra ?” Kondumna makha tana laokhatli –“ Epuna hanna kumtharaklaga hek yengbiru lao. Eibu thajabidraga ei chatchare. Tungda itao Ibohalkhoiga leiminnaba nungngainaba haibibani. Leijahouroko, ei chatle, chatle.”

“Heh Kondum ! Ngaikhone nangbo.” Mathaktagi laipu aduna makha tana hairak e –“ Nangbu thajadabagi wa nattene.”

Kondumna oaksillak e –“ Adudi epu hanna lengthabirak u, anouba rangerga amuktang shakkhangbirulao.”

“Phare, phare, eikhoi mapalmak kumtharaklage.” Ngaihaktang ngairamkho chingdoldagi khumlak e.

Mongsong manungda lumlaga makhutta pistol ama pairaduna leiriba inspector Ibohalna chingdoldagi khumlakpa paokhum ado taraga khalli –“ Hehra, makhoi mapalkhak leiraga achouba lalhou lup ama leibadouna masong phanba sariboi... mapa macha adutangdi hingna phaba ngamdre, hekta kapkhairage. Eingonda achouba namthak ama touduna leitahankhidaba taku mapa macha, khangnidana ngasidi... !”

Matam kharagi matungda Chingkhei chingmaigi ahangba (umanggumna urak mongsong) maraktagi meei 9 khak mari mari kumtharakle. Mangjil thariba nupa adu ahalni, masam khak e, ningsa labagi matougumna jom jom thadok e, makoi marang chommi. (Khajai nak yetta) Khadang koisu phana sangna chomtharakle, foot amuk phaningchit oigani. Mashak lotliba haiba ado oigani. Setliba pheejolsu pheengangni, elliba ennapheesu pheengangni. Toubatabu kurao angangbagi machudi natte. Ureirom machusu natte. Kuhi (khara murti nganglei toubu) eegi machuni. Meitei laiphao natraga tungtak wa ama lei. ‘Pheengang setpana mai pakkani (jay oigani)’ hainaba ama lei. Maduda yamna chatna thajaduna luchinglak liba ahal ado pheengang thonba malli. Mee meegi thajabada setningba, enningba charei pheejet thonjaba karisu athingba leite. Toubatabu, loubukta leikhom leinang teiduna Lou uribasingbu ‘Pheengang setpana jay oini’ haibani haiduna nunghanthok oibasuhengnei. Yetnaba, nunglon mannadaba haiba asidi meitrabak Manipurgi thadoknaba yadraba wayet amani. Mee magi apamba aningba ado toujasanu.

Pheengang thonba ahal asi laipu maiba haiduna Kondumna koukhiba meeshak aduni. Mahakki matungda ahangba machugi uniform (Phuritsu khonggraosu tupisu khonggupsu bhootsu) thonba tamba meekok 8 khak matung ellak e. Makhoi 8 di three – note – threegi nongmei amamam marengban, marangbanda yallak e. Laipu maiba adudi pheengang ennaphee ama oirom thangba lengbanda haigatlaga elli. Makhut hairaga kumtharak e. Khutlai paiba ude. Pheenungda pistol natraga thangpak yeplambadi yai. Meitei waheida ‘Sadhu cheng changba’ haiba ado oirambasu kanana khangba ? Amabu oire, mahakna luchingduna chingmaida ngamtharaktuna kumtharakliba lalhoubu mapal ado chingkhong yourakle. Mathang manao pareng lengduna leikhre.

Makhoi mayamgi shakmee mashak masolbu nakna chingsillaga lap – mit (binocular) yengduna mongsong manungda lumliba inspector Irom Ibohalna nungkhannei. (Mangjil thariba laipu maiba, makoi marang, masam mana jom jom, maraibakta khudon ahumna chingleibak machugi leisakasu chingladuna laipu maiba sariba asibu, asibu... mannida... Soibam Soidon ! Nungngaida, nakhongna namang thiba lakledana.

Nangdadi hingna mapharagedo, ngamdaba thokle mathwai hekta lourage. Piklingeida ukhiba khubilongna karambano ?)

S.I. Ramjay amadi Kondumna luchingba forest guardki pheejol setpa makhoi mayamsu mamai awang ollaga leptuna leikhre. Khutai paiba ngaktani. Khutpu anigi lapnaba ado foot manga/taruk oigani. Mashak mashak unnakhre, mahei mahei yengnei. Nongmei kadam tounade.

Kondumna ahanba oina houdokpa oina hairak e –“ Epu maiba ! Eiga loinaduna lakchariba mayam ashe shakhangnabiyu. Eikhoidi hayeng ayuk atoppa mapham amada chatlagani. Mathang mathang maming takchage. Laipuga maiyoknariba sir asina foresterni, mamingna Okram Ramjay kou e. Yamna eng – tappa officerni.”

S.I. Ramjayna marak khangthat thatchinduna nganglak e –“ Laipu lainingbagi asengba mingbu kari koubibage ? Ming atei leibidraha ?”

Laipu maiba ado khoutak toubadouba pak hekta maming asengba haidorakte. Ngaihaktang khanjanei. Paokhumdi pidaba yadabanina uttlei palei toubagi maongda khumlak e –“ Eibo... laipu maiba haiduna adum khangnare.”

S.I. Ramjayna takhatlap touna notsillak e –“ Laipu maiba oina adum pokpirakpra ? Ahal lamanna ming amatta thonbiramdrane ?”

Laipu maibana amuk takhatlap touna oaksillak e –“ Eigi eming Soibam Soidon kou e.”

“Esh ! Kijareda... .” Ramjayna ashi hairaga maninglomda khongkap ani handorak e aduga laipu maiba Soibam Soidonbu mamit kuptana yenglaga makha tana hairak e –“ Forest guard singsu handokpirak u khongkao ani aduga lalhou lup amagi luchingbu salammi amuktangdum hanna katkhisi. Karina eikhoi nongmei paiba masen amagi mateng amana pangnaraga, amagi marum amada thupnaraga adum leiminnaba tabani.”

“Sirna takpiriba adu tasengnamak achumbani.” Laipu maibaga thangnana lepliba naha amana marak thatchinduna nganglak e amasung santharak e –“ Umang khudingmakta lalhoubu kayagi camp oiribani. Forest guardki dress setlaga kaya amasu lotnaribani. Aduna leingak lanmeena lalhoubu phaba ngamdribani. Umangna lalhoubasinggi lotpham, leipham chunggoi oiribani.”

S.I. Ramjayna amuk kappsilli –“ Somgi mingna Khubilong koubibara ?”

“Ahoi, eigi eming Khubilong koujei.” Naha aduna makha samtharaduna nganglak e –“ Adubu yengbiyu, hoijikti khubi arongbado kakthatchare.”

Ramjayna amuk kaksinba oina hairak e –“ Adudi mathang khanbabu Khubikak haiduna koujaba yareko !”

“Aeh : yamna lingbei wara ?” Khubikakna amuk muksillak e.

“Natchade, natchade... .” S.I. Ramjayna kisinnaba matou utladuna makha tana hairak e –“ Hingminnasi eikhoi, siminnagumsi eikhoi, khutlai thadoknaraga mapa mapa amuktangdum konnasido. Guardsing khutlai leimaida thadakhre, eikhoi yeknaba oina leiminnaba yapot natte.”

“Hoine maduna pheine.” Kondumna pangsinba oina hairak e –“ Etao, nouna Thunglaba forest guard sing aduga laipu maiba Soibam Soidongi khutpusu khutlai thadok u aduga nungsi channana leiminnaba yanaba leng onnaba mayam amuktang emangda konnabiro.”

“Hoine hoine maduna pheine.” Laipu maibana makha tana nganglak e –“ Handakki anouba forester asidi yamna leibak macha taine. Epagi Khubilong ! Aduga ateisu khutlai thamnaro. Eikhoi mapa mapa nungshi channana lotpa yanaba konnarasi.”

Kondumna marak mensinba oina hairak e –“ Etao Khubilong ! Ehe, Khubi kakkhre haiko... atei lairi houjikpu kari haina minggoujou haibano ?”

“Maduni luriba.” Laipu maibagi mingthol louraga lotliba Soibam Soidonna makha tana hairak e –“ Echagi maming ateisu tholhoudre. Khubilongna pok e haiduna thonkhiba mingdo khubi kakkhre haiduna Khubikak koubasibu phajaribrane, Kondum ?”

Kondumna oaksillak e –“ Paochedasu Khubilong haiduna phongkhribanido, madunasu henna maming chatpa henganida. Hanna Khubilonglammi khangnanaba adum kourasida. Meena hek tabadasu aki tujungba pokpa henganida.”

“Chummi chummi !” S.I. Ramjayna hairak e –“ Maduna henna pakcharagani. Lalhoubu Khubilong natraga taku Khubilong haiduna maming chatpa henganida.”

“Ash ! Arembei khubi kakthatluida.” Khubilongna asumna mathanta taksi sonjei.”

Kondumna hairak e –“ Etao, houjikti amuk chongkhatlaklaroida... ningdon pomluranu. Adui saruk mayam konnabiro. Eikhoiromdagi nouna leihougadaba forest guardsing ashe mathang manao naiduna maming matha amuktang haijage. Anisubada lepliba asina Lairen Ngangba, Keibi Ngouba, Sekta Rabei, Pungdongbam Khamba, Lamlai Kharou, Tangkham Tanglei, Sawombung Saiba, ei esa Koi renggei Kondum eikhoi mapal. Etaokhoigi mayamdo einabudi maming khangjei adubu etaona amuktang mathang manao naiduna takpiyudo.”

Khubilongna hairak e –“ Phani, ei takchage. Eikhoi paji ebanibudi mayamna khangbire. Adumakpu ‘ Nongpok haram lalhou lup’ asambida ‘Nonghoulup’ asigi phamdou takpa oina amuk mathang manao naiduna shaktak ming takchage. Laipu maiba hairaga khangnariba Soibam Soidon, eikhoigi thouburenni. Mathangda Khubilong esamak thouyangbani. Mathang asina Lamlai Manihal, Maniyaima, Maniton machin manao ahum, mathang asina Chalou Mongba, Nongdam Nongyai, Purum Pukchao, mathang asina Phaknungdagi Phakchao eikhoi 9 asina mapung yumbuni. Atei mayam amasu changlakkadouri.”

Forestergi dress setliba (S.I. shaklotpa) Ramjayna nokphet touna hairak e –“ Houjikti eikhoi 18 gi shaktak loirabanina mapa mapa konnarasido aduga wapham amana nakhoisu adum umang wamang, chingnung manungda lotlu, eikhoisu khangsinnaroi. Keigi mapal napina tangngi. Napigi mapal keina tangngi haibado tounaba tabanido.”

Laipu maiba Soidonna hairak e –“Madumakni eikhoina pamjabasu. Nonghoulupki lalloising ! Khutlai thadoklaga mapa mapa konnarasido... .”

Maikei animakki khutpu singna magi magi mapagi nongmei leimaida thamkhre. Aduga mahei mahei hotchinnaduna konnare. Yamna nungshi channana leng onnana konnabaga loinana pak thadoknakhide.

Ekhang hek khanghoudana, mongsong marakta lotliba Inspector Irom Ibohalna leijabi tharaduna khanglao laorak e –“ Khongchep hairo, namthuro namthuro... . Ei yourakle, hingpha phagadabani, amatta nanthokhanba yadeko... maha takusingdo namthuraga thamlammu.”

Laipu maibagi maming louraga shaklotliba Soibam Soidon ngakchannei, masa pumba tu khiwao chungkhi. Loinana mathanta sonjei –“ Kholloa khonjel asibu mahousa takhragum tou eda... natte nakhoibu kana kanano... hai Kondum nangna tourisibu... .”

Kondumna khummi –“ Laipu maiba ! Houjikti nanggi matam loire. Keishumsangda leiruro.”

Inspector Ibohalna yamna maithong maka lamna amuk hairak e –“ Soidon aduga Khubilong ! Apangba napa nachana pao cheda keku phongbara haibabu nakhong thongna namang thiba taredana.”

Khubilongna hairak e –“ Eikhoina pao loujabada pabung sikhre haiduna tajakhi... .”

Ibohalna ngaklapna hanglak e –“Nakhoidi kanadagi pao louriba...?”

Khubilongna khumlak e –“ Pabunga yamna channajaba S.P. Tolen sahebtagi pao loujabada... .”

Khubilonggi wangang loidringeida Ibohalna marak khangthat thatchinduna oaksillak e –“ Ung ung S.P. sahebna eihak sikhre hek hairakprane ?”

Soidonna khumlak e –“ Tasengnamak taibungogi wa hanglubada S.P. sahebna khangde khangde, Irom Ibohalgi wa hanglakkanu, mahak sikhre hairaga phone thamkhi.”

“Wah ! Adeidi... .” Ibohalna ngaihak lakak touraga makha tana hairak e –“ Napa nachana yamna echang thouna pressman ga koutharaduna ‘Nongpok lalhou lup’ semle haiduna paocheda keku phongba oireko !”

“Tasengbamak maduni, Taibungo .” Soidonna makha tana samtharaduna amuk hairak e –“ Toubasu Lamdeng Khunougi Keiren kangbudasu epa echa hingli haiduna kihanninghkh... .”

Khubilongna mapagi wangang loiphattringeida oaksinduna hairak e –“ Toubasu pabung, Taku taranggi thabak asi toklaga lalhouba ollhoudrabadi tasengba lalhou lupna eikhoibu hatkhigadra khanduna lalhou lup ama tangaiphadana lingkhatchakhibani.”

S.I. Ramjayna marak khangthat thatchinduna khanghai hairak e –“Sir ! Makhoi mapalmak makhut tungbunnarabanina pareng lenghallaga kapthatcharage yathang pibiro. Shoot at sightki actionsu ayaba pire. Makhoina eikhoida hanna landarakpadagi tangaiphadana counter attackta sibani haiduna report ama phajana thatgatpana phagadra khanjei.”

“Aeh : Aeh : Madutadi toubiganu.” Nongpok lalhoulupki khutpu adugi maraktagi Lamlai Manihalna pakhatlap touna haijarak e.

Inspector Ibohalna hairak e –“ Nakhoigi natou asiga hairabadi ngamnamak phakap touraga loisinbana matik hek charabani. Adumakpu Ibohal eigisu echanupa Khomba kouba ama michen oikhre. Mahaksu lalhou lup amada yaoramgadra haiduna thiribani. Houjik phaoba mawa mapao tadri. Aduna Soidon mapa machagi khutpu ashe ekhut challaga hatningde. Ramjay, nangna luchingduna Kangleiyonda pullap pukhatkhro. Nahak amadi constable singga loinana forest guard Kondumgi khutpugi matengdagi phabani haiduna report toururo. Eigi emingdi pallunu. Nakhoina phabani haiyuko.”

“Sir... sirgi command makhada operation pangthokchabani haiduna report toujarugeda !” S.I. Ramjayna makha tana hanggatchei –“ Tasengnamakpu sirna puthokpirakpa langla langjilni.”

Kondumna amuk pangsillak e –“ Lalhoubagi mingda taku tarang toubu khutpu ama sirkhoi mayam laktuna loisinbiraba ashe eikhoisu yamna nungngaijei. Lairenpokpi police outpost ki O.C. sahebki lousingna ashok apan yaodana maipakpapi wapham ado head quarterda youhanbiba pamjei.”

Inspector Ibohalna tensinba oina hairak e –“ Amabu oire, taku mayam ado zeep amada pullap pullaga pukhatkhro. Khutlai mayam khomgatlo. Forestki zeepna mamang tharo matungda eikhoigi zeep ello. Lamkhangda nanthokhanba yadeko.”

S.I. Ramjayna hairak e –“ Sir, madugidamaktadi karisu chingnabirunu. Chongbu chongtharaba khudakta adum loisinjage.”

“Chatlo nakhoina thokpa toururo.” Inspector Ibohalna hairak e –“ Eibudi chennahallakkanuko. Nanggi reportto phajana eyuko.”

Soidon, Khubilong kangbugi taku khutpu ado zeep lotpham younaba puthorakle. Forestki zeepta pullap tonghankhre. Lengba oipa yadana makhut tungbunnaraga zeepki kollouda punsinkhre. Meekup kharagi matungda gari animak thoudorakle. Lairenpokpi police station tamna lakle. Gari animak khamle. Inspector Ibohal forest guard amadi police constable khara kumthahoure.

Khubilongna khanghoudana hairak e –“ O.C. pabung ! Eikhoi matung manao Taku taranggi thabak toujararoi, eikhoibu Imphalda pukhatpiranu, swaidasum thadokpiro.”

Ibohalna hairak e –“ Nangbudi khara maphari. Nanggi napa maha taku aduna ngallingeida mee kaya hatkhrabani, napada hangngi. Eigi eyum mei thadoklaga meinungda nakhoi emung hupna sikhre haiduna leikhraga keidoubai amuk hinggatlakliba ! Atei lairi, nama Mukakleidi kadai chatkhre ?”

Khubilongna leiyeng phaba ngamhoudabagi maongda haidorak e –“ Emabo... pajina makhouri metpadei sikhre. Kana khanghandana leinungda phumkhre.”

“Toh toh... .” Ibohalna hairak e –“ Ramjay ! Nanggi report ebada matu hatpapi maral amasu hapchillu. Mabu pharsi touhansi. Chatlo, chatlo... .”

Zeep animak chatkhre. Ibohalna leptuna yenghou e. Hek thagnaba meekupta, mahakna mathanta ngangjei –“ Nongmei amasung kalamgi lan marakta eigi echa Khombagi maraibakti kari tamligaba ?”

Meephasing pukhre. Zeep animak tamna thoukhre. Lairenpokpi police outpost station gi O.C. oiriba Inspector Irom Ibohalna lambigi mataida lepladuna momon momon nokladuna (makhol thoktana) thoukhriba gari adubu yengduna leihou e. Gari ani adugi mashak uraktraba matamda office manungda changlakle aduga kourak e –“ Ramsingh, Toman Meitei aduga A.S.I. Homen laone nakhoibu.”

Police station adugi O.C.incharge puduna leihouba Homenna mang tharaduna makhoi manga ka aduda pakhatna changlaktuna O.C. Ibohalgi mamangda leplare. A.S.I. Homenna ngaklapna hanggatchei –“ Sir, kari takpigadaba ! Kari karamba crime ama amuk... .”

O.C. Ibohalna hairak e –“ Pakhatkanuda, Ngasise eigi yamna nungngaiba numitni. Chahi kunlomgi mamangda eigi eyum mei thadokpadasu nattana emung hupna meinungda sikhre khanduna leiruraba maha taku Soibam Soidon phaduna pukhre. Mahakna matusu hatpani. Meehat meepun, huran – chinthi kayadasu chennaduna laklabani. Houjikna ‘Nongpok haram lalhou lup kouba’ amagi leader adu pharaga pukhre. Eingonda yungsillamba tingkhang handokkhre. Ngasidi, eihak nungngaire. Mayamgi matengdagi maha taku mapa machado pharaga pukhre. Ensang ahaoba ama chasi, seh, lupa chanise pukhro, adugane, thakpa khotpadi toubu yadeko.”

A.S.I. Homenna hairak e –“ Sir, meephasing thinkhiba mayam hallaklaga toubana phagadra ?”

Ibohalna hairak e –“ Makhoi ngasi hallakloi. Forest kangbusu yaona heyangsu amuk chasu ngai. Nungngaire, nungngaire. Nahalkhei leitapham khangdana leirakpa kisi ama thokkhre.”

Constable Ramsingh na marak thatchinduna hairak e –“ Sir ! Ngasigi pao ado tabada yamnadi nungngai haibabu... ensang ahaobado tangdangba ama khanglaga chabana phagadra... .”

Ibohalna mamit langkhatlak e –“ Ramsingh, tangdangba haibadi karinina ?”

Ramsingh na hairak e –“ Sir, Soidon, Khubilong mapa machagi taku khutpu ado lamdam asigi mating leiraba M.L.A. Nongyaigi mee ngaktani. Makhoi voter kaya nongmei uttuna, nongmeina namduna kihallaga vote yamna phanghankhi. Makhoigi mapaldagi Nongyaina vote kakhibani haibamak yai.”

“Maram aduna...” Ibohalna shat hekta notsillak e –“ Nongyaina wachat wanomlaga taku khutpu ado thadoraktuna station asida neikhairani asira... ?”

“Sir, madumak tourani haibadi natchade.” Ramsinghna makha samtharaduna hairak e –“ Karigumba Nongyaida pao youramlabadi jamin loukhigadra haiduna sum khanjarubei wanida.”

“Um ! Ramsingh nanggi wapham ado kharamakheidi chumningngai yaori.” O.C. Ibohalna ngaihak khallaga hairak e –“ Adubu, pak hekta thorakpadi yaroi. Eikhoi cheksinsi adubu eina haidokkhrabanina chatlo ngara, yenla leiruro.”

A.S.I. Homenna amuk hairak e –“ Sir, Ka asida leibiranu, eihak phamjarage.” Nongyai M.L.A. adu laklabadi thabakta pistol hanna namlaga konna wahang paohanglagani.”

Ibohalna nokphet touraga hanglak e –“ A.S.I. Homen, nangondasu adumna toukhrabra ?”

“Sir, eingondamakti toukhidri. Ateida toukhiba ujahou e.” A.S.I. Homenna khummi.

“Homen, policena pakhatpa hounade.” Inspector Ibohalna makha tana hairak e –“ Mapanda guard ani readyda leiyu. Chingnaba mee changlaklabadi hekta kapthatlu. Karisu kirunu. Eigi kalamna nakhoibu kannaba report egani, defence tougani, makhoina hanna khut tharak e hairaga loire. Nakhoi thokkhro, acha athak langluro. Eihak tungda thoklaba yaba thoudok wathok ngakthoknaba poram pomit khara khankhige.”

“Phani sir.” A.S.I. Homenna asumna hairamlaga mapan thokkhre. Constable Ramsingh amadi Toman Meitei anisu matung ennakhre.

O.C. Ibohal mathanta phamduna leihou e.

Numidang ado yamna nungngaikhi. Lairenпокpi police outpost station gi office manungdani. Soidon amadi Khubilong mapa macha kangbu phabagi nungngaiba phongdokpa oina posting tariba policesing chakcha heijanabagi thouram ama pangthokkani. Makhoi meei mangadangni. Police packate macha asida police personnel 12 dang lei. Makhoi 7 amadi taku tarangsing thinba chatkhri. Makhoi 6 ti chaba thakpagi langli.

O.C. Ibohalna nungngaiba phongdokpa oina magi police forcesingbu ningthijana pija pithakkhre. Mahakti Ariba matamgi chandal – chawa thinba police officerni. Chak – cha yuthak kamde. Nga thongba mathel khara charaga hougatkhre. Aduga hairak e –“

Homen, aduga nakhoi maridi makhong panbi thongba thakpado pennaba chakho adugane nakhoina lotliba mahi manaido ngaonabadi thakkanuko. Eihak mapanda ngahou ngahou walking chatluge. Kuinadi pantharanu khara cheksinna leisi. M.L.A. Nongyai haibado lakpa yai. Khara cheksinna leisiko.”

Homenna hairak e –“ Phani, sir lengthokpikhro, eikhoisu yamna thuna loisillaklaga thokcharaklage.”

Ramsinghna marak thattuna nganglak e –“ Sir, karimta chingnabirunu. Ngasi ahingdi eihakki Tomeiga yumthakta aim touraga leijage. Nongyai khangde, atei taku khangde hekta kaptharakke.”

Ibohalna oaksillak e –“ Chaba thakpa da matam kuinadi mara taduna leiganu. Epa epuna hairamba khonggrai satlingeida sanna waiba haiba panthei ama leibaniko.”

Homenna hairak e –“ Khangjare sir, eikhoi kuijaro thokcharaklage.”

O.C. Ibohalna officeki mapanda thorakle. Police packet adugi chaokoi manungda ngahou ngahou walking chattuna leirare. Lambiromda phallap – phallap mityengsu thammi. Mapukningda ningjing mangjingnaba ama phaorak e. Hoh, hah hek tourakpada shatpa nungngainaba makhwangda yalliba pistol makhum adugi bagalos thadoklaga thammi. Mahakna chatna chatna nungkhannei (leibak asibu tungda kari thoklagaba ! Rajniti, rajniti touriba neta, phatta mayam asina taku tarang toubu kaya khomjillaga touning touningba ta touduna leingakli. Meekhalgi matamda leikai – leikaigi taku, gunda kaya khomjillaga khutlai oina sijinnari. Nongmei uttuna leimee kayasu kihalli, vote khommi. Houjikki matam asida nongmeina ngamdaba thabak amtta leiraktre. Adubune, nongmeibu ngamba khutlai amadi lei. Madubu, mapham matam chana sijinnaba ngamgadaba meeshak amatangdi thorakhanninggida ! Eigi echa Chinglendo lakkhisanu !)

Onthokpani !

Ekhang hek khanghoudana, suktha hek thajarudaba thoudok ama thorakle. Atei natte, police packet mapanda leiramba meei kharana (tupi aphanba upplaga nakhang phaoba rumal apakpana khomjillaga shaklotpa) nong chubadouna nongmei maru masing khangdana kapsillak e. Shet, phet, dong, dang, bong bang houraba makhol kayana pumnin ninkhi. Inspector Ibohal apling aphai oina pistol satkhi adubu tinggal khatpa nanghoudre. Mapandagi khapchillakpa maru kayana panduna longna haithakhre. Aroiba oina houraba khollao amadi laorammi –“ Epagi Chinglen Nongdren Khomba... .”

Inspector Ibohalna magi macha nupa ahumda waroi paomenninglamba wahei makha taba ngamlamdre. ‘Laman khumlak u hairibra nattraga nongmeiga kalamga lanthengnou’ hainingkhibra amadi soidana oiramgani. Makha taba ngamkhidabana tangdangbadi khangba ngamkhidre haiba tai. Khudakta thawaiga hakchangga khainakhre. Lairenpokpi police packet masaigon manungda aroiba yahip tankhre.

Onthokna khonglei thukhraba huran lannani. Sennahoudraba mikup kharagi manungda thokkhiba thoudokni. Office manungda yungaophing ngaophing touduna leiriba A.S.I. Homen amadi atei constable nongmei makhol hek takhibaga sundrang mandrang touduna mapanda chenthoraklaga malangda nongmei atenba, nongmei asangba pangkapta kapkhi adubu kanadasu pankhidre. Meehat khutpu adudi prap prap chenthokkhre. Enak nakna khamduna leiriba zeep amada phan phan chongkhatkhre aduga nongchup maikei pangladuna yamna yangna thoukhre. Garigi maning number plate yaokhide. Thourang asigidamak thaoina louthokpa oigani.

Inspector Irom Ibohal Singhbu kapthuraga hatkhiba ashi kanagi khujin thourangno haiba ado khudak aduda M.L.A. Nongyaigi aronba khutpuna oiramgani haiduna hekta tupthokpa yaba natte.

A.S.I. Homenna lolli khara phairap touna nganglak e –“ Sir, eina ngasaina harao mathoi kagumsi haijakhivadunido. Eisu nesha khara palle. Onthoknasu khonglei thukhreda... M.L.A. Nongyaigi aronnaise lamtup khudinggi leiboireko. Aeh : Bishnu Bishnu ! Chin lei kenba yaba wabu ngangthokkhida. Toubasu, houjik matamgi rajniti walasing ashi mapanda sadhu bheisnap ngaktani manungdana makhoigi aronba meehat lup amamam leibaniko. Imphalda pukhatkhiba Soidon Khubilong mapa macha amadi atei takusingdo ngamnamak lock up ta leirammani. Makhoigi luchingba M.L.A. sahebsu pao taramlani. Jamindar louthokpa yaramlaroiye aduna eikhoi sir Ibohal hatluro haiduna meehat lup tharakpa oinine, soidana oinine. Karina eikhoidadi khut tharamdre. Onthokeda ! Sir, eikhoibu ngakpiyuko. Phei khangni, head quarterda wireless message ti piruba tai. Khangnidana... M.L.A. Nongyai nangani takusingdo, ehe... .”

Constable Tomanna marak khangthat thatchillak e –“ Sir, sir ! Khullakki khunmee kaya changlak le, M.L.A. Sahebki mamingdo panbirunu... eikhoigi packet ashe mei thage hairaklagani... eikhoisu eral khara leire, nesha sannaringeida soikhibani haiduna suspend chatpa yai.”

Homenna hairak e –“ Hoinehe Toman. Esing ayingba khara purak u kokta heitharulao, men taraga pao pige adugane, eikhoi chinkhum mannasiko... O.C. Sahebta eikhoina

khamba yadaduna mathanta chenthokkhibada thoudok ado thokkhibani haisiko nattrabadi... .”

Ramsinghna oaksinduna nganglak e –“ Eikhoisu eral ngakthoknabadi hotnaba tabani. Adubu onthoknadi nungngaiteda. Sirna ‘Epagi Chinglen Nongdren Khomba’ haiduna macha nupadi kouramlaga makhadi taramba nangkhidre.”

Tomanna khangningna hanglak e –“ Eikhoi O.C. sahebki macha nupagi mamingsibu Chinglen Nongdren Khomba koubra ? Onthokna sangkhreda. Ehe, ei esing louthokcharukhige.”

Toman prap prap changkhi. Esing jug ama pairaduna leplei.

A.S.I. Homengi makokta esing ayingba khara joro joro heithaduna leplei. Ngaihakti chek mok laonakhide.

Khunmee mayam mapham aduda hotchinarakle. Khungi machin chatpa Meinam Chandrahas Singhna leimaida taduna leiriba O.C. Ibohalgi mathwai yaodraba hakchangda munna yenglaga hanglak e –“ Thoudok asibu kamdouna thoklibano ? Nongmei maru mayamgi makhol takhi. O.C. saheb mathanta pankhibra... ?”

Ramsinghna tap oaktuna khumlak e –“ Pradhan Saheb ! Yengbiyu eikhoigi sir Homengi makokta nongmei makhokna suramduna esing yeiribase... nanghou – lakhoude. Thoudok wathok amagi complain toubu lakpoi khallui adugadi chakcha tokpagi ngahou ngahou walking chatliba O.C. sahebpu meerot amana coat achonba manungdagi nongmei akhappi puthoraklaga kapsillammi. Aduga chenthokkhre, zeep tongkhre, ah youramlani.”

Pradhan Chandrahas na hairak e –“ Ebungo Homen saheb ! Meehatpasingdo mashak mason khanghoubadi yaobra ?”

Homenna khumlak e –“ Pradhan Saheb ! Mashak mason amatta khanghoudre. Tupi aphanba ngamna uppi, laibak phaoba khummi, rumal apakpana mitpan phaoba khummi. Makhoina tonglakla zeep adusu maninggi number plate yaode. Mamang awang ollaga khamlammi.”

Pradhan Chandrahas na akoiba ado koyeng yengluraga amuk hanglak e –“ Ebungo, A.S.I. saheb ! Nakhoigi packet asibu O.C. saheb tharaga 12 leibadaine, ateidi udena... ngamna sikhrabra ? Nakhoi maridi kamdouna hinghouriba ?”

Mayamdagi khara henna awai akhum heiraba Ramsingh na hairak e –“ Pradhan Saheb ! Nghasido Chingkhei chingdagi Soidon, Khubilong mapa machaga loinana taku 9 gi kangbu O.C. Sahebna luchingduna forest guard kayagi matengga loinana phare.

Makhoibu thillunaba S.I. Ramjay na luchingduna zeep mapot ani Imphalda haighatkhi. O.C. sahebti leihoure. Pung mari manga kannaraga khanghoudana landaraktuna O.C. saheb nonggakhre. Taku khutpu adugi marumda leiba kangbu amana khanghoudana landarakpani. Thingba ngamhoudre. Adubu O.C. sahebna taku khutpu amadi magi lousingna phabadi ngamle. Madugidamak Eikhoina chaothokchei. Eikhoi mayam sirgi maphamda punna amuktang salami katsi, attention... salute.”

A.S.I. Homenna luchingduna atei constablega loinaduna leimaida longna tariba inspector Ibohalgi hakchangda yenglaga salammi katli. Khunmeesingsu pradhanna luchingduna salami katnei. Ngaihakti chek mok laokhidre.

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Inspector Ibohalgi thawai yaodraba hankchang leimaida longna taduna adum leiri. Soklu khotluba yaba nattri. Constable anina ngak senduna leiri. Machi lengba khotpa yadri. Pheengouna kupsinduna thamlubasu yadri. Mapham adugi O.C. hatkhrabani a head quartergi mathak thongba officer singda hanna pao piba tabani. Masi pumnamak A.S.I. Homenna khangngi. Mahak office manungda changkhre. Woki - toki gi khuthangda head quarterga pao phaonanaba button/dial touduna mashak takchei –

“Hello, head quarter! Lairenpokpi P.S. calling... A.S.I. Homen on the line... .”

Numidangdagi O.C. oiduna head quartergi mathou tariba inspector Surchandrana oaktuna khumlak e amasung hanglak e –“ Yes, this is head quarter, kari pao leire, mister Homen !”

Homenna kharasu kithi kirum touraga pao piba oina hai –“ Sir, yamna thajadana angakpa thoudok ama thokle. Shakkhangdaba meei mangakhak hotchillaktuna inspector Irom Ibohal Singhbu kaptuna hatlamle. Eikhoibu kari toujouge... .”

A.S.I. Homengi wangang loiphattringeida head quartergi O.C. aduna takhatlap touna notsillak e –“ Kari, sir Ibohalbu kapthukhraba ! Nakhoidi keidou leihou e, meethibongsing !”

Homenna oaksilli –“ Sir Surchandra oibirabra ?”

“Hoine, einine... .” O.C. Surchandrana ngaihak lakak touraga hairak e –“ Homen, ngasi adomda touribasibu karino ? Chingkhrei chingdagi lainingbanisu hai, taku lalhoubanisu hai, makhoi tarukhak phaduna S.I. Ramjayna khutsinnaramduna lockupta thajinkhiba kuidri. Inspector sir Ibohalgi makhada chatthakhiba operationni

haiduna F.I.R. erammi. Aduga, asuk thuna sir Ibohalbu hatkhraba... natte, nakhoibu nathibong chaduna, yu thaktuna leirubra hah ?”

Homenna maral kupsinna oina khummi –“ Sir... nanghoudabani. Eikhoi somgi police personnel sing adomda chatkhibani. Toubasu adumna thokkani haiba thajarude. Nungshitna pao puthok – pusin toubadouna touredo. Takusing adu phakhre haiba khangbaga marakta yamna thunamak lallong ado sillakpa malli.”

“Homen, amabu oire, S.I. Ramjaygi kangbu hankhrabani.” O.C. Surchandrana makha tana hairak e –“ Sir Ibohalgi masa ma u lengngukhinu. Pheena kupsillaga thammu. Pressman, crime photographernachingba loinaraga police team ama tharaknaba touge. Cheksinna leiyu. Somdasu thajarudaba thoudok ama thokkhrabani. Mata charabadi meehat khutpu ado”

A.S.I. Homenna khangningna amuk hanglak e –“ Sir, kari thoudok thokkhrabage, meehat khutpu ado kana kanano khangbibra... ?”

Head quarterdagi makha tana paokhum pirakkhidre. Radio set off tousinkhre. A.S.I. Homenna hanna hanna switch metlabasu paokhum pirakkhidre.

O.C. Surchandra ungjanei.

Woki - toki switch muthatkaga tuminna lei. Mathanta nungkhannei (eina toukhribasibu chumlibra ? Maral leiraba meei 9 pharakpagi manungda tangaiphadana ahumdi thadokhre. Soidana hallakkanidi hairammi. Houjik phaobadi thungladari. Ramjayna accused 9 phare amasung head quarter da sinnaramle haiduna magi F.I.R. da maming matha leiphamnachingba phajana erammi. Aduga eina makhoi tarukhak phaduna sinnaramle haidokkhre. A.S.I. Homendubu accused masing chap chaba khangdaba jatla ? Khanglamdrabadi phanida !)

Mihul chonglak e.

Imphal thanagi O.C. Soibam Surchandragi thabak mihul ting ting chonglak e. Mahakna aranba thabak ama toukhre. Tangaiphadanasu toudaba yakhidre. Pungja kharagi mamangda magi table mathakta khilliba telephone dial khinglakkhi. Makhut oina khudakta headphone loukhatlaga oaktuna khummi –“ O.C. Surchandra on the line. Kana oirabano... ?”

Phone tourak eba aduna hairak e –“ Inspector saheb ! Kholisibu kaobirabra ? Any way, hayengdi eihak mantri mandal chaothorakpagi washak loubada yaoragani. C.M.na paisilliba home, eina soidana pairagani. Nouna amuk eshak takchage. Eihak Lairenpokpi alakagi M.L.A. Ningthoujam Nongyaini.”

O.C.Surchandrana (mashak unnadrabasu) hounabi thougal uttpa oina lepkhatlaga attentionda makhong yeisilli, kalam pairiba makhut yetna salami touraga khumjei – “Sir salami katchari. Nanaibu kari toujou haibano takpiyu.”

Nongyaina hairak e –“ O.C. saheb ! Hayeng eigi washak loubagi thouramda lengbirak u, chebaosu thajarakke. Eina home minister hek oibaga adombu inspector dagi khanghchong chongkhatpa yaba pham soidanamakki promotion pijaragani. Ei washakchari, ema hatpa pap pujage.”

O.C. Surchandra na ngaihak nungkhannei (karinone, yachangba matam ashi monglak eba pao asibo ? Thajasira, thajanusira ?) panthaduna leibadi yaba natte, khudakta oaksinduna hanggatchei –“ Sir eibu kari toujou haibano ?”

Surchandrana nganglak e –“ Sumdoubani... ! O.C. sahebsu Soibamchani. Asomgi sageiga yamna naksinnaba e marisu soidana leiramgani khalli, Moirang yek salai oirini adomsu aduna... .”

Surchandrana nungkhannei (karinone tourisibu...) khudakta marak thattuna khapchilli –“ Sir, yek salaigi wado amuktang thambikho, nanaibu kari toujou haibano adu hanna amuktang takpiyu.”

Nongyaina hairak e –“ O.C. saheb, sagei salaichasing nungsinagadoubani haiba wapham ashi thamjabagi maramdi ateigi natte, eigina athoiba agent ani nanggina napa naton nanao oiramba yaba soibamcha anikhak nanggi custodyda leikhre haiba tare. Loinana eigi active worker taretkhaksu lockupta leikhre haibas u pao khangle. Makhoido lalhoubu amatta natte. Makhoibu nungsidaba kangbuna seran – turanna khabarda pao phongjinbani. Eihak mee anikhak tharakke athempot ka loinana. Makhoi ahumkhak thadokpiraktaba yadre. Nong ngandringeida eihak esamak yaona thinjarakke. Eibu thajabiyu. Eina home paibaga hek nongnganbada senior mayam kallaga adombu D.S.P. promotion soidana pigani. Ema, epa panduna washakchari. Tangaiphadana nanggi amadi eigi marida khurou thanglakkadaba meei ama houjikmak pharunaba makhoi ahum ado thadokpirak u. Maral leiraba nupa adusu pharaga O.C. sahebki maphamda soidana sinnajagani...Hingna natraga sina.”

“Esh !” Surchandra mathanta sonthangnana sonjaraga hairak e –“ Sir, F.I.R. chankhatlaga sinnaramlaba meeaphabu court youdana hek thadokpasibu... .”

Nongyaina khol kallapna hairak e –“ Adu aduda khangde, nongmei amasung kalamna ngamdababu kari leiribage ? Eihak Ramjay S.I. tharaknaba touge. Meeoi 6 tang phai haiduna semdok u. Aduk laiba wabu luna khanjinganu. Loina thadok u haibadi nattedana. Meeoi ani tongba zeep ama thabu thakhrabani. Kaoganu D.S.P. promotion aduga athempotsu. Soidon Khubilong mapa macha aduga Purum Pukchao... pantharanu. Numidang guard tabasingsu machin nammu, makhoigisu chinnam pheebul yaokhrabani... makha tarakkanu. Houjikmak touro.”

M.L.A. gi phone thamkhre. Krok krak makhol thok e.

O.C. Surchandra su phamthare. Makhut oina pairiba head phone thamkhre. Mamai luruk touraduna ungjanana lei. Kuithabadi yaba natte. Numidanggi mathou tariba mayam kousillaga tannahoudrabadi mahakna kusi rasi touruba yaba natte ; thabak tatningngaini. M.L.A. Nongyai mantri oini oiroisu khangdribani. Nongyai meengamba nupani haiba asidi mahaksu takhrabani.

Chiraba mikup aduda phone amuk khinglak e. Mahak paikhatkadaba tanjanei. M.L.A. gi oiramgani khalli. Hanna hanna khingngi. Mahak paikhatte. Ahanba callgi ringtone lepkhre. Amuksu khinglak e. Surchandra pakhatlap tou e. Paisi kadai, paigumsi kadai. Tangaiphadana paikhatlure paokhumdi pide. Hello haigadaba phaoba M.L.A. Nongyai oiramgani khanduna kitaknei.

Phone tourak eba aduna hairak e –“ Keidoubirabage, sir, eine Homenne, Lairenpokpi packetki A.S.I.... .”

“Ash... !” Surchandra na asum hairaga lawai satlubado nontharaga hangngi –“ Homen, keidoure ? Ramjaygi khutpu thunglarabra ? Mahak panthaba toudana amuk lak u haiyu... aruba case ama leire.”

Homenna hairak e –“ Sir ! Atei lairi. Meepha 9 pukhibani, sirna meepha 6 tani haibikhidubu... !”

Surchandrana khudakta khudong chaba lousinba oina hairak e –“Adugini Ramjay kouribase, meepha 3 nanthokkhrabani. F.I.R. onthoktaba yadre. Kalam machin theidok theijin toudrabadi eihak thabak tatpa tare. Aduna Ramjay hek thunglabaga tammu, nongngandringeida youraktaba yade haiyu, over... .”

Surchandra ne tare. Ningsa swar asangba ama hontok e. Mamangda khilliba esing glass tap paikhatli. Ghar ghar thakchinkhi. Tengna thakchinkhre. Chaning tana ningsa swar hondokchei. Mikup aduda naha anikhak sauongi jacket amuba amamam litli. Mamit mamai khumde. Magi kagi hangdoktuna leiriba thongda leplei. Naha amana

hairak e –“ Sir, eigi eming Noren koujei. Mahakkina Tommei. Eikhoi M.L.A. Nongyaigi agentni, amuktang changjarakpa yagadra ?”

O.C. Surchandra na changlak u, changlakkanu haibagi ayaba pidringeida naha ani ado ka manungda shat hekta changlaklaga leplei.

Atoppa naha ama, Tommei aduna mahakna litliba saoungi jacket manungdagi chithi khao chaotakpa, sangtakpa, mabuk thallap toubha ama puthorak e. O.C.gi table mathakta thadarak e aduga hairak e –“ Sir, khara thubiro, nongngandringeida meei ahumkhak soidana thinjarkani. Seh, nongmei atenba asisu thamjarage... .”

“Aeh : Nongmeisu... yamna lingbei wanine. Madudi thamlaganu. Eigisu yaori.” O.C. Surchandrana chithi khao wothangnabadu shat lousilli aduga table drawer manungda shat hapchinkhraga hanglak e –“ Kayano ?

Naha aduna khummi –“ Zero mangaga chang si chang taba masing amagani. Hourensu khara amuk pujarakhini. Mayamgisu thunghanbiyu.”

O.C. Surchandrana hanglak e –“ Meepha ahumdo soidana thillakaniko ?”

Noren kouba naha aduna hairak e –“ Sir, ema hatpa pap pujage. Eibu thajabiya. Epal Soidon, Khubilong, Pukchao ahumbu soidana thinjarkani.”

Surchandra O.C. na magi tableda calling bell khangbaga loinana thabak yangsinnaba maongda hairak e –“ Mapanda lepliba constable Apabi ! Lockuptagi Soidon, Khubilong, Pukchao ahumbu puthorak u , machin hangdaba yadaba ama leire. Mayamdo saruk thunglakkani haiyu, aduga nanggisu... thunamak chatlu.”

“Yes sir !” Mapandagi constable Apabina khumlak e aduga prap prap lockup leipham lomda chatkhre.

Matam kharagi matungda meepa ahum ado constable ahum marina ngak selladuna O.C. Surchandra gi manakta pusillakle. Mamangda leplare.

O.C. Surchandrana makhoibu munna yenglaga hairak e –“ M.L.A. sahebki mai yengduna nakhoibu thadoklabani. Nongngandringeida hallakkadabaniko. Karigumba hallaktrabadi nakhoigi marup mapang 6 leihouriba ashe ‘Combal meehat’ toujaniko. Nakhoina hatamlaga nanthokkhibani haiduna kalam machin amuk theidokchaniko... khangledana chatlo, pantharanu.”

Tommeina hairak e –“ Thagatchari.”

Norena amuk oaksillak e –“ Sir, eikhoibu thajabiya. Soidana thinjarkani. Eikhoi M.L.A. gi aduga sirgisu mai chopanjaroi.”

O.C. Surchandra na hairak e –“ Chatlo chatlo, thuna chatkhro. Aduga nong ngandringeida... khangledana ?”

Meepha ahum adu Noren amadi Tommeigi mamang tharaduna police stationgi wangma lanthoklaga zeep amada tonglaga chatkhi. Awang pangna thoukhi.

Ungjanariba O.C. Surchandra gi ningsing wakhal hanjillak e. Khudang ghari yengngi, phaklang ghari yengngi. Nong – ngangadaba matam phana yamna watli. Magi wakhalda meepha ahum ado soidana hallakkani khanjei. Lairenpokpi O.C. Ramjayna eramba F.I.R. ado secretariat tablegi box manungda hapchinkhre.

O.C. Surchandra karisu pakhatkhide. Numidanggi mathou touba tabani haiba ashi O.C. Surchandragi wakhalni. Lairenpokpi police packettagi pirakkehiba report mahak kaode. Mathak thongba officer singda phone touduna khanghankhre. Makhoigi ayaba louraga police team ama Lairenpokpi da thakhre. Woki toki gi khuthangda Ramjay laknabasu khanghankho. Adubu tumba yadri.

O.C. Surchandrana phaklang ghari yengngi. Thadokkehiba meepha ahum hallakpa ngairi. Athempotti matik chana phanghoure. Karigumba hallaktrabadi kamdouba ? Wahang ashi paokhum nongngandringeida piba tabani. Mahak pakhatlak e. Mapanda thorakle. Compound manungda ngahou ngahou chattuna nongnganbikhinu haiduna ahinggi lairembi khurummi !

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Pheejil nanthokhre !

Ahing lairembigi pheejil nanthokhre ! O.C. Surchandrana pheejil paiduna yannaba ngamkhidre. Ahing houkhre. Nongngalle. Anouba ayuk lakle. Ahingda lonna thadokkehiba meepha ahum mathangsitna Soibam Soidon, Soibam Khubulong, Purum Pukchao nongngandringeida hallakani hairambado, hallakhidre. O.C. Surchandragi maphamda karisu pakhatningngai oikhidre. M.L.A. Nongyaigi tatpat mahakna thajakhidre. Nongngallamdaida Ramjay amuk thunglakhi. O.C. Surchandrana chithi khao machadi oiraga mabuk thallap touba ama Ramjayda khutsinnakhi, aduga hairak e –

“A.S.I. Ramjay paisillu. Lairenpokpi alakagi taku kangbudo, M.L.A. gi agent oiramle. Ahum thadokkhre. Nahakki F.I.R. semdok o, meei 6 tang phai haiyu. Makhoi 6 kisu

thadokmal phangnaba touge nanggisu saruk thunglakkani da. Nanggisu... hanjinnaba toujou haibabu kari khalli ?”

“Yes sir, tangaiphadana toubu tabani.” Ramjayna khummi amasung chithi khao liphapha paisilli.”

O.C. Surchandrana lotsinkhiba F.I.R. louthoklaga A.S.I. Ramjayna lansillaga amuk hairak e –“ Senior inspector sir, Irom Ibohal sibagidamaktadi nungngaite haibabu tancharingeida phola chahoudrabadi thabakchangman hanjanbei wa leite. Ngaktra touribase, esagi senpham khara tungsingaraga tha thagi talab khara – khara louthokchabagumbani, chumdrane ?”

S.I. Ramjayna F.I.R. ado magi mathak thongba officerna haiba matung enna semdoklaga thamlammi. Maram ashi leibana O.C. Surchandrana esei ngangduna khonggrai nikkhatlak a. Aduga nungkhannei (ethantana achumba toururaga sengdokpa yaroidaba matamgi chatnarol asida yaosillaga oija oithak talhoubatana asingba oiragadabani. Sir, Ibohalgi mahutta promotion kapham thokpa meeshak, ngasaina hotchinnaramgani. ‘Die – in – harness’ scheme ka haibado maminggi wani. Mapa sikhraga machana phangkhidabasu kaya leikhre. Sir, Ibohalgi matik chaba macha leirabasu direct inspector oina changlakpa yaroi. Eidum esengi wanomhousira ? Adubu kanada ?)

Mikup aduda, O.C. Surchandragi nungngaiba mondranggi taibang manglan marak aduda cling cling cling telephone khinglak e. Magi wakhal khangkai kaikhre.

“Tallaksida kanaginone ?” O.C. Surchandra asumna sonjaraga head phone paikhattuna oak e –“ O.C. Surchandra on the line.”

“Thagatchari, O.C. Saheb.” Phone tourakliba meeshak aduna oaksillak e –“ Eigi thourang mai pakle. Nungngaiba pao amana ngasi nungthil eihak suksoi soidana mantri oina washak louragani. C.M. Sahebna home soidana pairagani. Eigi agent 6 adu courtta puthoktuna loisinsi. Eigi ukil thajarakke. Aduga wapham amana adomgi anouba phamthol kabagi athempot thourang touro, yamdeda zero taretki mamangda chang masing ama. Eibu Lanna loutanu. Mathang meekhalgi thourang toubu tabani eigisu.”

Surchandrana nokphet tou e. Karisu thousadana khummi –“ Sirna chal chali ama tourakkani haiba eihak hanna khangjei. Ekhut chanduna leihouriba meepha 6 ashigi mamaldi kaya kayano haibado amuktang takpirak u. Hainakhiba matung enna Soidon, Khubilong, Pakchao ahumbu enakta thillaktri makheidi meepha ateibu courtta puthokkhiroi. Houjik combal meephu houjarage aduga amana O.C. Ibohal hatpa ado

adomgi planni haiduna houjikmak press conference amada laothokcharage aduga meehatpa ado... order.”

Surchandrana telephone handset thamjinkhi – crok crok. Ngaihak leiraga daiton amuk khinglak e. O.C. Surchandrana paikhide. Ka adudagi mahak mapan thokkhre.

Cling cling cling adum khingduna leihou e. Kanasu changlaktuna pairadare. Thong ngakpa constable amana chensillaktuna head phone louakhatlaga oak e –“ Hello, Imphal police stationni. Kana oibirabano ? M.L.A. Nongyai sahebla ?”

Phone tourak eba aduna hairak e –“ Eihak Kangleikhombani ! Inspector Irom Ibohalbu kaptuna hatlamle haiduna Atiyabhanigi pao ama takhi. Masibu soidrabra ? Asiba hakchangdi pukhatlaklabra ?”

Police constable Tembana pakhatna khummi –“ Kanglei Khomba haisibu...?”

Kangleikhombagi makhol aduna oaksinduna amuk hairak e –“ Eina hangliba wahang adutang chumna khumbiyu. Kangleikhomba kanano hanglakkanu.”

Tembana khummi –“ Eyambara, enaora, Kangleikhomba ! Tabiriba pao ado achumbani. Sir, Ibohalgi thawai yaodraba hakchang ekai khumnaba uttpaga loinana hounabi thouram pangthoklaba matungda mayum maikeida thinkhre.”

Kangleikhombagi makholna amuk hanglak e –“ M.L.A. Nongyai haidubu kari kendragino ? Houjikwai phone touraklambra ?”

Tembana echam chamna khummi –“ Lairenpokpi alakada leibani. Eikhoi O.C. Surchandra sahebka mikup kharagi mamangda phonedo oongkhatnakhi aduda chumnata eina hangjakhibanima.”

Kangleikhombagi makholna amuk notsillak e –“ Inspector Irom Ibohalga M.L.A. Nongyaiga yanadabagi maram kadi khangbibra ?”

Tembana saoninglap touna oaksillak e –“ Adudi M.L.A. sahebta oina hek hangbiruro... phone thamjare.”

Crok crok phone thamkhre. Tembana ka adugi mapan thorakke tou e. Makhong hek thangdokpaga phone amuk khinglak e – cling cling cling... ! Temba chap leppi. Amuk hotchinduna paigadaba hanggoirak e. Kangleikhombagi oiramgani khalli. Adubu hek thangnaba mikupta amuk changsinkhre. Police stationda lakpa phone haiba ashi amabu oire paihoudrabadi thabak tatningngai maram yamna lei. Maram aduna Tembana phone paikhatkhre. Pak khumlakte. Tourak eba mee adugi makhol hanna tanaba ngaiduna leire.

Phone tourak eba aduna cheirap touna nganglak e –“ Kanano, phone pairaga hoi mai haidrido kanano... napham tatker. O.C. Surchandra... ei M.L.A. Nongyainine... mukkhaijanuko. Eibu saohanganuko.”

Tembana khummi –“ Sir, sir ! Nanai ei Temba constable ni. Houjikta shak takhatkhraba amana sirbusu panduna phone touraklammi. Aduda ngaihak khon tathoknaba hotnajabani. Nghakpiyu.”

Nongyaina hanglak e –“ Kananina, eibu hanglak eba tamba nipado ?”

Tembana khummi –“ Kangleikhomba kou e haine. Ateidi thoidokpa khangjadre.”

Nongayaina sonjei –“ Kangleikhomba ! Kangleikhomba...! Kanglei pakhang lanmee, K.P.L. haina khangnaba lalhou lup adugi leader adurane ?”

Tembana khummi –“ Aduk kupthabadi khangjade. Maming adutang tajahoubani, sir.”

Nongyaina hairak e –“ Oiningba oijasanu. Mateng piraga themba yaba ngaktani. Atei lairi, O.C. saheb kadai chatkhre ?”

Tembana khummi –“ Sir, O.C. sahebti ngarang numidang pharakpa taku 9 adu combal meepu touruni haiduna lock up ta changkhre.”

Nongyaina head phone makhum ado makhut oigi khubakna khumlaga saonjei (Makhoi ahum ado lockupta changkhrajatla ? Onthokna pangkhredako, changluranu haikhraga.) Asumna nungkhannaraga wangangphu makhul menba sattokle aduga hairak e –“ Temba, eise horendi mantri oina washak louragani. Home soidana paidourabani. Aduna....”

Tembana tanot notsinduna hanggatchei –“ Sir eibu kari toujou haibano ?”

Nongyaina hairak e –“ Nakhoigi sirda eigi agent 9 la, 6 la ado eina washak loudringeigi mamangda eigi banggloda thillak u haiyuko. Bail lounaba ukil thakhrabani. Over...”
M.L.A. Nongyaigi nakallomdagi phone thamkhre.

Tembasu phone thamlaga magi sir Surchandra thirunaba lockup leiphamda changsinkhre.

Lei engkholdani.

Masina Lamdeng. Khunou lei engkholdani. Inspector Irom Ibohalgi thawai yaodraba hakchang – ku manungda yahipladuna pheengou amana kupsillaga makoibungda thamli. Emung manung sagei natei keiroi leikaigi meei kayana lei katnari. Keiroi leikaina nungsiba Irom Ibohalni. Kanana okhongduna Ibohalgi maming pallaga kapkhatnarak e. Kanana mapi sinthanei, tengtha naoibadi toude. Kanana meehatpa adubu chei thang e.

Kakyenpaibamgi Keiren amadi leikaigi meei kaya makoibungi machi amada korok koina phamladuna chiron chiron watanari. Kanagumba ama ngaibagumsu touri. Mayamgi mityeng thonggalda yengnei.

Soibam Saiba kouba khunmee amana tilliba meeyam tarasanu matagum nganglak e –“ Etao Ibohalbu hatpa ashi eigi soibamchanidi hairabasu yaningdaba Soibam Soidon mapa machana soidana oigani khalli.”

Keirena oksinduna khumlak e –“Eyambasu adumna khalli. Numit kharanigi mamangda Soidon Khubilong mapa machagi maming paocheda thengnakhi.”

“ Hoine hoine Epal.” Saibagi macha Mobana oaksillak e –“ Chahi kayagi mamangda emung hupna mei chaktuna sikhre haiduna leikhraba Soidon mapa macha hinggatlapagi pao adu hek tabada epal Ibohalna thiba chatlamgani. Nouhouna thoudok khara soidana thoklamgani. Madugi makha chattharakpa oina achengba meekupta epalbu hatkhiba oigani.”

Keirena hairak e –“ Adubu Moba, mitna uhouba khanghouba kanasu chongthorakkadaba mandreda.”

Konsam Kanthijaona marak thatchinduna mathanta nungngaitaba phongdokpa oina nganglak e –“ Etao, Ibohalgi maraibak asisu onthokpani. Machanupa yang yang laoba ahum leibabu houjik phaoba mashak amattasu ude... kanana mapagi chitada mei chubigani.”

Chirom Chibana amuk pangsinduna samtharak e –“ Hoine hoine, Chinglenna kadaida, Nongdrenna kadaida aduga Khombadi mangkhiba kuire. Mahakna kadaida...?”

Soibam Saibagi macha atomba (Phaibokton) Mobina oaksinduna hairak e –“ Epal Chiba, ngasi ayukki atiyabhanida inspector Irom Ibohal Singh shaklotpa meei kharana Lairenepokpi police packet manungda kapthuraga hatlamle haibagi pao sandokkhrabani. Maikei mari sumdai nipalda tanaramlagani. Aduna machanupa ahumgi manungda amadi soidana lakkanida. Eikhoi ngaihak ngai khisida.”

Leikai ahal mana tathirap touba Ngangom Ningthemjaona hanglak e –“ Ato, nakhoina ngangnaridubu Chinglen Nongdren Khomba machin manao ahummakpu pakhang lanmeeda changkhrabrane, hah ?”

“Tu tu Yanglem Yangba thunglare.” Keirena khanghoudana hairak e –“ Mangondagi pao pumnamak tarani. Hai, Yangba, somda changlak u, namabokki manakta changlukhinu. Eikhoida pao pirulao.”

Leikai ahal laman mayamgi manakta Yangba changlakle aduga hairak e –“ Keiroi leikaigi epa epal, marup mapang pumnamak, ta Chunglengi maphamda telegram, teleprinter thakhre. Line yadabana trunkcall wari sannabada pao phaonaba phangdre. Ta Nongdren gasu pao phaonadre.”

“Aduga Yangba, nanggi natao Khombagi likhundi khangba ngambra ?” Keirena hanglak e.

Yangbana khummi –“ Karigumba likhun amatta phangba ngamde.”

Inspector Irom Ibohalgi korou nonggathougi thouram pangthokpada hounabi amadi chatnabi matung enna nongmei salute piduna awaba phongdokpagi saruk yaba lakliba police personnelsinggi band master bakshabihari ahal lamansinggi manakta changsillaktuna hairak e –“ Ahal laman pumnamak ! Eikhoina ngaijarak ebasi kuireda ! Yatra oirasi. Eikhoigi toupham thokpa, ootpham thokpa gun salutenachingba pumnamak toujaramge. Mei chubanachingbado konna toubihouro. Macha nupa ahum leibabu amatta laktrabadi kaya kuina ngaikhige hairibano...?”

Keirena themjinba oina hairak e –“ Ebungo band master saheb ! Waroubiba yade. Machanupa anidi mapanda leikhibani. Pao piture, ngasimak lakkadabadi mandre. Machanupa atomba aduna chingnung manungda leikhibani. Pao taramlagani. Mahakti soidana lakpa yai. Sumdousi, ebungo khoigi gun salute amadi benggool salute ado toubirammo aduga eikhoidi numit tadri phaobadi ngaikhige khalli.”

Gun saluteki luchinglakliba S.I. Manimohan Singhna hairak e –“ Epalna takpiriba wapham ado eikhoi yajare. Toubadi gun salute benggool salute haibado potloiphamda tougadabani ; sumang thellongdadi tounade. Yarabadi yatra tounaba sinbiro.”

“ Phagani sinjarage.” Leikai ahal Keirena asumna ayaba pibaga loinanana mayam tanaba amuk hairak e –“ Keiroi leikaigi khunmee pumnamak, yatra oirasi. Leibakki mathou chinba darukasing thadokkhrasi. Nupi angangsingsu thokpiraklo, esei shakpa, oja maiba, swameeji ngamnamak mang thabiro. Naha saphaba marina ku paio, sindok – sinjin tounaba ani ahum nakna ellu. Aduga Yangba nangna mei chapu paio... .”

Swameejina laorak e –“ Khwai mayam lenglasi awang chingkhonggi mangpham maikei panglasi... .”

Guard of honour pigadaba policesing amadi benggool salam touduna khonggadabasing mamang thakhre. Matungda mang kumbagi chatnarolgi matung enna mari mari thoknakhre. Mathang manao kaiba yade. Mei chaphu paiba Yanglem Yangbana mamang thangngi. Matungda ku pubasing mathangda nupa nupi emung manung amadi sagei nateigi meeyamna matung ennei. Tengtha naooiraduna magi magi minggou kounaraga kappa, tengtha naooirakli. Mee ama sirabadi toupham thokpa lichatni. Thoina shangtharudrabasu yai. Toubatabu maru oiba tengtha – naooirol amatangdi palhouba tai.

Inspector Irom Ibohal Singhgi loinabi Aheibam chanu Leihaona endri phukna chingkhatlaga kapna kapna laorak e –“ Leihaos eigi laibakse onthoknasu thina tamammida. Ema epasu Japan lan manungda mangkhre. Enaonupi anisu ngantana sikhre. Echan nupa Chinglen Nongdren Khomba ahumsu mapabunggi aroiba mikupta mashak udredo. Moi paba ! Nahakki chitada houjikti kanana mei chubigani... kadaida leikhraba ge emagi Chinglen Nongdren Khomba... .”

Leihaogi tengthakhoh loiphattringeida ekhang hek khanghoudana maikei kadomdagino khanghoudana khollao paokhum ama tarak e –

“Ema ! Nacha lakchare. Nachana pabagi chitada mei churagani. Epa hatkhiba takusing lemna tharoi. Nongmei maruna paokhum hangani. Semba saba loisinbirammo !”

Leihaos kappa tok e. Mapukningda nungkhannei (Khollaosibu... Chinglenla, Nongdrenla, Khomba... tasengnamak amadi hallaklabra ? Natte, eina tariba asibu mangla taibangla ? Kadai, mashakti, maikei kadomdano ?)

Chinglen, Nongdren, Khomba ahummak mashak mannei. Hannasu pankhre. Makholsu mannei. Karigumba matamda Leihaosu karambana Chinglenno, amasina Khombara khangjadaba matang kaya yaokhi. Macha ahumnasu haibadi Chinglenna Khomba saba matangsus yaokhi. Nongdrenna Khomba sabasu kayani. Khombasu adumangai Chinglen amuk sai, Nongdren amuk saduna kangaonahanba matang kaya yaokhi. Apokpi amadi yaokchabi mama Leihaona phaoba chamamnakhiba Chinglen Nongdren Khombani. Mee ateidasu makhoi ahumna chamamnaba matang kaya thokhankhiba lei. Oja Rajmanigi manakta Nongdrenna Khomba saraga apology toukhi. Rajmanina onthang onsin ado khangkhida. Machin manao ahumgi aronba khudam amamam lei. Madudi mamatana khangngi. Hannasu pankhre.

Inspector Ibohalgi thawai yaodraba hakchang puduna mang kumliba meeyam pumnamaksu khollao ado tai. Ngamnamak tujungnei. Nak yet, maning mamang, umang – wamanggi maikeida khwai mayamgi mityeng thamnei. Kanasu mashakti ude. Koirei leiduna yengnei. Mang kumbada meei kharadi khudei arangbana makok khumbasu yao e. Mahousadagi chatnarak e. Khudei arangba (Angangba, ashangba, higok) setpa chatnarammi. Houjikpudi emung manung sagei nateigi nupasingdi pheijiom setlaga, ennaphi ennare. Kok khumnei, thougal bebahar ootpagi maongni.

Mei chapphu pairiba Yanglem Yangbana harao tujungba oina mathanta sonjei (nungngaireda ta Chinglen thunglaramalle. Telegram teleprinter gi message phanglammani. Epal inspector gi macha ebungo kokhan laiha chitagi mei chujaba pheida. Eihak dosa kok a. Adubu mashakti udri, makholtani tariba. Houjikta thunglabagi maongsu malli. Yumlomdagi laorakpa malli. Maphee marol honglamkhiroi. Kouragadum yengsirado... hum ! Hounade hairakpa yai. Tung hannasu yengheide hainei... amabu oire, macha asengbana machagi thougal phangjasanu.”)

Punglei khellei khangbi Leihaona amuk khanghoudana laorak e –“ Emagi Chinglen.... Mang tamna lak u. Echa thunglaba nungngaireda. Nanao ani yaodrabasu nangna parihalni. Napabunggi chitada mei churaro... lak o lak o.”

Khwai mayam ado... pumngak ngaknei. Marum marum sonnei –“ Guwahati highcourtta ukil oiriba Irom Chinglenbu thunglaraba ?”

Mang natte, taibangni. Matam ashe numit yungba matungdani. Guwahati dagi pairakpa aeroplane thungkhrabani. Passenger sing taxi, auto tongla – tongladuna mayum younakhrabani. Chinglen ukilsu mapagi potloiba nangnaba thunglaba ashibu kari ngakningai leibage ? Adubu, Dehradun da armygi training yaoriba Nongdrendi mapagi potloiba yaobagi oithokpa leiraroi. Magidamak akhannaba armygi aeroplane pairakpa oithokte. Nongdren thabak changduna officer oidri. Chumnata interview yaorubadagi khandoraktuna mapanda leikhibani.

Aduga, ngasi ayuk police station dagi mapa sire haibagi pao loukhiba Khombadi kadaida... ? Mahakti actionda leikhraba pakhang lalhou ama oikhrabani hainei. Mapa hatkhiba takusing gi khonggul liba chatkhibra ?

Chinglen Nongdren Khomba ahumgi kumhei – adungei D.M. college ta thokhiba thoudoksing adudagi henna sathiraba khara thoklakpasu kanana khangba... ?

Laptakna yengsi potloibagi meiri !

Mee sibagi erat thouram... .

Meitei chatnarolgi matung enna asiba potloibagi erat thouram yamna sangngi amasung yamna kuppi. Chumnagi sipham thoktuna sibaga lamsi oina siraga purakpa hakchangga potloibagi maongda khennaba kayamarum lei. Lamda sirakpangi hakchangdi ayamba matamda sumang mathoubungda pusinnade. Mangpham manakta thamlaga thouram khara samjillaga panthoknei. Maong chumna sibagi thouramdadi maibana siraba mee adugi mapuk suduna meehool leiri, sidri haibagi maongda phana kuina thammi. Asiba hakchang ado emungdagi, manggolgi phamenda, adudagi mathoubunggi khangenphamda thammi. Mapham aduda nonggarol, monsikha natraga sikaplon esei shaktuna phana kuina amuk palli. Asiba hakchangda khurum – kharunaba, lei katpa asinachingba kaya tou e. Pourapna, asiba potloibagi thourambu mathang kaya thokna khaidok e. Masa thangdokpa, mang semba, ku puthokpa, mei koiba, mei chuba, meikoi chaphu puramba meeshak aduna yangkok humai ahumlak humlamba asinachingba kayani. Nupi angang emung manunggi meeoisingna manggakharaba matungda potloiriba aduda laibakki saru machet (chintamani) loubanachingba tounei. Meiteigi potloibadi hakchang tumdri phaoba mee khara leihou e. Loiraghasu thouram kaya pangthok e. Mongphamda leitong sangtakpa ama semmi, hanggam maru hunnei. Heiruk, dhup thaomei katnei. Lei e taret chingthokkhraga maong tana loisinnei. Mang kumba yaoruba pumba erujanei. Mayamgi thonggalda mei oknei. Mayum youraga tairen mana natraga tulsi manadagi laija khiklen khiktuna masa sengdoknei.

Meitei potloirongi chatna – kanglon mayam ashe inspector Irom Ibohal gi matangdadi kharakhit samjinbabu oiro, taiyonnababu oiro kharadi touba takhi. Landa siba army natraga police – thouna phaba, sahid oina lounei. Meena kapthuramlabasu ekai khumnaba oottuna mayumgi mathoubung youna thinjillak e, lamsi amani haina lounade. Masigi ekai khumnaba maong ado Irom Ibohalsu phangjakhre. Pokpangi mahei halle haiduna khannaba yai. Mahakpu potloinabagi sem saba pumnamak loire. Sing semba loiraduna ku mathakta thanggatkhre. Police personnel sing salam kotnaba sem saduna leikhre. Mei koibadi houdri. Potloirongi chatna – kanglongi matung enna siriba meeshak adugi machanupa ahalna mei koibagi luchinggani natraga mahakki mahut sinba yaba amana mahut mayeng sinba yai. Yangbana meikoibagi makok chinggani haina touramabani. Adubu, Irom Ibohalgi macha nupa ama thunglare haibagi enggit phangkhe. Aduna mahakpu mayamna ngainari.

Kakye Paibamgi Keirena hairak e –“ Nongthakki lambida ‘Wangoi Sawaibi’ (aeroplane) pairaktuna Manipurga Assamga kayada naksinnaraba... mapham matam chana echa Chinglen thunglaba nungngaida... .”

Soibam Soibana nasol tapna marak khangthat thachillak e –“ Tachou ! Khanghoudana thunglariba ashe nanaodi Chinglen oiramdou mandeda... .”

Keirena mamit langkhatlak e –“ Hah ! Adudi kananina, Nongdren nattraga Khomba ?”

Saibana Keirengi nakong mayada khummi –“ Meemangda, meerakta phongna thorakpa yadraba case kaya chennaraba, hek thengnabada phao, magi leipham lotphama pao piba ngambada selgi mana pigani haiduna laothokkharaba Kangleikhomba haiduna Chinglen saraga lakpa oirigadra haiduna sum khanjei. Nongdrendi oiroy, madi lapkhre.”

“Kangleikhomba, Iromkhomba tongan tonganba meeshaknida.” Konsam Kanthijaona oaksillak e –“ Etao Saiba matangsida seran turanba wakhal khallunu. Keisu nattabada shakmannaba Chinglenbu Khombani haiduna phakhiniko.”

Ningthemjaona amuk pangsillak e –“ Chin lei chum nambiro. Aeh Aeh yourakle Chinglen... .”

Mang kumba lakliba mayamna chibon chibon musuk musuk ngangnariba ado Leihaona uii. Mapuroiba hatkhibagi cheinakhol marakta machanupa atomba Khombagi singchep ama thajillakpa ashe yamna meepaijaningngaini. Mapuroiba mathou mangam pangthokpada khurou chenba thokhanningde. Hek thangnaba mikupta magi wakhal leiraga tengtha naooibagi maongda laorak e –“ Emagi Chinglen ! Echa thunglaba phareda. Nanao ani lakpa nangdrabasu nahakna napabunggi macha kokhan laihamni. Changsillo changsillo, mayamse nang ngaibada warabani, mei koinaba toururo.”

Chinglenna prap prap changsillaktuna mama hanna khurumlaga pehou pehou hairak e –“ Ema ! Nacha Chinglen thunglare, thamoi sonthagano. Nongdrensu hayngdi youraklagani.”

Leihaona khudakta hanglak e –“ Aduga, nanao Khombadi... ?”

Chinglenna mama khurum – khurumna hairak e –“ Ema nacha Khombasu soidana thunglaragani. Paba leitabagi pao taramlagani... .”

“Nungngaireda, houghatlo houghatlo.” Leihaona machabu chingkhat chingkhatna machagi manam nambadouna manaton makhul ani soot soot chingkhatlap tou e.

Tilliba meeyamna ubadi natte. Leihaona shakmannaba macha ahummak manam khangngi, manam amatta mannade. Manamsing ado mahak kaode. Mahaktangna macha ahumgi manam khangngi. Supnagi mikup amatanggi manungda Leihaona shat hekta hairak e –“ Emagi Chinglen ! Leihao Leiren manam namba ! Echagi nungshiraba manam ado matam kuirabagi matungda amuk phaorakledana.”

Chinglenna oaksillak e –“ Aeh : Emadi nachagi hakchanggi manam kaodriboina.”

Laihaona hairak e –“ Emagi Chinglen ! Mamana machagi hakchanggi manambu kaoba hounabrane ? Chango chango, ema kaplaroi.”

Amaiba amadi swameeji anina Chinglenbu mapabunggi thawai yaodraba hakchang thanggattuna thamliba singthak manak youna pusinkhre. Yangbana puthorakpa meiyok chaphugi meicham meithang louraga meigi mingkhei sonduna eratpa loikhre. Makok thanglaga mei koiba houkhre. Magi oithangba marengbanda esing poon puraduna koiri. Matungda emung manung sagei nateigi nupa nupi kaya elli. Amaibana takpa matung enna 7 lak koiba, mei koiba khutkoi khudinggi chukkhongda esing khara – khara heithaba, meiram chuthekki mei chuba, asinachingba kaya toukhre.

Punglei khenpham chana police personnel singna awaba surda benggool khongghatlak e. Nongmei paiba policesing a nongthakta ahumlak nongmei makhol hoina kapkhatli. Gun salute katkhi.

Potloibagi hounabi matung enna Chinglenna mei chakpa hougatlak eba chitada humai ahumlak humduna meichak meiri thokhallammi. Aduga humai makhok ado Yangbada sinnaramle. Aduga mamai onthoktuba manggakhre. Mahak tengtha naooina kaplamde – mei chakliba ku aduda yenglaga makhut lonnaraduna hairammi –“ Paba ! Nachabu ngakpiyuko. Nachana meehatpasing sibagi cheirak soidana pigani. Nongmeiga Kalamga lanthengnagani. Nacha Chinglenna chitagi meiribu sakhi thamlaga washakchari.”

Chinglengi washaklon tabaga Soibam Saibana pharak phujinduna hanglak e –“ Ebungo nahakpu tasengnamak Chinglenla natraga Khombara ?”

Chinglenna hoi mai karimta hairamdana Luwangli turelgi maikei tamna chatkhre. Chinglen Nongdren Khomba ahumgi mama Leihao Leirensu machagi matung enkhre. Atei atei mang kumlakpa nupi Angang kayasu matung enkhre.

“Ehe !” Eidi ekaobu kao e ! Chinglenna khara chatthok uraga amuk hanjillak le. Gun salute amadi tengtharol khongba shakpa lakliba police personnel mayambu makhutna pakna phandoklaga amuk supchillaktuna khurumlaga makha tana hairak e –“ Ngakpigani ! Khwai pumnamkpu khurumjari.”

Gun saluteki luchingduna lakliba police S.I. Manimohanna hairak e –“ Chinglen nakhoi nachin nanao ahumgi manungda sir Ibohalgi mahut sillaga die – in – harnessta thabak changnaba che ama yamna thuna thajillhou. Matam ashe maong amani. Che tharaktrabadi atoppauna munkhiniko.”

“Phani sir, leijahoure.” Chinglenna khummi.

Police personnelsing mari mari chatkhre. Chinglensu masa sengdoknaba turelda kumkhre.

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Loiba naide.

Epao amadi thoudok wathok loiba naide. Nongmagi manungda thokliba leibak amagi e – pao amadi thoudok wathok mari mari masing thingam lakngamde. Maru oiba kaya, maru oidaba kayani. Machang oiba kharadang khangatlaga leibak amagi puwari natraga etahashta lachannei. Kangleipak Manipur kouba leibak asigisu e – pao thoudok wathok kayabu Cheitharol Kumbabada lachanbagi thabak ama mahousadagi chattharak e. Houjik ningthou pandrabasu pandit loishangna nongmada thokliba maru oiba e – pao kaya lachanbagi thabak touri. Maru oiba e – pao loupnam ashi nungtigi phongba paochesingdagi loukhatli.

Matou asumna Lairenpokpi Police pacades O.C. oiramba inspector Irom Ibohal Singhbu shakkhangdaba maikhum khumba meei ahumna nongmei maru masing khangdana kapsinduna hatlamle haiduna lachankhre. Magi thawai yaodraba hakchang, Lamdeng Khunou chingkhonggi mangda potloikhre. Houjik phaoba meehat adugi mari makhong khangdri haiduna lachankhre.

Numit asimakki numidangda yamna thajarudaba leibakki maru oiba pao thoudok ama thokkhi. Ahanbada phagi natraga tat pat mallammi. Angakpa pao amani haibasui yai. Atei natte, Lairenpokpi alakagi M.L.A. Ningthoujam Nongyai Singhbu Manipur Rajbabhangi conference hallda cabinet minister oina washak loukhre. Mikup khara chontharaga Shree Nongyaina Home Minister oina thabak puragani haiduna order thokkhre.

Kangleipak Manipurgi chief minister Shree R. Keishingna yamna maru oina paisinduna thamlamba Home Bhibhakki pham ama khaidokkani haiba kananasu

thajarude. Manungda karigumba lena denagi aronba thourang ama leiramgani haiduna meecham meeyamna pangngang ngangnei.

Leibak meeyamgi machin kananasu melluba ngamba natte. Ngangning ngangningba wa ngangbada democracy chatpa leibakta athingba leite. Adubu paochedadi phagi kalamda phonglurabasu editor phaba punba lak e. Amabu oire M.L.A. Nongyaina Home Minister oiragani haiduna numidanggi Atiyabhanida hek laothorakpada khangprek khangduna phamlambadagi phuk hougatkhida nupa ama yaokhi.

Mahak adu atei kana natte, Imphal Police station gi O.C.gi raj puriba Inspector Soibam Surchandrani. Mahakna keidoungeidasu thajarude. Houkhiba numidangdagi M.L.A. Nongyaina mangonda khoichak thaklaga ngangkhida mayam ado mitlamda phan phan chongthorakle. Nongyaigi wangang ado ootpatni haiduna khandokkhi. Athempot khara phangbadagi meepa ahum thadokkhre. Atei aduna courtta puthokpa toudana lockupta leiri. M.L.A. Nongyaina digit taretki senpham ama amuk Surchandrada ngasillakkhi. Ayukta mukkhainakhida ado ningsingluraga asum kisillakle. Nongyaina Home Minister hek oikhibaga ehan hanna oina mangonda khut tharaklagani haiba khangjei. Panthaba toudana numidanggi mathou tariba police personnel mayam manakta kousillaga hairak e –“ Nakhoi mayam pao tahoubra ?”

Tembana etap hek tapna hanglak e –“ Sir, arrearr tolup hengatlani toubadi G.P. fundda transfer toudana thamgani. Chahi anigi matungda louthokpa yagani haibadura ?”

“Ash ! Tolop tolup... nakhoisima thabakti suningdana... .” O.C. Surchandrana saorap touna wamang yanba oina wapham ashi thamlaga makha tana hairak e –“ S.I. Manimohan ! Eikhoi ngamnamak thabak tatpa, suspend toubu amadi soidana touraklagani. Athempot su chathokure. M.L.A. Nongyaina Home Minister oikhrene. Aduna houjik mana manil naiba yade. Magi agent tarukto nangna luchinglaga thindok uro. Ramjayna pikhatlakpa F.I.R. se mei thadoklaga manghankhrasi. Seh, seh mayam mamangda mei thadoklage. Tu tu yenguse mayam. Case close... .”

O.C. Surchandrana magi table drawer manungdagi F.I.R. copy adu thunamak louthoklaga lighter shat khetlaga meirida chukhre. Jer jer chakhatkhre.

Meekup aduda telephone khinglak e – cling cling cling... . Athempot phangluraba mayam ado pakhatnei. O.C. Surchandra phone paikhatpa kirak e.

S.I. Manimohanna hairak e –“ Sir, Home Minister gi oiramdou mankhreda... .”

Surchandrana hairak e –“ Pantharanu nakhoi khara chatlo magi taku mayamdo Lairenpokpi da thadok uro, makha tabado eihak ngangnarage... .”

“Yes Sir, eihak soidana chatcharage.” S.I. Manimohan hougatkhre.

Surchandrana hairak e –“ Temba ? Adam khan nabani chatlo nakhoi sir matomta thadokpa yade. Khutlai loinakho... lamhenba yaorabadi hekta kapthatlu. Eihak mantri anoubaga chal challi amuk sannaramge... chatlo chatlo.”

Telephone khinglamba ado khanglep lepkhi.

Ka adudagi police mayam mapal thokhre. Surchandra ne tana phamhou e. Ningsa swar honba tapthei. Mamaida kariba humang marik marik ruman louthoklaga teithok e.

Hek thangnaba mikup aduda telephone amuk khinglak e – cling cling cling ... ! O.C. Surchandrana karisu pakhatpa thukatpa yaodana head phone paikhatlaga (amadugi makhol tadringeida) oaksinduna greeting pisinba oina hai –“ Congratulations sir ! Pao nungngaiba tajare. Adomgi meephasing mayum mayumda thinkhrabani. F.I.R. su mei thadokkhrabani. Sir, inspector Irom Ibohal Singh gi case close. Eigi promotiongi waphamdo soibiba yade. Digit 7 plus zero 6ti khara yammalli, khara hanthabiyu. Nona ninidang ngaibiyu. Kanagi khutthagda thajarak uge ?”

Phone tourakeba aduna hoi mai karimta khumlakte. Yamna munna taraga tape record tousinbasu malli. Khanghoudana phone thamkhre. Crok crok .

O.C. Surchandra pakhatlak e. Khumang chaosinba hellubra haibabu khanghoudana keino ama tourakkadra haibagi pakhatlakle.

Matam adugi telephone recieverdi phone number re – dial touraga masing chongthokpa yaramde. Phone tourak eba meeshak khangba ngamlamde. Telephone mateng louraga number khangdokpadi yarammi. Karigumba tangaiphradaba matangdadi voice record touhanduna phangbasu yaonei.

O.C. Surchandra pumnamak khangngi. Adubu telephone officeta number hanggadabasu khoutak tourammi. Mahak esing glass athanba ama tengna thaktoklaga ngaihak oongduna leire. Hek thangnaba mikupta telephone officeta chatlaga likhun thihouruge khanduna phuk hougatli. Adubu amuksu phone khinglak e cling cling cling... .

O.C. Surchandra phone hek loukhatkadaba kirak e . Hanna hanna khinglak e. Loukhataba yadaduna loukhatle. Manakong amasung chinbal anigi marakta taraga ngangnaba thourang touduna lei. Mahakna hanna ‘ Hello’ haiduna oakkadaba kisillak e.

Phone tourak eba aduna cheiboi kariboi hairak e –“ Hoi ! O.C. Surchandra nangbu keidourage ? Natte, kanano pairibasibo ?”

O.C. Surchandragi mihool nemtharakle. Ningsa swar ama sangna hondoklaga khummi – “Ngakpigani Sir ! Mapanda erang ama leibadagi chatthokcharure. Ahanbagi phonesu paijahoudre.”

Phone tourak eba aduna hairak e –“ Hei ! Eidi phone toukhidena.”

O.C. Surchandrana nungkhannei (Adudi ngasaigido kanabu oirigaba ? Lalhou lup natraga taku tarang toubu kangbugi meeoibu oirigadra ?) nunggi wana nungda thamlaga khudakta nokphet touraga khummi – “ Sirgi nungaiba pao tajare. Nungngaiba phongdokchari. Sirgi agent ngamna mayum mayumda thinjakhrabani. Mari leinaba che changsu manghanjakhrabani. Thouna leiraba inspector Irom Ibohal gi case close toukhre. Mathanta mathwai nungngaitabadagi masagi nongmeina kapsinjabani haiduna anouba F.I.R. semba yaragani.

Phone tourakliba aduna hairak e –“ Very good. Madusu nangna S.I. Ramjay tannaraga toubu tabani. Houjikmak pao pikhro.”

O.C. Surchandrana khummi –“ Phani, sirna tou haiba pumnamak toujage aduga... .”

Phone tourakeba aduna oaksillak e –“ Kaoroida Kaoroida... houjikti eina Home Minister oirabani. Leibakki erang pumnamak laksinnaba hotnarani. Nahalkhei C.M. sahebna maru oiba senthok lambisu yamna leiba profolio mayam ama paisinduna thambadagi soikhiba kaya leikhre. C.M. sahebpu maral sijnbadi natte. Houjik houjikmak kangleipak Manipur oiriba lalhoubagi wathok lantok mayam ashe matam chana lalksinhoudrabadi matam pumbagi oina army leingak chattharakkadra haibagi mipaiba ama leirani. Lalhoubagi mamingda taku tarang touduna sendal lambi oiba lup kayasu leirani. Esham hek shamna mantri amadi M.L.A. mayam ashe magi magi ngaklou oinaba lalhoulup natraga taku lup kayaga manungda aronba mari leinaribani, leinadaba yadabani. Madu hek leinadabada mathang vote karoidouribani. Eigisu ‘Nongpok haram lalhou lup’ haiba ama lingkhatlaga rajniti sannaribani. Toubasu, counter revolutionary group kaya semgatlaga eigi matamda lalhoubagi erang loisinge haiduna Home painaba lumlakpa ado uchin nachinna houjikti phangle. Athempot kharabudi mathang meekhalgi katkhi. O.C. saheb nakhoisu bap tao. Eina houjik lalhou lup kaya muthatnaba surrender policy ama houdoklagani. Khunda leitanaba lam pigani, sel thum piduna mayum makei palhannaba nupisu pinaba singani. Surrender touraba lalhoubu pakhang kayabu ‘Joro’ sahallagani. Paktakna combing operation chatthabada joro saba kaya puraga lalhoubu meerot kayabu mashak taktuna phahannaba thourang touragani. Eigi agent ‘Khubilong, Pakchao, Nongdam, Nongyai, Lamlai Manihar, Maniyaima, Maniton, Chalou Mongba asinachingba kayabu ‘Joro’ sahallaga lalhoubu meerot kayabu phagatnaba touragani.

Army, police kayasu mapham hongdok hongjin touragani. Leibak mara chetna pannaba hotnagani. Inspector Surchandra tariko ?”

“Tajari sir !” Surchandrana khummi.

Home Minister oiraba Ningthoujam Nongyaina khangnot notsinduna hairak e –“ O.C. Surchandra nahak yamna echang thouba amadi thabak ngamba police officer amani. Aduna... .”

Surchandrana haraona oaksinduna hangjei –“ Sir eibu D.S.P. gi promotion... .”

Home Minister Nongyaina shat hekta oaksillak e –“ Aduburo, nahakki transfer order thoraklagani... eigi ahanba kalamgi khuttha nangondagi hourage.”

Surchandrana pakhatlap hangngi –“ Eibo kadaida sir...? Kari karamba stationgi D.S.P. oina ?”

“O.C. Surchandra.” Home Minister Nongyaina engna tapna hairak e –“ Nahakti eigi Lairenpokpi police pacade asida Irom Ibohalgi mahut sinna leiraroi.” D.S.P. kage hairabadi zero zero and zero digit kaya katlaba tabani. Any way, thabak phajana touminnasi. Welcome to Lairenpokpi police outpost station... over !”

Home Minister Nongyaigi phone thamkhi. O.C. Surchandrana mathanta sonjei –“ Ash ! Eibu Lairenpokpi da. Eibusu sir Ibohaldouna hattouribra ? Eibudi kanana ? Atei lairi, ngasaigi shakkhangdaba nupa amana tourakkhiba phone number adu houjikmak thihouruba tai. Madu nattribadi sir Ibohal meehatki manghankhraba likhun ado nouna semgatlaknabagi machak oirakpa yai.

O.C. Surchandra epa pakhatle. Home Minister magi michang oisinnaraga ningthijaraba gaitrung chal challi ama sannakhre haiba mahak khanglakle.

Kanadasu pao piramba toudana O.C. Surchandra officetagi mapan thokkhre. Thongal wangma lanlamdaida laorammi –“ Kanano, O.C. oiduna phamhouro. Eigi transfer order thokle haiduna pao lakle. Order lourukhige.”

Kanasu paokhum pirakte. Mahakti thongal wangma lanthokhre.

Meechik meeraoikhol takhidre. Lamdeng Khunou chingkhonggi maphamdadi. Inspector Irom Ibohalgi thawai yaodraba hakchang potloikhiba mangpham adudani. Makokta pheeruk khumba nupa amana mongphamgi mondum manba leiteng macha adugi mathakta khoiru thaomei ama yunglaga mei churaduna katli. Makhut leitana khurummi. Mamai awang olli, mashak ude. Awang maikedi chingkhong chingmaina narum oiri.

Mei katliba nupa aduna makhol thokna hik hik kappi. Hek thangnaba mikupta nunghikna haijei –“ Paba ! Nachabu ngakpiyu. Nahakpu kijabadagi chahi kaya chupna lotcharure. Pababu hatkhiba meeoisinggi likhun nachana thiraga ngamnamak hatkani. Laman khumba ngamnaba natik thouna pibiyu.”

Aeh : Mei katlariba nupa ashidi atei kana natte ; Khombani. Irom Khombani. Mahak hougatlakle. Mamai leithorak e. Mahak khangprek khangngi. Matungda khoiru thaomei asangba ama pairaduna nupa ama leptuna leiramba adu urure. Madu ubada khangkhibani.

“Echou ! Nanaobu ngakpiyu.” Khombana nontharaduna mayamba khurumlaga makha tana hairak e –“ Wakhal thenba nanaona eyamba anibusu chentahankhre. Nanaodi houjik meerot meechek oire. Chatcharage, emabu khurumjarak e haiduna tambiyu.”

“Khomba, ngaikho ngaikho, chenkhinu. Eyamba mei katkhige.” Chinglenna asum hairaga mapagi mongphamda mei katna katna haijei –“ Paba ! Yengu toh, machanupa Khomba thunglare. Mahakna lankhiba soikhiba pumba ngakpiyuko. Houjikti mahakpu achumba lambida pusinjagani nachana.”

“Echou ! Nanaodi phongna leiba yadrabani.” Khombana makha tana hairak e –“ Eihak chatkhrage ema unararoi. Echouga eyaigana Emagi seba matol lomna toubihouro.”

“Khomba chenkhinu, ngaikho.” Chinglenna mapagi mangphamda mei katpa loiraduna phuk hougatlakle.

[Leikhidraba meegi mangphamda sorat loidriphaoba numidang meira katpa ashi tounaba yao e, tounadabasu lei.]

“Echou ! Eihak Emagi mangdasu mai ootningdre.” Khombana hairak e.

“ Hayengdi nanggi eyai Nongdrensu thunglaragani... “ Chinglenna ngaihak leplaga makha tana hairak e –“ Chinglen Nongdren Khomba echin anao ahumgi kumhei amuk hourasi. Ngasi ahingdi Emagi nakta lekkho.”

Khombana ngaklapna hanglak e –“ Echou kari kumhei tousi haibano ?”

“Chatsi yumda. Lamhang tuhangda aronba nakong leibani.” Chinglenna manao Khombagi makhudang paiduna chingkhre.

“Echou eigi mee khara loinarak e.” Khombana mayambana chongba ado khanglep touraga makha tana hairak e –“ Ngasidi thadokpirammi. Nongmadi nanao soidana lakchage.”

“Phare phare chatlo. Soidanadi lak uko.” Chinglenna ngaihak lakak touraga amuk hanglak e –“ Ehe ! Atei lairi Anujadi kamdoukhre ? Nanggi matung enkhi hai, kanagumbanadi enkhidesu hainei... . Houjikti khura ebungo Tolengasu eikhoigi paba leitabagi hangba lakkadaba mandre. Lapthoknakhre. Machanupi Anitasu police inspector Ranjtta namduna luhongkhre... .”

Khombana mayambagi wangang loiphattringeida khangoak oaksillak e –“ Adubu echou, Doctor Amitanadi echoubu ngairi haiduna tai. Mapanadi yadri hai adubu nanaona amukta unnaruge khanjari.”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Doctor Amitagi wa lairi. Anuja kamdoukhrabage ?”

Khombana hairak e –“ Echou ! Madugi paokhum mathang unnabada pijarage. Nanaogi khudang thadokpiro.”

Chinglenna manao Khombagi makhut thadokkhre –“ Chatlo chatlo adugane nahak soidanadi lak uko !”

Khombana mayambagi makhong sokna khurumle. Nongkhattuna amuk leplaga hairak e –“ Nanao chatcharage. Pabagi sorat numitta lei Katpadi soiana lakkani.”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Chatlo, chatlo. Adugane Atomba ! Wakhal leitana thabak touko. Mameithangda, nongmeibudi kalamna ngammi haiba asimadi khak kaoraganu.

Houjikti eyambana, kari tourakpage haibado yengu. Eihak Guwahati da hallaroi. Ereipakta leiragani. Wayen kati pairagani.

Khombana paokhum amatta piramdana chingyagi aronba lambida chatkhre. Ngaihak leiraga engine panba, chaka mari panba ghari ama thoudokkhibagi makhol takhi.

Chinglenna phana kuina leptuna leihou e. Mathanta sonjei –“ Onthokpanidako, eigi enao Khomba ! Mahakpu karamna khunda leitahansiba ! Houjikti Nongdren lakpa ngaiba tai.”

Mikup aduda mamana laptakna kourak e –“ Chinglen ! Emagi Chinglen ! Nangbu napagi mangda tengthaduna leirabra ? Lak o lak o thengle... .”

“Ema nacha lakchare.” Chinglenna khummi aduga mayum maikei panglak e .

Sanei yuneiri.

Ningthoujam Nongyai Singhna kangleipak Manipurgi anouba Home Minister oirakpagi nungngaiba phongdokladuna magi khongmee lanmee, maru oiba agent ngamna pulle. Maphamna Haobam leikaigi (Houjikki Babhupara) anouba bangglo manunggi kajal amadani. Magi aronba lalhou lupki meeoisingh Soidon, Khubilong, Lamlai Manihar, Maniyaima, Maniton, Chalou Mongba, Nongdam Nongphai, Purum Pukchao, Phaknung Phakchao – makhoi 9 yaori. Aduga atei ateigi manungda maru oina Inspector Surchandra, S.I. Ramjay yaori. Makhoi anidi langda thuraba uchigumbani. Thoidokna harao taramna matou uba phangde. Lurukna phamli. Tangaiphadana mapal lamgi yungang pack macha amamamtang thaklaga makha takhidre. Makhoigi tunggi punshi kari oirakkadage khangdri. Leitouba leithonbada heisinglaba rajnitiwala Nongyaigi khubamnungdagi litthokpa wagadouri. Mathouna maringjel ootthoktuna achumba thabak touba ngammoidouri. Hannasu M.L.A. Nongyaina yai thajinduna aranba thabak khara toukhre. Home Minister Nongyaigi R T T da chatpa tabani. Magi alakada postingsu tare. Imphal machani haiduna pak hek kakhatpa ngambagi pambeisu leite.

“Police officer ani !” Mantri Nongyaina mabanigi matou aduda nokphetna kouraga hairak e –“ Ngasidi pennaba thakchillu. Karisu chingnarunu. Chinta potlum purunu. Mabannigi mapandagi eigi maru oiraba agent cum nakali lalhou lupki achangba member 9 maning tamle. Ngasidagi ‘Nongpok haram lalhou lup’ muthatlagani. Surrender policy laothokpaga loinana Soidon nattana makhoi mayamdi ‘ maikhum upplaga zoro’ sahallani. Aduga phongna lotliba lalhoubasingda makhut thin – thinduna takhallaga phahallagani. Ta Soidon nangdi laipu maiba oina chingkhei chingdonda lainingduna leikhro. Nangi chak – thak hungani. Karisu warunu.”

Soibam Soidonna khummi – “ Takpiriba pumnamak yajare. Eikhoina cheksingadaba amadi taibungo Irom Ibohalgi macha nupa ‘Chinglen Nongdren Khomba’ ahum asiniko. Amana ukilni, judge oirakpasu yari. Amana central army officer oiduna Manipurda taraba yari. Atomba aduna sathiraba ‘Pakhang lalhou lup’ ki luchingba oiresu hairiko. Aduna, eikhoi khu u senba tai. Sagol hanjin keina chai haibado thokhandanaba hotnahouba tabani.”

Mantri Nongyaina hairak e –“ Ta Soidon adugidamaktadi karisu chingnabirunu. Nanaoda C.M. sahebna Home Minister gi pham thindorakliba ashe manungda aronba agenda ama lei. Pourapna, lalhoubagi erang ashe mapung phana mutthatpa

ngamgadra hangkhi. Eina ngamni haikhi. Aduna, eingonda khurji sinnarakpanine. Nakhoidi eigi thajaba meengaktani. Aduna aron athup kharadi haidoklage. Hayengmak, Khubilong nanggi khutpu nipalmak khutlai khara puraga surrender toururo.”

“Sir, kanada toudoino ?” Khubilongna hanglak e.

Nongyaina hairak e – “ Lalhoubaga mari leinaba, apha apungi thabak tounaba thouna leiraba police officer Ranjit kouba ama lei. Mangonda tourugadabani. Ei phone touge. Magi manaktasu garina thinbige. Nakhoi magi zoro oina leiruro.”

Khubilongna magi marupsingda hangngi –“ Etao mayamdi kari khanbiri ? Eidi zoro saraga phahanningba mee yamna leire. Home Minister na takpiriba waphamdo yajare.”

“Eikhoisu yajare. Eikhoisu yajare.” Khubilonggi marupsingna makhut thanggatladauna laorak e.

Mantri Nongyaina hairak e –“ Adugane, Khubilong ! Lalhoubaga nattana lanai nungngainadabagi nakhut thinjinduna phahanbadi touba yadeko.”

“Toujaroi sir... .” Khubilongna ngaihak lakak touraga hairak e –“ K.P.L. gi luchingbani hairiba Irom Khomba, alicha Kangleikhombagi lotphamdi khangngi. Mabu khudombi thinduna phahanbadi yaba nattraga ?”

“Ash ! Nangtani zoro asengba.” Mantri Nongyaina makha tana hairak e – “ Khomba haiba adudi makokta mana lupa lakh ani laothokhrabani. Hayengdagi nahak zoro oiruro, aduga nakhoi mayamsu. Eigi matam asida lalhoubagi erang ashe mapung phana kangleipak Manipur daga muthatpa ngamlabadi mathang termdadi eina soidana C.M. oiba ngamgani. Centregi luchingba singna eibu soidana khallakkani. Eina C.M. oigani.”

“Oirakpa oisanu sir.” S.I. Ramjayna hairak e.

Inspector Surchandra na pangsinba oina hairak e –“ Toubasu eikhoi leibakki lalhou lup mayam ashe leikai leikaida football gi club lingkhatpadouna toureda. Kanana achumbano, kanana sajinnabano khangdre. Karbar amadouna chattharakpa kangbu ashina asengba lalhoubasingbu maithihannaba maram ama oirakle. Eikhoisu khut thapham khangdre, Sir.”

“Officer anidi eigi alaka asida nungaina leibiro. Asengba sengdaba ngamnamak combing operation touraga khangdoknaba touragani.”

Khubilongna hairak e –“ Sir, ahanbagi oina Langjijing khunou amadi Patsoi chinggholdagi hanna hounaba toubiyu. Madudadi eihakna mangjil thaduna chatchage.”

Mantri Nongyaina hanglak e –“ Hai ! Soibam Khubilong ! Patsoi chinggoldadi kana kanagi khutpu lei ?”

Khubilongna khummi –“ Kangleikhombagi meei khara training touri haiduna pao phangngi.”

Mantri Nongyaina hanglak e –“ Aduga Langjing Khunoudadi... . Kanagi mayumda kana kana lotli khangbra ?”

Khubilongna khummi –“ Sir, eikhoibu hanna amuktang surrender touraga zoro onthokpikho aduga asengba, sengdaba pumnamak mathang mathang khudombi meepa toubiro.”

“ Phare phare, hayeng nganta nakhoibu thinbirage.” Mantri Nongyaina makha tana hairak e –“ Houjikti chak charusi. Changlasi dinning hallda.”

Nongyai Singhna mantri anouba oibagi nungaiba phongdokpa yaokhiba mayam ado mari mari chak chaphamda changkhre.

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Loikhre... .

Inspector Irom Ibohal Singh gi soratnachingba mathou mangam pangthokpa loikhre. Lei engkhol ado pumchik chikkhre. Wapham amana sarkargi maikeidagi pao amatta laktri.

Manung matam chadana natraga khudongthiba thoudok amada sikhraba sarkargi thabak touramba nupa nupi amagi mahutta machasing maraktagi amabu thabak pibagi chatnabi ama lei. Madubu ‘Die in hardness scheme’s hairaga khangnei. Inspector Irom Ibohal gi mahut mareng sinba ngamba machanupa ahum leiribani. Asiba hangba laklamba police officer kayana Chinglenda application ama yamna thunamak thao hairamlabani. Ahalsingna hairambagi matung enna Chief Minister da direct application ama thakhrabani. Madugi paokhum laktri. Inspector Ibohalbu taku kharana loutunaraga hatpani. Madugi langla langjin chumna thigatpiyu haibagi

application amasu direct C.M.da thakhre. Madugi paokhumsu laktri. Chinglen Nongdren su hangba chatlude.

Irom Ibohal leikhidraba matungda magi emung manunggi oiriba phibam ashe aruba matang amani. Mapanda leiruba Chinglen Nongdren hankhigadra hallaroidra haibagi wapham amasu thorakle. Meechel oikhraba Khombana kamdouba ? Masigi paokhum tarai taraina khumba yaba natte.

Nongma numidangdani. Leihaona magi macha anibu magi famangda kousillaga mora amamamda phamhalli. Pemtonna famungda phamduna (Khuya oirapna) Leihaogi khubom anida waori waori paibiraduna lei.

Leihaona houdorak e –“ Emagi Chinglen Nongdren ! Pokpa siba hounasani. Houjik chinta touduna leigadaba natte. Nabanigi loisindriba thabak thouram loisilluro. Emagidamak karisu khallunu. Napabungna ningjaramba adudi thunghannaba tou.”

Nongdrenna khummi –“ Ema nachadi traning makha chatthararoi. Ayaba amadi lourukhige. Adagi che amasu ehallakke. Aduga pabagi mahut oina Manipur policeta changlaga paba hatpa chennabasingbu cheirak pinaba hotnarage.”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Yaima nanggi wakhal ado eyambasu yaningngi. Paba hatpa ashe makhoi department ki police kharasu yaoramgadaba malli. Phare nahak chatluro. Eyambasu Guwahati amuktang yourukhige. Interview ama yaonaba che tharammi. Madu amuktang yaoningngi.”

“Echou, law college ki professor oibagira ?” Nongdrenna hangngi.

Chinglenna khummi –‘ Natteda, highcourt ki junior judge khara loughadouri. Karigumba khallakabadi Imphal batchta lakpa yai.”

Nongdrenna hairak e –“ Echoubu laibak yengbiruro. Nanaosu chatlukhige. Aduga Khombasu leitahannaba hotnashi.”

Chinglenna mathanta sonjei –“ Onthokpani, matam ashida Khombado leirabadi emagi seba matol lomna touhouba yabanido.”

Leihaona hairak e –“ Chinglen Nongdren nabani chatkadaba adum chatkho, emagi warunu. Nane Pemton leiri. Emasu houjikti kankhatlagani.”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Emagi yathang phanglabanina nacha ani matam kharadang changlukhige, thuna adum hallakkanida.”

Nongdrenna amuk oaksillak e –“ Emasu matam kharadi ene Pemtonga Uripokki yumda leirubana phagadra ?”

Leihaona hairak e –“ Hum ! Madu yade yaima. Lamdeng Khunougi lam thadokpa yade. Meeshou changlakkadaba mee yamna lei. Mapu leitre haiduna lam ashe khopchillakkani. Lam ashe wari leiba maphamni. Meidingu Gambirsingh, Chinglen Nongdren Khomba Meitei ningthou aduna nabuthou puren Irom Itobida piramba khudolni. Eningthougi phambal mingkhei louduna nakhoi nachin nanao ahumgi mamingbu ‘Chinglen Nongdren Khomba’ haiduna thonkhiba I. Mapham asida Meidingu Chinglen Nongdren Khomba gi shakmee (murti) ama khinnaba napa napusingna ningjakhi. Napabungbna shakmee khinbaga loinana mapham asida anouba makhalgi mahei tamphamshang ama lingkhatkani haidunasu ningjakhi. Houjikti napabung korou nonggakhre. Adubu nakhoi nachin nanao Chinglen Nongdren Khomba na Meidingu Chinglen Nongdren Khomba gi mamingda sindam shang ama lingkhatlaga loinana shakmee amasu khinnaba hotnou. Soidana tougadabani. Lam ashe khutthang lankhiba yade. Emana shanglamgani. Moba Mobi leiri.”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Epa epusingna ningjaramba pumba nacha eikhoi ahumna soidana pangthoknaba hotnagani.”

“Adubu, Emagi Chinglen... .” Leihaona ngaihak lakak touraga hairak e –“ Nanao atombabu karamna khunda leitahangani ?”

Nongdrenna khumlak e –“ Ema ! Khombagidamak ningsa thirunu. Yanglem Yangba thakhre. Mahak surrender touhallaga wakhal leitahannaba sillagani. Eikhoi ahum chungsinraraga epa epuna ningjakhiba pumba thunghannaba sinjagani. Karimta ningsa thirunu.”

Leihaona nokphet touna amuk hairak e –“ Houjikti ema nungngaire. Nachin nanao hangchit chatnaba touro. Aphaba thabakti panthaheide.”

“Hoi hoi ema potharo.” Chinglenna numidang adugi waroi oina hairak e –“ Ema pothabiro, enesu emabu thadokpidana matam khara leirammu.”

Pemtonna khumlak e –“ Hoi, hoi enammabu sennaduna eihak leiramge. Ado, Chinglen Nongdren ! Enammagi mamitta mamou nupi uhanbasu toubu yarabaniko... .”

Nongdrendi paokhum piramdana mapan thokkhre. Chinglenna nokphet touraga khummi –“ Hoi hoi, eina handak thorakpadadi namou nupi amadi soidana loinaraklagani... .”

“Aeh : Matang nupirane, achouba ?” Leihaona yamna khangningna hanglak e –“ Doctor Amitadi kamdoukhre ?”

Chinglenna makha tana paokhum piramdana mamagi kadagi mapan thokkhre.

Malem prithibigi khongchat... .

Uru uru ungngi hainei. Uru urugi khongchat aduna ayuk amuk nungthil amasung numidang khairibani hainei. Bugol ebasingna haiba wani. Eikhoigi mitna uru uru ungba adudi uruba ngamde. Eikhoigi esadasu leithok leisin toubagi mahum phangba ngamde. Prithibigi khongchatna matam khairibani haiba asisu thajaraktaba matang yao e.

Eikhoigi mitna taseng tasengna uriba numitki khongcaht asina matam ahumgi shaklon louribani haiba asidi pumnamakna unnarbani. Pumnamakna yanarabani. Wapham ashi phajabagi maramdi numitki khongchat kaya houkhre. Nongmadagi chayol - chayoldagi tha ama phakhiba khanghoude.

Nongma ahing athengbadani. Lamdeng Khunou lei engkholgi konthong kansillaga makokta pheeruk pheerang khumba nupa ama changsillak e. Manggol yourak e. Shanggai yumjao gi thongda tak tak thillak e. Numit adu Leihao matomta lei. Pemton Imphal kakhi. Leihao pakhatchaobi nupi natte. Echang thoubini. Mahak phamungdagi hougatlakle. Thongjaogi manunglomda lepladuna hanglak e –“ Kanano, ahingsida lakliba nangbu kanano ?”

“Ema ! Eini, Nongdren.” Mapandagi khumlak e amasung hairak e –“ Thong hangngi nacha thunglare.”

Leihao ngakchanei. Kuithaba yabadi natte. Khudakta hanglak e –“ Yaima, mangla taibangla... ahingsida kadomdeino ?”

Mapandagi khumlak e –“ Mang natte ema. Makhada lakpani. Lambida ghari yadaduna kuina pallure. Thong hanggo.”

Manungdagi Leihaona hairak e –“ Nungngaireda echa thunglaba. Nungngaiba pao amasu kuina pallure. Chithi khaodi emana hangdri. Napabunggi mahutta nangbu thabak khalle haine.”

Mapandagi Nongdrenna khummi –“ Ema nachasu pao ado telegram touraktuna phangjare. Hek phangbaga aphanbaga train amadagi mathang mathang lakcharibani.”

“Leirammu leirammu, ema thong hanglage.” Emungdagi Leihaona makha tana hairak e –“ Nane Pemtonsu Imphal kakhi, hallakte.”

“Aeh : Ema nathanta ?” Nongdrenna ngaklap touna hanglak e amasung hairak e –“ Yangbakhoidagi kanano ama kouraga leiminnaba yadabra ?”

“Ema keisu kideda.” Leihaona ashi hairaga thong hangdorakle. Makhut oina pairiba mingshel thaomei (lantern) thanggatlap touna makha samtharaduna hairak e –“ Meingal asida mei oaklaga emung changlak u.”

Nongdrenna mamana hairiba adumak touraga emungda changlakle. Masa nontharap touraga mama khurummi.

“Yare yare hougatlo.” Leihaona macha Nongdrenge marengjum pairaga mamingtagi oina chingkhathpoi kariboi touraga manam nammi aduga makha tana nganglak e –“ Manamsibu... !”

Nongdrenna khumlak e –“ Ema ! Tangaiphadana lambida army officer ama thengnaduna khara thaklak a. Matungdadi paijararoi.”

“Phare phare chakti charaklabra ?” Leihaona hanglak e.

“Ngasai nungthil Mao hotelda khara charakle. Chadrasu yaranida.”

“Yusu aduda thaklakpa oirini ?”

“Ema, nangsisi khangkhrapotni.”

“Khangdadi keino, emasu police inspector amagi nupini... .”

Mamagi wangang loiphattringeida Nongdrenna oaksinduna hairak e –“ Aduga ema nangse machagi manam munna khangbi Chinglen Nongdren Khomba ahumgi athoibi mamani.”

Leihaona haiphet nungngaijabagi maongda khanghoudana hairak e –“ Shakmannaba lengmannaba eigi echa Chinglen Nongdren Khomba ahumgi hakchang manamdi mannade. Khangbra masigi maram... ehe ! Nangbu erukhidra, ema esing thanggatpiruge. Ema changnge changnge, thongdo lonsillammu.”

Nongdren haiphet pakhathei amasung ngakchannei (Emana ngasi chakliba paokhong asibu karino ? Eigi hakchang manam asibu emana kanani khalliba.)

Nongdrenna thongjao lonsillamlaga magi kada maphee marol hongdokpa changkhre. Mathanta momon toujaraga nungkhannei. (Singkhredako eikhoi emase. Onthoknasu manam khangkhre. Eigi lotpham phangle houjikti.)

Ahing ado houkhre.

Enung ngalle, nongngalle. Kwal khongbadi takhidre. Matam ashe Kangleipak Manipurdagi kwak ngamna mangkhre, paithokkhre. Aduna nonganbagi khudam ashi mapungda lam lamgi yenba labasingna khongbagi makholna oire. Ahing nongyai matungdagi khongba hourakpa Lamdeng Khunougi yenba laba mayamna nongnganbagi langbaga loinana khonglakle. Marakta atei atei ucek macha masusingna khonbangba, seibangba oina khonggatlakle. Adubu Nongdren houghattri.

Mahousana Iromgi machin manao ahum (Chinglen, Nongdren, Khomba) yahou yamna ngangalli. Ayukta lamjen chenba, sumang thellong waishit wairam touba, engkhol koinaba yonglei nongthang saba asinachingba kaya tourak e. Pukhri achoubada eroiba asinachingba hakchang sajensu tourak e. Matam kuina amuk toukhidre. Machin manao anina mapanda leirure. Atomba Khombana meerot oikhre.

Leihaodi nganta hougatli. Masa ma u yamna khingli. Mahakna macha tumjakhisanu khanduna houdokpide. Emung manunggi, sumang mathoubunggi waishit wairam touna touna mathanta ngangjei –“ Eibu karamba matamda emouka haibado emitta uba phanggaba ! Echanupa ahalna mayangnupira keino amadi puraklagani hairammi. Atomba aduna meegi machanupi Anuja koubi ama pukhi, pukhide haiba houjik phaoba mapham khangkhidre aduga echanupa langjeigi... .

Leihaogi mathanta ngangjaba choingang khanglep lepghi. Madugi maramdi yahoubagi numit khurumliba Nongdrenna khanglao laorak e –“ Ema ! Nangbu namou yamna pamlabrane ?”

“Thengmallabani, yaima.” Leihaona mamai onthorakpa toudana khummi.

Nongdren mathoubungda kumtharakle aduga hairak e –“ Phare phare, houren nungthil thabak hallakpada namou ama puraklage ?”

Leihaona khangningna hanglak e –“ Kananina...? Anitagi mahut kanana sindouri ?”

“Ehe ! Atei lairi, thabak hairaga ningsinglakle.” Nongdrenna watheiduna khummi.

“Karinina ?” Leihaona hanglak e.

Nongdrenna thok onthoklaga hairak e –“ Ngarangdi wamankhibana kaobu kao e. Thabak khanbagi chithi ado kadai kadai...?”

“Emana mangkhini haiduna nanggi mongpak makhada thamkhibani.” Leihaona makha tana hairak e –“ Chithi piramba aduna napabungna pairamba pham adumakti

natte hairammi. Mathang mathang karakkadabani haidunasu pallammi. Nanggi nakhutnakna chithi khao segairaga yenglammu, emasu laklage.”

Nongdrenna khallak e (Central armygi second lieutenant oina thabak hougadaba eibu kangleipak Manipur gi sarkarna epana pairamba post aduda order thoklamgadabadi mankhidreda. Amabu oire, echou Chinglengi poram pomitlongi matung enna matam kharagi oina thabak changlaga epa hatkhibagi langla langjin thiba tabani.)

Wakhal khanna khanna Nongdren emungda changlakle. Mahakna hiplamba phamunggi mon khangpham machingi mompak kangkhatlaga chithi khao waothangnaba sangtak toubu ama louthoklaga machin settatle. Manungdagi chithi ado hangdoklaga mamitna patharui. Mahak swai lao e . Mapukningda nungkhannei (karinone tourisibo ? Athempot kattrabadi yade haibado atak aphongnaredo. Eihak inspector oina direct changba yade hairbasu A.S.I. gi pham phaobadi pipham thok e. Madusu nattana eibu ‘ constable oina die in hardness oina khalle’ haiba... noktum nokningngi.)

Nongdren saoningbadi lairadana houna houna nokkhatlakle. Nokna nokna laojei –“ Police inspector Irom Ibohalgi machabu mapa leikhidabagi meenungshi ootpada loinana constable oina khallaba ! Eibu constable Nongdren !”

“Keidoure keidoure... .” Leihaona pakhatna laoraduna machagi nakta changlak le aduga makha tana hanglak e –“ Yaima, Emagi langjei keidoure ? Aduk houna nokpadi haraobagira natraga... kari oiramle chithi ado ?”

Nongdrenna saoningbadi lairadana nokna nokna hairak e –“ Yengunese nachabu constable oina khalle. Thunamak thabak join tourulao hairine.”

“Aiipa ! Echabu constable dagi hou haiba oireko... .” Leihaona ngaihak khallaga engna hairak e –“ Toubudi naoabungsu thabak machadagi houkhibani. Thabak phabadagi mathang mathang karakkhibani... .”

“Ema matam aduga houjikkadi khara kenneine.” Nongdrenna makha tana nganglak e –“ Eihak second lieutenant gi thabak hougadaba su toklaga lakle... eikhoigi sarkar asidi atak aphongnare. Eikhoibu karemnare.”

“Engthakho,Emagi Nongdren.” Leihaona machabu themjinba oina hairak e –“ Nakhoigi trunkcall toubu haibra keinodo touraga nayamba Chinglen gi wa amuktang tabana phattabra ?”

Nongdrenna hairak e –“ Ema ! Echounabudi pirakpa post haibadi pham ama hekta lousillu, thabak chilhao thiganu haiduna pao tharakkhi. Paba hatkhiba kangbuga

police office manungda leiba kharaga loutunaba ama leibagum tou e haiduna chithi amasu erakkhi. Makhoi adudo mashak khangdoknaba hotnousu hairakkhi. Emagi wakhalidi kari leibiri.”

“Emagi Nongdren !” Leihaona ngaihak khallaga hairak e –“ Houjikti napabung nonggakhrahanina nayamba ahalgi yathang ellu. Matam kharathanggi oirasu thabak changlaga napa hatkhibagi likhun thirubana phagadra khalli emadi. Patlingeida hayingda nonjou haiba leibani.”

Nongdrenna makok nollapna khummi –“ Phare phare ! Emagi yathang kokta hapcharaga ngasimak thabak join toururage.”

Leihaona machagi makokta nanthabiraduna hairak e –“ Emagi Nongdren, yaiphaba oiyu ! Thabak chillhao thiganu.”

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“Enamma enamma... !”

Pemtonna aphing aphai oina Leihaobu kouraduna thonggaldagi chensillak e. Ningsa swar thabet thabet holladuna sumang mathoubungda leplare.

“Pemton, keidouragene, hah ?” Leihaona pakhatna hangjei amasung makha tana hairak e –“ Swar chaning tana hontharaga tammune, kana keidouhoure ?”

“Aduburo enamma... .” Pemtonna makha tana hairak e –“ Angakpada angakpa haibaduni. Ngarang numidangda, Uripokki yumda Khomba lak e, Anujasu loinarak e adugane enamma chahi mangamuk suraba nasunupa phajakhraba amasu loinarak edo... . Houjiksi leihouri.”

“Hah ! Khombaga Anujaga... aduga eshu nupa amasu... .” Leihaona pakhatpoi haraoboi toururaga ne tana hairak e –“ Anujagi nakhei ama sengle tabada amukka henna nungngaire. Mapabung Tolengi asaoba hantharagani. Ei chatlaga pao pirurage. Masu nupa ado ubada madhou karaba Tolensu maraina tethajakhranida.”

“Hum ! Ema chatlunu.” Nongdrenna makha tana hairak e –“ Nachana houren thabak joined toubu chatpada khura ebungobu hanna khurumlaga pao ado tamluge. Second lieutenant oiba yaraba eihakpu constable khallakpada mahaksu yaoramgani. Mangonda joining report pisilluge. Mahak ekaijasanu.”

Leihaona hairak e –“ Pheiphei ! Adugane nakhoi nachin nanaogi akal aring singba adudi tourunuko. Echasidi nakhoida lallunu.”

“Ema nacha ngaodeda.” Nongdrenna makha tana mane Pemtonda hanglak e –“ Atei lairi ene, Khombadi leihoubra chatkhrabra ?”

Pemtonna hairak e –“ Khombadi surrender toururani khunda leitaduna leirani hairammi. Magi nupi angangdo Uripokta adum leihallu. Mapamdadi pao pikho hairammi.”

“Oh ! Khomba surrender tourani hairambako, nungngaireda.” Nongdrenna sonjei amasung hairak e –“ Enaonupana pokpa echanupado khang u uninglak eda. Irom sageigi anouba meira amadi phangledana. Eihak khangchat chatninglak e... emara enera, eibu chak chakkhom amatangdi pijou ngarang numidangsu chaningdaduna chadre.”

“Ehe ! Eya Nongdren thunglabagi paodi hangbu hangdri.” Pemtonna hairak e –“ Sikhre khalluba Khomba matei manao macha thunglabagi nungngaibana thumhatlure. Ene chak thongbiruge.”

Leihaoga Pemtonga machal maning emungda changkhre. Nongdrenna mathoubungda hanggat handa chatladuna sonjei (Ngakedako ! Eigi enao Khomba. Heikhredako sayon lang on ! Keigoungei loisingani nangani kumhei ?)

Hek thangnaba mikupta Nongdrenna amuk khallak e –“ Eihak erujarurage ngantana Imphal karaga echa ado hanna amuktang yengluge. Eigidi echa eshu leidou mandre. Thamoinungdagi paithokkhrabi Anitagi mahut sinba ngamgadabi nupi thengnadri. Houjik phaoba ! Adubu kana khangba... paisillakpasu yari atoppa nupi ama.

Anouba wakhalga loinana Nongdren emungda amuk changkhre. Mahakna khalli (Matam kuirabagi tungda ngasidi Imphal karurage.)

Ayukki pung mapal makhai takhre.

Imphal police stationgi S.P. Tolen Singhgi ka mamangda Irom Nongdren leplei. Thongjilda lepliba ahal constable amana hairak e –“ Kana unabigadabano ?”

Nongdrenna khummi –“ S.P. saheb amuktang unnajage, Irom Nongdren lak e dang haibiru.”

Thongngalpa constable aduna hairak e –“ Nongdren ! Ebungobu inspector Irom Ibohalgi macha... .”

“Ahoi ahoi... .” Nongdrenna shat hekta khapchilli.

“Ngaihaktang leppirammu, ayaba amatang loujarukhige.” Constable thongngakpa aduna ashi hairamlaga ka manung changkhre. Aduga thougallon ootladuna pao pirui – “ Sir ! Nongdren kouba ama lak e... .”

S.P. Tolen mamit langkhatlak e –“ Nongdren... !”

Thongngakpana khummi –“ Ahoi Nongdren kou e hai, sir amuktang unnajage hairak e, yagadra ?”

S.P. sahebna ngaihak khallaga hairak e –“ Mangijao, thajillak u. Adugane Nongdren ebani wari sannaringeida mee ateidi thajillakkanuko.”

“Phani sir.” Mangijao constable na asumna hairamlaga mapanda thorakle. Aduga hairak e –“ Ebungo Nongdren changngo, yarani.”

Nongdrenna thonggi pheeyal pheelhal ado makhut oina haidoklaga ayaba louba oina hairak e –“ Sir, ei amuktang changjarakke.”

“Nongdren ! Changlak u changlak u.” S.P. na hairak e.

Nongdren ka manungda changkhre. S.P. mamangda mangda leplaga thougallon ootpa oina salami tou e.

“Yareda yareda, epabu amuk hanna ekaiba piranu. Phammu phammu.” S.P. na ashi hairaga Nongdrenda phana kuina yengduna lei. Hangningba wahang kaya leirabasu hangkhide. Mapukningdadi khalli (Nangbu Nongdren natraga Khomba natraga Chinglenla).

Nongdrenna S.P. Sahebna mamit kuptamakhei yengliba adugi nunglon khang e. Nokphet touraga hairak e –“ Sir, koi maton leikhatlaga khakpa eise tasengnamak Nongdrenni. Army training centre na pirakpa I. Card ashe yengbiyu... .”

“Kadai kadai...?” Tolenna makhut tingthorak e.

Nongdrenna I.Card adu pisinkhraga hairak e –“ Eikhoi echin enao ahum koi khukhakna shaktak khudam oisi haiduna lepnakhre. Echouna khadangda khakkhrabani. Aduga Khombana naton sumangda china typeki koitek khakkhrabani.”

Tolenna mangak nomna nomna hairak e –“ Phei phei ! Shakmannaba, lengmannaba, khonmannaba nakhoi ahum kanana kanano haibado khandok khanjinda yamna wakhi,

ningsinglidana eikhoida nachin nanao ahumga nama napaga nongma numidang chak chaba lakkehibado... um eihak ningsinglakle ningsinglakle... Anita na nakhoi ahumda haikhibado...nupa mannaba koi maong mannadaba amamam khak uba. Eikhoida chamamnaba pokhalli.”

“Sir ! Houkhiba wapham ado amuk kangthokpiraganu.” Nongdrenna shat hekta phenjillak e –“ Eina lakchariba ashe... tangaiphadana epagi mahut sinjaraga constable macha ama oirulao haiduna order ama phangjare. Joining report maphamda pidringeida sir amuktang ujaningduna lakchabani.”

S.P. na hairak e –“ Nongdren ! Epabu warouganu. Eihak ekai khangbadagi napabunggi ashiba hangba phaoba lakkehidre. Napabunggi postingsu eina sinba natteko.” Aduga nahakpu S.I. oina hapsi NDA gi trainingsu loidourabani haiduna ekhatkhibani. Adubu anouba Home Minister Nongyaina magi khutchabi S.I. Ramjayda inspector pidaba yade haiduna neibadagi pham ado hangkehidre. Nangbuna constable Thoithoi sikhibagi mahutta order thok u haiduna enthorakle. C.M. nasu ayaba pithorakle.”

Nongdrenna khummi –“ Utt patna pik thallaba lamdam asida athempot katluba toudana constable gi pham ama pirakpa ashe soraren khutna lamba phangbagumbani khanjei nachana.”

S.P.na hairak e –“ Nongdren, eibu sir kounu. Hannagi minggoudo adum kouda. Tasengnamak eihak nungngaite. S.P. ama oiba yaraba nangbu constable ama oina thabak changhanningde. Armygi second lieutenantka para military policeki S.P. amaga rank mannei. Houjikki leingaklon ashe epasu heinadrabani. Pothagadabasu kuidre. Vote lepsira khallibani.”

Nongdrenna nokphet touna oaksillak e –“ Khuraebungosu mathanggi meekhalda vote leppiyu. Eikhoigi Lamshang kendragi oina echou Chinglenbu mayamna vote leppu haiduna ensinba yamna lak e.”

S.P. na hairak e –“ Yaine Chinglengumba dynamic oiraba naha khara Rajnitida changhanningi. Ehe warise pheidokkhre.”

Nongdrenna nokphet touraga hairak e –“ Matam kuirabagi matungda unclega nouhouna thengnajabasi yamna nungngaijei. Houkhiba pumba kaothokpikhre. Emagi pamjabagi matung enna eihak matam kharadi constable oina joined touhanbiro. Eibu amuk trainingka toukhihadra ?”

S.P. na hairak e –“ Nanggi joining report ado eimakna hek louhoubadi niyam natte. Report sectionda piruro. O.C. Manimohanga unnaruro. Eihaksu phone touge. Nangbu constable gi dress ti sethanningde. Civil sectionda leinaba I.G.P da amuktang hairaga

yengge. Chatlo chatlo... epabu warouganu. Matangna yakhidabana eigisu asoiba kaya leikhre.”

Nonghdrenna hairak e –“ Uncle ! Constable gi dress adum setlaga thabak toujage. Egi posting Lairenpokpi da thabiyu.”

“Kari haiba !” S.P. na mamit kangkhatlaga makha tana hairak e –“ Houjikti mapham ado Minister Nongyaigi alaka oikhibaga loinana lalhouba kayagi makolsu oikhrabani. Nangna engna chikna leiba pamlabadi Uran chingkhonggi Angom Khunou kouba police pacade amada leirunaba haibige. Ado nangna chingnung manungda leikhrabadi namadi kanana yengsinbigani... .”

Nongdrenna nungkhannei (Anuja hallakle emaga leiminnaragani, khura ebungogi nasu nupa amasu phanglabani.) machinna haidoksira khalli adubu angakpa pokhallage khanduna hairak e –“ Khura ebungo, emagidi karisu chingnangingai oidre. Ene Pemtonga leiminnari. Aduga mangluraba, mamounupiga masunupa amagasu thunglare. Ei chatchare.”

Nongdrenna ashi hairamlaga choukridagi phuk hougatkhre aduga ka adudagi mapan thorakle. Mahakki I Card thaoiki hundoklamle. S.P. Tolen sahebna khangningna laorak e –“ Mamounupi haibadi kananina ? Aduga masu nupa haibana kananone ?”

Nongdrenna paokhum piramdre. Khongthang laotak laotak thanglaga mamai lurakna prap prap thorakle. S.P. sahebna tanaraktre. Nongdrenna thorakliba officeki corridor tamna yamna yangna changsillakpa khongupki khongthang ama tarak e. Nupigi khongup khongthangni, kak kak laona makhol thok e. S.P. sahebki ka tamna yamna athuba thabak amagi changlakpa khongthangni. Officeki lady policela ? Nongdrendi wakhal oongjanaduna thorakpani. Magi maigei tamna nupi ama khongthang yangna nattraga khatna changlak e haibagi wakhal tourude. Mahakna S.P. gi maphamda kangthoklamaba po aduna kari oirakpa yabage haiba adomda pheidoklammi. Magi nakyet mang tungda mamit choithoklude. Sennahoudraba mikup amatangi manungda train tali amattada thoujillakpa train ani dong dang makholga loinana thengjinba angakpa natte. Matou asumna Nongdren amasung changsillak eba nupi amaga dok hek thenggainakhre. Mamai mamaidi thenggainakhide. Thayinga thayinga haiphet mapa oirap thenggainei, khangprek khangnei. Nongdren mamai haigatlak e. Nupi ado longna haitharap tou e. Nongdren gi makhut yetna nupi adugi lenjum oirapna shat oaktuna chingkhatlak e, longdu tuhankhidre. Nupi ado pheebam chumna lephallaga Nongdrenna makhut thadokle aduga khanghoudana hairak e –“ Heima ! Maithakpasidi !

Nupi aduna ekairap touna oaksillak e –“ Cho, maithakpasidi ! Nangbu sikhre haidaine ! Luktharaga chatliba karigino... heima numittusu...?”

Nongdrenna khumlak e –“ Matam kuirabagi tungda nahakka amuk asumna unnarakkhigani haiba thajarude. Kamdouri, nungngairidana ? Baba unnaba lakpa oirini. Kari wathok lanthok leire ? Phare chathouro.”

Nongdrenna phat leithoklaga chatke tou e. Nupi aduna lambi thatlaga hanglak e –“ Pao ama houjikta taina, chumbra ?”

Nongdrenna khummi –“ Eidi tadebo ?”

Nupi aduna khangnot amuk notsillak e –“ Nongdren eihak lankhre. Nanggi punsida eihak lakpa ngamkhidre. Eibu ngakpiyuko.”

“Anita ! Eihak Nongdren natte.” Nongdrenna ashi hairamlaga nakan amada shat haidorak e.

Anitana khutlei thuna Nongdrengi makhut oi paiduna khangching chinglaga hanglak e –“ Adudi nahak Chinglen ?”

Nongdrenna khummi –“ Asumna khanbasu yai. Leihouro. Matungda amuk unnaragumsi !”

Anitana Nongdrengi makhut thadokle aduga hairak e –“ Unnagadabagi marambudi leitre. Ei khangngi nahak Chinglen natte. Nashak naming lotnaba hotnaganu.”

Nongdrenna khummi –“ Chummi eihak Chinglen natte. Meechel meerot oiraba Khomba manbrane ?”

“Nongdren ningsinglibra... ?” Anitana hangngi.

Nongdrenna hairak e –“ Um ningsingli. Eikhoi echin enao ahumbu tongan tonganba styleda koi khak u haikhi... nangna.”

Anitana oaksillak e –“ Um ! Chinglengina khadang koi, Khombagina koitat aduga... .”

Anitagi wangang loidringeida Nongdrenna oaksillak e –“ Eigma army officer gi koining leikhatpi... adubu eikhoi ahum onthang onsin toukhre. Eihak Khombani. Thajadraga babada hangnguro. Eigi I Card babagi table mathakta thamlambani. Eihak surrender toubu lakpani. Eihak Khombani. Nongdren natte. Aduga Anita ! Nungngaiba pao amana Anuja hingli, machanupa Khomdon kouba amasu leire. Eina karigumba sikhrabadi mama machabu yengsinbiyu. Uripokki yumda leihoubani !”

“Mangla taibangla...?” Anitana hanglak e amasung hairak e –“ Natte nahakpu tasengnamak Khomba nattraga Nongdrenla !”

Nongdrenna khummi –“ Amabu oiro karigumba eihakna amuk accouter da sikhre haibagi pao tarabadi nahakna atiyabhanida khara laothokpirak u. Eigi thawaina nakholjel taraga penjage. Leihouro ei chatle. Bidai ! Matungda amuk unnaragumsi. Amuksu haijari mapu pankhrabi nangna etung ennaraklaganu.”

Nongdren prap prap chatkhre. Laptakna leplaga tung hanna amuk yenglammi. Aduga prap prap chatkhre. Makhada kumthakhre.

“Nongdren ! Lepkho ngaikho mikup amatang !” Anitana ashi hairaga tannage tourui. Adubu, leimaina magi makhong ani yamna chetna phajinbadouna toukhi. Machi lengdana lephou e. Magi mitlu anida pigi era chelhou e. Makhong phukpadi ngamkhidre. Ngamphamsu thoktre. Sambal khakhre thamoi ani. Mahak mapabung unnabasu changdre. Changdrabasu yare. Mapada tamningba pao atei natte, Anuja hallakle haibagi pao tamba takpani. Khombara, Nongdrenla khangdaba amana tamlangani khanduna lepkhiban.

Sharakar ama kaikhi. Sharkar ama semmi. Matam ashigi kangleipak Manipur –“ Tangdu leitana palli haiba yade. Sharkar kaiba, sharkar photchinba, M.L.A. singna party amadagi party amada chongthok chongsin touba, masana masabu sharkar anouba ama semnabagidamakta yonthokchaba asinachingba kayagi loinaidraba thoudok wathok kayani. Leingakpa, rajniti toubasingna leibakki, meeyamgi yaiphanaba thabak thouram kayada chupsilli haibada yaningphatkhide. Senja thumja, huran chinthi masing thingamdana thokkhi.

Ningba kairaba pakhang kaya kayana lalhou lup kaya panglingda lingkhatnarak e. Kanagi kangbuna asengbano, kanagi kangbuna sengdabano haiba khangba ngamde. Lalhoubagi mamingda lut pat touraga maral mathum peisinnaba hotnabana marol ama – thoudok wathok kayani. Policeki, armygi storedagi uniform mangkhibagi wathok kayasu leingakpa luchingba makhoi masensu amana amabu thajanakhide. Magi magi aronba lalhou lup kaya leinarammi. Luchingba kharana counter revolutionary thadoktuna khutlai paiba masel hattoknahalli. Central army amadi C.R.P. asinachingba kayana phakhiba pakhang kaya mangkhi, hingba siba khangkhidre. Sarkar pairiba lamdamsigi leingakpasingnasu karimta touba ngamkhide. Rajniti wala masen cheinaduna hunnaduna adum lei.

Kangleipak Manipuna mapung phaba state ama oikhiba eng kumja 1972 dagi 1988 phaobagi matam asida sharkar kaya kaikhre, kaya semkhre. Chahi amada C.M. mari sinkhi. Ball akambidouna phok phok kaikhiba, sharkar yamkhre. Leingakpadi ngaihak leitana hongkhi. Meeyamgi puncdadi ahongba leikhide. Leingaklonsu hamu hamuni. Ngayok chapu manungdagi nga phabadouna pakhang kayabu phara – pharaga pukhi. Ayambana hallakkhidre. Sipham napham khangkhidaba kayani. Fake accouterda police amadi siphai kayana thouna phabagi goal medalnachingba phangnakhi.

Kangleipak Manipurda ngaihak leitana P.R. (President rule) thamjanduna makhal mathelgi lanmeena meeot meenei kaya toukhi. Nupi angang kayabusu kachin koyada sabaibikhi. Kanasu cheirak piba ngamkhide. Pakhang lalhoubagi erangsu nongma – nongmagi hengatlakkhi. Meesi meena masing khangdana thokkhi. Matam aduwaidagi pao chegi ahanba chemaida kapthatlamba amadi kapthatnabada sikhiba meeoigi photo yaodaba leikhide. Ahal laman kharadi ayuk anganbada meehat meepungi sabi yengheide haiduna maninggi chemaidagi khabar parammi. Nungtigi phongba pao chesingda yaokhiba meehat meepungi ahanba chemaising adu khomjillaga chaoraba

lairik ama phongba yagani. Asukki matik masing thingamdraba thoudok wathok kaya leikhrabani.

Awa ana taraba matamda police amadi siphaisingdagi mateng lougadaba phaoba kinnarmmi. Check touduna sen munbiraga kapthuduna hatpagi thoudoksu thokkhi. (AFSP Act 1958) Tamthiraba act asina lanmeesingda meeot meeneigi shakti ama pirammi. Asibagi manakta nongmei ama thamjillaga lalhoubu nattraga looterni haiduna case kaya manghankhi.

Kari amuk hairugani – lalhoubu lotlammi, leklammi haiduna yum kaya kangkhongchaina thugaikhi. Yumbu pharaga phudatkhi. Karigumbada yum kaya mei chakkhi. Bomb langsinbada, nongmei kapsinbada chakkhibasu oikhiba yai. Thaoina thadokpasu yaokhidaba natte. Leingak wayel tang takhide.

[Lamdeng Khunou Lei engkholgi shangai yumjaosu ‘Chinglen Nongdren Khomba’ machin manao ahum mangkhraba matungda shakkhangdaba meei kharana mei thadoktuna lamhang amuk oihankhi.]

Shree R. Keisinggi leingak – bharat sharkarna ahing amada namphu haphu touduna thugaikhi. Aduga Shree R Singhu anouba Chief Minister oina washak louhallaga kok amanba mayambu anouba pheejol tholhallaga anouba, pumnou nouba sharkar ama amuk lingkhi. Anouba chaokhat thouranggi thabak kaya paikhatlaga loinana anouba wayel cheirakki lamdasu yangsillakhi. Namsinduna thamkhiba case kaya, nouhouna amuk chemai hangdorakkhi.

Case mayam adugi marakta Inspector Irom Ibohal meehatki casesu reopen toubada yaorakkhi. Case aduda chennakhiba hannagi Home Minister Ningthoujam Nongyai (Shree Jaysinghi sharkardadi mantri phangdre) Singh, namphu haphuda Ibohalgi mahutta Inspector kakhiba Okram Ramjay, S.I. Joro saba Khubilong, Purum Pakchao, Soibam Soidon, Zeep driver Konthoujam Koba, Mandingbam Muni ashinachingba kayabu phagatnaba order thorakle. Irom Ibohal meehatki anouba pao – nungtigi phongba paoche kayagi ahanba chemaida phongdorakle. Meehat aduda hakthengnaruba nattraga nakoinaruba meeoisingbu tharak hungatnabaga loinana pakhatpa amasu yaona lotnakhre. Anouba police team amana thiba humbagi amadi phaba punbagi thabak chatthaba houkhre. Police team aduda mathouna maringjel leiraba constable Nongdren yaokhi. Magi posting taphamga mari leinakhiba caseni. Maral leirabasing ngamnamak pharaga jail youkhre. Caseti houdri.

Irom Ibohal meehatki case nouhouna hingghathalliba ashe atei kana natte, mahakki machanupa ahal Irom Chinglenna sinkhibani. Mahakna anouba C.M. sahebta nouhouna wari touraba matungda paikhatlakpani. Mahak masamaksu houjikti

Guwahati high court, Imphal batchta junior judge ama oirare. Mahak masamaksu judge oiraba matam asida hannagi namsinduna thamlaba case kaya achumba wayelgi rai piduna loisinkhre. Senja thumja toubaga loinana leingak mapu oiramba kayana pressure piduna yeithoklaga thamlamba case kayasu mahak lakpadagi phana yamna loisinkhre. Maram asidagi Irom Chinglen, judge naha haiduna maming yamna chatkhatlakle.

Sibagi cheirak piba yaba case kaya –“ Namphu haphuda loisinduna toknakhi. Case kaya amadi appeal touduna nouhouna thanarakle. Pumnamak adugi anouba rai anouba judge naha Chinglenna pikhatlakle. Maral leiramba kaya nouhouna phadok pikhre.

Matou ashum touraduna Irom Chinglen maming yamna chatkhatlakle. Enak keirak khunba machanupi thajaninglakle. Mayam adugi marakta Ashem Tolen S.P. su amani. Mahakki machanupi doctor Amita pininglakle. Amitadi manao aniga mannade. Thanungkanbini. Mahakna Chinglen nattana kanadasu luhongloi haiduna lepchakhi. Houjiksi hongdri. Aduga Chinglengi wakhalidi...? Amabu oirabasu, Irom Ibohal leiringeida nacha echa louna – leinahansi haiduna yannakhibani. Waroipotti pukhide. Houjikti Anuja thoraktuna machaga loinana Uripokta phongna leirare. Mahakna bara yum pannarare. Aduga Khombadi kadaida ?

Ahing ahingda Khomba laklamba yai, matam kharagi oina. Madudi usinnadabana phe. Matei manaogi larei lathup usingumsi.

Ehe ! Warise lampheinakhre. Chatlasi amuk wayen kati shanglenda.

Wayen chatthagadouri.

Mayumdagi nongmei machinna mathabakta namlaga phaduna pukhiba pakhang amagi case chatthagadouri. Case aduda chennakhiba police Inspector Sinam Ranjit Singh, Adam Khan, atei atei atei driver amadi police officer, constable ngamnamak courtroomda tillare. Case adugi hearing taba laklibasinggi marakta S.P. Tolen, Ranjitki mayamba ahal Professor Rajamani, anaonupa Manjit, Ranjitki nupi Ashem Anita pao pabi, aduga Anitagi mache doctor Amita asinachingba mari mata ngaisen kayani.

Nakal animakki ukilsing, magi magi phampham phamnakhre. Courtroom amagi pashkar amadi batch clerksing judge phamphamgi mangda phamduna leiri. Stano, typing nak yetta thamli. Mari leinaba officer kayasu judge thorakpa ngairi.

Courtroomda tilliba meeyam maraktagi Amitana sonjei –“ Ngasigi judge asibu kana oirigaba ? Amadu oiramdradi phanida !”

Caseki hearing taba lakliba paomee amana khumlak e –“ Ngasigi case ashi assamme nupi Malini Bora koubi amana judge oigani haina tai.”

Paomee adugi manakta phamliba Anita, pao pabina repoter aduda hangngi –“ Chingkhei ! Malini haidubu judge Chiglenga hainei singnei haibi adurane ?”

“Eche Anita !” Repoter Chingkheina makha tana khumlak e –“ Noupwadi akuppa marol khangjade. Adugumba paodi lousu loujade.”

Anitana amuk notsillak e –“ Ado, Chingkhei ! Houren case loiraga judge naha Chinglenbu interview loubu oina amuktang hangngudana.”

Chingkheina khummi –“ Hoi, matam phanglabadi hangjage. Ado eche ! Saodi saobinu Chinglen judgeka echega mahousa college tamminnaringeida... I mean to say... .”

Anitana khumlak e –“ Eikhoi’ chega Chiglenga...”

Chingkheina notsillak e –“ Eikhoi che haidi... doctor Amita ?”

“Hoine, enakta yetlomda phamliba ashe doctor Amita haiduni.” Anitana machebu mashak takpa oina khummi.

Doctor Amitana manaonupida khuningna thillaga hairak e –“ Anita ! Tuminna leiro. Mapham matam khangnghu. Nanggi nupagi caseni.”

“Sorry eche.” Pao pabi Anitana khummi amasung makha tana samtharak e –“ Asum khangningbado. Toubasu... .”

“Khangningngunu nathou natte. Toubasu haidi... .” Amitana tubat samjillak e aduga amuk khanghai hairak e –“ Tu, tu ! Mit langbi, rasi leibi amubi ashe thorakle. Lepkhatlu lepkhatlu. Mayamsu lepkhatnakhre. Thougallon utlu.”

Anitadi hougatkhide. Mahakna makha tana hanglak e –“ Eche, nangdi Malinibu hannadagi khangbra ?”

“Khangngi.” Amitana makha tana hairak e –“ Guwahati dighali pukhuri manakta leibani. Meiteilon phajana khangbani.”

“Oh : Ta Chinglenna tambiba oirini.” Anitana oaksillak e –“ Mabani dikhali pukhurida motor boat tongduna koiminnabadi urakpra ?”

“Anita, tumin leiro.” Amitana nason tapna hairak e –“ Tu, nokphet touraga Malini phamthakhre. Eingonda mangak ellammi. Houren loiraga unnasi.”

“Eche, eidi pakhatpana loireda, kari thoklagaba !” Anitana hairak e –“ Nanaonupa Ranjitkidamak wanomba yaroidra ?”

“Ngasimak case loisinkhrabadi kamdouba ?” Amitana samtharak e –“ Hannasu khanghoude. Mai Chinglen haidusu mashakpu udene. Toubudi mahak yaodabana pheì.”

“Eche ! Etei Chinglenna sinbadi oiramloida.”

“Charoda, napai eteira !” Amitana mapukning nunghsirap touna makha tarak e –“ Nanggidamak khallaga mahakna laktaba oiramba yai.”

“Hoine eche, madusu oiba yai.” Anitana makha amuk koitharaduna nganglak e –“ Houjikti Anujagi tangdangba ama khanglabanina etei Chinglenga naksinnaba mari ama thamba yaredo, eche. Yadrane ? Eibudi soikhre. Nungdi nungngaite, magi amadi paba lbohalgidamak.”

Ekhang hek khanghoudana kangthak awangbada phamlibi Sahebhani (chinglembi nupi) judge Malini Borana laothorak e –“ Ah, sister, case hourasi ! Wari loisinbiro. Courtki decoram ngakpiyu.”

“Ash ! Ekaijareda.” Doctor Amitana asumna sollaga lepkyatladuna hairak e –“ Madam, I beg your pardon.”

Malinina hairak e –“ Please be seated !”

Amitana oaksilli –“ Thank u madam !”

“Khurumjari !”

Wayel kati shanglengi langjei phamduna mapu oiriba Malini Borana makok nollapna amadi khubak ani lonnaraga makha tana hairak e –“ Court manungda tinbiriba pumnamakki maphamda khubang changjou chepna amukkasu khurumjari. Ngasigi luraba case ani chatthadringeigi mamangda wahoudok oina wapham kharadang

hanna thamjage. Eina meiteilon ngangbada khoiri khoiri khara toubadasu nattana aran ahui yaorabasu ngakpiyu.

Eigi eming Malini Bora koujei. Eigi ema Manipur Meitei nupini, mamingna Ebemhal kou e. Guwahati da lairik tamba lakpada eigi epaga khangnaduna yumbannakhibani. Epana assamme ni, mamingna Bimal Bora kou e. Eigi emalondi meiteilonni. Epagi marokna assammeni. Eihak Emagi leibak asida ahanba oina lakchabani. Leibak ashida khundaduna leibas yari. Leiningbagi apambasu leiri. Eigi epa Bimal Bora yamna maming chatpa ukilni. Houjikna Guwahati high court ki senior judgeni. Dada Irom Chinglenga eiga Kolkatada law tamminnarak e. Marup oina loinarak e. M.A. LLB loiraga dada Chinglen eikhoi yumda guest oiduna leikhi. Eikhoi babagi makhada ebani practice touminnarak e. Case kayasu lepminnarak e. Ebanina lepkhiba case ngamnamak mai pakkhi. Mai pakloidaba caseti loukhide.

Eihak samjinjage. Eihak ema leibakta koininglakpaga apamba ama leibadagi lakpani. Dada Chinglen khoigi Uripokta leiba yumda leibagi khudong chaba phangjei. Toubasu dada Chinglengi manaopi Anujagasu munna khangnei. Maga amuk leiminnaba phangba nungngai. Anujagi mapuroiba dada Chinglengi manao Atomba Khomba, Guwahati da matam khara lottuna leirammi. Mahak karigumba maram amadagi lotpa lakhibani. Anujasu yaorakkhi. Eikhoiga yumthangnei. Khombadi ayuk nungthil dukan phamba yaoraga numidang college ta lairik tamkhi. Mahak B.A. pass toukhrabani. Magai machanupa amsu leikhrabani. Angang adusu nungsikhrabani. Eingonda ‘Barima’ kou e.

Ehe ! Warise mayamna tanninglamdaba yai. Tensinjarage. Eihak lakkani haibagi pao hanna thakhrabani. Dada Chinglenna Manipurda case anikhak judge oirulao, Guwahati highcourt ki ayaba che louraga lak u haiduna lakchabani. Emagi leibak asida eihaksu caseki judge oiningba pokchakhi. Case animakki che chang pumnamak neinajare. Toubadi dada Chinglenna handakki case asida judge oiningdabagi maram, meei kharadi khangbirlamlagani. Adubu, dada Chinglenna case ani asigi plaintiff sideki senior ukil oina case leppagi ayaba ama Guwahati High court na pikharbani. Adubu houjik phaoba mahak laktri. Kari toukharbano khangde. Phonesu tourakte. Adubu caseti yeithokcharoi. Case toudana teithok yeithoktuna matam manghanba, sen tinghanbagi maong ado eigi babana yade. Eisu yajade. Ngasigi case animakki meei kharadi leikhidraba ngaktani. Read petition asisu Leihaogi For and on behalf of plaintiff haiduna tharaga dada Chinglenna sahi tou e. Higher courtna ayaba pirabaniba case asi hounaba tourasi. Plentive sideki junior oina lakpiriba advocade Chenglei machang oiba case history khara thambiyu.”

Ukil Yaiphaba lepkhatlakle aduga courtki thougallon minggou kouraga hairak e –“ Your honour ! Ariba case asi hanna paikhatchage.”

Sahebhani judge Malinina makhut thangghatlaga hairak e –“ Learned advocade, amuktang ngaibikho ! Aduga mayamsu amuktang thongjaoromda mityeng thambiyu. Police officer anina pusillak liba ‘Joro’ saba ashi yengbiyu. Mamai khummi, makok khummi. Mamit anidang phatli. Eidi kidum kije. Adubu wayel mapuna kiba hounade.”

“Madam amuktang changjarakke.” Police mangjil thana aduna yathang lou e.

Judge Malinina hairak e –“ Changlak u. Pusillak u. Joro number one ado witness/convict boxta lephallu lao. Ngasimak case loisinba yaragani.”

Police officer amana Joro saba ado pusillaktuna makharom thangba witness or convict boxta manungda changhallaga leihankhre. Matungda police leptuna leikhre. Ngak selli.

Judge Malinina hairak e –“ Maikhi animakki ukilna mister joro saba asida hangbiningba pumnamak hangbiro. Case animakki maru oiba character, I mean to say men accused mahak asini.”

Defendant sideki ukil oiriba Ahanthem Arunkumarna mamit langkhatlaga hairak e –“ Your honour ! Ngasigi case history asida marakta phujillak eba joro saba asiga kari mari leinabage ?”

Malini judge na nokphet touraga hairak e –“ Mister, A.K. Ahanthem, public prosecutor ! Chinglen Nongdren Khomba machin manao ahumgi punsida ngaihak leitana tingkhang oikhiba character ashi mamut tana khangdrabadi nahakna yetkadouriba wayet asibu karino ? Inspector Ranjit houjikna D.S.P. sahebna promotion kanana hotnabada joro saba kayagi mateng louraga maral leitaba meeo kayabu namduna lalhoubi oihankhi. Any way, eina Emagi mapan lamdam asida laklaga over smart oibadi natchadeko. Houjikti case makha chatthanaba ukil anida sinnajari. Please proceed.”

Wayel shanggi hounabi ama oina peskab amana phee angangbana yomsillaba lairik athaba ama senjenggi sempak mathakta hapladuna pusillak e. Joro saba aduda hairak e –“ Hei joro saba ! Geeta paiduna achumbata haijagani, aranba amatta haijaroi haiduna washak u. Geetana sakhi ! Haiyu.”

Judge Malinina khanghai hairak e –“ Magho ! Ngaikho ngaikho ! ‘Geeta’ natragga nakhoi meiteigi senglaba ‘Puya pudil’ pairaga washakhanba ado touganu, eihakti yaningde. Washakpa kidana criminalsingna senglaba lairiksingbu anganggi mapi lairiktouna khalli. Mameida maral yajagani.”

“Chummine Madam !” Maghona khummi amasung hairak e –“ Joro saba ! Judgena yadre. Aduna case thuna loinaba achum achumba ado tengna haidok u.”

Joro saba ado khumde.

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“May I come in, your honour.”

Mikup aduda ekhang hek khanghoudana houraba khollao nattraga ayaba loubagi wangang ama tarak e. Thongjao thongjilda ukilgi pheejiol setpa nupa ama leptuna leirare. Judgeki yathang ngairi. Ukilgi pheejiol setpa nupa adugi makokta bandage angouba yetli. Pheengou mathak aduda manungdagi e phaogatlakpagi khudam uii. Nupa adugi oi thangba makhut adu asok apan yaobagi maongda khaon akonba amana makhourida yantharaga ngaklou oiri. Pourapna, thongjilda lepliba nupa adu lambida accident thokluraba ukil nattraga judge oigani.

Court manungda tilliba meeyamna mangak leithoklaga yengnarak e. Ngak machettang leithoklaga yengbanabu meeshak khangba hounabra ? Thong mayagi benchta phamba meecoinadi haiphet uramba yai. Courtroom asi nongpok onduna thongjao phatli. Haiphet pak chaoba courtroom amani.

Kangthak awangba (plateformda) phamliba judge Manilana thongjiinda yathang ngairiba nupa aduda munna yengluraga chenthage touduna phuk hougatli. Hek thangnaba mikupta ngek amuk phamtharaga hairak e -“ Mister learned advocate! Please do come in.”

Ukilgi pheejiol setpa nupa adu yathang phangladuna courtroom manungda khongthang gup gup thangladuna chumdring changsillak e. Courtroom da phamliba meeyamna, “Heima heima, Chinglen thunglare.” Hainei. Makha tannade.

Kangthakta phamliba Malinina hanglak e –“ Learned lawyer, lambida kari karamba accident thoklure ?”

Advocate Chinglenna khumlak e –“ Judge sahebhani, eihak ngantana lakchabani. Uripok rims road machinda ngaihak leplui. Ghari ngairui. Motor bike tongba naha anikhak khangthou thoujillak e. Matung thangba aduna revolver ama shat shattoklaga ekok tamna kaplak e. Eina kok shat leithokkhi. Nongmei maru ama laibakta khetkhi. Loinana eihak oioina tusilli. Khunek shooter ado target soikhibadagi mamai leiraktre. Adum thoukhre. Leikai naharol khara chensillak tuna eibu hospital da pusinbiraga first

aid touhallaba matungda court tamna lakchabani. Eihak ngasigi case ashe leplaro
haiduna eigi junior advocate Chenglei Yaiphabada sinnakhrabani. Case taruge
haiduna lakchabani. Adubu, lambida eibu hatnaba touramlabanina, case ashe eihak
lepcharage. Nongmei amasung kalamgi lan loisinnaba hotnajarage. Your honour ayaba
pibiyu.”

Judge Malinina hairak e –“ Permission granted. Please proceed, learned advocate.”

Ukil Chenglei Yaiphaba (magi) magi hannagi phamphamda hanjinduna
phamthakhre. Mahak pakhatlurabani. Luraba case ani thengnagadourabani. Magi
senior Chinglen nabudi macha khaina takpiraklibani. Kitak kitak tourui. Houjikti ne
takhre. Junior judge Irom Chinglen numit adugidi ukil oina case thengnagadouri.
Hearing ama chatthagadouri. Mahakna mamai nongpok onthoraklaga courtroom
manungda tilliba pumnamakpu makok nollapna hounakhangba ootladuna hairak e –“
Ngasi courtroom asida tinbiriba pumnamakpu supchinjaraga khurumjari. Thoidokna
khuraebungo S.P. Tolen Singh, eigi oja Rajmani, D.S.P. Ranjit, eigi enao Nongdrengi
marup Manjit aduga ‘A’ sisters, doctor Amita, Anita newsreader, Eton ebungo Soibam
Soidon, ngaisen mari mata pumnamakki maphamdasu nollukchhari. Ngasigi case
hearing hek loirakpada nongmei sanggu ama kaosillaktuna eibu hatkhibasu yai adubu
nongmeibudi kalamna ngammi haiba adumadi ootcharamlage. Ngasidagi chahi kayagi
mamangda eigi enao kok bera khara leirap toubha Khombana, ‘Thangna Kalamdagi
henna thou e’ ‘Kalamna thangdagi henna thouda’ haiduna oja Ramjaygi fountain pen
thangna yanthatlamlaga chenki. Oja ningsingbiramgani. Khombana amuksu
laorammi “Gun is mightier than the sword and pen, I will prove it” wapham ashi lalli
haibasus yade. Pungchum chummi haibasus yade. Houjikti nongmeina ngamdabasibu
leiriba ? Adubu, ngasi eihak nongmei marida sihoude.”

Kangthakta phamliba judge Malinina hairak e –“ learned advocate ! Wakoi subiganu
please come to the point. Case amada chahi kaya changhanbagi maong ado eidi
toujaningde.”

“Your honour ! Ngasimak case loisinjagani.” Chinglenna ashi hairaga convict ki boxta
lepliba joro saba adugi manakta changsillaga hangngi –“ Mister joro saba ! Naming
asengba kari kou e ?”

Joro saba aduna khummi –“ Sir, eihakki eming Khubilong koujei !”

Courtroom manungda tilliba mayam aduna amuktangda sonjei –“ Khubilong,
Khubilong, Khubilong haidi ashi oire. Mashak yengsi yengsi. Mamai haidokhanbiyu.”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Mister Khubilong ! Nakhut yengge tingthorak u.”

“She yengloshe ta Chinglen.” Khubilongna ashi hairaga makhut yet sangna tingthorak e. Mayam pumnamak mangak thanggat thangattuna yengnei.

Chinglenna hanglak e –“ Kadai... Khubimacha aronbado kanana kakthatkhre. Kanada dan toukhre ? Mahabharat ki Karnadouna nama Kunti da pithokhribra ?”

Tilliba mayam wa laona nok e. Khangnem amuk nemthakkhi.

Khubilongna khummi –“ Meena eibu Khubilong Khubilong haiduna yamana laknei. Adudagi ekaiduna kakthatkhre. Adubu... .”

Chinglenna notsillak e –“ Adubu keidouba ? Houjikti nahak Khubikak kourabra ?

“Koude, Khubilong adum kounari.”

Chinglenna hangngi –“ Mister joro saba ! Khubi makak adudi kadai chatkhre, thaoda ngouraga chathokhlibra ?”

“Chaba yaba potsu nattana... kamhai chadoino ?” Khubilongna khummi. Court manungda tilliba mayam ado wa wa laona amuktang khangnok nok e. Tumin – tuminna amuk leikhi.

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Mister joro saba haiduna adum kougeko.”

“Joro adum koubiyu. Saba haibiganu.” Khubilongna hairak e –“ Eihak Manipurgi Joroni. Khwaidagi ehan hanba oina joro sakhibani. Houjikti joro yamba leikhre. Eibu joro number one koubiba yai, ta Chinglen.”

Chinglen : Nang eibu hannadei khangbra ?

Khubilong : Khangngi, yamna munna khangngi.

Chinglen : Lamdeng khunou lei engkholda joro saraga nakhudombi thinduna nangna meecham amabu lalhoubani haiduna phahankhi. Ningsinglibra ?”

Khubilong : Sir, eini haiba kamdouna khangbikhibage ?”

Chinglen : Konna ningsinglakpani. Nangna nakhut yetki khubi achouba thupchillaga khudonbi thindorakpa matamda khubi arongbado ukhi. Haiphet chingnakhi. Nashak yengge haijakhi. Inspector Ranjitna yakhide. Nashak yenghankhide.

Khubilong : (Pakhatlapna) Ta Chinglen ! Eina mashak takkhiba ado Nongdren natabara ?”

Chinglen : Nakhoina meeshak onnana phaduna pukhiba ado meerot chingda hatlaga phumkhibadai ?

Khubilong : Natte, natte Ta Chinglen ! Mahak ado hatkhide. Uran chingkhongda thadoklammi. Thajadraga sir Ranjitta hangbiyu.

Chinglenna judge Malinida onsillaga amuk hairak e –“ Your honour ! Point to be noted. Matam aduda inspector Ranjit, houjikki D.S.P. convict boxta kousinbagi ayaba pibiyu.”

Judge Malinina laorak e –“ Mister Ranjit, box manungda lengsinbirak u.”

D.S.P. Ranjit changsillaktuna Awang thangba witness/convict box manungda leplare. Makok nollapna judgeta ekai khumnaba ootli. Wadi nganglakte.

Chinglenna makharomdagi awanglom thangba witness. Witness/convict box manakta leplare. Aduga hanglak e –“ Mister, D.S.P. seheb ! Khubilonggi Khubi ado adomna kakthatkhibani haiba ashi chumbibara ?”

Ranjitana solli –“ Oh my God !” Makhadi tarakte.

Judgena marak thatchinduna hairak e –“ Learned advocate, mister Chinglen, khubi matat amagi waphamda courtki matam manghanbiganu. Uran chinggolgi meehat adomda changsinbirak u.”

“Your honour !” Chinglenna judgeki mamangda changsillaga makha tana hairak e –“ Khubilonggi Khubi macha echam chamba natte. Matam kharadang pibikho.”

“Permission granted, please proceed.” Judge Malinina ayaba pibaga loinana defendantgi ukil Arun kumarda onsinduna hanglak e –“ Public prosecutor, objection toubiningba leirabasu marak thatpirak u.”

Arunna hairak e –“ Your honour ! Houjik phaobadi yetningngai amatta leijadri.”

Mikup aduda phaklang gharina deng deng khinglak e –“ Deng deng deng 12 hek subada lepkhi. Chek mok laokhidre.

Judge Malinina laothok e –“ Court is adjourned for a break.”

Wahei ashi hairamlaga judge Sahebhani Malini kangthaktagi kumtharaga nakalgi thongda parda haidoklaga judge chamber manungda changkhre.

Hounabi oina ngaihaktang leplubani. Matam yamna loukhide. Mahak thorakpada courtroom da tilliba pumnamak lepkyatnei. Judge Malinina hairak e –“ Mayam phambiyu. Mister D.S.P. Ranjit amadi mister joro. Ngaihak lephanbagi ngakpigani.”

Case taba lakliba mayam maraktagi pao pabi Anitana lepkyatpa toudana hairak e –“ Your honour madam ! Khubilonggi makhol ashe yamna chingnajaba meeshak ama leire. Maikhum hangdoklaga khwai pumnamakta amuktang yenghanbiyu.”

Malinina hanglak e –“ Anitaji ! Kanagi makhol manbagene ?”

Anitana khummi –“Mashak uraga haijage ? Mamingdi panjararoi. Chingnajaba meeshak ama leijare.”

Ukil Chinglenna marak thatchinduna hairak e –“ Anita ! Uran chingnungda nongmeina panduna sikhre hairiba Irom Nongdren oirambasu kanana khangba... !”

“Hah ! Kari haiba ?” D.S.P. Ranjitna khanghang hanglak e –“ Inspector Surchandra gi reportta nongmei maruna panduna Nongdren sikhre haiduna erakhrabani aduga joro saba asibu Nongdren ! Madu oithokpa yaroida ! Maikhum hangdokhanbiyu, Your Honour ! Khombadum mallakle.”

Malinina hairak e –“ Mister joro number one, nanggi maikhum hangdoklo, mayamda nahak kanano haibado munna khanghallo.”

Chinglenna khanghai hairak e –“ No no, Your Honour ! Ngaihaktang ngaibikho. Oiramba yai, Nongdren natraga Khomba. Wahang ama anidang hangjakhige.”

Malinina hairak e –“ Permission granted. Please proceed.”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Mister joro number one ! Nanggi khubi yamna maru oiri. Kanada pithokkhi ! Natraga saru ado likyan oina nangakta siri haina taida, chumbrane ?”

“Aeh : kadaidei wanoda, Ta Chinglen.” Joro sabana hairak e –“ Eibu thainagi hingcha yaitambadouna saru machetpu lik oina sigadra ?”

Defendant gi ukil Arun kumarna mathanta sonthangnana sonjei (karinone tourisibo ? Marei yetningai amatta leitrena sidi ! ‘Chinglen Nongdren Khomba’ machin manao ahumna keino ama sannareda. Maikhum hangdoknaba amuktang taksillhoudrabadi eigi fee pininglaroi. Yetlagedahei...) asumna nungkhannaraga machin kangthokladuna hairak e –“ Objection, your honour ! Panthaba toudana joro asigi maikhum hangdokhanbiyu. Khutnek amana Khubilong sahallaga courtroom drama ama sannaba mallakle. Panthabiranu.”

Chinglenna marak thatchillak e –“ Minute mangadang matam pibikho, your honour.”

Malinina hairak e –“ Learned advocate, eidum mashak yengningbana loire. Makhol ashe haigummadana Khomba mallak le. I know his voice ! Hangngo hangngo nanggi aroiba wahang.”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Mister joro ! Nanggi khubi makak ado kadaida leikhre. Sengna khummu, nahakki naral mayam kokpinaba judgeda haijage... .”

Joro sabana hairak e –“ Aduburo ta Chinglen, eigi khubi makak ado Emagi asiba hakchang phumkhiba leinungda katchaba oina phumkhi. Thajabidraga chingkhei chingkhonggi mangphamda ‘Mukaklei devi’ thaba nung ama yungba adugi manungda leibani.”

Chinglenna notsillak e –“ Namadi kamdouna sikhibano, nongmei maruna pankhibra ?”

“Natteda keisu.” Joro saba aduna pakhatpoi kariboi khanghai haidorakle –“ Eikhoi paji Soidonna emado makhouri metlaga hatkhibani. Aduga eibu kom touhallaga phumkhibani. Natrane paji ?”

Meerakta phamliba Soidon phuk hougatlaga thongjao tamna chenthorakle.

Chinglenna laorak e –“ Head constable, Nongdren ! Thong thingjillu. Soidon meehatpa ngakthi chaptuna thammu.”

Mayambagi wathang hek phangbaga Nongdrenna mapandagi chensillaktuna Soidongi ngakthi chapkhre. Atoppa constable amana makhut anida handcuff chansinkhre.

Malinina hairak e –“ Wonderful proceeding ! Please go on, mister learned advocate.”

Anitana sonthangnana sonjei (eigi paoda sikhre haiduna laothokkhraba Nongdrenbu kamdouna hingkhriba ?) asumna nungkhannaraga mamai leithoktuna yengninglak e. Adubu yengthokkhidre.

Convict/witness boxta leplibas D.S.P. Ranjit tamna yenglak e. Ranjitsu Nongdren tamna yenglak e, nungkhannei (kamdouna Nongdren hingkhriba ? Sikhribaduna kanano ? Eina Anita amadi Amitasu munnaba hotnabada soikhiba kharadi leikhredo.)

Tilliba meeyam pumnamak pumnil nilli. Pumlang langngi.

Malinina ugi nungthang tableda thillaga laotharak e –“ Order order ! Mayam tuminna leibiro. Mister Chinglen, sorry sorry ! Learned advocate, please go on your argument.”

Ukil Chinglenna hairak e –“ Your honour, judge Sahebhani ! Lamdeng Khunougi Irom Ibohalgi mayum mei thadoklamlga mashamak amadi emung manung sikhre haiduna lounam touraga lottuna hingkhiba Soibam Soidon amadi magi machanupa Khubilong meehatpa ngaktani. Soidonna magi matubu makhouri mettuna hatkhi haibagi sakhi machanupa Khubilongna pikhre.

Adngei inspector Ranjitna pharaga pukhiba nupa ado, uranchingda thadoklammi. Meeshak ado ate kana natte; ei esamakni. Eigi enao Nongdrenbu lalhouba yao e haiduna maral sikhiani. Eibu Nongdrenni haiduna phakhiani. Nongdren amadi Ranjit yengthinabagi maramdi court asida puthokchararoi. Ranjit meehatpa amadi oiramdre. Adubu mahakana tasengna lalhouba kayaga face to face accouter tounabada terrorist nattraga lalhouba kaya hatkhre haiduna thouna phabagi mana kaya phangduna promotion kakhre. Mathangsu karakkhidouri. Lanphamda kapnaduna nongmei maruna meehatpadi meehatpa chingde. ‘Homicidal glory’ haiba mingthol phangnei. Mister Ranjitna nungsibada khambal chaobadagi Nongdren hatnaba hotnarammi. IPC section 307, ‘Attempt to commit murder’ gi matung enna piba cheirak pipham thok e haiba asima thamjari. That is your honour.”

Defendant gi ukil Arunkumarna hairak e –“ Your honour ! Eigi client mister Ranjitta siriba maral yumpham yaodaba waphamni. Police officer amana masabu defence toubada tangaiphadana nongmeigi mateng louraga hatti hattana masa kanjabani haiduna loupam thok e. Section 307 panbiganu.”

Malinina hairak e –“ OK I had noted down.”

Arun kumarna nokphet toujei –“ Thank u madam !”

Ranjitki emung manunggi meeoising khubak khurak e.

Chinglen nokphet tou e.

Mamit peirapna Anitabu yenglak e. Yamna nunglon chenba mityengni. Anitagi yetta phamlibi doctor Amitabusu haiphet yengngi. Amitanasu nokphet touraga yenglak e. Mityeng animak nunglon lei. Aroiba mityeng oiraba yai nattraga aroibagi ahouba mityeng oirabasu yai. Madudi case loiraga khanggadaba mangaire.

‘Missing of Chinglen Nongdren Khomba’ kouba case amadi loire haiba yare. Judge Malini Borana filed a note eri. Mayam pumnamak tumin tumin leinakhre. Chekmok

laonaraktre. Mihul ting ting chongnabasu yaorini. Kari karamba judgement pirakkadage haiba adudi Malinitana khangligani. Reserved tousinduna thamkhre. File adu punsillaga manakta phamliba typist amada pithakhre. File hangdokhre. Mathou toukhre.

Malinina mamai haigatlak e –“ Oh ! Sorry. I am so sorry. Mister Ranjit, D.S.P. sahebpu kuina lephankhre. Makhada lengthabiro. Ngasimak final decision laothokchagani. Eidi caseki proceeding reserved touduna kuina thamjade. Lena denagi mihutthong hangjade. Eihak hangchit chatkadabani. Case ama asisu ngasimak loisinjaramge. Chinglen masana judge oiba yadaba case ngaktani. Kanana khangni, laman khumba oina phangsigi order laothorakkadra haibagi akiba lei. Aduna eingonda theidirakpa ashe laibak phe. Case ama asisu ngaihak tabikho.”

“Thank you madam!” Ranjitna ashi hairaga mayamba amadi manao anigi marakta changsinduna phamthakhre. Mayamba professor, pakhang sarina ruman ama manaoda pisilli –“ Namaido teithok o, pakhatlunu. Advocate Chinglengi argument ashe phaje. Meechang meekhai naibagi wangang yaode.”

Ranjitna khummi –“ Adubu tachou ! Judge nupi asina kari tourakkani khangdrida. I.P.C 307 phagi yaba natte. Mitlaobi heisingbi asibu keidoubei nek uriba !”

Machin manaogi wari khanglep leppa takhi. Maramdi ugi nungthang thinbagi makhol amuk khangta tarak e.

Judge Malini Borana case file (folding) ama hangdoraklaga laothorak e –“ Ngasigi anisuba case asisu Chinglen Nongdren Khomba ahumgi mapa hatkhibagi case ni. ‘Brutal killing of Inspector Irom Ibohal Singh’ haiduna maming tholli. Masisu matam kuina namsinduna thamlamba case ni. Ngarang numit chuppa ama meehat asigi maramdasu pajare. ‘Murderer : unknown’ hairaga loisinduna leiramba thengnare. Leikhidraba Inspector gi emung manungna case asi nouna amuk chatthabiyu haiduna tharakpadagi paikhatlakpani. Case asidasu mister Khubilong adum chennari. Anouba meei kayagi maming mathasu thengnaje. Koukhatpagi che thakhre. Meenou khara court manungda changlakpa ujei. Meehat aduda chennabasing oiramgani khalli. Mathang mathang kouthokcharakke.”

“Your honour !” D.S.P. Sinam Ranjit Singhna judgepu kouraga hairak e –“ Atei lairi, joro saba asigi maikhum ashe hanna amuktang hangdokpikho... Khubilong mallaktre. Khubilong dagi wari pumba tathoklaga kanano amana Khubilong saba manjei. Please amuktang yengjage.”

“Mister D.S.P. Saheb !” Malini Borana asumna addressed touraga hairak e –“ Joro saba asina tonganna tharakpa cherol ama case fileda yaoramli. Magi maithong mayam

mamangda hangdokhanbiganu. Mashak khanglaroi. Meina pumka kathokkhre hairi. Jail manungda meei kharana oat neibiduna mamaidasu blue lamp kamsinbikhre hairi. Makholsu onkhre haijari. Adumakpu Inspector Ibohal meehatki case ashi loiraga namduna oirasu mamai hangdoklaga yenghanjage. Phamthabiro, anisuba caseki warol tabiro.”

“Phagani tajage !” D.S.P. Ranjit phamthakhre.

Judge Malini Borana laothorak e –“ Learned advocate Chinglen, Inspector Irom Ibohalbu tamthina hatkhibagi pourappa wari wakhong, filedabudi yaori. Adubu khawai mayamgi maphamda machang kharadang thambiyu.”

Defendant sideki ukil A.K. Ahanthemna marak thatchinduna hairak e –“ Your honour ! Lairenpokpi police outpost ta O.C. oina leiramba Inspector Irom Ibohal haiba ado ekaikhumnajariba ukil Irom Chinglen Singhgi apokpani. Mapa hatkhibagi casepu macha ukilna leppa ashi yaningde. Ainda athingbabudi leite. Toubatabu meehat adugi langla langjil phangba ngamdre haiduna close toukhrabani. Re – open touraga tasengba meehatpa puthokpa ngamgani haiba asida thajaba leijade. Courtki matam manghanba chumdabara khanjei. Munna amuktang kxanthabinaba Your Honourgi pukning chingsinjari.”

Malinina nokphet touraga hairak e –“ Mister, public prosecutor! Close toukhraba case kaya anouba likhun phanglabadi re – open toubayade haibagi niyam leite. I mean to say anouba findingga loinana case chatthaba yai, maral leiramba kaya phasi toubasu yai. Case asimasu adomna paibirabanina sem saduna leibiro. Plaintiff sideki lawyerna case history khara thambiro.”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Phagani, your honour. Inspector Irom Ibohal meehatki langla langjil yamna shangngi. Lairenpokpi alakagi M.L.A. Ningthoujam Nongyai Singh, mameida Home Minister oiramba, houjikna magi ayokpa taku kangbuna nongmei maruna kaptuna hatkhraba mahakki khut yao e. Police officer kayasu case ashida chennari. Makhoising adudi S.I. Ramjay, Inspector Soibam Surchandra houjikna jailer oiriba aduga atei atei kayasuni.

Lairenpokpi alakagi Chingkhei Chingnungda ‘Nongpok Haram Lalhou Lup’ kouba ama Soibam Soidon amadi Soibam Khubilong mapa machana luchinglaga semgatkhi. Lalhou lup ashi M.L.A. Nongyaina magi rajnitigi khutlai oinaba semkhibani. Lairenpokpi alaka ashi yamna erang leiba, taku tarang kanba mapham amani. Masibu laksinnabagidamak echang thouna leiraba Irom Ibohalbu tharakpani.

Ibohalgi khutpuna forest guard singgi mateng louraga Khubilong mapa machagi gang khutpu meei 9 pharaga S.I. Ramjayna I.O. oiraga Imphal police stationda thinjillui.

F.I.R. ama semkhi. Mikup khara leiraga M.L.A. Nongyaina phone touraktuna athempot kharasu thillaktuna Soibam Soidon, machanupa Khubilong aduga marup Pakchao makhoi ahumbu thadokhankhi. Nongngandringeida meei ahum thillakkani haikhi. Masidasu nattana M.L.A. Nongyaina Home Minister oina washak loudoure haiduna O.C. Surchandrabu mikahankhi. Pham kahanni haikhi.

Numidang thadokkhiba meepa haibadi Soidon, Khubilong, Pakchao aduga zeep driver aniga loinana M.L.A. quaterda thungkhi. Aphaba khutlaiga loinana makhoi mangnga ado Lairenpokpi da tharakkhi. Maikhum uppa ahumna khanghoudana Lairenpokpi police pacade manungda changlak e. Chakcha tokpagi walking chatliba Inspector Ibohalda taku ahum adugi mayai thangba maikhum uppa aduna carbine maru kaya khapchinduna Ibohal hatkhibani. Khubilongbu I.P.C. section 302 gi matung enna sibagi cheirak pibiyu. Piphamsu thok e.”

“ Objection your honour.” Defendant gi ukil A.K. Ahanthemna hairak e –“ Matam kuina likhun phangba ngamdaduna case close toukhraba case amagi anouba likhun ama pukhatlakpa ashi yajaningde. Aron athup mayam ashibu plaintiff ukilna kamdouna khangbiriba ? Semjin sajinba wari amani haiduna loujei.”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Your honour. Thoudok adugi maru oiba I.O. Ramjaybu wahang paohangbagi ayaba pibiyu.”

Judge Malinina laothorak e –“ Mister Ramjay lengsinbirak u. Aduga jailer Surchandrasu sem saduna leibiyu.”

S.I. Ramjay awang thangba accused box manungda changlaktuna leplare aduga hairak e –“ Achumbada haijagani aranba haijaroi. Epa emana sakhi !”

Malinina hairak e –“ Very good ! Gita paiduna washakhallaga aranba ngangdou saruk ema epa pallaga sari washakpana phei. Plaintiff sideki ukil, Chinglen wahang paohang chatthabiro.”

Chinglen : I.O. Ramjayna Inspector Irom Ibohalgi thajaba manghanduna F.I.R. semdokhi haibasi yaningbra ?

Ramjay : Yajei. Ethak thongba officer Surchandra gi order enba takhi. Toubasu... .

Chinglen : Toubasu haidi amuk thanaba chithi khao ama phangkhibra ?

Ramjay : Thabak changbada changkhiba... kharadi hanjinnaba hotnaba tabani. Ethak thongba O.C. sahebna khairakpani. Madubu aranbani haigadra ?

Chinglen : Wahang adugi paokhum piba eigi ethou natte. Mameithangda F.I.R. mei thadokkhi haiba asidi chumbra ?

Ramjay : Chummi, mantrigi pressure ni. Home Minister oiramba Nongyai sikhre haiduna thangjanbadi natchade.

Chinglen : Inspector Irom Ibohalbu nongmei maru kaya khapchinduna hatkhiba meehatpa adu ‘Unknown’ haiduna F.I.R. da eraga loisinkhre. Likhun khangkhidra ?

Ramjay : Thibada khangkhidre. Number thadaba zeep amada mee manga tonglak e haiba phaodi uhoubasingna haikhi. Mashak masondi khanghoude haikhi. Makhoi joro saba ngaktani.

Chinglen : Joro joro... meetou tamba heikhredako Meitei machasing. Witness blockta lepliba joro ashi kanano khangbibra ?

Ramjay : Mamai urabadi khangbasu yai.

Chinglen : Mamaidi kathekkhre. Makhol ashe karigumbada takhibra ?

Ramjay : Takhidri. Eidi joro sabaga loinajakhide.

Chinglen : Yare lengthabiro. Mathang asidi Inspector Surchandra houjikki jailer pamjei, your honour.

Jailer Surchandra changlak e. Witness boxta kakhattuna lepkhre. Mahakti angakpa maongda washakpa oina hairak e –“ Achumbadang haijagani. Houjik aranbabu achumba saduna ngangluba yararoi. Nongmei maruna sakhi, Achumbadang haijage. Hangbiningba hangbiro.”

Chinglen : Jailer saheb. S.I. Ramjayna haikhriba mayam asida yaningba yaningdaba yaokhibra ? Khara haibiyu.

Surchandra : Ngamnamak chummi. Eina tangai phadana maram amadagi F.I.R. semdokhankhibani. Eral yajari. D.S.P. kagadra khallubani. Adubu Home Minister sibana hankhibana kahoudre. Jailer oina transfer amuk tourakkhi.

Chinglen : Home Minister bu time bomb fit touraga car pokkhaihanduna hatkhibasi adom yaobra ?

Surchandra : Hare hare ! Madudi karimta khangjade. Ema hatpa pap pujage.

Chinglen : Jailer saheb. Nongma adomna inspector oiringeida Home Minister ni haiduna haraoba phongdoktuna phone tourakkhibado ningsingbiribra ?

Surchandra : Ningsingngi Ningsingngi. Eihak yamna chingnajakhi. Mai thaklui. Kanadasu wari toukhide.

Chinglen : Phone pairaklaga paokhum pikhidaba meeshak ado eini hairabadi... .

Surchandra : Aeh : Adomdi detective amasu oibra ? Kijareda.

Chinglen : Tangaiphadrabadi ukilsu detective oiduna case amagi langla langjil thiba tabani. Numittuda F.I.R. onthokkhi, mei thakhi haiba khangjakhi. Phone paikhibado eihak natchade. Paomee amani. Eingonda konna mateng pangbirakpani. Paomeegi mamingdi panjararoi. Toubasu thigatpa hourak e. Temba constable eikhoi pababu yamna nungshijaba meeshakni. Mahakna aron athup pumba eingonda lithoklambani. Aduna aron athup pumba khangjakhiani. Mahakti thabaktagi pothakhre. Houjikti siba kidre haibani.

Malini : Learned advocate Chinglen, makhadi kana kanagi jaban lougadaba leibiri ?

Chinglen : Your honour, maru oiba meeshak kharadi jaban loure. Masa masanasu maral yajakhre. Your Honourgi decision laothokpigadaba mangaire. Marak asida wapham amatang sengdokchahoukhige.

Malini : Takpiyu. Kari matang chitthahoure.

Chinglen : Ngasigi case hearing asida joro sariba nupa ashi Soibam Khubilong natte. Khubilongdi sikhre.

Malini : (Mamit langkhatna) Mister Chinglen ! Adudi mahak ashi kanano ? Eibu apangbini haiduna oot chaibiribra ?

Courtroom gi mamangda ngakthi chaptuna thamliba Soibam Soidonna laorak e –“ Chinglen ! Eigi echa Khubilongdi kadaida chatkhre ? Eigi Echagi meehut sinba ama puthoklaga meeyambu, courtpu nahakna lounam namthak touriba karigino ? Judge ebemma ! Tatpat toubu Chinglenbu cheirak piyu. Haiyu, eigi echa kadaida chatkhre. Eigi echa saraga courtta puthokliba asibu kanano, kanano ? Masibu yabrane ?”

Court manungda tilliba mayamsu lepkyataga houna laokhatnarak e –“ Judge ebemma ! Joro saba ashe maikhum hangdoklaga mayamda yenghanbiyu. Wayen shangdabu mihut sinduna jaban loubu yabra ?”

Malinina lepkyataga laorak e –“ Mayam amukta engthabikho. Mee amana, mee amagi mahut sinduna thabak toubu yai. Ukil amana power of attorney haiba cherol ama piraga atoppa ukil amana case leppa yai. Ngasi Chenglei Yaiphaba na Chinglengi ayaba cherol piraga case leppa lak e. Chinglen thungladuna Chenglei Yaiphaba gi mahut amuk Chinglenna sillare. Oja amana magi authorisation letter ama piraga machana talab louruba yai. Ateisu kaya leire. ‘Substitution act’ natraga ‘Authorisation act’ haiba chatnarol gi matung enna natraga company lawgi matung enna ‘Proxy’ toubagi voting right lei. Matou asumna accused Khubilonggi aya che ama yaorabadi mahut sillaga caseka mari leinaba sakhi sabhonbu oiro, case historybu oiro piraba yai.

Houjik luribadi Khubilonggi mihut sinduna courtta maral yaba lakliba joro sariba nahak, khubilonggi mahut sinduna sibagi cheirak pirabadi loubu ngamgadra ?”

Tilliba meeyamna laosillak e –“ Khummu khummu. Nahak siba ngamgadra ?”

Joro saba ado tuminna leikhi. Chek mok laokhidre.

Judge Malinina luktharaga caseki marol khara eraga leikhre. Mayamna khourangna ngainari. Mihul ting ting chongbasu yaoramgani.

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“Sahebhani !”

Joro saba aduna judge Malinibu nungshina kouraga makha tana hairak e –“ Ekai khumnajarabi judge madam ! Adomgi aroiba wayel laothoktringeida eihakki aroiba wapham kharadang phongdokchage.”

Malini khangprek khangngi. Rai eba leplaga joro saba adu tamna yenglaga hairak e –“ Nangbu nangbu mayamna chingnariba meeshak adura ? Maikhum hangdok u nashak yengge. Sikhre haina maming laothokkraba Nondren siramdre. Kanano, magi mahut sinduna sikhriba meeshak ado ? Ngasi phaoba khangkhidre hairi. Aduga ngasi Khubilong saduna courtta jaban piba lakliba ngangbu... nangbu...?”

Chinglenna joro sabagi mahut sinduna hairak e –“ Your honour, wahang mayam adugi paokhum eihak pijarage.”

Judge Malinina ngaingamdaba matou oottuna hanglak e –“ Learned advocate Chinglen, Khubilong haibasu tasengnamak sikhrabra ?”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Your honour nemthabikho. Eihakna aronba meehatsing adugi maramda mitna taseng tasengna uhoubadouna khangba ngamjaduna paodamjakhi. Masi pumnamak Khubilongna lirambani haiba yai. Caseki machak oinaba meiteilonda bangla mayekna peiri peireng ehallaga piramba chithi amadagi code toujaraga ngangjakhibani. Magi khut e chummi chumde haibado mapa ebungo Soidonda yenghanbiyu.”

Malinina hairak e –“ Soibam Soidon pusillak u. Machanupana erammi hairiba chithi ado yenghallu.”

Constable amana Soidon pusinduna changlak e. Awangthangba witnessed box manungda lephalli. Chinglenna chithi yenghalli, pahalli. Machagi maming thariba adusu munna yenghalli.

Chinglenna hanglak e –“ Eton ebungo ! Siramdaisidadi achum achumba ngakta ngangthoklammu.”

Soidonna hairak e –“ Ebungo Chinglen, etonbu siradrane ?”

Chinglenna amuk oaksilli –“ Eton houjiksi hingninglibra ? Natusu nangna hatkhre. Jail manungda macha nupa Khubilongdi kanana hatkhi khangbra ?”

Soidonna ngaklapna hanglak e –“ Eigi echa Khubilongbu jail manungda hatkhraba ?”

Chinglenna notsillak e –“ Chithi ashe nachagi khut eni, chummi chumde haibado hanna judgeta haibiyu.”

Soidonna hairak e –“ Ebemma judge. Chithi ashi eigi echana erambani, magi khut eni. Ado, echa hatkhiba meeshak adudi kanano ? Madumatangdi khanghanbiyu. Phasi toubiyu meehatpa ado.”

Malinina hairak e –“ Yare yare Soidon puthokkhro. Eigi final noting loisallage.”

Soidon puthokkhre.

Joro saba aduna hanglak e –“ Judge Sahebhani ! Eihakki jaban loubu loibirabra ?”

Malinina hanglak e –“ Loidri. Jail manungda Khubilongbu kanana hatkhi ? Nangbu kanana Khubilong sanaba nekkhi. Madumatang khummu.”

Joro saba aduna khummi –“ Nongmeina, I mean to say nongmei silencer maruna Khubilongbu magi ka manungda kaptuna hatkhi. Meeshak adusu joro saraga changlakkhi. Mayoknabagi cell amadagi eina lonna uhoubani. Khubilong mathanta sijaba mannaba makhutta nongmei pistol adu paihallammi. Numit adugi joro saba ado kanano haiba khangkhidre. Maikhum haidoklamde. Matam khara kannaraga joro saba makhoi ahum laklaga asiba ado phee yomsillaga puthokkhi. Asiba hakchang phumkhibara mei thakhraba khanghoudre. Chek mok laonarakkhidre. Khubilongna achou ahang officer amadi mantrinachingba aron athup haidorakkadra haibagi hatpa malli.

Matam khara leiraga ‘Missing case of Chinglen Nongdren Khomba’ amadi ‘Brutal killing of Inspector Irom Ibohal Singh’ case ani re – open toudoure haiba tarakkhi. Nongmadi eigi kada jailer saheb changlakkhi... .”

Malinina marak khangthat thatchilli –“ Mister Joro saba ! Ngaikho ngaikho... . Matam adugi jailerdi kanano, haibadi houjik oiriba asira ?”

Mikup aduda jailer Surchandra swai laokhi. Mahakna suktha thajarudaba wahang ama thorakle. Mahakna phuk hougatlaga hairak e –“ Your Honour ! Eihak mapan amuktang thokcharuge. I was called by nature.”

Malinina hairak e –“ Yes, you may go...but... .” Machinna ashi hairaga thongjaoromda yenglaga Nongdrenda khudombi khatlak e.

Joro saba adusu tounariba maong ado khangngi aduna khudakta hairak e –“ Your Honour, houjik jailer oiriba sir Surchandra chenkhidoure. Mabu phabiyu. Mahakna eibu Khubilong saraga ashum khummu ada hairunu haibanachingba tambiraga courtta thadorakpani. Khubilong sikhrabadi makhoigi maral kananasu khanglaroi haiduna nungngaina leirurabani. Khubilongna nongmadi mabu hatlagani khanjakhiba tai. Aduna meehat meepungi thoudok kaya lothoklammi. Aeba cherolsu pirammi.”

Malinina laorak e –“ Jailer saheb lengsinbirakkho. Judge chamber manungda changbirga naturena koubado khumdokpiru lao aduga witnessed boxta amukka leppiraba tai.”

Jailer changlakle. Manung changba toudana box manungda changduna leplare. Wa machet amata ngangde. Wahang ngairi.

Chinglenna matam manghanba toudana hanglak e –“ Jailer saheb ! Jail manungda mapham marang khangdana phadok sibagi yamna thokkhre. Thouri yanduna siramle, hoo chaduna siramle asinachingba maral kaya thangjillaga loisinkhi. Case amatta pankhide. Matou asumna Khubilongbu mathanta sijabani haiduna case pankhidrabra ?”

Jailer Surchandra na khumlak e –“ Khubilongbu kananasu thiraklaroi haina khankhi. Mabu loiramba mantri Nongyai sikhre. Mapa Soidonsu lainingkhre haina khandoknakhi. Ekhang khanghoudana Khubilong puthorak u haiba courtki order thunglabada eikhoi swai laokhi. Aduna mamit mana yamna singba phadok amabu phajana takpi tambiraga, joro sahallaga thadokchakhibani. Eihak asengbada haijarabani. Adugadi Khubilong sariba joro asidi maha takudum oiramle haiba houjikti khanglakle. Mamit mana singkhraba chalu ama oiramle.”

Defendant gi ukil A.K. Ahanthemba marak thatchinduna hairak e –“ Jailer saheb ! Eihak maithigadoure. Einadi hangpham thoktaba wahang amatang hangjage.”

Jailer Surchandrana hanglak e –“ Hangbiyu. Achumbadang khumjage. Houjikti chenba yararoi. Confess touba tabani.”

Defendant ki ukilna hanglak e –“ Jailer sahebna eikhoi ahum haiduna panbikhi. Meeshak ani adudi kana kanano ?”

Jailer Surchandrana saorang touna hairak e –“ Ebungo, ukil soinou ! Wahang ado nangna hanggadaba nattene. Nangdi ngakthouk u haibanine.”

A.K. Ahanthemna makok pairaga sonjei –“ Ash ! Eihak loiredana. Yamna laina khalluba caseni. Makha taba marei marang toujararoi. Plaintiff ki learned lawyerna makha chatthabiro. With the permission of your honour, eihak chatchaba yaragadra ?”

Malinina tentak khummi –“ Chatpa yakhiroi. Phamphamda lengsinbikho. Case loidoure.”

Advocate A.K. Ahamthem, ukilsinggi phamphamda changsinduna phamkhre. Maru lukna leikhre. Sonthangnana sonjei –“ Makoktagi mamei phaoba... mameidagi makok phaoba ngamnamak shum charaba yumbi ngakta oirabra ?”

Malinina hanglak e –“ Mister A.K. Ahanthem ! What is wrong with you ? Keidoure murum murum... .”

A.K. Ahanthemna khummi –“ Nothing madam ! Makha chatthabiro.”

Maningdagi ahal amana laorak e –“ Maral leibasing phasi toubiyo. Kalamgi mating ootpiyu ! Meehatpabu kanbiganu.”

Malinina tai adubu paokhum pikhide.

Chek mok laonade.

Court manungda tilliba meeyam tumin tumin leinei. Nahalkheiga mannadaba maongda chattharakpa case hearing haiba yai. Maral leiruraba kayadi meehul ting ting chonglamba yai. Maral leitre haiduna khalluba kaya maral leirakpasu yari. Maral leire khallubana maral leiramdabasu yari. Karisu lanjadaba amada maral sijinnabasu yaoramba yari. Case ashe kisi amagi mathangda kisi ama. Etha thajadana meeshak amana jail manungda, Khubilongbu hatlamba yari. Wahang kaya thokhalli. Jail manungdabu phadok amana kadaidei nongmei ? Khwaidagi langtaknaribadi atei natte ; Joro sariba nupa ashi kanano ? Mayamna magi maikhum hangdokpa ngainari. Khubilong sahallaga jailerna thadorakliba joro ashe mayamna Irom Khombani haiduna khannari. Kanana khangba mahak oiramdabasu yari. Adudi kana... ?

Judge Malinina karigumba note khara eruraga mamai haigatladuna hairak e –“ Learned advocate Chinglen, jailer sahebta kari kari hangningliba, haibiro. Houjikti caseki missing point ama phanggadoure. Makha chatthabiro.”

“Thank u, your honour.” Chinglenna asumna judgeda thougallon ootlaba matungda jailer Surchandragi box manakta changsilladuna hanglak e –“ Jailer saheb ! Khubilong hatnaba thourangda panbikhiba eikhoi ahum haibadi joro sakhibado kana kanano, maming matha haidokpiro. Confess toubihouro. Court ashina tarakpa decision da makha tana supreme court ta appeal toubi yanaba lambi yengbihouro. Asheng ashengbado haidokpiro. Leingakpasing amadi sarkargi thabak toubasingna criminalsingdagi henna henna sathirakle. Eikhoi pambei amadi thihouba chummi. Ungduna leibiranu jailer saheb.”

Jailer Surchandrana hairak e –“ Ei ama tangaiphadana yaorure, yaodaba yadabani. S.I. Ramjay ama yaore. Aduga ahum suba aduna ... eibu haidoklagadrane... .”

Meeraktagi kanano amakhakna laorak e –“ Jailer saheb, hek haidokpada... nang sire khangngu... khudak asida nangbu... .”

Judge Malinina laorak e –“ Kanano, kanano houjik laokhibado. Nongdren aduga atei security personnel sing mikup nahum singngu ! Nongmei paiba khutnek ama court manungda lottuna leire. Cheksillu, cheksillu.”

“Atei lairi, madam pakthabiyu.” Nongdren maningdagi laorak e aduga prap prap chensillak e. Jailer sahebna leplibi box mamang yousillaktringeida ‘Thut laoba’ makhol ama takhi. Silencer panba pistoldagi maru ama meeraktagi kapthorakpa oigani.

Jailer sahebki mathabakta maru ama pankhre. Mahak cheinakhol phangbagi ‘Ah’ haiba makhol amaga loinana laorak e –“ Ahumsuba joro saba ado, D.S.P. Ranjitni. Mahakna Khubilong hatpani. Eidi meehatpa yaode. Adubu nongmeigi cheirakti shangga phattabana phangle. Madam ! Achumba wayel toubihouro. Ah... ei chatle.”

Jailer saheb box manungdagi uppna haithakhre. Masa tangkhai panduna leikhre. Courtroom da tilliba pumba tharak hunghatnei. Chenthoraksi kadai... mamangthong thingjinkhre.

Kangthakta phamlibi, siba naba kidabi lady judge Malini Borana ka adugi kachin koyada koina yenglak e. Case taba lakliba mayamna phamliba bench amadi choukri makhada leimaida koiyeng yenglak e aduga khanghai hairak e –“ S.P. Saheb Tolen Singghi makhada leire leire... kanano ama chensillaga khunghatlak u.”

“Hah ! Eigi phampham makhada... .” S.P. Tolen Singhna leimaida yengthei. Aduga khanghai amuk hairak e –“ Esh ! Judge ebemma nangbu Kamakhya Devigi sayolla ? Nahakti Chinglengidamak sibasu kidrabo ? Nangonda tamkhiba nongmei maruda pheijeina chatkhrabo ? Onthoknasu heikhredako. Eigi phamphamda kanana naronda khutlei thuna langsillak eba pistol no ? Masibu Ranjit nanggi nattabara...?”

“Now, the case is over !” Judge Malinina hairak e. Mamangda phattuna thamliba judgement seat aduda thainagi chindumbi kalam ama mamangdagi satkatlaga ena ena mayam tanaba meiteilonda hourapna amuk nganglak e –

“Chinglen Nongdren Khomba machin manao ahum manglubagi caseka mari leinana sakhi sabon kayadagi warol kaya tare. Makhoi machin manao ahummak lalhoubaga mari leinarammi haibagi likhun phangdre. Kangleikhomba lalhoubagi luchingba aduga Irom Khombaga mari leinaramdre. Kangchup B.S.F. camptagi nongmei lakkhiba ado Chinglen amadi magi social workersing natlamdre. Sinam Ranjit Singh, Police Inspectorna Chinglenbu manghankhraga Chinglenga nungsinariba Ashem Amitabu Ranjitki mayamba Professor Rajmanigi nupi haibadi magina mateima oinaba hotnabagi thourang oiramle. Laibak thibadi Professor Rajmani houjiksi pakhang sari oiri. Doctor Amitasu eidouna Kumari pokhoubi oiri. Angak angakpa love storygi potloi case loiraba matungda mathel ama oiraba yai. Nongdambana kari tamliba madusu yengbikho. Esingna esing, shanggomna shanggom haiba ado kharadi thoktaba yararoi. Mayam waroubiganu. Leibak amagi ain haiba ashi thouraba thang amadi tamthiraba nongmei haibadi marudagisu henna mating leibani haiba ado kaobiganu.

Eina ngasi pigadouriba aroiba wayel asidi yamana ahakpa oiragani. Achumba puraknaba hotnabada meehat meepun haiba ashi yaodaba yadabani. Eikhoigi leibak ashida, lower court natraga supreme court nouna amuk appeal touba yabagi thongjao ama matam pumbada hangduna thammi. Adu oirabadi lower courtsing ashi lingngubagi kari artha lei ? Muthatpana phattabara ? Eihakna supreme courtpu singnajaba natte. I mean to say lower amadi high courtta takhiba raibu supreme courtna ekai khumnabipham thoktaba ?”

Pressmen amadi wakhal chumna khanba babok kharana khubak prok prok khurak e. Khubak makhol nemthakhi. Paomee Chingkheina laorak e –“ Long live ! Lady judge Malini, the order of meitei chanu ebemhal !”

Malini Borana makhut thangghatlak e. Mayam pumnamak chek mok laonakhidre.

Joro saba aduna hanglak e –“ Madam, eihak chatchaba yaragadra ?”

“Ngaikho ngaikho.” Malinina khammi. Aduga mamangda leiriba judgement seat adugi aroiba saruk ado pathorakle –

“Chinglen Nongdren Khomba machin manao ahumbu meetamthi kharana tongan – tonganba maral pisinduna hatnaba hotnakhiba ado yamna kupna neinaraba matungda makhoigi maral amatta leiramdre. Makhoi houjikti phongna leiba yaragani. Makhoi machin manaobu manghannaba hotnakhibasingda pipham thokpa kalamgi cheirak piragani.

Laibak thiba nattraga laibak phaba haigadra Inspector Irom Ibohal Singh hatpada maru oiba character ama oiriba Soibam Soidongi machanupa Soibam Khubilongdi hatkhrabani. Kalamgi cheirak piningngai machak leitre. Mahakki thawai meerel engna chikna leikhrasanu.

Masagi matubu makhouri mettuna hatkhiba Soibam Soidon, ehe marak thatna S.P. Tolen sahebki phamphamda taduna leiriba pistol ado kanano amana rumanna yomlaga amukta khungatlaga pibirak u. Eisu kappa heibra amuktang yengjage. kaplamge maru ama !”

Mayam pakhatnei. Machinda sonnei –“ Esh ! Masi nupi judge asidi maha beirabi oidouribra, kanada kaptourijatno... ?”

Head constable oina koichen chelliba Nongdrenna nongmei ado khungatlaga judge Malinigi mamangda thamkhre. Malinigi makhut oina nongmei adu paina paina makhut yetna waroi cheirak eri –“ Nongmei amasung Kalam, Nongmeina amuk ngammi, Kalamna amuk ngammi ! Houjikti thanggi juk loikhre. Etihashki ningthousingna pairamba maming chatlaba thanglonsing maya kumkhre. Kolhing chakhre. Lattuna thambiro. ‘Kalamna thangdagi henna thou e’ haiba ado yaningkhidaba meei kaya leikhi. Mayam adugi manungda Irom Khombasu amani. Houjikti mahak normal tarakle. Ehe ! Meidingu Chinglen Nongdren Khombana adungei ouwa hatpada pairamba ‘Brajasingh’ kouba thangsang ado Lamdeng Khunougi lei engkholda lotkhi hainei. Mayam thidokpiyu aduga mapham aduda latlaga thambiyu. Masina eigi tonganba appealni.

Nongmeina mee kaya kaya hatkhre, I mean to say nongmeigi maruna maral leirabasu, maral leitrabasu hatpa thiba nongmeina halli. Policena, armyna meehatlaga pham kanei. Mana mathum medal phangnakhi. Adum oinamak Kalam asisu athotpa amengba matik magun chenbagi matik tamthiraba mee hatnaba khutlai amasu oidabadi natte. Taplabasu tapna, ngasidi eina ekhutta pairiba thainagi chindumbi kalam asigi tumlaba machilna hatpa tari meetamthi kaya... .”

Judge Malinigi wangang loiphattringeida joro saba aduna marak khangthat thatchillak e –“ Madam ! Eigi maikhum hangdok chaba yaragadra ? Eihak khangba ware.”

“Ngaikho ngaikho.” Judge Malinina meehut thongda yengluraga hairak e –“ Court lampakta upambi macha amagi marumda nanggi nupi malli, machanupa amaga ngaiduna leire, nangbu oakpa lakli. Meehutthonhdagi uabani. Aeh : Lei pareng amasu nungsiraba nachanupa Khomdonna pairi. Aduga Anujana amuba sunglass uppladuna nanggi maikei yengli... chatlo chatlo. Nahakki naral leitre. Nagsidagi nahak naning tamna leijaruro. You are free now.”

“Aeh : Khomba nang oire joro saba !” Doctor Amitana lepkyataga laorak e –“ Eikhoina chingnaba adumak chumle. Namai kathekkhre haidai ? Amuktang ootlammu.”

Khombana magi maikhum kokkhum ado shat louthoklaga laktuna langthokkhi. Nongdrenna chensillaktuna oakkhi. Khwai mayam pumba, pumngak ngakna Khombada yengnarak e. Magi mamai karisu katheklamdre. Hannagi phajaraba maithong aduni. Dak jakham amattasu leiramdre. Accused box manungdagi Khomba kumthakhre. Aduga mapanda chenthokkhre.

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“Order ! Order.”

Judge Malini Borana ugi nungthang adu yeiphamda ahum marirak thilla – thilladuna hourapna hairak e –“ Mayam pumnamak tuminna leibiro, numitsu thengjillakle. Case pumnamak supchillaga loisinnaba toujarage. Ahanbada, ngasigi close tousingadouraba case anigi matangda lawyer Chinglengi pendaba natraga makha tana supreme courtta appeal toubiningba leibiribra ?”

Chinglenna khumlak e –“ “Your honour ! Thoidokpa leijadre. Epa hatkhiba meei ahummak sikhre. Eikhoi echin enao ‘Chinglen Nondren Khomba’ ahum mangluba, lotlubasu hinggatlakle. Your honour Sahebhanigi judgement aduda penjare. Toubatabu... munna khanbiraga kalamgi cheirak pipham thokpa arony kharadi leiribra khanjei. Aingi mityengna kupsinna yengbiro. Makha tajaningngai leijadre.”

Judge Malinina hairak e –“ Thagatchari, learned advocate.”

Defendant sideki ukil A.K. Ahanthemna khanghoudana pharak ama khangphu phujillak e –“ Your honour, ngakpigani. Wapham amatang... .”

“Kari matangno, takpiyu.” Malinina khummi.

Ukil A.K. Ahanthemna hairak e –“ Makha chatthagadouriba casesingga mari leinana supreme courtta appeal touba yanabagi room amamamdi thambiramnaba hanggatchari.”

Judge Malinina nokphet touraga hairak e –“ Makha chatthagadouriba case ashidi phong phong sariba, ahingba case ama oigani. I.P.C. natraga C.R.P.C. animakta yaodaba wayel cheirak oiraba yai. Ain amadi cheirak pibagi wapham ashi aingi larikta yaodaba kaya lei. Aduna marak marakta amendment haiba ama hek hek touribani.

Kangleipak Manipurda nouna hangliba highcourt base ashi learned advocate Chinglenna ‘Wayel kati shanglen’ haiduna thonjei. Masisu mayamna khangjinbihouro. Kati athouba sijinnabagi matamdi laklabani. Appeal toura – touraga tamthiraba meehatpa kaya meehatpa natte haiduna vote leppa yahanbadasu nattana state amagi C.M. phaoba oinakhrabani. Aduna houjikti kati pajaba tare.

Case animakta chennariba Khubilong sikhrbasu mahakpu amuk chingthoraktaba yade. Mahakpu kanana hatkhibano haiba ado thidokpa tai. Mahak yamna maru oiba character ni haijakhre. Khubilongna eramba chithi amadi mahakna Irom Khombada liramba wari likhun amagi matung enna meehat meepungi tongan – tonganba langla langjil chingthokkhiba tai. Khubilonggi wapham ashi amuk leikhisanu.

Ngasi chatthariba case ani loikhrbasu ‘Crime within crime’ haiba thoung kaya thorakle. Courtroom asimaktada machin menba oina jailer saheb Soibam Surchandrabu meeraktagi silencer panba pistol maruna kapthoraktuna hattokpikhre. Madugi F.I.R. ama houjikti I.O. Homenna pikhatlakle. Houjik khwai mayamgi mangda thamjariba waphamdi khunekpu oiro nongmei mapubu oiro meehatpa ado cheirak pidringeida chongthokpiraklo !”

Judge Malinina ashi hairaga koyeng yenglak e. Kanasu hougatlaktre.

Meerakta phamliba repoter Chingkheina phuk hougatlaga hanglak e –“ Your honour, Kangleipak Manipurda ahanba oina court manungda jailer Surchandrabu nongmei maru kapthoraktuna hatkhre. Adomdi kangthakta phambibanina nongmei maru kapthorakpa ado ubiramgani. Anouba meehat asigi cheirakti ngasimak pithokpiramba yabra haiba wapham ashi thamjari.”

“Thank you mister repoter !” Judge Malinina momon touraga hairak e –“ S.P. Tolen sahebna mamaknupa Ranjitpu kannabagidamakta meehat khutpu oiruba Surchandra bu machin mennaba kapkhiba oirambasu yaiko... yadrane S.P. Saheb ?”

S.P. Tolenna phuk hougatlaga hairak e –“ Bishnu Bishnu. Your honour, eihak natchade. Khongkhada pistol changsillakpasu ujahoude.”

“Thaghatchari, phamthabiro.” Malinina hairak e.

Case taba lakpa meecham amana hourapna mathanta sonjei –“ Ngasigi case asidi Meitei waheida keinou wayel haibado taredana. Kanasu ahakpa cheirak phangloundoure.”

Kangthak mathakta phamlibi judge Malinina meecham amagi wangang ado tai. Mahak momon tou e. Ekok koina yenglak e aduga hairak e –“ Houjikti meecham amana ngangbikhiba wapham ado note tousinjare. Hakthengnana nattaga nakoinana ngasigi case asida chennabasing, phanggani ahakpa cheirak, pigani, pipham thokpa cheirak !

Ahanba oina, meehat meepungi caseka mari leinaba F.I.R. onthang onsin toubadasu nattana Khubilong hatpa changbada joro saba ama oina yaokhiba S.I. Okram Ramjay Singhbu thabaktagi dismissed toubaga loinana I.P.C. section 420 gi makhada chahi 7 phadok oina keishumshangda thambagi cheirak pire.”

Courtroom da tilliba mayam ado chekmok laokhidre. Kanasu khubak khurakte.

“Tash adunidana.” Meecham aduna kalak penna nganglak e.

Judge Malinina engna tapna amuk laothorak e –“Meehat amagi manungda meehat ama double murder caseki ahakpa cheirak soidana piragani. Mee ahum hatlurabasu sibagi nattaga phasigi cheirakti phanggadaba. Khubilong hatpada counterpart ama oiminnaruba jailer Surchandrabu meeraktagi khanghoudana makhol houdaba nongmei maru kapthorakkhiba atei kana natte, meeshak ado heikhre singkhre. Shooting competition da first ka taramdousu malli. Nongmei shat kapkhibaga makubokki khongya tamna shat hekta langsinkhi. Onthoknasu pangngida, mister Ranjit ! Houjikti nahak cheirak phangdaba yararoi. Nahakki nupi anganggi khallaga eigi judgement eriba kalam machin ashe theidoklage khanbani.”

“Madam, madu yaroi madu yaroi... ” Meeraktagi reportter Chingkheina makha tana laorak e –“ Your honour, aroiba rai ado kalam machin theidokpiganu. Note toujarage laothokpiraklo.”

Tilliba mayamsu langkhatlak e.

Hek thangnaba mikupta judge Malinina ugi nungthang adu yeiphamda yeiraduna laorak e –“ Order order. Tuminna leibiro, waroi wayen laothoktringeigi mamangda wapham amatangga haijahouge. Nouriba angangsingda ‘Kalamna thangdagi henna thou e’ haiba panthei paorou ashe enggrajida hairaga ‘The pen is mightier than the sword’ haibagi nunglon ado macha khaina phajana takpigadabani. Irom Khombana ‘Kalamna thangdagi henna thou e’ haiba yakhide. Professor Rajmanigi parker fountain pen mangang thangna yanthatkhi hairi. Houjik matamgi nahasingna ‘Gun is mightier

than the sword and pen' haiduna meehat meepun kaya toukhri. Eikhoigi Khombasu concept asibu thajaba meeni. Houjikti mahak normal tare. Tu tu ah mapanda matam kuina thadokpiramlabi Anuja ga maga nungshinana konnakhre. Machana khubak khuri. Meekup asida ngasigi chayetnaraba meehat meepun ani ahumgi aroiba rai mathang manao pathokcharakke –

Ahanbada, Inspector Sinam Ranjit Singhna Joro saba kaya kayagi mateng louraga 'Chinglen Nongdren Khomba' machin manao ahumbu lalhoubani haiduna uttnaba hotnakhiba ado marannai nungngainadabagi oiramle. Nongdren natraga Khombani haiduna meeshak lanna phaduna pukhiba ado Chinglenni. Mahakpu hatkhidre.

Thoudok asiga mari leinana inspector gi maral macha amadi leire. Siba yaba cheirak piphamdi thoktre. Wapham amana pakhang lanmeegi marakta manaonupa Khomba thiba changkhiba Nongdrensu matam khara lalhou lup marakta saidangpham louduna lotkhi. Leingak lanmeega pakhang lanmeega khutthoknaduna nongmei kapnabagi thoudokta tangaiphadana Nongdrensu yaoba takhi. Mahak siramdre. Leithok leisin heibadagi mahakti chingmaidagi onthaduna hinglakkhi haibagi warisu tajakhre. Paokhomba natraga pao piba kangbuna Nongdren nongmeina panduna loknungda tasinkhre haiduna pao pikhibani hairi. Masisu konna tajakhibani. Kainathangda, trinity brothers haibadi 'Chinglen Nongdren Khomba' ahum asiga naksinnaba phangjakhi. I mean to say marup mapang oina loinabagi waniko. Marak asida thoudok wathok kaya thokkhre. Machin manao asiba saduna Manipur kangleipakki wangmada lotkhi adubu mahei masing ningthina tamthakhi.

Houjikti Chinglen Nongdren Khomba ahumak hinglamle. Maram aduna, 'Missing of Chinglen Nongdren Khomba' hairiba case ado ngasidagi closed toujare. Inspector Ranjitka chamthoknaraga haibadi chaklen ama chaminnaraga oirabasu loisinbikhro. D.S.P. Ranjitki maral kokpire.”

Courtroom manungda tilliba mayam ado khubak houna – houna khughatlak e. Kuide, kuibasus yade. Tasengbadi court manungda harao tayamna natraga kallak pennagi awa – nungngaiba phongdokpa natchade.

Inspector Ranjitna khanglep lep khatlaga hairak e – “Thank you, your honour.” Asidang hairaga phamthakhi.

Hek thangnaba mikupta judge Malinina ugi nungthang thilla - thilladuna amuk laothorak e – “Anisubada, ' Brutal killing of Inspector Irom Ibohal Singh' hairiba case ashida yamna chayet khoynetnare. Chahi kaya mamanggi ariba malom amadagi yum mei thadoklamlaga asiba saduna lotkhiba Soibam Soidongi crime kayasu chongthorakle.

Matung tarakpada Home Minister oiramba Ningthoujam Nongyaigi khujil thourangdagi meehat meepundagi langla langjin kaya mathang mathang chingthorakle. Meehatpa Khubilong hatkhre. Magi potpa ani Purum Pukchao, Nongdam Nongphai anisu accouter amada sikhre haiduna case history da yaori. Makhoi ahumdi maraibak phakhre. Nongdambagi cheirak nattraga nongmeiga nongmeiga kapthatnabagi cheirak phangjakhre. Cheirak pigadaba mee leitre. Ibohal meehatta directly nattraga indirectly lonnabu oiro, phongnabu oiro chennarubasing ningsa swar phajana hondokpiyu. Thabakki mihul chongbasu phathabiro. Brutal killing of Inspector Irom Ibohal Singhgi casesu closed tousinjure.

Nungngairaba amadi phajaraba wayel adu tabada courtroom da tilliba pumnamak khubak khughatnarak e. Kuide khubak makhol nemthakhi.

Ashem Anita pao pabi momon toujei. Mabu phaching touraga namphu haphuda loubikhiba Inspector Ranjit – magi mapuroiba natte haiba yadrabani. Mabanigi machanupi amasu leikhrabani. Mahakna mahousa Ranjitpu nungsiramdrbasu houjikti nungsiramgani. Nungside haiba yaroidaba nungshi khudol amasu Anitagi pibuknungdagi taibang phaorakkadourabani. Maram asina oiro, mapuroiba Ranjitpu khangnung nungsirakpabu oiro phuk hougatlaga hourapana hairak e –“ Wonderful judgement ! Thank you madam Sahebhani.”

Judge Malini Borana nokphet touraga hairak e –“ Anitaji ! Please be seated.” Malinina Anitagi pheenunda lotliba tonglap toubu chaning ado mayek sengna uthokkhre. Mathanta amuk nungkhannei (Ash ! Mahakna ngasai lepkhathkidabado...mama amuksu oidouramalle. Kamdouna aroiba wayel cheirak pigani. Eihakpu kalam machin theidokpa taribra !)

Mikup aduda defendant sideki ukil A.K. Ahanthemna phuk hougatlaga judgeki mamangda changsillaktuna hairak e –“ Your honour, ngakpigani. Wapham amatang hangghatchaba yagadra ?”

Judge Malinina nokphetti touraga marou leirapna hairak e –“ Mister A.M. ‘Ngasaidi marei marang amatta toujararoi haikhibadai, kari amuk chitthahoure ? Any way, pleased proceed.”

Defendant gi lawyer A.K. Ahanthemna hairak e –“ Your honour, ahanbamaktada ngasigi chayet khoynetnaraba case animakpu yamna phajana closed toure haiduna laothokpikhibagidamakta thagatchari. Houjikti karisu khannaningngai leitrabra haiduna khanjei... .”

A.K. Ahanthemgi wangang loiphattringeida judge Malinina shat hekta oaksinduna hairak e –“ Learned lawyer ! Case ani adu ngasi loikharabasu ngasi pangna thoktaba

thoudok amada court manungda nongmei maru kapthoraktuna panduna siraba Inspector Surchandra gi thawai yaodraba hakchang witnessed boxta yantharaga leiri. Eihak police koudri. Anouba case ama amuk hougadouribani. Loina – loinana closed toukhraba case ani aduga directly natraga indirectly mari leinakhiba meehat kharagi cheirak pinaba wayel laothokkhini.”

Defendant gi ukil na amuk notsinduna hanglak e –“ Inspector Surchandra I mean houjikna jailer oina siraba asigi casepu houjik hekta loukhatpasibu... .”

Courtki thogjao mayada mathou touduna leiriba S.I. Homenbu yengladuna Malinina hairak e –“ I.O. Homenna, pikhatlakpa Inspector Surchandra meehatki F.I.R. asida yumpham oiraga houjikmak loisinjage.”

S.I. Homenna khumlak e –“ Yes madam.”

Judge Malinina khangnot notsillak e –“ Aduga mister P.A. phone tou, ambulance kou, post mortemgi report amadi thamhousi.”

P.A.na khumlak e –“ Yes, madam, ei koujage.” Ashi hairaga mari leinaba maphamda ambulance tharaknaba phoned a pao pikhre.

Case loire haiduna harao mathoi karuba Inspector Ranjit khoigi kangbu tumin tumin amuk leinakhre. Nakal amaromda nungngaida nungngaida haiduna langkhatlak e.

Judge Malinina ugi nungthang thilla – thilladuna makha tana hairak e –“ Mayam tuminna leibiro aroiba rai matek asidi engrajida oina pathokcharakke mayam tabiro –

In the eyes of law, Shri Soibam Soidon Singh was found guilty for murdering his own betterhalf.

Factual evidences in this regard was also available from the letter written by late Shri Soibam Khubilong, the eye witness of the event.

As such, death sentence is being given under I.P.C. Section 302. Shri Soibam Soidon Singh will be hang till death.

Secondly, Shri Sinam Ranjit Singh D.S.P. was also found guilty for brutal killing of Shri Soibam Khubilong in the prison cell and Shri Soibam Suchandra Singh in the courtroom.

Hence, it is to order that Shri Sinam Ranjit Singh,D.S.P. will be hang till death under I.P.C. Section 302.

This two capital punishment should be executed today in the Imphal Central Jail on or before 12 Midnight.

Now, the case is over and court is also adjourned.

Dated 8/12/1988

Malini Borana

Junior Judge Guwahati High court

Imphal Bench.

Judge Malinina judgement sheet adu sahi touramlaga thainagi chindumbi kalam ado mapham chana thamlaga kangthaktagi mayambu khubak ani lonnaraga khurummi. Aduga makhada kumthakhre. Magi chamber manungda changkhre. Manunglomdagi thong ado gum laona thingjinhre.

Kalamgi tamthiraba cheirak phanglabasing police officer Homenna changlaktuna salami touraga hand cuff chankhre. Mapanda puthokkhre. Case taramba mayamsu mari mari thoknakhre. Meeoi kharadi leihouri

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Nongmei amasung kalamgi waridi loire. Punsigi amadi nungshi waridi loidri. Court manungda Chinglen Nongdren machin manao leptuna leihou e.

Anita, pao pabina hikna hikna kapladuna hairak e –

“Thangna amuk ngammi.

Kalamna amuk ngammi.

Nongmeina amuk kalambu ngammi.

Kalamna amuk nongmeibu ngammi.

Loiba khamba naide,

Nongmei amasung kalamgi lan !

Eigi epuroiba phasi tougadouri

Eibu kapkadra nokkadra !

Nongmei amasung kalamgi lan !

Leihouragani adum

Meeoibana hinglimakhei

Meeoibana taibangda leirimakhei.”

Doctor Amitana manaonupibu themjilladuna hairak e –“ Anita thamoï sonthaganu. Chatsi chatlo, enaonupi atombi Anujaga machaga unnarusi.”

Amita Anita mapan thoktri.

“Doctor Amita !” Chinglenna nungshina kouraga hairak e –“ Chatloko, matungda amuk unnaragumsi.”

Amitana khumlak e –“ Unnagadouba maramsu leitreda. Leibihouro, yaiphaba oiyu !”

Doctor Amita thokkhre. Anitadi leihouri. Mahakna Nongdrenda ngakpiyu hainingbani. Adubu machinbal kangthokpa ngamkhidre.

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Anita ! Eihakpu warouganu. Nanggi seireng matek ado yamna phajeï. Houjikti nongmeina ngamdaba leitredubu taplabasu tapna mameida kalamna sibagi cheirak pibadi ngammi haiba asimadi khak kaoraganu.”

“Hoi,etei ! Anouba yukkk anouba paojel ado nanaonupina Atiyabhani kangleiyondasu paogi marak thatna sandoraklage. Leibihouro chatchare.”

“Chatlo chatlo.” Chinglenna nokphet touraga hairak e –“ Houjikti eibu etei kouraganu. Anouba chakki anouba mingou, mateida ebai haiba adusu kouraklaganu.”

“Adubu etei !” Anitana hairak e –“ College tamlingeida eina nungsina koujakhiba etei haiba minggou ado adum kougani. Eigi enaonupi matei ebungodabu eina etei koudrabadi kari kougani ?”

Ngasaidagi wa machet amtta ngangdana tuminna amadi lurukna lepliba Nongdrenna khanghai hairak e –“ Kouninglabadi kouro kouro. Ado Anita eingondadi kari koudouri ?”

“Nongdren ! Eibu ngakpiyu.” Anitana ashi hairamlaga prap prap chatthokkhre.

Doctor Amitana hairak e –“ Chinglen, matungda amuktang unnaragumsi haibadai. Ado, Malini Boraga nangga luhongbagi bartondi tourak uko, ei chatle.”

Doctor Amita courtroom dagi mapal thokkhre. Manaonupi Anitasu matung ennakhre.

Chinglen Nongdren machin manao ani courtroom nungda leptuna leihou e. Kanabu amuk ngairibano ?

Courtroomgi manung chamberda thong lonsinduna leiriba Malini Boradi thoraktri. Mahak kaplibra ? Nouna lukhrabi oihouragadabi Anitagidamak mahak kaplamba yai. Mahak ukilni, judgeni. Mee amabu sibagi cheirak piba ngambini. Adubu, mahak nupi amani. Nupi amagi meichak nupitana khangphamthok e.

Mahak soidana kaplamgani. Kaopkhisanu. Thong hangdorakpa ngaiba tai.

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Makhol ama tarak e !

Ekhang hek khanghoudana Malinina thong lonsinduna leiriba courtki chamber manungdagi nongmei maru ama kapthokkhibagi makhol ama tarak e; khangta hek tarak e. Courtroom manungda Chinglen Nongdren nattana kanasu leitre. Makhoi ani khangprek khangngi pakhatlap tou e. Mihul ting ting chongnei.

Chinglenna chensinduna thong thilli. Hanna hanna thilli aduga kou e –“ Malini Malini, Judge Malini... !”

Mikup khara chontharaga Malinina etap hek tapna khumlak e –“ Ei keisu toudeda... !”

Chinglenna khapchilli –“ Oh : God ! Nangbu ngaorabra ?”

Malinina amuksu etap hek tapna khumlak e –“ Nongmei maru ama kapthokhre, phaklangda pankhre. Mekup asida eihak sirasira khallui. Narumda nongmei chindol namlaga tingle khatke khallui. Hek thangnaba mikupta eihak siba yadri khallak e. Maru ama phaklangda shat kapthokkhre. Eihak sihoudre.”

Chinglenna amuk notsilli –“ Malini, nangbu ngaorabra ? Karigi nathanta suicide toudouribano ? Echang thouna leirabi judge amana aduk thamo sonthariba karigino ?”

Malinina khumlak e –“ Mister Chinglen ! Mister Nongdren ! Eigi kalamna aingi matung enna mishak anibu sibagi cheirak pithokkhre. Ethou ama oina sinpham amasu oina aingi matung enna toubasu tabani. Adubu, Anitadi lukhrabi oihouraganido haiduna hek khallubada Ranjitki pistol ado tap paikhattuna ethanta kapsinjarage khallui.

Ekhang hek khanghoudana phaklangda thetliba ‘Lady of justice, phala paibigi picture’ urakpadagi pukning khangon ollak e. Achumba wayel toubada pukning sonthaba chumde haiduna second thought amuk khanglak lakkhi. Adubune, da Chinglen... .”

Chinglenna khangningna hanglak e –“ Adubune, keidouraba, Malini ?”

Malinina manungdagi khumlak e –“Atei natteda, Anita mama amuk oigadoure haiba ado khang u hek urubada eihak swai lao, esa pumba tu chungkhi. Ranjitpu kannaba eigi kalam machin theidokpa tabra haiduna khangkhan khallak e. Anita lukhrabi oihouragani khallui. Magi pibuknungda leiriba jiba aduna nupabu oiro, nupibu oiro taibangda phaoraktuna mapa hatkhibagi wari taraba matungda nongmei paiduna laman khumlakkadra nattraga kalamna chummi haiduna mapagi maral yajagadra haiduna ah youna hek khanjillure... .”

Chinglenna hairak e –“ Ash ! Malini nangsidi nupi asengbani. Aingi cheirak pibada meechang meekhai naiba yade haiduna symbol of justice ki shaktam louribi ‘Lady with scale’ na mamit punsillaga phala onbada fair leitana wayellu haibado ootlibani. Thamoi sonthagani. Nahak lande. Sinphamgi toupham thokpa toubani. Maram aduna maral leiraba meeshak anibu sibagi cheirak pithokkhrabi judge amana ninghannaba hounade. Tunggi wadi tungna lepsanu. Thong hangdoklo thoraklo, chatlasi... .”

“Kadaida...?” Malinina matoudum yenglaga hairak e –“ Nongdren tharaga eigi flight ki ticket ado cancel touhalluragera ?”

Mikup aduda Nongdrenna khudong chaba ama khanglou lousinduna kourak e, hairak e –“ Madam, I mean, Eteima ! Ngasidagi eteima haiba mingthol pijarabani... lak o lak o chatlasi.”

“Mingthol ado haraona loujare.” Malini Borana thongjao hangdoklaga thorakle aduga momon touraduna amuk hairak e –“ Chinglen Nongdren, ehe ! Khombadi...madi ada kaya nungngaina leiraba. Anyway, houjikti phanglabra achumba wayel ?”

“Phangjare, Madam.” Nongdrenna khummi.

“Toubatabu eidi tenawa marol lonjakhibaniko, Nongdren.” Malinina nokphet touna makha taraduna hairak e –“ Nayamba tenawa mapuna takpi tambikhiba wayet mayamdo ngangjakhibani.”

Nongdrenna amuk oaksillak e –“ Amabu oirabasu nongmei amasung Kalamgi achumba wayeldi phangle. Houjikti eikhoi ne tana khunda leitaba phanglagani. Chatlasi, echou aduga eteima !”

“Ehe ! Atei lairi.” Malinina khanghai hairak e –“ Inspector Surchandra, jailer sahebki thawai yaodraba hakchang ashe houjik phaoba loubu laktribasibu... ?”

“Erang ama leiramba yai.” Nongdrenna hairak e –“Nupi angang mayam khomlaga court mei tharusi haiduna jailer sahebki emung manunggi meei kaya thunglagadaba

malli. Meeyamga securitysingga lambida enna – kaonaramba yai. Eikhoi thoklasi. Maralgi cheirak phanglaba jailer Surchandragi asiba hakchang leihourasanu. Louba lakchanida.”

“Hoida, chatlasi.” Malini Borana hairak e –“ Phangledana houjikti achumba wayen cheirak ! Eibu warouganu leihouroko, jailer saheb !”

Nongdrenna hairak e –“ Echou mangthabiro aduga... .”

Makhoi ahum pantharamdre. Chinglenna mang tharaga Malini Borana matung ellaga Nongdrenna maning panngakpa oina courtroomdagi mapan thokkhre.

Malini Borana chatna chatna hairak e –“ Nachil nanaona maning mamang chaptuna eibu kadai tanna pugadouribano ?”

Chinglenna mamaidi onthorakpa toudana hairak e –“ Chatlasi Lamdeng Khunouda. Khillurasi Meidingu Chinglen Nongdren Khomba gi shakmee ama ! Epa epusingna chinthang landuna sinnaramba thoudang ado anouba meerongi ‘Chinglen Nongdren Khomba’ echin enao ahumna mapham aduda nouna amuk khudarurasi.”

Malini Borana amuk oaksinduna hairak e –“ Linglurasi anouba school ama aduga sandokurasi paojel ama.”

“Kari karamba paojelno eteima ?” Nongdrenna khangningna hanglak e.

Malinina hairak e –“ Khombagumba kok bera leibasingda kalam, thang amadi nongmeigi touba ngamba matik mayai ado khanghannaba seireng matek amatangdi echoudagi tajaningngi. Paojel amatangdi pibirak uda.”

Chinglenna mamaidi onthorakpa toudana seireng matek ama khanghoudana thidorak e –

“Kalamna thangdagi henna thou e.

Nongmeina kalambu ngammi.

Nongmeina thangbusu ngammi !

Nongmei amasung thanggi cheirak,

Wayenshanggi aroiba wayen,

Sibagi cheirak kalamna piba ngammi !”

Malinina seireng matek ado taruraga khanghai hairak e –“ Wawa ! Echou nanggi phajaraba seireng matek ado ‘Chinglen Nongdren Khomba’ schoolgi nungyumbida haktuna thamningngi.”

“Soidanamak haktuna thamba chummi.” Nongdrenna yaningba uttladuna oaksillak e –“ Aduga school adugi oja makokti Malini Borabu oihanba pamjei. Yareko, babhiji ?”

Malinina nokphet touraga khumlak e –“ Eibu emagi mapam lamdam asida tasengnamak ongba tarabrane, hah ! Nongdren ? Paokhum ama pammi.”

Nongdrenna khummi –“ Paokhum adudi eina piba etik natte.”

Chinglenna oaksillak e –“ Malini ! Nangbu ngasaidi eteima haiba mingthol ado yajare haikhidaine ?”

“Hoine hoine... kalak mangda chang tahanjaroida.” Malinina khummi.

Mikup aduda Khomba, Anuja amadi Lamdeng khunou Irom sageigi anouba meira Khomdon chensillaktuna leplei. Anujana makok khumlaga matei ani amadi Malini Borabu khurummi. Nonkhatlaga hairak e –“ Didi Malini ! Nahakki toubimal punshigi kaojaroi.”

Khomdonna chensillaktuna Malinibu konba yaba maphamda kolladuna hairak e –“ Barima ! Nahak hankhranu. Eikhoiga leiminnarasi.”

Malinina hangngi –“ Namana ensinba oirini. Hoida, ehoupamda amuk hanjinba taredana.”

“Thank you madam, I mean eteima... .” Khombana haraoboi nungngaiboi makha tana amuk notsillak e –“ Chatsi, Anujana purakpa car asida ngamnamak lengkhatpiro Lamdeng Khunougi maikei panglasi. Palem ema Leihao thirurasi.”

Makhoi mayam ado ambassador car achouba ama tongkhatladuna ‘Wayel kati shanglen’ gi compoundagi thoudokkhre.

Pumkai kairuraba emung amagi meei ahum, yumgi yumleima ani amadi anouba Iromcha ama harao tayamna chatminnakhre. Anujana ghari thou e. Mahak Guwahati dagi car thouba heirak e, aduga Khombasu. Phajana nungngaina thouri.

Malinina khanghoudana hanglak e –“ Anu ! Nangbu nache ani amadi napabungga unnaduna wari watai sakhibra ?”

Anuna khummi –“ Eche anigadi khara sakhi. Pabung thorakpadagi mabani chenthokkhre. Pabungna eibu hanna yenglamde. Einasu koukhidre.”

Nongdrenna oaksillak e –“ Khura ebungona houjik phaoba eikhoi emungbu saoba phattriboi.”

Anujana khummi –“ Hoi eteyai, eisu adum khalli. Toubadi sambal ama khanakhibanasu pharanida... . Khamuk khamuk tounarani. Inspector Ranjitpu sibagi cheirak piramle haiduna eche anina tamlammi.”

“Ado, nache Anitadi karisu hairamdra ?” Malinina makha tana, yamna khangningna notsillak e –“ Eibu chei thangduna sapka touramdra ?”

Anujana khummi –“ Eche Anitana karisu saoramde. Nongmei amasung kalamgi cheirak phangpham thoktuna phangjakhibani hairammi echena. Aduga madam Malinibusu wayel heibini haiduna thagatlammi.”

Malini Borana hairak e –“ Aeh : Eibo wayel heibini haiduna nache Anitana thagatlammiba !”

“Hoi, eche Malini !” Anujana tentak khummi.

Malinina hairak e –“ Phare houjikti waruningai oidre. Eidi nachegi pibuknungda leiriba jiba adugi khallaga sirage khanduna narumda nongmei pistol namlurabani adubu profession ne ethicski wayel laktuna nongmei maru amadi phaklangda tainaduna kapsillamlabani. Nongmei makhul ado Malini Borabu ningsingnaba leihourasanu.”

Ngasaidagi wa machet amaphaoba ngangdana car maninggi seatta (manao anina nak yetta ngakpadouna) mayaida phamliba Chinglenna nungkhannei (houjikti yekna – tingkhang leitire. Chinglen Nongdren Khomba echin enao ahum punduna thabak toubaya yaragani. Nungngaitaba kharadi leihoored. Eigi enao nupi oigani khanjarammi Anita atoppagi oibadasu nattana lukhrabi oihouragani. Ehe ! Doctor Amitado amuk unnaragumsi hairamleko. Mahaksu professor Rajmanigi oikhrasanu ! Soidanasu oikhargani. Houjikti tangai phadana eigi wakhal hongle. Maliniga eiga soidana luhonglagani. Amitana luhongba barton tourak u haiduna masa ngakthoklamle. Mahakna sambal thingjillambani. Eina mahakpu Malini ebani luhongbada barton toubagi wadi leitire. Mahaksu manao nupi Anitabu chikon naokonnaba Sinamda ongkhrasanu ! Nungngai yaiphana leikhrasanu ! Houjikti eihak karisu waruningai leitire. Um ! Amatangdi leiri. Nongdrengi anouba pungba ama thiba tai.)

“Echou keidourage, ngasaidagi oongduna leiridubo ?” Manakta phamliba Khombana hanglak e.

“Hah Eibo ?” Chinglenna magi nungwakhal khangkai kaikhibagi maongda aphing aphai oina makha tana hairak e –“ Keisu toudeda. Adugane, nahak houjikti men tana

leiroko. Eyamba laiwa seireng ama thirakke, nahak munna taoko. Punshi chuppagi kaoraganu.”

“ Echou, haibiyu tajage.” Khombana khummi.

Chinglenna ngasaisu thikhraba seireng matek ado, manao leikhatpa ashi ne tarasanu haibagi maongda amuk thirak e –“

“Kalamna thangdagi henna thou e.

Nongmeina kalambu ngammi.

Nongmeina thangbusu ngammi !

Nongmei amasung thanggi cheirak,

Wayelshanggi aroiba wayel,

Sibagi cheirak kalamna piba ngammi !”

Khombana seireng matek ashe munna taraga hairak e –“ Adubu echou ! Nongmei amasung kalamgi landi adum chatthaduna leihouragani. Nongmeina amuk ngamgani. Kalamna amuk ummgani. Ngasai judge Sahebhanina piramba Kalamgi cheirak haibadi phasigi hukum ado houjikpu pangthoklamlagdra ? Kanana khangba mathak thongba court amagi hukumna stay tourambasu... .”

“Khomba !” Malinina mamaidi leithokpa toudana kharasu saoninglap touna makha tana nganglak e –“ Nahak houjik phaoba kalambudi nongmeina ngammi haiduna adum leikhidra ?”

“Ngakpigani madam !” Khombana nollukpa uttladuna hairak e – Eikhoigi court mathang mathangda appeal toura – touraga tasengna meehatpa amabu meehatpa natte haiduna final judgement pikhiba case kaya thengnajakhre. Maduda haijabani.”

Nongdrenna khummi –“ Adu oiragana eihakna jail manungda changlaga meehatpa ani adugi makhoura chapkhairaga hatluba tabani. Judge Malinigi aroiba warepti court amatagi decision na kakthathalloi.”

Car mamangda phamlibi Malinina khubak amuktang khuraduna hairak e –“ Wah ! Kanana meehatpiru haibage. Houren numidang athengbada kari pao tabage ngaiyuko.”

Khombana khomjinba oina hairak e –“ Amabu oire, kalamna sibagi cheirak piba ngammi haiba adumadi eihak yajare. Marak maraktadi nongmeina kharadi ngamlap touriko. Anyway, eihak normal tajare.”

Malini Borana ekhang khanghoudana amuk hairak e –“ Amabu oirabasu, houjikti yaiphaba oirasanu, Chinglen Nongdren Khomba ! Aduga, masimasu kaobiraganu sibagi cheirak kalamna piba ngammi.”

Chinglen Nongdren Khomba chek mok laokhidre ! Nokphet nokphet tou e. Adeidi, car manungda tongliba mayam ado chek mok laonakhidre. Lamdeng khunou maikei pangna thoukhre.
