

REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed in US-Israel airstrikes, Iranian state media confirmed earlier today. His death occurred after a joint US and Israeli aerial bombardment that targeted Iranian military and government sites. A 40-day state mourning has been declared in Iran. Iran's General Abdol Rahim Mousavi and Defense Minister General Aziz Nasirzadeh were also killed in an airstrike targeting a meeting of the country's defense council, alongside the head of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard and security adviser Ali Shamkhani. Iranian state media reported at least 200 are dead and more than 700 injured. In response, Iran launched attacks across West Asia. Apparent Iranian strikes have been reported in Dubai, Doha, Bahrain and Kuwait, places with US military bases or that are allied to the US. US President Donald Trump, in a social media post, said that heavy and pinpoint bombing will continue through the week or longer. Tensions have soared in recent weeks as American warships moved into the region amid stalled nuclear talks.

Indian badminton ace PV Sindhu is stranded in Dubai, amidst US-Israeli air strikes in Iran, and Iran's retaliation. She was on her way to Birmingham for the All England Open, to be held from 3rd March., with Dubai scheduled as a transit stop. Sharing the ordeal on X formally known as twitter, today, Sindhu said the situation is becoming more frightening by the hour. Further, she assured they are all safe and have been moved to a more secure place. She thanked the staff at Dubai Airport and the Dubai authorities, and specially to the Indian High Commission in Dubai.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu held a meeting with Dr CM Ramesh, MP and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways, to discuss key railway projects in Arunachal Pradesh. Discussion focused on strengthening connectivity and expediting ongoing works to accelerate development and improve mobility for the people of the state. Deputy CM Chowna Mein and Lok Sabha MP Tapir Gao were also present during the meeting.

Chow Rajawon Namchoom, a pioneer of modern Tai Khamti music has passed away. Extending his condolence Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein said with his demise, the Tai Khamti community has lost a silent pillar of strength and cultural pride. DCM said his songs will continue to inspire generations and live on in the hearts of the people. Since the early 1970s, Chow Rajawon Namchoom had been a guiding force in shaping and

preserving Tai Khamti music. As a gifted singer, composer, and radio artist, he bridged the traditional and modern forms of the musical heritage and mentored many who later became renowned in the community.

More than 5 thousand believers from different religions and communities participated in the Swadharna Sammelan held at the Daporijo Festival Ground in Upper Subansiri district. The programme was organised as part of the 100-year celebration of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. During the programme cultural displays representing the indigenous belief systems and traditions of various tribes and communities were showcased. The main objective of the Sammelan was to uphold and protect indigenous traditions, cultural heritage, beliefs and value systems.

A team of forty-three gaon burahs of Ruksin Subdivision in East Siang district are on a wildlife study tour to Kaziranga National Park in Assam, aimed at wildlife conservation awareness. Pasighat West MLA Ninong Ering who sponsored the tour, said that gaon burahs of his area should realize the importance of wildlife conservation, especially learn management of man-animal conflict from wildlife experts. He hoped that the GBs would mobilize their local villagers and stop rampant hunting of wild beasts during community festivals. The MLA said not only GBs, but different sections also can avail the opportunity, who are interested to learn about conservation of the wild resources and create tourism prospects in their areas. The 'Uying Aran (hunting festival) of the Adi tribe, is considered a 'very significant' step in preserving wild animals in the inter-state boundary area with Assam.

Meteorological Centre Itanagar has forecast rain and thundershowers is very likely to occur at few places of West Kameng, Papumpare and Upper Siang districts of Arunachal Pradesh. Met Centre has also forecast thunderstorm and lightning at isolated places of Kurung Kumey, East Siang, Lohit, Namsai and Tirap districts.