

ASMINI Manipur unit formed

IT News
Imphal, Jan 14: Manipur unit of Association of Small & Medium Newspapers of India (ASMIN) was formed today at the office complex of DIPR, Moirangkhom. National President of the Association and General Secretary and the organisation Secretary of the organisation were present during the launching of the Manipur unit. Ramkung Panmei is the convener for Manipur.

Bomb found

IT News
Imphal, Jan 14: A Chinese made hand grenade was found at the entrance of a lubricant shop called NT Enterprises located at North AOC at around 9.20 am. A team of state police and bomb squad rushed the spot and picked up the grenade and disposed it at Lamphelat at around 10.30 am.

SWA inaugurated

IT News
Imphal, Jan 14: A women Rights body called "Struggling Women's Association (SWA)" was inaugurated today at Manipur Press Club, Imphal. The organization's main objective is to fight for justice to women community of the state. H. Ibotombi Khuman, Social Activist, Smt. Naorem Binodini, Advocate, Dr. Chinglen Maisnam, Asst. Prof. Economics Department, Manipur University and Chinglen Khumukcham, Social activist and All India convener, NEFIS graced the occasion as presidium members. Speaking on the occasion, H. Ibotombi Khuman stressed on the varied issues being faced by the women in the state. He said that the newly formed body should stand tight with the cause of the women and for delivering justice to the women. He called upon the members of the newly formed organisation to documents cases related to women. President of the newly formed body is Mayengbam Romi Devi and the General Secretary is Keithelakpam Ongbi Thounaojam Margaret.

Committee formed

A committee called VILLAGE WATER & SANITATION COMMITTEE (VWSC), Tangjeng Napet, was formed in a meeting held on January 10, 2018 at 9 am presided by Shri Yumnam Kulachandra Singh (Hanjaba). Objection to this organisation can be submitted within 3 days. **Sd/-**
Secretary VWSC

29th Drivers' Day Observed A must quality for good citizenship is self - respect: K Shyam

DIPR
Imphal, Jan. 14: The 29th Driver' Day was observed today at the Inter State Bus Terminal (ISBT), Khuman Lampak with CAF & PD, Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Karam Shyam as the Chief Guest. President - A.M.R.T.D. & M.W.U, S Manglem Singh presided over the function while Commissioner, Transport Department, M. Lakshnikumar Singh; President - AITUC, Dr. M Nara and Retd. Senior Superintendent of Police, Govt. of Nagaland, P Sonamani Singh took chairs as the Guests of Honour at the function. The dignitaries and other invitees paid floral tributes to the photos of the 242 deceased drivers who sacrificed their lives for the public while encountering obstacles in their duties.



Revenue Minister Karam Shyam said that drivers should be proud of their dedicated services hindered by various problems and respect themselves adding that our lives depend solely on the drivers. "All drivers of the state should

unite and merge into one body or Labour Union for proper, smooth functioning. This way, they can throw their demands in a better way and the Government will listen to their grievances and take proper measures to redress the same" he assured.

I will try my best to allocate a proper land for building an office for the drivers in Imphal East after chinking out a strategic location as Imphal West is congested, he convinced. Government has their own laws regarding land allotment, any problem regarding the matter can be solved by negotiation and discussion with the concerned officials, he also said while donating Rs.20,000 for the drivers' welfare. "We need to support the drivers, not just showing sympathy", Dr M Nara said. He pointed that it is crucial to increase the present wages of the drivers (not less than Rs.600 per day) and solve issues relating to drivers' safety and initiating driving school to avoid hazardous accidents. He appealed the Government to implement the matters concerning their welfare that has been overlooked so far and strongly supported the demand for allocation of land for constructing a proper drivers' office in Manipur. Highlighting on the dedicated roles of the drivers against all odds and risk factors, General Secretary, AMRTD & MWU, Maimom Anil Meitei appealed Minister Karam Shyam to see to their needs of constructing an office for the drivers of Manipur as they are right now suffering by staying on rent. P Sonamani lauded the contribution of the drivers towards running the daily economic and social activities & normal functioning of the society by bravely bearing the risks of robbery & extortion from militant, excise, forest, Municipality, Police & Narcotics groups and other unexpected dangers on their way. He requested the ruling Government to take note of the matter, understand the importance of the drivers and post around 3-4 IRB Battalion at the National Highways to ensure safety to the drivers as well as the passengers. M.Lakshnikumar stated that the Transport Department and the PWD should work in

co-ordination to look into the welfare of the drivers in connection with professional hazards like accidents apart from robbery and extortion. Road safety is an important issue that needs to be tackled with extra attention considering the alarming rate of almost more than 50-100 road accidents in a year in Manipur as compared with the overall figure of 1.5 lakhs in the country. As drivers' safety is everyone's concern, the Transport Department is taking into account the welfare schemes of the drivers like public toilet, funds for motor driving school & discussing on implementing new measures on public safety and convenience. Salam Romen Meitei bagged the Driver of the Year Award that includes a cash prize of Rs.25,000 from M/S Heirangoihong Service and another Rs.5,000 from Minister K Shyam and an excellent certificate. Mutum Maidila Singh, Taithailung Kamei and Mutum Noren Singh are the other 3 nominees for the prize that was selected by lottery. Moirangpurel Area Local Truck and Magic Drivers Union also observed Driver's Day at Moirang Purel Lampak. Floral tributes were paid to the departed drivers.

12th Festival of Thang - Ta held

IT News
Imphal, Jan 14: 12th Festival of Thang-Ta, under the aegis of Ministry of culture was organized by the Kangleipak Thang-Ta Cultural Association, at the auditorium of the organization at Yairenpat today. In his welcome address the President of the organization Longjam Biren stated that the objective of organizing the festival is the making of co-existence of different schools of Thang-Ta. He further said that there are about forty to fifty different institutions which are running under different gurus of Manipur and all have different styles of stepping pattern, movements, and presentation, and the association felt the need that every artistes of Thang-Ta should witness the presentation style of different schools in order to pick up beautiful styles of each other in a competitive way. The festival will also pave the way for preservation and

propagation of this rare art form of Manipur for creating socio cultural relations among the people. The Kangleipak Thang-Ta Cultural association which came into existence in the year 1978 under the patronage of late Guru Th.Borajao Singh, has been organizing the festival for last eleven years under the aegis of Sangeet Natak Akademy and this first time under the aegis of Ministry of Culture. The opening function of the festival was graced by RK Achouba Singh, Padmashri, retd. Pradhan Guru, JN Dance Academy, Kshetri Jugindro, Manipur State Kala

Akademi Awardee, Director - Manipur Ensemble and Shri Wareppa Naba, Padmashri, Director- Theatre Mirror, as Chief guest, Special Guest and President respectively. Different organizations like MEEHULS, kongba, Huyel Lallong Manipur Thang-Ta Cultural Association, Iribung, Performing Organisation of Art & Culture, Keirao Khunou, Manipur Integrated Cultural Centre, Keirao and Association for Paona Memorial Arts & Rural Development Centre, Thoubal Wangkhem also participated and presented Thang-Ta Demonstration in the festival



"Management and technology knowledge a must for proficiency"

DIPR
Imphal, Jan 14: Education Minister Thokchom Radheshyam said, to become a proficient person one must have the knowledge of management and technology in today's era of technology. In terms of education also, proper time management and technical education, he added, has become an inseparable part. The Minister was speaking as Chief Guest at the inauguration function of the Times Institute of

Management and Technical Studies (TIMTS) e-Campus Imphal at North Gate Manipur University, Canchipur. He said the institute has been opened at the right time. The positive ideas need to be transformed into action. He elaborated that, mass awareness is of utmost necessity, making people know so that they could get benefits from the institute and also from the Government schemes. The student who would seek for admission in any of the offered courses should be made familiar to them so that

they could choose what would be the best for their carriers. Any establishment, even the TIMTS institute, he insists, is to be made according to the need base of the students to make the training received, fruitful. Director of Education (S) Th. Kirankumar said that the institute will provide an opportunity for the students to express and practice the ideas and intrinsic abilities. CEO, TIMTS I Raj K. Sharma, officials of the Institute and students attended the function.

Assam's Bihu 'bhelaghars' adopt global themes

PTI
Guwahati, Jan 14: If you were in Assam, you would have virtually seen London's Tower Bridge, the Eiffel Tower, the India Gate or the Red Fort. There's more. One would have even come across Iceland's igloos and the 9/11 twin towers in the US and recreation of the crash-landing of a plane carrying the then prime minister Morarjee Desai in a paddy field at a village in Jorhat district 40 years ago. Both Desai and the then Arunachal Pradesh chief minister P K Thungon escaped unhurt. These are all themes of 'bhelaghars' for the harvest festival Bhogali or Magh Bihu in Assam. The traditional conical makeshift huts 'bhelaghars' or 'mejis' made of bamboo, leaves and thatch for Bhogali feasts Bihu this year saw these new motifs. Themes on burning issues concerning Assam such as saving the rhino, the river Brahmaputra, environment, recurring floods, among others, were also taken up to raise awareness, organisers across the state said. Local news television channels have announced 'best bhelaghar' competitions and selfies in front of them. With the granaries full after a good harvest people on the first day, "Uruka" celebrations of Bhogali were held across the state last night. People from all communities irrespective of caste, faith, ethnicity or language in a spirit of brotherhood gather to participate in the celebrations by building the structure to

prepare the local delicacies of fish and meat for a grand feast inside the mejis in the open farm fields. Ruhini Gogoi, an organiser of the Morarjee Desai plane crash bhelaghar, said "We took this theme to tell the new generation about the five IAF elite Communication Squadron pilots who made the supreme sacrifice in saving the life of the then prime minister Morarji Desai." "A tree was planted then by the villagers at the crash site to mark the area. We thought of commemorating the occasion now on its 40th year by making a life size structure of that 1970s version of Air India One plane," Gogoi said. One of the organisers of the Tower Bridge meji in Nalbari district said he visited London last year and wanted the people of his home town to see what it looked like and so suggested construction of its replica. The initial budget was Rs 5 lakh but had doubled now and took nearly 15 days to construct it and decorate it with coloured light fittings, he said. People of Basuagan in Chirang district made a replica of the Big Ben clock tower. A replica of the two-storied Rang Ghar was built in Sivasagar where the original oldest surviving amphitheatre in Asia exists. Rang Ghar built by Ahom kings in the 18th century had served as a royal sports-avenue for royalty and nobles to witness games like buffalo fights and other sports at Rupahi Pathar. India Gate and Red Fort in Delhi, ancient temples, 9/11 twin

towers with the plane hitting one of the buildings along with traditional house styles of the different ethnic groups of the state have also been showcased as bhelaghars. A full size train with an engine with compartments where people can sit was made at Boralipohar in Gohpur district to the joy of young children. In the hill district of Karbi Anglong a 'Save Brahmaputra' from pollution theme was adopted at Howraghat, while locals at Demow in Sivasagar and Nagaoni's Amonisali chose 'Save Kaziranga' theme to create awareness about preserving its flora and fauna with models of rhinos, tigers, peacocks, etc. A made-to-scale model of France's Eiffel Tower was constructed at Diphphora in Goalpara district where another bhelaghar depicting the man-elephant conflict was made with an elephant destroying a thatch house. In Golaghat district's Merapani bordering Nagaland, the theme was Iceland with igloos, sledges drawn by animals, leafless trees and ice skaters, while at another place a giant sized model from the Gulliver's Travels was the choice. The people in Lakhimpur district, worst affected by the recurring annual floods, chose deluge as their theme to highlight their sufferings during the monsoons. After last night's merry-making and feasting, the bhelaghars and mejis were set ablaze to the chanting of prayers appealing to the fire god (Agni) not to cause destruction during the coming dry months.