



Awareness campaign on tobacco

IT News
Imphal, April 18: Red Shield Division under the initiative, "Swachh Bharat - Swasth Bharat" organised, "Drive against Tobacco", on 17 April 16 for the people of Lamdangmei and neighboring villages. The event was organised by Noney Battalion. A lecture on the same was conducted for the locals of to make them aware of the social and personal problems of Tobacco addiction. During the lecture the people were briefed with the help of Audio/Visual aids and power point presentations about the ill effects of tobacco. Village Chairman offered a vote of thanks and conveyed his sincere gratitude on behalf of the people of the villages.

Living Arts Academy observes 33rd Foundation Day

IT News
Imphal, April 18: 33rd foundation day of Living Arts Academy Manipur Thang-Ta was observed today at NT Theatre's Play House "Hongnemsang" Changangei Uchekon. Chief Guest of the function and Commissioner Arts and Culture K.Radhakumar said that the arts of Thang-ta and formal education should go hand in hand without separation. State government gave top priority to culture and tradition for the preservation and its important. He further added that with the establishment cultural university Thang-ta arts from is becoming an important curriculum. Advisor of AMWJU Ningthoukhongjam Tombiraj and president of Manipur Resource Forum Naorem Indramani grace the function as president and guest of honors respectively. Various forms of Thang-ta were presented by young artists of Laaman during the function.

Is Ram Madhav playing with state BJP? Why rumours, announce something clear?

IT News
Imphal, April 18: Now people in Thangmeiband Assembly Constituency started celebration over the recent rumour about MLA Khumukcham Joykishan being elected as the new President of the BJP Manipur Pradesh. It was a day after the North East -in-charge of BJP, Ram Madhav called the MLA along with some of the top BJP Manipur Pradesh leaders including State President Th. Chaoba, State general Secretary (organisation) S Premananda, State general Secretary (administration) Moirangthem Ashinikumar and State General Secretary (Media) Laimayum Bashanta had taken opinion of each leaders on April 15 at Guwahati that the rumours about BJP Legislator's wing

leaders name as chosen for the top State BJP post spread far and wide. Even some media had reported about some of the contestant of the top post uniting to lobby central leadership against the electing of MLA Khumukcham Joykishan as the next BJP president. The wind in the air over the issue of who will be the next president is still not settled. The talk started soon after the tenure of the present state president Thounaojam Chaoba end on December 22, 2015. Who will replace the one time union minister and veteran politician Thounaojam Chaoba was a big question not only for the BJP members and workers but also for all the people of the state interested in politics. It is indeed time that the Center announce the name of a new

leader either it may be the present President Thounaojam Chaoba or the young and dynamic MLA Khumukcham Joykishan as the BJP Manipur Pradesh need to start election campaign for the upcoming Municipality election on June first week this year and for the general assembly election which is likely to be held on the 2nd month of 2017. The reason for why the BJP National Secretary (NE -in Charge) Ram Madhav is not forwarding the need for an urgent settlement of the BJP leadership of Manipur is suspicious among the political analyst. The reason - When Imphal Times contacted some of the senior most BJP workers it is learnt that Ram Madhav had visited Imphal on February 12,

2016 and instead of staying at Imphal he directly went to Moirang and stayed at Sendra. But it is also learnt that no name under the NE in charge general secretary has been recorded in the Sendra Tourist Resort. A BJP worker called Gopi had reportedly accompanied the NE General secretary. Ram Madhav was then a Guest of Moirangthem Ashinikumar, General Secretary (Administration) but he left early in the morning after meeting an old BJP associate Om Prakash Shekawat of the Chamber of Commerce and headed for New Delhi. On the other hand this time too it is questionable why the NE in Charge Ram Madhav called some of the top state BJP leaders and took interview at Guwahati instead of calling them at New Delhi in

consultation with the Cenrtal leadership like Organisation Secretary Ram Lal. It is also known that any complicated matters of the BJP is directly deal and solved by PM top team popularly known as Navaratana. Source said Nitin Ghadhkari is the convener of the Navarattana and the burning issue of leadership crisis in Manipur is not being brought to the notice of the Prime Minister's top team. This showed that something fishy is going in BJP Manipur Pradesh. Or is Ram Madhav playing games with the state BJP workers as a mere pawn. Because it is known that after May 2 the National leadership will not announce a new state BJP president until the upcoming Municipality Election scheduled in June first week.

Yumnam Gyaneshwor passes away

IT News
Imphal, April 18: Founder of Tribal Museum and research center Sagolband and also the man behind the construction of the Heritage Park of the Sangai festival, Yumnam Gyaneshwor passed away today morning after succumbing from an illness at New Delhi.

Family appeals to released kidnapped driver

IT News
Imphal, April 18: Family members of Pa Chinoashang appealed kidnappers to release Chinoashang who was kidnapped on 3 March without any condition at the earliest. Speaking to media persons at Manipur Press Club, Pa Zathing, elder brother of the victim urged the kidnappers to let family member know the reason behind kidnapping of his brother and appealed to release him at the earliest without any harm. Chinoashang is a driver cum owner of Tata Truck and work for PMGSY road construction between Sina Keithel and Songhel 40 Km west of Litan PS under Ukhrul District, informed Zathing. He further said his brother was called out by 3 unknowns at gunpoint from his work site on the faithful night of March 3.

Patel quota agitation

Agency
Ahmedabad, April 18: The state-wide bandh call given by the Patel community in Gujarat over the quota issue had little impact today except in for some pockets dominated by the community members in different cities of the state. The curfew imposed on Sunday in Mehasana town was lifted on Monday morning, where as the bandh call given by Sardar Patel Group after Sunday's violence in Mehasana town largely remained incident free today, police said. Police has made elaborate security arrangements in view of the bandh call but schools and colleges, public transport and trains have remained unaffected.

Wangkhei Panthou boycotted

IT News
Imphal, April 18: Locals of Wangkhei Hijam Leikai has boycotted Hijam Ratan commonly known as Panthou over the acquisition of land at Wangkhei Hijam Leirak. Speaking to the media persons, Advisor of Wangkhei Hijam Leirak Development Association Y. Nogen said that they condemn the ritual work of Hijam Ratan (45) also known as "Panthou"

s/o Hijam Babu of Wangkhei Hijam Leirak. From today onwards any ritual ceremony service related to Hijam Ratan is totally ban at the area until and unless Ratan personally come forward and apologies to the local people for his unlawful act, he added. Nogen appealed to the people of Manipur to stop visiting the ritual place of Panthou until further notice from the association side. Persons

violating association's restriction should be held self responsibility if any unwanted incident occurred. A meeting was also held from 8 am till 11 am at the main gate of Panthou Masaigal by local people along with members of Wangkhei Hijam Leirak Development Association and Wangkhei Hijam Leirak Meira Paibi Leishen Lup where the decision to boycott Hijam Ratan was made.

Khongjom War date still confuse; Committee appeal to observe on April 25

IT News
Imphal, April 18: Khongjom battle Memorial Celebration Committee had submitted an ultimatum to form a fact finding committee for clarification to the confusion on the actual date of Khongjom battle, the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891 before reaching next year's celebration. Speaking to media persons at Manipur Press Club, Secretary of the celebration committee, Chingtam Luwang called upon Civil Society Organizations, UCM, AMUCO, Women

Organizations, and Student Bodies like AMSU, MSF, KSA and all others to join hands with the celebration committee in observing Khongjom Day on 25 April at Khongjom Tango Lampak. He said, with valid points on their stand for the confusing date; now the Committee is getting support from various organizations like United Chongthas (Chongtham), Heirangoikhongja Memorial Committee, Pukhrambam Kajao, Wangkhei Meiraba, Colonial Samu.

Kohinoor diamond not stolen, gifted to UK: Centre tells Supreme Court

Agency
New Delhi, April 18: India should not stake claim to the famed \$200 million Kohinoor diamond as "it was neither stolen nor forcibly taken away", the centre told the Supreme Court on Monday. Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar, appearing for the government on Monday, said this was the stand of the Culture Ministry. He also told the court that the 105-karat Kohinoor diamond was handed over to the East India Company by Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

Incidentally, in 1850, the Marquess of Dalhousie, who was the British governor-general of Punjab, forced Punjab's Maharaja Ranjit Singh to 'gift' the diamond to Queen Victoria in 1850. Solicitor General Kumar on Monday also said the response of the Ministry of External Affairs on this issue is yet to come. The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre to file a detailed reply within six weeks. The court had on April 9 asked the Centre to clearly state its

position on bringing back the diamond. It was hearing a petition filed by the All India Human Rights and Social Justice Front. At the time, Chief Justice T.S Thakur asked the Centre if it is clear that it wants the case to be dismissed, because the government would face a problem if it claimed the diamond in the future. People have been demanding the return of the 105-carat stone for decades now. The British Government had in 2013 rejected demands for the return of the Kohinoor.

Man missing

IT News
Imphal, April 18: A person identified as Lairikyngbam Ranjit (48) from Nagamapal Singjumbung Leirak has been reported missing since April 16. He went out of his home in a Silver colour Maruti van bearing registration No. MN04A/6085 on that day.



Fate of Manipuri Pony: at least 4 died after consuming plastic or chemicals every year

Laishram Ranbir
"Save Manipuri Pony, The Original Polo Pony" many sought and yet here a mother pony and her child are seen gazing among the garbage thrown at the roadside in the rain which is undeniably not green grass. Every year, 4/5 polo tournaments used to held at Manipur at Mapal Kangjebung with the participation of 20/30 polo clubs. During this time ponies are used in the game and after the tournaments, due to unavailability of enough gazing ground for the ponies, some owners had no choice to let the ponies loose on the streets where they are forced to eat whatever they found, including plastics, which is the most dangerous substance for the ponies as it poison their bodies and later they died. "As a Manipuri, it's very

unfortunate to see Manipuri ponies which are shrouded amidst cobwebs of myths and rituals of Manipur foraging in the city trash in deteriorating condition. No ponies will be on the street roaming around depending on the garbage if all the funded projects proposed by the state government are initiated but seeing the ponies among the garbage shows the recklessness of the state government", said a pony lover. Upcoming of modernization and urbanization, concrete building at the fields which was once a play ground for the children's and gazing place for the ponies and other animals could be the big reason behind the current condition of Manipuri ponies. It is known that few years back Manipur government had sanctioned some crore of rupees



for a pony farm at Tingkhai Khunnou in Senapati district where five veterinarians and other workers were posted, however, the pony farm was as good as clogged down. "I feel a shame to say that

Manipur gave the world the game of Polo while the concern authority could not even provide enough food for the ponies. Many ponies have died on the street, due to starvation, it very much shows the recklessness of the Manipur

government while they are busy fighting each other for empowerment in the name to affluent the state", said Mema, an elderly woman who once rode on the back of Manipuri pony in her youth days. Manipuri legend one says that Lord Marjing, the chieftain of the Chenglei tribe, introduced the game of sagol kangjei or horse hockey, widely regarded as the predecessor of modern day polo. Manipuri ponies that played a crucial role in Manipuri history now roam around the city unattended by the concern authority. A family member of a once pony owner whose name don't want to be mention said disappointly that seeing ponies roaming around the city, surviving on the garbage, wounded and left unattended by the concern authority is very

unfortunate for the pony lovers. Something would have been for such ponies if my son was alive today. The family member put up a query to the concern persons and authorities that where all the crores of rupees are gone which have been sanctioned for the pony project, pony policies, establishment of suitable gazing fields for the ponies. Gathering the ponies by planting the best grass love by them at Heingang pony breeding farm will somehow avoid roaming around the city. Not only this, there are many areas where grasses loved by ponies still grows surrounding many water bodies which could be also be turn into gazing field for the ponies if it is develop properly by the concern department.

(Contd. on page 2)