

The Temporary Market shed presently under construction at Thangal Bazar



Displaced women vendors declares ultimatum

IT News
Imphal, Jan 24: Khwairamband Nupi Keithel Sempat Sagatpa Lup organized a public meeting for the women vendors at the Khwairamband Ima Keithel demanding the Government to provide proper place for the women vendors by the end of January. Thoudam (O) Shanti, President of Khwairamband Nupi Keithel Sinpham Amadi Saktam Kanba Lup expressed disappointments over State Government's failure to provide proper shed for the women vendors at a fixed location instead dirty politics being played and blaming one another. Since the recent 6.8 magnitude earthquake, many women vendors have been unable to find space to sell their goods. Looking at the issues and the



problems of the women vendors, experts, government and non-government organizations and individuals and well known resource persons have claimed that the construction of temporary shed at the main road is not a good idea, but even a temporary shed for the women vendors at the khwairamband Keithel area were not provided so far, Shanti added. She also said that the government have issued notice not to block roads while carrying construction materials for the resumed work at Tombisana High School before the rainy season comes up so that the foundation pillars for the temporary shed could be finished whereas the Women Vendors have already demanded the government for construction of the temporary shed at the Old Assembly Road as pointed out by MLA Joykishan. The rising issues surrounding the constructions of temporary sheds must be addressed

immediately. Looking at the suffering of the women vendors who are running their family by selling whatever goods they could sell on a daily basis, the state government ought to bring solution and a proper place for construction of the temporary shed. If it failed to do so by January, the women vendors will shift to their own places at the 2 damaged buildings of the Khwairamband Ima Keithel buildings from the beginning of February and the state government should take full responsibility for any incident arising as a result Shanti added. Since the closing of the Khwairamband Ima Keithel, the sellers, makers and the traders are facing heavy loss as well as financial problems. Even some women vendors are unable to feed their families. The issue is bound to escalate with parties opposing the present construction activities of the temporary market shed having announced their resolve to fight against it, creating obstructions to work. The localities were worried as the younger one has already started eating Talab-packed mixture of betel nuts and tobacco and pan. They were worried about their future too. According to them the elder boy was good in study too and they have the enthusiasm for pursuing further studies.

Govt. department turns blind eye to the plights of unfortunate minors

By Reena Nongmaithem
Imphal, Jan.24: It was really shocking to come across the missing person report of Hijam Somorjit (15), elder brother of Hijam Naobi (12), a hotel-boy based on whom a news article "Interrupted Childhood: need for state intervention and assistance" was published on January 15. Two days back when this reporter visited Naobi's locality at Singamei Wangma Pehiya Pandit Leikai for this follow up story, it was informed that their parents were looking for Somorjit who went missing since a couple of days back. According to localities who do not want to disclose their names, the two brothers were too young to be bread earners of the family. When enquired about their parents, it was informed that Hijam Naba, the father of the two boys is a government pensioner with a known condition of mental instability whose pension book is believed to be mortgaged. Both parents were described to be of ill health and unable to perform any physical work. It was also told that the parents- especially the mother, Hijam Hemabati was the kind of person who is overly superstitious, resorting to rituals to address any issue.

even complaining to their mother for not sending them to school. The brothers were reportedly disturbed when their mother comes to their work places to take money since they felt it was an embarrassment to them. There must be innumerable stories like Naobi's and Somorjit's who were forced into physical labor by circumstances to eke out a living and look after the family at such tender ages. Article 32(1)CRC(Convention

on the Rights of the Child) recognizes the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and performing work that is hazardous or interfering with the child's education or harmful to the Child's health, mental, physical, moral or social development. On the other hand, under the Constitution of India, Article 24 stipulates that children below 14 years of age cannot be employed in a factory or in hazardous occupations. The biggest

concern in such cases is the sensitivity and the proactivity, or the lack thereof of the state department and its concern department to provide timely and adequate support so that such minors who are victims of circumstances are not denied the opportunities and privileges of living a better life. We would all have been failing in securing the future of humanity if these unfortunate lives are left to fend for themselves, and time is running out for them.

Editors Guild of India condemns threat to Siddharth Varadarajan

IT News
Imphal, Jan. 24: The Editors Guild of India strongly condemns the blatant acts of intimidation and threats to Siddharth Varadarajan, Editor of The Wire, by student members of the ABVP in Allahabad University that forced the police to intervene to escort him to safety. Varadarajan had been invited to deliver a public lecture on "Democracy, the Media and Freedom of Expression" by the president of the Allahabad University Students' Union at the university's Senate Hall on

January 20, 2016. Varadarajan states that after students belonging to the ABVP threatened violence, the Vice-Chancellor withdrew permission for the programme and got the district administration to prohibit it from being held on campus. The ABVP declared that Varadarajan was "anti-national" and would not be allowed to set foot inside the university campus. Varadarajan was forced to deliver the lecture at a hall near the campus. After the lecture, when Varadarajan went to meet

the V-C in his office along with the students' union president, the ABVP surrounded the exit. The university security warned Varadarajan that they could not guarantee his safety, and it was only after the police arrived that he was escorted to safety. For a senior journalist to be threatened in such a manner at a leading university is deplorable. It is a brazen attack on freedom of expression, and the Editors Guild of India finds this mob mentality to silence those with divergent views unacceptable.

Dead body found

IT News
Imphal, Jan 24: Dead body of man was found today morning around 7 am at Kakching Loushi Lambel, Khuningthek Ahanba area. The deceased person has been identified as Naorem Kunjo (40), s/o (L) Naorem Dhananjay of Kakching Wairi Sabal Pareng. Family members said that Naorem Kunjo went out from his residence at around 8 pm, night of January 23. Later Kunjo was found dead today morning by the locals at the road side canal of Kakching Loushi Lambel, Khuningthek Ahanba. The dead body of Kunjo was taken at the JNIMS morgue where it was hand over to the family members after going through post-mortem. No injury mark was found on the body of Kunjo.

State fire department prevents huge loss with timely service

IT News
Imphal, Jan. 24: Properties valued at more than 2 lacs were destroyed when a house was partially razed by fire at Keisamthong Top Leirak today at around 10:30 am. The fire broke out due to the leakage of cooking gas. However the state fire service arrived in time and managed to prevent further loss. The owner, Aribam Benand Sharma (56) also own Angel Electronics at Thangal Bazar and many electrical items stocked at his home were also reportedly destroyed in the fire.

SEGP beneficiaries appeal for writing off loan

IT News
Imphal, Jan 24: All Manipur Selected Special Employment Generation Programme (SEGP) Beneficiaries Committee appealed to the state government to write off their loan provided by Manipur State Co-Operative Bank Limited, Imphal- the apex

bank of SEGP. At a press meet held at Manipur Press Club today Jakir Hussain, General Secretary of the beneficiaries committee said that beneficiaries are unable to repay the loans as their scheme failed due to natural calamities, Bandhs and Blockades, bird flu, swine flu and other such epidemics.

The beneficiaries committee has submitted several memorandums to the Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Chief Minister to write off the loan. The beneficiaries committee also disclosed that it is ready to launch various forms of agitations if the government fails to listen their proposal.

WWOK celebrates 2nd Foundation Day at Jiribam

IT News
Jiribam, Jan. 24: Women Welfare Organisation Kangleipak (WWOK) Jiri Masha loishang today celebrated its 2nd Foundation Day at Auditorium of Jiribam Higher Secondary School. WWOK celebrated the day under the theme "Communal Harmony". As part of the celebration, various resource persons including Sarat Thokchom, Advisor of All Jiribam Working Journalist Union (AJWU) spoke on the topic "Women and Human Rights". While Associate Prof. H.Nandeshori Devi, Jiri College spoke on "Changing face of Manipuri Women" and Associate Prof. L.Jaminikanta

Singh of Jiri College spoke on "Role of women in maintaining Communal Harmony". Painting competitions for school going children was also held in different categories. In the competitions Th.Eraileima Devi of Jiri Public English School, A.Premnanda Singh of R K Sanatombi Devi Vidyalaya, Jiribam, and L.Lamnganba also of R K Sanatombi Devi Vidyalaya, Jiribam bagged 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions respectively in the category of students under Class VI to Class IX. Ex-Minister A.Biren Singh, Advisor of WWOK Jiri Masha loishang Th.Bibi Singh and Th.Mangi Singh, Ksh.Balaleima Devi- President of the organization, Sr. Lecturer R.K.Gambhirjit Singh, Jiribam Higher secondary school, Jiribam, M.Hemanta meetei, President, JDO and L.Surendra Kumar Singh, Advisor KSA, Jiribam respectively graced the function as chief guest, President and Guest of honours.

Seminar on Conflict and Mental Health in Northeast India

Root cause of armed conflict in Manipur is due to the dehumanising condition of the Manipuri people – MC Arun

IT News
Imphal, Jan 24: A National Seminar on "Conflict and Mental Health In Northeast India" was held on January 23, 2016 at the Conference Hall, Tribal Research Institute, Imphal. The seminar was organised by the Department of Social Work, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU), Regional Campus, Manipur and sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi. Prof. Akshyakumar, Clinical Psychologist, formerly with Department of Clinical Psychology, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal and Prof. MC Arun, Director, Centre for Manipur Studies, Manipur University were the Presidium Members of the Inauguration Session of the seminar. Prof. Akshyakumar delivering the keynote address stated that when the armed struggle started in Manipur or Assam, many people have lost their lives. It is the people who are related to the deceased who suffers. It is them who acquire the problem of mental health. The prevalence of mental health such as PTSD, anxiety, depression, etc. on account of armed

conflict in Manipur is high. He stressed that what is important is to identify whether people are maintaining mental health. In order to find these out, one has to be aware of the early signs and symptoms such as sleeping hours, allergy, physical pain, feeling of unusually confused, upset, worried and other forms of behavioural changes (including mood fluctuations and persistent thinking about an incident), etc. The person who is suffering from mental health problem may not be able to recognise these early signs. Thus, persons who are close to these people must be of help. He added that mental health problem can develop at any time in the life of a person. Then he spoke about the characteristics of a sound mind. A person with a sound mind can have quality time with his surrounding with a sense of happiness, purpose and security. The opposite are the characteristics of a person with unsound mind and often live under hallucination. Prof. MC Arun stated that the root cause of armed conflict in Manipur is due to the dehumanising condition of the Manipuri

people. There was contradiction between the minority superiors and the majority inferiors in the state and this gave birth to the phenomenon of insurgency. Initial targets of the insurgents included rapists and corrupted officials including doctors so as to remove the dehumanising condition. At this initial phase, the people gave tacit support. But after the 80s, the insurgents have been perceived by the commoners as another oppressor who imposes what to wear and what to speak, etc. Since then, the people are caught in between two oppressors, the State and insurgents, thereby increasing the incidences of mental health. There is a decrease in the intensity of armed conflict but the intensity and incidences of mental health are ever increasing. Prof. MC Arun cautioned that these understandings largely remain hypothetical. Therefore, proper study to document the prevalence of mental health is a must, a task to be undertaken with professionals such as doctors.