



Counter blockade at Khoyathong

Procedural lapses delayed establishment of Food Testing Laboratory in Imphal; Govt. diverted funds, UC not sent

IT News
Imphal, June 16: Perhaps because of a procedural lapse to the side of the state government authority, a case filed by a Guwahati based firm at Manipur High Court challenging the bidding process, process for procuring of equipments for Food Testing Laboratory here in Imphal has not yet begun till today.

According to an official source on September 9, last year, authority of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), along with the officials of the directorate of trade and Commerce, govt. of Manipur and Food Analyst & Nodal Officer, medical Directorate conducted an



(For representation only)

enquiry to the progress of the Food Testing and reported that the required equipments of the Laboratory were being procured through e-tendering as per the government procedure and will be completed within two months,

i.e. before the month of December 2015. It is now July, 2016, almost 8 months from the date the government authority had reported to have been completed, there is no sign of any progress for the

establishment of the Food Testing Laboratory as the equipments required has not yet been procured till today. Official source informed Imphal Times that the equipments cannot be procured as the e-tendering procedure has been delayed due to a case in Manipur high Court related to the bidding process filed by Guwahati based firm M/S NIM Pharmaceuticals, Ulubari. The project for setting of the Food Testing Laboratory in Imphal was granted Export development Fund (EDF) assistance of Rs. 222.714lakh on May 28, 2012. Interesting, this EDF funds has been reportedly diverted by the Okram Ibobi led Congress Government instead of utilizing for the purposed.

On further enquiry it has been found out that, MANIDCO is the implementing agency of the said project and had stated that problem that delay the process of procuring the equipments has been sorted out and said that the setting up and function of the Food Testing Laboratory will be completed in the next two months. On one thing it is confusion on whether to believe it or not as the case pending in the court is still not yet disposed. Meanwhile, another official source said that as the fund has been diverted state government is not in position to sent utilization certificate of the project for establishment of the Food Testing Laboratory.

Multi crore drug seizure case: Okram Henry abstains from appearance on health ground; hearing scheduled on July 8

IT News
Imphal, June 16: Among the five accused charge sheeted by the Central Bureau of investigation (CBI), on multi crore drug seizure case on January 11, 2013 from Tulihal Airport Imphal, Okram Henry was abstained from attending the court on health ground. The other four accused of the case identified as Rajneesh Kumar, Ranveer Tyagi, Sapam Angus @ Nanao @ Naoba and Md. Rajauddin today made their appearance in the Special Court (NDPS) Manipur.

their clients and the special NDPS court granted bail on PR bond. The CBI Counsel submitted the charge sheets leveled against the accused to the Court and a copy of each charges has been handed over to the counsel of each accused. The Special NDPS court today scheduled the date for hearing of the case of July 8, 2016. CBI's investigation of the case revealed that the seizure of drugs on January 18, 2013 at around 1 pm from Meitei Lamkhai area, Canchipur on NH-2 was from the huge consignment of drugs seized by the SIU, Manipur on January 11, 2013 from the cargo unloading area of Imphal airport.

Appeal for declaration of result for police constable

IT News
Imphal, June 16: All Manipur Written Test Successful Candidates 2013 Batch Police Constable Association today demanded the state government to declare the result for the viva-voce conducted for Thoubal and Imphal West Districts for police constable on or before June 20, 2016. Speaking to media persons at a press conference held at Namthalong (Muji Khun) village community hall, Nameirakpam Suraj, Joint Secretary of All Manipur Written Test Successful Candidates 2013 Batch Police Constable Association said that on April 25, 2016, a team

of 19 members of the JAC held a meeting with Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and Additional Chief Secretary of Manipur regarding the declaration of result for viva-voce for police constable of Thoubal and Imphal-West Districts. The meeting concluded with the agreement of declaring the result on or before second week of June, 2016 and no objection to the new recruitment from the JAC side. Suraj said that unfortunately no response in regards with the agreements has been made from the government side so far. If the government fails to declare the result of the viva-voce of the 2 districts

before June 20, with the help of law, JAC will start different form of agitations from June 21, 2016 and newly made process of new requirement will also be prevented from further process. Suraj further said that for 2013 batch for police constable, 10287 candidates were selected which includes candidates appeared for viva-voce of Thoubal and Imphal-West Districts. Since the people of the state have been facing many hurdles due to different unexpected agitations such as roadblocks, bandhs, curfews etc, Suraj appeal the concern authority to declare the result at the earliest to avoid any unwanted agitations.

MLA's brother-in-law assaults local candidate

IT News
Imphal, June 16: Brother-in-law of MLA Megachandra of Wangkhem Assembly Constituency assaulted a 32 year old local from Yairipok Vishnu Naha on the night of June 14, 2016 at around 11 pm. The assaulted victim has been identified as Thangjam Lokendra @ Inao s/o Thangjam Surchandra @ Yairipok Vishnu Nahan and MLA Megachandra's brother-in-law has been identified as Oinam Bungobi @ Romesh (36) s/o Oinam Khomei of Yairipok Vishnu Naha of Thoubal District. Speaking to media persons at a press conference held at Manipur Press Club, Thangjam Lokendra said that on the night of June 14, 2016 MLA Megachandra's

brother-in-law Oinam Bungobi and his friends stopped his vehicle and asked for some money as there was a musical night, replying that he did not have any, Bungobi began to mock Lokendra about his personal life and started assaulting him without any reasons, Lokendra added. Lokendra said that on June 15, family members demanded Oinam Bungobi to clarify for the assault along with his family members but fails to turn up. Family members of Lokendra condemn such inhuman act from a well known MLA family's side, he added. Lokendra further said that as family member of MLA Megachandra failed to come forward and give clarification for the assault, they must take responsibility for any unpleasant incident in the future. It has been reported that Bungobi was in alcoholic state when he came along with 8 other persons in his SUV car on the night of assault on Thangjam Lokendra.

Live bullet seized from Air passenger

IT News
Imphal, June 16: CISF posted at Imphal Tulihal Airport today seized a live bullet from a passenger travelling to Kolkata on Indigo flight No. 6E-202. The live bullet was detected by the CISF personnel while screening the passenger, identified as T Maraba, son of Taraba of Maram Keithel in Senapati district before boarding the flight at around 10.40 am today.

Implement Food Security Act. properly or face consequences- Poirei Meitei Lup

IT News
Imphal, June 16: The Food Security Act, conceived and implemented since May 2016 with the aim of providing essential foodgrains at affordable rates to persons living below the poverty line has been misutilised and are being converted into a money-making scheme by the powerful state government officials in collusion with FCS authorities while the real beneficiaries are left without

anything for lack of influence and connections, asserted a press release of the proscribed group Kangleipak Communist Party Poirei Meitei Lup today. It further stated that FCS officials should verify and issue cards to the real beneficiaries only, and that under the Act, the full quota of ration should be given to the beneficiaries. The release further points out that the food grains to be distributed has been diverted and sold off by

government officials and FCS staffs, declaring that the present uproar over non issue of ration cards and failure to distribute the rations should be investigated by an enquiry committee at the earliest, and anyone found indulging in any form of misuse of the allocated quantity of foodgrains will be severely dealt with without further warning. The release further requested the public to report any anomaly in this regard to the party immediately.

Counter blockade

IT News
Imphal, June 16: In reply to the ongoing economic blockade called along the two national high ways many clubs and organization located at Khuyathong area in Imphal west and at Sawbung area today imposed counter blockade today.

Students of Andro Assembly feted

IT News
Imphal, June 16: A function was held at Poiroukhongjin High School of Imphal East under Andro Assembly Constituency today to fete the students of the school who have passed the high school leaving certificate examination (HSLC) conducted by the Board of Secondary Education Manipur (BOSEM) as well as the teachers of the institute. MLA Thounojam Shyamkumar, Headmaster of the school M Rajendra, H Jatra Singh- ZEO Zone II Imphal East, S Sutjamani Singh- Deputy Inspector of Schools, M Biramangol Singh and Md Abdul Gafar- Assistant Inspector of Schools were present as Chief Guest, President and Guests of Honour respectively. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Shyamkumar stated that the declining quality of education in the government-run educational institutions in the state have compelled many parents to opt for private schools with high costs which have a negative impact on the society and is also a cause for rising crime rate, not to

mention the extra coaching fees required to be shelled out. But the collective efforts of the public, the MLA and the staffs of Poiroukhongjin High School, Andro High School, Huikap High School etc have paid off, with more students seeking admission in these schools. The chief guest express satisfaction on a few students securing letter mark as well as passing in first division while declaring that hostel facilities are being considered if there is enough number of students in class X from next year. Pointing out the ongoing construction work in the school the MLA also stressed on the important of cooperation amongst everyone in the area. He also extends hope that the coming years will produce better students from these schools. Five students securing first division including three students with letter marks and sixteen students who pass in second division were presented with gifts. The student also presented various traditional and cultural entertainment programme to mark the occasion.

Win-win solution to the 3- controversial bills

Dr. Vareso Ningshen
The making of a new Manipur as a just, equitable, open, pluralist, vibrant and prosperous state in the new millennium will remain a day dream if the standard of judgment over the 3- Controversial (ILP) Bills by the stake holders including that of the experts and intellectuals of the state are of any indication. In the past, most of the issues in Manipur either socio-economic or political remained unresolved due to the colonial-like attitude of the government or lack of sound judgment over the issues by many stake holders. Yes, it is a knowledge era, no doubt. Manipur although a small state is known for its best intelligence and knowledge in science, technology, medicine, arts, and sports. But what is the use of our best knowledge and intelligence if it is not guided by wisdom and character when it comes to application? Knowledge alone can destroy rather than build our society and our world. This is what M.K. Gandhiji meant when he once said 'Knowledge without character is a powerful evil'. It can bring injustice, chaos, division and destruction in our

society if not prudently used. The 3-controversial bills: The Protection of Manipur People Bills, 2015 (PMP Bill), The Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms (Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2015 and the Manipur Shops And Establishment (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015 are all said to have been passed with the primary objective to protect the indigenous peoples of Manipur. The first bill is learnt to have been withheld whereas the other two bills are to be returned for reconsideration by the House. In debt discussion, consultation and debate on the substance of a bill is not only a fine democratic culture but an inalienable structural ingredient of a constitutional democracy like ours. Any legislative process bereft of this requirement will not produce a good law for want of credible and composite ideas, opinions, information and consensus on the subject matter. However good and productive laws can be passed by optimizing all available legislative credentials and adhering to the constitutional jurisprudence relevant to our context. Frankly speaking, the prevailing crisis is a

self made crisis of the Government of Manipur and the Hon'ble Legislative Assembly. The dubious attempt of the Government to extend the new provisions of MLR & LR in the entire state without inserting an exceptional clause negates the very constitutional objective to protect and safeguard the tribals and their land. It stands in direct contravention of the Principal Act of MLR and LR which exempts the Hill Areas from its operation. It will above all breach the customary laws of the tribals which govern and safeguard their land from time immemorial. This reality and the sentiment attached therein needs to be respected by the state and all concerned. Transfer of tribal land, however, is legitimately done either to the Centre or State Governments for any developmental purpose by lease, donation, sale or acquisition process purely on the basis of the agreed terms and conditions arrived between the tribal land owners and the government or any other such similar entity. The agreed terms must include reversionary right of ownership to the original land owners in the event of expiry of the project span of the government and/ or

winding up of such developmental projects/ programs. The contentious new amendment bill in Section 14A(1) of the MLR and LR provides that "Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, Non-Manipur persons, firm, institutions or any other similar entities who intend to purchase any land in the state of Manipur shall submit an application to the Deputy Commissioner of the district concerned where the land to be purchased is situated for obtaining the prior approval of the State Government before such purchase is made by him". Honestly, this section does not require logical interpretation to get its clear-cut construction of the content. Grammatical interpretation itself conveys its clear literal and technical meaning. It express that discarding or regardless of all existing laws including exemption provision for Hill Areas contained in Section 2 (2) of the Principal Act, this new amendment bill if enacted into law will allow Non-Manipur persons, firms, institutions (all outsiders) to purchase land in Manipur including Hill Areas by obtaining prior approval of the State Government. (Contd. on page 2)