

Govt. Forest department turns blind to the cutting of trees but people mourn

By Reena Nongmaithem
Imphal, March 10: When people across the globe are showing serious concern about the protection of trees in their respective environment, Manipur Government Forest Department is turning blind eye to the massive cutting of trees grown at the southern side of Manipur University Gate along NH-102. The trees were cut in the name of widening the road stretch but many question the rationale behind the cutting of the trees which took several years to grow. "Although the Government's step was to widen the road, it was inevitable to turn the area to a desert like situation", said a University student while speaking to this reporter. She further said that the area is now not less than a desert without any trees. University Security personnel



As well as shopkeepers near University expressed that they felt emptiness without the trees. The place was once a beautiful place with trees growing at the road side. A shopkeeper said the trees were giving shades to passersby and especially the Auto Drivers and School Service Vans. While speaking to this reporter, an auto driver said that at the beginning of this year, he encountered some persons who were counting the trees, who later told him that they have come for survey as some of trees had to be chopped down inevitably for the widening of highway. That time, when he asked them whether all the trees would be cut down?, the persons told him that two rows at least 100 trees out of total four rows will be left while others had to be

chopped down, he added. "I feel very distress to see such empty look, we (auto drivers) used to take shelter under the trees", complained the driver.

The trees were chopped down by localities including auto drivers after being instructed by the concern department on last 13-14 Feb. However he had no knowledge whether the localities were told to cut down all the 200 trees or not, he informed. Concerning over the merciless act of Manipur Government, MUSU President Chingsubam Manglemton told this reporter that he was shocked when saw the disastrous scene. He asked how the Government could be so inhumane when the whole Globe is being hit issues of Global Warming, Climate Change and so on.

Man shot in front of Pallel Police Station; condition critical

IT News
Imphal, March 10: Unknown armed miscreants today shot a person while he was sitting inside his parked four wheeler vehicle in front of Pallel Keithel in Thoubal district at around 8.30 am today morning. Report said that the miscreants fired 4 rounds of gun shots while he was sitting inside the eco van bearing registration number AS 28 1333 in front of the Pallel Police Station. The person identified as Ln. Rengneisiak Aimol @ Areng (47) S/o Neichung Aimol of Kumbirei Village under Tengnoupai Police Station in Chandel District was hit by a bullet at his left chest. The miscreants fled from the scene after firing at him while the injured person managed to run inside the police station. Following the incident, a team



of Pallel Police immediately cordon the area along with additional force from the nearby police station and conducted search operating in and around the area. However, there is no report of any arrest so far. The injured driver was taken to Jivan Hospital, Kakching by Pallel Police and referred to Shija Hospital Imphal for further treatment. In protest against the firing, shops and economic establishments in and around Pallel Bazar down their shutters. Civil organizations of Pallel also staged a protest demonstration against the attack. Meanwhile, condition of the injured is stated to be not stable even as the internal bleeding has been stopped after conducting a major operation at Shija Hospital and Research Institute. Source from Shija said that at the moment nothing can be said as his BP remain fluctuating from time to time.

Mass copying reported at YK College, Mekola, Mayang Imphal centers

IT News
Imphal, March 10: In an unprecedented manner in the history of Manipur, school authority and parents are reportedly indulging themselves in mass copying by distributing solved answer papers to students at YK College, Wangting today. Informing this to reporters, one of the members of DESAM's flying examination squad told at its Keishampat HQ that when a vigilant squad of the students' body reached at YK College, a large number of people including parents, relatives and locals were seen running from one post to another carrying solved photo copies containing all the answers of today's class XII Biology examination question paper.

Astonishingly, the DESAM volunteer alleged that members of micro observers of Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur, who were present at the centre during the examination hour, were seen enjoying the whole drama silently. Showing a pile of books, photo copies of solved question papers and small books, which they collected from YK College and other examination centers, the DESAM volunteer further said that when demanded the invigilators of the examination refused to hand over the books, photo copies of solved answer papers, which were allegedly distributed among the students. Since the first day of the ongoing class XII examination

which is being conducted by the Council, DESAM has been continuously reported about incident of copying at various exam locations across the state. However, till today the Council failed to take up immediate preventive measures, he said, while he wondered that if the Council authority has any role in encouraging students, parents and even invigilators to indulge in mass copying and helping them in illegal practices during examinations. Mass copying was also witnessed at Mekola and Mayang Imphal A and B examination centers, he added. He also asked the Council authority that what would be best means to prevent students from indulging mass copying at examination.

Film Forum decries law enforcers' negligence; appeals people to save the future of Manipuri Film

IT News
Imphal, March 10: Film Forum Manipur today organised a public discourse on the present obstacles being hindered to the film workers and activists of the state at Lamyamba Sanglen today. The Public discourse was organized under the theme views of the CSOs and people towards Manipuri cinema and film workers.

President of the Cine Actor Guild Manipur Takellambam Loken while speaking on the occasion said that the film workers have been facing unbearable pressures from various anti social elements. He said while the matter has been put to the notice of the concern law enforcers nothing sort of security measures had been taken up. Stating on how the general secretary of Film Forum Manipur M. Raghupati @ Epu was assaulted and left nearly to death, Loken said that he was pulled up from his home at Sanakeithel area under Lamphel Police Station by some armed persons who came in combat dress. Adding that those persons took him in a vehicle along the road where police are posted, Loken expressed surprised on how armed persons can ride in the city by abducting a person at their nose. He further added that the future of the Manipuri Film is uncertain if such incident continues. He appealed all art lovers, artists and the people of the state to work together to save the future of Manipuri film.

Maoist claims hand-grenade at RIMS

Imphal, March 10: Maoist Communist Party Manipur (MCPM) today said that the two hand grenade found at RIMS yesterday evening belong to their party however the outfit said that they did not intentionally placed the hand grenade at the RIMS but was left by their cadre as they show some security personnel while they were on their way to target to some of the RIMS authority at which they already warned. In a press statement signed by Comrade Nonglen Meitei, the outfit said that the outfit has no intention to explode or placed the grenade inside RIMS. If it has to be placed they could have placed only one hand grenade. It further added that even though the outfit take serious care of the patient they will not let the authority free to walk.

Community Service Programme



IT News
Imphal, March 10: A One Week Community Service Programme, 2016 organised by Dhanamanjuri College of Teacher Education, Imphal was started today at Lilasingh Khongnangkhang High School, Imphal. Naorem Pravin Singh, Director of Education (S), Government of Manipur was present as the Chief Guest of the programme. Students of DMCTE also interacted with the students and highlighted their importance to the social development of the society. Also DMCTE donated indoor and outdoor games items, dustbin and sanitary cleaning material to the school as a part of Swachh Bharat Mission. The Chief Guest also interacted with students about the importance of education.

Protest staged against blast at Punya Hyundai showroom

IT News
Imphal, March 10: Local people of Khuyathong Polem Leikai and the staffs of the Punya Hyundai staged a sit-in-protest at the front of Punya Hyundai showroom against the bomb attacked at the Punya Hyundai showroom which injured a staff yesterday evening around 7:00 pm. Asom Gopal, a local of the Khuyathong attending the protest condemned the attack

termining it as inhuman and an act of terrorism. He further said that as the police suggested the bomb to have been a timer explosive device; those responsible seem to have no worry for the civilians passing along the time at that hour. He said Khuyathong area at which the bomb was triggered is one of the busiest roads in Imphal area. He further appealed to clarify the reason behind the attack.

Mentioned may be made that a person identified as Thounaojam Ibomcha, 42, son of Tomba of Chingmeirong sustained injury in the blast yesterday evening. **Meanwhile, proscribed group PREPAK (Pro) has claimed responsibility of the blast at Punya Hyundai Showroom. In a press handout the outfit said the attack was carried out by the owner of the showroom stood against them.**

MASAD shows solidarity to JNU; supports critique on Nationalism

IT News
Imphal, March 10: A team of Manipuri Students' Association Dekhi (MASAD) showed support to the JNU cause by joining the protest demonstrated at JNU Administrative Block at 4 pm Yesterday. The demand of the JNU are - release of JNU students, removal of sedition charges and revocation of suspension of 8 JNU students. The protest also demanded removal of registrar and against the bogus enquiry committee. MASAD advisor Seram Rojesh (a PhD candidate of sociology from the Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University) spoke on behalf of MASAD on the event. He touched various issues regarding the campaign and the ongoing JNU protests. In the event MASAD expressed its solidarity; and salutes the fight against oppression and the freedom to dissent. It was expressed further that MASAD is critical and also very skeptical about the forms of protest that is emerging out of the discourse on JNU. It was pointed out by him that the Indian state has adopted the strategy of tagging JNU students as anti-nationalists. But most JNU students fail to critique the very idea of nation/nationality

and nationalism. Instead it was pointed out at the event that the various protests in relation to JNU has seen the constant try by the students and others supporters to prove themselves as nationalist with use of symbols such as the waving of the tricolor flag. A slight touch of humor was put when it was reminded that it won't be long when we see the days of JNU professors holding a tricolor flag while sitting at a conference trying to prove themselves as nationalists. He lightened up the atmosphere with the crowd laughing together that he was expecting tricolor flags at the event but surprisingly there wasn't any. Further the talk went on and he pointed out that Narendra Modi speaks of Kashmir as an integral part of India, so does JNU intellectuals, students and all alike. So, it appears the left oriented JNU students and intellectuals are no less than the nationalists. But whether Kashmir or Manipur would be an integral part of India lies with the decision of the people. It was pointed out that there was conversion of the "right" into "left"; and "left" into "right". While members of ABVP resigned

on the ground that the BJP has become fascists, the so called "left" are trying to prove themselves as nationalists and it seems they also resigned from the left politics. He asserted that India is a multi-national state and the ideas of nationalism need a critical look. An absolutely blind faith in the constitution that allows more than 50 years of AFSPA seems to suggest a sorry condition of the intellectuals. He expressed the idea that university students and professors are an elite class and even so more the students and professors of elite universities like JNU and DU. So, he urged the crowd to take this fight beyond JNU and even beyond the University walls, out to the peasants, the poor, the unprivileged, the oppressed. The idea of absolute belief in the judicial system by JNU student leaders was ridiculed. It was asserted that there was a need for a critique of the judicial system which was seen by him as an elite institution turning a blind eye to the unprivileged; where thousands of prisoners have much less than a trial because they could not afford to fight a case. (Contd. on page 2)

IGAR (South) conducts medical camps

IT News
Imphal, March 10: The Assam Rifles, in pursuit of their role as the "Friends of the North East" have always endeavored to reach out to the local populace through provision of basic civic amenities and healthcare. Battalions of IGAR (South), the largest counter-insurgency formation of the nation are deployed in the remotest corners of Manipur and have laid utmost emphasis on civic action as well as military social responsibility programmes which was clearly on display during the unprecedented floods that ravaged the state last year.

In the run up to the 181st Raising Day celebrations of the force, IGAR (South) organised free medical camps at 24 locations across Manipur

AGP announces candidates for 25 seats

Guwahati, March 10: In poll bound Assam, Asom Gana Parishad has announced party candidates for 25 seats. Talking to news persons in Guwahati today, party President Atul Bora said that former Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta will contest from Barhampur seat. Atul Bora will fight from Bokakhat while former party President Brindaban Goswami has been fielded from Tezpur seat. On the other hand, current legislators Phani Bhusan Choudhury has retained Bongaigaon assembly seat. The party will announce another candidate list soon. Meanwhile, former DGP Dilip Borah has joined the Asom Gana Parishad today.