

Sand mining at Thoubal River being inspected by DFO Thoubal, RK Amarjit



AR claims arrest of those involved on Nov.13 Chandel blast

IT News
Imphal, Nov 20: Assam Rifles today claims arrest of two persons who are responsible for the November 13 IED blast at Mahamani Village in Chandel district. A statement by PRO (IGAR-S) said that the two perpetrators were arrested in a combined effort by the AR and the Chandel Police in support of the Civil Society Organisations and community leaders of Chandel. Two AR personnel were killed, six other injured in the blast which was later claimed by armed rebel group PLA/RPF. Civil society organisations of the district had condemned the blast by staging series of protest against such attack. "With the relentless joint efforts of 18 Assam Rifles, Chandel Police and local residents, the two individuals who executed the blast have been nabbed and are presently in police custody. Both have confessed to their crime. Items used to execute the said action have also been seized", the PRO statement said.

Combing operation

IT News
Imphal, Nov 20: State police continues search operation in and around Imphal area to assure full prove security during the visit of President Ram Nath Kovind to inaugurate the Manipur's largest tourism festival, Sangai Festival, which is set to begin from tomorrow. The last few days saw police team conducting series of combing operation at various places of Imphal areas including localities in the surroundings of Bheigyachandra Open Air Theatre (BOAT) where, the Sangai Festival is scheduled to be officially inaugurated. Today too, a team of state police led by Thangkhochoon Haokip, Deputy SP (Ops) of Imphal West under the supervision of Additional SP (Ops) N. Madhuni, conducted house to house search operation at Thangmeiband Sinam Leikai from 5:30 am till 7:00 am. About 300 ppl were verified out of which two UG bailouts were pulled up for verification.

Stage sets for Sangai Festival; Works Minister reviews preparations

IT News
Imphal, Nov 20: Stage is set for Sangai Festival, which will be inaugurated by the President of India Ram Nath Kovind at Hapta Kangjeibung.

To make sure nothing goes wrong, Works Minister Thongam Bishwajit today convened a high level meeting of PWD official to take stock of the progress of beautification works for the Sangai Festival.

Commissioner Works K.Radhakumar, Chief Engineer Kh. Temba and other engineers of the department attended the meeting and brief the progress being undertaken. The meeting was held at the Conference Hall of the Minister's New Secretariat

Office. This time the Sangai festival will have three major venues- Hapta Kangjeibung in Imphal East, Lamboi Khongnangkong in Imphal West and Sendra in Bishnupur district. Official source said that the Minister enquired the engineers of the status regarding washing and cleaning of roads especially near the Raj Bhavan, Sanjenthong, Palace Gate, Lamboikhongnangkong, Sendra, National Highways, Airport Road using water tenders of the department of Fire Service during the meeting. The Minister also instructed completion of washing and cleaning of the roads by this evening if anything is left.

CM inaugurates Archaeological Museum at Kangla

DIPR
Imphal, Nov. 20: Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today inaugurated Archaeological Museum at Kangla here in Imphal. A Battery Operated Vehicle service was also launched for service inside the fort by the Chief Minister to make Kangla premises free from pollution.

Speaking at the occasion, N. Biren expressed hope that the newly launched Battery Operated Vehicle service would give convenience to

visitors especially senior citizens and differently-abled persons, who wish to sightsee the historic fort. The Chief Minister also expressed desire to have a coffee table book on Kangla, which has vital information about the sacred fort. Stating that he sometimes comes across instances of victimising helpless police personnel, the Chief Minister said that he would not tolerate any form of victimisation and unwanted

ill-treatment meted out to police personnel/officer and Government employees. Likewise, employees who indulge in any form of irregularity would also get action from the Government, he added.

Art and Culture Minister L. Jayantakumar also attended the inaugural function. Four Battery Operated Vehicles have been made operational inside Kangla Fort from today. Every vehicle will have a trained tour guide each.

DFO Thoubal swings into action; bans sand mining at Thoubal River

IT News
Thoubal, Nov.20: Showing serious concerns to the degradation of the Thoubal River as well as its environment, a team of state police and Forest department officials led District Forest Officer (DFO) RK Amarjit today paid surprise visit at Moirang Pural and Itham area under Andro Assembly constituency where sand mining are being

underway at mass scale. During the inspection visit the government official saw illegal excavation of soil from nearby hills of the area and dump it at Thoubal River for extraction of red sand. As the mining of sand not only endangered the forest area of the surroundings but also degrades the condition of the Thoubal River, the District Forest Officer put immediate

ban on the sand mining as well as excavation at hills of the surroundings. The DFO also orders ban transportation of red sand in Thoubal and Kachching district with immediate effect from today. Speaking to reporters at the inspection site DFO RK Amarjit seeks support from the general public to the initiative of the Forest Department.

AMSU protest over non-issuance of appointed order to MPSC recommended candidate for TRI

IT News
Imphal, Nov 20: Police today confronted volunteers of All Manipur Students' Union (AMSU) as the later tried to storm at Chief Minister's Bungalow this afternoon. The student body has been demanding appointment order for one Ngasepam Pikeswhor Singh as Deputy Director Tribal Research Institute (TRI). AMSU alleged that the said person was recommended to the post by Manipur Public Service Commission. Earlier, the volunteers of AMSU staged a sit-in-protest demonstration at Keishampat Lairembi Community Hall. At around noon today the students staged a protest rally starting from the place where they staged sit-in protest and proceeded towards Keishampat Nityapat Chuthek



and later marched towards Chief Minister's Bungalow. The students were however intervene by a team of state police in front of Nupi Lal Memorial Complex. As the police team tried to stop them from proceeding further a minor confrontation occurred between the two as the students too tried to march ahead forcible. Later, they were put to halt in front of Nupital complex.

On November 4, a team of AMSU met Minister and Principal Secretary of TA&H regarding the matter. A statement of the AMSU said that matters related to victimisation of MPSC recommended candidate has been presented and urged the Minister to award penalty and exemplary punitive action to officials involved in the misdemeanour of victimising the recommended candidate.

The TA & H Minister assured consideration of the demand but appealed to withhold any agitation till November, however, as no communication has been made regarding the issue the AMSU is left with no other choice but to resume agitation, the statement added. It further threatens intense form of agitation if the demands are not fulfilled.

'Cooperatives are the right choice for socio-economic development'

DIPR
Imphal, Nov. 20: "Cooperatives are the right choice for self-employment, income generation for all walks of life to develop their socio-economic development," stated Cooperation and Social Welfare Minister Smt. Nemcha Kipgen. This was expressed while delivering a Chief Guest speech during the celebration of the 7th Day of the 64th All India Cooperative Week Celebration 2017 held today in the premises of the Institute of Cooperative Management, Cooperative Complex, Lamphelpat. It is organised by ICM, Imphal in collaboration with the Manipur State Cooperative Union. Stressing on the topic "Cooperatives as Key Partner for Skill Development," Minister Nemcha Kipgen felt that the topic is very appropriate to be addressed in this current scenario. She proclaimed that skills should serve as an integral part of employment and economic growth. She draws the attention of all concerned to identify the skill needed by various cooperatives for improving the quality of

services and products. She highlighted that the facilities under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana and other flagship skill development programmes being implemented by the Government of India and State Government and other counterparts should be explored and used by the cooperatives. She further continued cooperative way of working hand in hand has been in existence in our state both in hill and plain areas since time immemorial. Till date, 9148 cooperative societies are registered with the total membership of 7,26,671 members in our State. These societies include different sectors such as agriculture, dairy, fisheries, livestock, urban and rural credit, housing, consumers, transport, labour, handloom & handicrafts, fruit processing, etc. Cooperation Minister Nemcha felt that the functioning of such societies should be improved so as to enable to improve the economic and social status of the members. These societies need a skilled

workforce for increasing their performance. The members and employees should acquire the required skills in their respective fields to contribute towards making cooperatives or successful movement, she added. She also believed that the cooperative movement in the state can serve the majority of the population with strong leadership, professionalism and skill development. As a part of this occasion, various meritorious awards were also distributed. MLA, 43, Phungyar AC K. Leishiyu, Principal Secretary (Cooperation), J.C. Ramthanga, Principal Scientist CSIR-North East Institute of Science & Technology, Imphal, Dr. H. Birkumar Singh, Director, ICM, Imphal, Dr. N. Ranjana Devi graced the function as President and Guests of Honour respectively. The function was also attended by officials and staff of the Cooperative Department, Manipur State Cooperative Union, ICM, trainees and students of various programmes of ICM and Centre for Cooperative Education

Overlooking the obvious: need for a holistic approach to tourism development

IT Desk
Imphal, Nov 20: There is a sudden feel of anticipation in the air with the "Sangai Festival"- touted to be a showcase of the rich traditional and cultural heritage of the State. The emphasis of the festival is admittedly to draw in tourists to Manipur. There has also been a marked increase in the spending by the State Government with an intense beautification drive of the Imphal city in this regard. Yet those at the helm of affairs apparently missed the whole point of the exercise as various countries have expressed their apprehensions in

participating at the tourism extravaganza. A radical approach needs to be implemented from the point of view of a tourist. The starkly visible and seemingly omnipresent armed police personnel with their stern expressions and unapproachable attitude needs to be done away with urgent immediacy, even with the looming threat of violence and mindless mayhem from various quarters. That the Government and the police force are under tremendous pressure to prevent any untoward incidents would be an understatement- yet the fact remains that the sight of

so many armed police and their "peculiar" style of dealing with the public leaves a lot to be desired and is proving to be a huge deterrent for the tourists- both domestic and foreign. A more people friendly and polite yet firm approach could definitely do a world of difference in the perception by the general public. More than the renovations and refurbishing of facades and roads, creating an atmosphere conducive to tourism should be given priority- a task easier said than done what with the worsening social and law and order conditions. Utilizing machines and other gadgets

for security checks and reducing the presence or at least minimizing their utilization wherever possible would be a good start. Another often overlooked yet equally vital aspect that would make a huge difference in the efforts to make Manipur a tourist friendly state would be by improving the sanitation facilities existing in the state at present which is almost non-existent to say the least. There had been a lot of complaints and negative feedbacks on the inadequate and haphazard sanitation facilities being provided in the festival premises in the last edition compounded by the

dismal maintenance of the same. But then, even adequate arrangement inside the festival premises would not serve the purpose as the whole city needs to be adequately prepared in this regard as well as other places of tourist interest as the overall set up will be crucial for sustaining and improving the prospects of tourism taking off in the State. That the State Government is sparing no efforts to make the Sangai Festival a resounding success is apparent, with the sudden spurt in beautification drives and renovation activities till the wee hours being witnessed by all and

sundry- a far from the lethargic and often protracted working style the people of this small state has been used to, but nevertheless a welcome sight. One should extend support and cooperation in these efforts as the prospect for development of tourism in the small yet versatile state is immense. The Government and departmental heads responsible should take into confidence and consideration the suggestions and concerns of the public for a holistic development. Meanwhile, an open mind and a genuine smile should make for a great start to the whole momentum.