

Youths must engage in the positive things to secure the future for the generations to come- Education Minister

DIPR
Imphal, Dec. 29,

Education Minister Thokchom Radheshyam expressed that the task to make the future better now lies in the hands of the youths. He said that the youths must engage in the positive things to secure the future for the generations to come. The elders had already overcome many obstacles paving our paths with best prospect, he added. Quoting Swami Vivekananda's "In a day, when you don't come across any problems - you can be sure that you are travelling in a wrong path", he said that problems in life are lessons taught by God to nurture and make self



stronger. He urged the young minds to remain positive and be aware of one's action or words that could hurt others. The Minister was speaking at the 85th Anniversary Cum Conference of Mao Students' Union on the

theme "Continuity through Reformation", held at Tobumai Village, Mao. A debate competition on the topic, 'Scientific approach of agricultural practices is the way forward to sustainable development in our region' is also organized

to help understand and create awareness among the people on the need to protect the environment. PHED and Printing & Stationery Minister Losii Dikho, dignitaries and delegates attended the conference.

'Nepal moving into Chinese shadow'

By a correspondent
Guwahati, Dec 30,

School children in Nepal have to learn three languages — Nepali, English and Mandarin Chinese. "Students at different levels are also flocking for higher education in China. To encourage this flow, Beijing has instituted a generous scholarship programme," revealed Arun Budhathoki, Editor-in-Chief of Kathmandu Tribune and senior correspondent of several reputed internal media entities, while speaking to scribes through video-conferencing on Friday as part of Guwahati Press Club's 'Meet the Press'

programme. Elaborating further on the growing Chinese influence upon various sectors in the Himalayan kingdom, Budhathoki said that Chinese citizens can now shop in Nepal with their currency yuan. This can be contrasted with the Nepalese government's ban on rupee which requires Indian tourists to use American dollars as foreign exchange there. These developments indicate how Nepal has been distancing herself from India to move closer into Beijing's embrace, which can be attributed to the emergence of Maoists as a political force and

their stints in power at Kathmandu. Dwelling on the relatively stable situation in Nepal presently, Budhathoki said that peace talks with the Maoists and their participation in government have paid dividends, even though a split in the Maoist leadership has pushed some hardliners into the path of confrontation. "While the political influence of former prime minister and supreme Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has waned, he continues to be socially relevant," commented Budhathoki. As for the print media in Nepal, there has been

significant growth with several Nepali dailies coming up in recent years, even as the few English dailies continue to hold steady; in electronic media, private TV channels have emerged to offer more choices to viewers long serviced by the government channel. In this context, Budhathoki pointed out that most Indian newspapers are available in Nepal. "However, journalists in Nepal operate under certain restrictions and have to be mindful about security, which naturally makes them more cautious in their reporting," he signed off.

"AMCTA urged the Government of Manipur to take immediate action for early fulfillment of the demands of college teachers of Manipur"

IT News
Imphal, Dec 30,

A meeting of the All Manipur College Teachers' Association (AMCTA) held on Saturday had resolved to urge the government of Manipur to take immediate action for fulfilling the 10 point Charter of demands. The AMCTA had already urged the government to resolve the pending issues of college teachers including the implementation of 7th UGC Pay Revision. It may also be noted that AMCTA had already submitted 10 - Point

Charter of Demands to the Government on 29th September, 2018. The charter of demands includes - 1. Immediate release of long pent allowances i.e., SCA, TA entitled to college teachers and equivalent cadres by making correction of ROP orders dated 12.8.2011. 2. Implementation of revised 7th UGC Pay Scales to the Government college teachers and equivalent cadres of Manipur and financial assistance at the rate of 50 percent of the additional expenditure from the Central Government.

3. Placement of Assistant Professors in their higher grades (i.e., Assistant Professor stage - II and left out promotions). 4. Extension of benefits of 1 (one) increment as per Govt. O.M. No. 1/4/2008-FD(PIC)(Pt) dated 12.7.2012. 5. Absorption of Guest Lecturers serving under Government colleges as full-fledged teachers. 6. Enhancement of the monthly ceiling of GPF Withdrawal/Advance in respect of Department of Higher Education up to Rs. 2(two) crores. 7. Filling up the vacant posts of teaching and non-teaching staff.

8. Improvement of physical infrastructure of the Govt. Colleges. 9. Appoint the post of Director and Additional Director from among the teaching faculties. 10. Consult AMCTA while making policy of Higher Education. The AMCTA meeting also decided to pursue the authority concerned to solve the issue of advance increments/ incentives for the Assistant Professors with M.Phil and Ph.D degrees by honouring the earlier verifications made by the government itself at the time of confirmation of their services.

Ivanov, Shetty, Kjaersfeldt guide Pune 7 Aces to their first ever win at Vodafone PBL 4

Sameer Verma and Antonsen win their respective singles match; Harsheel Dani debuted in PBL

From Correspondent
Pune, Dec 30

Despite some surprises in their line-up, Pune 7 Aces started their home leg with a 4-3 win over two-time runners-up Mumbai Rockets in a riveting tie that went down to the wire at the Vodafone Premier Badminton League Season 4 played at the Shree Chhatrapati Shivaji Sports Complex, Balewadi, here on Saturday. Flaunting pink for the cause of Breast Cancer Awareness, the Pune charge was led by Vladimir Ivanov and Line Kjaersfeldt each of whom brought home a couple of wins to help the Season 4 debutants get their first ever victory. Kjaersfeldt and the pair of Ivanov and Shetty made it a grand start for the home side by winning the women's singles and men's doubles

rubbers respectively. However, Mumbai showed some stunning resilience to fight back through their two men's singles exponents, Anders Antonsen and Sameer Verma, sending the tie into a deciding fifth match. With little to separate the two teams, it all depended on who would hold their nerves under pressure. Ivanov and Kjaersfeldt did an admirable job for Pune in the final rubber that saw them beat Mumbai's highly experienced mixed doubles pair of Pia Zebadiah and Kim Gi Jung 15-13, 11-15, 15-12 in a thrilling finish to the Maharashtra derby. Earlier, Pune started off the proceedings on a positive note with their trump, Line Kjaersfeldt taking the place of Carolina Marin in women's singles. The gulf between the 21st ranked Kjaersfeldt and

Mumbai's 202nd ranked Shreyanshi Pardeshi was evident right from the start. The rising star from Mumbai failed to pose any threat and caved in 11-15, 7-15 through her array of unforced errors. If Mumbai Rockets looked up to the legendary Lee Yong Dae to turn around their fortunes, they were in for a disappointment. Dae was very much off-colour and his frequent errors at the net didn't help the cause of the Mumbai side. Chirag Shetty's exquisite touches and the 6'6" Vladimir Ivanov's fiery smashes made the Pune pair a deadly combination. While the first game was on level terms till the deciding point, Ivanov and Shetty simply upped the ante in the second to take a 15-14, 15-7 win. World No. 18 Anders Antonsen proved a wall too

high for the 17-year-old Lakshya Sen of the Pune franchise in the Rockets' Trump clash. The young Dane made a strong start against the Asian junior champion but a string of errors in the second game allowed the Indian to come back. In the decider, a calm and steady Antonsen tackled the drift and his opponent much better to sail away to a 15-13, 15-18 win for a vital 2 points for the visitors. World No. 12 Sameer Verma was expectedly in devastating form against Pune's inexperienced Harsheel Dani. The latter showed signs of a fightback in the second game when he went up 7-5 but his chances were soon thwarted by Sameer who wrapped it up 15-7, 15-10 to bring his side back into contention.

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The Lion of Manipur

A Dark Page in 'Indian' History

After the occupation of the sacred capital, the British forces organized a systematic destruction of the legacies of the kingdom. The sacred caves of the ancestral serpent dragon were filled up with sand and clay. The brick lion figures at the gate of the Kangla Utra were blasted with dynamite. The space of the female deity of Nungoibi where human and animal sacrifices were held was also blasted. The brick walls surrounding the capital site were destroyed. The occupying army started looting the villages for forcing the collection of paddy. The citizen representatives of the four territorial divisions (Pana) were forced through whip-lashes to carry salt and flour for the occupying forces beyond the frontiers of the state. The domestic animals under the former care of the princes, namely the elephants, horses, cows and buffaloes were sold in auction and were purchased by British Indian subjects and traders. The ancestral properties in land and private homesteads of the princes were confiscated. Fisheries were leased out and there was a period of artificial famine when salt, fish and grains were not available. Thefts and burglaries abounded.

The heroes of the Manipur war were tried summarily through a military court manned by British military and civil officials and British Indian laws were enforced on the conduct of the trial and systematic hangings till death for the murder of the British officials were meted out to direct perpetrators and those who abetted the murders. A British Indian Subedar named Niranjani, who sympathized with the Manipur cause was hanged. A native ethnic called Chirai Thangal from the northern hills who massacred two British telegraph officials was also hanged. So also a patriot from the village of Kangmang speared the Political Agent Mr. Grimwood to death. Pukhramba Kajao, his charmed spear is still worshipped in secret in his native village. As regards the trial of the more important leaders of the struggle, namely the Yubaraaj Tikendrajit, the octogenarian Thangal General, the king Kullachandra

and other princes and higher officials, the entire conduct of the trial and punishments were severely criticized by later scholars, lawyers and historians. To cite a few: John Parratt and Saroj Nalini Parrat, in their study of Queen Empress Vs Tikendrajit Prince of Manipur: The Anglo-Manipur Conflict of 1891 (1992), revealed that the special court was in no way a court established on the basis of British law in India, nor were the procedures of the British law followed. None of the prisoners were represented by counsel by anyone at all familiar with the law. Indeed the request of Tikendrajit to call a defence counsel from Cachar were peremptorily rejected. Furthermore, each of the accused was subjected to a cross-examination of a kind wholly at variance with normal legal practice. Again, the trials were conducted in three languages English, Manipuri and Urdu, and the records were kept only in English. In the case of the Manipuri witnesses for the prosecution, each witness was allowed to state his evidence, speaking for two or three minutes at a time, and it was then translated in summary into Urdu. The quality of the translation was poor, and was several times corrected by the trader, and on occasion, even the President of the court himself found fault with the Urdu interpreter. The statements signed by witnesses were thus in many cases not in the language in which they were given, and the accused princes were also induced to sign statements in English, a language which none of them understood. There is, as we shall see subsequently good reason to believe that at points especially in the trial of the Yubaraaj - these written records did not always accurately represent what the accused wished to say. There were also occasions on which it is clear that the prisoner did not understand the questions put in cross examination. The method of the trial was also peculiar, and in this respect similar to those presided over by Political Officer Maxwell, in that the court first heard the evidence for the prosecution before stating the charges against the prisoner and receiving his plea. It comes as no surprise, therefore,

that as far we can tell neither Col. Mitchell nor Major Ridgeway, nor even civil officer Davis (who should surely have known better) had any knowledge whatsoever of legal matter. This was indeed "a special court", set up without reference to due penal procedure and which (as far as one can tell from the transcripts) made up its own rules as it went along. This does not argue well for its impartiality (John Parratt & Saroj Nalini Parratt 1992 P. 132-133). Manomohan Ghose, born in Dhaka and educated at the Lincoln inn, appealed to the Excellency, the Viceroy in Council on behalf of Kullachandra Singh, Maharajah or regent of Manipur and Tikendrajit Bir Singh, Yubaraaj or Senapati of Manipur having been pleased to permit a submission of the written representation on behalf of the princes on the 25th July 1891. The two prince brothers had been charged along with others as waging war against the Queen Empress of India and abetment of murder of four British officers as well as murder, and had been sentenced to death. After the sentence had been announced, a final representation in writing was allowed, which was taken up by this advocate of the Calcutta High Court.

The vital aspects of the legal defence raised by Manomohan Ghose was that 'The Manipur Princes were not, and could not have been tried under the Indian Penal Code, or any other British law. Nor was the court which tried them constituted under any legal authority derivable from any act of parliament, or any legislative enactment of the Governor General of India in Council. I, must therefore take it that in creating this special tribunal at Manipur, the government of India was simply exercising the rights of a conquering sovereign power, for the purpose of bringing to justice persons accused of committing grave offences but who, not British subjects, are not triable by British courts, and are not governed by the municipal law of British India There can be no treason under the English law by a person who is an alien, unless he happens to owe temporary allegiance by residence in the country. A

person who is not a British subject, cannot be guilty of treason so long as he resides in a country which is not British territory. Is Manipur British territory, and do the ruler of Manipur and his subjects in Manipur owe allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen in the sense in which that expression has been understood under the English law of treason and the Indian Penal Code? The English never acquired Manipur by conquest, but that our government entered into certain treaties with the former rulers of Manipur whereby certain amount of protection was promised in Manipur on certain conditions. Manipur paid no tribute to the English. The state has all along been governed by its own laws; the raja of Manipur exercising sovereign authority over its subjects. The state has its own executive, which is independent of the British Government. No doubt the Government has by treaty protected the ruler of Manipur from foreign invasion, and since the time of Chandrakirti Singh accorded to the Raja support, to enable him to resist effectively any internal rising Do these facts tend to destroy the character of Manipur as a sovereign state? It is scarcely necessary to point out the sovereignty of a particular state is not impaired by its occasional obedience to the commands of other states, or even the habitual influence exercised by them over its councils. It is only when this obedience, or this influence, assumes the form of express compact, that the sovereignty of the state inferior in power is legally affected by its connection with the other. Treaties of unequal alliance freely contracted between independent states do not impair their sovereignty. Treaties of unequal alliance guarantee mediation and protection may have the effect of limiting and qualifying in the sovereignty, according to the stipulations of the treaties. Manipur was not a lower level then the semi-sovereign states of which European History furnishes several instances (The Appeals of the Manipur Princes by Manomohan Ghose. Published by Manipur Archives 12 Aug. 20.... P. 1-10)