

## Violating court order vallagers continue to cut Pine Trees at The Gwarok Reserved Forest area

**Thoubal, Feb 10:** In contrary to the efforts presently put in by the Forest Department, Police Department and also the Assam Rifles to protect and conserve the forest wealth of the State and also in contravention to the orders of the High Court of Manipur dated 30.08.2017, 11.10.2017 and 08.12.2017 imposing complete ban on felling of trees in Reserved Forest areas, some individuals of Kwarok Maring village are indulging in clear felling of pine trees from Within and nearby Gwarok Reserved Forest situated within Thoubal Forest Division, Manipur.

There had been a drive in the area by a combine team of Forest and Police during the month of January, 2018 and the team had seized some timber from the area after being felled along with two workers involved in the felling. The Divisional Forest Officer, Thoubal had filed a case in the Court of the concerned cm and the same is still pending in the Court. The Range Officer Thoubal who headed the team during the drive have interacted with the Village authorities and requested them to not allow such activities to take place in the area and also support the Forest Department



Officials in protecting and conserving the Gwarok Reserve Forest. A band saw, located nearby the Reserved Forests has been dismantled by the Forest and Police

personnel. But much against the request the activities of cutting down the pine trees are still being continued during the night or early morning hours. It is also reported that when the field staffs of Forest Department visited the area, some individuals involved in the activity have warned of unprecedented consequences if the staffs ever try to stop them. In such a scenario it is feared that other villages nearby the Reserved Forest may also follow suit and the Gwarok Reserved Forest may be completely clear felled in the near future.

## Drive against Contraband drugs intensifies; huge quantity of psychotropic



**IT News Imphal, Feb 10:** Combine team of Bishnupur District Police Commandos and 42 Assam Rifles seized a large number of contraband drugs with sums of money from a female during a search operation conducted at around 3 am at Kwakta Pangal lamkhai Ward No. 5 area today. The female from whom the contraband drugs were seized has been identified as Faji Latun (38 yrs), wife of Abdul Zabar of Kwakta Pangal Lamkhai, Ward No. 5. During verification, Faji Latun disclosed that she along with her husband Abdul Zabar have brought the confiscated contraband drugs from one Abdul Satar of Lilong Mayai Leikai some few days back to sell at Churachandpur and Kwakta area, said a press

released from the Superintendent of Police, NAB (PRO), Police Department, Manipur, Imphal. Altogether, 130 numbers of Nitrosun 10 (N10) strips containing 10 pieces each, 19200 numbers of Spasmo Proxyvon Plus Tablets (SP), one mobile handset with two sim cards and a sum of Rs 3,49,000 lakhs was recovered from the possession of Faji Latun. A case has been registered at Moirang Police Station for further investigation against the arrested person. Mention may be that the search operation was conducted under the overall supervision of J o g e s h c h a n d r a Haobijam, IPS, SP Bishnupur including women Police based on a reliable information.

### Nagaland Election

## NBCC serious on poll related violence

**Kohima, Feb 10:** The Nagaland Baptist Church Council has expressed concern at the increasing violence in the state with relation to the upcoming elections. Condemning all forms of violence taking place in the state including use of threat, cash and weapons, NBCC through a statement yesterday called upon those concerned to immediately end the poll related violence, which has caused harm to the public, animosity amongst the citizens and destruction of properties. The NBCC urged upon all to adhere to the democratic norms and regard each other with full respect of their fundamental human rights and allow peaceful assembly and free speech. Meanwhile, NBCC appreciated the concerned authorities and the paramilitary forces for keeping strict vigil against illegal elements including inflow of liquor and arms.

## All is set for inauguration of Maphou Dam during PM visit; CM inspects

IT News

**Imphal, Feb 10:** Aged old Thoubal Multipurpose Project and Maphou Dam is all set to be inaugurated during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit in the state in March this year. The Prime Minister is visiting the state on the invitation of the state government on the completion of one year of BJP led government in the state. N. Biren Singh led government is completing a year in March 15, 2018. Hectic preparation is taking place to make sure that both the Thoubal Multipurpose Project and Maphou Dam could be inaugurated by the Prime Minister. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh along with the IFCD Minister Letpao Haokip and other ministers and official inspected the condition of both the dam today. Speaking to reporter N Biren said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given his assent to inaugurate the Thoubal Multipurpose Project and Maphou Dam along with some other constructions during his visit to Imphal in March this year. N. Biren further said that the inspection visit has been made in order to ensure that the project and the dam are



completed on time as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to inaugurate the project and the dam on March 15, during his visit to Manipur. N Biren also said that most of the works are in the process of completion and will be completed before Prime Minister's visit to Manipur. The main aim of the project is to provide various benefits to the people of the area not only just inaugurating for namesake. Not only for the irrigation system, most of this area will

become a tourist spot in the couples of years once the locals are able to get the benefits from these projects, Biren added. Letpao Haokip, Minister of Water Resources; Kh Shyamkumar, Forest Minister; L.Susindro, MLA Khurai A/C; L.Rameshwor, MLA Keirao A/C; H Dingo, MLA Sekmai A/C; Th Seityabratra, MLA Kaikul A/C and Chief Secretary RR Rasmi accompanied the Chief Minister during the inspection visit.

## Congress candidate, six stand-bys withdraw nominations

**Kohima, Feb 10:** Six candidates including five stand-by candidates had withdrew their nominations on Friday for the upcoming Assembly elections. According to CEO Nagaland media cell, out of 226 validly nominated candidates, seven candidates withdrew their candidature as on February 9, 2018. The valid candidates who withdrew their papers were: Congress candidate Dr. Aimong Lam from 56 Noklak abd stand-by candidates—Kelhousthi Kire from 9th Kohima town A/C, Sievtuo Linlyu from 10 Northern Angami-I, Dr. Neiphezo Keditsu of 11 Northern Angami-I, L. Shasha Phom and S. Hampen from 49 Tamu A/C and Imtiyang Chang of 51-Noksen. On February 7, out of 257 nominations received, 29 names were found to be invalid while scrutiny for 33 Suruhoto A/C was adjourned to February 10. With regard to a complaint against chief minister, T.R. Zeliang's educational qualification and Scheduled Tribe issue raised by an Independent candidate, CEO Nagaland Abhijit Sinha said his office had not received any such complaint.

## CADA seized liquors from Mapal Kangjeibung

IT News

**Imphal, Feb 10:** In a very surprising move, volunteers of Coalition Against Drugs and Alcohol (CADA) today conducted liquor drive at the liquor vendors near Mapal Kangjeibung and seized at least 300 litres of foreign made Indian liquors including local brew from the liquor vendors. Speaking to the media persons, T Geetchandra, Finance Secretary of CADA said that the organisation conducted the drive after a well plan and going thoroughly at the areas where liquors are being sold openly though they doesn't have to conduct such drives to stop illegal sale of liquor at such area which is in the heart of the city.

Such drive should be conducted by Police and Excise department and those agencies who can implement the liquor act, however, the drive was necessarily conducted by CADA to stop the sale of liquors in such the area of Mapal Kangjeibung and the government and concern department should be shame of it, he added. Geetchandra also said that today's drive is just the beginning although in the future CADA appeals the government and concern department to take up the necessary legal action to those illegal liquor vendors located in and around Mapal Kangjeibung area or even vandalizing their shop in order to discontinue the sale of liquors.

## Imphal-Silchar UDAN flight a necessity

By: Milotpol Choudhury

The Chief Minister N. Biren has divulged in the Assembly that the Govt. has sent a proposal to civil aviation ministry to resume Imphal – Silchar Air service. This is definitely a right proposal particularly for the people of the newly created district of Jiribam.

Imphal Airport was served by the then Bharat Airways which later merged with Indian Airlines, presently known as Air India since the mid fifties and the sub-name for Imphal as IXI was coined in those days which is still used in Airline vocabulary and with that Air service Kolkata was connected to Imphal via Agartala and Silchar and the route (Sub-name CCU-IXA-

IXS-IXI). Silchar Imphal thus existed in the opening days of Indian Air Service.

After the opening up of Air service to Private players, Deccan Airways started low cost. Air service on Imphal Silchar route regularly followed by Kingfisher Airline. The service was commercially viable but because of the closure of the Kingfisher Airline the service also stopped. Kumbhirgram the airport of Silchar is only 20 km from Jiribam. And for the last few years the people of Jiribam and adjoining area are facing huge problem for reaching Imphal, their capital for emergency and particularly the old and infirm are reaching Imphal by Air Via Guwahati or Kolkata with huge cost. The

actual flying time between Silchar and Imphal is not more than twenty minutes but if one has to take the road transport it takes almost a whole day to cover the distance of nearly 220 K.M. The road passes through several high hills and one cannot expect a shorter and comfortable journey. Moreover it is the duty of the state to create facility for the people within its political boundary to reach their capital in shortest possible time otherwise political administrators fail to administer properly the plans of the Govt. In case of people of Jiribam they are more dependent on Assam for their various needs and supports than their own state. The program of UDAN (ude

desh ka aam nagrik) as declared by the Modi Govt. has created an opportunity for the ordinary citizen to take advantage of Air travel for necessity at low cost and the time and distance of Air travel between Silchar and Imphal is such that as per UDAN scheme the fare should be below thousand rupees and at that fare the service shall operate with full capacity. This is a long pending demand of the people of Jiribam in particular and the Manipuri people in general in the Barak Valley and adjoining Tripura. Now it is hoped that the present pro-active government headed by N. Biren will not rest by sending the proposal only it will make the air service a reality.

## Manipuri skaters bag medal

**Imphal, Feb 10:** Three skaters of Manipur have bagged medals in the 2nd Republic Inter-School Roller Skating competition held at Talents Sports Academy, New Delhi. In the under 12 boys category, Tiluk Keisham bagged the first position, and Ningthoujam Lalnen secured the third position in the same category. On the other hand, in the under 12 girls category, RK Dianety bagged the first position in the competition.

## Foundation Day Observed

IT News

**Imphal, Feb 10:** 10th Foundation Day of Patriotic Writers Forum (PAWF), Manipur celebrated today at Manipur Press Club, Mongmaithem Noren Singh, Chief Engineer, PWD (Buildings), Government of Manipur; Raghu Leishangthem, President PAWF, Manipur; Dr S Manaotom Singh, Founder Zenith Academy, Imphal; Thounaojam Shyam Singh, President PAWF, Assam Branch and Mainsam Rajesh Singha, Member

Secretary, Manipuri Cultural Complex, Bangladesh attended the event as Chief Guest, President, Guest of honour and special guest respectively. "Ngakloul", a new journal in which Ngethem Rabeichandra is the editor was released by Chief Guest of the event Nongmaithem Noren Singh during the function. Awardees of PAWF, New Executive Members of PAWF, Delegates from Assam, Tripura and Bangladesh were also felicitated during the event.