

Earthquake Measuring 5.5 on Richter Scale Shakes Imphal

IT News
Imphal, Jan 7: An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale struck Imphal and its surrounding today afternoon. The tremors were felt at 12.17 pm. There were no immediate reports of any loss of lives or damage to property.

As per the US Geological Survey, the epicentre of the earthquake was 86 KM East of Yairipok at a depth of 22.8 km. Earlier on January 4 in 2016, a 6.7 magnitude earthquake had hit Manipur. At least 11 persons were killed and 200 others were left injured. Numerous buildings were also damaged. The quake was so strong that the tremors were felt in Bangladesh too. The earthquake was centered in an isolated area. It was one of the most damaging earthquakes in Manipur since 1880 and 1939.

Grenade found at no-man land of Indo-Myanmar border

IT News
Imphal, Jan 7: A Chinese made hand grenade was found lying at the no-man land of Indo-Myanmar border at Moreh in Tengenoual district yesterday afternoon. Combine team of Moreh Police Commando, 11 Assam Rifles and Myanmar Army rushed the spot and safely detonated it.

On the other hand traffic was put to hold for hours at Tengenoual area yesterday afternoon after a bag suspected to be bomb was found about 2 Kilometer from Tengenoual district Head Quarter. Combine team of Assam Rifles and Manipur police after checking it found it as a hoax bomb.

No 4, WY seized

IT News
Imphal, Jan 7: A team of state police led by OC of Lamphel Police K. Dinesh seized 13gm of Heroin No 4, (Total 286gm), and 72000 of WY tablets worth around Rs. 16.60 lakhs from a truck carrying sand. The drugs were found hidden inside the sand. The Driver of the truck has been identified as on Nongnamthan Ranjit 5295 S/O N. Dolanchaoba of Heigrujam Nongmaithem leikai IW, PS Nambol.

Around Rs. 96 lakhs worth gold biscuits seized from two persons in two days by AR troopers at Imphal-Moreh route



IT News
Imphal, Jan 7: Assam Rifles troopers posted along the Imphal-Moreh road seized around Rs. 96 Lakhs worth Gold biscuits from two persons in two consecutive days. A report from the Assam Rifles said that the troop of 12 AR remain vigilant after receiving specific information about the smuggling of gold biscuits along the route. Yesterday at around 7 pm, 10 gold biscuits hidden around ankle Knee brace at both hands of a van driver identified as Aslam Shah (22 years) son of Najer Ahmed of Lilong Arapti while checking him at Khudengthabi Motor Vehicle Check post.

The driver reported driving a maruti van alone. The ten gold biscuits seized was weighed around 1.666 Kg. which is worth around 47 lakhs in local market.

Today too another 10 numbers of gold biscuits was seized from a maruti van driver identified as Md. Yashir (15 years) son of Md. Ziyaudin of Lillong Khunou village at Tengenoual Check post by 12 AR troopers. The registration number of the maruti van is AS 19- 3364. The ten gold

biscuits seized also weigh around 1.666 Kg. which is worth around 47 lakhs in local market.

Both the individuals smuggling the gold biscuits were team, which reveals that someone high profile persons are using them for transportation of the gold biscuits.

The seized materials were handed over to Custom officials.

There is no report of any breakthrough on who is the king pin of the gold smuggling business.

Mention may be made that several gold biscuits smuggled along the route has been arrested by custom and police department. 8 persons were also arrested while trying to smuggle gold biscuits from Imphal airport. So far police could not find the king pin of the gold smugglers.

Source with the Imphal Times said that some high profile individuals who can influence the government may be behind the game of smuggling the gold from Myanmar side as the money involved in such smuggling could not be bore by a simple common man.

Manipur Press Club turns 43

Speaker Y. Khemchand, Minister Shyamkumar laud the roles of Journalists

DIPR

Imphal, Jan. 6: All Manipur Working Journalists' Union (AMWJU) observed the 43rd Foundation Day of Manipur Press Club, yesterday, at Majorkhul, Imphal. Y. Khemchand Singh, Speaker, Manipur Legislative Assembly, Th. Shyamkumar, Minister of Forest & Environment, MAHUD, Government of Manipur and Wangkhemcha Shamjai, President, All Manipur Working Journalists' Union (AMWJU) grace the function as Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and President.

Speaking on the occasion Y. Khemchand Singh expressed his happiness on learning that the Press is a platform to throw the truth of the society. The Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly also took notes of the suffering of the retired journalists and said that increment to the pension promised by the present government will be possible if the matter is included in the budget.

"It is quite unfortunate that

whatever that the government had said to take up is in vain and that if AMWJU urged the government to put up in the coming budget session, it will be appropriate", Khemchand added and asked Minister Th. Shyamkumar to put up the plight of AMWJU and journalists in the Cabinet Meeting to meet their demands. He also said that Journalists have a big role in bringing good governance in the State and electing of a good member. He appealed the media persons to take seriously the electoral behavior of the State and change the present trend of Election System to make Manipur a better State as the Election Commission monitor the election expenditure minutely but not the huge sum that has been expended outside the State.

Th. Shyamkumar said that media plays a big role in developing the society. Media is the eye and ear and the strength of the media is the strength of the Government. The country and particularly

Manipur will develop when the media is strong enough to report the truth only. He said to find the flaws of the Government without any bias so as to enable the Government to work efficiently for the welfare of the people of the State. Media should cover the works taken up by the Government Departments from time to time. He added that the plights of the journalists put up by the members of the media fraternity will be look into and take action immediately consulting with the Chief Minister and the concerned authorities. He said that media persons should have the courage to report boldly and appealed the media persons, on a friendly note, not to work on assumption but to find the facts first and report with documents regarding Government Departments.

Wangkhemcha Shamjai said that media persons should follow ethics of journalism while reporting. He also said that the One-Time pension of the Journalist will begin from

next year. Press Club has improved a lot and is now planning for a Solar Roof topping in collaboration with MSPDCL to provide uninterrupted power supply. He also asked the concerned Department to increase the amount of the Pension Scheme of the journalist.

As part of observing the Foundation Day, Braveheart Journalist Award, starting this year, was handed over to 4(Four) media persons for rendering their help to the injured escort personnel accompanying the Chief Minister and his Ministers at the Cabinet Meeting held at Tamenglong District Headquarter that met with an accident on its way back to Imphal.

On the occasion of the foundation Day, Ex-Presidents, Ex-Secretaries of AMWJU and newly affiliated District Correspondents were also felicitated. Media persons from all media agencies of the State took part in the observation of the 43rd Foundation Day of Manipur Press Club.

NEFIS Manipur organizes cycle rally demanding common education system

IT News

Imphal, Jan 7: The activists of North-East Forum for International Solidarity (NEFIS) organized a Cycle Rally today to raise the issues of Common Education System and Quality Health Facilities for all in the state. The cycle rally which was flagged off by Professor Kh Tomba Singh, Dean- Students' Welfare, Manipur University began from Kangla Fort Gate and proceeded towards Manipur University. At the university, the rally concluded with a programme which saw huge participation from students of

different schools as well as those from the university.

It should be known that the present state of government schools and colleges is dismal in Manipur. For instance, in 2016 of 6,484 students who appeared from 323 government schools, only 2,781 passed the examination conducted by the Board of Secondary Education Manipur (BSEM), putting the pass percentage figure of government schools at 42.8%. This is a blatant failure of Manipur Government in enabling students of government schools who are mostly from deprived

backgrounds, to get a decent education. It is especially shocking when compared to those studying in private schools have passed with impressive percentages. The neglect of government schools on which the most marginalized sections of society are dependent is not a new development, but has been a trend even in past years. Moreover, despite the severe need of increasing the number of govt colleges and educational institutions, the successive governments have cut down on funds earmarked for expansion of educational infrastructure.

Likewise, the conditions in government hospitals and health institutions too are deplorable, where common

people are denied basic facilities. Instead of improving facilities in govt hospitals and increasing their number, private hospitals are being promoted, which are out of reach of common people.

Consequently, as a result of increased privatization the expenditure of successive governments on government educational and health institutions has drastically decreased. It should be noted that NEFIS organized this programme as a protest against the state's apathy towards these burning issues being faced by the people. NEFIS activists and common students have pledged to intensify their campaign regarding these issues in the coming days.

Minister Shyamkumar inaugurates Rural Markets under MIDH

IT News

Imphal, Jan 7: Horticulture and Soil Conservation Minister Thounaojam Shyamkumar inaugurated two rural markets constructed under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) 2016-2017 at Nambol Chingmang, Bishnupur district and Khonghampat Mantri Lekai, Imphal West on Saturday. The Horticulture and Soil Conservation Department provided fund of Rs 13.75 lakh each for the markets.

Speaking at the inauguration of the rural market, Minister Th. Shyamkumar said the department has been sincerely working and providing benefits of various schemes to the people/beneficiaries of the State by strictly following the guidelines of the Ministry. He said the rural market will help in providing livelihood to



the people of the area and help in reducing the vendors' congestion in Imphal. He said it will also ease the problems of the local farmers and vendors.

Appealing the people to keep the market clean, Minister Th. Shyamkumar further asked the authorities to submit list of vendors so that the department can help in providing loans and added

that the loans must be repaid on time. He also announced that the Forest Department will work for the development and proper maintenance of the surroundings of the Maibam Lotpa Ching, Nambol.

He appealed to the farmers to start using vermincompost instead of chemical fertilizers which is hazardous to health. He also promised to install bio-toilet in the market in

consultation with the department officials.

He added that in order to boost tourism, the departments under him will renovate and clean the Laikolpat situated at the Khonghampat Awang Leikai. He appealed to the people of the locality to help in keeping the Laikolpat clean and asked them to plant trees. He later inspected the Laikolpat along with the local MLA Shri S. Rajen Singh.

N. Loken Singh, MLA Nambol A/C, S Rajen Singh, Lamsang A/C also the Deputy Chairman Planning Board, Smt. L. Bobby Devi, Zilla Parishad Member, Potsangbam, Y Muhindro Singh, Pradhan, Khonghampat Gram Panchayat, K. Kipgen, Director, Horticulture and Soil Conservation Department along with department officials attended the function.

TSA Moreh Block installed

IT News

Moreh, Jan 7: The Thadou Students' Association, General Headquarters (TSA-GHQ) has installed TSA-Moreh Block in a ceremony held at Jritiniwas Complex, Lhangkicho Veng, Ward Number 9, Moreh, Tengenoual District, Manipur on January 5, 2018.

The installation ceremony was attended by delegates from Thadou Students' Organization-Myanmar, Thadou Inpi-Myanmar, Thadou Inpi-Tengenoual, TSA-Chandel & Tengenoual and various dignitaries from within Thadou community. Election of the office bearers was moderated by Mr Michael Lamjathang Haokip, Secretary General, TSA-GHQ. It was presided by Mr

Houkholen Haokip, General Secretary, TSA-Chandel with Mr James Haokip, Vice-President (Admn), TSA-GHQ as the returning officer.

The newly elected Executive Members for TSA Moreh Block are Mr Thongminlen Haokip, Mr Khamminlen Thouthang, Mr Limminlen Thouthang, Mr Thangkholen Mate & Mr Mangjialun Kipgen as President, General Secretary, Joint Secretary, Finance Secretary and Information & Publicity Secretary respectively.

While the Returning Officer administered oath-taking by the newly elected executive members, the Minister of the ceremony, Rev. Ngamhau Thouthang, Pastor, Moreh Pastor Fellowship, offered the invocation prayer.