

UN plans for aviation biofuels and carbon offsets condemned by 88 organisations worldwide

IT News
Imphal, June 11,

88 organisations from 34 countries have called on the UN's International Civil Aviation Agency (ICAO) to ditch plans for aviation biofuels and carbon offsets, as the Agency's governing body convenes in Montreal (11-29 June 2018) to finalise proposals for a controversial "Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme". An Open Letter by the groups warn that ICAO's proposal could incentivise airlines to use large quantities of biofuels made from palm oil in their tanks in order to meet greenhouse gas targets – even though member states rejected biofuel targets last autumn amidst concerns about palm oil.

Simone Lovera, Executive Director of the Global Forest Coalition, one of the signatories of the Open Letter warns: "Palm oil is one of the main drivers of deforestation worldwide, which is a major cause of carbon emissions, yet we could soon see airlines be rewarded under absurd, industry-friendly UN rules to burn biofuels made from it." Proposed biofuel targets for aircraft were rejected by member states in October 2017, but groups fear that the proposed new rules will introduce large-scale biofuel use 'by the backdoor'. NeleMarien from Friends of the Earth International highlights the groups' concerns about the second part of the UN proposal – carbon offsetting for airlines: "There is no way of reaching the goal to limit

global warming to 1.5°C unless all states and sectors rapidly phase out their carbon emissions. This means that there can be no role for offsets". Ram Wangkheirakpam of Indigenous Perspectives who is a signatory to the letter is of the expressed opinion that "push for large scale production of biofuel has and will devastate large areas of hugely bio-diverse forest in India's North East and many indigenous peoples will become subservient to the ever growing demand for global consumptions". The Open Letter urges member states to reject the biofuel and offsetting plans and to end and reverse the growth in aviation. AlmuthErnsting from

Biofuelwatch explains: "Biofuels and carbon offsetting are dangerous attempts at conning consumers and the public by greenwashing an industry which is one of the fastest growing sources of greenhouse gas emissions globally. The UN and its members need to tackle aviation growth if they are serious about preventing the worst impacts of climate change." **Contacts:** AlmuthErnsting, Biofuelwatch, +44-1316232600 (UK) NeleMarien, Friends of the Earth International, +32-488652153 (Belgium) Simone Lovera, Global Forest Coalition, +595-981-407375 (Paraguay) Ram Wangkheirakpam,

Indigenous Perspectives, +91 7085593415 (India) 1. The Council of the International Civil Aviation Agency, a specialised UN agency, will be meeting in Montreal from 11th to 29th June. It is due to decide on rules for the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction for International Aviation (CORISIA) scheme. The draft rules were published in January: transportenvironment.org/publications/aviation-carbon-offsetting-scheme-icao-circulates-draft-rules 2. The Open Letter with the list of signatories can be found at biofuelwatch.org.uk/icao-letter 3. See transportenvironment.org/press/countries-reject-plan-aviation-biofuels-targets

News letter from IGAR(S)

Moltuk Battalion conducts lecture on Health, Hygiene and Sanitation



In keeping with its resolve to uplift the living standard of the populace in its Area of Responsibility, Moltuk Battalion of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of Headquarter IGAR (South) conducted a lecture in Village Phaisanjang on 'Health, Hygiene and Sanitation'. The villagers showed keen interest in the event and a total of 47 locals attended the lecture. The lecture was conducted by Maj Antrish Sharma, Regimental Medical Officer of the unit. The aim was to educate the locals on the necessity and ways to maintain health, hygiene and sanitation during the rainy season. The Company Commander also sensitised the locals about the recent outbreak of Nipah Virus and precautions and preventions against it. Conduct of such events is a mark of selfless concern of Moltuk Battalion for the local populace, thus affirming the Battalion's commitment towards their welfare.

Regional News

'Bicycle Thieves' to be screen at Guwahati Press Club

By NJ Thakuria
Guwahati, June 11,

Internationally acclaimed Vittorio De Sica's 'Bicycle Thieves' will be screened at Guwahati Press Club on Friday (15 June, 3pm). Widely regarded as a masterpiece of Italian neorealism (Ladri di biciclette) revolves around the story of a poverty stricken unemployed Roman national in the backdrop of devastating world-war along with his young son. Produced in 1948 with the screenplay by director De Sica himself, the black & white movie has cinematography by Carlo Montuori and music by Alessandro Cicognini. Casts include Lamberto Maggiorani, Lianella Carell, Enzo Staiola etc. Hailed as one of the greatest movies ever made, the 93 minutes film received an Academy Honorary Award in 1950. Simple in construction



and profoundly rich in human insight, Bicycle Thieves embodies the greatest strengths of the Italian neorealist movement: emotional clarity, social rectitude, and brutal honesty, said the critics.

NCW team calls on Nagaland Govt

From our correspondent
Kohima, June 11,

A team from the National Commission for Women NCW, led by its chairperson Rekha Sharma, along with Nagaland State Commission for Women, NSCW chairperson Dr. Temsula Ao and other members met Nagaland Governor PB Acharya yesterday. The NCW chairperson

discussed the political rights and political empowerment of the women in Nagaland. She shared her ideas on how local body elections could be more inclusive in terms of gender. Governor Acharya extended his support to the NSCW and suggested ways to empower women of Nagaland. Acharya and Sharma also deliberated on the various Central schemes for women and its implementation in the state.

Dimapur police cautions people taking law into their hand

Correspondent
Dimapur, June 11,

Dimapur Police while noting a video circulating in WhatsApp and other social media, about unknown person roaming in rural areas with kits for drugging and

kidnapping kids, has cautioned the public against taking law in their own hand. Dimapur ADCP and PRO advised that in case of noticing such incidents, the public are to inform the police immediately for necessary course of action as per law.

Normalcy returns Curfew in volatile areas off for 11 hrs

Courtesy ST
Shillong, June 11,

The district administration has relaxed curfew in volatile areas for 11 hours on Sunday as tension in the city subsides. Deputy Commissioner PS Dkhar said on Saturday curfew will be off from 7am to 6pm in areas under Lumdingjri police station, that is, Jaiaw, Mawkhar, Umsosun, Riatsamthiah, Wahingdoh, Mission, Mawprem, Lumdingjri, Lamavilla, Qualapatty, Wahthapbru, Sunny Hill, Cantonment, Mawlong Beat, including Cantonment Beat House areas but excluding localities

beyond Umshyri bridge. It will be promulgated from 6pm until further orders. Under Section 144 CrPC, the administration has also imposed night curfew from 9 pm to 5 am in the Shillong agglomeration with effect from Sunday till further orders. The district administration is expecting the situation to be fully normal by next week. Talking to media persons here on Saturday, Dkhar said law and order in the city is coming back to normal and he does not see any problem in the future. However, police will continue its patrolling and paramilitary forces will be stationed in the city,

especially in commercial areas. Dkhar said the law and order would be reviewed on Monday and accordingly a decision will be taken whether curfew should be further relaxed or ended completely. When asked how long the central paramilitary forces will stay, Dkhar said it all depends on the situation and the district administration is monitoring it everyday. When asked about rampant rumour mongering leading to panic, he said that the government has taken a call that the restriction on internet will continue for some more days and the matter will be examined again on Monday

4th International Day of Yoga

Guwahati, June 11,

With the fourth United Nations International Day of Yoga just around the corner, Hailakandi is making all-out preparations for celebrating the day on June 21. Chairing a meeting at his office

conference hall on Friday, Deputy Commissioner, Adil Khan discussed threadbare a detailed action plan with senior officials of the administration, district heads of departments and principals of schools and colleges for celebrating the day in a

befitting manner. Various events have been lined up to celebrate the day with mass yoga demonstrations, meditation sessions, lecture, quiz, debates, seminars and workshops to spread the beneficial effects of yoga will be organised

Assam Cops nab 16 persons so far; DGP urges people to alert force against rumours Perpetrators of mob lynching incident will not be spared: Assam CS

Agency
Guwahati, June 11,

The Assam government has said no effort would be spared to bring the perpetrators of the Karbi Anglong mob lynching incident to justice under the strictest provisions even as 16 persons connected to it have so far been rounded up for interrogation. Two youths from Guwahati who had gone to Karbi Anglong on a pleasure trip were beaten to death by a mob at Panjuri Kachari, a remote village under Dokmoka police station on Friday evening. The barbaric incident is believed to be ignited by rumours on social media and that the mob had attacked the duo suspecting them to be child lifters.

"We will ensure that the people who perpetrated the crime are rounded up and brought to justice under the strictest provisions of law," TY Das, chief secretary told reporters here on Sunday. Abhijeet Nath and Nilotpal Das, reportedly nature lovers, were returning from a picnic spot, Kangthilangso, on a vehicle (Mahindra Scorpio) around after dusk when they were intercepted and gheraoed by a mob who "suspecting them to be child abductors" thrashed them mercilessly. They died on way to the public health centre. "We are taking the situation very seriously and have had three meetings so far. We are closely following the situation," Das said. Television footage had visuals

(though blurred) that had shown the mob going berserk and thrashing the youths who were pleading for mercy while trying to convince them that they were not child abductors. The incident thereafter sparked state-wide reactions with all sections of society condemning the horrific crime. Assam DGP, Kuladhar Saikia informed that 16 persons have been arrested so far and one among them is believed to have spread the "child lifter" rumour on social media, leading to a fear psychosis in various parts of the state. "We are trying to identify other persons who might be associated with the incident and their whereabouts. Facts are being collected in this regard and the village people

have been supportive as well. Things will be clear once we complete the interrogation and investigation," Saikia said. A case (number 33/18/under section 302/34 IPC) has been registered under Dokmoka police station, he informed. The DGP said the chief minister had a meeting with the police administration and said that the persons involved in the crime should not be spared. Urging people not to give in to rumours and hate posts on social media, the DGP said that the SPs of all districts have been instructed to take action against people engaged in circulating hate messages and fake news on social media. "Social media use has spread

to the villages as many people have mobile phones. We have also caught a micro group involved in such rumours in Jorhat," Saikia said. "But while it is difficult to effectively monitor the interior villages, we are relying on two techniques-human and technological intelligence or cyber patrolling. Additional DGP Harmit Singh has been made incharge of monitoring social media posts and he would suggest counter measures in this regard," he said. The DGP said that since cyber space was deep rooted, only a percentage of it can be controlled. "The technology we have is limited but we are trying to upgrade it. We are contemplating a strategy to

counter such rumours/hate posts on social media and discussions are on," Saikia said. The state police chief also admitted that due to some personnel being engaged in NRC-related assignments, there was a limitation of manning and monitoring all areas. Asked whether any outside force was involved in the fake news posts to disrupt the peace process with just 20 days left for the complete NRC draft publication, the DGP said that it was difficult to say as mob lynching incited by social media posts is a country-wide phenomenon. "Things will be clear only when we get into the details of the investigation but let me assure you that none take law

into their hands and none can disturb peace and tranquility in state," he said. Asked whether the police suspected any militant hand in the incident, he said, "Till date, there is no evidence of any militant involvement. But we are keeping all angles open." Assam police have rescued many persons from similar lynching attempts ignited by the "fake child lifter rumours" in places like Biswanath Chariali, Charaideo and Hamren. Assam police, while urging people to alert the force if they notice or come across any hate posts/fake news on social media/WhatsApp, have opened two help-lines. The numbers are 25214242 and 9435215029.