

Karam Shyam clarifies on allegation relating to irregularities in distribution of essential commodities

DIPIR
Imphal, Aug 28,

CAF & PD Minister Karam Shyam said that the CAF & PD Department of Manipur works in public interest and is not business-oriented or profit motivated in any way. He stated that he frequently gave accurate reports regarding allocation and distribution of essential commodities in the House during Assembly session and there are no irregularities. He gave this clarification in a press meet held today at his Old Secretariat office.

Talking to media persons, the Minister pointed out that the Government is able to get subsidies of about Rs.50 crores for transport and fair price shop agents as Manipur is a resource less and fund depriving state. The transport bills for 2015 and 2016 are also cleared, he said.

The percentage of NFSA rice items for primary households which was earlier around 65-70-75 % now shoots up to about 83% after giving pressure at the Centre. The actual target is around 85%, he clarified.

He appealed the people of the state to encourage the welfare activities transparently undertaken by the Government in public interest.

Giving a detailed factual position of wheat, sugar and SK oil, CAF & PD Director



Ranjan Yumnam stated that wheat is now no longer a normal PDS allocation item that can be distributed through the medium of ration card and given only in certain rare cases of natural calamities and festive seasons. FCI disposed old stocks of wheat amounting to 2682 metric tonnes and 189 metric tonnes are being distributed to the public through mobile cells in November 2018 & April 2018 respectively, he also said. While the monthly rice allocation as per NFSA scheme for Manipur is around 13,163.245 metric tonnes that is distributed through fair price shop agents, he further explained.

Ranjan Yumnam highlighted that the normal allocation of sugar is also stopped with effect from March 2017 and there is also no subsidies with respect to PDS sugar item. We are also not able to give sugar subsidies to AAY households at Rs. 18.50 per

kg as directed by the Central Ministry due to certain inconveniences as sugar is at present available at an expensive price of Rs.45 per kg in the market, he also clarified.

Ranjan also stated that there is no question of any lapse or negligence from the Department's side in the distribution of SK oil. SK oil allocation for April, May and June 2019 from the Ministry is about 2,224 kilolitres per quarter at issue price of Rs.31 per litre, he further clarified. He also stated that as per the Government of India guidelines, households without LPG connection or electricity should be given the benefits of SK oil and the DCs in the different districts of the state are working hard to identify beneficiaries who deserve it.

CAF & PD Commissioner Bobby Waikhom was also present during the press briefing.

Childline team on duty physically abused; activists demand arrest and punishment of the culprits

IT News
Imphal, Aug 28

A team of Childline Thoubal, who were on their duty to rescue two children from getting married at Thoubal district, was assaulted by the family and locals of the groom yesterday evening. Driver of the vehicle that the team member of Thoubal Childline were travelling sustained injury after the members of the groom pull him down and assaulted. Other members of the Childline Thoubal, who were on the vehicle, were also physically abused by the family of the groom. Right activists condemn the physical abuse of the Childline team and demanded immediate arrest and punishment of those involved in the assaulting of the team.

Narrating about the incident that happened yesterday at Keirembikhok and Wangbal of Thoubal district, Nepram Kenedy said that the team received a call through its toll free no. 1098 on August 26 about an arrangement of a

marriage of underage bride groom.

At around 4 pm of August 27, the team of the Childline went to the residence of the groom at Keirembikhok Awangleikai and gave counseling about the impact of Child marriage to the society. Later, the same team then went to the residence of the bride at

Wangbal and gave the similar counseling and told both the bride and the groom to come to the office of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Thoubal along with their family members. Kenedy said and added that when they return back few persons led by one Usham Rustam Singh (25) son of U. Bisharup Singh of

Keirembikhok Awang Leikai along with the family members of the groom halted them at Wangbal Thongao area and started attacking them. "They first pull down our driver and assaulted him in front of us and later they turn towards us and started abusing us physically", Kenedy said.

‘Attacker on Thoubal District Childline Team must be arrested’

Youth's Forum for Protection of Human Rights (YFPHR) in statement strongly condemn the action of the promoters of Child Marriage for their alleged attack on the Thoubal District Childline Team on August 27 committed by the family members of the Bridegroom from Wangbal while they were intervening into a matter of Child Marriages as per the report received through their 1098 Childline helpline number.

"Such an act of attack to the child workers such as Organizations working on the

field of child wouldn't have been happened if the Child Institution of the state discharged their duty with commitment and dedication. It clearly indicates that CMPO, Thoubal District failed to discharge its duty as provided under the Section 16(3) of the Child Marriage Prohibition Act, 2007", the statement said. The Forum further said that the incident is one of the outcome of the failure of the Child Marriage Prohibition Officer, DCMPU, CWC and the child institutions of the state who

only waits for the complaint and the action thereafter. It could be observed that the child institution of the state lacks responsibility, commitment and dedication which needs a serious attention to reform these institutions at this point of time, it added.

The Forum appealed the Officer-in-Charge, Thoubal PS to initiate a sue motto case and the offenders who promotes Child Marriage and attack to the team of Childline be arrested immediately.

UPF Manipur observes 21st Foundation Day

IT News
Imphal, Aug 29

United Peoples' Front (UPF) Manipur today observed its 21st Foundation Day at Leishemlok Community Hall in Senapati district.

The auspicious occasion of the civil society body which has been working for bridging the gap of misunderstanding among various ethnic communities of the region was graced by W. Second, P resident of UPF, Y.K. Dhiren Meetei, Co-Convenor of JCILPS, ASAMO Shunao Long, Headman of Lishamlok Village, H. Angamphy, Chairperson of Lishamlok Village, H. Benjamin, President of Lishamlok Sporting Youth Club and Pastor Absalom Zimik.



H. Benjamin while speaking on the occasion lauded the service of the UPF and expressed gratitude to the organization for choosing the village as venue for observing its 21st Foundation Day. He stressed on the need to convert into action those words which have been delivering on public platform

by various leaders while calling on the need for unity among ourselves.

H. Angamphy, the Chairperson of Shunao Long Lishamlok, while speaking on the occasion blamed the pseudo intellects for dividing the people of various communities.

"We are being divided by

these pseudo intellectuals for their mere benefits", H. Angamphy said while appreciating the work of UPF for their relentless effort to unite the people of the region. Various representatives from different civil society organizations also attended the 21st Foundation Day of UPF.

Manipuri Students at ICFAI University, Tripura felt insecure after being attacked

IT News
Imphal, Aug 28

Students from Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Assam and Mizoram studying at ICFAI University Tripura were felt insecure and threatened after being attacked to their hostels by locals and students (Bengali) yesterday.

The incident happened around 8 in the morning where hundreds of Bengali students from Tripura and day scholars of the college

along with their locals stormed their hostel with sticks and iron bars in their hands. The goons threw stones damaging the properties of the University including a vehicle.

In a telephonic conversation with Imphal Times a Manipuri students recalled that a case of eve teasing was allegedly occurred on the August 26, where the victim urged her friends of 4th year to help. Than a confrontation occurred following the eve teasing

incident with the senior students, the student added. On the next day hundreds of goons including locals and students gathered at the gate of the hostels at which they were residing and started attacking them by pelting stones towards their hostel, the student added.

The student said that they felt insecure and threatened in the place they were staying and urged the authority to escort them till Silchar.

SEACO objects renaming of Imphal International Airport

IT News
Imphal, Aug 28,

South East Asia Cultural Organisation (SEACO) strongly objects the renaming of Imphal International Airport as Bir Tikendrajit International Airport. The organization in a press statement said that the government should have consulted the public while renaming of the International Airport. On the other hand, the SEACO asked the government the reason for not choosing an Indigenous name instead of the name borrowed from outsiders.

Khongjom War Memorial Trust also condemn the renaming of the Imphal Tuihail

Airport as Bir Tikendrajit International Airport saying that the name could have been given to other freedom fighters and martyrs of the region who had fought against the British empire.

A Statement by Khongjom War Memorial Trust said that there are places and roads where Bir Tikendrajit name was already put however Paona Brajabashi, Chinglensana, Thangal General, Chongtha Mia were seem neglected by the state government as none of the establishment has been name under them. The trust further said that the on a specific information the upcoming Railway Station also will name as Bir Tikendrajit Railway Station.

AMSU warns of movement greater than June 18 if framework agreement disturbs the integrity of Manipur

IT News
Imphal, Aug 28

The 54th foundation day of All Manipur Students' Union was celebrated today at Thangmeiband DM College of Arts Ground.

AMSU was founded on this day on 1965 after four martyrs sacrificed their lives protesting against the artificial famine by marching on 27 August 1965 which was known as Chaklam Khongchat in the history of Manipur.

Addressing the presidential speech of the function President of AMSU Peter Laishram stressed that the

framework agreement between NSCN IM and GOI is near for an end but their agreement were kept secret to all other important stakeholders.

He said that the talks and agreement should not have any provisions regarding any administrative arrangement based in community lines and also the agreement should not make any political arrangement which will disregard and disrespect Manipur and its legislative assembly.

Peter further said that they should consider the interest of all the ethnic communities and further warned that movement greater than the historic June 18 will be initiated by the union

if the agreement violates and disturbs the integrity of Manipur.

Giving slashing criticism to the government he said that the government instead of bringing solution to the issues they brought up another issue to divert the previous one.

Speaking the keynote address Human Resource Development Secretary of AMSU Bruce Pebam said that the land was bounded with issues since the day after Manipur merged into India.

He stressed that Manipur still faced the situation where the socio political and economy of the land was held by outsiders and added that the issue of

AFSPA, ILP, CAB were all because of being merged with India.

Pointing out where the state was more like a colony he stressed that people of the land has been facing accommodation of surplus population by mainlanders and people still fight for the implementation of ILP in the state. He also added that natural resources were exploited and further exploited the land with captive market economy.

Questioning how the demands of special status of the state will be considered by the central government he said that the federal structure

of India was at stake and the removing of special status of Kashmir heightens the uncertainty of the people demands of special status of Manipur also.

He appealed the people of the land to stand firmly for a dignified Manipur.

President of Leimakol M.C Rita stressed that the role of students increased as well as the issues of the state piled up. She also urged to discuss and know the roles and responsibilities of the students.

Ayekpam Dijen, Thokchom Suresh, Paothinthang Lupheng and MC Rita attended the function as the dais members.