

Editorial

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Intimidating media: Think before you lift

The advancement in information technology has made today's world a 'Global village' - the term first coined by Canadian-born author Marshall McLuhan. Man born at the extreme corner of Far East Asiatic countries knows, cry and pray for the kind of disasters that happen in Middle East countries or in Latin America. Installation of internet technologies to cell phones which every human being can afford makes the people of our Earth - whose circumference is estimated at about 40,075 Kilometer staying at a communicable distance. Now every human being equipped with cell phone can now talk or stay in touch with any of their friends or relatives staying thousands miles away. Point bringing here is about the changes in the theory of mass media in relevance to today's journalism. The very concept at which the older generation considered 'proximity' as a characteristic of news is somewhat losing its foot.

Professor M.L. Stein, the then chairman of Department of Journalism, California State University, Long Beach, California in his book "Shaping the News" in 1974 wrote that people are more interested in what happens in their neighbourhoods. The one time presumption that 'a dog fight on Main Street is of more interest to our readers than fifty thousand foreign troops killed in battle somewhere' seems to have no relevance in today's society. Readers are now interested about happenings at distance places if the subject matters is his or her interest.

However, another characteristic of news - 'Prominence' on the hand is becoming a matter of more interested subjects for almost all readers. People now want to know what had happen to their leaders, celebrity or the bureaucrats irrespective of where they stay or which country they reside. Every news readers are eager to know the story of successful personality.

Points bringing up here are not to lecture on what is news and what should be reported but this is an attempt to make some of our critic to understand on why the newspaper especially the kind of ours often published story about real heroes or events that happen far away from our state. Sometimes a mere insignificant event at which some people are of vested interest are often left of and the result is not always good for we in the media fraternity of Manipur state in particular. The other kind of pressure that the media persons sometimes remain helpless is their intentions to get publish their story.

Manipur or say Imphal is not a safe place for even VIPs who are escorted by security personnel days and night. It is an open secret that almost all the politicians including MLAs or Ministers or even the Chief Ministers have linked with the UGs, the only thing we don't have is the proof.

So, what would be the security of those working with the media if in case, some of the individuals or rebels force us to publish stories of their interest. Being taken up this profession, we always stand with our ethics and there is no question of compromising our ethics while publishing stories. But when the government said that this should not be published and this should be published then where is the freedom of speech provided under the constitution of our country. Government machineries can invite news editors and can discuss about the content on objectivity reason but should in no way dictate the media on what or what not to publish. Calls of bandh or blockade by any organisation are in some way an essential news items for media houses living in conflict zone - because it is for the safety and security of the common people that the government machineries cannot guarantee safety. We have PCI guidelines, local code of conduct and this should be respected.

Bottom line is that media should not be harassed at any cost for any reason because we chose this profession not merely to earn for living but with full intention to serve our nation.

A R Maj Bob Khathing Tournament 2019

IT News

Imphal Feb 19,

The 8th edition of Assam Rifles Major Bob Khathing Tournament commenced with a glittering opening ceremony at TNL Ground, Ukhrul on 18th February 2019. The event comprising of Men Football, Women Volleyball, Baby League Football and Church Choir competition will be held till 23 Feb 2019. Wreath Laying Ceremony will be held on 28th February 2019 at the Mantripukhri residence of the Tangkhul Legend.

The grand event is being organised by Somsai Battalion of 10 Sect Assam Rifles under aegis of IGAR (South). The Opening ceremony comprised of a multicultural



extravaganza showcasing the rich culture and heritage of Manipur especially the Tangkhul Naga tribe. Miss Bala Devi, Indian Woman Footballer, was the torch bearer and the event was graced by eminent

dignitaries to include Col Paramjit Singh, officiating Commander 10 Sector Assam Rifles, Mr Hopingson Shimray, TNL President, Mrs Grace Shatshang, TSL President and Mr and Mrs

John Khathing, son and daughter in law of the legend. Speaking on the occasion, the TNL President paid his respects to Maj Bob Khathing and appreciated the efforts of the Assam Rifles in keeping alive the memory of the great Tangkhul personality.

The first football match of the tournament was played between Ukhrul FC and Kachai FC. Women Volleyball match was played between Ever Green club and Ukhrul police volleyball club. A total of 22 matches will be played in football and 9 matches in volleyball competitions. Choir competition will take place on 21 February 2019.

The Bob Khathing Baby league football championship to encourage the future stars was held on 14th and 15th February at Ukhrul. The event was won by Ukhrul Football Club.

Amit panghal and 3 women boxers reach finals at 70th strandja memorial pwilao basumatary end campaign with bronze medals

Our Correspondent
New Delhi, Feb 19,

Asian Games gold medallist Amit Panghal continued his quest for a second consecutive gold medal as he reached the final of the prestigious 70th Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria on Monday. The 23-year-old, also a silver medallist at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, showed his grit and determination in a hard-fought 3-2 win over Said Mortaji in the 49kg semi-finals. Former world junior champion Nikhat Zareen (51kg) led 3 women boxers into the finals as India is



now assured of a total of seven medals from this season-opening tournament. Zareen put up a

dominating performance as she outclassed Drabik Sandra of Poland 4-1 to keep up her quest

for the gold. 48kg national champion Manju Rani too continued her dream run on her debut on foreign soil. The youngster, who turned to boxing to manage her anger, pummeled Emi-Mari Todorova 4-1 to enter the final.

But the best performer among the Indian women pugilists on Day 5 of this event was Mainsam Meena Kumari. The Nagaland boxer, a former bronze medallist at the Asian Championships, did not give her opponent, Ekaterina Sycheva to settle down and was declared a 5-0 unanimous winner.

Assam Rifles Conducts Veterinarian Camp cum Organises Health Awareness Drive

IT News

Imphal Feb 19,

Chandel Battalion of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) and 14 Mobile Field Veterinary Hospital conducted a free veterinary camp at Tuisimi and Khunbe Tuisen in Palle on 18th February 2019 under Op Sadbhavana. In the camp, free Veterinarian advice and attention were given to the beloved pets of the locals. The receding winter season is hard on pets and cattle alike, wherein due to lack of movement, scarcity of good feed and lack of hygiene the animals develops dermatitis, Alopecia and other surface infections. Further, the canine pets were treated for Pyrexia. Swine pets were treated for Diarrhoea. The Chandel Battalion

took the initiative to conduct Veterinarian Camp after it received requests from the villagers during its weekly interaction with the Chiefs and Chairmen of the villages of Chandel District, in November 2018.

During the camp, free Veterinarian advice was also provide for approx 1008 pets which pets include Swines, Cows and Canines, horse mules and poultry by the Remount and Veterinary Corp officer assisted by team of Nursing Assistants and administrative support of the Chandel Battalion. The attendees were also enlightened about various health issues faced by the pets including regular diseases.

The villagers appreciated the gesture of the Assam Rifles and hoped that this would go a long

way in further cementing the bond between the people of Palle and the Assam Rifles.

Mantripukhri Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(South) organised a Health Awareness Drive at Yanganpokpi Primary School on 18th February. As part of the Health Awareness Drive, a lecture cum interactive session was organised by the Yanganpokpi Company Operating Base in synergy with the Government's flagship mission of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. The lecture was organised with an aim to spread awareness on the importance of good health and hygiene and further encourage efforts to keep our environment clean. Issues related to health

hazards due to open defecation and related precautionary measures that need to be undertaken were also covered during the lecture. The lecture was followed by an interactive session with the students and teachers. All the attendees keenly participated and shared their views and suggestions for maintaining good health.

The staff and students expressed their profound gratitude towards the initiative taken by the Assam Rifles for organising such an informative and interactive drive to enlighten all the attendees on such an important issue. The event concluded with tea and refreshments for all.

Body of woman found dead near Borpani river

Agency
Itanagar Feb 19,

A woman's dead body was recovered near the bank of Borpani river backside of the helipad in Arunachal Pradesh. According to reports, the body was found lying on the bank of the river.

Naharlagun police station OC, D.

Dolum informed that the dead body was found at around 11:30am in the morning.

The deceased have been identified as Hage Yami w/o late Hage Akha of Prem Nagar.

A case of unnatural death vide case No-2/19 u/s-174 CrPc have been registered and an investigation following the incident have been launched.

Mmhonlumo asks BJP to relieve him as party's chief whip

Agency
Kohima, Feb 19,

State BJP party chief whip and advisor Information Technology Science & Technology New & Renewable Energy, Mmhonlumo Kikon has asked the party president to relieve him of his post as the party's chief whip. In his letter to state BJP president, Mmhonlumo said he had served as the party's chief whip for nearly five years with dedication and to the best of his

abilities, with the blessing and support of the party and the legislators.

However, in consonance with the discussion in 2018 among the BJP Legislators, Mmhonlumo said it was necessary to keep the regional parity among the representatives and give equal opportunities to all.

In this regard, Mmhonlumo has proposed the name of H. Haiyang, advisor Prisons, Printing & Stationary to be appointed as the next chief whip of the party.

Police slap sedition charges on 3 youth for hailing Pulwama attack

Agency
Guwahati Feb 19,

On Monday, three youths have been arrested by Assam police on charges of

sedition and another person for promoting rioting with social media posts in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack and hailing Pakistan, officials said. Khairul Islam, a student of Ledo Junior College situated in Tinsukia District has been detained by Ledo Police for posting an anti-national comment 'Pakistan Zindabad' on Facebook. As the news of the comment spread, Alam was manhandled by the locals and a complaint was lodged, police said adding that a law and order situation was

developing because of the post. "We have arrested Khairul Alam and two others including Saikul Alam and Riyazul Haq whom we suspect were part of the conspiracy," said Shiladitya Chetia, Superintendent of Police, Tinsukia. "They have been arrested under Sections 120(B), 121, 121(A), 124(A), 153, 153(A), 153(B) of the IPC read with Section 67 of the IT Act," said Chetia. All three have been charged with sedition and waging war against the state among others.

In Goalpara district of lower Assam, Shahinawar Islam was arrested by the police which registered a suo moto case over his Facebook post where he "appreciated" the Pulwama suicide bombing in Jammu and Kashmir

which targeted CRPF personnel. "He wrote 'well done' on his social media account," said Sushanta Biswa Sarma, adding he has been arrested under Sections 120(B), 153, 153(A) of the IPC for promoting enmity and rioting. Islam (21) is unemployed, the police said.

Meanwhile, in Guwahati, an assistant professor of English who was being interrogated by the Guwahati police has gone missing, the police said after she failed to turn up on Monday for further questioning.

Papri Banerjee (37) was suspended by the Ikon Commerce College in Guwahati on Saturday as her Facebook post which was critical of role of the security forces in Kashmir and said they "rape" and "kill" went viral. She was also interrogated by the Guwahati police was asked to report to the police station again on Monday. A case under the IT Act and other sections was registered against her.

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