

More state News

Education Minister Inaugurates Hengbung Govt. High school annexed building



DIPR
Imphal, July 21,

Education Minister Thokchom Radheshyam today inaugurated the Hengbung Government High School Annexed Building constructed under RMSA 2016-17 at Kangpokpi District. The Minister said that the six rooms inaugurated today have been constructed to fulfil the infrastructural needs of the school. Congratulating the teachers, students and School Managing Development Committee (SMDC) for timely completion of the construction project, he said that local people should join hand in protection and help in smooth functioning of the school. Th. Radheshyam stated that the proposal for upgrading the high school into higher secondary school will be put up if necessary after due process. Speaking on the lack of teachers in the School, he said that the proposal for district wise recruitment is under process so that the selected teachers are posted at their own respective district

which will address the shortage of teachers to some extent. The Minister also assured that with regard to maintaining proper retaining walls of the schools, the department will look into the matter. He applauded the school authority for good performance in the HSLC Examination, 2019 in which out of fifteen students, eleven students passed the examination in second division and three students in third division. He opined that children are full of unlimited potential, innate capabilities and talents. He urged the parents and teachers not to pressurise their children but to let them nurture freely with the support and proper guidance from the elders. L. Nandakumar Singh, Joint Secretary, Education-S said that under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), RMSA supports civil work construction of schools in two ways i) to upgrade junior high school to a new high school and develop new

infrastructure of the school including building or ii) to strengthen the already existing infrastructure of the high school by developing new infrastructure. He also congratulated the teachers and students for being the first school to have completed the construction of infrastructure development under RMSA 2016-17. He added that Hengbung High School falls under the second category where the school has already existing high school and thus construction of new infrastructure was approved to further strengthen the school. He stated that construction of a hall, a science laboratory, an art & crafts room and two additional classrooms were approved by the MHRD as these are the necessary amenities for the students in the learning process. The ceremony was also attended by Additional Directors, Education (S/H), Lerte Hmange Kom, ZEO Kangpokpi District Lhingneikim Kipgen, dignitaries, teachers, students and guardians. The Minister also presented the games & sports equipments, science kits and books.

AR sets in motion Kargil vijay Diwas celebrations with mega tree plantation drive

IGAR (South)
Imphal, July 21,

In the series of activities being carried out to celebrate 20 years of Operation Vijay (Kargil Diwas which falls on 26 July 2019), units of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised a mega tree plantation drive in collaboration with Green Planters Society under the "Go Green Initiative" of the Government of India Yesterday. Kargil Vijay Diwas is named after the success of Operation Vijay and is celebrated on 26 July every year. It was on this day 20 years ago in 1999, India successfully took command of the outposts in high altitude terrain of Kargil-Dras Sector which had been lost to Pakistani intruders. The Kargil war was fought for over 60 days and ended with our country emerging victorious and regaining control of all the previously held territory. The 20 glorious years of the victory are being celebrated all across the country with much vigour, zeal, enthusiasm and patriotic fervour. To kick start the commemoration of the Kargil Diwas, Keithelammbi Battalion organised a tree plantation drive at Assam Rifles Public



School, Keithelammbi. The drive commenced with a lecture on "Global Warming" in which the students were enlightened on global warming, its harmful effects and benefits of tree plantation to counter it. It was followed by a plantation drive in which importance of trees and saving the environment through plantation was emphasised upon. The students came in huge numbers and enthusiastically participated in planting saplings in the area. Thoubal Battalion likewise organised an "Awareness programme cum Tree Plantation Drive" at Assam Rifles Public School, Thoubal. The awareness programme commenced with an informative lecture on "Deforestation and Concerns of Global Warming" followed by a plantation drive in which students and staff enthusiastically participated and saplings were planted in and around the area. They also pledged their contribution to

make the environment clean and green for future generations. Cumulatively over 750 saplings were planted by both the battalions as part of the plantation drive. The event concluded with tea and refreshments for all the attendees. The event witnessed an overwhelming participation of over 500 students and staff of the schools with everyone appreciating the efforts of Assam Rifles for educating them on conservation of natural resources for the future generations. In the series of events to commemorate 20 glorious years of Vijay Diwas, a week long celebration which will include various events involving people from all walks of life will be organised by the Assam Rifles to re-live the memory of Kargil victory, pay homage to the martyrs and generate awareness about the sacrifices of our brave soldiers in efforts to ensure sovereignty and integrity of our motherland and keep our Indian Flag always flying high.

Affected people start returning homes in Dibrugarh

Source Northeast now
Dibrugarh July 21,

The flood affected people, who had been staying in relief camps, have started returning to their homes as the flood situation improves in upper Assam's Dibrugarh district. Altogether 102 villages and more than 62,000 people were affected in the recent wave of flood in Dibrugarh district. Lezai and Kalakhawa areas of Dibrugarh were reeling under flood waters and the people of the areas had to take shelter in the relief camps. "There were 110 inmates who took shelter at the relief camp in Lezai Higher Secondary School, but as the flood waters start receding, the inmates have returned back to their homes," said sources. On Saturday, this correspondent went to the

relief camp at Lezai Higher Secondary School to gather information about the inmates but found that all of them went back to their respective homes. Reena Das, head mistress of Lezai Higher Secondary School said, "All of them have gone back home on Friday after improvement in the flood situation. Altogether 110 inmates stayed here along with four pregnant women." Das also informed some of the flood affected people stayed in the relief camp for six days. "Every year our school is used as a relief camp during flood. But this year, flood created havoc in the area and the people lost everything," added Das. Six relief camps were set up by the Dibrugarh district administration. The relief camps were set up at Baroghoria Janjati Anusuchita Jati ME School, No. 1 Garudharia ME School, Lezai HS School, Phukanbam MV School, Patogaon Jaya

Mahila Samitee and Metekani LP School. The devastating flood has left a trail of destruction in Dibrugarh district with as many as 28 lower primary schools suffering damages in the deluge. Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) project officer of Dibrugarh, Dipjyoti Hatikakati said, "24 LP schools of Dibrugarh district sustained partial damage while 4 LP schools were fully damaged in the recent flood." "We have returned back to our house on Friday after flood water receded in our house," said Arati Munda, a resident of Sessa Nagaon village. "Our belongings were damaged in the flood and now, we don't know what to do as the flood has taken all the things from us," Munda added. The medical teams were pressed into service and instructed the people to drink

safe water and given them medicines to purify the water before drinking. On the other hand, water started to recede in water-logged streets of Dibrugarh town. The convey road area was affected due to waterlogging which caused immense problem for the residents of that place. Recently, Dibrugarh deputy commissioner Pallav Gopal Jha conducted a meeting with all the departments concerned on the issue of waterlogging in Dibrugarh town. Jha instructed the officials to find out the places of illegal encroachment and clear the areas for smooth flowing of water.

12 Rohingya refugees stay put at Indo-Bangladesh border in Tripura

At least 12 Rohingya Muslim refugees, including five children and two women, who tried to enter India from Bangladesh, have refused to leave the Zero Line along the India-Bangladesh border in Tripura for the past three days. Border Security Force (BSF) official said on Saturday. "The 12 refugees tried to enter India from Bangladesh through the Boxanagar border in western Tripura on Thursday. But our troopers stopped them from infiltrating into India," a BSF official said. "Later that day, a commandant level meeting was held between the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) in which the latter agreed to take back the refugees, but the group has refused to leave the Zero Line," the official said.

Encephalitis Outbreak Worsens Assam's Flood Ordeal

Source NDTV
Guwahati July 21,

With waters receding, the flood crisis in Assam is showing signs of improvement. But 38-year-old Dalimi Kalita wades through her waterlogged courtyard in Chandrapur, about 30 km away from Guwahati, with a worried look. Dalimi is concerned about the stinking, stagnant flood water - a possible breeding ground for diseases like the dreaded Japanese Encephalitis. Her 6-year-old daughter is already running a fever. "The government needs to give some medicines to pre-empt an

outbreak. My child already has cold, fever and I am really worried," Dalimi told NDTV. The floods have been a double blow for Assam. Death and destruction caused by the now receding waters have been compounded by the loss of lives due to the outbreak of Japanese Encephalitis since April. At least 62 people have died of the floods in Assam but the Japanese Encephalitis outbreak has claimed more than 100 lives since April and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome or AES has killed about 200. Since 2013, floods and Japanese Encephalitis outbreaks have gone hand in hand, killing over 1,000 people. Many people are in

relief camps and they become vulnerable to communicable diseases and when the flood water recedes there is a threat of another outbreak of vector borne disease like dengue," Dr BC Bhagobati, state surveillance officer, Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme of Assam said. In areas that are still cut off like Laharighat in Morigaon district, health workers are finding it difficult to reach flood victims. The government has cancelled the leaves of all doctors, paramedics and other health staff till September largely to tackle the Japanese Encephalitis outbreak but villagers say there is a lot more that needs to be done.

News from South East Asia

South East Asia's booming meth industry – Thailand, Myanmar, China and Laos

Agency
New Zealand July 21,

A UN Office of Drugs and Crime report released last week states that the methamphetamine trade is now worth between US\$30-61 billion per year in East and South East Asia, Australia, New Zealand and Bangladesh. That figure is up from US\$15 billion a year, nearly a decade ago, the last time the UNODC estimated the value of the methamphetamine trade in the region. Better enforcement, co-operation with neighbouring governments, increased manpower, more sophisticated surveillance and increased numbers of seizures have happened whilst the trade in meth has blossomed in the region. Methamphetamine pills (aka. yaba in Thailand) are now being sold at highly discounted prices, and the well publicised massive seizures and interceptions do little to dent the operations of highly sophisticated and tech-savvy drug traffickers. Even the crystal

methamphetamine (ice) from the region is feeding demand as far away as New Zealand. Experts say the boom in South East Asia's methamphetamine industry is the result of a series of regional and political factors, which have seen Myanmar's lawless Shan State emerge as the regional meth factory. The Shan State is in Myanmar's north-east and borders Thailand, Laos and China. From the 1970s to the 1990s, Myanmar's lawless Shan State warlords, militias and rebel groups typically sold opium and heroin, but subsequently shifted to synthetic drugs after realising how much easier they were to produce and more profitable they could be. Lax enforcement in Shan State, coupled with porous borders, enabled methamphetamine producers to easily import the chemicals needed to make meth. Poorly enforced money laundering controls then allowed kingpins to easily clean their millions and flourish. At the same time significant investment has been made in new highways and bridges in an out of Myanmar, Thailand, China, Laos, Bangladesh and Vietnam. This has provided a

boom in movement of products like food and clothing. And drugs. In the 'Law of Unintended Consequences', China's Belt & Road strategy to open up trade routes throughout Asia, has inadvertently made trafficking drugs a lot easier. Routinely, seizures of truckloads of 1-5 million meth pills are intercepted then paraded by Thai police. But the biggest drug haul was in 2018 when authorities seized a record-breaking 120 tonnes of crystal meth and methamphetamine pills coming out of the Golden Triangle. More than half of the busts took place in Thailand, where authorities confiscated more than \$15 million meth pills. Now, Laos and Malaysia are also reporting record-breaking busts. In the first eight months of 2018 Chinese authorities reported a 22% increase in crystal methamphetamine seizures in Yunnan province, alone, compared with just three years before. The UNODC report also states that organised crime groups are not only moving "staggering" amounts of meth to meet demand, they are

also trying to increase that demand by flooding the region with cheap product. That's led methamphetamine pill prices to hit historic lows. The flood also creates greater need and a myriad of social problems. Pills are reportedly selling for less than US\$1 (30 baht), even lower than the going price two decades ago. At the start of this year Thai authorities began an "intensification campaign" along Thailand's northern border with Myanmar. That's where the main route south begins through Thailand. But those efforts, and the vast amounts of international investment to open new routes in and around the region, has just sent enterprising traffickers to use new routes, too numerous for effective enforcement. John Coyne, a former Australian Federal Police official says the capacity for cashed-up and smart producers to simply ramp up production is allowing meth producers "to write off large seizures as a cost of doing business." "There needs to be a distinct rethink on what we do."