

## One held with drugs worth over Rs 97 core

Agency  
Aizawl, March 1

Mizoram police on yesterday seized 39 lakhs tablets of methamphetamine from a Silchar bound truck and arrested one person at Vairengte near Assam border. The accused has been identified as Ramnunmawia, 30, a resident of Zokhawthar in Champhai district on the Mizoram-Myanmar border. Police said that the contraband worth Rs 97.50 crore in the international market were packed in 390 polythene packets and were hidden inside a compartment on the body floor of the vehicle.

On preliminary investigation, Ramnunmawia, who was the driver of the truck, told police that the drugs belonged to Lalsiammawia of Champhai, who offered him Rs 5,000 to hand over the contraband to a certain person in in Silchar. He, however, did not disclose the identity of the person whom he should hand over the drugs in Silchar, the police said. The accused was booked under relevant section of Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances (ND&PS) Act, 1985.

## UPPL-BJP alliance on cards for BTC polls

Agency  
Udaiguri, March 1

The political equations of Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) may witness a major change in the forthcoming council polls.

If sources are to be believed the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) is battling to forge a pre-poll alliance with United People's Party Liberal (UPPL).

The UPPL is led by former All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU) leader, Promod Boro.

If this happens, it will make the going tough for BJP's existing ally, the Bodoland People's Front (BPF) at Dispur.

The saffron party which is excited to spread its tentacles in the Bodo belt was on a look out for opportunity by a local party which would provide them a red carpet welcome in the Bodo belt and both UPPL and BPF whichever meet BJP's demand of offering maximum seats is likely to be its partner which is a win-win situation for BJP.

The BJP currently has only one member in 45 member council seats of BTC headquartered in Kokrajhar, where elections are held for 40 seats while the rest are nominated by the Governor from the communities which are not least represented.

BPF party president and BTC chief, Hagrama Mohillary also seems confident of its alliance going well with BJP and Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and has already announced the list of its 16 candidates in the 40 member council polls.

Mohillary have also claimed before media that BJP-AGP-BPF alliance will form the next government in the BTC council. The UPPL has gained momentum ever since Promod Boro the former ABSU leader one



of the core signatories of the Bodo pact signed on January 27 last stepped down to join the UPPL as its working president and in a span of three days was elevated as its president. UPPL is likely to take major advantage of the popularity of Boro to woo the young voters who are for looking for a new ray of hope of good governance and better administration in the BTC where the BPF is ruling for its third term.

If inside sources of UPPL are to be believed BJP leaders are already in talks with the UPPL leadership to float an alliance and contest the council polls on seat sharing where BJP is battling to contest in at least 12-15 seats.

President of United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) Promod Boro has also indicated a possible alliance of his party with BJP for the BTC election. "We have not got any proposal yet. We will think over it if we get the proposal," he said.

"Our party's sole aim is ensuring peace, prosperity, brotherhood in the Bodo belt and implementation of the clauses of the Bodo pact in letter and spirit and what would be better than an alliance with the ruling

party in Centre and Union" said another UPPL leader on condition of anonymity.

Assam BJP president Ranjit Kumar Dass recently said his party was keen on expanding its footprint in the BTC areas and the party is open to float alliance with any party.

Mangaldai Lok Sabha MP, Dilip Saikia addressing a party workers meet at Anand bazar in Baksa recently also claimed that BJP will form the government in BTC council polls and the Bodo belt is facing a wave of anti-incumbency from the ruling party.

Meanwhile the four factions of erstwhile insurgent group National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), which were among the signatories of Bodo pact have also witnessed demarcation among themselves as the NDFB (Ranjan), NDFB (Progressive) and NDFB (Saoragwira) faction are most likely to lend their support to ruling Bodoland People's Front (BPF) while the NDFB faction led by Govindo Basumatary is likely to back UPPL.

## Myanmar donates 200 tonnes of rice to China

Agency  
Guwahati, March 1

Myanmar on Sunday donated 200 tonnes of rice to China as humanitarian assistance in the fight against coronavirus outbreak.

The rice was handed over to Chen Hai, China's Ambassador to Myanmar, at Shwe Pyi Thar Industrial Zone (4) in Yangon region.

Myanmar's deputy commerce

minister Aung Htoo, interacting with the media after the donation, said, "Myanmar and China have a long friendship. It has been promoted from one stage to another."

"We have a fraternal relationship and whatever happens in China, we feel the same," Htoo added.

Chen Hai thanked Myanmar for helping China in its battle against the virus outbreak.

The rice will soon be delivered to Hubei province in Central China.

The novel coronavirus, which was first reported in Wuhan city of China, so far has killed over 2,900 people across the world, the vast majority in mainland China.

There have been over 85,000 cases reported across the world and infections have been reported from every continent except Antarctica.

## One more killed in Shella violence, death toll touches three

Agency  
Guwahati, March 1

Another person was killed in a fresh violence erupted on Sunday night at Shella in Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district, taking the death toll in the clashes to three.

Police said a 37-year-old man, identified as Uphas Uddin was killed when three unidentified miscreants attacked him at his residence at Pyrkam village under Shella police station of East Khasi Hills.

Uphas, who was grievously injured in the armed miscreants attack, was rushed Khamati CHC, where the doctor declared him brought dead.

In a separate incident, armed miscreants hurled a petrol bomb on Saturday night at the residential compound of one Lakshmi Bareth at Pynthorbah,

Block - 4 in Shillong. According to police, no one was injured and no property damaged in the incident.

In Ri-bhoi district, some non-tribal carpenters who were staying at Umtren ran away from their homes on Sunday night into the forest when they heard some local youths proceeding to the area in two buses.

Police said they have, however, now returned to their homes.

Another man was seriously injured in miscreants' attack on Saturday at Mawthabab, Mawsyram and he has been admitted to NEGRHMS in Shillong in a critical condition on Sunday morning.

He has been identified as Raju Karim, 31, of Phulbari in West Garo Hills.

Indefinite curfew has been

clamped in Shillong city from 8 am on Sunday due to the violence in Shella and other parts of East Khasi Hills district.

Home minister Lakhmen Rymbui had said that keeping in view the simmering tension, internet has been suspended and curfew imposed in Shillong, Shella and Sohra from Friday night.

Earlier two people, including a member of the Khasi Students' Union (KSU), were killed and several others were injured after clashes broke out between student activists and non-tribals on Friday.

Violent clashes broke out following a meeting against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and to demand Inner Line Permit (ILP) in the state, organised by KSU at Shella on Friday.

## Short Term Courses on 'Basics of News Reporting' at Jiribam Concluded

IT News  
Jiribam, March 1

Two weeks short term courses on "Basics of News Reporting" at Jiribam, organised by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Manipur concluded yesterday.

The closing cum Certificate distribution function was attended by M. Mubi Singh, Superintendent of Police, Jiribam District and H. Balkrishna Singh, Director (IPR) as Chief Guest and President respectively. Shri Ng. Biswajit Singh, President, All Jiribam Working Journalists Union (AJWJU), Jiribam, H. Sushila Devi, President Apunba Jiribam Meira Paibi (AJMP), Jiribam District and Th. Sharat Singh, Advisor, Jiri News Network graced the occasion as Guests of Honour.

Speaking on the occasion, M. Mubi Singh, SP Jiribam lauded the efforts of DIPR, Manipur for organising basic course of Journalism for the educated youths of Jiribam District. He urged the DIPR, Manipur to open a District Information Office at Jiribam District Headquarter for proper



dissemination of news considering sensitive location of Jiribam District and conglomeration of different communities which is often described as a 'Mini India'.

H. Balkrishna Singh, Director (IPR) informed the denizens of Jiribam about the proposal for opening of a new District Information Office at Jiribam which his directorate has put up to the State Government. He also appreciated the interests shown by the youths of the district in learning the course and wished them to be responsible journalists in future.

Ng. Biswajit Singh and other dignitaries expressed their long cherished dream of having a District Information Office at Jiribam and submitted a Memorandum addressed to the Minister (IPR) for opening a new DIO's office at the earliest

through the Director. About 40 candidates participated the short term course on Journalism which was started from 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.

Two persons are quarantined at a hospital in Mumbai, while one person each has been admitted to isolation wards of

By a Correspondent  
Guwahati, March 1

The inaugural day of the 4<sup>th</sup> Guwahati International Music Festival at Shilpgram in Guwahati witnessed power-packed performances by various bands from across South East Asia on February 29.

Popular Thai Folk-Jazz band Asia7 performed at the festival before Funktuation featuring Benny Dayal enthralled the audience on the inaugural day of the two-day festival. The stage also witnessed performances by Reunion Island band Dogo Fara.

Earlier on the day, the Northeast competition round witnessed the performances by T Vanlalhmangaihi from Mizoram, Paradigm Shift of Nagaland and Salt and Light Travelling Band.

Later, the stage witnessed performances by Arupiyoti Baruah, Sound Of The Hills, Md. Shahjahan Munshi and Gayen.

Organized by Eastern Beats Music Society in collaboration with North Eastern Council, Government of India, the 4<sup>th</sup> Guwahati International Music Festival will showcase a line-up that brings together some of the

most significant artists from the Asian circuit along with the leading stakeholders of the industry, literally making GIMF a global powerhouse in the music scene.

On March 1, popular Bollywood singer Lucky Ali will perform at the festival along with a host of bands from across the region.

Entry to the festival is free. The festival was preceded by a first-of-its-kind "Northeast India Music Conference" at NEDFi House which saw participation of industry leaders, benefiting the musicians of the region. A brainchild of Northeast-

based writer and cultural activist Aiyushman Dutta, the idea of Guwahati International Music Festival was mooted way back in 2010 in order to provide a platform wherein musical maestros from across the globe can share stage and collaborate with our indigenous music and cultural practitioners. In the first two editions, the festival had helped create new vistas for cultural collaborations of our topmost Northeastern folk exponents with the finest of musicians from Goa, Nepal, UK, USA, Germany, China, Bangladesh, and the like.

## Coronavirus-4 under observation, 105 discharged from hospitals in Maharashtra SENSEX at BSE tumbles down

IT News  
Mumbai March 1

As many as 105 persons, quarantined for possible exposure to the novel coronavirus, have been discharged from hospitals in Maharashtra, while four persons are under observation, the state government said on Saturday.

Two persons are quarantined at a hospital in Mumbai, while one person each has been admitted to isolation wards of

hospitals in Pune and Nashik. The state has not recorded any case of coronavirus infection so far Health Minister Rajesh Tope said. Till now a total of 59,654 passengers were screened at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport for possible exposure to the coronavirus (Covid 19) since 18 January 2020. Passengers arriving from China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, South Korea, Japan, Nepal, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Iran and Italy are

being screened, he said. In the meanwhile the impact of the coronavirus continued to grip investors and key indices logged edged lower on all five trading days of the week. On Friday, at Bombay Stock Exchange's sensitivity index (SENSEX) continued its downward slide and crashed by over 1,400 points.

After crashing 1000 points at open, SENSEX extended losses to close 1448 points lower at 38,235, recording its biggest one-day decline since 24 August 2015. Fears

that coronavirus may cripple the global economy triggered a massive sell-off. Nifty suffered its worst weekly fall since 2009.

Due to the crash investors lost nearly Rs. 6 lakh crore, stock market experts said and added that in the last 6 sessions, the investors lost nearly Rs 10 lakh crore.

Similarly at the National Stock Exchange, Nifty closed down at 11,201 points registered the worst weekly loss since 2009. The downside was primarily

attributed to the spread of coronavirus across the globe. Sell-off was seen across sectors. Here are some of the major single-day crashes in the past that you should know about.

The shares of Banks, automobile companies, oil and gas, pharma, metal, FMCG and power suffered the most. The shares of Tata Steel, Tata Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Infosys, Mahindra and Mahindra and ONGC fell by 5.31 per cent.



Sunday, March 1, 2020

# A fish in the jar

By-  
Dr Nunglekpmi Premi Devi  
Independent Scholar



She swims slightly and she floats feathering;  
She flaunts her color red, yellow and electric blue;  
Her wings spread out scattering, gold brown  
Red and blue; green and yellow; orange and black;  
He Swim and she swims as knew no boundary;  
Her hairs so tangle slimy floating afloat widely;  
Help her and help her out and in up and down;  
Shinning through the watery body;  
Passing it again and out; Oh! The golden creature;  
Oh! you the survivor; the challenger of your world;  
Nature! Your best option, you the eye catcher;  
The holder of beholder; the purple of each eye;  
Flapping and fluttering; waving and wagging;  
Shaking and swimming; vibrating and twitching;  
Out and in; to and fro; catching and Deeping;  
Up and down; waving and swimming;  
You hold and you bewitched and you seduces;  
Like a shadow you float and you deep few steps;  
Into that glass jar of your life, tangling harder for a reason, life.

Make me happy; make me smiles all that I see you;  
Into your watery bowl; that shiny single pot;  
Cleaner the better you makes me see you;  
Like a mermaid you dazzle and shine and flaps;  
Enthralling and charming; the fascinating and absorbing;  
You moves a circuiting; your presence so warmly;  
Your attitude a mystery; your voice so tiny;  
Oh! the memory of living; you're such a change;  
Ocean! Your dream, glass lines your world;  
Pumping in and out; your gills so alluring attracting;  
Dirty and decaying; you stay afloat and swimming;  
Tiny and slimy you goes; fresher your world  
You stay happier ever the way you be;  
World! Your world so tiny and round, limited;  
Like a shadow you float and you deep few steps;  
Into that glass jar of your life, tangling harder for a reason, life.

## Healthcare Excellence Award to Dispur Hospitals



By a Correspondent  
Guwahati March 1

City based Dispur Hospitals has been conferred with Healthcare Excellence Awards 2020 by News18 Network for the successive second year. The premier healthcare organization of northeast India was handed over the certificate of appreciation for the best practice

in patient safety by Pijush Hazarika, Assam's minister of state (independent) for health and family welfare in a function held at Radisson Blu on 27 February last. Maintaining a complete patient safety measures, the hospital has conducted a large numbers of complicated operations including successful kidney transplants.

## 3 held in Manipur for skimming ATM cards

Agency  
Imphal March 1

Three persons have been arrested here for their alleged involvement in stealing ATM card details through skimming, a senior police officer said on Saturday. A 35-year-old man was caught by locals of Kwakeithel Sega Road area in the city while he was allegedly trying to steal debit card details in an ATM counter and later handed over to police on Thursday, the officer said. After interrogating the person, two others were apprehended from North AOC area,

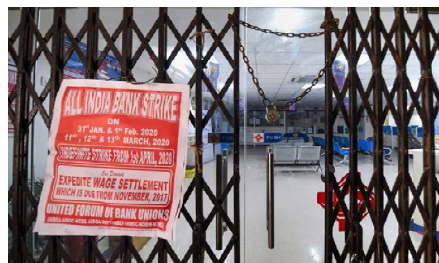
Superintendent of Police CID (Crime Branch) Joyce Lalremmawii said. Mobile phones, documents and details of many ATM cards were recovered from them, the police officer said. In a skimming fraud, hidden electronics device is used to steal the personal information stored on debit card. Of the three arrested persons, two are residents of Delhi while one is from Haryana, Lalremmawii said, adding that the accused reached the city on Wednesday. An investigation has already been initiated, the police officer added.

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail: [imphaltimes@gmail.com](mailto:imphaltimes@gmail.com). For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-2452159 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.

## The three day long strike by public sector banks deferred

By Raju Vernekar

The three day long strike from 11 March to 13 March by over 10 lakh employees across the country was deferred following "satisfactory" talks between representatives of nine bank employee unions and Indian Bank Association (IBA) Chief Rajkiran Rai on Saturday. In talks with IBA, apart from a 15 per cent increase (from earlier 12.5 per cent), in pay slip cost, progress was made on some of our other demands as well, United Forum Bank Unions (UFBU) said. "In Saturday's talks with IBA, apart from a 15 per cent increase in pay slip cost, progress was made on some of our other demands as well. In view of this positive development, our agitation has been suspended and the three-day strike has been deferred", UFBU said. Bank unions had threatened to go on a three-day strike from March 11-13 to protest over delay in pay revision and other demands. The strike was timed in such a way that it would have a major impact on the banking operations for around a week. The decision to defer the strike has given tremendous relief to bank customers during ensuing Holi festival since the strike would have



badly affected banking operations for nearly a week due to a series of offs...08 March 2020-Sunday, 09 March and 10 March-Holi, 11 March to 13 March-bank strike, 14 March-second Saturday and 15 March-Sunday. The unions were demanding a 20 per cent hike on pay slip components with adequate loading. In the latest round, IBA improved its offer to 12.5 per cent, which was acceptable to the bank unions. All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) said in a statement that in the bipartite meeting, which was held between the unions and IBA, discussions were held in respect of offer of increase in pay slip cost to 15 per

cent, demand for five-day banking among others. It also added that IBA has agreed to discuss all other issues raised by the unions. Our talks with IBA are moving in right direction and as such the strike has been deferred, the AIBEA General Secretary C H Venkatachalam said and added that hopefully employees' demands are expected to be resolved. Earlier the bank employees had joined Bharat Bandh on 8 January and had proceeded on strike on 31 January and first February. In Maharashtra around 40,000 employees and officers are working in nearly 10,000 banks. The employees affiliated to different unions including

AIBEA, AIBOC, NCBE, AIBOA, BEFI, INBEF, INBOC, NOBW and NOBO organised under the banner of the UFBU, have been protesting increase in workload, non-filling of vacancies, non-implementation of pay hike etc. The pay revision for employees of public sector banks is pending since November 2017. All the government schemes such as Jan Dhan, Mudra, Adhar Linkage, Social Sector Insurance Scheme, Social Sector Pension Schemes, Digital India, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana etc. are centred around banking. These schemes have drastically increased the workload at the counter. On the other hand, banks have not filled in vacancies arising out of death, resignation, retirements and promotion. "In last bipartite, weekly off on Two Saturday were given. This time with the extension in alternative banking channel such as ATM, Mobile Banking, RTGS, NEFT, NET Banking and digital banking initiative of the government, we have demanded weekly offs on all the remaining Saturdays. Besides updation of pension and improvement in family pension to the retirees" is another demand, UFBU Convenor Devidas Tuljapurkar said.

## Awareness camp conducted at the border of Assam

IT News  
Tamenglong, March 1

Zeliangrong Baptist Association in collaboration with Tamenglong District Working Journalist Union (TADWJU) conducted one day awareness camp on sensitization of media role at Aben village, Tousem sub-division Tamenglong district. Hillson Angam, Advocate, Manipur High Court, Anthony Gangmei DIO i/c, DIPR Tamenglong, Agui Kamei, Correspondent, All India Radio & DD News, Jimmy Pamei, Editor, Tamenglong Times, Ringbam Kamei, Editor, The Ganphiu Mail and Dinthuingam Pamei, Executive Editor, The Cham attended the awareness camp as a resource persons. Jimmy Pamei, Editor speaks on the topic "Spread your wings Expand your circle, explains about the importance and the role of making and expanding your friends circles. Anthony Gangmei DIO i/c Tamenglong talk about the Social Media in a Rural Development. He said that role of social media plays a very important role in developing our



society. Through this social media technology we can put up our grievances and developmental work through video and pictures since social media has the ability to reach a huge number of people in any parts of the globe added Anthony Gangmei. Ringbam Kamei, Editor, The Ganphiu Mail highlighted about the Role of the Fourth Estate in Democratic Society. Though Judiciary, Legislative and Executive plays a very important role in a democratic society media plays as a watchdog (fourth pillars) in checking cheques and bounce of all the three pillars. Dinthuingam Pamei, Executive

Editor, The Cham, express about importance of Press and Media in a nutshell. He also request the parents and the youth of Aben village to take up journalism course since this profession has a very good scope to get job in govt and private organisation. Tamenglong AIR correspondent, Agui Kamei talks about the topic on Media and Public Relation for all round development. He asserted the public attending the awareness program to always co-ordinate with the media in highlighting their grievances. He added that through media your voices can be heard and communicated directly to the higher

authorities. Hillson Angam, Advocate, Manipur High Court speaks on the topic Enforcing our Rights through Public Interest Litigation. He talks about the importance and the ways how to use the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in a right way. In case if the village authorities or an individual is not satisfied about the work done by the government in your areas the village authorities or an individual can file for PIL added Hillson Angam. Village chairman, church leaders, CSO as well as youth from 11 villages in an around Tousem sub-division attended the awareness program. After the formal session was over an interactive session and plan of Action was discussed with the public. During the discussion hour one Heusuaning Daine, age about 107 years old express about his unhappiness about the present government and the elected leaders for not maintaining about the road condition of Tousem sub-division. Around 56 people attended the awareness program yesterday.

## Assam Rifles Inaugurates living centre and toilet block at orphanage home, hnatham village chandel

IGAR (South)  
Imphal March 1

Chandel Battalion of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) constructed a "Living Centre" and "Toilet Block" at Orphanage Home, Hnatham village in Chandel District under Operation Sadbhavana. An inaugural ceremony was jointly organised by the Chandel battalion and Orphanage Home in which the Living Centre was finally handed over to the Children of Orphanage. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the 70 people



including children. In addition, an Electric Water Pump along with water pipeline was also installed to the water tank and a commercial

RO system installed earlier by the battalion. The project was the initiative of the Assam Rifles after considering the living condition of the Children during one of the Medical Camps organised by the battalion last year. It was found that the due to poor living condition and non availability of toilet children were suffering from the various infections. Considering the health condition of children, the case for Living Centre and Toilet projected was approved immediately without any delay. The Orphanage Home has been adopted by the Chandel battalion in order to look after the children with all possible means

and further contribute in the improvement of the home. During the inaugural function Commander 26 Sector Assam Rifles interacted with children and assured that the Assam Rifles will continue helping children and guide them to achieve greater success in life. Chandel battalion has been making continuous efforts to address the grievances and ensure a better and dignified living standard of children at the Orphanage home. A number of initiatives have been taken up by the battalion to include infrastructure and provisioning of sports items to the children of orphanage home. Regular medical assistance is also being provided to maintain health and hygiene of the children. The caretakers and villagers of the orphanage home conveyed their heartfelt gratitude to the Assam Rifles for the noble gesture by constructing living centre at orphanage home for such large strength of orphans. The Assam Rifles also assured continuous support for the well being of the children and helping the children to achieve greater success in life.

## Name changed

I, the undersigned, Yumnam (Ongbi) Ranibala Devi, a residence of Singamei Wangma Kshetri Leikai (Akampat), Imphal East district, do hereby declare that I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of my old name Lailenlakpam Ranibala Devi as I have assumed my new name as Yumnam (Ongbi) Ranibala Devi.

Sd/-  
Yumnam (Ongbi) Ranibala Devi  
W/O Yumnam Bale Singh  
Singamei Wangma Kshetri Leikai (Akampat),  
Imphal East district