

December 22, 2003

Press Release No. 715/03

SELLING OF GOODS ON NH-40 PROHIBITED

Shillong, December 22, 2003: To avoid frequent and unavoidable traffic jams and danger to life and property, the District Magistrate, Ri Bhoi District, Nongpoh, has prohibited selling of goods by vendors and hawkers on both sides of the National Highway 40 under the District, especially at Nongpoh. This order will come into force with immediate effect and remain in force until further orders.

Press Release No. 716/03

ADVANCE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATED AT BHOIRYMBONG

Shillong, December 22, 2003: The Umroi Constituency Advance Christmas Committee on December 20 last, organised the Advance Christmas Celebration at Kurkalang Playground, Bhoirymbong where the Mr. W L Lyngdoh, Deputy Commissioner, Ri Bhoi District was the Chief Guest. The celebration was presided over by Mr. S W Rymbai, local MLA and Minister of State.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Lyngdoh stressed on the need for peace by saying that if there is no peace in our hearts, it is of no avail to adore God and moreover development finds no place if peace does not prevail. He therefore, congratulated the MLA and the organising Committee for the bold initiative in bringing together the people from different faiths to jointly celebrate the Christmas in advance. Further, he stressed upon the need of concerted efforts in maintaining peace in the village, District and the State as a whole, for the accelerated development and benefit of the people.

Rev. Fr. C Malngiang, Parish Priest, Mawbri, in his speech, reminded the people that in every Christmas Card there are always stars and the word 'Peace' which clearly indicates that Christ, comes to this world to bring light and peace. He therefore, called upon each and every one especially the Christians to be the instruments of peace which Jesus Christ has given us. He added that bloodshed and unrest prevail all over the world because the real meaning of peace has not been instilled in the mind of the people. He therefore, called upon the people to make Ri Bhoi the dwelling place of peace.

Apart from Christmas songs and Choirs presented by different groups and individuals, blankets was also distributed as Christmas gift to the poorest families of the Constituency. Others who spoke on the occasion were Rev. T Nongkseh, Mr. E Makri and Mr. S Lyngdoh.

SEMINAR ON PEOPLE'S EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Shillong, December 22, 2003: A one-day Seminar on "People's Education Programme" was organised by the Ri-Bhoi Area Welfare Association (RAWA) on December 18 last at Parish Hall, Umsning where Mr. W L Lyngdoh, Deputy Commissioner, Ri Bhoi District was the Chief Guest. The Seminar was sponsored by the Khadi Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Shillong.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Lyngdoh expressed his appreciation to the RAWA for organising such a programme that would benefit the students and the youths of the area. He said that Government jobs have reached a saturation point and therefore there is a need for the youths to find an alternative means by setting up Village Industries for their livelihood. He added that most of the people of the District are not aware of the importance of Village Industries and therefore urged upon the KVIC to help them understand the advantage of this trade so that they can set up Small Scale Industries.

As part of the programme, Essay and Debate competitions was also organised for the schools and college students including NGOs on the topic "Does Village Industries solve Unemployment?"

Others who spoke on the occasion included Mr. D Saikia, Assistant Director, KVIC, Mr. M M Syiemlieh, CEO, Khadi Board, Mr. K D Kharkongor, Asst. Agronomist, Mr. J K Blah, Secretary, Governing Body, Eastern Ri Bhoi College and Mr. B Rani, Director, RAWA. The meeting was presided over by Mr. S Swer, Secretary, Umsning Town Durbar.

DISTRIBUTION OF OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME

Shillong, December 22, 2003: The Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills, District Shillong has informed that the National Old Age Pension Scheme of Rs. 100 (Rupees one hundred) only per month w.e.f. 1.4.2003 to 31.7.2003 for the Existing Beneficiaries of both State and Central Share for Urban and Rural Areas will be disbursed immediately.

Those beneficiaries residing within Urban Areas are requested to contact Nazir, Deputy Commissioner's Office, Room No. 211 from 22nd December, 2003 onwards during office hours.

Those beneficiaries residing within Rural Areas, disbursement of the same will be made from the office of Block Development Officers concerned from 22nd December, 2003 onwards during office hours.

MASS AWARENESS PROGRAMME HELD

Shillong, December 22, 2003: The District Administration, East Khasi Hills in collaboration with the Brahmaputra Board organised a Mass Awareness Programme on the occasion of "Year of Freshwater - 2003" at the Shillong Club, on December 22, 2003. The Chief Secretary, Mr J Tayeng graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and the Commissioner and Secretary, Public Health, Mr B K Deb Berma, as the Guest of Honour.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Tayeng said that greed and wayward activities of people have led to the severe degradation of the environment, which in turn has resulted in the escalating water scarcity problems faced the world over. Drawing from examples closer to home, he said that once the Umkhrah and Umshyrpi, were the main water sources for the town of Shillong. Unfortunately, today the rivers have become dumping grounds and in turn, this has resulted in heavy siltation of the Umiam Lake as the rivers drain into the Umiam.

Mr Tayeng also informed that the Government of Meghalaya has submitted a proposal to the NEC to carry out de-siltation of the Umiam. The proposal, which is under consideration, will prove to be a great boon if approved. Furthermore, he also stressed on the need to carry out forestation programmes in and around catchment areas for the maintenance of ecological balance and regeneration of the water table. Keeping in mind the rural – urban migration, he urged upon the people to be judicious while utilizing water.

Earlier, Mr Deb Berma said that 1/3 of the world's population suffer from water scarcity and with the continuing demands for water in the agricultural, industrial sector etc, it is likely that the statistic will rise to 2/3. Furthermore, he also informed the gathering that out of 8,639 villages in Meghalaya, 8,445 receive clean drinking water and it is expected that by next year, the other 194 will also be covered. With the completion of the Mawphlang dam, he informed that the water supply would increase from 7 – 11 million gallons per day, which will go a long way in easing water stress faced by the State. He also informed that an AUSAID team will soon set office in the State to assist the State Government in identifying water related problems and help chalk out strategies to deal with them.

A message from the Minister of State for Water Resources, Mrs Bijoya Chakravarty was also read out on the occasion. Chaired by the Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills, District Mr D P Wahlang the awareness programme was attended by the representatives of government departments, NGO's and Rangbah Shnongs.

ADVANCE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATED

Shillong, December 22, 2003: Advance Christmas was celebrated today by the officers and staff of DIPR at the office premises.

The celebration included singing of Christmas songs followed by the light refreshment.

The Director of Information and Public Relations Mrs A M Sangma, MCS, along with her officers and staff conveyed their best wishes to everyone for a Merry X-Mas and also a happy and prosperous New Year.

25 YEARS OF ALBIN LAMARE MEMORIAL SEC. SCHOOL CELEBRATED

Shillong, December 22, 2003: The Albin Lamare Memorial Secondary School, Nongbah, Jaintia Hills District today concluded its Silver Jubilee celebration in the school premises where the Meghalaya Chief Minister, Mr D D Lapang was the chief guest. Minister for Higher and Technical Education, Mr M Suchiang was also present. The meeting was presided by the Minister for Agriculture, Mr K Susngi who is also the local MLA of the area.

Mr Lapang while congratulating the school managing committee for making the celebration a success and for having achieved a remarkable milestone in spreading education in the area, said that the founder of the school, Late Mr. Albin Lamare was a visionary on whose guidance the school has been able to sustain for imparting quality education which has produced quality persons occupying responsible positions both in the Government and the society. He felt that the school itself has become a monument in remembrance of Late Albin Lamare, whom he described as a man of deeds and not of words. He urged upon the students of the school to maintain the good name of the school and its founder and be determined to work hard for achieving their goals and to be assets to the society and the State as a whole.

Mr Lapang pointed out that the society these days lack quality leaders, he urged upon the students to work hard and emerge as good leaders of the society. He said that negative mindset and wrong attitude of the people should be abolished from the minds of the people and in this regard, education can play an important role, he added.

While stressing on the need to introduce vocational education in the schools, Mr Lapang said that with Science & Technology gaining popularity in the world, computer education is very important. He said that the youth should take up computer education as the job prospects are good which can help them get employment. He said that the students should not feel ashamed of their work, they should have dignity of labour, in this age where government jobs are all saturated, he added.

Concluding his speech, Mr Lapang lauded the efforts of the teachers both passed and present who have been working hard to impart quality education to the students of the school and he hoped that they could serve better. He also urged upon the parents not to hesitate to send their children to school as education is the only tool that could bring out the best in the human mind and bringing out a better person of a man.

It may be mentioned that Albin Lamare Secondary School was started in the year 1978 with an enrolment of only 9 students. It received deficit status in the year 1983. At present, the enrolment of students in the school is 224.

Among others who spoke on the occasion were Minister for Higher and Technical Education, Mr Mihsalan Suchiang, local MDC, Mr S Garod and the Deputy Commissioner Jaintia Hills, Mrs. L Kharkongor.

The other highlights of the day were bamboo dance, plate dance and songs performed by the students of the school.