

MORNING NEWS

0730 HRS

21st MAY, 2018.

Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has said that although the states of the North East may have different background, history and culture, the region is one entity and unless the sister states co-exist with one another, it will face problems. Addressing the 3rd Conclave of the North East Democratic Alliance in Guwahati yesterday, Rio said, “we need one another and we have to co-exist”. Stating that the Naga political issue with ceasefire and peace talks was going on for the last 21 years, Rio expressed optimism that the issue would be resolved soon and lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP led NDA Government’s sincerity towards the Naga peace process. In this, he sought the support of sister northeastern states while also assuring them that Nagas do not mean to go against any State or people. Rio affirmed that the apprehensions which they fear would be mutually agreed upon so that all co-exist in harmony.

<><><><><>

The All Nagaland College Students’ Union, ANCSU has reiterated the demand for opening of a separate scholarship cell in the State for implementation of various schemes for the benefit of the students. ANCSU officials in an interaction with media persons said that NPF government during its end tenure last year had accepted the proposal but the new government has not been paying any heed. ANCSU vice president Benjong Longchar said that several schemes are being implemented by various government departments while some departments are simply misusing it as students are unaware of the schemes. In this, he said that opening of a totally separate scholarship cell would help create better awareness. Meanwhile, Longchar also informed all beneficiaries for 2016-17 session, who have not received their scholarship to contact ANCSU office or the Department of Higher Education.

<><><><><>

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Command, Lieutenant General Abhay Krishna yesterday undertook assessment of Assam Rifles operations along the Indo-Myanmar International Border along Nagaland sector. PRO Defence Col. C Konwer in a release said that the GoC-in-C was in Nagaland as part of his ongoing visit of Spear Corps Zone since Saturday. He said that the General Officer as part of the operational assessment visited the forward Assam Rifles post at Longwa in Mon district as well as the Assam Rifles Sector Headquarters in Tuensang district. He said that at the two locations, the General was briefed on ongoing operations by Assam Rifles commanders responsible for border management operations on the ground. The General has reportedly expressed satisfaction over the hard-work and operational acumen of Assam Rifles. He departed for Kolkata last evening. Meanwhile, Col Konwer also informed that the earlier scheduled visit of the Union Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman to Spear Corps Zone yesterday did not materialise due to unforeseen technical contingencies.

<><><><><>

With around one thousand 521 AIDS related deaths reported since 1999, Nagaland yesterday observed 35th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial with a call for Legislators Forum on AIDS, LFA and the policy makers, including NSACS to recommit themselves towards preventing further AIDS related deaths in the State. Different organisations working on creating awareness and various HIV/AIDS related programmes in the State came together at RHFPC Satellite Centre in Kohima in solidarity with those who died due to the virus. President of Access to Rights and Knowledge, ARK Foundation, Ketho lamented that in treatment sector Nagaland is faced with significant challenges including shortage and stock outs of Antiretroviral Therapy, breakdown of CD4 machines, and the lack of a viral load machine. He said the approach strategy has to shift focus in preventing new infection in the state. Expressing that the major player to get this job done is not only Nagaland State AIDS Control Society but the legislators, he stressed on the need to reactivate NLFA. Senior Journalist H Chishi called for a concerted effort towards curbing further infection of HIV/AIDS in the State while also highlighting various policies and programmes of the government towards combating further HIV infection.

<><><><><>

