

Fighters put out grass fire near runway of VSI airport



TABASSUM

PORT BLAIR, FEB 28/-/ Fire fighters from almost all the fire stations of the city and security personnel from

INS Utkrosh rushed to the edges of the runway of Veer Savarkar International Airport here on Tuesday as fire broke out in the bushes near the runway and brought the blaze under control. Nature too played a crucial role as the direction of the wind prevented the fire from spreading into the tarmac area, according to reports.

The grass fire was reported inside the airport complex near the APWD Water Treatment Plant near Bhattu Basti at around 12.45 pm. Within minutes, the fire started engulfing the nearby bushes and staff of INS Utkrosh swung into action to douse the fire. A distress call was also sent to the Aberdeen Fire Station after which firefighters and tenders from the FS

Headquarters, Garacharma, Chatham were rushed to the spot. Some miscommunication, however, prevented the fighters from entering the airport complex after which the fire fighting operation was carried out from along the boundary wall of the airport. "The direction of the breeze proved crucial or else the fire could have spread quickly to the parking bay of the airport. The fire team, however, got their acts together and brought the blaze under control. Take off of some flights were delayed due to the grass fire," said a fire fighter requesting anonymity. Lauding his team, the Deputy Superintendent of Police (Fire Services), A&N Islands, Mr B Saigal denied any problem in the fire fighting operation due to denial of entry in the airport complex. "The grass fire was reported close to the boundary wall of the airport and as such the fire fighting team managed to quickly bring the fire under control.

EVENTS TODAY

FOUNDATION STONE: Chairperson, Municipal Council to lay the foundation stone for Volleyball Court at Haddo near Sulabh Toilet at 10.30 am.
SAILING: MV Bharat Seema to sail for Car Nicobar via Hut Bay at 8 am from Haddo wharf.
Camp: Port Blair Municipal Council to organize a camp on Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (HFA) in the community hall of Prothrapur from 10 am to 1 pm and from 4 pm to 6 pm.
NSS CAMP: NSS Wing of JNRM organizing NSS Special Camp 2017 at Birsra Nagar, Attam Pahad, Till March 3.

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Picture shows free LPG connections being issued to BPL families under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna on Tuesday. At a function held in the auditorium of Zilla Parishad, Rangat, the first LPG connection was distributed to the beneficiary family by the Assistant Commissioner of Rangat, Dr Monica Priyadarshini in the presence of Dr. SP Bangal, Mr George Lulu, officials of the Indian Oil Corporation and CCS staff. (Pix: V SETHIL KUMAR)

Smoke from Brookshabad dumpyard risks health of MGIS students



MSURESH KUMAR

PORT BLAIR, FEB 28/-/ For hundreds of students of Mahatma Gandhi International School, it is a dismal life studying at an institution close to city's main dumpyard. Extensive quarry operations, dumping and disposal of garbage, round the clock burning of garbage, air thick with smoke and stench encompassing the school campus and adjoining residential areas is posing serious health hazards for the school

students. Worst affected are the inmates of the Boarding School who are forced to bear the unbearable 24x7 throughout the academic year. Parents, who admitted their wards in the institution, have now started voicing demands for a permanent solution and shifting the dumpyard to some other location in the interest of the students and residents of the area.

"The thick smoke around the school premises which prevails throughout the day due to continuous burning of

garbage poses serious health hazards. Students and staff are being exposed to long-term health risks from exposure to dust, smoke such as bronchitis, asthma and, in extreme cases, cancer. During school hours, students often complain of suffocation, headache after inhaling the smoke emitted from burning of different types of garbage. Inmates of the school's hostel are the most affected. The school management is under extreme pressure from parents, who are demanding a permanent solution to the problem. Residents of nearby localities around the garbage dumpyard have also complained to the civic authorities about the perilous conditions in the past, but to no avail," said a staff of MGIS, who didn't wish to be quoted.

POLICE FILES

TABASSUM

Theft at courier agency

PORT BLAIR, FEB 28/-/ Unidentified persons sneaked into the office of a courier agency located at Dean Street, Junglighat and decamped with consignments of customers containing various items on February 24. In the statement to the police, Arabinha Mondal, branch manager of ITC Courier Express Ltd said that several packages containing items like Power Bank, USB wall socket, slimming belt, headphones, selfie stick etc were found missing from the office premises. The police have registered a case under section 454/380 IPC.

Fire accidents

Two minor fire mishaps have been reported from different regions on February 24. In the first incident, fire fighters doused grass fire at Kakana village in Car Nicobar. Careless smoking is believed to be the reason for the fire. In another accident, fire fighters rushed to Mathura in South Andaman to put out fire in a tree.

IDO cautions members

PORT BLAIR, FEB 28/-/ The general body meeting of Island Development Organization (IDO) held at Haddo recently elected Mr. B. K. Chauhan as president. Mr. Mohan Raffique as vice president, Mr. Selvam as general secretary and Mr. Arockia Rajas treasurer of the organization. The newly elected president, Mr. B. K. Chauhan dissolved all the committee and units of the organization with immediate effect. Mr. Chauhan requested the general public, administration, officials of various departments to report any misuse of the organization name by any unauthorized person immediately to the headquarters or e-mail: idosouthandaman@gmail.com or share at www.facebook.com/idoango2001. Strict action will be initiated against members found engaged in illegal activities, he said.

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