

Agartala Book Fair to have 150 stalls

The 37th Agartala Book Fair is about to open from February 15 at the Children's Park, Agartala. In this connection a meeting of the management committee was held at Rabindra Shatabarshiki Bhawan yesterday. Deputy Chief Minister Jishnu Dev Varma, Education Minister Ratan Lal Nath, Mayor of Agartala Municipal Corporation Prafullajit Sinha, MLA Ashis Kumar Saha, director of ICA Ashudeb Das and other members of different sub-committees were present in the meeting.

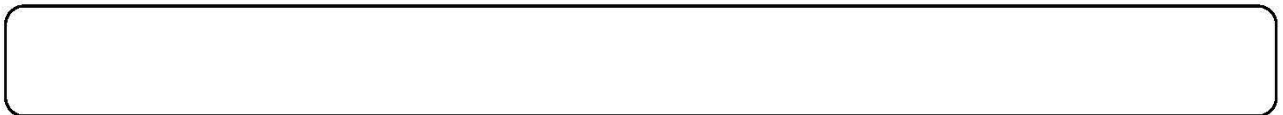
It was informed in the meeting that this year 150 stalls will be there in the book fair. Publishers and sellers from West Bengal, Delhi, Assam, Tripura and Bangladesh will take part in it. Moreover, from February 16 throughout the fair seminar on different topics and *kavi sammelan* will be organised at the fair ground. International Mother Tongue Day falls on February 21. Artistes from Bangladesh will present cultural function that day. A total of 950 artistes are supposed to participate through 12 days of the fair. On the last day i.e. February 26, prizes will be distributed in different sections. Organised by the ICA department at the fair a souvenir will also be released.

Progress of national highway projects reviewed

A high level review meeting chaired by the Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb was held at the secretariat yesterday to review the progress of work of different national highways in state. The Chief Minister said, all the projects taken up for development and maintenance of national highways have to be completed in time, for that there should be daily target. He was of the view that once connectivity through waterways is established with Bangladesh more vehicular movement through Tripura is expected. In view of this national highways have to be made fit for heavy vehicles.

During the meeting the Chief Minister asked the PWD to take initiative to get forest clearance for land acquisition. He also directed the engineers of the department to execute works after field inspection only.

Taking part in the meeting the principal secretary of PWD informed, total length of the six national highways in the state is 853.81 km. Of this upgradation work of 133.21 km. has been completed. Work is going on for rest 47.50 km. Tender has been called for 78.54 km. Road and tender is likely to be floated very soon for another 25



the aegis of Khowai Municipal Council. Organised under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana's National Urban Livelihood Mission the festival was inaugurated by social activist Subrata Majumder. Among others present were former MLA Biswajit Datta, noted social activist Samir Das. Welcome address was given by vice chairperson of Khowai Municipal Council Debasis Nathsharma and chairperson Usha Bhattacharya (Biswas) presided over the programme.

On this occasion cheque of Rs. 10,000 revolving fund was given to each of 12 self help groups. Moreover, gas connection was given to ten families under Ujjwala Yojana, loan approval letters to two persons under Swabalamban scheme, and passbooks were handed over to three persons under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and passbooks of Pradhan Mantri Jandhan Yojana were handed over to two persons.

Gas connections under Ujjwala Yojana at Poangbari

An awareness camp on Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana was held at Poangbari BAC hall under the aegis of Poangbari block yesterday. Free gas connections

were distributed among 140 families in the camp. Additional DM Santosh Das, SDM, Sabroom Biplab Das, BDO of Poangbari Sanjib Chakma and officer of food, civil supplies and consumer affairs Subrata Das were present and handed over credentials of gas connection. Additionally 180 applications were received from people for giving LPG connections.

Irrigation facilities created under Pradha Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana

Under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, water bodies were created and renovated for creating irrigation facilities in Jirania subdivision under West Tripura district during the current financial year. It was informed from the West district agriculture and farmers' welfare department that under the scheme 217 new ponds were dug, five checkdams were constructed and 129 water bodies were renovated in Jirania subdivision. Of these, 137 new ponds were dug and five check-dams were constructed and 97 old water bodies were renovated in Jirania agricultural subdivision. Resultantly irrigation facilities have been extended over 170.93 ha. land of 855 farmers of the

