

## State level basketball tournament opens at Charilam



*Pic. By Kakali Bhowmik, ICO*

Sports play a significant role for developing a healthy body and healthy mind and for a self-reliant life one needs to have a healthy body, stated the deputy chief minister Jishnu Dev Varma after opening the state level three-day under-17 boys and girls basketball tournament at Charilam H.S. School on December 1. There the deputy chief minister also inaugurated a basketball court.

Addressing the audience the deputy chief minister said, Northeast is a powerhouse of sports. Sports talents of the region like Mary Kom, Somdev Barman, Deepa Karmakar, Hima Das have brought fame for the country. He said, the state government has taken various initiatives for the development of different sports including basketball in the state.

Sabhadhipati of Sepahijala Zilla Parishad Supriya Das Datta graced the occasion as the chief guest. Welcome address was given by sports officer Dr. Bharati Nigam. Among others present there were chairman of Charilam Panchayat Samiti Rakhi Kar Das, social activist Anjan Purkayastha, director of youth affairs and sports department Subikash Debarma, DM of Sepahijala Viswashree B, BDO of Charilam Joydeep Chakraborty, eminent basketball player Litan Sarkar and joint secretary of Tripura School Sports Board Dibyendu Datta. A total of 109 boys and girls from Khowai, Dhalai, Gomati, Sepahijala, West and South Tripura district took part in the programme.

## Plans are there to set up a national level institution to provide better medical services to the HIV infected: CM on World AIDS Day



Plans are there to set up a national level institution in the state to provide better medical services to the HIV infected

persons, stated the chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb in a programme organised with the initiative of family welfare and preventive medicines department on the occasion of World AIDS Day yesterday at Pragna Bhavan. 'End Inequalities, End AIDS, End Pandemics' was this year's theme of World AIDS Day by Tripura State AIDS Control Society. A few persons were felicitated on this day for setting a unique example of paying their service despite being HIV infected and returning to normal life. The chief minister officially launched the web portal of AIDS Control Society. He hoped for everyone's cooperation to take responsibility on World AIDS Day towards building drug and HIV free Tripura.

The chief minister in the programme said, protecting the youth from the evil forces like drugs requires a concerted effort of all including women to prevent HIV infection. The state government is keeping a close eye on the recent HIV infection statistics. Necessary instructions have been given to provide appropriate medical services through early detection of the infected persons. Various voluntary organisations including NSS may be involved in this mission. The chief minister emphasized taking treatment at the right time without hiding the possibility of being infected.

The chief minister instructed department officials to solve a problem going into the root of it. He also instructed to do more tests where there are abnormal infection rates in order to identify and evaluate the cause of increasing infections. He said, one of the conditions to prevent HIV infection is to keep the youth away from using drugs and syringes. Besides treatment, first and foremost a change of mindset is needed in this regard. He emphasized bringing back those who have been HIV infected or mistakenly intoxicated into the mainstream of life in a friendly way without treating them as untouchables. He said, the government is working on a plan to set up a national level medical centre with modern facilities to provide better treatment to the HIV infected persons. Women must play a leading role in keeping the young generation free from the grip of drugs. He called upon the people of all sections of the society to work together for the control of diseases like HIV infection and drug addiction in a concerted effort by the social education and social welfare department, education department, police administration and other departments.

Social education and social welfare minister Santana Chakma said, prevention of AIDS first and foremost requires a

thorough understanding of AIDS. Instead of forcing someone to leave this path, success can only be achieved by giving them proper treatment after proper counselling. Social pensions are being provided by the social welfare department to the eligible beneficiaries among the HIV infected. In addition to that, newly infected ones are being enlisted for the same.

Others present in the programme were ICA minister Sushanta Chowdhury, principal secretary of health J.K. Sionha, director of family welfare and preventive medicines department and director of AIDS Control Society Dr. Radha Debbarma, and director of health Subhashish Debbarma.

### **Santirbazar MC gets new office building**

The new building of Santirbazar Municipal Council office was inaugurated by the social welfare and social education minister Santana Chakma on November 30. The building has been built with an expenditure of Rs. 252.71 lakh. Among others present on the occasion were MLA Pramod Reang, Sabhadhipati of South Tripura Zilla Parishad Kakali Das (Datta)

who presided over the programme, Saha Sabhadhipati Bibhishan Chandra Das, BAC chairman of Bokafa RD block Gouri Shankar Reang, SDM of Santirbazar subdivision Abhedananda Baidya and other dignitaries.



*Pic. By Rakshit Debbarma, ICO*

Speaking on the occasion the social welfare and social education minister lauded the sincerity and dedication of the officials involved in the successful construction of the building and hoped that this would usher in a new chapter for the residents of the area. She said, the government is looking forward to increase mandays under TUEP for the interest of common people and urged the elected members and local administration to work together for the development of the people. MLA Pramod Reang said, the local administration has already mapped the Santirbazar MC area for implementing various development activities.