

Commandant Ngamlien Touthang, brave son of Manipur conferred with two bravery awards

Courtesy :
Doungel Inpi, GHQ

On the eve of 72nd Independence Day, a brave son of Manipur, Commandant Ngamlien Touthang, Commanding Officer of Indian Coast Guard Ship *Rajkiran* based at Haldia was conferred with two highly coveted national level awards - 'Bravery award and Gallantry award'. The first one 'Bravery Award' is given by ABP News under the aegis of the irrunal event 'Jhanda Uncha Rahe Hamara' at a high profile event held at The Lalit Hotel, New Delhi on 13th August, 2018. The award comprising of a memento and cash prize of Rs. one lakh was jointly handed over to the Commandant by Union Telecom Minister, Manoj Sinha and Bollywood super star Akshay Kumar in the company of actress Mouni Roy. It was a moment of pride for the people of Manipur when Akshay Kumar saluted Commandant Ngamlien from the dais just before handing over the award and the entire hall was thundered with applause by the audience. While expressing his gratitude for the honour, Commandant Ngamlien highlighted that two-third of the earth is covered with sea and more than 80 per cent of international trade cargo is transported through sea route thereby making sea as the most important lifeline of any country, however, life at sea is always associated with danger. He dedicated his award to all those people engaged in providing search and rescue service to the maritime world. The second honour conferred to Commandant Touthang is Tatrakshak Medal (Gallantry) announced by Ministry of Defence on Independence Day. Commandant Touthang is among five gallantry award winners chosen from entire Indian Coast Guard. Both the awards were given in recognition of his heroic act in rescuing 22 crew from a burning merchant vessel SSL Kolkata on 14th June, 2018 in Bay of Bengal at about 90 nautical miles from Haldia. Being Commanding Officer of ICGS *Rajkiran*, the officer was



tasked for urgent rescue of 22 crew of MVSSL Kolkata reportedly on major fire in Sand heads area at 2330 hrs on 13th June, 2018. He immediately recalled his ship's company and sailed from Haldia at 0115 hours on 14th June, 2018 with one main engine non-operational and gyro compass not settling amidst fast receding tide. Due to prevailing South West monsoon and development of low pressure in North East Bay of Bengal, sea state was 4, with wave height 2-3 meters and wind speed 25-30 knots was encountered. He motivated his team to stand up for the noble and humanitarian mission and they endured ahead towards the last position provided by CG Dornier. The ship arrived at the position of the distressed vessel at 0945 hrs and observed mid-portion of the container vessel on fire with intermittent explosions and dense smoke. Undeterred by all these odds, the officer bravely and skillfully carried out various challenging manoeuvring employed innovative techniques to remain close to the leeward side of the distressed vessel to pass the gunline to the crew abandoned in life raft. After undertaking various hair raising and daring manoeuvres for five hours

amidst bad weather, engulfing flames, dense smokes and explosions, the officer and his men finally picked up all 22 crew safely. Besides this operation, the officer has always been at the forefront of other successful rescue operations undertaken by the ship. While he was Executive Officer of ICGS *Rajkiran*, the officer played key role in another successful rescue operation on 5th June, 2017 wherein six drowning fishermen clinging onto a partially sunken boat amidst inclement weather were timely located and safely rescued by the ship off Odisha Coast. Thus, in two major and daring SAR operations amidst adverse weather conditions, the Officer contributed immensely in rescuing 28 precious lives at sea. Commandant Ngamlien Touthang hails from Molkon Village, Kangpokpi District and is the seventh son of late Luncholet Touthang. He joined the Indian Coast Guard in 2006 as Assistant Commandant in General Duty branch. This is the second command appointment held by the officer and was earlier honoured with DCGG Commendation. The commandant is married with Mrs Boinu Touthang hailing from Bijang, Churachandpur and has three lovely sons.



Putin calls on Europe to rebuild Syria so that refugees can return

Agency
Berlin, Aug 19

Russian President Vladimir Putin called on Europe to financially contribute to the reconstruction of Syria to allow millions of refugees to return home. "We need to strengthen the humanitarian effort in the Syrian conflict," he said yesterday ahead of a meeting with his German counterpart Angela Merkel at the government retreat of Meseberg castle 70kms (45 miles) north of Berlin. "By that, I mean above all humanitarian aid to the Syrian people, and help the Syrians where refugees living abroad can return to." There are currently one million refugees in Jordan, the same number in Lebanon, and three million in Turkey, Putin said. Germany has accepted hundreds of thousands of migrants since 2015 — the height of the migration crisis — which has weakened Angela Merkel politically and split the European Union. "This is potentially a huge burden for Europe," Putin said. "That's why we have to do everything to get these people back home," he added,

emphasising the need to properly restore basic services such as water supplies and healthcare. Merkel said the priority in Syria was "to avoid a humanitarian catastrophe", but did not give any further details. Also on the agenda for the two leaders is the Ukraine crisis, which "unfortunately does not advance at all", Putin said. The Minsk agreements, a peace process sponsored by Germany and France aimed at ending the conflict in eastern Ukraine, is at a standstill, Merkel said, pointing at the absence of a "stable ceasefire". A United Nations mission on the ground, which will be discussed during the talks, "could perhaps play a pacifying role" in the region, she said. Earlier, Germany's foreign minister Heiko Maas said he was "relatively optimistic about the chances of a United Nations mission", telling the Die Welt newspaper: "We want to give a new dynamic to the Minsk process." Russia is accused by Kiev and Westerners of militarily supporting the separatists in eastern Ukraine, which it denies. Economic cooperation, particularly over energy, was also billed as a central theme

in the discussions. Russia and Germany are partners in the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline, a project criticised by US President Donald Trump due to Berlin's reliance on Moscow. Ukraine worries that the Nord Stream 2 Baltic Sea pipeline from Russia to Germany will transport gas now flowing through its territory and deprive it of crucial transit fees. Russia has shut off gas supplies to Ukraine in the past, having knock-on effects in the European Union. "Ukraine must, in my opinion, play a role in the transit of gas to Europe", even after the start of Nord Stream 2 in 2019, the German Chancellor said. Putin once again defended the project "which addresses the growing demand of the European economy for energy resources". "I want to stress here that Nord Stream 2 is only an economic project and it does not close the door to the continuation of gas transit through the territory of Ukraine," he said. In July, Putin assured that Russia was willing to keep Russian gas flowing through Ukraine after the pipeline was commissioned, but without going into details on volumes or tariffs.

Prez Kovind enquires about flood situation in Kerala

Agency
New Delhi, Aug 19

President Ram Nath Kovind spoke to Kerala Governor P Sathiasivam and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan today to enquire about flood situation in the state. "He acknowledged the grit and resilience of the people of Kerala in coming together in this trying hour. Assured the people of the state that entire nation was with them," Rashtrapati Bhavan tweeted today. President Kovind expressed satisfaction that the Union and state governments were working together and in synergy in rescue and relief operations in the flood-hit state. "He praised relief agencies such as NDRF and public officials at state and central level for their response and commitment," it said. The death toll has touched 197 in the past 10 days. Many people are still stranded in their homes with no food and sheaths of water around them.

Imran Khan announces 21-member Cabinet; Qureshi gets foreign ministry, Umer finance

Agency
Islamabad, Aug 19

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has unveiled his 21-member Cabinet, most of whom previously held key posts in the regime of former dictator General (ret'd) Pervez Musharraf. Out of the 21 names announced, 16 will be ministers while five others will be advisers to Khan, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) spokesman Fawad Chaudhry said yesterday, hours after the cricket-turned-politician was sworn-in as the country's 22nd Prime Minister. According to the list shared by Chaudhry on his Twitter

account, veteran politician Shah Mahmood Qureshi will be the foreign minister. Qureshi, the vice president of the party, was the foreign minister from 2008 to 2011 under the Pakistan Peoples Party government when the 2008 Mumbai terror attack took place. He was in New Delhi when 10 Pakistan-based LeT terrorists attacked India's financial capital. Pervaiz Khattak has been appointed the defence minister while Asad Umer will be the finance minister. Khattak served as the chief minister of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province from

2013-18. Asad Umer is the son of former Lt Gen Mohammad Umer who was part of the Pakistan Army during 1971 war with India. The newly-announced Cabinet is expected to take oath tomorrow at the President's House. At least 12 members of Khan's Cabinet served under General (ret'd) Musharraf, The News reported. The new Cabinet includes a former spokesperson of Musharraf, his attorney and several members of his cabinet and core team, the paper said. The Cabinet members who served under Musharraf in

various capacities include Farogh Naseem, Tariq Bashir Cheema, Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Zubaida Jalal, Fawad Chaudhry, Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Shafiq Mehmood, Makhdoom Khuro Bakhtiar, Abdul Razak Dawood, Dr Ishtar Hussain and Amin Aslam, the paper said. Five of the new Cabinet members, including Khattak and Qureshi, had served as ministers in past Pakistan Peoples Party governments, it added. Sheikh Rashid from Rawalpindi has been appointed as the railway minister. He previously held the same portfolio under the Musharraf regime.

HC declines Afghan man's plea to direct wife, kids to return with him

Agency
New Delhi, Aug 19

The Delhi High Court has declined the plea of an Afghan national to direct his wife and their two children, who have obtained refugee status in India, to return with him, after the three expressed their unwillingness to live with him. The court also denied him visitation rights to meet his children whenever he comes to India noting that the two, aged nine and four years, have expressed their reluctance to meet him. A bench of justices S Muralidhar and Vinod Goel noted that the man's wife has obtained refugee status for herself and the two children under the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and their refugee ID cards are valid till April 12 next year. The court said there was nothing on record to indicate

any threat to the safety and security of the children or that they were in inconvenience or their overall development harmed during their stay in India. "Consequently, the court has no hesitation as far as the present petition is concerned in declining the relief sought by the petitioner," the bench said while dismissing the man's plea. His counsel also sought an order regarding visitation rights to the father whenever he visits India. However, as the children were not inclined to meet him, the bench said it was not possible at this stage to issue any omnibus order regarding his visitation rights and that he may seek the relief in other appropriate proceedings available to him under the law. In pursuance to the court's earlier order, the children had met their father at the high court's mediation centre. The court noted that the

children were reluctant to meet their father and even his wife was unwilling to return with him. According to the plea of the Afghan national, he married the woman in 2008 in Kabul and two sons were born to them in 2009 and 2014. All of them had come to India on a tourist visa on February 18, 2017 and were staying in Kalkaji in south Delhi at a close friend's residence, the petition said. It also said that the wife had gone to a park with the kids on March 8, 2017, but did not return home.

The petitioner had then approached the police, but it lodged a complaint only on March 14 last year, the plea alleged. The police, thereafter, traced the woman and both she and her husband (the petitioner) were called to the Kalkaji police station on March 24 last year. At the police station, the woman said she does not want to live with him and it was then that he came to know that she and the kids have obtained temporary refugee status, the petition has claimed.

Original Admit Card and Mark sheet lost

I, the undersigned, Loitongbam Melody Chanu, studying class-XI at Kakching Khunou College, Kakching Khunou Umthel, Imphal, have lost my original Mark Sheet and Admit Card, registration No. 12922, bearing Roll No. 16696 of 2017 issued by the Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur, on the way between Pallel to Kakching Khunou on August, 12, 2018. Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Loitongbam Melody Chanu