



Glimpses of Ningol Chakouba 2018 in New Delhi, Organised by Airwarriors Air Force Station, New Delhi.

Countdown to 12th Manipur Polo International

Leishemba Takhellambam – A profile

The India B team for the 12th Manipur Polo International will see a fresh face in the form of Leishemba Takhellambam. Resident of Uripok Achom Leikai, Leishemba Takhellambam is the son of Takhellambam Babu Singh and Kojiam Rashi Devi. Besides, taking up horse riding and polo with utmost commitment, Leishemba is also pursuing academics seriously and is at present studying in Manipur University for his MA degree in Political Science. Like most polo players, Leishemba also began riding a horse at a very young age and by 14, started taking proper riding lessons from Salam Inaocha. His uncle T Naoba Singh who used to play the game was the initial inspiration for Leishemba. Leishemba recounts with gratitude the contributions of S Naba Singh, father of S Bimol, Salam Kumar and Pallungbam Jotin (Goroba) from whom he learnt the nuances of the game. Leishemba believes the game is greater than any individual player, and there is no end to learning. As he says, "I am any consider player who is my senior and who is more

experienced, my teacher and I have no hesitation in going up to him for guidance". Getting selected for Manipur team for him is a blessing, as he will have the privilege of playing alongside Pradeepkumar Bimol and Ojit who are vastly experienced. Leishemba also considers this tournament a god given opportunity to keenly watch the foreign players and possibly learn new techniques from them. Leishemba made his debut in state polo tournaments with Kripsa Polo Club, Naoremthong in 2012. The next year he shifted to Kangleipak Polo Students Club. In 2015, he played for Ibudhou Thangjing Polo Club and the next year he turned out for Imphal Riding Club. In 2017, he joined the Chingkhelunba Polo club, which proved to be a turning point in his career. The club went on to win the Governors Cup 2018 and was runners up in the N Hazari tournament 2018 and Leishemba earned a place in the Manipur team. Besides playing polo, Leishemba has also made a mark for himself in equestrian sports. In the 11th DGAR Cup State Equestrian Championship 2014 he was the champion in the Junior Tent Pegging event. He went on to repeat the feat in the next edition of the



Championship, thereby establishing his authority in this event. Leishemba believes it is important to love the pony if one wants to become a good polo player. "I should take good care of my pony, should think about him before myself, make sure he eats before I do, he should become my priority in every sense". For Leishemba, polo is a "man's game, you need a certain amount of daredevilry to play this game, if you are scared the horse will sense it and you will not be able to

control him". Leishemba nearly did not take up polo, as his father was dead against it and wanted his son to concentrate on his studies. But Leishemba, despite the strong disapproval of his father choseto follow his heart and by breaking into the state team has proved that studies and sports can go together. And, this must be one instance, where Takellambam Babu Singh must be most pleased to have been proved wrong.

Young director from Purul won award in Kolkata film fest

By a correspondent
Imphal, Nov 19,

A short film by a young and energetic film Director from Manipur's Senapati district won the best short film award in the week long Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) 2018 which concludes late last night.

The award carries a citation, a memento of Golden Royal Bengal Tiger and cash prize of Rs 5 lakhs. The 30 minute film called 'Look At The Sky' was written and directed by Ashok Veilou of Purul village, about 140 km north east of Imphal in Senapati district beat 11 other films, including Shaqyo Dey's 'Head' and Gaurav Madan's 'Sambavtaha' (Probably) for the highest paid film award for a short film competition in the world.

The film narrates about a man outcast by his village for not supporting the village candidate in the election. He shows courage and fights for his right. The film features Ngoale Hepunui of Koide village also under Senapati district in the lead role.

It is the second time that Ashok has won award at KIFF. His 'Tou-Tai' (Seed) had won the Golden Royal Bengal



Tiger for best Short Film in KIFF 2016. The 27 year old director who recently completed his 3 years PG in Direction and Screenplay Writing from the prestigious national film school of Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata, couldn't be contacted for his comment. He is the son of Thaipeter of Purul Village. According to family sources, Ashok is a very simple and down to earth person and continue to focus on his studies until the better result comes. Even the film which got award in the Kolkata festival was written and produced as a practical work during his PG course with shooting equipment and crew from outside the state.

Interestingly Ashok's elder brother Alexander Leo Pou's documentary film 'Pony Tale' also competed in the documentary category of the KIFF 2018 which showcased 171 feature films and 150 shorts and documentaries from 70 countries. But it could not get the award. Miss Pousheru Ngade also from Purul village, edited both films of the two brothers.

Manisha upstages reigning world champ as she joins Lovlina, Bhagyabati Mary Kom in quarters Sarita's pre-quarter loss stops India getting a Perfect 10

By a Correspondent
New Delhi, Nov 18,

Kellie Harrington from Ireland stopped what could have been a Perfect 10 for India when Sarita Devi got a split verdict against her (2-3) in the lightweight (60 kg) category as the 28-year-old Irish woman in the 10th AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships here yesterday. What turned the bout in favour of the Astana and European medal winner was the third round in which the Ireland pugilist was really charged and out-boxed her Indian veteran, who was returning to the Worlds after 12 years. But the 36-year-old definitely had the edge in the two earlier rounds. Three out of five judges gave 29-28 in favour of the Irish boxer.

"I thought I got unlucky. Some points did not go my way. But I will continue to box as long as I can," said a dejected Manipuri. But the loss was made up none other than the 35-year-old Indian icon, M.C. Mary Kom, Manisha Moun, Lovlina Borgohain and Bhagyabati Kachari who all marched into the quarterfinals on the fourth day of the championships. Just before Sarita Devi's bout, chasing her sixth world title, Mary Kom made it as easy as it can

get in her opening bout in the 48 kg class when she won a unanimous decision against Aigerim Kassenayeva from Kazakhstan. The experienced Manipuri sent down a few rights which brooked no challenge from her rival who, reeling under pressure, slipped twice before gathering herself up. But she was never able to match the guile and speed of a 35-year-old. Mary will take on Wu Yu of China in the quarterfinals on Tuesday afternoon. The Chinese had earlier beaten Filipino Josie Gabuo. Talking after the bout, Mary Kom said: "Feeling good, the pressure is off. I always enjoyed boxing, it has been my life whether I train or compete in tournaments," said the mother of three children.

"I am happy I lived up to expectations. I got doubly energized because of the support from my fans," added the pugilist before going for a cool-off session. On her Chinese opponents, Mary said: "She is a new entrant and I will have to see how to handle her." In the afternoon, Manisha outpunched her way to upstage reigning world champion Dina Zhokaman from Kazakhstan with a unanimous decision in the 54 kg pre-quarterfinals. It was Manisha's successive victory over the Kazakh whom the Indian had beaten in Poland recently. Manisha, having met her opponent once before, banked on her speed and evasive action to keep Zhokaman out of harm's way. The India's left-right and the straights made her a clear first-round winner but the experienced Kazakh came back aggressively in the second. Yet, did well in the third round despite raised

intensity and land a few combination blows even as Dina made good efforts, charging at the Indian. But it didn't matter in the end as the Haryana girl had full points from three judges to win 5:0. Asked about her strategy, Manisha said: "I had beaten her once before (in Poland) and I focused on speed and concentrated on target areas. I did well in the first two rounds but in the third it was more or less even." Manisha takes on top-seeded Stoyka Zhelyakova Petrova, who defeated Uzbek's Tursunoy Rakhimova 4:1, in the quarterfinals. The Bulgarian had won a silver medal at Astana and had started the championships here as a favourite medal contender. But Manisha is not worried yet. "Our coaches will tell me the way to stop her (Petrova) when we sit for a meeting today evening. I will also watch videos to plan things," said the 20-year-old Indian. Equally impressive was Lovlina in her 69 kg pre-quarterfinal bout against Panama's Atheyana Bylon, former world champion. Getting full points against the gold medal winner at Jeju in 2014 was as credible as it can get for the Indian who did leave a chance to throw punches at her rival right from the word go.

The tall Panama pugilist some startled by the Lovlina's charge and was tactically not as good despite her experience, having won multiple medals internationally. The outpaw did come at the Indian intermittently but Lovlina punched her way ahead, collecting the goodwill of judges on technical and tactical aspects (27-30, 27-30, 27-30, 27-30) to be a

clear winner. "I know it would be a tough bout. But I had the confident because I had prepared well. I had a good defence despite the tall opponent coming at good speed at me," said the Assamese, who will clash with Australian Kaye Frances Scott in the quarterfinals.

The Aussie beat Kazakhstan's Akerke Bakhytzhon in a unanimous decision. The 34-year-old has a silver medal from the last edition of the world championships at Astana besides a bronze medal from the 2018 CWG. But the Indian has the age on her side as she is just 21 years old and very nimble footed.

In the last bout of the afternoon, Baghyabati Kachari proved her prowess, beating Germany's Irina-Nicoletta Schonberger in a split verdict (4:1) in 81 kg category. After a very positive start and a grand opening, the Assam boxer was pushed somewhat on the back foot in the second with the German, cleverly using her reach to land a few combination punches.

But the strong Indian launched really nicely in the third as both pugilists went broke in the last minute. The points (29-28, 29-28, 29-28, 29-28) that the judges awarded indicate that the Indian was superior technically.

"Speed was essential against the German and I controlled it nicely. My coaches told me to keep it lower and I followed the direction. Ultimately, it paid off," said Baghyabati.

Day five witnessed a upset, top seed in Russian boxer, Anastasia Belakova lost to China's Yang Wenlu in the 60 kg category in a split decision of 3:2.

Attention readers

Imphal Times is looking for a desk editor and two reporters, who are well experience in the field of print media and who can write English and can read Manipuri. We are also looking for distributors on paid basis. Working hour for distributors will be from 4 to 7 pm, while working hour for Desk editor will be 12 pm to 4 pm. For reporter deadline for submitting story is 2.30 pm. Interested candidates can contact the Editor, Imphal Times during office hour or email their application along with their bio-data at imphaltimes@gmail.com.

One good news - Imphal Times is resuming 4 pages from the 2nd week of November this year. Besides, Imphal Times is also opening coaching for students wanted to choose the profession earliest by December 2018. Limited seats – first come first candidate will be given opportunity.

Sd/-
Manager