

## Countdown to 12<sup>th</sup> Manipur Polo International

### Edward Armstrong – the man behind USA team

By -Wahengbam Tiken

Come the Manipur Polo International season and one of the familiar faces you will come across is that of Edward Armstrong, the manager of the United States of America (USA) team. His association with this prestigious tournament goes back to 2013, when he sent the first ever USA team here. Though he did not accompany the team that year, he has been a regular in the other editions of the tournament including this year.

Edward calls himself an entrepreneur and a semi-retired polo player. He ran a hugely successful oil and diesel business in Boston for 20 years, which he sold off and presently works as a consultant, helping small businesses to organize themselves better. As for polo, Edward started



playing the game in his early thirties but at present, is concentrating more on the administrative part, like helping the United States Polo Association put together a team for this tournament.

Elaborating on the organizational structure and mission of USPA, Edward said that the USPA is made of volunteer board of directors and paid staffs. Almost all the states of USA are constituent members of USPA barring some exceptions like Alaska and Dakota. The primary mission of USPA, according to Edward is popularization of polo in schools, colleges and universities.

The Association runs a programme 'Team USPA', which identifies young talent, provide them assistance, give exposure to better polo and elevate their game. Many players have come up from this programme and made it to the USA

team. There are at around seven thousand to eight thousand polo players in USA and Edward believes "it is growing - not dramatically but steadily".

One of reasons why polo is not hugely popular like baseball or tennis, as per Edward is because of the, "huge commitment required in terms of time and money". Maintaining a horse is not just costly but is a lifelong commitment, "you can't throw away a horse just because you want to stop playing polo as you can a racquet when you want to give up tennis".

Polo in USA is played across ages - from school children to elderly people, and across level from amateurs to very high handicapped professional players. The country also has various types of polo clubs starting from amateur clubs, which play on farms to big clubs, which have their own polo fields complete with spectators' stand. USA also has various kinds of polo tournaments starting from National Amateur Cup to US Open, which is a high goal tournament. Presently, it has been degraded from 22 to 20 goals team tournament but at times it went as high as 26 goals tournament.

On this experience of the Manipur Polo International, Edwards revealed "the first thing that struck many foreign players was how small the Manipuri pony is but once they start riding it they realize how strong and sturdy it is. "I love the pony, I love the game and the tournament here is just another way of playing the game", confided Edward.

Edward is also highly appreciative of the warmth of the people of Manipur and their reverence of their culture and traditions. He was also quite impressed by the opening ceremonies of the Manipur Polo International, loved the trip and Loktak Lake and thoroughly enjoyed the cultural shows. And the warm friendships he struck here is something Edward will cherish forever.

## AMAND, Pune celebrates "Ningol Chakouba with traditional flavour



IT News  
Pune, Nov 21,

The Association of Manipuri Diaspora (AMAND) Pune, which is a registered non-profit, non-government community organization founded by working/retired Manipuri professionals residing in and around Pune, organized the most important & unique age old traditional 'Ningol Chakouba' with

its firm objective to foster the spirit of unity, harmony and goodwill amongst the brothers & sisters on Sunday, the 18th November 2018 at the Sonawane Sankin Institute, Wanore, Pune.

More than 350 individuals comprising of around 100 married ladies, 80 single ladies, 75 children and 100 gentlemen from different ethnic communities of Manipur staying in and around Pune attended the

program with great enthusiasm. Manipuri families from surrounding cities like Mumbai also attended the function. The Ningols came with 'athenpot' on their best Manipuri traditional attire.

AMAND, Pune organised this mega feast with delicious traditional Manipuri cuisines prepared by its own volunteered members and executives.

## Minister Nemcha Kipgen inaugurates innovative Solar Silk Reeling Cum Spinning Machine



DIPR  
Imphal, Nov 21,

Social Welfare and Cooperation Minister Nemcha Kipgen had inaugurated the Innovative Solar Silk Reeling cum Spinning Machine innovated by Manohar Manihar Sharma, in a function organised by Renu Handloom and Handicraft Co-operative

Society Ltd. held at Hotel Imphal, Banquet Hall yesterday. The project for this is implemented by Renu Handloom and Handicraft Co-operative Society Ltd. under the support of NABARD, Imphal, Manipur.

As part of the occasion, the innovative solar silk reeling cum spinning machine was thoroughly demonstrated at the venue by the innovator,

Shri Manohar Manihar Sharma, who is the Recipient of the 8th National Grassroots Innovation Award.

Speaking on the function as Chief Guest, Minister Nemcha expressed that with the incorporation of the innovative solar silk reeling cum spinning machine developed by M. Manihar Sharma, the Renu Handloom and Handicraft Co-operative

Society Ltd. will successfully and conveniently produce more silk products in the near future. She also extended her gratitude to the innovator for developing such machine in minimal budget as it will be beneficial for all the weavers of our state. She appeal all the weavers of Manipur to utilise such machine developed in our

state as it will boost the economy of the state.

Mentioning about the humble beginning of this cooperative society to being the Awardee of the National Award, Nemcha lauds Renu Arambam, Founder/Secretary of the Renu Handloom and Handicraft Cooperative Society Ltd. for her selfless determinations and for dedicating her whole life for the cause of a goodwill society by economically uplifting the poor and needy through this cooperative society.

It may be mentioned that Renu Handloom and Handicraft Cooperative Society Ltd. have 40 (forty) branches across the state as well as in different parts of the country and abroad. Principal Secretary, Co-operation, Government of Manipur, J.C. Ramthanga, IAS, General Manager/IOC, NABARD Regional Office, Imphal, Manipur and Secretary, The Renu Handloom and Handicraft Cooperative Society Ltd., Renu Arambam graced the occasion as Guests of honour and President respectively.

## Grand showcase of glamour at 55<sup>th</sup> Naga's Meet 2018, Delhi



New Delhi, Nov 21,

Fashion is something which connects everyone, whether he from any state, country or caste. Fashion unites and make a person feel confident about his or her personality. When it comes to Fashion, North East Fashion is most popular, and among all the tribes of north east, Naga's are one of the most stylish people with great sense of Fashion. But With growing modernism, people are forgetting their own culture and traditions, in an attempt to create awareness of Rich cultural heritage of Naga, Naga Students Union Delhi [ NSUD] Organised 55<sup>th</sup> Nagas' Meet at Jawaharlal Nehru stadium In New Delhi with theme "Reminiscing the Glorious Past, Celebrating the Present and Hope for the Future". The function was graced

by Chief invitee by Shri Tongpang Ozukum, Hon'ble Minister Public Works Department, Govt. of Nagaland and Shri Sapu Bhattacharyya, Managing Director, NEC Energy Private Limited as Guest of Honour; Shri K. James VR. RTD, MFS, Managing Director, NERFSLD, NERHOFIC Ltd., NESEE and Mr. Gawang Hakhun, President Naga Students Federation, Arunachal Pradesh as Chief Patron. This event witnesses more than 5000 Audience from all the tribes of Nagas from both states Nagaland and Manipur, Evening session witnessed two fashion Showcase by 7 Line Creation By lenti lyne rozhemai and Mai Collections which have its flagship store at safdarjung enclave in New Delhi. The Fashion show witnessed designs for male and female both, Main aim of this fashion

show was to promote the rich culture of Nagas, This show Opening featured Miss India Nagaland 2017 - Kaheli Chopy, followed by Mai collection show which showcased modern winter collection with naga tradition jewellery, showstopper for this show was Kenny awomi, who had walked at India Fashion week too. After this, 7 line creation showcased their garments, which was based on Modern naga fusion attire, the showstopper of this show was Ms. Wijadin Pamai, who is one of the growing Faces among North east models, also an model at Delhi Fashion club too. This Show was choreographed & directed by Mr. Harshit Dhangra from Delhi Fashion Club. Make up was done by vine, Hairstyling by Rinya and photography by nick wungsek.

## 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. 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