

Indian High Commission pays tribute to Dr Bhupen Hazarika on his 7th death anniversary at London

From a Correspondent
London, Nov 23,

The Indian High Commission in collaboration with FASS (Friends of Assam and Seven Sisters) paid tribute to Bhupen Hazarika, Shrandhanjali event at Gandhi Hall, India House on 16th November, 2018, was initiated by Rini Kakati, Assam Co-ordinator for UK, FASS (Friends of Assam and Seven Sisters) Syed Ifthar Ahmed, medical specialist, actor and a singer was invited from Assam to deliver a power-point presentation on Dr. Bhupen Hazarika - his life, works and achievements. Among the dignitaries present were Lord Dholakia, Navin Shah, London Assembly Member for Brent and Harrow, Mr. A.S. Rajan Minister Co-ordination, High Commission of India, Richard Blurton, curator of British Museum, Lalit

Mohan Joshi, Editor / Director, South Asian Cinema Foundation, Kaishash Budhwar, Former Head of Hindi and Tamil Section, BBC World Service, Vijay Mehta, United for Peace and Ayesha Hazarika, MBE, Scottish comedian, broadcaster, political commentator, and former political adviser to senior Labour Party politicians. The meeting was chaired by Rita Payne, President, Emeritus, Commonwealth Journalists Association. Dr. Nilmoni Sikdar, Bhabani Kakati, Sandip Sen and Shahadat sang the beautiful songs of Bhupen that were rendered in Assamese, Bengali and Hindi. The highlight of the event was 'Namami Brahmaputra' dance was performed by Ragasudha Vinjamuri and has also presented the Indian Classical Dance eight times on different themes and occasions at the Houses of British Parliament. Bihu dance



was performed by Lata Upadhyaya and joined by the crowd. Prabin Hazarika, the younger brother of Bhupen Hazarika from Leicester wrote an emotional poem 'A Departed Soul' which was recited by Rita Payne, President, Emeritus, Commonwealth Journalists Association. Brahmaputra, Bihu and Bhupen - The 3 B's that constitute the North-East. The restless jaborator, the great cultural hero, the great Assamese, the believer in

the power of the nation is no more. Now that mighty voice has fallen silent. Assam is poorer for it. The world is poorer for it. The doyen of Assamese culture, wanted to dispel the age-old anathema of racism and communalism through his works and drew inspirations from a plethora of socio-cultural events as well as a galaxy of great personalities of the world. Often hailed as a visionary, Dr. Hazarika was greatly influenced among others by Karl Marx, Maxim Gorky, Lenin, Paul Robeson,

Martin Luther King, Abraham Lincoln, Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi. The themes of social justice and revolution crystallised at a defining moment in Hazarika's life when he befriended US civil rights activist Paul Robeson, who told him the guitar was not just a musical instrument but an instrument for social change. Under Robeson's influence, Hazarika wrote and set to tune the evergreen Assamese song "Bistirno Parare" ("Bistirno Dupare" in

Bengali and "Ganga Behti ho kyon" in Hindi that had an echo of Roberson's masterpiece, "O Man River". A poet and lyricist whose vision has always been uncompromisingly humanistic. It is no doubt for this reason that his music has always been relevant, no matter at what point of time the lyrics were originally penned, no matter what language they have been later translated into, no matter what culture away from the once tranquil now turbulent lifestyle beside his beloved Luit (The river Brahmaputra). We must establish his place in the soul of humanity, whether it be India or UK. We must echo his belief that we are all one, we need to reclaim the voice which once spoke of and inspired the working classes, by singing his songs and carrying his flag - "Ami Asomiyi Nohou Dukhiya".

Assam Rifles Organises Interaction With Ex-Servicemen



IT News
Imphal, Nov 23,

With an endeavour to further strengthen bonds with the Veterans and to acknowledge their contributions made for the country during the prime of their lives, Mantripukhari Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organised an interaction with the Ex-Servicemen. The interaction was carried out to record the grievances of Ex-servicemen, widows

and their dependents to ameliorate any privation and hardships faced by them. The interaction also provided an opportunity to update Ex-servicemen about various new schemes and opportunities available for them. The interaction brought together the serving and the retired fraternity of Assam Rifles and the Indian Army. Each veteran went back from the venue re-assured of the care and empathy of the Assam Rifles.

India lodges strong protest with Islamabad against denial of access to Indian High Commission officials

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 23,

India has lodged strong protest today with Pakistan against harassment and denial of access to Indian High Commission officials despite having been granted prior travel permission. The Consular officials of the Indian High Commission were harassed and denied access yesterday and day before to the Indian pilgrims visiting Pakistan at Gurudwara Nankana Sahib and Gurudwara

Sacha Sauda. The External Affairs Ministry said the denial compelled the officials to return to Islamabad without performing their diplomatic and consular duties. New Delhi said that it is the third consecutive visit of the Indian Sikh pilgrims when Pakistan has prevented the High Commission officials from meeting the visiting Indian nationals on the pretext of security in order to deflect attention from Pakistan's violation of the international legal instruments and

conventions like the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. It said, this is also in breach of the letter and spirit of the 1974 Bilateral Protocol on visit to religious shrines and the Code of Conduct for the treatment of diplomatic or consular personnel in India and Pakistan. The External Affairs Ministry said, Pakistan has been reminded that this is in contrast to the treatment met out to their High Commissioner and the Consular officials in New

Delhi who have been provided full access to meet the Pakistani pilgrims who are currently in India on pilgrimage to Kalyar Sharif. New Delhi also expressed grave concern over reports of attempts being made during the ongoing visit of the Indian pilgrims to Pakistan, to incite communal disharmony and intolerance and promote secessionist tendencies with the objective of undermining India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The MEA said, Islamabad has been called upon to

take all measures not to allow its territory to be used for any hostile propaganda and support for secessionist tendencies against India in keeping with the commitments made under the Simla Agreement and endorsed in the Lahore Declaration. Pakistan has also been reminded that such actions are not in consonance with the stated intentions of Pakistan to facilitate the visits of Indian Sikh pilgrims, especially as India commemorates the 500th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji.

2017 - a watershed year for Manipur team



By- Wahengbam Tiken

When one looks back at the history of the Manipur Polo International tournament, the 11th edition will stand as a watershed moment for the Manipur team. When the team went into Manipur Polo International 2018, they were under tremendous pressure having lost the last two editions of the tournament. In the final of the 9th edition held in 2015, USA defeated India B represented by the state team 5-4, in a very keenly fought match which went into extra chukker, to earn the distinction of being the first foreign team ever to lift the Manipur Polo trophy. Ironically, Manipur had defeated USA 7-6 in the group match. The story was no different for the host team in the 10th edition of the tournament, where they lost in the final to Australia rather tamely by 6-9. Here again, Manipur had defeated Australia 7-4 in the group match. People then, had started raising doubts about the competence of the Manipur team to face up to the challenge of foreign teams who are getting the hang of playing polo on the Manipuri pony. Many had believed the dominance of the local team in this tournament was well and truly over. Against this background, the Manipur team led by T Pradeepkumar and comprising of S Bimol, P Ojit, L Atangba, Jogender Meitei and Th Jacob played some wonderful polo all throughout the tournament and by the time the curtains came down they had shown emphatically that the time has not yet come to write off the Manipur team. Manipur began their campaign in last year's edition with sound thrashing of

Morocco, defeating the African team 15-2 in their first group match. In the next group match, England was at the receiving end of the brilliance of the Manipur team losing by a huge margin of 8-3. Unlike the group matches, the semi-final match proved to be a very tough one. USA matched the host team in every department of the game and gave the fans of Manipur a fright. Eventually, Manipur scrapped through 7-6 to meet Argentina in the final. Argentina came into the final with a fair bit of confidence having defeated England comprehensively by a margin of 10 goals to 5. Earlier, in the group matches Argentina trounced the India A team 10-5 but in the second match they were held to a 4-4 draw by a strong showing from USA. The final match proved to be a sheer entertainer with fortune swinging from one team to the other. Manipur eventually emerged victorious defeating Argentina, one of the strongest polo playing teams in the world 7-6. While the jubilant Manipur team's joy knew no bounds at winning the trophy after a gap of two long years, the Argentine team members, all fiercely competitive sportspersons, were crestfallen at the defeat. As Juan Cruz who scored four of the team's six goals said, "We don't feel good about losing". Winning and losing is part of the game, and the players know it only too well. But such is the expectations of the fans of the Manipur team that they want them to win every time they take the field. And as Manipur team begin their campaign in the 12th Manipur Polo International 2018, the players carry this expectations of their fans as also their blessings and wishes.

The 2nd edition of Dalmia MTB Arunachal Hornbill's Flight International Race 2018 concludes

Imphal, Nov 23,

The 8-day mountain biking, Dalmia MTB Arunachal Hornbill's Flight International Race 2018 that started from Itanagar on 15th November concluded at Mechuka yesterday. **Mr. Mahendra Singh, MD and CEO, Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited** said, "It is fulfilling to know that all our bikers have made it successfully to Mechuka manoeuvring through such a tough terrain. I would like to congratulate all the winners of the race and I am thankful to Shri Kiren Rijiju and the MTB team for giving us the



opportunity to partner with them for such a great initiative and are hopeful that our partnership with MTB continues for many more editions to come. I would also like to thank Mr. Salman Khan to come forward and encourage the youngsters." "At Dalmia Bharat Group, sports has been close to our hearts. We would like to encourage youngsters to come forward and

showcase their talent and take up mountain biking as a sport. We are sure this small step by Dalmia Bharat Cement will help them strive hard towards their passion for adventure sports," Mr. Singh added. Bollywood actor Salman Khan was a part of the finale at Mechuka and has been lending his support to the event since the beginning of

the race. He was a part of the curtain raiser of the event where he unveiled the Official Race Jersey in Mumbai. An award distribution ceremony was organised at the finale to felicitate the winners. Martin from Germany bagged the prize for Open Men Solo category, Sarah from Germany bagged the prize for Open Women Solo, David and Rakesh won the Team of Two category, the Student's category was bagged by Ashish from the Hero Action Team, Datta Patil won the Master's 40+, Menjo was declared the Best Arunachal Rider, Marca Sangma was

declared the Best Para Rider and the 14 year old Malay Dutta won the prize for Promising Rider award. Hon'ble Minister of State-Home, Shri Kiren Rijiju, Shri Pema Khandu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Mr. Salman Khan, Bollywood Superstar, Shri Pasang Dorjee Sona, Hon'ble MLA, Festival Chair and MTB President and Smt. Sadhana Deori, Secretary, Tourism were some of the key dignitaries present at the event. The race aims to promote adventure sports in the North East Region with Arunachal Pradesh in particular, is sponsored by Dalmia Bharat Cement.

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