

# Satellite-tagged Amur falcon ‘Tamenglong’ reach Somalia after 5 days non-stop flight from Manipur

By a Correspondent  
Imphal, Nov 25

Finally satellite-tagged female Amur falcon ‘Tamenglong’, eponymously named after Tamenglong district of Manipur which was among tens of thousands of Amur falcons after taking shelter in north east states, reached her stop-over site in Somalia after five days non-stop flight covering about 5700 km from northeast India, Scientist Dr R Suresh Kumar of Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun said. Terming ‘Tamenglong’s’ flight was an epic journey of five days and 8 hours, Dr Suresh Kumar who had been tracking the bird through the satellite data when contacted said ‘Tamenglong’ reach in Somalia around 1 pm (Indian time) on Saturday (November 24). “Now she must be exhausted and likely to spend few days there in Somalia,” he said.

“I am hoping that she will continue to transmit data that is her location and keep us all excited.” A WII team in collaboration with Forest department and biologists from Hungary fitted radio transmitters to ‘Tamenglong’ along with ‘Manipur’, a male bird for the first time at a roosting site at Chuluan village in Tamenglong district of Manipur on November 5, started non-stop migratory journey from November 19. But ‘Manipur’ could not join trip to Somalia after he was killed by unidentified miscreants somewhere in Tamenglong district on November 9. Tamenglong being an adult female and she must have made the Arabian Sea crossing many times before. So is ‘Longleng’, another satellite fitted female Amur falcon who made her fifth flight over Arabian sea after fitting the satellite transmitter in November 2016.

‘Longleng’ which started her journey from Assam-Meghalaya border on November 19 reached Somalia around 5 pm on Friday (November 23), the WII scientist who had so far tagged ten birds since 2013 said. “However she continue to move and is currently located close to the famous Tsavo East National Park (one of the oldest and largest National Park) in Kenya where she is likely to spend some days.” From now on the two falcons will make regular pit stops during their next phase of migration that will be another 5000 km journey to their wintering destination in South Africa, the scientist adding that tracking of migratory birds particularly the Amur falcon helps to understand the bird and conservation activities because through its migratory route one can study the environmental

cue including wind pattern etc. Besides you can feel the geography of different landscapes including various wildlife protected areas of the World. Interestingly after the media exposure on its conservation initiatives, people in the country are now somehow connected with Amur falcon (*Falco amurensis*), one of the least known migratory birds among 69 falcon species, which visited India’s northeast states from Russia and China for food (termites, insects etc) and shelter during winter annually. Whenever someone in other parts of the country including Maharashtra or Goa spotted Amur falcon in their areas, they will click a photograph and felt the pride of witnessing the live bird, he stated and lauded the continuous conservation efforts by the people of Tamenglong, Noney in Manipur and Longleng and Wokha in Nagaland.

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## Governor graced wing north east India conference.....

Violence and the fear of violence form a significant barrier to women’s participation in the decisions that affect their everyday lives and its effects are felt not just by women, but also by communities and societies as a whole. Though participation of women in democracy is basic to governance, the number of women in decision making bodies at different levels in the context of our country is still very limited. This issue needs to be addressed appropriately. Women in the North-East are known for their economic contribution in the family and in the community. They play an important role in the developmental activities as well. In Manipur particularly, women have been in the forefront of all social activities, confronting different challenges that come their way. Manipuri women’s significant contribution has been in the field of economic and political



rights of their communities rather than their own rights and status. The Governor is confident that the Conference will come out with recommendations for the way forward to achieve gender equality and most importantly provide space for women leadership building and standing in solidarity. I am also hopeful that WinG will continue to pursue their efforts for the welfare of unfortunate and needy women and girls.

As part of the conference, a documentary film of ‘WinG NE on Women in Decision Making’ was also screened. In her welcome address, Bondita Acharya WinG Assam said that the organization has planned to expand WinG in another 4 states elsewhere. The WinG NE India conference under the theme ‘Strengthening the role of women collective in Governance and in decision making’ will conclude tomorrow. In the

technical session, WinG Nagaland, Mizoram, Assam and others will speak on various topics. The conference was attended by Chairperson, Manipur State Commission for Women Prof. Dr. Meinam Binota as Guest of honour while, Convenor, WinG India Asha Kowtal as President. DIG (AP-I) Smt. Mamata Wahengbam and many WinG members from Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram also attended amongst other.

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## Japanese SUMO Wrestling.....

Organisers claimed that they sold all the arranged seat capacity of the last showed matches at the rate of Rs 5000 for platinum seat, Rs 1000 for gold seat, Rs 500 for silver and Rs 200 for a gallery to the spectators. It has also faced difficulty and challenging to manage the most thrilling event of this season, saying that, they arranged 4,500 seats but all the tickets have been sold out of the last matches. Though, people are demanding tickets and have force to expand the seating capacity to 5,000.

Event spectators murmured while leaving the wrestling venue that it will strengthened the bond between Japan and Manipur in many aspects. “Witnessing Sumo Wrestling in Imphal is very exciting and life time memorable experience. Everyone has to applaud the initiatives taken up the stateholders” said Johny. People will definitely thrown up to at the concluding day of the Sumo Wrestling, he added. Many foreign delegates

including the Princes of Thailand are reportedly attending the festival and around 100 delegates from neighbouring Myanmar have already reached Imphal to witness the event. It may be mentioned that, Manipur Sangai Festival was debuted in 2010 with an objective to promote tourism to attract tourist and exposing the tourism potentials to the world. The festival itself was named after the endangered Brown Antlered deer, Sangai, the state animal found only in

the Keibul Lamjao National Park, the only biggest floating national park in India. Unlike previous years, this time, the fest is being organised at five venues including Imphal, Senapati and Bishnupur districts of Manipur. Sumo, Japanese martial art, is a form of competitive full-contact wrestling where a wrestler attempts to force his opponent out of a circular ring or into touching the ground with any body part other than the soles of his feet.

# Tripartite MoA signed for export of 15 Mt organic products

DIPR  
Imphal, Nov. 25

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed today between the Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA), Diocesan Social Service Society (DSSS), Imphal and Riverbaki (OPC) Private Limited, Guwahati in presence of Horticulture and Soil Conservation Minister Thounaojam Shyamkumar. Addressing the media persons at his New Secretariat office, Minister Th. Shyamkumar said that a tripartite MOA has been signed for exporting organically produced 15 MT (metric tonne) dried ginger and turmeric. He hoped that the initiatives of MOMA under the aegis of Horticulture and Soil Conservation Department will benefit the organic farmers of the State. Encouraging the organic farmers of the State to continue to work hard to increase the production, he said that the farmers need not worry to find a market place to sell their products/produce and assured full support from the department. Stating that the buyers will export the products of Manipur in Europe and other countries, he said in the near future the State will

try to export more quantity of products, maintaining the quality of the products. Minister Shyamkumar further said that the various initiatives are taken by the Horticulture and Soil Conservation Department with a mission so that Manipur can become an organic state. Stating that the products produced in the State has a unique taste, he hoped that the buyers and consumers will increase the demand of the products thus helping in the economy of the State. He appealed to all the stakeholders including the farmers to fully cooperate to make Manipur a chemical free state and put a name in the global map in the field of organic products/products. K. Debadutta Sharma, Project Director, MOMA said that the MOA signed today will benefit 2,000 ginger farmers and 2,500 turmeric farmers of the State. He hoped that the initiative will surely encourage the organic farmers to increase their production and boost their morale. Speaking on technical issues, he said earlier the organic farmers of the State faced problems of finding a market place to

sell their organic produces/products. He said at present the department is lacking in infrastructure such as grading of the organic produces, shorting out of organic produces, cleaning and packaging of the products. He hoped that once the infrastructural requirements are cleared, the State can easily export the products worldwide. He further informed that within next month e-auction of organic products will be done under the Ministry of Steel and appreciated the higher authorities of the Horticulture and Soil Conservation Department for their cooperation with the MOMA. The tripartite memorandum of agreement was signed by Prajnan Kumar Roy, Director, Riverbaki (OPC) Pvt Ltd., Guwahati; Avince Anthony Dilibong, Director, Diocesan Social Service Society (DSSS), Imphal and K. Debadutta Sharma, Project Director, MOMA under the aegis of Horticulture and Soil Conservation Department. Speaking on the sidelines of the press conference, Minister Th. Shyamkumar who also holds the portfolio of Forest and Environment appealed to

all to stop illegal construction in and around the Loktak Lake as it can adversely affect the fresh water lake, which is the largest in the entire North East region. Forest and Environment Minister Th. Shyamkumar appealed to all to stop using unconventional method of fishing in the Loktak Lake using battery and other electronic devices which are damaging the eco-system of the lake. He also appealed to stop the constructions of buildings including hospital, school among others without getting clearance from the authorities concerned. He said any such illegal construction in and around the Loktak Lake will attract legal action. The Minister firmly stated that there can be no development at the cost of the environment. He also clarified that the conventional method used by the residents in and around Loktak Lake for livelihood is allowed including boating considering the hardships faced by them. He appealed to the locals and others to stop any illegal construction and activities which can harm the ecological balance of the Loktak Lake.

## Banners of 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UNLF seen flying at many places

IT News  
Imphal, Nov 25

As proscribed group UNLF celebrates its 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on November 24, many banners with its party slogans depicting the anniversary celebration were seen flying at many parts of the state using balloon. At many interior villages of the state banner with slogan “Long Live UNLF / MPA were seen fixing on the wall of the road sides. Not only in the interior villages but also at urban areas, districts, units, MPA battalions, tactical HQs with the Chairman, vice chairman, general secretary, Chief of Army staff MPA, secretary, BPMA Chairman, Principal and Members, Directors, GHQ VCS, GSOs, staff



that the 54th raising day of the organisation was observed at its Central HQs, MPA GHQs, external units, districts, units, MPA battalions, tactical HQs with the Chairman, vice chairman, general secretary, Chief of Army staff MPA, secretary, BPMA Chairman, Principal and Members, Directors, GHQ VCS, GSOs, staff

officers, officers, NCOs and cadres. A two minute silence was observed in the beginning of the observance in memory of the party’s founders, leaders, martyrs, followed by playing of floral tributes to the brave souls. Flag hoisting by party Chairman, singing of party song by the cadres,

reading of the annual statement of the Central Committee, reading of the wishes from WESEA fraternal parties, speech by secretaries of various departments and words by directors on Manipur freedom movement and Manipuri society, were the main event of the observance today. UNLF also expressed gratitude to all those groups and individuals who provided physical, moral, monetary support to the party. The party expressed gratitude to the WESEA groups who wished the party on its 54th raising day. Expressing gratitude to the people of Manipur for the success of the observance, the party also lauded and expressed gratitude to the media fraternity.

## Bangladesh: Writ filed seeking stay on 11th parliamentary election

By- Siam Sarower Jamil,  
Dhaka, Nov 25

A writ has been filed with the High Court seeking a stay on the announced schedule of the 11th parliamentary election of Bangladesh. Eunus Ali Akond filed the writ with the bench concerned of the High Court on Sunday morning. The HC bench of Mainul Islam Chowdhury and Mohammad Ashrafur Kamal is likely to hear the writ anytime today, says

the petitioner. The petitioner also sought the issuance of a rule to declare the schedule as illegal as it was announced without dissolving the national parliament as well as a stay on the election procedure until the issue is settled. The chief election commissioner, cabinet secretary, law secretary and four others were made respondents to the rule. According to section 66 of the constitution, a person should be disqualified for

election as or for being, a member, if a person holding any office of profit in the service of the republic or of a statutory public authority, the petitioner adds. According to the constitution, he further said, those who enjoyed government perks and privileges could not contest any election. ‘Now ministers and MPs of the present parliament are enjoying government perks and privileges, and they are going to contest

the election, which is contradictory to the Bangladesh: Writ filed seeking stay on 11th parliamentary election constitution,’ he added. Besides, if the election was held without dissolution of parliament, there would be two parliaments after the election, and the number of MPs would stand at 600. ‘But, according to section 65 of the constitution, the number of parliament shall be 300,’ he added. Besides, according to section 123, the election