

Konhoujam Gita Devi honoured with Indo-Thai friendship award



IT News
Imphal, Sept 4,

Imphal Times correspondent Konthoujam Gita Devi of Konthoujam Maning Leikai, Imphal West was honoured Indo Thailand Friendship International Award 2018 on August 30 during a conference held at Nasa Vegas Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand on

August 30. Konthoujam Gita Devi, aged about 45, daughter of Konthoujam Udoi Singh and Konthoujam Ongbi Chaobi Leima Devi was honoured in recognition to her service for the welfare of the destitute women and down trodden people of the state. Gita has also been associated with Imphal Times as

correspondent since the last 3 years. Altogether 30 people from the state of Manipur including Dr. Mayengbam Kamala Devi (aged about 46,) daughter of Mayengbam Moirang Ningthou of Tharoiung Maning leikai, Imphal West, were also honoured with different award in the Indo Thailand Dalit Sahitya Conference.

SC no to urgent hearing on plea against allowing Vedanta access to admin unit of Tuticorin plant

Agency
New Delhi, Sep 4

The Supreme Court on Tuesday declined urgent hearing on a plea by the Tamil Nadu government challenging the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) order allowing mining major Vedanta group access to the administrative unit inside its closed Sterlite copper plant at Tuticorin in the state. A bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud said it will hear the plea next week.

The state government had on August 14 moved the apex court against the NGT order. The NGT had on August 9 allowed Vedanta to enter the administrative unit inside its Sterlite copper plant, observing that no environmental damage would be caused by allowing access to the administrative section. The tribunal, however, had said the plant would remain closed and the company would not have access to its production unit and directed the district magistrate to ensure this.

The Tamil Nadu government had on May 28 ordered the state pollution control board to seal and "permanently" close the mining group's copper plant following violent protests over pollution concerns. Sterlite's factory had made headlines in March 2013 when a gas leak led to the death of one person and injuries to several others, after which then chief minister J Jayalithaa had ordered its closure.

The company had then appealed to the NGT, which overturned the government order. The state then moved the Supreme Court against it and the case is still pending. The Supreme Court had then ordered the company to pay Rs 100 crore as compensation for polluting the environment. After Sterlite announced its plans to expand the Tuticorin plant, locals started fresh stir that continued for over 100 days, culminating in the May 22 police firing on protestors that claimed 13 lives and left scores injured.

Nagaland district cut off by rains and landslides limps back to life

Agency
Guwahati Sept 4

There's only one road to Kiphire. And for roughly a month, awash by rains and landslides, it's been blocked. Life in the worst-hit district of Nagaland this monsoon, Kiphire (which borders Myanmar on the east) is slowly getting back to normal. "What affected Kiphire was the loss of connectivity to other parts of Nagaland — the main road had obstructions in two-three spots. Basic provisions such as food was not available to the residents and around one lakh people were affected," said Deputy Commissioner, Kiphire, A Shihab, adding that the situation was now

improving. "We got 1,408 rice bags from the state government this was distributed yesterday." A relief fund of Rs 10 lakh was sanctioned by the CMO as well as Rs 2 lakh from the Eastern Nagaland Peoples Organisation to Kiphire. The provisions are being sent through a temporary muddy road which "quickly built" in July. "The lorries are carrying all the commodities but it's not the most ideal route — even yesterday, some of our smaller vehicles were stuck there," says Johnny Ruangmei, officer on special duty, Nagaland State disaster management authority. Despite the odds,



the residents of the 110 villages of Kiphire district are slowly getting back to regular life. Just last week, several had to be airlifted out and rushed to Dimapur. On August 31, seven truck loads of rice reached the district headquarters and distribution started on Sunday.

On Monday morning, villagers came out in huge numbers to collect the relief materials in the rain. Meanwhile, the Sangtam Tribe, that occupies Kiphire and Tuensang districts, are celebrating their biggest festival of the year: the Mongmong harvest festival. "Every September (1-6), we get together and pray for a good harvest," said R Tsithongse, General Secretary, United Sangtam Likhum Punji, the tribe's apex tribal organisation. On Monday, despite the rains, hundreds attended the festival celebrations in Kiphire town. "It is an important day for the tribe. We made sure each family got 10kg of rice," says DC A Shihab. Meanwhile, in other parts of Nagaland, music concerts have been organised to raise funds for Kiphire. On August 25, several Nagaland musicians had collaborated for a fund-raiser for the Kerala floods. Now at the same venue The Heritage, Kohima another concert is slated for September 16, organised by Indihut, a home-grown platform for Northeastern musicians.

India to host FIBA 3x3 World Tour Masters event

Agency
Hyderabad, Sept 4

India will host the FIBA 3x3 World Tour Masters, one of the most prestigious basketball tournaments in the world, for the first time starting September 22 here. The Hyderabad Masters will see participation from the leading international 3x3 teams and top two 3BL teams Delhi 3BL and Bangalore 3BL. The qualification for the Indian teams was decided on the basis of the results of the inaugural season of 3x3 Pro Basketball League (3BL) which was held from June 9 to August 26 across six cities in India. Members of the Delhi team comprise Inderbir Gill, Bikramjit Gill, Leandro Souza de Lima and

Kiran Shastri. While the team from Bangalore includes Sowkin Shetty, Amit Sehrawat, Rajan Sharma and Lalrina Renthli. Hyderabad Masters is the seventh stage of the FIBA 3x3 World Tour and is the first time an international 3x3 basketball tournament is being played in India. The participating teams will compete for a chance to qualify for the FIBA 3x3 World Tour Bloomage Beijing Final on October 27-28. The best international teams like Novi Sad (World No 1), Piran (No 3), Belgrade (No 9) and more, along with top international players like Simon Finzgar (World No 8) and Anze Srebout (No 9) will compete in the event. "India is getting a chance like

never before to host the FIBA 3x3 World Tour. Only nine other cities in the world have been the hosts in this edition," Chairman, Hyderabad Masters, Yoshiya Katoh, said. "This is an opportunity for Indian basketball players to compete against the strongest opponents and improve their game. We are proud to be a part of this landmark moment." League Commissioner, 3BL, Rohit Bakshi, said: "One of my biggest dreams has been to see an Indian team win a medal at an international platform in 3x3 basketball. Team Delhi 3BL and Bangalore 3BL both have the potential to emerge at the top in Hyderabad Masters and qualify for the FIBA 3x3 World Tour Finals.

IAF MiG-27 fighter jet crashes in Rajasthan's Jodhpur, pilot escapes unhurt

Agency
Jodhpur, Sept. 4

An Indian Air Force (IAF) plane crashed on Tuesday in an empty field in Dewliya village near Banad in Jodhpur, Rajasthan due to a technical snag. The pilot was able to escape unhurt, defence spokesperson Colonel Sombit Ghosh said. The crash of the Mikoyan MiG-27, a fighter jet, resulted in a fire in the area. A fire brigade was sent to the spot. Several Air Force officers and police personnel reached the site. The pilots avoided dense residential colonies and the jet

crashed on an open field, Ghosh added. A major accident was averted by the timely decision of the pilots, he said. Thick smoke emanated from the spot, as villagers rushed to the site. Eyewitness Champalal said that two-to-three fighter planes were flying when one of them was seen emanating smoke. It came down suddenly with a loud noise and the area was engulfed in thick smoke. The pilots were taken to a hospital in an air ambulance. The helicopter had taken off from the Jodhpur airbase

before it crashed in the field. The aircraft crashed during a routine mission said the IAF. A court of inquiry will investigate the cause of the accident it added. "A MiG 27 aircraft airborne from Jodhpur crashed during a routine mission today morning. The pilot ejected safely. A Court of Inquiry will investigate the cause of the accident," Ghosh said. Deputy Commissioner, Jodhpur, Amandeep Singh said no loss of life has been reported in the crash. Singh and other police officials have reached the spot and cordoned off the area.

Myanmar defends Suu Kyi's silence over jailed reporters

Agency
Yangon, Sep 4

A global outcry over the jailing of two Reuters journalists in Myanmar has been greeted with silence by civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, a stony response that an official defended Tuesday as a reluctance to criticise the judiciary. Journalists Wa Lone, 32, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 28, were arrested while reporting on atrocities committed

during the violent expulsion by the military of some 700,000 Rohingya Muslims last year. A Yangon court on Monday found them guilty under the Official Secrets Act and handed them each seven years in prison, sparking outrage from the UN, EU and US — all of whom supported Myanmar's emergence from decades of junta rule — as well as media and rights groups. Suu Kyi, who was herself

subjected to house arrest for some 15 years, relying on foreign media to highlight her plight, has been widely-condemned for her silence on the case and verdict, which has posed the sternest test in recent years to free speech in the country. Aung Hla Tun, a former Reuters journalist who now works for the government as deputy Minister of Information, defended the Nobel Laureate's reticence. "Criticising the judicial system would be tantamount to contempt of court," he told AFP, explaining her silence so far. "I don't think she will do it." Lawyers for the pair will appeal the verdict while ultimately the country's president, a close ally of Suu Kyi, can pardon prisoners. In April the president granted 8,500 jailed people an amnesty, including 36 deemed political prisoners. But there were still some 200 others, including the two Reuters journalists, facing trials linked to political activities, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners said at the time. Erstwhile Suu Kyi advocates

overseas have been left dismayed by her attitude to their case so far. Her one public reference to the Reuters journalists during the court case — telling Japanese broadcaster NHK that the pair had broken the official secrets act — was criticised by rights groups for potentially prejudicing the verdict. Former confidant and member of her advisory board on the Rohingya crisis US diplomat Bill Richardson alleged she also denounced the two reporters as traitors during a heated exchange at the beginning of the year. While the case has horrified the West, the response within Myanmar has been muted. Several papers marked the jailing of the pair with '7 Day News' publishing a large black rectangle on its front page and the Myanmar Times running a full front page photo of the pair calling the verdict "a blow to press freedom". But the case has not garnered wider public attention, despite its implications for press freedom in a country, whose emergence from junta rule has been contorted by the violence in Rakhine.

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LAMYANBA IRABOT NINGSING THABUM

1st Sept. to 30th Sept. 2018

Lamyamba Irabot-ki Liklam-na Yaifare Manaba Khunnai Semlasi



LAMYANBA IRABOT

Manipuri Proletariat Peoples Democratic Union - MPPDU

Socialist Students Union of Manipur - SSUM

Proletarian Feminist Movement, Manipur - PoFM

Socialist Women Association - SWA Manipur



Obituary

My beloved husband, Shri Nongthombam Sanajaoba Singh of Oinam Mamang Leikai Uchehon, Ward No. 6, Tangleipung Maning, Bihunpur district left us all for heavenly abode on Friday the 31st September, 2018.

I request all friends, relatives and friends of my husband whom I did not know to attend the Ashi Sanchei of my late husband on Wednesday the 5th September, 2018 and also at the Shardha on September 13th, 2018 to join us in offering to the almighty for the departed soul.

With regard
Shrimati Nongthombam Pramodini Devi (Wife)
Oinam Mamang Leikai Uchehon, Ward No. 6, Tangleipung Maning, Bihunpur district.