

# Lukanand Kshetrimayum and Langpoklakpam Melody bring laurels to Manipur with momentous victories

IT News  
Imphal: Aug 19,

Mega Entertainment, north east's largest fashion and pageant event organizer, conducted a press conference in Imphal with an aim to introduce Lukanand Kshetrimayum and Langpoklakpam Melody, two children of Manipur who recently made waves across the northeast by winning the titles of Garnier Men Mega Mister North East and Sunilk Mega Miss North East respectively. Lukanand also won the national title of Mister International India 2019, thus qualifying to solely represent India in the Mister International pageant. The press conference was addressed by Abhijit Singha, Founder of Mega Entertainment, who said, "Mega Entertainment is the producer of two of the biggest regional beauty and fashion events in north east India - Mega Mister North East since 2009, and Mega Miss North East, since 2003. The two pageants have now grown in stature and repute with every passing year, and are now being labelled as the most coveted and the sought-after pageants in the whole region, showcasing the best of young talents."

"The quality and awareness of the contestants have been constantly developing over the years, and it is truly encouraging to see them preparing for these pageants, months in advance. I am so glad to see the emergence of strong winners like Lukanand and Melody, who need just the basic amount of training, and are absolutely ready to become a part of the professional modelling industry", added Singha. The other winners of Garnier Men Mega Mister North East are Jonathan Thangoe from Mizoram, who is the first youth from his state to win any pan-northeast pageant, and Sonam Paul Tenzing Bhutia from Sikkim. The other two winners of Sunilk Mega Miss North East are Tanvi Raksam Marak from Meghalaya and Rajeswari Chakraborty from Sikkim.

Speaking to the media on the occasion, Lukanand and Melody shared their experiences from the pageant with the media and thanked the people of Manipur for giving them so much love and support. Langpoklakpam Melody, who is pursuing bachelor's degree in education, said, "This is so heart-warming. I am truly overwhelmed! The people of Manipur have welcomed me with open arms and open hearts. I never experience such love and affection before. Most importantly, the spark of pride that I see in my parents' eyes gives me the strength to work even harder. I strongly believe that destiny has something



planned for everyone and winning this pageant has opened a beautiful chapter in my life."

Speaking about her victory in Sunilk Mega Miss North East, Melody said, "Participating in Sunilk Mega Miss North East and winning the pageant crown means a lot to me. I believe the pageant girl is all about honour - the honour of representing my community, my state, the honour of living every little girl's dream, the honour to inspire many girls out there, of being a role model for the younger generation. I want to be a positive influence on everyone I cross paths with, and I strongly believe that Sunilk Mega Miss North East will help me fulfil what I am passionate about."

The 10th edition of Garnier Men Mega Mister North East, where Lukanand also won the title of Mister International India 2019, was supported by Title Sponsor Garnier Men- India's no. 1 men's face wash brand, Hospitality Partner Radisson Blu, Telecom Partner Vodafone SuperNet 4G, Photo Partner Sony Alpha and Styling Partner Sin Denim.

"I will treasure this moment in my heart forever. I feel proud of myself that I would win so many hearts and emerge as a winner. Thanks to Mega Entertainment team for adding me to their family and warm regards to Abhijit Singha, Kavita Keisham and the respected Jury members for offering me this stupendous opportunity. I thank God for giving me what I deserved," said Lukanand who is currently a Class-XII student in Maria Montessori Senior Secondary School. Speaking about the responsibility he holds towards his community as a youth icon, Lukanand Kshetrimayum said, "I hope our victory will motivate my peers from Manipur to believe that if we can make it big in the world of fashion, even they can. I will be more than happy to guide them to go forward in the same journey that

I went. There is a lot of potential among the youth here, and pageants like these will help them get the stage that they deserve. I want to see the youngsters of Manipur achieving everything they deserve, not just in the regional platform, but nationally and internationally as well."

Abhijit Singha established Mega Entertainment when he was just a teenager, and he defied all odds to single-handedly shape it as northeast's most celebrated fashion and pageant company. In 2003, the company gave the northeastern region one of its first beauty pageants Mega Miss North East which proudly stands at 17 years today as the leading pageant here. Soon after, Abhijit conceptualized northeast's first ever man-hunt Mega Mister

North East which officially took off in 2009 and there has been no looking back ever since.

Mega Entertainment has been providing a national platform to the young talents of the region, even providing the winners a direct entry into illustrious fashion events like Mister International India. The main aim of organizing the Mega Miss & Mister North East pageants is to prove that young talents in the north-east are no less competent than their counterparts rising from the top metros of the country, and also to exhibit that the north-east can also match the classic appeal of the top pageants of the country. Besides the pageants, Mega Entertainment has also delivered some radical fashion events in the region involving the crème-de-la-crème of the society.

## Assam Rifles Apprehends Zuf Cadre From Cachar District

IT News  
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Based on a specific information, troops from Assam Rifles launched a search operation on 17 Aug 2019 in the area of Nandailong in Cachar District of South Assam. During the operation one ZUF cadre was apprehended and a pistol with ammunition were recovered from the insurgent. The apprehended ZUF cadre has been identified as GangdunRongmei @ Adun, age 36 years and is known to be involved in numerous illegal activities in Jiribam and Cachar. The apprehended cadre along with the



recovered weapon has been handed over to police for further investigation. The Assam Rifles Battalion with its renewed focus on insurgent groups indulging in extortion and kidnapping activities along economically important

areas along Jiri River, had apprehended four ZUF cadres along with large cache of ammunition in May 2019. This successful operation by the security forces has dealt a huge blow to the nefarious designs of the insurgents in the region.

## Assam Rifles Archers Shine At World Police And Fire Games In China

IGAR (South)  
Imphal: Aug 19,

Three archers of Assam Rifles Archery team trained by 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) have bagged a rich haul of five Gold, three Silver and one Bronze medals at the recently concluded World Police and Fire Games held in Chengdu, China from 9 to 18 August 2019.

Two male archers Rifleman G Robert Sharma, who hails from Manipur, clinched three Gold medals in the Compound bow archery events while Rifleman Z Demo, a resident of Nagaland, bagged one Gold, one Silver and one Bronze medals in the Wooden bow events.

Mahila Rifleman SP Lydia,



who hails from Manipur, won one Gold and two Silver medals in the woman's category in the Wooden bow events.

While Rifleman G Robert Sharma had earlier won three Gold medals in the previous World Police and Fire Games at Los Angeles in 2017, the other two archers participated for the first time at international level.

Each Archer could participate in only three archery events at the World Police and Fire Games. The three archers participated in the Bare Target, Field Archery and 3 D Archery events winning medals in each of the three events they participated in. A reception and felicitation ceremony is being planned for the archers on their return to Imphal.

## South East Asia News

### Rape rows risk taking sheen off starry Venice film festival

Courtesy CNA  
Venice Aug 19,

The star-studded Venice film festival opens on Wednesday (Aug 21) with a row raging about the inclusion of controversial directors Roman Polanski and Nate Parker. With only two women directors out of 21 in the running for its Golden Lion top prize, campaigners have lashed the festival - now the launchpad for the Oscars.

Director Alberto Barbera said last year that he would rather quit the 11-day event - where three of the last five Oscar best picture winners were premiered - than give in to pressure for quotas.

But feminist critics have only upped their attacks, accusing the festival of "almost comically scant levels of self-awareness".

"I rapist. 2 women directors in competition at Venice. What else am I missing?" tweeted Women and Hollywood founder Melissa Silverstein, referring to Polanski's conviction for the statutory rape of a 13-year-old in 1978. She was equally scathing about the late addition of US director Parker's film "American Skin" to a sidebar section.

"Good job Venice," she tweeted caustically, adding a reference to a rape trial the actor-turned-director was embroiled in while still at university.

FURY OVER POLANSKI

AND PARKER Parker's 2016 debut film about a slave revolt, The Birth Of A Nation, was derailed after it emerged that he was accused of raping a fellow student, who later killed herself.

Although Parker was acquitted, he later admitted that when "I look back on that time as a teenager and can say without hesitation that I should have used more wisdom". Fellow black American director Spike Lee has vowed to travel to Venice to support "brave" Parker.

"I haven't been affected by a film like this ... in a long, long time," he said in a statement about the movie in which a Marine veteran whose son is killed by the police takes justice into his own hands.

But it is the premiere of 85-year-old Polanski's historical thriller about the persecution of the French Jewish army officer Alfred Dreyfus, An Officer and A Spy, which is likely to make more headlines.

With Polanski suing the Academy of Motion Pictures for stripping him of his membership, Screen Daily's chief critic Fionnuala Halligan was withering about his selection. She imagined festival director "Barbera, wandering the Lido hopelessly, singing the same mournful refrain... he can't find a female film director."

"So this year he's going to programme the new film by (a) convicted child rapist"

The message was "crystal clear", she added: "You don't cut it, ladies."

"YOU DON'T CUT IT, LADIES" Halligan wrote such "gender imbalance ... shouldn't be acceptable and Polanski is just like rubbing salt into that."

She also deplored the decision to add the director's cut of French director Gaspar Noe's controversial 2002 rape shocker "Irreversible" to the line-up. "Time to turn over," she argued. Barbera defended his selections insisting that "numerous films

this year deal with the theme of the feminine condition in the world which, even when directed by men, reveal a new sensitivity".

He said this was "proof that the scandals of recent years have left their mark on our culture".

The rows threaten to take some of the sheen off a staggeringly starry selection that features Brad Pitt, Johnny Depp, Kristen Stewart, Meryl Streep, Scarlett Johansson and Mick Jagger.

Adam Driver, Penelope Cruz

and Robert De Niro are also due on the red carpet where the curtain will also come up on the new DC Comics blockbuster, The Joker.

Trailers for the film starring Joaquin Phoenix, which traces the origins of Batman's nemesis, have already been viewed more than 80 million times.

Steven Soderbergh's take on the Panama Papers investigation, The Laundromat, will also be premiered while Pitt plays an astronaut in James Gray's highly-anticipated sci-fi drama.

## Thai official dismisses Muslim insurgent demand on detainees

Agency  
Bangkok Aug 19,

A Thai deputy prime minister dismissed on Monday (Aug 18) a demand made by a Malay Muslim group to free those detained over alleged links to the long-running insurgency in Thailand's mainly Muslim south as a pre-condition for formal talks.

Officials of the Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN) met a Thai delegation at an undisclosed location in Southeast Asia on Friday and demanded the release of detainees, a leader of the group told Reuters in a rare interview. The insurgency in the Malay-

speaking region of the predominantly Buddhist country has killed some 7,000 people over the past 15 years and has flared on and off for decades.

"How can you say that? Everything must follow the justice procedure," Thai Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan told reporters on Monday when he was asked about the BRN's demand.

The BRN also demanded that the Thai government conduct a transparent investigation into alleged abuses by security forces after allegations that a man from the south, Abdullah

Isamusa, 32, fell into a coma after being interrogated by the military.

The army said authorities were investigating and that there was no proof so far of torture. The BRN, the most active insurgent group in the south, has opted to stay out of peace talks between the Thai government and other insurgent groups, although it said it held two previous meetings in recent years.

Yala, Pattani, and Narathiwat provinces were part of an independent Malay Muslim sultanate before Thailand annexed them in 1909.

### Vehicle Registration lost

I, the undersigned, have lost the Registration Certificate of my Honda Dio (two wheeler) bearing Registration No. MN01-2252, registered in the name of Sagolsem Naoba Meitei on way between Chingamakha to Lamphelpat.

Finders are requested to kindly hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-  
Congtham Ajit Singh  
Singamei Chingamakha Chongtham Leikai