

More State News

Tree sapling Plantation Campaign begins

**IT News
Imphal, Aug 19,**

With aim to preserve the environment and to face the challenges of global warming, mass tree sapling plantation campaign was organised yesterday at Wangjing Hodamba Laibung by Badminton LamjingLup (BLL) in collaboration with local clubs of Wangjing and local people of the area.

BLL member L. Boy said that aiming to protect the environmental condition tree plantation step is taken. At the campaign, Eastern Social Welfare Youth Club (ESWYC) Hodamba, Wangjing Heitupokpi United Progressive Union (WHUPU) and different eminent persons along with locals attended. A similar tree sapling plantation programme was also organised yesterday at

Tekcham High School Playground, Thoubal District, by Forest Department and SDAU, Tekcham. In relation to the tree plantation program, L. Samananda, principal of Standard English School, said that the trees were planted to prevent the global warming. The program was organised to educate the society and the youths that deforestation caused global warming and instill the habit of

tree plantation. At the programme Standard English School, Khongjom, Principal, L.Samananda Singh, PWD, Government of Manipur, A.E., Th. Komolo Singh, Deputy Ranger, Thoubal Forest Division, M.Biren Singh, SDAU, Tekcham, Secy. L. Rosan and Thoubal Forest Division, Honary Wildlife, Warden, W.Ramchandra Singh were attended.

Tree Plantation Drive at Bal Vidya Mandir Complex

**IT News
Imphal, Aug. 19,**

The Shiksha Vikash Samiti, Manipur have organised a tree plantation program at Bal Vidya Mandir Complex, Palace Compound Imphal today on the eve of its 1st meeting of the newly elected Executive Committee, Manipur. On the occasion, Y. Khogen Singh, President, N. Munal Meitei, Vice-President - Sunita Gupta, Vice-president - Sitaram Bhat, Organising Secretary and M.Chourajit Singh, General Secretary and other Executive Committee members of Shiksha Vikash Samiti, Manipur were present. On the occasion, N. Munal Meitei told that to save our environment is the responsibility of each one of us in the state. Now-a-days, as a mark to save the degraded environment, mass tree plantations are carrying out everywhere in Manipur and

this year as a record, the maximum amount of tree plantations are taking up by the various NGOs, CSOs, Schools, Colleges and the several private individuals as compare to the previous years. He told that plantation of seedlings and to make them survive is very important but our most important present day issue is to stop green felling i.e. to save the existing forests. Presently we find that trees are cut indiscriminately in the hills which share about 90% of our state's geographical area. He said, it is impossible to conserve the environment and ecology of Manipur without conserving our hills. But it seems that nobody is taking much interest on conserving and protecting the existing forests of Manipur and plantation activities are also seen less taken in our hill Districts. In our state at an average about 3 to 5 sq.km of

forest are cut and cleared on daily basis mainly for the firewood and other land use purposes. The major consumption of these firewoods are by the musrooming brick fields. He told that at an average a medium brick field consumed about 3 to 4 tons of firewood daily and annually it burnt-out about 1000 tons. To stake up ton of firewood, about 30- 50 grown up trees are cut and thus a brick field is killing about 120 - 150 trees daily. In Manipur, less than 60% population used improvised gas chulla and thus huge quantities of firewood are also used for various domestic consumptions. Therefore to save the environment of Manipur in true sense, we need to control such indiscriminate felling of trees. We know that to get the livelihood of the hill peoples, they need these forest



products. But as a scientific management, while on felling the firewood, instead of clear felling, they may go for selection felling by retaining at least one to two trees/ stumps of straightboles which will not only save our environment but after 5-6 years, it may earn double to triple the present cost.

In today's Executive Committee meeting of the Shiksha Vikash Samiti, Manipur, it was also resolved to take up similar plantation programs in all the other Schools under the Samiti in Manipur.

Sports News

Meiraba triumphs; double delight for Tanisha and Aditi at Yonex Sunrise Krishna Khaitan All-India Junior Ranking Tournament

**By a Correspondent
Panchkula, August 19,**

Maisnam Meiraba continued his dominance in the junior circuit while both Tanisha Crasto and Aditi Bhatt capped a memorable campaign with twin titles at the Yonex-Sunrise 28th Smt. Yonex Sunrise Krishna Khaitan All India Junior Ranking Badminton Tournament 2019 here on Sunday.

Junior World No. 15 Maisnam Meiraba Luwang, top seeded at this tournament, was unstoppable in his 21-12, 21-11 demolition of second seed Sathish Kumar K. The in-form Manipur shuttler, who won the White Night Junior last month, was challenged only once in six matches this week, where he dropped a game to eighth seed Sarah D in the quarter-finals. In girls' singles, sixth seed Aditi Bhatt showed steely nerves and resilience in her 22-20, 13-21, 22-20 marathon win over the top seed Unnati Bisht that needed 1 hour 18 minutes to complete. This was the second consecutive three-game match that the feisty girl played following her 21-15, 14-21, 21-16 win over seventh



seed Aashi Rawat in the semi-finals. Bhatt made it a double delight when she teamed up with Goa's Tanisha Crasto to take the girls' doubles title as well. The second seeds stormed back from a slow start to eke out a 17-21, 21-19, 21-17 win over seventh seeds Khushi Gupta and Drithi Yatheesh. Crasto found success in the mixed doubles category as well, where she partnered Ishaan Bhatnagar to outlast Dhruv Rawat and Trisha Hegde 20-22, 21-16, 21-13. In boys' doubles, the title went

to fifth seeds Iman Sonowal of Assam and Yash Raikwar of Madhya Pradesh in yet another surprising result of the day. The boys put up a brilliant performance to upset the top seeds Manjit Singh Khwairakpam and Dingku Singh Konthoujam 21-12, 21-15. This was the first of the selection tournaments for the BWF World Junior Championships to be held in Kazan, Russia from October 7-13. The second selection tournament is scheduled for next week in Bangalore.

National News

30 dead as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand bear brunt of rain fury, Delhi on flood alert

**Agency
New Delhi Aug 19,**

Rains continued to lash several places in Punjab and other states on Monday after at least 30 people were killed and dozens reported missing or feared dead over the weekend across north India. Authorities in Uttarakhand and Punjab launched rescue operations in several places to move people stranded after flood and cloudbursts as the weather department forecast more rains in the region. Flood alerts have been sounded in Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh as rivers, including the Yamuna, swelled to dangerous levels. The Delhi government has asked people living in low-lying areas to move to safer places as the water level in the Yamuna is expected to cross the danger mark (205.33 metres), officials said. The Yamuna was flowing at 203.7m on Sunday evening and is expected to touch 207m on Monday as \$28,000 cucesw m was released from Haryana's Hathini Kund barrage at 6pm, an official said. Majority of the damage was reported from the two worst-hit states — Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand — as heavy rains remained unabated through the Himalayan belt. Hundreds were stranded after incessant rainfall triggered landslides, snapped road links, led to shutting down of hydropower projects and release of excess water from dams in the region. As of Sunday evening, rain-related incidents had claimed at



least 23 lives in Himachal Pradesh, four in Uttarakhand while dozens were reported injured. In Punjab's Aol village, three members of a family were killed when the roof of their house collapsed, police said. Two people were airlifted from Arakot in Uttarkashi's Mori tehsil and brought to Sahasradhara helipad in Dehradun following a cloudburst in the area, news agency Asian News International reported on Monday. They are being shifted to Doon Hospital, it said. Two helicopters were sent to Arakot earlier with communication equipment and ropes and three medical teams have also reached Arakot. At least 10 people were reported missing as cloudbursts wreaked havoc in several villages, damaging several houses in Arakot, Makuri and Tikochi villages in Uttarkashi district, the worst-hit region in the state. Hundreds have been evacuated to higher reaches, state officials said adding that roads were damaged at many places, hampering rescue efforts. Indian Army and National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF) personnel launched a rescue

operation in Punjab's Jalandhar district on Monday after major breaches were reported on the Satluj River at four places in Bholewal, Meowal and other villages under Phulluar sub-division. As per the initial reports, more than 20 people are still trapped even as NDRF teams rescued four people from Nawan Khera village. Jalandhar's deputy commissioner Varinder Kumar Sharma has asked people in at least 13 villages of Phulluar district to be evacuated. Officials said the situation is under control in Shahkot sub-division of Jalandhar district, where around 63 villages were put on high alert. Sharma requested residents of Shahkot to move to safer places as around 2.4 lakh cucesw of water from the Sutlej is likely to hit the area during the day. The situation also remained under control in the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar district, where more than 65 villages were put on high alert. Heavy rainfall in Jalandhar led to waterlogging in several places across the city. The India Meteorological Department has warned heavy rainfall likely at isolated places

across Punjab. Hundreds of tourists were also left stranded in Himachal Pradesh's tribal Lahaul and Spiti district after a freak snowfall on Sunday cut off roads in the region, officials said. They said rescuers were on their way to Chandratol situated at an altitude of about 4,300metres or 14,100ft in the Himalayas. The India Meteorological Department's (IMD) office in Himachal Pradesh said on Sunday that the state received the highest ever rainfall for a 24-hour period since records began almost 70 years ago. "The state as a whole received 102.5mm and this was 1.065% more than normal," IMD said in a statement. In Uttar Pradesh, several rivers, including Ganga, Yamuna and Ghaghra, are in spate. The Ganga is flowing above the danger mark in Badaun, Garhmukteshwar, Naraura and Farrukhabad. Of the 15 wettest places in the world in the past 24 hours, 13 were in India, according to global weather monitoring website El Dorado Weather. The world's wettest place was Diamond Harbour in West Bengal, which received 220mm of rainfall in the past 24 hours. Vellore with 188mm rain was ranked second, Jamshedpur third with 172mm, Shimla seventh with 146mm and Chandigarh was 11th in the global ranking with 121mm of rain. As of August 15, a total of 1,058 persons have died due to rain-related incidents during the monsoon season that started on June 1 with one-fourth of the deaths reported from Maharashtra.

'Will get final list from Amit bhai today': BS Yediyurappa on Karnataka Cabinet expansion



**Agency
Bengaluru Aug 19,**

Karnataka chief minister BS Yediyurappa on Monday said that the Cabinet expansion will take place on Tuesday as the final list of ministers will reach him "within 2-3 hours". Yediyurappa has been running a one-man cabinet for the past three weeks since taking over to lead the BJP government in the state. "Within 2-3 hours, I am going to get the final list from Amit bhai (BJP President Amit Shah). So, cabinet expansion will be done tomorrow," the chief minister told news agency Agency. "The cabinet expansion will take place between 10:30 and 11:30 am tomorrow. I have already written a letter to the Governor in this regard. I have asked Chief Secretary to make all arrangements," Yediyurappa said.

The BJP has called a meeting of its legislative party on Tuesday morning, and that new ministers would be sworn in later. The BJP high command's preoccupation with piloting crucial bills in Parliament, and taking stock of the devastating floods across northern and coastal Karnataka is believed to be behind the delay in the Cabinet expansion. Asked about the number of ministers likely to be inducted on Tuesday, the chief minister said, "13 to 14 people are likely to be inducted in the cabinet in the first phase, there may be plus or minus one or two, we have now recommended 13 to 14 of them." Yediyurappa has a tightrope to walk during the cabinet expansion as he has to craft a fine caste and regional balance, in view of large number of aspirants.

Unlike its predecessor, the Congress-JD(S) coalition, the BJP government gets bulk of its MLAs from northern and coastal Karnataka. Also Lingayats — Yediyurappa's kinsmen and the single largest caste group in the state at around 17% who have overwhelmingly stood by the saffron party — would expect to be rewarded. BJP functionaries who spoke on condition of anonymity indicated that there would be no deputy CM's post. Senior political analyst Mahadev Prasad said, "The cabinet expansion will have to be a careful exercise so as not to upset any group within the party, which is why they are likely to keep nearly half the slots empty. What will be interesting to watch is whether any of the rebel MLAs who resigned and helped topple the coalition government are likely to be rewarded immediately."