

March 15, 2004

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MR. M. M JACOB VISITS BALPAKRAM NAITONAL PARK

Shillong, March 15, 2004: The Governor of Meghalaya, Mr. M M Jacob visited Balpakram National Park, South Garo Hills on March 12, 2004. The main purpose of the visit was to have an on-the spot assessment of the National Park for tapping of its natural resources.

While briefing the District Officials, Mr Jacob, said that South Garo Hills District is still the lowest in terms of development in comparison with the other districts of the State and that there are many areas in which the District Administration will have to work hard for the development of the region.

Later on the day, Mr. Jacob met the local people and representatives of different NGOs to have a first hand knowledge of the problems faced by the common people of the region.

GOVERNOR ATTENDS SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF BISHOP OF TURA

Shillong, March 15, 2004: The Governor of Meghalaya, Mr. M M Jacob, participated in the two-day Episcopal Silver Jubilee of Rt. Rev Dr George Mamalassery D.D, the Bishop of Tura and also attended the Holy Mass at the Don Bosco Mini-Stadium, Tura on March 14, 2004.

Addressing the gathering during the felicitation programme, Mr. Jacob, conveyed the message of peace and development to the people, saying that Garo Hills has good future prospects for development but this can be achieved only if the people do not allow criminals to flourish in their land. The Governor also appreciated the valuable contributions made by the Bishop of Tura, rev Dr George Mamalassery towards the growth and development of Garo Hills in the fields of economy, literacy and health as well as in spiritual development and hoped that the Bishop would continue to shine as an exemplary figure to the youth of Garo Hills.

It may be mentioned that Rev. Dr Mamalassery was ordained as the bishop of Tura on March 28, 1979 after serving as the Parish Priest of Dalu and Baghmara parishes respectively. In his 25 years of service to God and the people of Garo Hills, he has been instrumental in bringing development, especially in the fields of health and education. Among his major contributions are the establishment of Montfort Centre for Education for Disabled Children and the Red Cross Hospital at Dakopgre, Tura.

Besides hundreds of believers from the State and outside, the Episcopal Silver Jubilee celebration was well-attended, among others, by the Bishops and Archbishops from different North Eastern States and Bangladesh, including the Archbishop of Shillong, Most Rev Dr Dominic Jala, Archbishop of Imphal, Most Rev Dr Joseph Mittathany, Minister Mukul Sangma and Mr Billy kid Sangma, a host of Government officials, MDCs and public leaders.

Earlier on March 13, a number of NGOs and political parties called on the Governor at Tura Circuit House and submitted their memoranda. Prominent among them were the GHADC members, Mother's Union, Garo Student's Union, Tura Government Colleges Student's Union, Federation of Khasi Jaintia and Garo people, etc.

The GHADC delegation comprising of the Chief Executive Member, Mr. E A Sangma the Chairman, Mr. R A Sangma and the Secretary T K Mara apprised the Governor of the inability of the District Council in fulfilling its constitutional responsibilities and in taking up developmental works. Mr Jacob assured the delegation that he would convey to the government the need to allocate more funds to the GHADC and asked the delegation to take up more developmental works in the rural areas.

MR PAUL LYGDOH REGRETS IOA'S SELECTION PROCESS

Shillong, March 15, 2004: The Meghalaya Minister for Sports and youth Affairs, Mr Paul Lyngdoh expressed deep regret over the decision of the Indian Olympic Association to hold re-selection of selected athletics of the North East to participate in the 9th South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, scheduled to be held in Islamabad, Pakistan from March 29, 2004.

In light of the selection of Donboklang Lyngdoh, in the Karate discipline, who has been selected from the entire North East region after undergoing the selection process at different levels, Mr Lyngdoh said that the IOA's decision would send wrong signals about the attitude and mindset of the IOA when it comes to this region.

Seeking the personal intervention of the President of the IOA, Mr Suresh Kalmadi in the matter, Mr. Lyngdoh communicated with the IOA President with the hope that the matter would reach an amicable solution.

WORLD CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY OBSERVED AT NONGPOH

Shillong, March 15, 2004: Together with the rest of the world, Ri Bhoi District today observed "World Consumer Rights Day" at St. Paul's Hall, Nongpoh. The function graced by the Deputy Commissioner, Mr W L Lyngdoh, as the Chief Guest, was organized by the office of the Deputy Director, Supply, Nongpoh. The resource persons on the occasion were Mr. W H D Syngkon, Additional Advocate General, Shillong, Mr. C M Adhikara, Advocate and Mr. L Wahlang, Advocate.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Lyngdoh maintained that people, both in rural and sub-urban areas like Nongpoh are not aware of their rights as consumers and as a result they are exploited by traders and retailers through the supply of adulterated, incorrect measurements and substandard consumer items. Lamenting over the lack of initiative to utilise the District Forums to lodge complaints when consumer rights are exploited, Mr. Lyngdoh expressed hope that the day's deliberations would help educate people and check such malpractice.

As a part of the function, Mr. W H D Syngkon delivered a lecture on "Importance of Consumer Protection Act" while Mr. C M Adhikara spoke on "The Role of Weights and Measures" and Mr L Wahlang on "Food Adulteration".

The programme presided by the Deputy Director of Supply, Nongpoh, Mr. P M Syiem was largely attended by students, Rangbah Shnongs, local leaders and the people at large.

NOTIFICATION

Shillong, March 15, 2004: The Deputy Commissioner, Ri Bhoi District Nongpoh, Mr. W L Lyngdoh has notified that applications for Fete/Mela Permission by NOGs/Clubs/Schools or any other group should reach his Office one month prior to the date of holding the fete so that necessary action would be processed on time.