

## UALA cadres bid farewell to arms



Signaling an era of peace and hope in the Garo Hills, 66 cadres of United A'chik Liberation Army (UALA) bade farewell to arms at a historic disbanding ceremony of the former militant organization in the presence of the Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma, Home Minister Roshan Warjri, the interlocutors and hosts of dignitaries at SMELC Building, Tura on June 9.

It may be mentioned that UALA, formed in 2012, had responded to the overtures of State Government and, had signed a peace agreement with the Government

on December 18, 2015 after a series of dialogues in the past one-and-a half year. General Secretary, Garo Baptist Convention, Rev. Janang R. Sangma, Pastor, Hawakhana Church, Rev. F. D. Sangma and Rev. Fr. Januarius S. Sangma were non-official interlocutors, while MBOSE Chairman and Commissioner & Secretary, Education, E. P. Kharbhih was the facilitator from Government side.

The Chief Minister, in his address on the occasion, lauded the bold decision of the organization saying that the programme would generate a lot of hope and

(Contd. in Pg. 2)

## CM attends football final



Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. Mukul Sangma attended the final of the 1<sup>st</sup> Umkor Urksew Pynursla (UUP) Invitational Football Tournament, 2016 on June 11, where Eastern Pirates, Pohkse, Shillong thrashed PHE, Pynursla Sub-Division in a tie-breaker held at Urksew Football Stadium, Pynursla. The tournament was organised by UUP Sports Club wherein 16 teams from various parts of State took part in the tournament.

Dr. Mukul Sangma was also accompanied by Forest and Environment Minister, Shri P. Tynsong who is also the local MLA, PWD Minister, S. Dhar, Dr. C. Lyngdoh, MLA and Shri H. Bamon, MLA among others.

"Meghalaya, with the concerted effort of all can be the powerhouse of football..."

the love for football is definitely in our blood and DNA" said Dr. Sangma in his speech as the Chief Guest while highlighting the fact that Meghalaya has been showing tremendous interest in soccer and has also produced star footballers who represents India in the international arena. He also urged upon all the people to organise and take part in football tournaments so that the State can produce more gifted and talented players to represent the State and the country as a whole.

Earlier the delegation of Riwar Mihngi submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister. Dr. Mukul Sangma also felicitated Shri Aiborlang Khongjee who is a part of the Indian football squad and Smti B. Nengnong, first woman football coach of the State.



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(Contd. from Pg. 1)



should be taken as an opportunity to send a positive message to the others who are still in the jungle. Reiterating that discrimination was the cause of frustration and loss of hope among the youth resulting in militancy, he called for collective and concerted efforts of all concerned to complete turnaround in the system.

Sharing the concern of the UALA Chairman Novembirth Marak over negative remarks from certain quarters on Government's rehabilitation package for militant outfits who give up arms, the Chief Minister replied to the skeptics saying the Government was moving ahead with complete clarity to achieve the shared objective of bringing lasting peace in the region. He said the approach of the Government of providing such should be adopted across the State as well as other states of North East as the problem of insurgency is a shared problem of the states in the region.

The Chief Minister urged upon the cadres of the disbanded outfit never to lose hope and assured them that the Government would continue giving them handholding and guiding support.

Home Minister Smti. Roshan Warjri in her address expressed her gratitude to all those who made it possible to bring UALA cadres back to the mainstream and called for continued support and counseling as they start their lives anew. "What lay behind you is not important, but the important thing is what is within you and

what lies ahead of you" she told the homecoming cadres and congratulated them on their new journey towards social, economic, moral and spiritual upliftment. She also emphasized on the dignity of labour and called for their participation in working together for peace and development in the State.

Former HNLC Chairman, who is now Legislator of Mawhati constituency, Shri. Julius K. Dorphan briefly shared his past experiences, the peace he felt after coming overground and spoke words of encouragement to the cadres of disbanded organization.

Chairman of the disbanded organization, Shri. Novembirth Marak highlighted the background of the organization, the objective for which it was formed and the decision taken by them to come and join the mainstream. He expressed his gratitude to the State Government-led by Dr. Mukul Sangma and the interlocutors for facilitating their return to the mainstream.

On the occasion, the Bishop of Tura, Rt. Rev. Andrew R. Marak spoke to the cadres on the theme "Return Home" and Rev. Janang R. Sangma deliberated on the theme "Unity for Abiding Peace", while Rev. G.B.R. Marak and Rev. Fr. Januarius S. Sangma invoked the blessing of God on the occasion through their prayers of intercession and benediction. The disbanding ceremony was chaired by Deputy Commissioner, Prabin Bakshi.

## Basin Environment Week 2016 Culminated



The Basin Environment Week 2016 which kick-started on the June 6, concluded on June 10, at the Multipurpose Hall, Deputy Commissioner's office together with the observance of the World Environment Day organized by the District Legal Services Authority, South West Khasi Hills in collaboration with the Basin Development Unit (BDU), Mawkyrwat. Shri. Rowell Lyngdoh, Deputy Chief Minister of Meghalaya was the Chief Guest and Smt. R. Lyngdoh, Deputy Commissioner of South West Khasi Hills District and Chairman of B.D.U. Mawkyrwat the Guest of Honour. It may also be mentioned that the Environment Week 2016 was organized by the office of the Basin Development Unit, Mawkyrwat.

While speaking on the occasion Mr. Rowell Lyngdoh said that there is rampant destruction of the environment and we are responsible for the depletion of the atmosphere. He underlined the need of preservation of the environment and forests as it sustains life support system which is needed for human existence. Mr. Lyngdoh also stressed on the importance of sanitation to fulfill the goal of Swachh Bharat Mission as declared by the Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi. He hoped that with the plantation of more trees, more awareness on sanitation, conservation and preservation of the environment, India will never suffer from environmental issues as predicted by some scientists within these 20 years. He called upon people to work together in the preservation of

environment and protection of forests which is vital to mankind and to start something in a humble and sincere beginning. He also handed the prize to the winners.

Mrs R. Lyngdoh said that environment is a vast subject to dwell upon. She laid great stress on the need of preservation and conservation and the need of public participation which is of utmost importance in order to conserve and preserve the bio-diversity in all its forms and to utilize resources in a proper and sustainable manner. She reiterated that as Nature has bestowed us with immense natural resources it is the responsibility of mankind to utilize the resources prudently so that we benefit from nature without harming the environment. She concluded her speech from a quotation of Mahatma Gandhi "The world can provide and afford for man's needs but nature can't afford to fulfill man's lust and greed".

As part of the week-long celebration, different programmes were organised which included Motivational Session, Singing and Skit Competition, Planting of tree saplings in 9 villages, 8 Schools and offices within Mawkyrwat, Environment Run Competition and Awareness March cum Slogan Competition.

It is also worth mentioning that about 1500 fish fingerlings were released at Photumnew by Seng Samla Shnong, Mawkyrwat in collaboration with the Fisheries Department, Mawkyrwat.



## World Environment week concludes on high note at Ampati



The weeklong World Environment Week celebration concluded on June 10, on a high note here at Ampati in South West Garo Hills with an elaborate function organized by the South West Garo Hills Basin Development Unit wherein students, villagers and participants reaffirmed to plant more trees and desist from reckless destruction of forest cover. The weeklong observance was marked by various competitions for school students including painting, essay writing, extempore speech and debate.

Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Shri. Zenith Sangma accompanied by Parliamentary Secretary i/c Home, W D Sangma gave away certificates and medals to the winners of the competitions on the concluding day at Ampati Multi Facility Centre. During the daylong gathering the dignitaries gave away Green Awards to the three villages for best maintenance of tree saplings planted earlier last year.

Addressing the gathering as the Chief Guest Zenith Sangma urged all the participants to become green ambassadors and disseminate the importance of trees and its role in providing us security, livelihood and livable environment. The minister stated that the mere observance of world environment day/week was not enough and that it should facilitate drastic changes in terms of afforestation

and conservation. Speaking on the need of planting more trees per person to mitigate global warming and scarcity of water, Sangma stated that one should be true in one's intentions and sincerely pursue it until the objective is attained. Stressing on the need to maintain ecological balance, Sangma also spoke on cruelty to animals and other living creatures and informed that in the near future a law would be passed that would make it a punishable offence.

Parliamentary Secretary i/c Home, Shri. Winnerson D Sangma who arrived as the Guest of Honor also spoke on the occasion and urged the gathering to plant more trees to create more shades along thoroughfares. He also advised the gathering to opt for fruit bearing species for double benefit while planting saplings.

Among others who spoke on the occasion were South West Garo Hills Deputy Commissioner Ram Singh, EAC and Basin Development Unit Nodal Officer W R G Momin and District Horticulture Officer B R Marak.

The function ended with a seminar wherein resource persons from the Soil and Water Conservation, Horticulture, Agriculture, Social Forestry departments and the Integrated Basin Development and Livelihood Promotion programme (IBDLP) spoke on various issues concerning the environment.

## World Environment Week 2016 Celebration concludes



To raise awareness on environmental issues and concerns such as air pollution, climate change, wildlife crimes the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills, Shillong and Basin Development Unit, East Khasi Hills District organized the Environment Week on the theme "Zero Tolerance for the Illegal Wildlife Trade" which concluded on June 10 at a function held at Moreau Institute of Integral Training, Shillong.

Dr. M. Ampareen Lyngdoh, Urban Affairs Minister graced the occasion as the Chief Guest in the presence of Deputy Commissioner and Chairman BDU, East Khasi Hills, Shri P. S. Dkhar, OSD, Meghalaya Institute of Entrepreneurship, Shri B.K. Sohliya, head of institutional institutions and students.

The programme aimed at encouraging people especially the young students to protect our environment in our own little ways, various activities namely slogan writing, painting, extempore speech, essay competition, awareness march, tree plantation etc. were conducted for school and college students.

During the concluding day, prizes were also distributed to all the winners of various competitions held during weeklong programmes.

## Meghalaya Compulsory Registration of Marriages

The Meghalaya Compulsory Registration of Marriages Rules, 2015 has been notified by the Government of Meghalaya vide ERTS(R)/7/2011/366 dated 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2015. This was informed by the Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Excise, Registration, Taxation & Stamps Department.

As per provision under the Rules, the Registrars of Marriages have also been duly appointed for East and West Khasi Hills, East and West Jaintia Hills, Mairang and Sohra Civil Sub-Division. Registrar of Marriages for the remaining Districts and Sub Divisions will be notified in due course.

Under the rules, the parties to a marriage solemnized after the 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 are to submit a memorandum (application form costing Rs. 10/- as registration fee are available with the Registrar of Marriage in the office of the Deputy Commissioner of the Districts) alongwith their passport size photographs to the Registrar of Marriage within a period of 60 days from the date of solemnization of marriage.

Upon completion, the Registrar of Marriage shall issue a certificate of Registration of Marriage, free of cost, to the parties of marriage as proof of registration.

Marriages solemnized after the 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 in respect of which no memorandum of registration is filed within sixty days of its solemnization shall be liable to pay a fine of Rs. 100/- for each month's delay after 60 days upto 120 days, and Rs. 50/- subject to a maximum of Rs. 1000/- for each month's delay after 120 days.

For any enquiry or information, the public may contact the Registrar of Marriages of the Districts and Sub-Divisions.



## Green Volunteers Conclave Held



As part of the World Environment Day Celebration 2016, the Meghalaya Institute of Natural Resources (MINR), of Basin Development Authority (MBDA) organised the Green Volunteers Conclave at Bharat Scouts and Guides Hall in the city on June 9.

The Day Long Conclave brought together community members and individuals who have in their capacity undertaken various green initiatives by combining traditional knowledge and modern practices. The conclave also provided an opportunity to green volunteers representing each of the six districts of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills region of the state to share their experiences and best practices and to discuss also, the ensuing challenges in the realm of environment conservation. The conclave was attended among others by school students and also representatives of various line departments like the Forest, Agriculture, Fisheries departments etc.

Attending the Inaugural Session as Chief Guest, Dr. Shreeranjana, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya expressed the need for immediate redressal of environmental issues and concerns. Dr. Shreeranjana also stressed on the need for societal action through community involvement and participation to mitigate the challenges on the environmental front.

He also asked all gathered to introspect and pose tough questions to one self regarding one's approach to life and the environment. He also reminded of the fact about how the definition of human development index has evolved over the years. He stated that the development index of yesteryears was determined by the amount of wealth and possession one has, but current development index is based on how healthy and happy one is; thereby calling on all concerned to work towards a healthy lifestyle.

Other dignitaries who spoke at the programme include Dr. B.D.R Tiwari, IAS, CEO MBDA, Dr. S. Ashutosh, IAS, Deputy CEO MBDA, Smt. Patricia Mukhim, eminent columnist and Editor, The Shillong Times, Shri. Toki Blah, President ICARE, Shri. H. H Mohrmen, President, Society for Urban & Rural Employment (SURE) among others.



A State level Workshop under the theme: "Transboundary, Exotic and Emerging Diseases – A Strategic Insight and Deliberation" was held at the State Convention Centre, Shillong on June 14. The programme was organised by the Office of the Assistant Director (Disease Investigation & Disease Surveillance Wing) Meghalaya, Shillong.

Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, AH & Veterinary Department, Smti M.H.K. Marak graced the inaugural session as Chief Guest.

In her brief address as Chief Guest, Smti M.H.K. Marak dwelt at length about the diseases that are zoonotic and contagious in nature, which are also the common cause of death for the cattle and livestock. She also informed that there is a need to come up with a strategic way to curb such diseases and stressed on the need for organising awareness programmes so that cattle losses as a result of these diseases can be made minimal.

The inaugural session was followed by a technical session wherein topics, namely, "Emerging infections: A threat to Human and Animal Health", Emerging bacterial zoonoses in India with special reference to Meghalaya, Parasitic infections in Animals of North Eastern Region" and "Animals Disease Reports" were discussed.

## Five A-Side Day & Night Baghmara Futsal Challenge Cup, 2016 gets underway



A 3 day Five A-Side Day & Night Baghmara Futsal Challenge Cup, 2016 got underway on June 14 at the District Sports Playground, Baghmara. The Tournament is being organised by the Baghmara District Sports Association in collaboration with the District Sports office, Baghmara, District Administration and Superintendent of Police, Baghmara. The ICAFI, University Tura, Meghalaya sponsored the Tournament. Altogether 23 teams are participating in the tournament.

Deputy Commissioner, South Garo Hills District, Smti S. N. Marak while lauding the participating teams for their zeal and enthusiasm said that the motive behind organising the tournament was to improve the skill of footballers, particularly as the youth have a great deal of potential for such games. She also welcomed the teams from West Garo Hills District, North Garo Hills, and East Garo Hills District for taking interest in participating and joining the Futsal Tournament. "Game is not always about winning, it is about participation, we should enjoy the game and let the best team win", she added. She also informed the gathering that tournaments like Badminton Tournament, Basketball Tournament etc will also be organized in the coming months.

In the opening day, matches were played amongst Baghmara Police vs Jaksongram Blue Hills, Dopagram vs Nikjagring, Shining Club vs D.C. Matgrik and Rangdokram Club vs Upper Rongdotchi.

### Application invited

The Deputy Commissioner (Supply), East Khasi Hills District invites application from interested/bonafied persons/Co-operative Societies/NGOs/SHG/ Government for appointment of Government Nominees/Agents in PDS for the year 2016 in Sohiong Centre and Mawngap Centre.

Application Form duly filled in should reach the office of the Deputy Commissioner (Supply) latest by 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 during office hours.

Detailed information can be obtained from the office of the Deputy Commissioner (Supply) East Khasi Hills, Shillong.

### Revised Minimum Wage Revised

The Deputy Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Labour Department has informed that the minimum daily wage for labourers and workers employed under the 28 Schedule of Employments in the State has been revised w.e.f. 1st April, 2016.

The revised wage for unskilled workers was hiked from Rs.173 per day to Rs 181 for semi-skilled workers Rs 184 to Rs.192. For skilled workers the rate was hiked from Rs 194 to Rs 203 and for highly-skilled workers Rs 215 to Rs.225.