

Hornbills lift Tamchon trophy



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In a joyous moments, the Hornbills shouted "Hip Hip Hurray! They defeated Zeliangrong FC 2-0 in the final match of 11th ONGC North-East Tamchon Football Tournament held in Dr Ambedkar Stadium, [New Delhi](#) on December 2, 2017.

North-East, the land of [football](#) lovers, from the nook and corner of the national capital, Delhi gathered and flocked together in a [group](#) supporting their favourite team in the final kick-off. Both the side of supporters came in a huge number with large banners, beating drums and whistles and blowing pipes, cheering their team players. The fans of Zeliangrong FC screamed heavily, "Zeliangrong Rintelo!" On the other side, the groups of [Hornbill](#) joyfully shouted, "Long Live, [Hornbill](#)!" A dramatic and exciting moment of the year.

Defending champion (also of 2015) Muvanlai Athletics and [Hmar](#) FC fiercely fought for the third place title. The defending champion Muvanlai has been thrashed badly by the Hmars in 5-[Zero](#) goals. It was really a sad day for the fans and supporters of Muvanlai (in Kuki, Eagle).

Mr Jikil Basumatary of Bodo FC received the best goalkeeper award, Zeliangrong's Abhishak got best defender award, Vikas of Zeliangrong FC got best midfielder award, [Hornbill](#)'s Akbar Khan got best striker award, Indian [Air](#) Force got best team award, Best coach goes to NK Tadoubou of [Hornbill](#) FC, and Muvanlai's Paobul Haokip got best manager award. The most and best eye-on, Mr Ansh Gupta of [Hornbill](#) received the award Man of the tournament.

The closing ceremony was graced by Shri Conrad Sangma, Member of [Parliament](#) (MP), and Shri Ameising Luikham, IAS, Secretary of Minority Affairs, Govt of [India](#), as the chieft guest and guest of honour respectively.

The special invitees include Shri Shashi Shanker, CMD, ONGC; Smt Supriya Sahu, IAS, Director General, Doordarshan; and Shri David Lalrinsanga, IPS, Joint Commissioner of Police (also the nodal officer for northeast people), Delhi.

The crowd assembled at Ambedkar Stadium, which was entertained by Retrosonic. Everyone raised up and sang the theme song: "Go Light Your World", led by Ms Melody Varte.

Traditional performances like Pung Cholom (a typical [dance](#) from [Manipur](#)) and Dragon [Dance](#) has raised the eye-brows.

North-East loves not only [football](#), it also music! A beautiful and soft-spoken lady, Ms Melody Varte mesmerized the crowd. A young gentleman Themreishang Awungshi has electrified the huge crowd with his melodious songs.

It may be mentioned that Mr Ngaranmi Shimray, Vice-[President](#), TNSD gave the welcome address and Ms Chingri Zimik, Joint Secretary, TNSD gave away the vote-of-thanks.

Addressing the crowd as the chief guest Shri Conrad Sangma said he is also a [football](#) lover and played as a goalkeeper in his hey days. He said i love [football](#), and i also saved many goals when i was a keeper! I wish both the finalist team to play their very best.

While speaking to the media, Mr Ngaranmi Shimray said, we are trying our best and we co-ordinate between the players and Indian clubs, who are looking for prospective players. It was a blessing for our people. That they, our boys (those who played in this [trophy](#)), can go in a professional way by entering into big big Indian teams/clubs. "Now i am in continuous contacts with many clubs' managers and coaches". "This year, even Chinese, Thais, Koreans were requesting for a slot, though we want to give them, but it was not possible. However, we (the organisers) looking forward in such a way to accomodate many more. As [football](#) has no boundaries, we, the organisers has not boundaries at all. See, the Indian [Air](#) Force and Gorkha, has been accomdated. By the way, we all are Indians, game is a game. That's we love and called [football](#)", Mr Shimray stated.

Let's go back to the semi for awhile, why? It was the biggest fights ever. Two great teams, died in semi! Fans believed these two team will clashed in the final, but hope despaired, when the kick-off began.

The champion of 2014 & 2013, [Hmar](#) FC lost to Zeliangrong by [One-Zero](#), and the defending champion of 2016 & 2015, Muvanlai Athletics lost to [Hornbill](#) FC by [One-Zero](#) in the semi final. Eagle (=muvanlai) could not [kill Hornbill](#) bird!

Interestingly, these two team [Hmar](#) FC and Zeliangrong FC met only in the semi final. Unluckily, [Hmar](#) FC stopper turned the ball into a suicidal goal in the 23rd-minute, while trying to defend the ball in front of the goalie, the ball spined-off from his leg and entered into their own goal. That's the unlucky part of Hmars! Even this reporter, a supporter of [Hmar](#) FC, closed down his pen, as a [sign](#) of support to [Hmar](#) pasaltha (good men or martyrs)!

The great Hmars had lost two finals to Zeliangrongs, in the year 2012 and 2008. Zeliangrong lost to Muvanlai in 2016 final.

This time, 2017, Muvanlai was defeated by [Hornbill](#) in the semi, through Mr Hemta turning the ball into goal in 42th minute. The match was full of excitement, and cheerings from the huge fans and supporters of both side. For Muvanlai, two closely attempts, just only 2-3 feet away from the goalie, the first kicked was blocked away by the goalie. Then Muvanlai striker hastily kicked towards the goal, but it straightly hit the goalpost and bounced back. [Hornbill](#) FC also missed another three good-attempts. Either side could not enter goal through out the end.

Lastly, but not the least, the birds of [Hornbill](#) has ais from [Gurgaon](#), all the goals originated from his passings (in [football](#), its called suppliers). He has three eyes in the field, but two in physical. he has supplied the balls to the right-winger, and to the left. He remained in the mid. The third-eye, is in the middle, but guarded by many Zeliangrongs, so he feat the ball into many ways!

The winner takes away the Trophy alongwith Cash Rs 5 Lakhs, runners-up has Rs 3 Lakhs, 3rd Place Rs 2 Lakhs and the quater-finalist team received Rs 25,000 each.

NETFT has began in 2007 under the aegis of Tangkhul Naga Society Delhi (TNSD) in memory of a young police officer named Mr Tamchon Raingam, an ACP (Asst Commissioner of Police), Delhi. Since its inception, the theme of the tournament is "Unity, Friendship, Understanding and Sportsmanship".

The event is also popular for its various cultural exhibitions. The opening and closing ceremonies exhibits the reich cultural hertiage of the North-East regions. Officials from the organising committee, says, till now, more than 5000 footballers have participated in Tamchon [football](#). More than a hundred have been placed in elite national clubs! Amazing!!

Not to forget, forget me not! There were many beautiful lady-volunteers, who caters us --- giving tea and snaks to the guests and mediapersons --- with beautiful smiles and disciplined approached, so much so that, we often want to leave the podium, and sit among the crowd. But many of us, were being embedded! Thanks to them, whom we [don](#)'t know their names.

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