

Editorial

Imphal, Friday, December 18, 2015

Recreation- a serious business

The enigmatic cycle of our modern world has everyone in its grip- people devoting increasingly longer time and efforts in their pursuit for higher financial returns which will be utilized for amassing more goods and services pushing up demands and subsequently the prices thus forcing people to work even harder to maintain their lifestyles and standards of living. This endless cycle of consumerism and capitalism needs to be slowed down before the mentality of the working public become so attuned to the singular objective of earning more to spend more, relegating all other social and personal activities and responsibilities as secondary considerations. Recreation- a word that conjures up images of whiling away one's time in seemingly mundane matters and activities- is the remedy for all the tensions and pressures the busy modern world is imposing on the society. It may take any form and is the surest way to recharge and refresh the mind, body and soul to meet new challenges. It releases the pent-up frustrations one experienced in our daily grinds and struggles and takes our minds away from everything that confines and hinders our life. This becomes more relevant in our society with the increasing number of educated and knowledgeable young energetic generation vying for the limited opportunities this troubled state has to offer. The increasing delays and indifference, not to mention the disorderliness and hindrances one has to bear to get anything done leaves a negative impact on our mindset which starts to manifest in the general attitude of the public- the dour expressions and wary exchanges tinged with suspicion and distrust, and even the occasional physical violence. It will not be an exaggeration to point out that our society- especially the youths are being hemmed in from all sides thus making them feel emotionally suffocated, deprived of their liberties and their personal freedom infringed upon. On the one hand- social vigilantism that often borders on the fanatic and on the other hand, the armed forces treating everybody in the state with suspicion and distaste thereby distancing themselves from the people with each passing day, with the government not doing visibly enough to make things better for the common public. It is high time to take recreation seriously- not with a frown and gritted teeth, but with our heart and soul leaving all the worries and frustrations behind- to be able to live our childhood again- even if for a very brief moment and be truly free of all obligations and responsibilities and pursue that one thing that brings us real and undiluted happiness. It is only when the mind, soul and the body are purified that we can focus on building a better life and a contented and happy society consequently.

CBI conducts checks at Chennai airport

PTI Chennai, Dec 18: A CBI team today held checks at the airport here in connection alleged irregularities over seizure of smuggled gold, police said. The CBI sleuths arrived here in the wee hours and held checks at the International Arrival area, police said without divulging further details.

On Sales

A good condition Winger vehicle with Imphal - Dimapur route permit is on sales. Interested person should contact on 9856952253.

Wanted Sub-Editor

Imphal Times is looking for an experience sub editor with excellent writing skill in English who can read Bengali writing script. Working hour is 12 noon till 3 pm. Honorarium is Rs. 3000 p.m. Preference will be given to candidate who had already work in English daily as desk editor. Age no bar, and Imphal Times have no problem with those candidates working in other newspaper at night shift.

WHENEVER YOU SEE CONSTRUCTION AND MINING EQUIPMENTS, JUST THINK OF US

A SOLUTION FOR EVERY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT



Automobile Engineering Works-1
BEML WORKSHOP
 New Checkon Road, Purana Rajbari
 Imphal East,
 Manipur - 795 001

ALL KINDS OF SPARE PARTS AVAILABLE

AFTER SALES SERVICE TO YOUR SATISFACTION

Authorised dealer **BEML Limited**
 (A Government of India Mini Ratna Company under Ministry of Defence)

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail: imphaltimes@gmail.com. For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-2452159 (O)

Contd. from page 1

Significance of the Anglo-Kuki war 1917-1919 AD

At the same time, many hill dwellers were illiterate and lambus, acted as middlemen between the British and the chiefs. There is ample evidence that they, talked in favor of the chiefs, thereby giving room for revolt against to the former. Perhaps, they favored the chiefs for security reasons. By this time however, there was only a single government school in Mao region and a mission school at the present Ukhrul district headquarters.

The causes: The Anglo-Kuki war broke out due to the expansion of colonialism into the territory of the Kuki. Before the Kuki of Manipur has direct confrontation with the British, many other Kuki who lived in Chittagong, Tripura, and the Lushai Hills have encountered the British. Encounter with the British by the Kuki took for the first time in 1777 AD.² This shows that the Kuki and the British were enemy as soon as the British expanded their unpopular colonialism and ceases sophisticated weapons seize from the Kuki. The Kuki, who kept weapons almost proportionate to all the able men, were forced to surrender or deposit their weapons to the government authority before the outbreak of the war that further widen the enmity between the two. For second, recruitment of labour corps hurt the sentiments of the Kuki who prided themselves as 'people who never bowed down before others'. Lieutenant Colonel, H. Cole, the political agent, supporting the view of JC Webster, commented: "I am convinced that

the present rebellion is due primarily to the unpopularity of recruiting for the labour corps, and therefore the cost of suppressing the rebellion should be paid from Imperial Revenues."⁶ A clear assertion of the priorities can be seen in these statements with regard to the British policies.

Besides, the Kuki religious system was also another big factor. It was the head of the family alone who could worship, the good Lord on his behalf and also on behalf of all his family members during the Hun ceremony that took seven days in the last week of the month of May or first week of June, of the Christian era. Recruiting almost all the able men for labour corps in other words would mean all the heads of the family. So, sending them to overseas, without certain dates of their return would have surely dismantled the Hun ceremony. Thirdly, the tribal feud sustained by head hunting tradition, or land dispute- dispute over land boundaries between villages and tribes- developed fear psychosis among the Kukis that gave big setback to the idea of recruiting labour corps among the Kuki of Manipur. Besides, the economic pressure was increasingly becoming overwhelming upon the masses of the Kukis.

Important events: At Lonpi Battle that was fought at Chakpi River crossing point, in September 1917, the Kuki warriors and the British have a prolong pitched battle. Here, three British soldiers died and

several have been wounded. The British troops numbering 80 marched towards Lonpi to Punish the Kuki but the Kuki attacked them. As stated above Higgins's mission to convince the chief failed. When Higgins went to Lonpi, with an escort of Fifty Rifles, to study the situation, he found the village deserted. Lonpi village was burnt down on the 17th October, 1917.⁷ The War between the Kuki and the British was set into motion after these events. Chingakhamba Sanachaobao Singh, who professed to have supernatural powers went to Wakha (Ukha) a Kuki village, called ten Kuki and looted the forest toll station at Ithai on the 19th December, 1917.⁸ The Kuki planned to attack Imphal on the 22nd December, 1917 certainly causes considerable anxiety among the people of Imphal. Longya battle followed Lonpi and Ithai incidents. The kuki troops under the leadership of Ngulbul and British, under the command of Captain Montifiere show down another battle in February 1918. Ngulbul was killed while trying to escape from the stocked with his little son on his arm.⁹ The mid March, 1918, witness another show down at Chassad-Kamjong. In the encounter, several casualties inflicted and Lt. Molesworth was killed and Lt. Kay Mauryat, who came from the Burma, was seriously wounded.¹⁰ The Kuki directed their action towards the British and their supporters and vice-versa. The

Kuki chiefs murdered Khopum Chaukidar and in retaliation, the British under the leadership of Cloete consisting of 150 rifles burnt down, eleven villages. Durbar president and his team burnt down two villages between March 5 and 10. On the 18 May, the Kuki raided Pangsang Chingmai, a Chiru village. Twenty one lost their lives and five persons were missing. At **Khongakhul**, twenty six were killed on the 22 May and thirteen were found missing. On the 23 May, the Kuki burnt down a suspension bridge built over the Thoubal River. At the Kasom village, thirty-five died after they refused to supply rice and coolies to the rebels. Angered upon the loyalty of the Manipuri Raja, **Khutinthang**, chief of Jampi village proclaimed himself the Maharaja of Manipur. Collections of guns and terrorizing different villages followed his proclamations. On June 3, 1918, the rebels killed seven Muslims of Kwakta, after receiving reports that the latter had nexus with the British. They also shot dead twenty persons from the **Kharam** village and forty were found missing after gun shots. It is believed that some might have succumbed to death after getting wounded. On the 16 June, **Khongde**, Kuki village chief was shot dead for guiding Hutton on his visit to **Sapwomi**. The Kuki opened fire at some cultivators of **Iringbam** villagers on the 18 June.¹¹

(To be contd.....)

National & International News

Mizoram 2015: Of Guv appointments, Brus, liquor ban lifting

PTI Aizawl, Dec 18: Frequent change of governors dominated the political scenario in Mizoram in 2015 which also saw lifting of an 18-year-old ban on liquor in the state. The year began with the swearing-in of Aziz Qureshi as governor on January 9 by Justice Michael Zothankhuma, who himself was sworn-in as a judge of Gauhati High Court two days ago. Repatriation of Brus lodged in six relief camps in North Tripura district also dominated headlines. Qureshi was then removed on March 28 and West Bengal Governor Keshri Nath Tripathi was asked to take additional charge of Mizoram. On May 26, Lt Gen (Retd) Nirbhay Sharma, the present governor, was

sworn-in at the Durbal Hall of Raj Bhavan. The frequent change of governors drew sharp criticism from many quarters and the Mizo Zirlai Pawl or Mizo students' federation staged a protest demonstration in front of the Raj Bhavan on April 4, just before Tripathi was sworn-in. The central committee of the Young Mizo Association (YMA), the largest community-based organisation in the state, also condemned the frequent change of governors. Sharma is the eighth governor of Mizoram to be appointed after Vakkom Purushothaman resigned on July 12, 2014 in protest against his transfer to Nagaland by the NDA government. After the state remained under a

stringent prohibition regime for 18 years, the Mizoram Liquor Prohibition and Control Act, 2014 came into force from January 15 and liquor shops opened from March 16 in Aizawl from where permit holders could buy and consume Indian made foreign liquor. Following this, Conference of the Synod, the highest decision-making authority of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church, decided that people selling liquor and holding permit for purchase and consumption of alcohol will not be allowed to take active part in church activities. On the Bru issue, the Mizoram government chalked out a road map for repatriation commencing from June 2 and to be continued till September 4.

According to the road map, it was planned that Mamit district along Mizoram-Tripura border would host 2,594 Bru families, while 628 would be resettled in Kolasib district along Mizoram-Assam border and 233 families in south Mizoram's Lunglei district. However, the mega plan for which Rs 68 crore was earmarked failed as not a single Bru came forward for identification as bona fide resident of Mizoram. The Brus had migrated to Tripura from Mizoram en masse during the later part of 1997 after militants belonging to the erstwhile Bru National Liberation front gunned down Lalzawlmliana, a forest guard working inside the Dampa Tiger Reserve near Persang hamlet on October 21 that year.

Obama urged to remove restrictions on Sikhs in US military

PTI Washington, Dec 18: A prominent Sikh-American organisation has urged US President Barack Obama to allow Sikhs to serve in the American military "without restrictions". Obama in turn promised to look into the matter and agreed to follow up, according to the Sikh Council on Religion and Education.

The chairman of the council, Rajwant Singh, met Obama at the White House on Wednesday and pressed him to allow Sikhs in US Armed Forces without any restrictions. "US President promised to look into the matter and agreed to follow up," a media release said. Singh and his wife were invited to the White House Holiday reception hosted by the First Family.

"You have to allow Sikhs to serve in the Army without any restriction. They are only able to

serve if Pentagon gives them an exception. This needs to go. Please do not leave office without taking away this restriction against Sikhs," Singh told the President. "Sikhs are great warriors. I will look

into it and will follow up," the release quoted Obama as saying. Singh also pointed out to Obama that Canada has a turban wearing Sikh as its defence minister, which the President acknowledged.

Earlier this month, in a rare exception, an active-duty Sikh combat soldier in the US Army was granted a temporary religious accommodation that allowed him to grow his beard and wear a turban.

1993 Mumbai blasts convict dies in Nashik

PTI Nashik, Dec. 18: Sharif Gafur Parkar, convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in the 1993 Mumbai serial bomb blasts case, died at a hospital here following illness, jail authorities said today. Parkar (80), suffering from paralysis and a neurological disorder, died at the Nashik Civil Hospital yesterday, Nashik Road Central Jail Superintendent Ramesh Kamble told PTI. Parkar had surrendered before a TADA court in Mumbai in May 2013 to serve the remaining part of his life sentence in connection with the case, after his conviction in the blasts case was upheld by the

Supreme Court. Accordingly, he was lodged in the Nashik prison. He was convicted by the TADA court for his role in organising the landing of arms and RDX in Raigad district prior to the March 1993 serial blasts, and in arranging a conspiracy meeting. He was undergoing medical treatment for his illness in jail and Nashik Civil Hospital for past few months, Kamble said.

Parkar was also recently admitted in Mumbai's JJ Hospital and two days back he was brought back to the prison here. He was admitted to Nashik Civil Hospital two days back in the prisoners' ward, where he died

around noon yesterday. As per the procedure, the body has been sent for post-mortem to Dhule civil hospital, Kamble said, adding that a case has been registered in connection with the death.

1 killed after truck, car collide in Badarpur

ANI New Delhi, Dec. 18: At least one person was killed and three others were injured after a truck collided with a car in National Capital's Badarpur area. Further details are awaited.