

Short Story

Think Before You Speak

It was a sunny day, but the climate was enjoyable. Everyone in the railway station was waiting for the train to arrive. Among the crowd, there was a group of friends, youngsters who were on board for vacation.

It was a busy station with juice shop, mobile restaurants, coffee and tea stalls, newspaper shop, restaurants, etc. The announcement regarding the arrival of the train was made and everyone prepared to get into the train to their appropriate places.

The group of friends made loud noise to welcome the train as it entered the station. They ran to get their reserved seats before anyone could get into the train.

The empty seats were filled and the train whistled to move. An old man with a young boy aged around 15 years came running to catch the train. They entered the train and the train started to move. They had their seats just adjacent to the friends' group.

The young boy was so surprised to see everything.

He exclaimed at his father, "Dad, the train is moving and the things are moving backwards."

As the train started moving fast, the young boy again screamed, "Dad the trees are green in colour and run backward very fast." His father said, "Yes dear" and smiled. Just like a kid, he was watching



everything with great enthusiasm and happiness loaded with tons of surprises.

A fruit seller passed selling apples and oranges. The young boy asked his dad, 'I want to eat apples.' His father bought him apples. He said, 'Oh apple looks so sweet than it tastes.' 'I love this colour.'

The group was watching all the activities of this boy and asked the boy's father 'Is your son having any problem? Why is he behaving very differently?'

A friend from the group made fun of him and shouted, 'His son is mad I think.'

The father of the young boy, with patience, replied to the friend-group.

'My son was born blind. Only a few days before he was operated and got the vision. He is seeing various things in his life for the first time.'

The young friends became very quiet and apologized to his father and son.

Courtesy: KIDS WORLD FUN

National & International News

Involvement of Anup Chetia in peace process recedes as ULFA leader's bail plea rejected by court

TNT Guwahati, Dec. 6: The involvement Anup Chetia in the ongoing tripartite talk with the pro-talk faction of the United Liberation Front of Assam seems receding as the Chief Judicial Magistrate's court has rejected the bail plea of the General Secretary of ULFA on Saturday. The court has ordered a 14-day judicial custody for Anup Chetia,

a day after the pro-talks faction of ULFA led by its 'Chairman' Arabinda Rajkhowa has made a formal request before Chief Minister of Assam Tarun Gogoi to facilitate Chetia's involvement in the on-going peace process. Chetia, who was arrested a day after he was flown to New Delhi after being handed over by Dhaka, was placed for five more days of CBI custody on November 18 by

a special court. While the CBI had flown him back to New Delhi after the court order, he was brought to Guwahati on Nov 24th and was sent to judicial custody for 14 days. Chetia would again be produced in the court on Dec 9th. Anup Chetia was arrested in Dhaka in December 1996 and was sentenced to 17 years imprisonment on several charges including illegally entering that

country and possessing currency notes of several countries. Anup Chetia has been expressing his willingness to join the peace talks since he was extradited from Dhaka. The last round of peace talks between the outfit and the Centre was held at New Delhi last month, where the ULFA had placed its demand for including Chetia in the talks for carrying forward the political negotiations.

Myanmar's ex-dictator tips Suu Kyi as 'future leader'

AFP Yangon, Dec 6: Myanmar's feared former junta leader Than Shwe has endorsed his one-time nemesis Aung San Suu Kyi as a "future leader" of the country, according to his grandson.

Than Shwe, a postal clerk turned general who ran the country with an iron fist for nearly two decades until 2010, met with democracy champion Suu Kyi on Friday.

Her party is preparing for power after November's massive election win. The talks mark a dramatic turnaround in fortune for Suu Kyi, who was kept under house arrest for years by the 82-year-old retired general for leading the democracy movement against his army.

"Everyone has to accept the truth that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will be the future leader of Myanmar after winning the elections," Than Shwe was quoted as saying on a Facebook post late Saturday by his grandson, Nay Shwe Thway Aung.

Daw is a term of respect. "I will support her earnestly as much as I can if she really works for the development of the country," he added, according to the post.

Win Myint, a spokesman for Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party, confirmed the Friday meeting, adding it was the first time the pair had met since 2003.

Suu Kyi, 70, is barred from the presidency by an army-scripted constitution, but has said she will govern from "above the president" when her party take their seats in the new year.

The NLD scooped up nearly 80 percent of contested seats in last month's breakthrough election, a massive mandate to govern after half a century of military rule.

But the army still holds a strong hand. It retains 25 percent of all parliamentary seats as well as key bureaucratic posts. The NLD leader has been at pains to urge reconciliation with the army as

she eyes a smooth transition to power.

Suu Kyi met also with President Thein Sein and the powerful army chief last week in the capital Naypyidaw, with both men reiterating their public commitment to help her new government.

The government has denied

rumours that Than Shwe is guiding the pace of reforms from behind the scenes.

But analysts say the meeting between former junta leader and Suu Kyi is still a major indicator of a peaceful handover of power by a military that has marshalled reforms over the last four years.

One killed in poll-related violence in Mainpuri

PTI Mainpuri (UP), Dec. 6: A man was shot dead and another injured in an incident of firing between two groups backing rival candidates for the post of Gram Pradhan (village head) in Timrakhi village in Kurra area, police said today.

The incident took place yesterday evening after polling when the group backing a candidate - Rajendra Yadav - clashed with the group backing another candidate,

named Akhilesh Yadav, they said. In the firing that ensued Bir Raj and Sripal, both of whom were backing Rajendra, sustained injuries, they added.

The two were rushed to hospital, where Bir died while Sripal remains critical, they said. Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Karhal Vijai Pratap confirmed the incident of firing and said it was fallout election rivalry between the groups.

Governor of Yemen's Aden killed in car bombing: Official

AFP Aden, Dec. 6: The governor of Yemen's second city Aden was killed on Sunday by a car bomb that tore through a residential neighbourhood, a local official and witnesses said.

The attack killed Jaafar Saad and an unspecified number of his bodyguards in the Tawahi district of the major port city, the sources said.

Tawahi has become a stronghold in recent months for jihadists including al-Qaida, whose militants have expanded their presence across the city. Saad was only recently appoint

governor and was known to be close to President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi, who returned to Aden last month after several months in exile in Riyadh.

Pro-Hadi forces, backed by a Saudi-led coalition, have battled Iran-backed rebels in Yemen since March, after the insurgents overran the capital Sanaa and advanced south, forcing Hadi's government to flee.

Saad's death comes a day after the country's UN envoy held talks with Hadi in Aden aimed at kickstarting peace talks between the warring sides.

Veteran CPI leader passes away

PTI Patna, Dec 6: Veteran CPI leader and former MP Ramashraya Prasad Singh died following a protracted illness at a private hospital here.

He was 93. Singh passed away last evening, his family said. He had represented Jehanabad parliamentary seat for four terms between 1984 and 1996, besides being a Member of Legislative Assembly

(MLA) from Ghosi Assembly seat in the same district during an illustrious political career lasting over four decades. Mourning the death, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said Singh was a dedicated and hardworking political leader who gave all his life to social service and welfare of the poor people.

Kumar said that the cremation of the departed leader would be made with state honours.

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Peace and Ethnic Conflict in Northeast India: Cultural Borderlands of Southeast Asia: A Case Study of

Most of the hill communities like the Karen, Kachins etc were incorporated as collaborators by the British masters in their campaign against the Japanese, with the promise to look into their collective rights and welfare, but later they were left to themselves when the British left Burma. As for the Burman nationalists, Aung San and friends amongst the thirty comrades were earlier trained in Japan militarily, and they landed at Thailand to infiltrate into war - torn Burma in 1942, and became heroes of the Burmese Nationalist revolution, supporting the Imperial Japanese. Aung San became the commander of the Burma Independence Army, proclaimed Burmese independence from British Rule in 1943, was minister of war in the collaborationist Government of Dr. Ba Maw. He however, turned deserter to the Japanese in the later period of the war, when the tide turned in favour of the allies. He negotiated Burmese Independence from British rule, and six months before the declaration of Burmese Independence was assassinated with his cabinet colleagues in 1947. Thakin Than Tun became another veteran who got involved into the post war cross-border collaboration in the anti-Imperial, anti-bourgeoisie struggle by Manipur and Burma.

In the Naga Hills under British administration, the Angami Nagas and most other tribes supported their colonial master, but Zapu Phizo, a restless adventurer and dreamer, after being exposed to Indian and international cities, went to Burma in 1933, was engaged as General Manager in a Life Insurance Company, continued to dabble in personal businesses producing balms and face creams etc. experimented with mushroom cultivation. He in fact had opportunities of infantry training while in Rangoon, and when the Japanese advanced, was enrolled in the Hikari Kiken intelligence unit of the Japanese army and was also associated with the INA of Subhas Chandra Bose. The British arrested him, tortured him in Rangoon Jail, from which he suffered facial paralysis, but when he was released from Rangoon Jail in 1946, he returned to Kohima, became the leader of the Naga Independence struggle.

In the neighbouring plains of Manipur state, the dynamic war and national consciousness of the Meetei, and ethnic ascension in the state had quite unique ambience considering the plural nature of the polity. The Monarchy, which was protected and supported by the Empire collaborated with the master during the II World War, and the reigning monarch Maharaja Bodhochandra (1941-1955) helped assuage the plight of the Indian refugees pouring in from Burma in 1942-43. Hijam Irabat had been imprisoned since 1940 for having supported the food security agitation of the Women in 1939, known as the II Women's War. He had been transferred at Shyllet Jail in 1942 where he became a member of the Communist Party of India. In 1946, he came back to his homeland after the war, after having been denied entry for his anti-state ideologies for nearly four years. When he was in the Surma valley, organizing peasant emancipation movements, he, as a member of the Communist Party of India supported the British against the Japanese, but his followers in the

Manipur valley, along with some Kuki stalwarts from the southwestern hills joined the Indian National Army, who liberated part of the valley of Manipur in 1944. During the lag-end of the war, and when the departure of the British became imminent, many groups of hillmen formed respective ethnic associations to safeguard their future. In 1947, when Independence was restored to Manipur, the state accepted the democratic form of government, gave themselves a constitution and for the first time, even before Indian elections was held, the Manipur State Assembly of fifty three members came into being in June 1948. Irabat was elected as a member from a rural constituency. Yet he became a leader of the Manipur struggle against India's forcible merger of Manipur in 1949, when he was in underground as a Communist leader.

Irabat had returned home in 1946 from exile, and devoted his life to the uplift of the masses and the unity of the state. In November 1947, he convened a meeting of the hill and valley associations which pledged unity and harmony. Irabat also attended the International Fourth Comintern and Communist Party of India meeting in February 1948 at Calcutta where he met Thakin Than Tun, and probably discussed future cooperation in the forthcoming struggle. Though he could get support of the CPB during the fifties when Burma was in civil war, his attempt to send regular Manipuri batches of volunteers were jeopardized by massive arrests at home. Irabat died at the place Tangbo in Kabaw valley in Myanmar. But his armed resistance to India's occupation of Manipur in 1949-51 was not much known internationally because of various reasons. Irabat's movement of the revolutionary armed struggle was taken up by new outfits that emerged in the post-sixties with the vision of restoration of Manipur's Independence. Earlier resistances in fifties and sixties by followers of Irabat and friends of Meetei and Tangkhul Naga individuals like late S. Indramani, late Yangmasbo Shaiza, former Chief Minister of Manipur (1979), had close cooperation who opposed the merger of Manipur. But well organized educated militant outfits emerged in Manipur valley in 1964 with the formation of the United National Liberation Front. A break-away group of daring young men known as Peoples Liberation Army went to Lhasa in Tibet to get Chinese help, returned and started the first armed strike against the Indian security forces in 1978. This group whose armed wing started guerrilla warfare got massive support from the people in the eighties, and in the eighties and nineties, many underground outfits worked with close collaboration with the Naga militants under Thuingaleng Muivah & S.S. Khaplang. Ethnic cooperation between the revolutionaries of Nagaland and Manipur were an outstanding trend in ethnic militancy in Northeast India in the eighties and nineties. As the underground elements of the respective communities set the agenda for civil society expression of public opinion, not much of public discourse was generated of any kind of hill-plain divide in Manipur or ethnic problems in the state. (To be contd.....)