

Short Story

Change Yourself and not The World

Long ago, people happily lived under the rule of a king. The people of the kingdom were very happy as they had a very prosperous life with abundance of wealth and no misfortunes. The king decided to go on a travel to visit places of historical importance and pilgrim centres at distant places. He decided to travel by foot to interact with his people and accompany them. People of distant places were so happy to have a conversation with their king and they were proud that their king was so kind with a good heart!

After several weeks, he returned to the palace. He was quite happy that he visited many pilgrim centres and could see his fellow people leading a propitious life. However, he had regret.

He had intolerable pain in his feet as it was his first trip by foot to longer distance. He complained to his ministers that the roads weren't comfortable and were very stony. He could not tolerate the pain as he walked all the way through the rough path.

He said he was very much worried about the people who used to walk along those roads as it would be painful for them too!

He made an order to cover the

road of the whole country with leather so that people might feel comfortable, immediately. The king thought that he had to change this for the betterment and happiness of the people. His ministers were stunned to hear his order as it would destroy the life of thousands of cows to get the sufficient quantity of leather and it would cost a huge amount of money also. A wise man from the ministry came to the king and said that he had another idea. The king asked - what was his alternative idea. The minister told, "Why do you want to kill the holy animal cow to cover the road with leather? Rather, you can just have a piece of leather cut in appropriate shape to cover your feet?"

The king was very much surprised by his suggestion and applauded the minister. He ordered for a pair of leather shoes for him and requested the courtynmen to wear shoes.

Many of us criticize the world for many things. We curse and blame the things in our surroundings and never understand that we need a change in us. Changes are inevitable in the world, and the changes should be from us. We cannot or should not force others to make a change.

Flight diverts to Canada after bomb threat

AP Halifax, Nov. 22: The Royal Canadian Mounted Police says it is investigating a bomb threat that caused a Turkish Airlines flight from New York City to Istanbul to divert and land in Canada.

Halifax Stanfield International Airport said on its Twitter feed early today that Flight 2 had landed safely and that police were at the scene. The airport's tweet says 256 people were on board.

The RCMP in Nova Scotia said on its Twitter feed that it would not comment on the details of the bomb threat and was looking to identify the person or persons responsible. It added that police will be "searching the Turkish Airlines plane using police dogs trained in explosives."

The RCMP said the bomb threat was received at 10:50 pm local time. Flight tracking sites show the flight had already taken off from John F Kennedy International Airport in New York by then.

Last Tuesday night, Air France Flight 55 from Dulles International Airport outside Washington was diverted to Halifax after an anonymous bomb threat was phoned in after the plane had taken off.

An FBI statement late Tuesday said authorities had investigated and found no credible threat, and the RCMP said investigators found no evidence of an explosive device.

That threat came after the November 13 attacks in Paris that killed 130 people and heightened security concerns worldwide.

RC Book Lost

I the undersign have lost my RC book for my Scorpio Vehicle registration No. AS 01-MB 9318 on the way between Keishamthong to Kakwa on November 8, 2015 Finders are requested to handover it to the undersign

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National & International News

Bangladesh executes 2 opposition leaders for 1971 war crimes

AP New Delhi, Nov. 22: Bangladesh executed two influential opposition leaders on charges of war crimes during the country's 1971 independence war, a senior jail official said Sunday, despite concerns that the legal proceedings against them were flawed and threats of violence by their supporters.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, secretary general of the main Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami, were "hanged together, at the same time" at 12:55 a.m. at Dhaka Central Jail in the nation's capital, Senior Jail Superintendent Mohammad Jahangir Kabir told The Associated Press.

Security was strengthened near the jail and elsewhere to avoid any violence. A few hours after the execution, a security detail escorted ambulances carrying the men's bodies to their ancestral homes where their families were to perform burial rituals.

The Jamaat-e-Islami party, whose two other senior leaders already have been executed on war crimes charges, issued a statement calling for a nationwide general strike on Monday.

Chowdhury was convicted on charges of torture, rape and genocide during the country's independence war against

Pakistan, while Mujahid was found guilty on charges of genocide, conspiracy in killing intellectuals, torture and abduction.

On Wednesday, Bangladesh's Supreme Court upheld their death sentences, and on Saturday, President Mohammad Abdul Hamid rejected a clemency appeal, clearing the way for the executions. The families of Chowdhury and Mujahid met them for the last time inside Dhaka Central Jail on Saturday evening, authorities said.

Jamaat-e-Islami and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party say the trials were politically motivated. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has denied the allegations. She has acknowledged that she faced international pressure for trying opposition figures for war crimes, but vowed to continue the trials "to ensure justice for the families of the slain people" from the 1971 war.

More than 15 people, mostly leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, have been convicted of war crimes. The party had campaigned openly against independence for Bangladesh, which was part of Pakistan until the 1971 war. The Bangladesh government says that Pakistani soldiers, aided by local collaborators, killed 3 million people and raped 200,000 women during the war.

Mujahid, 67, was the head of Islami Chhatra Sangha, then the

student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami. He was accused of being the mastermind behind the killing of intellectuals, including teachers and journalists, days before the Pakistani military surrendered to a joint force of freedom fighters and Indian army units on Dec. 16, 1971, after a bloody nine-month war.

Chowdhury, 66, whose father was the speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly and at times, the acting president of Pakistan, also actively opposed Bangladeshi independence. He was accused of carrying out war crimes, including killing more than 200 civilians, mostly minority Hindus, during the independence war, according to evidence presented at the tribunal.

U.S. lawmakers overseeing foreign policy described the war crimes tribunal, set up in 2013, as "very flawed" and a means of political retribution. The State Department said Friday that executions should not take place until it's clear the trial process meets international standards.

Stephen Rapp, who until August served as President Barack Obama's ambassador for war crimes, said it was "disturbing" that Chowdhury was denied the right to call alibi witnesses, including a former U.S. ambassador, to provide testimony that he was not present in Bangladesh at the time the alleged crimes were

committed.

Human Rights Watch said the tribunal allowed the prosecution to call 41 witnesses, while Chowdhury's defense was limited to four witnesses. The New York-based group said Mujahid was sentenced to death for instigating his subordinates to commit abuses, although no subordinates testified or were identified.

Leaders of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in a letter sent Tuesday to the top U.S. diplomat for South Asia, voiced concern that "democratic space is shrinking" in Bangladesh amid "a growing climate of violence, fear and self-censorship."

Since February, four secular bloggers, a publisher, and two foreigners - an Italian aid worker and a Japanese agriculture researcher - have been killed in attacks linked to Islamic militants.

The Islamic State claimed responsibility for some of the attacks, but authorities say the Sunni extremist group has no presence in the country. Instead, Hasina has blamed the attacks on the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Jamaat-e-Islami, accusing them of trying to destabilize the country and halt the war crimes trials. Both opposition parties denied the allegation.

Such extremist violence was once rare in Bangladesh, which is mostly Muslim but has a strong secular tradition.

Trans-Arunachal highway to be completed before 2018

ANI Itanagar, Nov.22: Improving road connectivity in the northeast region is one of the priorities of the central government. Over the years, it has pumped in huge funds and initiated many schemes to achieve this objective. In this context, it is important to know that the work on the trans-Arunachal highway is going on in full swing. The mega two-lane highway project in Arunachal Pradesh will connect Tawang to Kanubari,

covering a distance of over 1500 kilometres. The highway once completed, is expected to touch eleven of the existing district headquarters of the country's most strategically located state. Funded and implemented by the Government of India under "Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in North East, the construction work is expected to be completed by early 2018. It will cost an estimated Rs. 10,000 crore.

Bora Ete, Chief Engineer, Eastern Zone Highways, told ANI, "Out of 1,556 kilometres, about 1,000 kilometres are in various stage of progress, and the remaining 600 kilometres has already been awarded and the work will start very soon. One of the projects of the Trans-Arunachal Highway, which is 311 kilometres long, was awarded the 'Sushee IVRCL Arunachal Highways Ltd.' Award. It connects Nechipu in West Kameng to Hoj in Papum Pare, cutting Seppa in East Kameng. It is doing extremely well."

It will connect important places such as Tawang, Bomdila, Seppa, Ziro, Changlang, Khonsa and Kanubari.

Locals believe that the highway will boost the economy, especially agriculture and tourism in the state.

A villager said, "After completion of the road construction, it will lead to development in our area. It will also benefit the farmers and will help locals during any medical emergency."

A local said, "The Arunachal highway, which is under construction, will be extremely helpful for our generation. We are thankful to the government for this facility."

There is also a proposal to construct 1800-Kilometer-long Indo-China Frontier Highway in Arunachal Pradesh.

The proposed highway will pass through Tawang, East Kameng, Changlang, Hawaii and Vijaynagar in the bordering areas of Arunachal Pradesh.

There are also plans to build an industrial corridor in the state to improve its economy and generate jobs for the locals.

Curfew clamped in Nepal's Tarai after two killed

ANS Kathmandu, Nov 22: After two people were killed on Saturday midnight in a clash with police, curfew was clamped on some parts of Nepal's Tarai region already witnessing protests for 100 days.

They were killed in police action in Saptari district, a major hub for agitating Madhesi Morcha cadres who were obstructing vehicles escorted by security agencies along the east-west highway.

Saptari district Superintendent of Police Bhim Dhakal said they were compelled to open fire after about 2,000 agitating Madhesi Morcha activists launched an attack on police and escorted vehicles with homemade weapons.

"They started hurling petrol bombs and attacking with homemade weapons. In retaliation, the police were forced to use bullets," the official said about the incident in which two dozen people were injured.

The injured included five protesters and two policemen who were said to be in a critical condition.

Local administration has created

"restricted zones" in several parts of Terai districts and along the highway in view of the violent protest in Saptari district, considered a major hub of ongoing protest in Nepal's southern plains.

According to reports from Saptari district, hundreds of people have assembled on the streets, protesting the death of the two people in police firing. Thousands of commuters are stranded on the East-West Highway, a major highway in Nepal that links east and west regions of Nepal through the southern plains.

Several rounds of talks have been held between the agitating Madhesi Morcha and the government to seek political solution for the Madhes people's demand for "adequate" statutory representation. The region has been witnessing demonstrations and protests for the past three months, leading to severe shortages of fuel, drugs and other medicines. However, the talks have failed. Protests and demonstrations in Nepal's southern plains have left 50 people dead and hundreds injured in three months.

Avneesh Bajaj, a project manager, said, "The official completion date of construction of this road is actually in January 2018, but we are working with speed and our endeavour is to complete this work before time so that we can give a good road to the Arunachal people."

The highway will provide improved connectivity to Itanagar and important locations of population concentration and economic activities, including the sites of major hydro electric power projects.

Security forces gun down 4 women Naxals in Chhattisgarh

ANI Sukma , Nov.22: Four women Naxals were killed in a gun battle in a joint operation conducted by the security forces in Sukma District on Sunday morning.

A composite team comprising Dantewada DRG teams, Special Task Force (STF) and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) from Arunpur camp jointly conducted this operation.

The Bastar Police has recovered four dead bodies of Maoists in uniform with a 303 service rifle and two 12 bore rifles.

The encounter took place on top of the Nagalaguda hill in the jungle

area of PS Gadiaras which falls on Sukma Dantewada District borders. A camp of Malangir area committee of Maoists was busted by the security forces.

A Maoist named Aaytu (DVC of Darba division of Maoists and I/ C of Malangir area committee) was shot from close quarters and had sustained bullet injuries, but however managed to flee leaving a truck load of camp items of Maoists.

SP Dantewada Kamlochan Kashyap and SP Sukma Shrivani are jointly monitoring the operation and the parties are still inside the jungle on a manhunt.