

Editorial

Imphal, Monday, October 19, 2015

A wasted matter

As we gear up to meet the challenges staring everyone in the face with the rapidly increasing pace of development and industrialization, one glaring lapse that hits us in the face - in the nose to be more precise - is the sight, and worse - the smell that assaults one's senses as we walk through the crowded heart of the city. The plight in the suburbs and the villages aren't any better. All the upcoming infrastructures and glittering paints cannot stop anyone from cringing their nose at the all permeating stench that assails through the whole of the city. The "Zero Garbage Campaign" which was launched with much fanfare a few years ago had already receded from public memory. What was it all about anyway? - one can't help but wonder. What is so special about keeping one's own city clean? Isn't it a necessity? - a normal thing to be done anyway? Cleanliness is a force of habit and not a one-off act. The sheer inability to communicate between the various Government Departments when it comes to taking up public sanitation works sends one in a tizzy. Foreign funded schemes (read Imphal sewage project) have made our roads a daily nightmare to be negotiated. The Imphal Municipality entrusted with the job of keeping the city neat and tidy has been rendered obsolete - the staffs employed embroiling themselves in agitations and protests for various issues to the point where their duties are relegated to the least important of priorities. These inefficiencies necessitated and gave rise to various private and non-governmental agencies rushing in to fill the void. Mechanized equipments and tools purchased at huge amounts for use in keeping the city clean - which were paraded in front of the public to show the Government's serious efforts and resolution on the matter turned out to just what it was - a show. What the public needs, and are waiting for right now, is a total and effective cleansing of the lethargic Government department responsible for the cleanliness of the city and start afresh in a concerted manner. The state of the waste management plant set up almost a decade ago is not known - whether it has started operation or if there is any missing work to be done to make it operational. The sooner things get going, the better off our city will be, else for all the tall claims of achievements, our efforts will go down the drain - amongst the ever increasing pile of waste. For now it is zero for the state in garbage management.

Nepal Dy PM likely to meet PM Modi today

ANI New Delhi, Oct. 19: Nepal Deputy Prime Minister Kamal Thapa is expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi today. Thapa, who is on his three day official visit to India, met the External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj yesterday and discussed range of issues of mutual interest including the present border blockade. According to sources, Swaraj asked Thapa about the roadmap to resolve the political deadlock in Nepal, and told that the Nepalese Deputy Prime Minister that peace and reconciliation with all groups is the way out to resolve political impasse. Thapa assured that Nepal is committed to resolve the political crisis. The deputy prime minister asked for India's help in sending more than 300 fuel laden trucks via alternative routes, and to ease down the supply of essential supplies goods, sources added.

Jaitley against ministries meddling with AIIMS

ANI New Delhi, Oct 19: Objecting to political interference in the functioning of the country's premier All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said that ministries' "over-involvement" has led to several problems and crises in the past. Addressing the 43rd convocation of AIIMS, Jaitley said the ministries should play a constructive role in building AIIMS like institutes across the country. Jaitley, along with India's Health Minister JP Nadda, awarded degrees to students, who completed various courses at the institute. Jaitley also said that the government was serious in establishing more AIIMS like facilities across the country. He said that the availability of land was the major hurdle in the expansion of the hospitals.

WHENEVER YOU SEE CONSTRUCTION AND MINING EQUIPMENTS, JUST THINK OF US
A SOLUTION FOR EVERY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT



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

ALL KINDS OF SPARE PARTS AVAILABLE

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)

National & International

Shutdown over Trucker's Death, Security Tightened in Kashmir

PTI Srinagar, Oct. 19: Curfew-like restrictions were imposed in eight police station areas in Kashmir and several separatist leaders put under house in view of a strike called today to protest the death of a truck conductor who was injured in Udhampur petrol bomb attack. Movement of people was restricted in Anantnag and Bijbehara police station areas in South Kashmir, a police official said, ahead of the funeral of conductor Zahid, who succumbed to his injuries at a Delhi hospital yesterday after battling for life for nine days.

Similar strict restrictions have been imposed in six police station areas of Srinagar, where protests had broken out yesterday over the death. The affected areas are MR Gunj, Nowhatta, Safa Kadal, Maisuma, Rainawari and Khanyar. Hardline Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani and JKDFP leader Shabir Ahmad Shah were among several separatists placed under house arrest, the official said. The restrictions have been imposed as a precautionary measure following violent protests yesterday in many parts of the Valley. As soon as the news about Zahid's demise reached his Batengoo

village, a spontaneous shutdown was observed yesterday and clashes between protesters and police had broken out there and in adjoining areas of Kulgam as also in several areas of Srinagar. A resident of Anantnag in South Kashmir, Zahid was the conductor of the truck that was en route to Kashmir when a mob attacked it with petrol bombs on October 9. The driver of the truck Showkat Ahmed is also admitted in hospital. Nine people have been arrested for the attack and five of them slapped with the tough Public Safety Act. An aircraft of the state government flew Zahid's body

last evening from Delhi and it was taken to his native village for last rites. Ruling PDP chief and MP from Anantnag Mehbooba Mufti, state's Finance Minister Haseeb A Drabu and Law Minister Basharat Bukhari were at the airport here to receive the body. Both factions of separatist Hurriyat Conference and JKLF have called for a shutdown in the Valley. A Kashmiri pandit organisation, Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti, Kashmir High Court Bar Association, traders' bodies and transport union have extended support to the shutdown call.

Typhoon Koppu leaves two dead in Philippines

AP Manila, Oct. 19: Slow-moving Typhoon Koppu weakened after blowing ashore with fierce winds in the northeastern Philippines on Sunday, leaving at least two people dead, displacing 16,000 villagers and knocking out power in entire provinces, officials said. Army troops and police were deployed to rescue residents trapped in flooded villages in the hard-hit provinces of Aurora, where the typhoon made landfall early Sunday, and Nueva Ecija, a nearby rice-growing province where floodwaters swamped rice farmlands at harvest time. After slamming into Aurora's Casiguran town after midnight Saturday, the typhoon weakened and slowed down, hemmed in by the Sierra Madre mountain range and a high pressure area in the country's north and another typhoon far out in the Pacific in the east, government forecaster Gladys Saludes said.

Howling winds knocked down trees and electric posts, leaving nine entire provinces without power, while floods and small landslides made 25 roads and bridges impassable. Authorities suspended dozens of flights and sea voyages due to the stormy weather, and many cities cancelled classes on Monday. Late Sunday night, the typhoon was blowing over the northern mountainous province of Ifugao and was continuing to weaken. It had sustained winds of 130 kilometers (80 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 160 kph (100 mph) and was blowing northward at just 5 kph (3 mph), according to the government's weather agency. It's expected to weaken to a tropical storm by late Monday and exit the main northern island of Luzon on Wednesday. While weather conditions had begun to improve in some towns, and villagers had started to clear roads of fallen trees and debris,

Koppu still packed a ferocity that could set off landslides and flash floods, officials said. "We're asking our countrymen not to become complacent," said Alexander Pama, who heads the government's disaster-response agency, citing how rainwater could cascade down mountainsides after Koppu passed and flood villages. That happened in low-lying villages in six towns in Nueva Ecija, near Aurora, where some residents were trapped on rooftops by floodwaters, said Nigel Lontoc of the Office of Civil Defense. A teenager was pinned to death on Sunday by a fallen tree, which also injured four people and damaged three houses in a suburban Quezon city in the Manila metropolis. In Subic town, northwest of Manila, a concrete wall collapsed and killed a 62-year-old woman and injured her husband, Lontoc said. Three fishermen who had gone missing at sea were rescued off

northern Bataan province, and three other missing people were found in an evacuation camp in Aurora's Baler town, he said. President Benigno Aquino III and disaster-response agencies had warned that Koppu's rain and winds may potentially bring more damage with its slow speed. But Saludes, the government forecaster, said that there was less heavy rain than expected initially in some areas, including in Manila, but that fierce winds lashed many regions. Koppu, Japanese for "cup," is the 12th storm to hit the Philippines this year. An average of 20 storms and typhoons each year batter the archipelago, one of the world's most disaster-prone countries. In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan, one of the most ferocious storms on record to hit land, barreled through the central Philippines, leveling entire towns and leaving more than 7,300 people dead or missing.

Gangrapes in Delhi: I am not Sheila Dikshit, Arvind Kejriwal to Narendra Modi

PTI New Delhi, Oct. 19: In the wake of gangrape of two minor girls in Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal today took to the Centre over policing and said he will not let Prime Minister Narendra Modi sleep "peacefully" if such incidents recur. Maintaining that 'jungle raj' prevailed in the national capital, Arvind Kejriwal called for handing over law and order to his dispensation for one year. "The Prime Minister must understand I am not (previous Chief Minister) Sheila Dikshit. I will

not remain silent. We will not allow the Prime Minister to sleep peacefully if women in Delhi do not get proper safety and the present trend of rapes continues, that is guaranteed." Kejriwal told reporters after meeting Lieutenant Governor Najeb Jung. "Jungle raj" is prevailing in the capital and it was a matter of "deep concern", Kejriwal said and appealed to the Centre to "stop being stubborn and hand over law and order control" to his dispensation for one year. The chief minister said his government was exploring all the

options to ensure safety of women. "A cabinet meeting, to discuss the issue, has been convened tomorrow," he said. On his meeting with LG Jung, Kejriwal said he submitted figures relating to crime against women and cases of missing children. "We met the LG along with last four year's record on crime cases. Around 31,000 cases of crime against women were recorded. Out of these, chargesheets were filed in only 13,000 cases and in 18,000 cases there was no charge sheet. "Only 146 people were punished overall, so you can see how safe

our women are," he said. Kejriwal also ridiculed "Himmat App" launched by Delhi Police and said that only 13 out of 4,000 cases were properly addressed that came in purview of this initiative. He also said that he questioned Jung on "democratic control" over police during the meeting, which lasted around 45 minutes. "There is absolutely no democratic control on Delhi Police which is very dangerous for a democratic country. I assure that we will change the whole Delhi as we have done in other areas under our control," he said.

Dismiss Narendra Modi government, Azam Khan urges President

IANS Lucknow, Oct. 19: Uttar Pradesh minister Azam Khan has sought the dismissal of the Narendra Modi-led central government for "failing to protect the minorities in the country" and clamping of emergency in the country. Alleging that the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh was pursuing an agenda to make the country a 'Hindu rashtra' (Hindu nation), the urban development and minority affairs minister said in a statement issued late Sunday that President Pranab Mukherjee take note of the deteriorating situation and dismiss the government without any delay. The controversial minister had earlier threatened to petition the

United Nations in the wake of the Dabri lynching. Reacting sharply to Azam's statement, state Bharatiya Janata Party president Laxmikant Bajpayi told IANS that it was "climbdown" for the minister who had earlier talked of petitioning the UN but was now talking of the president. "Sanyukt rashtra se rashtrapati tak aana apne aap mein Azam Khan ki haar ko darshata hai (Moving from the UN to the president indicates Azam Khan's defeat)," he said while adding that the demand for the dismissal of central government was laughable. "There is no history of dismissal of a union government by the president, though there are umpteen examples of state

governments' dismissals. I guess Azam Khan is indirectly seeking the dismissal of the Akhilesh Yadav government," Bajpayi added. "In case Azam Khan means the dismissal of the state government, I too support him as the security and well-being of all sections of society, including the Muslims, has been compromised under the Samajwadi Party (SP) government," the state BJP president said. **Fire breaks out in slum cluster; houses, shops gutted**

PTI New Delhi, Oct. 19: Hundreds of houses and shops were gutted in a major fire that broke out in a slum cluster in outer Delhi's Mongolpuri area today. However, there were no casualties reported in the incident, said fire officials. According to Delhi Fire Service, the fire was reported around 2 AM and as many as 28 fire tenders were rushed to the spot. The fire was doused around 7 AM, after which a cooling operation was launched. The fire is believed to have originated from a plastic waste dump yard adjacent to the slum cluster at UT block in Mongolpuri, which is inhabited by around 300 families.