

Editorial

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018

One year - now a doomsday ahead, but hopes still stir

March 15, 2019, N. Biren Singh led BJP government supported by 4 MLAs from NPF and NPP, 1 MLA from the LJP, another an Independent MLA, 8 MLAs who were defected violating the provision of the 10th Schedule of the Indian constitution will complete 1 year. As per statement of the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh reported in newspaper and electronic media, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to visit the state to join the celebration of 1 year BJP government in the state. Various aged old centrally sponsored mega projects including the aged old Mapithel Dam, Civil Secretariat among others will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister as per scheduled. The state witnesses hectic preparations for the inauguration of the aged old project. Moreover, the much awaited National Sports University will be reality after the Prime Minister lay foundation stone for construction of the infrastructures during his visit. All is well, with the leadership of N. Biren Singh in the state. The crumbled relationships between various communities of the state have been bridged successfully. He had shrewdly proved that his government is people oriented government by organising peoples' day every month where common people can directly expressed their grievances and moreover open access to the people to directly contact him any time using internet technology through social media. Now a survey to all the activities showed that this new government of BJP in the state is somewhat supported by many. A criticism with empty eloquence received triple the criticism she or he made from thousands of friends supported to the leadership of N. Biren Singh. On development works being taken up, he and his colleague are well prepared to defend the government. Now what seems to be forgotten by the incumbent Chief Minister is that the country is run by rules of law. Constitution of India, one of the largest constitutions in the world makes the country as one of the largest democracy in the world.

Government institution is run under various provisions of the constitution of India. A mere mistake to understand what has been written in the constitution would amount to mockery of the democracy, which the people will not remain silent. Senior Journalist of the Statesman Yambem Laba had well written about the fact that how the Biren led government has been violating the constitutional provisions regarding the appointment of the Parliamentary secretaries which many High courts including the Supreme Court India had declared unconstitutional.

Well, remaining silence over the merger of 8 Congress MLAs to the BJP is also in violation of the 10th Schedule of the Indian Constitution. The silence of the Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly on the ground that it still have not received any complaints makes the democracy more like an autocracy where the rulers rule suppressing all that stands as obstacles. Like this newspaper in its earlier editorial had expressed that "you can't keep the fire cover long with the blanket" base on the famous Manipuri Proverb - "huranbagi tarani mapugi nongma", one day the wrongs and mischievous act will be made public.

Introduction of a repealing bill for the Parliamentary secretary on the last day of the recently concluded state assembly session seems to be a deliberate attempt to save the government which is again called unconstitutional by the opposition party.

The Congress which win 28 seats in the last election but unofficially reduced to 21 has been quite for almost one year listening to all kind of hue and cry blaming their 15 years of ruled. Even the violation of 10th Scheduled by its MLAs has not been reacted. But they are now out in public as the case revolving around the appointment of Parliamentary secretaries is something which is not possible for the government to defend. The Governor of Manipur too will not want herself a bad name and sure if this bill on the repealing of the Parliamentary Secretary act will be done consulting constitutional expert.

The Governor even though is from the background of BJP will certainly acted as per the law of the land and will certainly deny any plea for protection of the government at the cost of her career.

Better prepare to face for another election by supporting the Prime Minister's idea of conducting the parliamentary and assembly election simultaneously in 2019. May be N. Biren Singh led BJP return with more power that time.

Original Admit Card lost

I have lost my original Admit Card of class XII, Sc. bearing Roll No. 12098 and Regd. No. 22947 of 2016 issued by COHSEM on the way between Hiyangthang to Pishum Chingamkha on 15/2/2018. Finders are requested to handover the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Phijam Leingakpa
Hiyangthang Mamang Leikai

Original Mark Sheet lost

I have lost my original mark sheet of class XII, Sc. bearing Roll No. 12098 and Regd. No. 22947 of 2016 issued by COHSEM on the way between Hiyangthang to Pishum Chingamkha on 15/2/2018. Finders are requested to handover the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Phijam Leingakpa
Hiyangthang Mamang Leikai

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 News

Window for Putin's five-hour ceasefire opens in Syria

Agency
Syria, Feb. 27: The ability of Russian President Vladimir Putin to influence events in Syria will come to bear Tuesday as the window opened for a five-hour ceasefire he ordered in Eastern Ghouta. Russia has ordered a humanitarian corridor to open to allow people to be evacuated, but there was no mention of whether medical or food supplies would be able to enter the area. Inside, some 400,000 people are under siege, having endured relentless bombardment from a Syrian government offensive from the air and recently also on the ground. The offensive is now entering its second week.

Russia is the Syrian regime's key ally in a civil war that has plagued the country for almost seven years, with heavy fighting now centered on Eastern Ghouta, an area near Damascus.

Russian intervention — with troops and weaponry — has helped tilt the balance in Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's favor.

A United Nations resolution on Saturday calling for a 30-day ceasefire in Syria appears to have done little to halt the fighting. It wasn't clear from the UN resolution when the ceasefire was meant to come into effect, or how it would be enforced.

'The proof will be in the silence'

Britain's Deputy Ambassador to the UN, Jonathan Allen, said that Russia's announcement of a five-hour pause in fighting was not considered to be the implementation of the ceasefire.

"But it does show that it can be implemented. So Russia can implement it if it chooses to. If it's able to do a five-hour pause, it's able to do a 24-hour pause," he told reporters. "So it's up to Russia whether it wants to implement fully the resolution that it signed up to and voted for, or whether it wants to play cynical games."

Stephane Dujarric, the spokesman for the UN Secretary General, said aid workers were waiting to enter the area.

"We stand ready as soon as the conditions are safe for truck drivers, humanitarian workers to roll into these areas," Dujarric said during the daily UN press briefing. "We need to ensure that there are no roadblocks, whether physical or administrative. Whether five hours is enough or is not enough is a difficult question to answer. Five hours is better than no hours."

Asked if rebel groups had indicated if they would go along with the Russian proposal of five hours, Dujarric said: "The proof will be in the silence. Once the guns go silent we know."

The use of chlorine gas

The White House on Monday condemned the Syrian regime's actions in Eastern Ghouta.

"Syria is terrorizing hundreds of thousands of civilians," White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said. "The regime's use of chlorine gas as a weapon only intensifies this. The United States calls for an immediate end to offensive operations."

Several people in the suburb were treated for exposure to chlorine gas, Syrian opposition groups said, as air strikes and artillery fire from the regime continued on Sunday.

The Syrian opposition-run Rural Damascus Health Directorate said the people were admitted to medical facilities showing signs that were consistent with exposure to "toxic chlorine gas."

In a statement, RDHD said "the smell of people in the area,

ambulance drivers, and victims all had the clear and known smell of chlorine gas."

Syrian American Medical Society says patients suffering exposure to chemical compounds are treated in Eastern Ghouta.

A tweet from the Syrian American Medical Society said that 16 patients, including six children, were treated in a hospital "suffering from symptoms indicative to exposure to chemical compounds." Images obtained by CNN show men

and children receiving treatment, some of them using oxygen masks. The White Helmets, a volunteer rescue group, said in a tweet that one child was killed in a chlorine gas attack in the city.

CNN is unable to independently verify claims that chlorine was used as a weapon in Eastern Ghouta.

Both sides of the conflict have in the past accused one another of the use of chlorine as a weapon, and the government has repeatedly denied claims that it has done so.

Contd from page 1

Festival of colours to festival

As part of Yaoshang festival, the local adults of that time organized the Yubi Lakpi event by selecting a King. Written accounts named one Thokhom Bhuhon from Singamei Kshetri Leikai (Irengbam Leirak) who acted as the King. He was made to sit on a bullock cart that staged a procession from Thiyam Leirak of the locality via Kongba road to reach Akampat. A number of men, women and youths accompanied the procession and witnessed the Yubi Lakpi. Programmes in the form of Fancy Dress were also conducted. This may be considered the pioneer in the Yaoshang Sports movement which was witnessed and participated by locals of Singamei Kshetri Leikai, Khongman, Bheigayati Leikai etc. The second edition of the games was held in 1947 at Akampat again. More events like Arithmetic Competition for children, Chaphu Pubi Race, Laphu Kabi and Blind Hit were added to the meet. One who was known as Maiba Amuba who had hailed from Kaho Wakching Nambol and had been staying along with Yumnam Komol (said to be the driver of Budhachandra Maharaj) at Yumnam Leikai took the role of King in Yubi Lakpi that year. Thus, born the Yaoshang Sports of today. The Annual Yaoshang Sports being organized at Bamon Leikai Basketball Ground is also one of the oldest of its genre, with its 66th edition held this year. (Reference: *Souvenir, Silver Jubilee Celebration of Yaoshang Sports, 2008, SEYO, Singamei Kshetri Leikai*).

Meitei 'Yaoshang' is believed to have its ancestral origin from the 'Ougri Hangan Chongba' of pre-historic times. When the two sons of Godly King 'Atiya Guru Shidaba' were asked to complete the 'Nongkhong Koiba' for succession to the throne, the elder son 'Sanamahi' started the journey. However, the younger son 'Nongda Lairen Pakhangba' being a small boy was apprehensive that he could not complete the journey. Meanwhile, with the invaluable advice of his mother, 'Pakhangba' went round the royal throne of the King in no time and claimed to have completed the 'Nongkhong Koiba' before his brother 'Sanamahi' came

back after going round the whole land physically. When the elder brother came back, he was so furious that he swore to avenge the person who revealed the modus operandi to 'Pakhangba' in order to be the king of the land. If it were a man, he would be killed and if it happened to be a woman, he would marry her — this was Sanamahi's promise. Surprisingly, 'Sanamahi' realized that it was none other than his mother who had stealthily helped the younger brother to become the king. 'Sanamahi' had to keep his promise by marrying the mother. In every Meitei household we now see 'Sanamahi' and 'Leimaren' residing together, but with a wall separating them.

The furious 'Sanamahi' after coming back from 'Nongkhong Koiba' chased 'Pakhangba' to beat him while the women of royal palace defended 'Pakhangba' by joining hands and singing the song "Ke Ke Ke Mo Mo, Yangen Samba Sao Sao, Tokpaga Kambaga Keiga Yenga, Yenkhong Phate Chasillu, Laigi Yenni Chaphade, Ke Ke Ke Mo Mo ...". It is believed that 'Thabal chongba', 'Phee Munbi', 'Sen Munbi' etc. which are parts of contemporary 'Yaoshang' had their origin from the tradition of 'Nongkhong Koiba'. Hence, Meitei Yaoshang had its own origin as different from the 'Holi' of the Hindus.

As time goes by, 'Yaoshang' changes its facets year after year, decades after decades and centuries after centuries. To the present generation, 'Yaoshang' is synonymous with games and sports. It is indeed a mini Olympiad particularly in the valley districts of Manipur. All the ugly scenes and traditions of earlier 'Yaoshang' have been subdued to bring in constructive sports festivals in almost all Manipuri localities. Various games including indigenous events such as Mukna and Laphu Kabee are seen to be popular during Yaoshang sports. Apart from sporting programmes; academic events like debating competitions, Ex-tempore speech, symposium competitions, Essay writing, song competitions, mathematics competitions, recitations etc. are organized in the interests of students. 'Yaoshang' has today

become a festival of sports in Manipur.

Apart from being a festival, 'Yaoshang' has served as a useful platform for promoting sporting spirit and hunting talents of young people in varied fields of personality development. The children are given enough opportunity for exposure to various competitive events. For the elders who are at the dusk of their lives, 'Yaoshang' serves as a valuable recreation item by breaking the monotony of ageing life. It is a meaningful rendezvous where local people of all ages meet, interact, share, exchange views and ideas among themselves. It helps in reducing unwanted behavior, crimes, substance abuse and drugs. May the Yaoshang Sports festival continue to play its constructive role in the making of a unified and strong Manipur. It would be wise enough for the state government of Manipur to declare the five days of the festival as "Sports Movement Week" in order to make the festival a constructive event for the state. The following suggestions may be noted for future growth and fruitful results:

1. Yaoshang Festival may be declared as "Sports Movement Week" by the state government.
2. Schedules for various examinations may be made so as not to coincide with this festival.
3. Local Sports Events be organised under strict guidelines prescribed by Sports Department in the form of a policy.
4. Unwanted scenes such as water spraying, dancing etc. may be prevented by Government. (Last year, at some places in Imphal city, young boys and girls danced in water by using even Fire Brigade vehicles of the government without any intervention by Police)
5. Police should be alert to prevent adolescent youths from indulging in undesirable acts such as 'Aber Teinaba', Pichagari Kapnaba, etc.
6. Elected MLAs, and representatives of local bodies may be advised to involve in organizing sports events in localities. Only then, the festival will be constructive and fruitful for future generation. (The writer is a senior columnist. Comments may be fed back at nekenseram@gmail.com)

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

CASE
1800 4199 770

CASE

Automobile Engineering Works

New Checkon Road Purana Rajbari, Imphal East

Authorised Dealer: Case New Holland Construction Eqpt. (I) Pvt. Ltd & Kirioskar Engines Oil Limited (Kirioskar Silent Generator)

Contact No.: 0385-24520117, 9862566601

