

Editorial

Imphal, Saturday, December 26, 2015

Christmas spirit

The festive season brings with it the mandatory greetings and wishes from and to our dear and near ones, to let others know that their well-being is thought about. The feeling of hope and positivity increases with the anticipation of an approaching festival and revelry- and that perhaps answers the question as to why Manipur and its people always embrace festival and celebrations with such intensity. Not to be outdone, the heads of the state are greeting the people with much fervor and seemingly heartfelt sincerity. Never mind the unfinished activities and development works which started in and around Imphal with amazing alacrity- but then the fate of many such rushed jobs have been a foregone conclusion, and once again the representatives of the people does not disappoint. Cheer up, because the people can predict their moves and moods- an increasing effort in transparency? And never mind the increasing instances of armed security personnel and their responsible officers, with prodigious offerings of responsible and prominent politicians who are too busy looking after the welfare of the people to mind their issues, being caught with mammoth caches of narcotic substances. Maybe they are just trying to correct the negative balance of trade by exporting these immensely sought after items, one of the very few things they are really adept at, so cheer up, because we have security officers who also showed enterprising talents. And never mind the increasingly common cases of extortions and attacks on innocent persons and working professionals in the state by the self-styled guardians of the freedom and independence of the downtrodden people of the state. Maybe they knew secrets the simple public is not privy to. Or maybe we should not be questioning the moves of those who wield death in their hands and lofty ideals in their speech, all the while garnering supplies and contracts, not to mention the periodic obeisance in cash and kind for their mercy and leniency shown to us lesser mortals. Maybe they are trying to bring about a resurgence of the brave and fearless state where the meek and the humble does not find a place in the society. Cheer up, because we are going back to our roots at last, the fabled times when men and god intermingled and myths are a part of everyday life. Who cares about the development and the race for progress in other parts of the world? And never mind the rising crimes against women, children and the weaker sections of the society. Their woes and difficulties are part of life and life is never perfect. Cheer up, because maybe they will come out stronger and wiser from their ordeal. Let nature take its own course. Never mind the worsening public facilities and deteriorating basic amenities. Man had survived without purified drinking water and electricity centuries ago, and we now can really appreciate their endurance and perseverance. Cheer up, because we are being given a valuable practical lesson in appreciation. And if not for anything, cheer up, because we are being thought of in these times of happiness and celebration.

Top Syrian rebel leader killed in eastern suburbs of Damascus

ANI **Damascus, Dec.26:** A top Syrian rebel leader and head of the most powerful insurgent group in the eastern suburbs of Damascus was killed in an aerial raid that targeted the group's headquarters. The death of Zahran Alloush, 44, head of Jaysh al Islam, is a big blow to rebel control of the rural eastern suburban area of Damascus known as al Ghouta, the rebel sources said. Rebel sources and the Syrian army stated this Friday.

Wanted Sub-Editor

Imphal Times is looking for an experience sub editor with excellent writing skill in English who can read Bengali written script. Working hour is 12 noon till 5 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.

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National & International News

Pakistan army chief to visit Kabul on December 27

ANI **Islamabad, Dec.26:** Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, General Raheel Sharif, will visit Afghan capital Kabul on Sunday (December 27). The Director General of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Lt.Gen. Asim Bajwa said in a tweet on Friday, "During his day-long visit, the army chief will hold meetings with senior political and military leadership of Afghanistan."

General Sharif's visit to Afghanistan, according to the

Express Tribune, assumes importance in the wake of reports of increased violence and terror threats by the Taliban. Senior Afghan Government officials hope the visit will provide the required impetus to efforts for resurrecting a moribund peace process and also help mend fractured bilateral ties. The daily quoted former Afghan army chief General (retired) Sher Muhammad Karimi, as saying that he was looking at General Sharif's visit with a lot of optimism.

Nagpur ATS arrests three people in connection to ISIS

ANI **Nagpur, Dec.26:** The Nagpur Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) on Saturday arrested three youth at the Nagpur Airport who were planning to join the ISIS. According to the Nagpur ATS, the arrested people are from Telangana and were going to Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, a 16-year-old college girl, who was allegedly in touch with arrested Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) executive Mohammed Sirajuddin, was put under surveillance for her suspected links with the ISIS in Pune. She was assured by ISIS sympathisers that she will get admission in medical college in Syria.

Afghanistan hit by 6.2 magnitude earthquake, tremors felt in North India

PTI **Kabul, Dec. 26:** A 6.2 magnitude earthquake rocked northeast Afghanistan late Friday close to the country's borders with Pakistan and Tajikistan, leaving at least 17 people injured, according to the US Geological Survey. IANS reports that at least 37 people were injured.

The quake, which measured 203.5 kilometres (126 miles) deep, struck about 280 kilometres northeast of the Afghan capital Kabul at 11:44 pm (1914 GMT), the USGS said on its website.

Kabul residents rushed out of their homes and buildings on what was a bitterly cold night amid fears of aftershocks, an AFP journalist said, while the quake also caused buildings to sway in the Pakistani capital Islamabad. Tremors were also felt in the national capital and Kashmir. The capital city Peshawar of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province was the worst-hit area from where the all 37 casualties were reported, Xinhua quoted Urdu TV channel Geo as saying.

The provincial authorities have imposed a state of emergency in all the three major hospitals in

Peshawar and in neighbouring Nowshera district to facilitate the injured people.

Ghulam Rasool, Director General of Pakistan, said that the quake's focal depth was 197 km in the Hindu Kush mountain ranges along Afghanistan-Tajikistan border.

An AFP reporter said the earthquake appeared to continue for at least 30 seconds, while Twitter users as far away as New Delhi said they felt its impact.

In October, a 7.5-magnitude quake ripped across Pakistan and Afghanistan, killing nearly 400 people and flattening buildings in rugged terrain that impeded relief efforts.

For many in Pakistan, October's quake brought back traumatic memories of a 7.6-magnitude quake that struck in October 2005, killing more than 75,000 people and displacing some 3.5 million.

Afghanistan is frequently hit by earthquakes, especially in the Hindu Kush mountain range, which lies near the junction of the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates.

In Nepal a quake in April and a strong aftershock in May killed more than 8,900 people.

US, UN Secretary General welcome Modi-Sharif meeting in Lahore

ANI **Washington D.C., Dec.26:** The United States has welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's surprise visit to Pakistan. A State Department spokesman here said that improved ties between the two countries would benefit the entire region. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also welcomed the meeting between Prime Minister Modi and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif in Lahore.

A UN spokesperson expressed hope that the bilateral dialogue will be maintained and strengthened. When asked about the UN Chief's response to Prime Minister Modi's visit to Pakistan, the spokesperson said the Secretary General has long been encouraging the two countries to engage in dialogue. Earlier, Prime Minister Modi met

Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif at latter's residence Raiwind Palace, the ancestral home of the Sharifs. "In a first, both PMs flew together in a chopper to Raiwind, home of PM Nawaz Sharif," tweeted Vikas Swarup, Official Spokesperson, Ministry of External Affairs. Prime Minister Modi also wished his Pakistani counterpart on his birthday. "Birthday wishes for PM Sharif, best wishes for #IndiaPakistan relations," tweeted Swarup.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif received his Indian counterpart at Lahore airport. Both the Prime Ministers are expected to hold meeting now.

This is the first visit of Prime Minister Modi to Pakistan after assuming the office. He was accompanied by Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, IMPHAL CLARIFICATION

Imphal, the 23rd Dec., 2015

RIMS authority is thankful to all student's organizations for taking up the issues of nurses selection test and also individuals particularly Shri Chongtham Bijoy Singh, a self proclaimed BJP spokesperson, Senior RTI activist, also Convener of the Clean Politics Mission, Manipur Chapter for taking personal interest single handedly in bringing up issues surrounding the nurses selection processes.

It is unfortunate that Shri Chongtham Bijoy Singh who has a distinctive background presently residing at a disputed RIMS campus had misled general public by giving series of wrong information, which is far from the facts. The following important points are further clarified.

1. Question papers sealed (in 4 layers) were brought to RIMS in 19 (nineteen) steel trunks for distribution to 10 examination centres. Details of the 19 (nineteen) trunks and sealed keys of the trunks were sent separately in another small sealed package (not in steel trunk). The small sealed package is the 20th package, which is alleged to be lost and that is not true. Representatives of various print and electronic media, who were physically present on the examination day will be able to clarify the doubt. Moreover, question papers for the MBBS entrance examinations conducted earlier by the Government of Manipur were opened in the presence of representatives from media. RIMS also followed the same procedure. This is not the first time.

2. Just like Manipur University, RIMS also has a safe enclosure for storing important documents including examination questions. Who received the boxes and for how many days RIMS kept the questions under their custody are not important but was there any sign of tampering in any of the boxes when they were checked by the media personnel or by the Officers-in-charge of the concerned examination centres on the day of the examination is an important question to answer. There were no such issues raised by any of the stakeholders including Examination in charges of various centres, who might straightway refuse accepting the sealed trunk if there was any sign of tampering.

3. RIMS authority does not dictate on sitting arrangement and allotment of questions of the candidates. It is the prerogative of the Examination in charges of the centres. Blaming RIMS on sitting arrangements and allotment of question set for the students is absolutely wrong.

4. Shri Bijoy alleged that questions were made by a doctor by downloading questions from the internet. If this is true, the so called "leaked questions" are found in the internet. Shri Bijoy possibly in collusion with the non-selected candidates may have fabricated copies of the alleged leaked questions by downloading from the internet to mislead everyone and to defame RIMS.

Why the truth loving people of Manipur including Shri Bijoy took so much time (already 2 weeks) to come out publicly and tell everyone who leaked the questions? Is it ethical to blame someone blindly?

5. The Director RIMS and the Medical Superintendent did not visit a hotel to meet visitors from the Ministry as alleged. The truth is, on 17th December 2015 evening, a dinner for the team leaders of the examination monitoring squad and members of the monitoring cell with the visitors was arranged at a hotel. That is the only occasion where visitors were directly interacted with outside RIMS with the Director RIMS and Medical Superintendent in presence of all invitees. This hotel is under CCTV coverage. Why blame RIMS authority blindly for all wrong reasons?

6. Regarding one of the 22 nurses on contract basis appearing examination, RIMS reiterates that RIMS does not dictate on who should appear the examination and who should not. The decision is the prerogative of the concerned individual. Is it a bad practice to appear competitive examination by anyone? Or, did the interim order of the Hon'ble High Court debar anyone of them from appearing in the selection test? Further, RIMS is not above the law courts.

RIMS authority sincerely request general public to find time to meet media personnel who were physically present during the question selection process and examination in charges of 10 centres to know the facts on how sincerely RIMS tried to conduct the examination.

Please stop blaming RIMS for all wrong reasons. RIMS cannot progress without your support.

It is also further made known to the general public that the previously announced enquiry by an officer into the allegations of question leakage relating to the written test for recruitment of RIMS Staff Nurses will now be conducted by a committee comprising of 3 members. The Committee is comprised of a retired civil service officer, an academician and a legal professional. The public is requested to help and co-operate with the said enquiry committee.

Sd/-
Director
Regional Institute of Medical Sciences

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..... Festival of dogs

like Rabies, infection by parasites like salmonella and bacterial infections like anthrax, hepatitis, leptospirosis can be spread through the meat to the people. Once these parasites are in human body then they can cause inflammation in blood vessels which leads to hemorrhaging in the nail beds and eyes, in addition to severe muscle weakness. Dog meat has highest cholesterol present. Due to the excessive amount of lipid present in it human body can't metabolize it easily. Let's stop the culture of having puppy meat. If we turn them for our consumption then it would be a greatest joke on mankind. This could have a negative impact on human health if they are not addressed at right time. DSP Brinda in her words said, 'How could one consume a faithful animal like this? Knowing they would be guarding you for life time'. Is dog is meant to be our companion or its meat fit for our consumption?

One of the most debating question is: are we going to make all our local dogs meant for our consumption and imported dogs to breed? One should not forget its capability since it has been here for ages and now have well adapted with our climatic conditions one should not treat our local breed cheaply. The belief of local dog being "dumb" was proved wrong by Jone's (local breed Meitei hui). Presently MDLC is fighting against cruelty of animal by spreading more awareness through its activities. In past they have adopted some stray dogs which were later taken away by their owners. The chilly evening ended with several talent shows which were brought in by the trained dogs. They won our hearts and also made us all feel that they are meant to be our companion and "not for our consumption".