

Editorial

Imphal, Thursday, November 19, 2015

The task ahead

The inauguration of Sanjenthong Bridge is not enough, if wanted to win the heart of the people of the state more had to be done, besides changing the present system. If one is asked to think of two words that would best describe the present working system of the Government and its various Departments, more often than not, the words would be "Confusion" and "Corruption", but this does not mean that there is no other word that can be used. Miscommunication, inefficiency, favouritism, mismanagement, absenteeism-attributes that has come to be synonymous with Government functioning. Yet we have seen at times that the Government and its Departments have, in spurts, managed to accomplish seemingly impossible tasks and projects in record time- that they can rise to any challenge and face it successfully. For a society to develop, a holistic approach is very essential. Making things work in fits and bounds would only make a farce of whatever precious little progress we have managed to accomplish. It would require a very proactive and prominent role from the judiciary if we ever aspire to bring in real change in our society. Curtailing the brash attitude of the often high-handed nature of the security forces or fighting the rampant corruption being practiced in almost every sphere of public domain needs the support and encouragement of the judicial system to become effective. A swift and stern justice system would surely deter many from tempering with the law, if not altogether contain it. Such a scenario would also revive the will of the common people to demand their rights and dispense their duties without fear or apprehension. The Government, on its part should come clean on various issues and try to make a clean start. The unspoken nexus of power and fear will not augur well for anybody, least of all for those who use them in their pursuit of personal advancement. Until and unless those at the helm of affairs have the integrity to discharge their duties and responsibilities, no law or directives will make any sense or serve any purpose. In this age and time when any information can be accessed with the touch of a button, trying to fool the people and underestimating their intelligence will surely prove to be a costly mistake. One does not need to draw up grand designs and mammoth schemes to initiate development. When each and every arm of the Government has done their bit, then the big picture will emerge itself as it ought to be. All everyone need is a sense of belonging, of responsibility and a spirit of participation, and the public should join in with an open mind instead of sitting back and being mere spectators waiting to point out every little mistake and make it out into a mountain, to complete the picture.

Bombings by Boko Haram kill at least 49 in Nigeria

ANI
Johannesburg, Nov. 19: At least 49 people have been killed in blasts in two towns of Nigeria, Yola and Kano, by Boko Haram terrorist group on Wednesday. According to News24, at least 34 people were killed and another 80 wounded in Yola, a town packed with refugees from Nigeria's Islamic uprising, emergency officials said on Wednesday. Later Wednesday, two more suicide bombers killed at least 15 people in the northern city of Kano and injured 53, according to police. The blasts were the latest by Boko Haram, Nigeria's home-grown extremists who have killed 20,000 and forced 2.3 million to flee their homes in their six-year insurgency. Boko Haram was named on Wednesday as the world's most deadly extremist group in the Global Terrorism Index.

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 3 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.

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

A SOLUTION FOR EVERY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT



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

ALL KINDS OF SPARE PARTS AVAILABLE

AFTER SALES SERVICE TO YOUR SATISFACTION

Authorised dealer **BEM 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)

Manipur's own women's day

(Ningol Chakkouba is a unique festival in Manipur which celebrates the coming of married women to their paternal homes for a meal.)

By: Iboiyama Laithangbam

Every November comes an important occasion of festivity for the Manipuri society. This year too, the annual festival of Ningol Chakkouba has just passed. It is a unique festival, one that celebrates daughters in a country which has otherwise an overall discriminatory attitude towards girls. On a November day, married sisters and daughters are invited to their paternal home for a sumptuous meal. History records that this practice began in 33 AD when Nongda Lairon Pakhangba was the king of Manipur. His sister Laishna, had once gone to the house of her brother, Poireiton. Apart from a multi-course delicious meal, she was given various home-grown fruits and handloom spun clothes as gifts. Since then, this practice has been an inextricable part of the Manipuri society. Initially, this practice was found only among the Meiteis and the Kabuis. Though now, it has become a catalyst for communal harmony in the State. It began when some decades ago, civil society organisations started hosting feasts here and there where women of all communities were invited for a meal. Each of them was also given a handloom spun sarong or shawl as a gift. The idea behind these mass feasts was

to remind people that all communities lived as members of the same family before the advent of Vaishnavism in the State in the 18th century after which untouchability began to be practised in Manipuri society leading to a social divide with a lingering effect. Former Chief Minister Rishang Keishing had also a plan to take forward the idea officially and host a lunch for couples belonging to both tribal and non-tribal communities. But then, he was ousted from power before his dream was realised. However, the practice of organising feasts where women of all communities are invited is spreading into most parts of the four valley districts dominated by the Meiteis. Such occasions underline the common belief that the tribals and the non-tribals are brothers of the same parents; that while the elder brother stayed in the hills, the younger brother decided to remain in the valley. However, with an ugly twist of history, an artificial social chasm was created which is deplored by one and all. Yet another change in the last few decades can also be seen taking over the festival. In the early times, families preserved the pristine beauty of the social practice by gifting ordinary clothes and arranging simple but delicious

meals for their sisters and daughters. However, with more and more ill-gotten money trickling in to the State, many began to use the festival as an occasion to show off their riches. There began a competition among many newly rich families about who can afford more expensive gifts for their daughters and sisters. However, there has been appeals time and again from various sections of society not to currupt the unique practice. On the day of Ningol Chakkouba, it is a must for married women and their children to don new clothes. They also have the custom of bringing fruits and sweets to their parental homes while coming for the meal. This is the harvest season for the traders who deal in imported fruits, sweets and other heavy demand items. However, the family of Irom Sharmila who has been on fast unto death since November 4, 2000 demanding the repeal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 has not hosted Ningol Chakkouba since then. Sharmila is the youngest and most loved sibling in the family. When she has been on fast unto death, languishing in a prison there is no charm or meaning in hosting such lunches which are meant for festivity and jubilation, said some family members.

Unfortunately, these days, prices of most commodities skyrocket on the eve of Ningol Chakkouba. Prices of many commodities in Manipur are anyway one of the highest in the country due to lack of the Government initiatives to check untrammelled extortion of illegal taxes by militants of many hues. On top of that, most prefer to gift apples and coconuts brought from outside the State over locally grown fruits like the guavas and the berries and end up paying inevitably a huge sum. Yet another offshoot of the festival is hosting games by some youths, such as dice, housie, etc., for the public, at times from October onwards. One such housie ticket this year was as high as Rs 10,000 which came with the irresistible first prize of a new sleek car. Though such events tarnish the pristine image of the festival, the good outcome of it has been that some have succeeded in making the festival a unifying force for the Manipuri society at large. Even police and other government departments including Assam Rifles now organise feasts for womenfolk. Also, the practice has rubbed off on non-Manipuri families living in the State for generations. They too now invite their daughters and sisters home for Ningol Chakkouba. **Courtesy: nezine.com**

National & International News

2 Naxals gunned down in Sukma encounter with police

PII
Raipur, Nov. 19: At least two Naxals were on Thursday killed by security forces following a major gun-battle in Chhattisgarh's insurgency-hit Sukma district. "The operation was launched collectively by CRPF's elite Commando Battalion for Resolute Action's (CoBRA) 208 battalion and two teams of state's District Reserve Group (DRG) under Bheji Police Station limits," Inspector

General of Police, Bastar Range, S R P Kalluri said. The operation was based on the information about the location of Maoist commander Hidma, who is the head of 1st military battalion of Naxals, in the region. "We received inputs that Hidma had arrived to take part in a marriage ceremony of a close cadre in Dubbakonta village following which we mobilised our composite forces last evening towards the

region to nab him," he said. When security forces reached near Dubbakonta - a Maoist hothed - early this morning, a group of armed insurgents opened indiscriminate fire on them, triggering a gun-battle between the two sides, the IG said. "So far, two bodies of Maoists in 'uniform', besides a muzzle loading gun, Insas rifle magazines and Maoist sticks have been recovered," he said.

However, police are yet to trace Hidma, he said. Hidma was allegedly involved in the 2013 Jiram valley Naxal attack in Bastar's Darba region in which 31 people, including some senior state Congress leaders, were killed and the 2010 Chintalnar ambush in Dantewada in which 76 troopers were killed. Further details will be known once the police team returns to its camp, Kalluri added.

Bomb threat: European flight makes emergency landing in Bulgaria over "hoax call"

Paris, November 19: A European Boeing 747 on Thursday morning made an emergency landing at the Bulgarian airport after 'bomb threat'. Since week after the Paris attack, these kind of threat even if it is a "hoax call" is taken seriously by the aviation safety department across the globe. After Paris attacks which claimed the life of 129 people and leaving behind injured more than 850 many airports and flights were closed due to "hoax call" or suspicious baggage found at the airport premises. According to reports, the plane which landed at Bulgarian airport was flying from Warsaw to Hurgada in Egypt. The passengers were taken to a safe place and the Bulgarian airport was evacuated after the threat. It is still not sure how many people were on board, however some reports suggest there were 161 people on board but the airport authorities are about to give its statement. The threat came a day after when the Islamic State's official magazine carried a photo on Wednesday "claiming" how they brought down the Russian airliner over Sinai peninsula. In the photo a Schweppes soft

drink was shown with impoverished bomb that brought down the Russian airliner over Egypt's Sinai peninsula last month, killing all 224 people on board. Since then plane flying from

Egypt are considered as a crucial region which follows a high security threat. Last Friday at six different attacks, Paris was converted into a war zone. The attack which was reportedly done by seven people

who blew themselves up wearing suicide vest killed more than 129 people. French officials had intensified attacks in Syria, as Islamic State had claimed the responsibility of the attack.

Tensions, struggles don't bring change: PM Modi to IAS officers

PII
New Delhi, Nov. 19: Tensions and struggles do not bring change, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said today as he asked the young IAS officers to bring about positive change that will benefit the nation. "Tensions and struggles don't bring change. It is about how many people to integrate," Modi said during his interaction with 169 IAS officers of 2013 batch. Noting that they are the people going to manage several districts across India, he said, "The positive change you bring will be beneficial for the nation." He said 10 years are very crucial for them and they should make the most of these years and ensure their foundations are strong. "Our actions must be in tune with our vision. What we learn on the ground is very important," the

Prime Minister said encouraging them to initiate people-friendly initiatives to further ease governance. These IAS officers for the first time started their career as Assistant Secretaries from the national capital, rather than their respective states allocated to them as cadres. They have been assigned important desks related with policy and flagship programmes of the concerned ministries and departments. They are being groomed by principal mentors at the level of Secretary and divided into four clusters, namely infrastructure, social sector, regulatory, enabling or support sector and economic or commerce related, as assigned by the Cabinet Secretary. Apart from the desk work, the young officers have been visiting

the attached offices besides undertaking field visits. **5.3 magnitude quake jolts Kathmandu**
ANI
Kathmandu, Nov. 19: A 5.3 magnitude earthquake jolted the Kathmandu valley and neighbouring districts on Thursday morning. According to National Seismological Center, the jolt was the aftershock of the 7.9 magnitude Great Quake of April 25. Its epicenter was at Nimlung in Sindhupalchowk district. The number of aftershocks of the Gorkha earthquake, with local magnitude of 4.0 or above has reached 408, the Himalayan Times reported. Panic-stricken people ran out of their houses when the aftershock struck at 9:30 am.