

Short Story

On The Way To The Sun

By : MRS. W. K. CLIFFORD

He had journeyed a long way, and was very tired. It seemed like a dream when he stood up after a sleep in the field, and looked over the wall, and saw the garden, and the flowers, and the children playing all about. He looked at the long road behind him, at the dark wood and the barren hills; it was the world to which he belonged. He looked at the garden before him, at the big house, and the terrace, and the steps that led down to the smooth lawn—it was the world which belonged to the children. "Poor boy," said the elder child, "I will get you something to eat." "But where did he come from?" the gardener asked.

"We do not know," the child answered; "but he is very hungry, and mother says we may give him some food."

"I will take him some milk," said the little one; in one hand she carried a mug and with the other she pulled along her little broken cart.

"But what is he called?" asked the gardener.

"We do not know," the little one answered; "but he is very thirsty, and mother says we may give him some milk."

"Where is he going?" asked the gardener.

"We do not know," the children said; "but he is very tired."

When the boy had rested well, he got up saying, "I must not stay any longer," and turned to go on his way.

"What have you to do?" the

children asked.

"I am one of the crew, and must help to make the world go round," he answered.

"Why do we not help too?"

"You are the passengers."

"How far have you to go?" they asked.

"Oh, a long way!" he answered. "On and on until I can touch the sun."

"Will you really touch it?" they said, awestruck.

"I dare say I shall tire long before I get there," he answered sadly.

"Perhaps without knowing it, though, I shall reach it in my sleep," he added. But they hardly heard the last words, for he was already far off.

"Why did you talk to him?" the gardener said. "He is just a working boy."

"And we do nothing! It was very good of him to notice us," they said, humbly.

"Good!" said the gardener in despair. "Why between you and him there is a great difference."

"There was only a wall," they answered. "Who set it up?" they asked curiously.

"Why, the builders, of course. Men set it up."

"And who will pull it down?"

"It will not want any pulling down," the man answered grimly. "Time will do that."

As the children went back to their play, they looked up at the light towards which the boy was journeying.

"Perhaps we too shall reach it some day," they said.

Red Shield Division extends support to orphans of Senapati

IT News

Imphal, April 10: Red Shield Division as part of its established theme of uplifting the living standards of the people of Manipur provided aid and assistance in form of eatables, sports items and stationery to needy students of "Great Harvest Orphanage Home" located at Liangmeti/Taphou village on 03 April 2016. The event was

organized by Jwalamukhi Battalion under Senapati Brigade of Red Shield Division. Army during the event conveyed such activities will be carried out all across the region for the upliftment of living standards of people and provide support to people in need. The security forces are continuously showing their positive approach and intends towards the people of the state.

AR interacts with school students

IT News

Imphal, April 10: 12 Assam Rifles of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) conducted an interaction programme with students of Middle School at Sita Village in Chandel district of Manipur state on 06 April 2016. The aim of the programme was to encourage the student to be responsible

citizens and contribute towards the betterment of the nation in every field. Keeping up with its image as "Friends of Manipur" the Assam Rifles has been tirelessly carrying out civic action along with continuous efforts towards spreading harmony and peace and building integration amongst the local populace.

AR conducts lecture on first Aid

IT News

Imphal, April 10: 12 Assam Rifles of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organised a lecture on Basic First Aid at Kampang Khunou Village in Chandel district of Manipur state on 07 April 2016. Medical Officer of the unit delivered the lecture. Various

first aid methods, procedures and demonstration to provide first aid to victims of snake bites, accidents and wounded person was imparted to the villagers. The efforts of Assam Rifles to organise such lectures was highly appreciated by the village authorities and villagers who attended the lecture.

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National & International News

Huge tragedy in Kerala; 102 dead, 280 injured in temple fire

PTI

Kollam, April 10: In a huge tragedy, 102 people were killed and over 280 injured in a major fire that broke out in Puttingal Devi Temple complex near here in Kerala today during a display of fireworks for which there was no permission from the authorities.

Thousands of people had gathered at the temple precincts to witness the display of fireworks which was underway since midnight when the blaze erupted at around 3.30 AM, police said.

The mishap occurred as sparks of the fireworks fell on the store room

'Kambapura' and the fire crackers kept there exploded with a deafening noise, police said.

The sound of the explosion could be heard over a radius of one kilometer and the whole area plunged into darkness as the power supply went off and people ran helter skelter, eyewitnesses said.

In the huge blaze, 102 people perished and 280 were injured, Chief Minister Oommen Chandy told reporters.

A massive effort was launched to rescue the people from the inferno and shift the injured people to hospitals, with the Navy and the Air

Force pressing into service six helicopters and one Dornier aircraft. The Chief Minister said the District Collector of Kollam had not given permission to conduct the fireworks.

The District Collector A Shainamol said "no permission for any kind of fireworks" was given.

She said the temple authorities had asked for permission to conduct competitive fireworks which was denied. For normal fireworks, no permission was sought and hence there was no question of granting it, the DC said.

Police sources said a case has been

registered against temple authorities and explosive licences under section 307 (Attempt to murder), and 308 (Attempt to commit culpable homicide) of IPC and under section 4 of Explosives Substances Act.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who termed the incident as "heart-rending" and "shocking", announced Rs two lakh each as compensation for the next of kin of the dead and Rs 50,000 each for the injured.

He rushed to Kerala to take stock of the situation, carrying along with him a team of burn specialist doctors.

Crane carrying AI defunct aircraft crashes near Begumpet Airport

ANI

Hyderabad, April 10: In a bizarre incident, a crane carrying Air India's defunct aircraft lost its balance and crashed near the Begumpet Airport in Telangana on Sunday morning.

No casualties have been reported so far. The incident happened at

around 6.30 a.m. when Air India officials were transporting the defunct aircraft from the Begumpet Airport to their training academy (Central Training Establishment) nearby.

"An old hull stationed at the Old Begumpet Airport was being moved from the Air India hanger to make

space at the hanger and also to use the hull for training purpose at the Air India Central Training Establishment," the national carrier said in a statement.

"All necessary procedures and planning required for the removal of the hull were in place. Today morning the hull was successfully

taken out of the airport but at one particular moment the crane gave away and the hull became unstable and landed on the ground," the statement added.

The national carrier also said that the hull, which landed on the ground, can be used for training purpose as planned initially.

Philippine clash leaves 18 soldiers, 5 militants dead

AP

Manila, April 10: The Philippine military suffered its largest single-day combat loss so far this year when 18 soldiers were killed in fierce fighting with Abu Sayyaf extremists that also left five Islamic militants dead, including a Moroccan fighter, the military said today.

At least 53 other soldiers were wounded in yesterday's daylight clashes with the Abu Sayyaf militants and allied gunmen in the hinterlands bordering the towns of Tipo Tipo and Al-Barka on Basilan island, regional military spokesman Maj Filemon Tan and other army officials said.

The large combat casualties were reported as the Philippines marked the Day of Valour yesterday to remember Filipino veterans who

died in World War II. Government forces were deployed to kill or capture Abu Sayyaf commander Isnilon Hapilon, who has publicly pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group and has been hunted for years for his alleged involvement in several terrorist attacks, three military officials said yesterday. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to speak publicly about the military assault.

Washington has offered a reward of up to USD 5 million for information leading to Hapilon's capture and prosecution.

The Abu Sayyaf militants, many of whom were armed with M203 grenade launchers, apparently managed to reinforce their ranks quickly as the fighting raged and

gathered between 100 and 150 fighters, allowing them to inflict heavy casualties on government troops, the officials said.

The fighting lasted for more than nine hours, they said.

Among the slain militants was a Moroccan, who was identified as Mohammad Khattab, and a son of Hapilon, Tan said, adding about 20 other gunmen were wounded.

It's the largest single-day government combat loss this year in the south, where the military has been battling Muslim separatist rebels and extremists, and Marxist guerrillas.

Last year, 44 police commandos were killed in clashes with various Muslim insurgent groups in southern Mamasapano town while on a covert mission that was fraught with faulty planning and execution but nevertheless killed a top Malaysian terror suspect in Southeast Asia.

Outrage over the police deaths stalled a peace deal with the largest Muslim insurgent group some of whose fighters got entangled in the fighting.

The Abu Sayyaf was founded in 1991 in Basilan, about 880 kilometres south of Manila. With an unwieldy collective of preachers and outlaws, it vowed to wage jihad, or holy war, but lost its key leaders early in combat, sending it on a violent path of extremism and criminality.

The US and the Philippines have separately blacklisted the Abu Sayyaf as a terrorist organisation for carrying out deadly bombings, extortion, kidnappings for ransom, and beheadings of locals and foreigners, including Christian missionaries in the south.

NIT calm, several demands of outstation students met

PTI

Srinagar, April 10: Peace returned to NIT here today as its authorities met several demands of the outstation students, like relaxation on their movement and celebrating of festivals, in a bid to defuse the tension that has been prevailing on the campus for over 10 days, officials said.

However, the demand for shifting the institute out of Kashmir has been rejected.

"We have issued formal orders for the implementation of many of the demands raised by the students during their meeting with the team of MHRD (Ministry of HRD) and Chairman, Board of Governors of NIT Srinagar," Registrar, NIT Srinagar, Fayaz Ahmad Mir told today.

He said the accepted demands include abolishing the pass system for students' movement which the students had termed as

"restrictive".

"Jiit students have complained that the timing of their movement to and from hostels has been restrictive. They also complained about prevailing pass system, which is a hindrance for them," he said, adding it has been decided that the pass system be immediately removed.

"The timing of moving to and from hostels be relaxed, for which a detailed notice has been issued by the administration," reads an order issued by the Registrar.

The NIT administration has also decided that students will not need to obtain permission to celebrate festivals at the campus.

The administration of the institute has also taken note of other complaints related to mess, cleanliness, geyser, inadequately equipped laboratories, classrooms, rude behavior of staff and alleged discrimination in evaluation put

forth by the students in their meeting with MHRD team.

"The issues will be placed in the meeting of Board of Governors, which is scheduled on April 11 and time-bound action will be taken under supervision of the Board," the order said.

Mir said the students had raised those demands with Jammu and Kashmir's Deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh as well.

"We were in the process of meeting these demands otherwise as well, but now we have issued the formal orders for the same," he said.

However, as per the Ministry of HRD, the demand to shift the NIT from Srinagar cannot be agreed upon, he said.

On the apprehensions about grading, expressed by the students due to the present situation, the order said the administration has decided to address such issues on priority as per "Students Grievance

"Redressal System" already notified in the campus.

Meanwhile, the campus was calm this morning even though there were protests late last evening when "about 100-150 outstation students roamed around in a procession," the Registrar said.

He said the NIT administration, the team of MHRD and chairman Board of Governors of NIT Srinagar met the protesting students asking them to end their protests as most of their demands were met.

"They continued their protests for some time last night, but it is calm this morning. Let us hope the situation gets back to normal sooner," Mir said. SSB MJ AKK

Heavy firing along LoC after Abdul Basit's 'peace talks suspension' statement

ANI

Srinagar, April 10: Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violation along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch Sector in Jammu and Kashmir around early Sunday morning.

They fired mortar fire and automatics from around 4.30 p.m., which was responded "appropriately" by the India troops, said a statement issued by Defence PRO here. Indian troops retaliated in equal measure.

However, no casualty or damage was reported, added the PRO.

The firing resumed after Pakistan high commissioner Abdul Basit on April 7 sparked controversy by announcing that comprehensive bilateral dialogue process between India and Pakistan has been "suspended".

There have been no instances of firing in the Rajouri-Poonch areas after brigadier level talks between the two armies held last October.

Explosion near metro bus stop in Istanbul injures three

IANS

Istanbul, April 10: Three people were injured when an explosion hit an overpass of a metro bus stop in Istanbul's Mecidiyeckoy neighbourhood on Saturday night. The blast was caused by a nylon bag left on the overpass, the Haberturk daily said. The Cumhuriyet daily said the cause was a stun grenade.

Police evacuated shopping malls nearby over the possibility of a second explosion, with special teams securing the area, Xinhua quoted the Haberturk as saying. The police have launched a large-scale investigation, joined by anti-terror and crime scene investigation teams, the reports said.

The explosion came as Istanbul has been on edge over more possible terror attacks, since the metropolis and Ankara, the national capital, have come under six deadly attacks over the past eight months, with the last one hitting Istanbul on March 19 and killing four foreign tourists. Israel and the US have issued alerts over the past two days about the risk of fresh terror attacks in Turkey, with the US Embassy in Ankara warning of threats to tourist sites in Istanbul and Antalya, a coastal city in the southwest.

Policemen in Istanbul have been on high alert following the US warning on Saturday, Turkish media said, as the city is scheduled to host the 13th summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation later this week. The explosion came as Istanbul has been on edge over more possible terror attacks, since the metropolis and Ankara, the national capital, have come under six deadly attacks over the past eight months, with the last one hitting Istanbul on March 19 and killing four foreign tourists. Israel and the US have issued alerts over the past two days about the risk of fresh terror attacks in Turkey, with the US Embassy in Ankara warning of threats to tourist sites in Istanbul and Antalya, a coastal city in the southwest.