

Editorial

Imphal, Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Dynamics of ethnocentrism

The worryingly increasing level of volatility of the social atmosphere especially amongst the different communities in the state came to prominence yet once again when an unfortunate incident threatens to blow out of proportions and tear the fragile social fabric throwing the state into communal conflicts and instability. Manipur, being a multi-ethnic state has its own set of social adjustments that has been functional more or less, but with the increasing degree of intolerance and rigidity leading to further polarization on grounds of religion and ethnicity, this shaky balance is bound to tilt over sooner than later. In recent years, for instance, the dominant ethnic groups have been on the forefront in fighting for political power. This situation has resulted into fighting to control the state or areas of dominance while the relatively less dominant communities have been playing the card of opportunism. The situation has fomented anger, resentment, lust for revenge, and aggressive competitiveness that has overlooked the common good of the entire state. Frustrations amongst the poor, both in urban and rural areas, have created a growing tendency to use violence as a viable means to correct the situation. When violent reactions emerge, under the influence of ethno-political ideologies, tend to take the form of ethnocentrism, the ideology that animates the competition between ethnic groups. Such undesirable development is however made more acute with the failure or, more precisely, the refusal of the state machinery to analyse and address the root cause of the problem. The most prominent factor which set the potentially dangerous communal tension into motion was the dwindling lack of trust in the executive and judicial system in the state compounded by increasing social intolerance and mutual distrust. The alleged vehicle lifters should have been handed over to the state security for further formal procedures and judicial measures. Instead, the locals took the matter into their own hands and played judge and jury, beating the accused to death. The understandably agitated community members of the deceased demanding a probe into the allegations have been ignored prompting them to take up agitations such as blocking of roads, leading to the escalation and the final confrontation between the communities. During the build-up to the confrontation, the state legal and judicial machinery was looking the other way, and it was only when things got out of hand and threatening to engulf the entire state and perhaps beyond, that the state administration and security were jolted into action. This retrospective mindset and manner of running the state machinery is exactly the reason why such social and communal flare-ups are bound to repeat. No amount of reshuffling or reorganizing the power-sharing equation will have any impact on the ground level until the system is tweaked to make the state machinery to embrace responsibilities and discharge their duties in time. And so long as these feelings of distrust, reluctance and reticence about the earnestness of the state government and its administrative functioning remain in the minds of the public, we are in for a long haul of social unrest, emotive outbursts and deadly kangaroo courts.

Bhiwandi building fire under control; all residents rescued, three injured

Bhiwandi, April 12: A massive fire broke out on Tuesday morning in a multi-storey building in Kashimpura area in Bhiwandi, a Mumbai's suburb. The fire led to panic as around 150 people living on the third floor of the Saied building were trapped inside for sometime. They were later rescued by fire officials with the help of locals. The fire officials first used ladders and then cranes to rescue the stranded people. At least three people have been injured in the incident. They have been taken to IGM hospital. The three had jumped from the building in panic.

The fire started in a power loom unit situated on the ground floor of the building and soon spread to other floors. Several fire tenders and water tankers were pressed into service to douse the flames. It took the fire tenders over an hour to bring the fire under control. Fire officials said they rushed to the spot after getting information and started evacuating the residents using ladders. Around seven fire tenders from Bhiwandi and Thane were rushed on the spot. Fire officials said the situation is now under control. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

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National & International News

12 NLFT militants surrender with families in Tripura

ANI
Agartala (Tripura), April 12: Twelve guerrillas of the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) accompanied by 19 family members, including eight children, have surrendered to the Tripura police along with their arms and ammunition on Monday. The militants laid down arms before the Director General of Police (DGP) K Nagaraj in the police headquarters in presence of the senior officials. "Preliminary information what they have given us is that they are disgruntled with their leadership. The leadership is self-seeking; they are not interested in the welfare of the cadres and the leadership has also been promising about the talks (with the government) but the talks are not progressing, they are not leading to any direction so they got fed up and said that they want to come back to normal life," said Nagaraj. "They also have said that the extremist movement has not helped in any way to improve the condition of the tribals. In fact they feel that

the government is doing a better job of spreading development in the interior areas. That is the reason that they come out and expect t Most of the cadres have come from the NLFT headquarters at Sapcheri under Ranganami in Bangladesh. Ten NLFT militants along with their two associates fled their Bangladeshi hideout last week and crossed over to Tripura before surrendering to the superintendent of police (special branch) Arindam Nath on Sunday in Tripura's border village Bhandarima. The militants were accompanied by 20 family members, including eight children, he said. The militants were brought here late Sunday night and were being interrogated by police and intelligence officials followed by the official surrender today. They surrendered deposited two self-loading rifle, one INSUS rifle, one G3 rifle and an AK-47 rifle along with six loaded magazines, two China-made grenades and a large cache of ammunition and sharp weapons. The militants have been identified

as Tarani Mohan Tripura alias Topreng, Holongsa Tripura, Benoy Tripura alias Bimal, Laxmanjy Tripura alias Lalhang, Bijoy Debbarma alias Sunil, Mrityunjy Aslong alias Mantha, Kusum Tripura, Debshing Reang, Majayram Reang alias Mukthang, Kushirai Reang and Unarum Reang alias Anilfaa, Jatanjoy Reang. One of the surrendering militants Holongsa Tripura said, "I do confess that I have committed mistake in my life. We led tough life in the camps but our officers do not care are staying as permanent resident of Bangladesh and have citizenship. We the soldiers do not get anything and so we thought what we could do and decide to come back." "We did not contact with the BSF or Assam Rifles and we contact the SP SB. As far as I know there are around 25 more camps, mostly rest camps and all total 87 cadres. The head quarter is at Sapcheri," he added. According to police the NLFT was currently short of funds and the condition of the lower rank cadres

was miserable, moreover, the frequent joint operations by the Bangladesh Army and Border Guard Bangladesh in Rangamati and Khagrachari districts in mountainous southeastern Bangladesh are also creating a huge problem for the outfit in hiding and free movement. The surrender was a big jolt for the NLFT especially at a time when the outfit is plagued by a funds crunch, disillusioned cadres and frequent rifts. Members of NLFT and All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) undergo arms training in hideouts and covert camps in various parts of Bangladesh, which shares an 856 km border with Tripura. Banned in 1997 by the central government, the two outfits advocate secession of Tripura from India. However, ATTF has become almost defunct due to the surrender of most of its cadres. Tripura and union home ministry officials held two rounds of talks last year with the NLFT after the rebel group expressed willingness to hold peace parleys.

UP Police hints at 'revenge' behind NIA officer's murder

ANI
Bijnor (Uttar Pradesh), April 12: Inspector General (Bareilly Zone) Vijay Singh on Tuesday hinted at revenge and frustration being the motive for the murder of NIA officer Mohammad Tanzil Ahmed. Singh said that all aspects, including professional and personal rivalry, have been looked into during the probe in connection with the case. "All aspects, including professional, personal rivalry, were looked into during the probe. Terror angle was specifically investigated. Reyaan (accused) was in frustration because he was

denied help from Tanzil Ahmed when he needed it," Singh told the media here. "During interrogation, it has been revealed that one of accused Reyaan sought help from Tanzil ji in a case. Some of the statements given by Reyaan (accused) and his father have been verified by circumstantial evidence, some is yet to be verified. Reyaan grew resentful towards NIA officer Tanzeel Ahmed as he didn't get the help he had sought," he added. The Inspector General further said the motive behind the involvement of another accused Munner can only be known only after he is

arrested. "Muneeer fired the killing shot, Reyaan drove the bike and overtook NIA officer Tanzil Ahmad's car," he said. Uttar Pradesh police has arrested two accused, Jainul and Reyaan, in connection with the murder case of NIA Deputy SP Mohammad Tanzil Ahmed. The state police had earlier announced a reward of Rs 50,000 to those providing information leading to the arrest of main accused Muneeer in connection with the murder of the slain NIA officer. UP DGP Javed Ahmed had earlier stated that police had questioned

over a hundred people following raids at several places in connection with the killing of NIA officer. Tanzil Ahmed, probing terror cases related to Indian Mujahideen, was shot dead on April 3 by two unidentified motorcycle-borne assailants who also wounded his wife when they were returning home from a wedding near Uttar Pradesh's Bijnor district. Meanwhile, Tanzil Ahmed's wife Farzana has been referred to AIIMS trauma centre from Noida's Fortis hospital on Monday evening where she has been kept in ICU. Doctors in the AIIMS have put Farzana on ventilators.

Suicide bomber kills 5 Yemen army recruits in Aden

AFP
Aden, April 12: A suicide bomber suspected of belonging to Al-Qaeda killed five Yemeni soldiers when he detonated his explosive belt today among army recruits in Aden, a security official said. The man mixed in with a group of recruits as they headed to their base in the southern city which serves as a temporary capital for the government, the official said. Army and government installations have been the target of several attacks by extremists since pro-government forces drove out Shiite

rebels in the summer. Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group have taken advantage of the chaos caused by the war between the government and the rebels to strengthen their grip on southern Yemen. But after having long ignored them, forces loyal to President Abdrabbu Mansour Hadi have launched operations against them in the past few weeks, backed by the firepower of a Saudi-led military coalition.

Two more suspects charged in Brussels bombings

Brussels, April 12: Belgian authorities have charged two more men with offenses related to the Brussels bombings. The Belgian Federal Prosecutor's office on Tuesday said that the suspects, identified only as Smail F and Ibrahim F, were involved in renting an apartment in the Etterbeek area of Brussels that served as a hideout for the bomber who attacked the Brussels subway as well as a suspected accomplice. Sixteen victims died in the 22 March attack, the same day a pair of suicide bombers also killed 16 victims at Brussels airport. An investigating magistrate on Monday ordered Smail F, born in 1984, and Ibrahim F, born in 1988, held on charges of participating in the activities of a terrorist group, terrorist murder and attempted terrorist murder as perpetrators, co-perpetrators or accomplices, the prosecutors' office said in a statement.

The statement said no further information would be released, and that the investigation "is continuing actively day and night."

Woman biker Veenu Paliwal killed in accident

PTI
Vidisha (MP), April 12: Noted woman biker Veenu Paliwal died after her two-wheeler skidded off a road near Gyaraspur town in the district, police said today. Jaipur-based Paliwal (30), also known as "Lady of the Harley", was on a motorcycle trip from Kashmir to Kanyakumari with her companion Dipesh Tanwar, when the mishap happened yesterday. Rajesh Tiwari, In-charge Kotwali police station said. The duo started their journey from Lucknow during early hours yesterday for Bhopal on separate Harley Davidson bikes. Paliwal's motorcycle skidded off the road near Gyaraspur and was seriously hurt, Tiwari said. After primary treatment at Gyaraspur, she was referred to Vidisha for treatment where she succumbed to her injuries, he said, adding, postmortem will be conducted today at the district hospital.

Normal life hit in Kashmir Valley due to strike call

PTI
Srinagar, April 12: Normal life was today affected in Kashmir Valley due to a strike called by separatist groups to protest against the alleged harassment of Kashmiri students outside the state. Shops, business establishments, petrol pumps and educational institutions remained shut in Srinagar while thin attendance was witnessed in banks and government offices, officials said. They said public transport was off the roads. However, private cars, cabs and auto-rickshaws were plying normally. Reports of shutdown were also received from other district headquarters in the Valley, the officials said. Separatist groups, including both factions of Hurriyat Conference and JKLF, had called for a strike today to protest alleged beating, harassment and intimidation of Kashmiri students outside the state.

Two arrested in NIA officer murder case

New Delhi, April 12: Uttar Pradesh police has arrested two people in connection with the murder of NIA officer Tanzil Ahmed in Bijnore last night. Superintendent of Police Subhash Singh Baghel said today said that the two accused Reyan and Jainul have been arrested from a posh locality in the city. Reyan is the nephew of the deceased police officer. However, the prime accused in the crime Munir was absconding and the state police had issued a lookout order along with 50,000 rupees reward against him. Mr Baghel said Munir could be hiding in Goa or Mumbai and couple of teams have been dispatched there.

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

NOTIFICATION

Imphal, the 12th April, 2016

No. 1/13(11)/2014-LA(E) : It is hereby informed to all the candidates who have applied for the post of Committee Officer in the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat that the Written Test for direct recruitment of Committee Officer will be held on 19-04-2016 (Tuesday) at 11:30 am in the Manipur Legislative Secretariat. The list of eligible candidates of the said post can be seen in the Notice Board of the Assembly Secretariat and the candidates so eligible may collect their admit cards from the office room of the undersigned during office hour.

Sd/-
 (G. Tapankumar Sharma)
 Deputy Secretary (Admn),
 Manipur Legislative Assembly

IT/Bill/12-4-2016