

# Editorial

Imphal, Monday, April 25, 2016

## Mending the misunderstanding

"Why is the media- especially the journalists in Manipur painting a gloomy picture of the society almost everyday"? - a thought provoking question thrown my way by a very dear friend who have made it in a cosmopolitan city of the country by sheer dint of his hard work and tenacity. This here then is a thought on it, one which will surely be subscribed to by more than a handful of readers in the state. First off, are we really getting too sceptical in our views? Sceptical and contemptuous to the point of ignoring and failing to appreciate the good things happening around us? - a charge leveled at the media more often than we can care to count. The thing is that the media do take note of the public opinion and suggestions- very seriously. Here is however another and more pertinent aspect the public should ponder upon- that the media is much more than a mouthpiece of the ruling party, a crime branch or a tax office, but more an entity resembling a government in exile, demanding from those in power the same exacting standards it applies itself, and when we fall short at times despite our best efforts, we admit, apologise, learn from the mistakes and double the efforts to prevent it in future. We are here not just to provide an insight into the economics and principles of administration but to provide the general public a view of the paradise the state or the nation could be heading for. The media should not be taken merely as a conveyor of gossips or pandering to the whims of the majority, but as purveyors of possibilities that can make the best of a world we have inherited. It would not be too far off the mark to put that news has become the most significant aspect setting the tone of public life and shaping the opinions of a community beyond its frontiers, yet the fact still remains that a majority of the public knows dismayingly little of how to consume it. More often than not, instead of the opinions that should be formed through the news, opinions are being formed around the news, demonized by politicians when it turns uncomfortable, threatened by proscribed groups when their views are not endorsed or criticized by the opposition when their unfounded diatribes are not accorded the space they expect. It is pertinent, perhaps vital for the journalists to provoke those in power to elicit the kind of response they are elected to carry out. It has become a necessity, more than ever to challenge and lay bare the system which is trampling everything in its path and present a possibility for a united community to resist and change it. Journalists should not be confused with paid media who trumpet every development decision as an achievement in themselves.

### Sub Inspector killed in Dadri encounter

**PTI Greater Noida, April 25:** A sub inspector was killed in an encounter with criminals in Dadri this morning, police said. On a tip off that a wanted criminal Sultan was hiding at a house in Dadri, a police team reached the spot. Sultan, who is wanted in several cases of loot and murder, opened fire and an encounter ensued in which the SI identified as Akhtar Khan was killed, they said. Akhtar's family have refused to conduct his last rites till the criminals are arrested.

"Unless the killers are arrested we will not conduct the last rites," Akhtar's elder brother Wahid said. Wahid also alleged that police personnel in the raiding team fled from the spot leaving Akhtar alone. However, police officials have denied the charge. The deceased is survived by wife, two sons and a daughter. He hailed from Aligarh. Akhtar had joined police as a constable in 1998 and later promoted to the post of Sub Inspector. Since 11 June, 2014 he was posted at the Dadri Police Station.

### Nepal Army provides scholarship to quake 'miracle child' Sonish

**ANI Kathmandu, April 25:** The Nepal Army has granted an education-related scholarship to Sonish Awal, the child who miraculously survived last year's devastating earthquake and was rescued after being under debris for 22 hours. Nepal's Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Rajendra Chettri gifted the scholarship to the parents of Sonish at the army headquarters

over the weekend, reports the Kathmandu Post and the Himalayan Times. Lt. Gen. Chettri said that the army would take care of all education costs of Sonish until the completion of his undergraduate degree. According to Nepal Army Directorate of Public Relations, Awal will receive his primary education at an army school where he is currently enrolled.

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## Man, woman and social networking site

**By: Ashinikumar Mutum**

It's natural that woman gets angry when she found out her husband having illicit relationship with another woman. The same is with the man too. And the impact will be on their wards.

Unlike in western countries, or other mainland Indian subcontinent, Manipur's way of life is completely different. There is freedom to both man and woman, but certain restrictions embolden to preserve the tradition and culture of the Manipuri people particularly among the Meitei community women are seen binding to follow certain rituals. The culture of housewife getting up early before the sunrise, completing the left over household chore and after taking a morning bath whether it may be in deep freezing winter cold or in hot exhausted summer heat, housewife are conventionally assigned the responsibility of performing the rituals in morning as every Manipuri family did. Our society being a Patriarchal, men are usually left aside from doing household chores.

But things have change, as the

world has become a Global village many young generation people now think the other way. The advancement in internet technology and cell phone competition between various companies, the world is now a family. The lifestyles in western developed nations are the talk of the young generation forgetting that we are still way to go to reach their stage of development. It is not only about the young generation but also to those aged people who witness all these technology developing in front of their eyes. Except for the love and care for the love ones, culture of lifestyle is completely different from one nation to another nation, from one community to another community. And the unfortunate part is that almost all people wanted the kind of lifestyle that the developed countries practice. The way of expression through private conversation in social networking web site is sometime not fit for some people and some even finds it intrusion to their private life. It's okay to blame such attitude if the identity of the person is well mentioned and uploaded picture of

their own. Well, coming to the point, it is pertinent to think on why man spend more time in social networking site to get touch with people whom they never meet. As for the young school or college children its all right using it. But for those working man or woman who were already married, why they spend more time to this virtual world need to be carefully studied. There was a time when television was just a dream for people of this world. Nobody had ever thought that there will be two or more television sets in a house with uncountable number of channels. That time mobile cell phone was just a science fiction. No person of that time had every thought that people will be able to access to any person across the globe from anywhere they stand. When television was just a dreamt the relation between wife & husband and their children was to close as they have times to sit together at least for few times after work together. Now a day when television is installed at every room with numerous channels the family members now didn't sit together

as they chose programme of their choice at different room. Well the dream about developed countries lifestyle is also another real problem for women. Women always like to be rich, live a king size life and their admiration often landed in trouble due to difference of opinions with their husband. That is the time that some husband went out to forget things that is happening in the family while other who do not want stay with their computer to relax by chatting or engaging in their mobile hand set or computers. As conversation through social networking site provided one to express things that cannot be talk directly in real life people got extreme freedom. That is why naturally words use to communicate may not be appreciated by their near and dear one. But one thing need understanding is that the kind of conversation in social networking site is just to get relieve and stay away from the kind of unbearable desires that their bitter half demanded. This is the part that every wife or near and dear one need to understand.

## National and International News

### Bangladeshi student bodies block key intersection in protest over student's murder

**ANI Dhaka, April 25:** Student bodies blocked a key intersection area of the Shahbagh area 'over what they called the government's failure to arrest the killers of Comilla college student Sohagi Jahon Tonu. The half-day-long protest, which commenced this morning, was

jointly sponsored by the Progressive Students' Alliance and Anti-Imperialist Students' Union, two major left-leaning student alliances. There was a significant response to the protest, reports the Daily Star. Faisal Mahmud, coordinator of Anti-Imperialist Students' Union,

was quoted by the Daily Star, as saying that the hartal programme earned support from all corners of Bangladesh. Hartal supporters have been attacked in Bogra, Joypurhat, Gazipur. Some of the activists have been detained there. Comilla's Victoria College student

Tonu's bloody body was found inside the Comilla Cantonment area on March 20. Though a month has passed, the government has not taken any action to identify the killers. Students said that their hartal is a protest against abuse and repression on all women in the country.

### Islamic State's chief India recruiter killed in US drone strike

**TNN New Delhi, April 25:** Mohammad Shafi Armar, the head and principal recruiter of Islamic State (IS) in India, died a few days ago in a US drone strike in Syria, sources said. Shafi, also known as Yusuf, had reportedly become an important ally of IS chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and was helping establish the outfit in India. He is learnt to have recruited at least 30 men for the group. According to 23 IS recruits arrested over the past year and a half by the NIA, Delhi Police and police forces of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala, Shafi planned to establish an IS unit in every Indian state. According to top government sources, the death of 26-year-old Shafi, a native of Bhatkal in Karnataka, may have left the Indian unit of IS "headless" for now. His

elder brother Sultan Armar, who was heading the outfit's India franchise till last year, died in March 2015 in the same manner. TOI confirmed Shafi's death from three top government and intelligence sources. The agencies are ascertaining the exact circumstances under which he was killed. Listed on the Interpol website, Shafi had recently formed Junud al Khalifa-e-Hind (Soldiers of the Indian Caliphate) by dismantling the Ansar-ul-Tauhid (AuT). AuT was born out of Indian Mujahideen (IM) after Shafi and Sultan developed differences with Riyaz and Iqbal Bhatkal, the Pakistan-based chiefs of IM, over misuse of funds received for terror activities. AuT had pledged loyalty to IS and Shafi conducted talent-scouting from his Syrian base. It is suspected that Shafi was in touch with at least 600-700 Indian

youngsters on closed Facebook groups and messaging platforms like Trillion, Surespot, WhatsApp and Skype over the past one year, and may have recruited some men for the outfit. He even arranged funds - through transfers and hawala transactions - for IS recruits here. He sent some Rs 6 lakh to the module of Mudabbir Mushtaq Shaikh, whom Shafi made the 'amir' of IS in India while keeping the larger 'head' designation with himself. Sources said very few IS recruits have managed to travel to Syria as security agencies have been keeping a close watch on their activities in India. "We have learnt about his death. We are gathering more details. The final confirmation and details may take time as it is difficult to get information from Syria, where IS has presence, but it's big news," said a top official.

Officials said Shafi was the common link between several IS suspects caught or questioned by different agencies. Sultan Armar, who headed AuT before his death, allegedly appeared in many videos (now blocked) with his face digitally masked, asking Indian Muslims to join AuT and wage a war in the name of jihad. In one of the videos, he reportedly exhorted, "Rise like Ahmad Shah Abdali and Muhammad ibn-Qasim, like Syed Ahmad the martyr, like the Prophet and his companions, take the Quran in one hand and the sword in the other, and head to the fields of jihad." He also asked IS recruits to "teach Brahmins and worshippers of cows, as well as the whole world of unbelievers, that the Indian Muslim is no coward". The Armar brothers' links to the IS first emerged during the interrogation of Yasin Bhatkal, who headed IM and was arrested in 2013.

### Foreign Secretaries of India, Pakistan may meet in New Delhi tomorrow

**New Delhi, April 25:** Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan may hold a meeting in the Indian capital on Tuesday, reports said on Monday. Pakistan's *The News International* reported quoting reliable sources that Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad

Chaudhry is expected to lead a delegation to the Heart of Asia (Istanbul Process) Conference which New Delhi will host tomorrow. The meeting will also be attended by secretary-level and other high-ranking officials from the US, China,

Russia, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and other countries. However, the spotlight could turn on a likely meeting between Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry and his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar on the sidelines of the conference. If that meeting does happen, the

stalled Indo-Pak dialogue could become the focus of the parleys. Last month, India had clarified that the Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue with Pakistan had not been suspended, after the latter's envoy claimed that the Indo-Pak talks are in suspension mode.

### Nepal remembers victims on April 25 quake anniversary

**ANI Kathmandu, April 25:** Nepal on Monday marked the first anniversary of the devastating Gorkha earthquake by remembering the thousands of people who had lost their lives. The biggest quake in the region in the last eight decades left nearly 9,000 people dead, more than 22,000 injured and three quarters of a million families homeless on this day last year. The occasion also saw some voicing their anger and anguish over the government's slow pace of reconstruction. According to a Kathmandu Post report, a demonstration was staged at the southern gate of the Singha

Durbar in Kathmandu. According to the daily, out of the 770,000 families rendered homeless, only 700 have received the first installment of the Rs.200, 000 cash grant for building houses. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli attended a wreath-laying ceremony at Sundhara where the iconic Dharahara tower once stood before the magnitude 7.8 earthquake reduced it to rubble on April 25, 2015. In the Barpak region of Nepal's Gorkha district, the epicentre of the earthquake, the country's President, Bidhya Devi Bhandari, laid the first stone for the rebuilding of the house of Gopal BK, one of the victims.

She also laid the foundation stone for an earthquake memorial park in Barkpak and inaugurated the construction of a memorial. More than 800,000 houses were destroyed, mostly in the Hills, due to the tremors. Of the 602,000 destroyed houses and 185,000 damaged ones in the country, less than five percent of the displaced families have rebuilt their homes while the rest are still living in makeshift tents of tarpaulin, zinc sheets and bamboo. At Basantapur Durbar Square, people reorganised a blood-donation programme, as on the day last year when the earthquake struck. Elsewhere in the country, people are

attending silent rallies and distributing relief materials.

### 11 coal miners missing in China

**PTI Beijing, April 25:** Eleven people were reported missing in China today after a coal mine they were working in was flooded in the country's northwest Shaanxi Province. The accident took place around 8 am (local time) at Zhaojin Coal Mine in Yaozhou District when 67 workers were in the shaft, a spokesman with the Tongchuan city government told state-run Xinhua news agency.