

Editorial

Imphal, Wednesday, August 17, 2016

The lawless Law

The man who was declared "Wanted" with a reward of Rs. 5,00,000/- to anybody who give information about his whereabouts turns out to be perfect example of how the law of the land is being made a mockery by the state police department. The day, when the state police department declared wanted to Khomdram Ratan, the then convenor of the JCLIPS, (on June 2, 2016), he was seen speaking to media persons and the same was broadcasted at local cable news channels, All India radio and almost all the print media of the state. This means that the state police did not do much table work, or perhaps all the entire authority of the state home department lacks complete knowledge of the legal provision on whom to be declared wanted.

Following the declaration, seizure of around rupees 35 lakhs or more from the personal bank account of Khomdram Ratan perhaps made the public apprehensive on the credential of Khomdram Ratan as police department declared him wanted base on a news report published by a national newspaper at which a nexus was established between the former JCLIPS leader and a rebel group after a photograph of him with some suspected leaders of an underground group went viral in social media.

Motives behind the declaration of Ratan as "wanted" were crystal clear. Linking of the peoples' movement with the UGs is perhaps considered a technique to control the peoples' agitation demanding implementation of Inner Line permit system in the state. However, Mr. Okram Ibobi, who is the Chief Minister of Manipur and who had experienced in the chair for almost 3 terms seems to have lacked the idea of world becoming a global village where each and every people across the globe communicates in just few seconds irrespective of where they stayed. He seems to have forgotten that acting like a monarch will someday sabotage his good career. May be he thought it would be a blessing if the kind of ILPS agitation is suppressed to get blessing of those in the central government, then it is likely that his name will be remembered as an omen to the people of this state. His hard earned name will be no less than Ravana of the Ramayana. It's is now no hiding and seeking game. The former JCLIPS leader now came out in public and joined the relay hunger strike protest today at Keishampat Leimajam Leikai. Before too he had challenged the declaration of wanted to him at the law court and the final hearing has been reserved with the Manipur High Court. Now, depending upon this development it is now clear that - whatever be the motives of the Ibobi Singh led congress government, there is no way the people of the state will make U-turn to the demand for Inner Line Permit System to protect the threatened indigenous people of the region.

Fueling anger to a clique of people by empowering them the unlawful law by Mr. Ibobi Singh will not succeed in distorting the unity of this erstwhile kingdom. By promoting hate mongering speech and activities that might incite communal enmity among various communities of the state will only lead him towards Hell. It would have been much appreciative had Mr. Chief Minister and his law enforcers take good care of those who are spreading rumours to create enmity among various communities of the state instead of declaring wanted to a person who is not hiding.

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT NOTIFICATION

Imphal, the 16th August, 2016

No. 1/13(6)/2014-LA(E)/Ret: It is hereby informed that the viva-voice (interview) for direct recruitment to the post of Reporter Grade-III on regular basis in the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat will be held on 20-08-2016 at 11.00 am onwards in the office room of Secretary, Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

Therefore, those candidates who had already appeared for shorthand & speed test (computer typing) held on 22-07-2016 and 23-07-2016 and informed to appear the viva-voice (interview) along with their original testimonials etc. on the afore-said date, time and place without fail.

Time of reporting : 10:30 am

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

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Bir Tikendrajit - The Hero of Manipur



In the third quarter of the 19th century, the three prominent persons who took a decisive part in Manipur's politics were Senapati Tikendrajit, Thangal General and Paona Brajabashi. They were patriots of the first order and laid down their lives to save their country from British domination. Koireng, popularly known as Bir Tikendrajit, was one of the unforgettable nationalist figures of Manipur. He holds a unique position in India's freedom struggle. With the inborn nature of a patriot, he boldly defied the aggressive acts of the mighty British imperialist power. He was against imperialism and colonialism. In short, he was a crusader who resisted the expansion of colonialism. He fearlessly fought against the colonialists. For his patriotism Tikendrajit is immortal. He has been called the "Lion of Manipur". Even the then government of British India had likened him to a fierce tiger. Manipur had enjoyed sovereign status until it was occupied by the British in 1891. Through a long historical process the British imperialists had established a strong foothold in Manipur. The internal crises and the seven years of its devastation (1819-1826) at the hands of Burma, caused the British to intervene in Manipur. As an ally

of Prince Gambhir Singh, it tasted victory over Burma in the first Anglo-Burmese War (1824 - 1826). As a result, Manipur recovered from the devastation and Gambhir Singh was made the titular king of Manipur. The effective powers were in the hands of the Britishers. The king could not resist the British interference which was more pronounced in external matters. Their interference increased much more during the reign of Maharaja Surchandra Singh who succeeded his father Chandrakriti. The consequence was the Anglo-Manipuri war in 1891 and the British conquest of Manipur despite a strong resistance put up by its people and the active struggle of Tikendrajit, Paona Brajabashi and others. Being a member of the royal family, Tikendrajit was familiar with the English which enabled him to know about their attitude and innermost feelings towards the Manipur people. A prince - turned nationalist born on Saturday, the 29th December 1856, Tikendrajit was the fourth son of Maharaja Chandrakriti. Since childhood, he was a lover of freedom. On the death of the Maharaja, on 20th May 1886, Surchandra, the eldest son, succeeded to the throne of Manipur. The other princes were appointed as heir-apparent, army general and police chief. Later, on the death of Jhalakriti, Tikendrajit was appointed general of the army. But misunderstandings and tensions were created among the princes which ultimately led the royalty to split into two factions, one led by Tikendrajit and the others by Pakasana. The tension continued to rise higher and higher over the king's negligence of the situation and British interference. Tikendrajit thought that the king was unduly favouring Pakasana. He could also not tolerate the attitude of the British. Maharaja Surchandra was unaware of the way the British usurped power from the local rulers to expand their colonial empire.

Tikendrajit got an idea as to their intentions and he tactfully made efforts to defend Manipur's sovereignty. He knew very well that the Britishers were eagerly awaiting an opportunity to transform sovereign Manipur into a British colony. Hence he and other like-minded princes-Angousan, Jilangamba and others revolted against the monarch on 22nd September, 1890. This event is known as "Palace Revolt" in the history of Manipur. The king fled away from the palace and took asylum in the British residency. Kullachandra and Tikendrajit became the king and heir-apparent respectively. The ex-ruler left the residency for Calcutta informing Tikendrajit that he was going to Vrindavan. But on reaching Calcutta he petitioned to the Government of India for restoration of his throne in Manipur. After fully considering the matter the then Government of British India decided that Tikendrajit must be removed from Manipur and Kullachandra be recognised as the Maharaja of Manipur. It appointed its own chief commissioner in Manipur who announced the decision. J.W. Quinton, the chief commissioner, reached Manipur with a troop of 500 soldiers. For this purpose the royal brothers were invited to a "Durbar". But they were made to stand for long hours outside the Durbar Hall on a sunny day. In the meantime, the secret plan of arresting Tikendrajit had leaked out. The Durbar could not be held due to the absence of the Tikendrajit. On the failure of their plan, Grimwood, the then British political agent in Manipur, conveyed to the king the decision and pressured him to hand over the heir-apparent to them. Ultimately, the English decided to use force as the king declined. In the evening of March 24, 1891 the

By-N. Pramodini Devi

British troops attacked the Palace Compound, particularly Tikendrajit's residence, killing many innocents including women and children who were watching a cultural programme, Ras Lila. The Manipur army succeeded in its offensive struggle. Five officers-Quinton, Grimwood, Lt. Col. Simpson, Cossins and a bugler had to take shelter in the cellar. But the feeling of revenge among the people whose children, wives and relatives had been killed, grew so high that they executed the five Britishers. This resulted in the Anglo-Manipuri War in 1891 and annexation of Manipur by the British. Major Maxwell took over as the chief political agent. The trials of Kullachandra and Tikendrajit and others were held by a court constituted by the then British Indian government. Kullachandra, Tikendrajit, and Thangal General were sentenced to death. However, the sentence on Kullachandra was commuted to transportation of life following his appeal to the government. Queen Victoria made efforts to save Tikendrajit but failed. Despite her wish and strong protest of the people, he and Thangal General were hanged in an open place before the general public on August 13, 1891. A protest movement launched by women at the very moment could not save the martyrs and Manipur. The Britishers knew that a nationalist like Tikendrajit was a stumbling hurdle in their colonial designs. In his absence the transformation of Manipur into a British colony was inevitable. The State of Manipur celebrates this day, August 13, as Patriot's Day to remember their role in the freedom struggle. Tikendrajit, indeed, was a nationalist par excellence. The people of Manipur would always cherish him as a symbol against tyranny. (PIB Feature)

National & International News

Delhi HC asks Kanhaiya Kumar to move trial court for regular bail

PTI New Delhi, Aug. 17: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to hear JNUSU President Kanhaiya Kumar's application for regular bail in a sedition case, asking him to approach a session's court for the same. Justice PS Teji dismissed the plea for grant of regular bail to the students' union leader, who was on interim bail since March 2 this year. "The present application is dismissed with liberty to the petitioner to move before the session's court," the court said. Kanhaiya has approached the High Court as his six-months interim bail is scheduled to expire on September 1. Senior advocate Rebecca John, appearing for the JNU Students' Union president, told the court that the petitioner seeks permanent bail. The court, however, without hearing

the matter in detail, said the counsel can move the application for regular bail before the session's court. John, who was accompanied by advocates Sushil Bajaj and Vrinda Grover, said they will move the application before the trial court on Wednesday only. Kanhaiya, in his bail plea, said he has not interfered in the ongoing probe and had appeared before the investigating officer as and when asked by him. He also said that he has not violated any condition imposed on him by the High Court while granting him interim bail on March 2. The High Court had granted interim conditional bail for six months asking him not to participate actively or passively in any activity which may be termed as anti-national. The High Court had on August 11 declined the plea of two private individuals to cancel Kanhaiya's

interim bail, saying nothing has been brought before it to show that the student leader had made any anti-national speech after his release. It had earlier pulled up the police for not taking an unequivocal stand on whether it wanted cancellation of Kanhaiya's interim bail. The police had submitted in high court that the JNUSU leader failed to adhere to 'letter and spirit' of the bail order by making derogatory remarks against Army in Kashmir and he 'misused his liberty'. Kanhaiya was arrested on February 12 on sedition charges in connection with an event on the campus on February 8 where anti-national slogans were allegedly raised. While laying down the conditions for Kanhaiya's release on interim bail, the high court had said he would not leave the country

without the permission of the trial court. It had also taken strong exception to the manner in which slogans were raised and protests staged by students carrying photographs and posters of Parliament attack case convict Afzal Guru and Maqbool Bhat, mastermind of hijacking of a passenger airline to Lahore in 1971 who was hanged in 1984, on the campus. "The reason behind anti-national views in the mind of students who raised slogans on death anniversary of Afzal Guru, who was convicted for attack on our Parliament, which led to this situation have not only to be found by them but remedial steps are also required to be taken in this regard by those managing the affairs of the JNU so that there is no recurrence of such incident," the high court judge had said.

3 security personnel killed in a militant attack in Kashmir

PTI Srinagar, Aug 17: Two army men and a cop were killed while three other security personnel were injured today in a militant attack in Baramulla district of Kashmir, police said. Militants ambushed an army convoy at Khwajabagh in Baramulla at 2.30 am, a police official said. He said two soldiers were killed and two others were injured. "One policeman was also killed while another cop was injured as their vehicle also came under attack by the militants," the official said. He said a massive operation has been launched to track down the attackers, who fled the spot.

Russia bombs Syrian groups from Iran base for first time

Moscow, Aug. 17: Russia has said its warplanes flew out of an Iranian airbase for the first time to bomb terror groups in Syria. Until now Moscow had only flown raids out of its bases in Syria and Russia. The Defence Ministry in Moscow said long-range warplanes took off from Hamedan base in western Iran and attacked Aleppo, Idlib and Deir al-Zour provinces, a press statement said. The strikes destroyed terror targets including weapons depots and command centres, Moscow said. Local groups in Syria said 27 civilians were also killed in the attack. Iran and Russia are the two firmest backers of the Assad regime, with Tehran commanding thousands of troops fighting for him on the ground while Russia provides

airpower. Meanwhile, United States said the Russian move made the Syrian crisis even more difficult, but it credited Moscow with having given it a brief advance warning. In Washington, State Department spokesman Mark Toner described Russian warplane deployment from Iran as unfortunate, but not surprising or unexpected. Earlier, Baghdad-based US military spokesman Colonel Chris Garver said Russian authorities had notified the US-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria shortly before launching the bombing mission from Iran. Ali Shamkhani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, told state news agency

IRNA that Moscow and Tehran exchange capacities and facilities in the fight against terrorism in Syria. Ali Shamkhani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, told state news agency IRNA that Moscow and Tehran exchange capacities and facilities in the fight against terrorism in Syria. In another development, China wants to have closer military ties with Syria, state media today cited a senior Chinese officer as saying during a rare visit to the war-torn Middle Eastern country. Guan Youfei, director of the Office for International Military Cooperation of China's Central Military Commission, met Syrian Defence Minister Fahad Jassim al-Freij in Damascus, China's Xinhua state news agency said.