

Editorial

Imphal, Thursday, August 25, 2016

Optimistic solutions

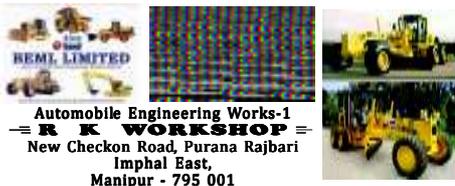
The Strife torn State of Manipur, inspite of the unenviable tag of a disturbed area, has much more potential and unexplored potential than that of being one with the most prolific and industrious system for churning out militant groups, thought the tag is unlikely to come off anytime soon in the foreseeable future. On a brighter note, we have some of the most diverse and varied vegetables, fruits, pulses, cereals and grains. Condiments that has not yet been regular ingredients in Mainland India has been in use in the North East for centuries. The introduction of Korean channel "Arirang" revealed an astonishing similarity, both in the ingredients as well as in the methods of preparations, in the diets of the two regions. Our elders, much to our chagrin and resentment, used to refer to the imported hybrid vegetables and fruits as those from the "Block", and preferred the local varieties of everything. That preference has now started to make sense, more than ever, with the perceptible difference in the aroma and taste between the imported hybrids and the local varieties. Anyone who had a friend or near one from outside as a guest in Manipur will surely have received compliments on the distinct aroma and taste of the dishes of the state. All these has been a clear indication of the unique qualities of the plants and vegetables grown on the soil of the State whose more than 70% of it's population is still engaged in agriculture and other allied activities. So what does all these discussions point to? And how do we utilize these to the fullest? There is no doubt that the distinct aroma, varieties and extent of availability of these plants, herbs and vegetables has been confined to the local market. While the reasons are many and varied, yet it is pretty clear that there is an apparent lack of enthusiasm and earnestness on the part of the Government to explore and exploit markets outside the State and beyond. The latest confirmation of the interest shown by people outside the State for products grown in the State is the report about a certain person from the United States inquiring about the possibility of exporting the black rice (Chak Hao) through a processing factory in India, and this is just one instance. This positive development should be an eye opener of the potential the State holds for earning through exporting of it's varied and unique agricultural products after due finishing processes. It would be a blunder and a shame for everyone if the State is reduced to a supplier of raw products only. The need of the hour is for developing a tertiary sector that provides value addition to the products and thus provides double benefit to those involved. The products are there. The steps to mass produce them, to process them and to market them needs a systematic approach that coordinates and complements each of the components in the chain of process. It is time to make a radical change in the approach towards agriculture from that of a subsistence one to that of a highly rewarding, financially lucrative and emotionally fulfilling occupation. That change needs to be initiated by those who are assigned just to do that, else our people will just be the farmers who produce the things others outside the State will buy who will then convert these raw materials into finished products who will then sell it to the State at an exorbitant price. Heard the story before? Got the drift?

R.C. Book Lost

The registration paper for Vespa, colour Geallo Lime (Yellow) (Two wheeler) bearing registration No. MN-06-SA-6399, Chassis No. MET000AAPL025493 and Engine No. M449M3025775 has been lost on the way between Thangal Bazar to Wahengbam Leikai on 15-8-2016. Finders are requested to handover it to the undersigned.

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Wahengbam Leikai

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Linux is 25 years old today

By : Ringo Pebam



enjoyable privilege and responsibility."

When I look back to the year 1991, I remember many things. Manipuri language got included in the 8th schedule. I was in 8th standard in Don Bosco, Imphal, where Oja Dhaneshwar Ningthoujam taught us 'Basic' on 8 bit BBC Microcomputers, and in civics class Oja Varkey Parampadiyl Varghese talked about Balkan crisis and a revolution that was brewing up in Europe. The world was engrossed with things like the U.S. led coalition air and ground war on Iraqi Forces in Kuwait, Nirvana's 'Nevermind' and Metallica's 'black' album, the coup attempt against Gorbachev in USSR etc. In India too, it was an eventful year. Indian economy was in severe crisis, and it was also the year when Rajiv Gandhi got assassinated. While all these were happening around, in Finland, a college student called Linus Torvalds was quietly writing some code for an operating system. On 25th August 1991, Linus Torvalds made a modest announcement about Linux, via an email.

F o r o m :
torvalds@klaava.helsinki.fi (Linus Benedict Torvalds)
Newsgroups: comp.os.minix
Date: 25 Aug 91 20:57:08 GMT
I'm doing a (free) operating system (just a hobby, won't be big and professional like gnu) for 386(486) AT clones. This has been brewing since april, and is starting to get ready.
And the Linux revolution was born. The free availability of Linux source code on the web swiftly caused a

chain-reaction leading to further development and fine-tuning worth the equivalent of about 73,000 man-years. Linux is built collaboratively, by Linus Torvalds and a loosely knit team of volunteer hackers from all over the world across the internet, resulting in the largest collaborative development in the history of computing. Day-to-day development discussions take place on the Linux kernel mailing list (LKML). Since 2005, more than 8000 contributors from over 800 companies contributed to the Linux kernel. These contributions have resulted in more than 15 million lines of codes, and a major new kernel comes out every 2-3 months which are freely available, while competing operating systems take years for new releases (and they are also not free in source as well as in charge). Linux is dominating on embedded devices, mobile devices, the enterprise, web infrastructure, data centres, super computing and more. It's tough to imagine Information Technology without Linux — or Linux. Having said so about Linus Torvalds and Linux, we cannot forget Richard Stallman who almost single-handedly ignited what has become a worldwide movement to create software that is **Free** (Free as in 'freedom', not as in free beer). He started the GNU Project and the non-profit corporation 'Free Software Foundation' (FSF) in the mid 1980s. When Linus Torvalds shared Linux with the world in 1991, he shared it

with GNU Project's 'General Public License' (GPL). Also, at that time, the GNU Project had already created many components required for a free operating system. Those components were used to make an operating system with Linux as the kernel — the most important component. In 2006, I got a chance to meet Richard Stallman in Bangalore. Contrary to an image I had formed of him, he was not dressed like a sophisticated gentleman in tuxedo, but he turned out to be a simple man with long hair and a bushy unkempt beard donning a t-shirt and a slipper. During our short chit-chat he elaborated the dangers of software patents. He has toiled for years for the free software movement that many once considered a fool's errand, but now has become a crucial issue in the world. Linus Torvalds is not a billionaire like Bill Gates or Steve Jobs, though the software written by him (i.e. Linux kernel which Android uses) is being run on more devices than the combined products of both Bill Gates (Windows) and Steve Jobs (iOS/OS X). Even though Torvalds made his software free, he is still happy with coding/fixing/managing the Linux kernel, trying to improve it everyday. Andrew Morton, one of the key Linux kernel developers said, "When you contribute to Linux, you do so in the knowledge that your work is of small but immediate benefit to tens or even hundreds of millions of human beings. This is a most

We use Linux everyday whether we know it or not. According to the reports, about 700,000 TVs get sold everyday, most of which are running Linux. Google, Facebook, Twitter, Amazon are all powered by Linux. Linux runs on all the Top 100 Super Computers in the world. Over 850,000 Android phones running Linux kernel get activated everyday, compared to 30,000 Windows phones. That means about 3,000 Android devices have come online since you started reading this write-up. The World Wide Web is less than 10,000 days old (*Thank you Sir Tim Berners-Lee*). Linux is 25 years young, these two pair of inventions have radically changed the human civilisation and the course of human history more swiftly than any other pair of invention known to mankind. (*The writer is founder of the erstwhile Linux-Manipur, he can be reached at ringo.p@gmail.com or [facebook.com/ringo.pebam](https://www.facebook.com/ringo.pebam)*)

National & International News

Curfew extended to Pulwama district, restrictions in Valley

PTI Srinagar, Aug 25: Curfew was today extended to Pulwama district while it remained in force in some areas of Srinagar and Anantnag town, while restrictions on the assembly of people in the rest of the Valley continued for the 48th consecutive day in the wake of violence following killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani.

Curfew is in force in five police station areas of downtown city and Batamaloo and Maisuma areas in uptown, a police official said.

In south Kashmir, curfew was imposed in Pulwama district while it continued in Anantnag town as well today to maintain law and order.

Curfew was imposed in Pulwama in view of killing of a youth in security forces action in the district yesterday during clashes. The authorities on Tuesday had lifted curfew from most areas of Srinagar - the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir - in view of the improving situation.

The lifting of the curbs allowed movement of people in the city as there was increased traffic of private cars and auto-rickshaws in and around Lal Chowk city centre over the past two days. However, the official said, restrictions on the assembly of

four or more people under Section 144 Crpc will continue to remain imposed in the rest of the Valley to maintain law and order. Meanwhile, normal life remained paralysed for the 48th consecutive day due to curfew, restrictions and separatist sponsored strike. Shops, private offices, educational institutions and petrol pumps remained closed while public transport continued to be

BBC Kabul, Aug. 25: Thirteen people, including seven students, died in an attack by gunmen on the American University in the Afghan capital Kabul, police say.

Two attackers were also shot dead by security forces nearly 10 hours after the assault began with an explosion on Wednesday evening. Students and staff were trapped inside the university during the attack, which police said was now over.

No group has said it carried out the attack.

The victims also included three police and three guards. Thirty-five students and nine police were injured and about 750 students and staff were rescued, Kabul police

off roads. The attendance in government offices and banks was also affected, the official said. Mobile Internet also continued to remain suspended in the entire Valley, where the outgoing facility on prepaid mobiles remained barred.

The separatist camp, which is spearheading the agitation in the Valley over the civilian killings

chief Abdul Rahman Rahimi told the BBC.

Police had described the attack, which began at about 19:00 local time (14:30 GMT), as "complex". Special forces were on the scene along with American military advisers.

One of those trapped inside the university for several hours was Massoud Hossaini, a Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist, who tweeted his experience and pleaded for help.

He later managed to escape and told the Associated Press news agency about the attack, which began with an explosion as he was in a classroom with 15 students. "I went to the window to see what was going on, and I saw a person

during the protests against Wani's killing, have extended the strike call in the Valley till September 1.

As many as 66 persons, including two cops, have been killed and several thousand others injured in the clashes that began on July 9, a day after Wani was killed in an encounter with security forces in Kokernag area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

in normal clothes outside. He shot at me and shattered the glass," Mr Hossaini said, adding that he fell on the glass and cut his hands.

The students then barricaded themselves into the classroom. Mr Hossaini said at least two grenades were thrown into the classroom, wounding several classmates.

He and about nine students later managed to escape from the campus through an emergency gate. "As we were running I saw someone lying on the ground face down, they looked like they had been shot in the back," he said.

Student Ahmad Mukhtar told the BBC that he was 100m (320ft) away from the university's main entrance on his way home when he heard "six or 10" shots and a "huge" blast.

The explosion created so much light that it momentarily lit up the surrounding area, he said. "I climbed a six-metre wall to escape," Ahmad said.

Other trapped students and staff tweeted or posted on Facebook their desperate pleas for help.

The attack comes two weeks after two university staff - one American, one Australian - were kidnapped by unknown gunmen. Their whereabouts remain unknown.

The American university, which first opened its doors to students in 2005, is a non-profit private university chartered in the US. It offers English courses, adult professional qualifications and bachelor degree programmes, among others.

About 1,700 students are enrolled; many are adults who study part-time and also have jobs.

PM Modi condemns attack on American University in Kabul

New Delhi, Aug. 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday condemned the bomb attack on the American University of Afghanistan in Kabul that left Twelve people, including seven students, three police and two security guards, dead while injuring over 30 people.

"We strongly condemn the attack on American University in Kabul," the Prime Minister tweeted. "Condolences to the bereaved families and prayers with the injured."

The attack began at around 6:30 p.m. local time (7:30 pm, IST) on Wednesday with a large explosion

that officials said was a car bomb followed by gunfire, as suspected militants battled into the complex where foreign staff and pupils were working.

Immediately after, ambulances, security forces and rescue teams were on its premises. Gunfire was heard again shortly after the units entered the campus.

The attack ended early Thursday morning after the police killed two attackers.

Islamic State, have claimed a string of recent bomb attacks aimed at destabilising the country and toppling the Western-backed government of President Ashraf

Ghani.

No one has taken responsibility for the university raid.

It was the second time this month that the university or its staff had been targeted. Two teachers, an American and an Australian, remain missing after being abducted at gunpoint from a road nearby on August 7.

The American University of Afghanistan has about 1,700 students and advertises itself as the country's only not-for-profit, "non-partisan", co-educational university. It opened in 2006 and caters to full-time and part-time students.