

Editorial

Imphal, Wednesday, January 13, 2016

Habitual offender: Aren't they?

The process of selecting the best for a particular task has been an inherent process of nature itself, from which man, with the passage of time polished and refined it to become what is known as a formal selection process. At present, the process has been divided into stages in order to test and evaluate every aspect of a candidate, the objective being to choose the best available person who can handle a particular task. The process therefore has become a universally adopted method of separating those with potentials from the rest - the wheat from the chaff. Right from the time a child is sought admission in a school to those instances when only the extraordinary minds and skills are sought for extraordinary tasks, various methods are being applied as per the level of expertise required. The result, as expected, is one which gives the best possible candidate or candidates.

However, selection processes in Manipur for various posts and positions has always been mired in controversies. There have been uncountable unfortunate incidents, perhaps more than anyone would care to remember, where such selection processes, instead of providing opportunities to deserving candidates, have turned out to be an act which have destroyed their carriers and futures. Legal wrangles, allegations of misdeeds by authorities, inexplicable delays in announcement of results and even cancellations of the entire selection processes has been seen as an intrinsic part of the process and is becoming an increasingly frequent phenomena in the state. As a result, numerous important and vital posts and positions in public administration have been remaining vacant, some for almost a decade without the hope of having them filled by competent individuals.

Delays in dispensing of public work, unnecessary over looping of tasks and authorities, break in the chain of procedures and resulting repetition of frustrating procedures are some of the everyday hazards faced by the public when dealing with any government department or agency. Such a custom have been so deeply ingrained in the workings of public administration that it has come to be institutionalized in the system. And while the public, incidentally for whom these selection processes are being carried out are left to fend for themselves against the onslaught of red-tapism and bureaucratic hurdles, there still is no sign of the government waking up to the reality on the ground. Its' handling of public agitations and protests regarding the issue over the years have raised more questions than answers. What keeps the authorities conducting these selection tests from announcing the results within a reasonable and acceptable time-frame as announced? Why is the government not taking stringent actions against those incompetent heads of departments who are incapable of performing their duties? Despite the slips and reported loopholes in numerous selection procedures, why are such controversies still rampant? Is the state government incapable or merely uninterested in finding ways to conduct a fair and transparent selection procedure given the advancement in technology? The only way out of this administrative quagmire is to find answers to these vexing questions by the government itself.

Migration Certificate Lost

I have lost my migration certificate bearing roll no. 2011-AJ-60 issued by Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat 785013 on the way between Singjamei to Chanchipur. Finders are requested to handover to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Mainsam Ronaldo Luwang
Loklaobung Yumnam Leikai, Imphal - West, Manipur
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Wanted Sub-Editor

Imphal Times is looking for an experience sub editor with excellent writing skill in English who can read Bengali written script. Working hour is 12 noon till 3 pm. Honorarium is Rs. 3000 p/m. Preference will be given to candidate who had already work in English daily as desk editor. Age no bar, and Imphal Times have no problem with those candidates working in other newspaper at night shift.

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The Women's Market in Imphal



Judith Macaulay at Imphal

I am extremely sad that the New Year earthquake of 2015 which has hit Manipur, has also heavily damaged the historic Women's Market in Imphal.

I first heard of the historic and culturally important Women's Market a number of years ago, before my daughter Katherine and I were to make our very exciting visit to Manipur in the spring of 2014. We were following in the footsteps of our ancestors Frank and Ethel St Clair Grimwood (who had both greatly loved Manipur and its people), and we were met with wonderful hospitality and great kindnesses by so many

Manipuris, including the Governor and Chief Minister. We were both very excited to be able to visit the Women's Market at last!

The Women's Market is a vibrant and essential trading centre for the local women. We were delighted also to find it full of vitality, good humour, warmth and generosity of spirit. The wonderfully wide selection of colours of the beautiful woven fabrics made our choices very difficult as we looked for the material for our phaneks to wear for the Khongjom Day commemoration. The ladies in the market were very helpful in their advice for the most suitable fabrics, and we took our final choices to the seamstress with her hand sewing machine to transform them into the elegant long skirts that we would wear a few days later for the ceremonies.

The damage wrecked by the earthquake a few days ago is a tragedy for the people of Manipur,



especially of course for those who have lost loved ones, or who are seriously injured. The buildings that have been damaged or destroyed are of course not as important as are the people who were lost, and buildings can be replaced, but, when decisions are made, the needs of those most affected must be accorded priority.

It seems vital that the Market is rebuilt faithfully to preserve its unique character and purpose. Future tourism and such necessary income from visitors will depend substantially on this historic feature of Imphal and the very special experience that it offers to tourists who come to visit it. It would indeed be a further tragedy if this piece of Manipur's history and culture is not valued sufficiently for it to be fully restored to its original and unique function.

We greatly look forward to our next visit to Manipur and to being able to see the women traders back in their wonderful home of the fully restored Women's Market.

(The writer - Judith Macaulay is the descendent of the British political agent, Mr Grimwood and visited Manipur and Ema keithel couple of years ago)



National & International News

Blast near Indian consulate in Afghanistan's Jalalabad

Agencies

Kabul, Jan. 13: Afghan security forces exchanged fire with gunmen barricaded in a house near the Pakistan consulate in the eastern city of Jalalabad on Wednesday after a suicide bomber blew himself up, killing three policemen and wounding two, officials said. Witnesses said a series of explosions could be heard and residents and children from a nearby school had been evacuated. The explosions took place 200 meters away from the Indian consulate.

"Unconfirmed reports said a few attackers are hiding in a house on

the same street where Pakistan and Indian consulates are located," Pajhwok Afghan News reported. All Indians are reported to be safe. This is the third attack near an Indian mission in Afghanistan in last 10 days.

The latest in a series of suicide attacks in Afghanistan comes amid renewed efforts to restart peace talks with the Taliban and ease diplomatic tensions between India and Pakistan.

An explosives-laden vehicle was found near the Indian consulate in Herat on January 8 and one person was arrested in this regard, prompting speculation as to

whether it was intended for attacking yet another Indian diplomatic mission in Afghanistan. Terrorists had tried to storm Indian consulate building in Mazar-e-Sharif on January 3.

The standoff ended on the night of January 4 after the attackers who entered the building opposite the Indian Consulate were killed. One police soldier also lost his life and nine others including three civilians were wounded in the incident.

Pakistani military officers were involved in the attack on the Indian consulate in Mazar-e-Sharif in which assailants attempted to storm the mission building, a senior Afghan police official said on Tuesday.

"We saw with our own eyes and I can say 99 per cent that those attackers were from Pakistani military and used special tactics while conducting their operation," Sayed Kamal Sadat, police chief of the Balkh province, said of the

attack that took place last week. Sadat said the attackers — officers from across the border — were well-trained military men who fought Afghan security forces in the 25-hour siege.

"The attackers were military personnel. They were educated and well prepared and had intelligence. They fought us and only by Allah's grace were we able to control them and eliminate them," Sadat was quoted as saying by Tolo News.

The police official said efforts were involved to track down, identify and detain those who assisted the attackers to gain access to the building that was opposite the Indian Consulate.

"We are jointly working with the NDS director and have spoken about this — especially as they came here not able to speak in Dari or Pashtu but speaking in Urdu. It means obviously there is someone who guided those attackers and helped the attackers," Sadat said.

Kejriwal meets family members of Pathankot martyrs

ANI

Gurdaspur, Jan. 13: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday met the family members of the two defence personnel martyred in the Pathankot terror attack.

Kejriwal, who visited the family members of Defence Security Corps (DSC) Havildar Kulwant Singh and Subedar Major (Retd) Fateh Singh, handed over a cheque of Rs. two lakh. Kulwant Singh joined the army when he was 19. He retired in 2004 and joined the DSC the same year. He was recently posted in Pathankot from Odisha. He was martyred on the night of January 2 during the

pre-dawn strike by the terrorists. He is survived by mother Swarn Kaur, wife Harbhajan Kaur and two sons - Surinder Singh and Gursharan Singh.

Fateh Singh, the foremost big bore rifle (300m) shooter-turned-coach, had won gold in the first Commonwealth Shooting Championships in New Delhi in 1995.

He retired as a Subedar Major from the Dogra regiment in 2009, joined the Defence Service Corps (DSC) and was initially posted at the Army War College in Mhow. He was posted to Pathankot two years ago.

Earthquake jolts Jammu and Kashmir

IANS

Srinagar, Jan 13: An earthquake of 5.8 magnitude on the Richter scale jolted Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, forcing panicky residents in various cities and towns to run out of their homes onto the streets.

"The quake at 1.34 a.m. today (Wednesday) had its epicentre

in the Hindukush mountains in Afghanistan at a depth of 220 km," local Meteorological Department director Sonum Lotus told IANS in Srinagar. No loss of life or damage to property has so far been reported from anywhere in the state. Moderate intensity tremors have jolted Jammu and Kashmir in the last five months.



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