

Editorial

Imphal, Monday, January 4, 2016

Crumbled beacon

The tremor that shook the region from the deep slumber in the wee hours today morning literally threw up many terrifying facts and laid bare matters for everyone to witness. The earthquake, measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale and having its epicenter 33 kilometers from the state capital lasted a few seconds and caused what can be described as minimal damage, both in terms of lives and properties. While most of the properties and structures which sustained damages are those which were very old and already on the verge of crumbling, the unfortunate and disturbing picture of the bent and broken pillars of Ima Keithel building tells a story of fearful uncertainty and foreboding. The structure which was inaugurated in 2010 with much fanfare and spectacle has today, after just four years, laid to waste in a crumple of dust and dirt. It has always been a beacon women empowerment and of the untiring and indomitable spirit of the Manipuri women, a symbol of the unique and enviable position the women of the state has been accorded since time immemorial. The market has also been acknowledged as the world's only all-women marketplace and has reserved a pride of place in the annals of the history of the state. That the structure has been damaged beyond repair is apparent, and while government officials must surely be planning declarations to preempt the negative feedbacks and pressures, and the public will now surely start demanding actions against those responsible, or rather irresponsibility, entrusted with the construction of the building. Some of the private buildings which were left half completed also crumbled during the disaster and at least 8 persons were reported dead while many sustained injuries and needed hospitalization. Interestingly, after the tremor electric power supply was cut off from the entire region as a safety measure, or perhaps because some HT electric tower of the power grid was destroyed at some of the areas. Surprisingly private mobile service towers erected at some of the private houses building were not affected. Another point of interest is that even at Jiribam which is not far from the epicenter, destructions and damage were reported, but in this instance also almost all government buildings which were newly constructed were cracked and damaged. That the unfortunate catastrophe happened during the early hours before the daily bustle began could have been the reason for the negligible number of loss of precious human lives. One would shudder to imagine the consequences had the disaster struck during the busy business hours. Over and above the uncertainty and anxiety being felt by the people of the state, we would have had to deal with more disturbances and social upheavals- another undesirable event the state can really do without. The bottomline- having the inefficiencies and unscrupulous working habits of the state authorities and their cronies been laid bare for all to witness, what steps will the state government take to make sure such loss of face and self-inflicted disgrace is repeated with unnecessary collateral damages of life and properties? Will it finally learn from its mistakes of peddling contracts without giving a thought of the real benefit to the people?

12 killed in cylinder blast

ANI
Karachi, Jan. 4: Around 12 people were killed and six injured when a gas cylinder exploded inside a van in Karak district on Sunday evening. According to the Dawn, the passenger van was heading towards Dera Ismail Khan from Peshawar when the explosion caused the vehicle to catch fire. Many passengers suffered major burn injuries and were rushed to the nearby hospital. Police and rescue teams reached the site of the incident immediately.

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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National/ International News

3 dead in Bangladesh in quake-related incidents

PTI
Dhaka, Jan. 4: At least three people were killed and about 40 others injured today in Bangladesh in quake-related incidents as people rushed out in panic after a 6.7-magnitude tremor with epicentre in neighbouring India jolted the country. The tremor was felt throughout Bangladesh around 4:35 AM local time. In Dhaka, most people rushed out to the streets in panic. Saiful Hossain Rubel, 22, died in Dhaka's East Jurain due to a heart attack as the quake struck, police said. In the suburban Rajshahi city, Khalilur Rahman, a staffer of Rajshahi University, died while rushing out from his home while in Lalmonirhat's Patgram Kadu Miah, 60, died due to a heart attack, the Daily Star reported. A gas pipeline also burst in Ashulia in suburban Dhaka and a fire broke out. No casualties were

reported in the incident. At least 36 people were admitted in hospitals after getting injured while rushing out of their homes in panic in Dhaka and Sylhet. However, some local media reports said over 100 people were injured nationwide. Old dilapidated buildings in Dhaka developed cracks as a result of the earthquake and those residing in those buildings were asked to evacuate. Thousands of residents here gathered on the streets after feeling the tremors. People were seen running out of their homes to the streets. At least five persons were killed and over 50 injured in India as the strong earthquake with epicentre in Manipur hit the northeastern region. Manipur bore the brunt of the tremor as the epicentre was located at Tamenglong district at a depth of 17 km below the ground.

Lt Colonel Niranjn's body brought to Bengaluru

PTI
Bengaluru, Jan. 4: The body of Lieutenant Colonel E K Niranjn, a bomb expert with the National Security Guard who was killed while defusing a grenade at the scene of the terror attack at Pathankot IAF base, was brought here today. The last rites will be performed at his hometown Palakkad in Kerala later today. "The body arrived at Bengaluru International Airport early this morning between 12.40 am and 1 am. We brought the body wrapped in the Indian Tricolor to our house," E K Sivaraajan, the martyrs father, told reporters here. The body is being taken to BEL grounds for the public to pay their last respects, Sivaraajan said, adding that around 3 pm it will be flown to his Palakkad residence for the last rites. "He was always interested in the

army. I am proud of his sacrifice," Sivaraajan said. Niranjn's sister said, "I look at him as Arjuna (3rd of the Pandava brothers) who fought for his karmabhoomi." Fellow Army officers in uniform and many prominent and eminent personalities including Rajeev Chandrashekar, MP, paid tributes to the martyr at his residence. Thirty-two-year-old Niranjn, who has his family in Bangalore, was commissioned in the Engineers Regiment of the Army in 2004. He hailed from Palakkad in Kerala and is survived by his wife Dr Radhika and a 18-month-old daughter. Niranjn, head of the elite bomb squad of the NSG, was killed while defusing an IED at Pathankot IAF base, yesterday. He was among seven security personnel killed in the terrorist attack there.

BJP MLA dies in Jharkhand

PTI
Godda (Jharkhand), Jan. 4: BJP MLA Raghunandan Mandal died on way to hospital at Korka in this district. He was 63. Mandal complained of chest pain and died on way to hospital last night, his family said. Mandal is

survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter. He was a first-time MLA from Godda. Jharkhand Governor Droupadi Murmu, Chief Minister Raghuvar Das, former Chief Minister Arjun Munda and several other leaders condoled the death.

Judicial remand of Udhampur terror attack accused extended

IANs
Jammu, Jan. 4: A special National investigation Agency (NIA) court here on Monday has extended the judicial remand of Udhampur terror attack accused Muhammad Naveed and his five accomplices by 13 days, police said. Naveed, a resident of Faisalabad in Pakistan and five Kashmiris accused to have facilitated the terror attack, were presented before the court on Monday by the NIA team investigating the attack, a senior police officer told IANS. Naveed and another Pakistani terrorist Noman had attacked a border security force (BSF) bus on August 5 last year on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Udhampur. Two BSF troopers were killed in the attack while 11 others were injured. Noman was killed in the ensuing gunfight on the spot while Naveed had managed to escape to a nearby village where the villagers over-

powered him and handed him over to police. On custodial interrogation of Naveed, the NIA team arrested five Kashmiris belonging to south Kashmir areas who had allegedly facilitated the attack by carrying the two terrorists and their weapons to the attack site.

Gun battle near Indian mission in Mazar-e-Sharif

ANI
Afghanistan, Jan. 04: The Afghan forces have been battling militants to flush them out from a building near the Indian consulate in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif. Explosions and gunfire were heard near the building on Monday. Officials said the attackers had unsuccessfully tried to enter the consulate compound and were now in an adjacent building. The security forces have cordoned off the area.

Photo story of today's disaster



Chief Minister Okram Ibobi inspecting injured persons at RIMS



Chief Minister Okram Ibobi inspecting injured damage sites



Damage caused by the disaster at Toubungkhok



Kwairamband Ima Market after the earthquake



The roof falling over a car at Dewland



HT Tower falling down after the earthquake