

# Editorial

Imphal, Monday, July 4, 2016

## Coming back to the roots

Of the multitudes of issues plaguing the state, almost, if not all, invariably have an important aspect pertaining to finance or economics. That the state government, despite the abundant potential resources waiting to be utilized, has been barking up the wrong tree, constantly whimpering about the lack of central funds and financial sops being handed out at intervals to keep the people occupied and distracted enough. The demand for Inner Line Permit System in the state has its root in the soaring influx of immigrants looking for work which is crowding out the economic opportunities for the indigenous population. The increasing agitations and allegations of disparity and partiality being put up by the numerous tribal communities can be traced back to the misappropriation of resources and benefits meant for the people living in far flung and remote places, in addition to the present controversies regarding the implementation or rather the non-implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA) in the state serving as a glaring example. A community or state whose residents are gainfully engaged in economic activities will have little time for reckless agitations or disruptive activities nor the inclination, and the state administrators and heads should have made efforts from this angle to bring about sustained development and undisturbed progress.

The recent decision of the state government to replace Poppy cultivation with Cardamom in an effort to wean the farmers away from the illegal practice while providing sustainable alternative source of income in Paomata and Purul sub-divisions of Senapati district should be hailed as a welcome move - a rarity these days. But there is still a long way to go before the decision can reap concrete result or bring real benefit to the farmers. As is wont to happen more times than anybody would care to admit, the positive step is fraught with the danger of various opportunists and human parasites waiting to pounce on the slightest chance for personal profit. Another avenue which the state government has inexplicably failed to explore that can bring immense profit and income for the cultivators as well as the state is Panax Ginseng or Ginseng in short. There had been frequent reports of the seizure of the wonder root by the security forces from the hills in large quantities which proves that the plant which is coveted for its numerous medicinal properties the world over is naturally suited to the climatic conditions and soil of Manipur. It is also a known fact that the demand for the plant will always remain high. The possibility of the state as well as the central forces preventing the illegal export of the plant is nil. Why is the state government still not able to add two and two together? Why cannot the concern department draw up sustainable and feasible plans to cultivate Ginseng under controlled environments so that everybody benefits? Instead of trying to replicate developed cities from across the oceans, it would be more prudent and profitable to take a real close look at the numerous untapped potential and reap the benefits instead of indulging in expensive and unrealistic flights of fantasies. For, a rich and gleaming city with poor and deprived residents will mean little for all the efforts and enthusiasm. It is time to think out of the box - with positive intent.

## One held in bomb hoax call in state secretariat Nabanna

**Kolkata, July 4:** A 52-year-old Kolkata man was held in the wee hours of Monday for making a bomb hoax call in West Bengal state secretariat, Nabanna. Aniruddha Ghosh was traced immediately after he made the call on Sunday late night to Lalbazar-Kolkata Police headquarters control room threatening that a bomb had been planted at Nabanna. The police reached his residence in Kalighat and arrested him. The police have registered a

complaint and booked him under charges of 505 (commit an offence against the State or against the public tranquility) of the IPC. "One Aniruddha Ghosh of Kalighat Road was arrested from his residence in connection with the hoax call made at control room regarding bomb being planted at Nabanna. The mobile used to make that hoax call has been seized. He will be produced today before the Court," said a senior police officer of Kolkata Police.

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## National & International News

# Bangladesh's communist party advises government to complete investigation, before reaching conclusion

**ANI**  
**New Delhi, July 4:** The National Communist Party (NCP) on Monday advised the Bangladesh Government to wait and interrogate the arrested terrorist in connection with the Dhaka terror attack in which 20 hostages were hacked to death before deriving to any conclusion. NCP leader Majeed Memon told reporters, "It is little too early to conclude because the probe would go on now since one the terrorist have been caught alive and I am sure that his sustained interrogation will throw substantial light on the background, the motive, the participation, the conspiracy all aspects of the crime."  
"Although the advisor to the Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already made a public statement that it was not foreigner's

hands that were local terrorists who have done this. But I believe it is little too early to conclude. They have also said that there can be a possibility of Pakistan's hand in this. But I believe we should wait before giving any judgment and let the arrested boy be subjected to interrogation," he added.  
Speaking to ANI, Bangladesh Information Minister Hasanul-Haq Inu said that the attack on the innocent people was made to embarrass the government and create a political situation which ferments conspiracy. "This is an attack by the home-grown terrorists of Bangladesh and they are out to unsettle the elected constitutional government and install a pro-religious fundamental government," he said.

The Minister also asserted that the attack did not have any link with any international terrorist organisation. "It is totally a home-grown terrorist network, but there is a fashion nowadays across the world, wherever there is attack, the attackers boast that they are connected with IS, Taliban or Al Qaeda," he said.  
Speaking about the involvement of ISI, he said that the investigation agency of Pakistan did have connections with the Jamaat-e-Islami armed cadres in the past. "Pakistan was a political enemy of Bangladesh for many years. When Sheikh Hasina came to power, they were very tough to home-grown terrorist networks and even on the cross border terrorism. She was dismantling the high doubts of the

cross border terrorists and at the moment I can say that armed networks have been dismantled," he added.  
Nine Italians, seven Japanese, one Indian, one Bangladeshi American and two Bangladeshis were among the 20 killed in the terror attack at Holey Artisan Bakery in Gulshan on Friday night.  
Two senior police officers-Banani Police Station officer-in-charge Salauddin Ahmed Khan and Detective Branch Assistant commissioner Robiul Islam also lost their lives while trying to rescue the hostages. Meanwhile security continues to be tight at all sensitive points in the capital, with police checking all vehicles especially in the secured diplomatic area where the gruesome hostage killings took place.

## Bomber killed, two police wounded in blast outside U.S. consulate in Jeddah

**Jeddah, July 4:** A suicide bomber was killed and two other people wounded in a blast near the U.S. consulate in Saudi Arabia's second city of Jeddah early on Monday, state TV said, the first bombing in years to attempt to target foreigners in the kingdom. The attacker parked his car outside a hospital opposite the consulate at about 2.15am and detonated his device after being approached by two security men, killing him and lightly wounding them, it said, quoting a security spokesman. Three further blasts rocked the location of the bombing hours later, a witness told Reuters, as police carried out what appeared to be controlled explosions near the site. A video sent by the witness showed police taking cover behind vehicles and covering their ears before an explosion sounded. Reuters could not immediately reach officials to give more details. A photograph on the Sabq news website showed what appeared to be the remains of a man lying next to a taxi.

The statement on state television referred to the location of the consulate by its street address and did not refer directly to the presence of the diplomatic mission there, an apparent effort to downplay the attack's likely target. A spokesman for the U.S. State Department said it was aware of reports of a blast in Jeddah and was seeking more information from the Saudi government. He added that all

staff at the consulate were accounted for. A State Department message sent to U.S. citizens in Saudi Arabia noted the reports of the attack and reiterated earlier advice to remain aware of their surroundings and take extra precautions when traveling in the country. The witness said the area had been closed off by the security forces and that helicopters were flying

overhead. He said the explosion appeared to have taken place about 20 meters (65 feet) from an outer checkpoint of the consulate. Concrete barriers protect the street outside the consulate. Islamic State has carried out a series of bombing and shooting attacks in Saudi Arabia since mid-2014 that have killed scores of people, mostly members of the Shi'ite Muslim minority and security services.

## 11 Indians released from Nigerian prison

**New Delhi, July 4:** 11 Indians who had been languishing in a Nigerian prison for two years have been released, confirmed External Affairs Sushma Swaraj. Employees of a Merchant Navy firm, the crew's ship got stranded in Nigeria and the entire crew was arrested for violating laws of international waters in 2014. In a tweet, Swaraj also appreciated the efforts of High Commissioner in Nigeria B.N Reddy for expediting their repatriation.

Meanwhile, Swaraj has said that the Government is making all efforts to secure the release of two Indians abducted from Gboko, a town in the Benue state of north-central Nigeria. One of the captive is Anish Sharma from Karnataka and another is Mangipudi Sai Srinivas from Andhra Pradesh. Both were travelling to Dangote Cement Plant in a car from their residential quarters last Wednesday, when a group of armed men kidnapped them at a traffic

signal. Swaraj said that she spoke to Anish Sharma's wife and assured her that the Government is doing its best to secure their release from abductors. In a tweet she said she has deputed a senior officer to update the family regularly. External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Vikas Swarup had on Friday described the abduction as "nothing surprising or new in that area", saying such incidents keep happening there.

Contd. from yesterday issue

# The Impact and Import of Cartooning and Caricature as a Medium of Expression of Opinion

**Impact and Import of Cartoon and Caricature:**  
Despite the perception in some quarters that cartoons constitute an important medium for framing social issues, they are often dismissed on the grounds of political absurdity and ideological insignificance. Cartoons are seen as offering just "passing chuckles" rather than any "deep reflection" on social issues. The perception may be related to the cartoon's discursive spatial limitation and its very nature - a visual mode of communication. Visual modes of communication are deemed deficient in performing analytical communication. Chris Lamb's book, *Drawn to Extremes: The Use and Abuse of Editorial Cartoons in the United States*, paints a picture of the shrinking role of editorial cartoonists who are increasingly sidelined by a newspaper industry focused on the bottom-line. However, the recent Jyllands - Posten Muhammad cartoons controversy in Denmark, which sparked violent protests around the world, speak to the continuing important and potential media scholars still see cartoons as an important medium for the formation of public opinion on salient social issues. They are seen as both opinion-molding and opinion-reflecting. Cartoons are intended to transform otherwise complex and opaque social events and situations

into quick and easily readable depictions that facilitate comprehension of the nature of social issues and events. In doing so, they present society with visually social issues and events. In doing so, they present society with visually palpable and hyper-realized depictions (selectively exaggerated portions of reality) that attempt to reveal the essence and meaning of social events. There are four main functions of editorial cartoons: an entertainment function, which derives from the ability of cartoons to make us laugh at situations and individuals; an aggression-reduction function, which derives from the fact that cartoons provide a symbolic avenue for the public to vent its frustrations against social leaders; an agenda-setting function, through providing readers with a sense of the most salient issues and topics in society; and a framing function, the product of its spatial limitation (its condensed nature) and therefore its need to distill complex social issues into a single frame that captures the essence of an issue. Editorial cartoons, as an integral part of the media, also play an important role in this process. While they occupy a very limited space in the print media, they are considered as playing a very important role in the editorial content of newspaper. In a public opinion poll published

on web portal [worldpublicopinion.org](http://worldpublicopinion.org) on 16 February, 2006 after analysis of a series of national public opinion polls conducted in the wake of the cartoon controversy of Prophet Muhammad in Danish newspaper Zyllands Posten, Angela Stephens wrote in her article: 'Publics in Western Countries Disapprove of Muhammad Cartoons that "the prevailing attitude across several Western nations - Norway, Britain, France, the United States and Australia - is that while the media have the right to publish the cartoons, it was not the right choice to do so.'" Her analysis covers polling results about the cartoon controversy on a country-by-country basis. An opinion poll of Palestinians living in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem about Denmark in between February 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> conducted by Near East Consulting (NEC) through 702 telephonic talks found that out of those surveyed, 24 percent believe that Denmark is a friend of the Palestinians, 42 percent believe that Denmark holds a neutral position, while 34 percent view Denmark as an enemy of the Palestinians and 59 percent view Denmark as an enemy of Islam. Only 4 percent believe that the Danish government has been acting appropriately regarding the cartoon crisis.

(By: Dr. Aribam Ibomcha Sharma, IIS New Editor and Head Regional News Unit, AIR, Imphal)  
Gallup and other nationwide surveys of Americans 18 years and older on the subject of religion and with reference to the cartoon crisis found that while 61 percent believe the European newspapers that printed the cartoons acted irresponsibly, the same percentage find that the controversy is due more to Muslims' intolerance of different points of view, 57 percent think that the U.S news media have an obligation to show controversial items that are newsworthy even if they may offend the religious view of some people. Manipur Scene: Cartoon is a regular feature in the local newspapers of Manipur. Mention may be made of Onthokpania in the Sangai Express, Bhaloh in Poknapham, Ash Loirehe in Huiyen Lanpa, Howado Leirangdo in Naharolgi Thowang, Loiredana in Saneliebak and Neirehe in Ichel Express. Caricature and editorial page political cartoons are however hardly seen in local newspapers. Even in these local newspapers the impact given by the cartoons are tremendous. Not only thousand words are expressed by a single cartoon but many things which cannot be published as news items or articles so originally are expressed by the cartoons. (Concluded)