

Editorial

Imphal, Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Clearing up the act

Another year has rolled half past, and our state, like any other place in the world where agitations and protests are everyday occurrence rather than the exception, is just slowly starting to return to the familiar everyday routine after the prolonged disturbances and disruptions that has paralysed the society for most of the year. More importantly, a new academic session started only to be disturbed at the very outset and parents and guardians are getting nightmares over the future of their wards. Adding to the frenzy and the uncertainty are the various social and student's organisations raising issues and voicing concerns of increased tuition and admission fees, unfavorable norms of admission, inclusion of children belonging to the BPL (Below Poverty Line) families and campaigns for effective implementation of the Right to Education Act, among other things. On a positive note, all these points to an increasing awareness of the importance of education. One point, albeit seemingly trivial, that seemed to escape public scrutiny is the dismal quality of the text books being used in the schools across the state which is published by the Secretary-BOSEM (Board Of Secondary Education, Manipur). These books are so shoddily prepared- a cursory glance will be enough to hazard a guess about the state of the book- the covers that look faded and dull with even blotted prints on most of them, pages glued together and so thin- sometimes one can read the contents from the backside though one need a certain degree of expertise to do this. It will not be an exaggeration to predict the longevity of these books in the hands of most of the children to a month, whereas these are meant to be used almost daily for the academic year. The visual impact that should be drawing and keeping the attention of the student and elicit interest on the book is totally absent, creating disinterest and sometimes difficulty in reading as the prints are faded enough as to render them illegible. Apparently, similar efforts and attention to detail is being put into the binding and finishing of these books. Despite the shoddy workmanship, these books, more often than not are not made available in time for the students causing considerable delays and disruptions in the academic progress over and above the regular bandhs, blockades, strikes and holidays which are a regular feature of our social life. It would be prudent for the concerned authorities and associations clamoring for an improved system of education in the state to look into these matters in addition to the larger ones at hands, as it is the books, as and when made available, that will have the undivided attention of the students once they are inside their classrooms. Only when the small cogs are in place, will the wheels begin to roll smoothly. Taking the whole system for a ride according to the whims of a few unscrupulous persons whose sole objective in the whole exercise is to maximize their personal profit is bound to have negative repercussions. A stricter control is required relating to the quality as well as the quantity of the product.

Officer injured in suicide attack on Indonesian police station

ANI
Lahore, July 5: A police officer was injured when a suicide bomber attacked a police station in Solo, Indonesia, today. The Dawn reports that the attacker forced his way into the yard of the station in the city on Java island and argued that he wanted to go to the canteen, following which he forced his way in using a motorbike and blew himself up. In January, a suicide bombing and gun attack in Jakarta left four

civilians and four attackers dead, the first major attack in Indonesia for seven years. Indonesia, which is the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, has come in the list of nations recently suffering deadly attacks. According to reports, several Indonesians have travelled to the Middle East to join the militants, stoking fears that extremist groups are being revived and more attacks are imminent.

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Manipur Education Policy, (A draft framework proposal)

1. Introduction:- The pace of development of Manipur is also speeding fast to tune the speed of the fast changing global economic, political, Social and Cultural changes. Indeed, Manipur cannot slow down or lag behind the pace of the global changes. Moreover, the new Look East Policy of the Government of India has given a new impetus to the development vision of the state of Manipur. The geographical location of the state of Manipur has given the state an ample opportunity to receive the powerful thrust of the South East Asian countries in the field of economic cooperation, technology transfer, tourism, healthcare and cultural relations with this subcontinent called India. Here, if carefully and tactfully handled, Manipur will become a gold mine and if not will reduce to a mere transit point thereby a place of global remnant. Indeed Manipur can become another Singapore of India if we develop a system of education which will provide all the world class infrastructure and facilities for the future generations to come. It is the indispensable task before us to make our younger generations to be an internationally acceptable standard citizen so as to enable them to represent Manipur, India to the world in various fields. We may discuss 7(seven) broad areas to bring up our generations to this world class standard. 1) Firstly, to make our children a perfect citizens who speak their mother tongue with modesty, understanding and courteously showing their pride of ethnic identity of being a Manipuri in their country as well as in the world, 2) Secondly, to make our children enable to speak, communicate, understand English as a foreign language if possible to

the level of a native speaker to cope the world before them, 3) Thirdly, to make our children to excel in the profession of their choice to contribute to the nation making and global changes, 4) Fourthly, to make our children know the tradition, culture, thereby reflect the national character in them, 5) Fifthly, to love the nation and can view the human being as one family and spread the message of love to all mankind, 6) Sixthly, to enable to actively participate in the changing global scenario and contribute to the welfare of the globe. And last but not the least 7) Our children know various aspects of the planet such as the climate change, global warming, environment degradations and role of a Manipuri in saving these phenomena. 2. Elementary Education (Pre School and Primary):- Elementary stage is the most important stage in the whole set up of education. This is the stage in which the decision to make the future generation in the desirable direction in the society is to be taken. The first and foremost thing to be taught to the children in this formative stage is to introduce to his/her surroundings and the new environment in which he/she lives in and slowly lead him/her to the civilized society by enabling him/her to speak gently with modesty and courteously in his/her own mother tongue with respect to parents, teachers and persons around them. The child in this stage should be taught to express step by step in their mother tongue the beauty of the language and hidden treasure of the cultural traditions of the state. When the children's mind is well equipped with the

necessary receptive capacity, new things can be introduced so that the inborn and hidden quality in him/her can be led to a full grown knowledge. In the early stage of elementary education, the activities like singing together in mother tongue, playing together, dining together and visits to historical and cultural sites such as the Kangla, Khongjom etc. Over and above, visits to natural scenic beauties like Loktak Lake, water falls and parks will make the child feel love of the mother country, love of environment and appreciate the beauties of truth and nature. This is the making of the foundation for the future citizens. All the nursery rhymes using now in the pre schools of Manipur should be translated in the mother tongue of the children and be taught in the mother tongue so that the child's childhood imagination be strengthened. Moreover the traditional lullaby songs in the Manipuri language and the dialects be documented and be taught to the children in the pre school stage. 3. Elementary (Upper Primary):- The Children who have been brought up in the well planned lower primary stage are to be exposed to a further advanced stage to achieve the 7(seven) objectives indicated in the introduction in this upper primary stage. The curriculum design of the upper primary stage be designed to include these seven objectives. The internationally accepted subject areas for the upper primary stage are:- 1. Mother tongue 2. English Language (with special emphasis on speaking and listening) 3. Mathematics (basics) 4. Science (basics) 5. Social Sciences (basic related with environment and surroundings) 6. Drawing 7. Music

8. Games and sports (simple games and indigenous plays) and 9. Moral Education (based on traditional fables and stories). This will lead a child to a future citizen endowed with truth, wisdom and courage who can meet the challenges and the task of the nation before them. While framing the curriculum and syllabus for the subjects mentioned above, special care should be taken in incorporating the following values such as, 1). Human value, 2) truthfulness, 3) Sense of patriotism, 4. Sense of helping hand, 5. Sense of team work, 6. Respect to superiors and teachers and 7. Dignity of labour. Organizing Annual Sports Meet, Cultural Meets and Debating and co curricular programmes in the schools, block level, District level and State Level be encouraged and the credits obtained in such meets be reflected in the students report cards. The primary objectives of the upper primary stage are to build the character of the student and exposure to the surroundings in which the student lie in. Plenty introductory materials of the history of Manipur, economy of Manipur be included in the curriculum and syllabus of Social Sciences. In the Science subject, basic information on Computer and I.T. and the modern household electronic gadgets and equipments of daily use be introduced to the students to understand the modern lifestyle. In the history and geography of Manipur and the neighboring countries. (To be contd.....)

National & International News

Bangladesh minister defends Indian media against Pak diatribe

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Dhaka, July 5: With Pakistan slamming the India media for reporting its involvement in Dhaka's terrorist attack as "highly regrettable, irresponsible and provocative stories", Bangladesh Information Minister Hassanul Haq Inu said the media didn't levelled charges on Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) on its own as it were some of the senior political officials in his country who pointed a finger at them. "Pakistan makes such statements time and again; if they deny their involvement in the Dhaka attack, its good but the investigators in Bangladesh are looking for all possibilities," said the minister. "For the past 45 years, Pakistan and

ISI have been involved in Bangladesh, from the war of liberation till now in terrorist networks. There are clear evidences of the involvement of ISI and Pakistan in our terrorist networks," he alleged. "If the Pakistani agencies aren't involved, we accept their statements and thank them, but if other evidences come out then it will be very sad for the relations of both the countries (Bangladesh and Pakistan," Inu added. "We know the character of Pakistan they are the greatest harbour of terrorism in world. It is because of Pakistan that many terrorists are involved in subversive activities in many countries," alleged Inu, adding that

it is very sad but the reality is that Pakistan cannot have a clean chit. The Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on Monday said allegations of Pakistan's involvement in Dhaka's terrorist attack are highly regrettable, irresponsible and provocative stories being carried in the Indian media. "They are utterly baseless and unfounded and Pakistan strongly rejects such allegations," said MoFA spokesperson Mohammed Nafees Zakaria in a statement issued in Islamabad. In this context, the spokesperson drew attention to the statement by Prof. Gowher Rizvi, the Adviser to Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, refuting the Indian media

story attributed to him regarding Pakistan's involvement as "utter nonsense" and "a proof of the Indian media's malicious intent". Rizvi purportedly said he had never issued any statement or spoke to any TV channel on this issue. The terrorist attack a cafe on Friday claiming lives of 20 civilians, mostly foreigners, and two police officers. Nine Italians, seven Japanese, one Indian, one Bangladeshi-American and two Bangladeshis were killed in the terror attack at Holy Artisan Bakery in Gulshan on Friday night. The 12-hour-long hostage crisis at the cafe popular with foreigners ended after a two-hour long assault by armed forces' commandos killing six gunmen.

Iraq PM Abadi calls for withdrawal of British-made fake bomb detectors

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Washington, July 5: In the aftermath of one of the deadliest attacks in Baghdad which killed at least 157 people, Iraq Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has ordered the removal of British-made fake bomb detectors which the security forces have been using for the past nine years. The wands were proven to be fake long ago, reports the Guardian. Prime Minister Abadi ordered a renewed corruption investigation into the sale of the devices from 2007-10, which cost Iraq more than 53 million pounds and netted the Somerset businessman James McCormick enormous profits. McCormick was later sentenced to a 10-year jail sentence for fraud. The withdrawal of wands follows years of insistence by the Interior Ministry officials that they were effective in sensing odours from explosive components. Reportedly, the citizens have complained for years that the wands don't work and warnings were also issued by the British Government and US military that the wands have no scientific value. "They are fakes, fakes. They have

been laughing at us by making us use them," said an officer Sayyed Hamza while welcoming Prime Minister Abadi's announcement. He added the move was 'past due'. In a statement, the Prime Minister said: "All security forces must take away the handheld detectors from checkpoints and the (ministry of interior) must reopen the investigation for corruption in the contracts for these devices and follow all entities which participated in them." A senior Interior Ministry official while justifying the reluctance to

acknowledge that the wands are useless said the people need some sort of reassurance. "To say that these don't work says that we don't have anything better. The people need some sort of reassurance. Sometimes it is better to pretend," he added.

Police also detained two suspected IS jihadists — Kyrgyz nationals — at the airport on Sunday. Night-vision goggles and military clothing were reportedly found in their suitcases, along with passports in different names. The men had just arrived in Istanbul from Ukraine, NTV television reported. Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said Monday that security was being boosted at sensitive Istanbul sites such as metro stations, with 80 special forces troops patrolling Ataturk airport. Of more than 200 people injured in last week's attack, 47 people are still in hospital. Authorities have identified the bombers as a Russian, an Uzbek and a Kyrgyz national. State news agency Anadolu named two of them as Rakim Bulgarov and Vadim Osmanov, without giving their nationalities. Central Asia's former Soviet republics have been a major source of foreign jihadists travelling to fight with IS and other extremist groups in Iraq and Syria. Turkish media have identified the strike's organiser as Akhmed Chatayev, the Chechen leader of an IS cell in Istanbul who allegedly masterminded two other deadly attacks that killed tourists in the city. Turkey has been rocked by a series of attacks over the past year, blamed on both IS jihadists and Kurdish rebels.

17 more charged over Istanbul airport attack

Istanbul, July 5: Seventeen people, including 11 Russians, have been charged over the Istanbul airport attack, Dogan news agency reported today, bringing to 30 the total number charged over the suicide assault. The latest suspects, who also include six Turks, were charged with "belonging to an armed terrorist group". Ankara says the Islamic State group is behind the June 28 gun and bomb attack at Ataturk international airport, which left 45 people dead including 19 foreigners. Thirteen suspects had already been charged Sunday in connection with the worst of several attacks to hit Turkey's biggest city this year.

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