

Editorial

Imphal, Monday, June 13, 2016

Playing with the sentiment of the common man

Of the 3 Bills passed by the Manipur legislative Assembly on August 31 last year, the controversial one which makes two opponent groups, regarding the consideration of the baseline for considering who are Manipuri and who are not has been withheld assent by the President of India - the clause 2 of the Protection of the Manipur Peoples' Bill, 2013, was previously the main issues that those voicing against the Bills are demanding for withdrawal of the three ILPS related Bills. JAC formed against the passing of the anti-migrant Bills had reason to get assent of the president, as it has been rightly pointed out that if the so called base year for sorting out illegal influx is in 1951. It is logical to have apprehension about the fate of the people inhabiting in hill areas where records were not properly maintained those days. About the 2 other Bills passed by the state legislative Assembly on the same day, the all political party delegations, who had visited the Union Minister Rajnath Singh, had stated that those are being look to find a reasonable conclusion. The words described are not easy for interpretation. As some are of the opinion that the two Bill - The MLR&LR Act (Seventh Amendment) Bills and The Manipur Shops and Establishment Act, are of the opinion that these two Bills will also not get assent of the president. However, as far as the joint press statement of the All Political Party delegation is concerned, it has been stated that only 1 Bill has been withheld assent by the president but said that the other two are in its way to find a reasonable solution. This indirectly meant that these two Bills have got green signal from the Union Home Minister. It is official procedure that the assent by president to any Bill is given on the advice of the central government. Now both the anti-ILPS Bills agitators as well as the Pro ILPS agitators seems to have finally recovered the missing link on the demand which is meant for the protection of all the indigenous people of the state. The few misunderstanding can be sorted out once both the parties seat together. After all the Bill which contain the so called controversial part will have another chance to discussed in depth in the state Assembly as it has been sent back. The differences have finally found a way to resolved here if the leaders of the all political party delegations openly take the development to both the agitators of two opposite side.

But seems like someone or say some vested interested influential personalities do not want to end the impasses between two groups of people.

It was in record that the issue for demand of passing the ILPS Bills reached to catastrophe after some few officers over acted causing the death of a student called Robinhood, in Imphal East. Same way the death of 9 people in Churachandpur district headquarter in the so called police action is one reason that turned the agitators suborn. But solving these issues lies to the wisdom of those in the government however, till these days no effort is seen initiated from the side of the government.

The recent police excess in front of Manipur Bhawan Delhi, is also another reason to create the situation more complex. Around 61 student protestors were lathi charged and detained in police station. Why? Why those political party leaders invited some representatives of those agitators to find out what is that they actually demanded. The way the politicians including the chief Minister of Manipur is handling the issue reveals their interest towards the state. Seems like leaders of almost all political party are trying to let this fighting game continues among the two groups to get advantage of their political party during election.

Now, the more surprising development is the press statement of NPF (MSU) which called the Bills passed in their presence as anti-tribal. In its press statement it is stated that MLR&LR Act 1960 (7th amendment) Bills 2015 section 14A and 14 B which is to be inserted in the principle Bill is an attempt to transfer the land ownership of the tribals to State Govt which is against the existing laws under MLR&LR Act 1960 section 2 and section 158 of the Principle Bill, it said.

Shops and Establishment (2nd amendment) Bill 2015 is an anti tribal Bill as it is an attempt to grab the power from local authorities. The question that Imphal Times want to put to the four NPF MLAs is that at which section amended or added to the Bills have violated or intrude the rights of tribal people as claimed. One among the four MLA is reported to have been from the Law background. But it is a shame that he being LLB is misleading the people time and again saying that the MLR&LR (Seven Amendment) 2013 is anti tribal. As it is clear that nothing mention in this part of the act will be enforced to the area declared as scheduled area in the first part of the MLR&LR Act. Amidst the game played by you people in politics we the common people are put in the frying pan. When you leaders could have talk and settled everything you let those to call bandh, blockade, general strike, which never affect you but brings tears to all the common people living on hand to mouth. This is not warning but don't wait for people to pour their anger to you people playing with the sentiments of the people.

Manipur uprising caused a great loss

By: Siamchingthang Tunppo

The extension of cease-fire to the Naga inhabited areas in Manipur (The Bangkok Agreement of June 14, 2001) w.e.f. the first of August, 2001 for a period of one year, led to a massive violent uprising causing great loss to life and property as a protest. The protestors targeted the government machinery and public leaders (setting fire to the Manipur Legislative Assembly building, manhandling the speaker of the Assembly). As many as 14 people were brutally killed in cold blood in the firing by the Security Forces and many were seriously injured. Faced with an unprecedented civil and political unrest in Manipur, the Centre was left with no other option but to review the Cease-fire Agreement. All Manipur Students' Union (AMSU) demanded the resignation of all the MLA's and MP's of the state. The arrogant politicians, however, refused to step down (from their coveted posts). They served half-heartedly an ultimatum to the Centre threatening to quit their posts and resign in masse if the latter did not revoke the agreement latest by the 31st July, 2001. Left with no other go, the Union Home Minister, L.K. Advani, announced that the three unwarranted words— "without territorial limits" in the June 14, 2001 Agreement stand deleted and the status quo ante June, 14 be restored (N.E. Sun, Aug, 1-14, 2001, page-8). Why did the valley people, especially the majority Meiteis were

hell-bent on revoking the June 14 Agreement? As the Manipur Students' Association Delhi (MSAD) clarified in their handout at a protest rally at JantarMantar: "The mass uprising in Manipur is not a protest against the Naga peace-process per se, nor is it the protest as anti-Naga movement, as some vested interests have been trying hard to project as". The extension of the ceasefire to Manipur was an attempt to legitimize the Greater Nagaland (Nagalim) claim of the NSCN(IM) by the Centre. This was perceived as a direct threat to the territorial integrity of Manipur. Hence, the June 18 mass uprising in Imphal. The cease-fire extension was also perceived by the people as the continuation of the old colonial policy of "Divide and Rule". Understandably, the NSCN(IM) has played the ethnic card thereby mobilizing the Nagas on the pretext of bringing peace and a possible greater Nagalim in the near future. The people's suspicion was vindicated by Th. Muviyah, the NSCN(IM) supremo's claim that Nagalim covers 12,00,000 square kilometers whereas the area of Nagaland state is only 16,579 Sq.Km !

The United Naga Council (UNC) of Manipur had earlier warned the Centre of dire consequences if the June 14 Agreement was either reviewed or revoked. No wonder, the UNC, the Naga Students' Federation (NSF) and various other Naga bodies started organizing sit-

in-protests, torch rallies at night and blockades of the two main national highways (NH-34, NH-53), the lifelines of Manipur.

They, in fact, called for an indefinite economic blockade on these two highways from the end of July till the first week of August in an effort to intensify thin agitation to restore the white flags, which were earlier hosted. Ethnic clashes between the Meiteis and the Nagas seemed imminent. The fleeing of Nagas from the valley escalated this. Fortunately, a remarkable display of restraint and political maturity on both sides did prevent a communal and ethnic flare-up.

During the blockade of the two highways, the supply of essential goods was disrupted. Hundreds of trucks were stranded in Nagaland with perishable goods. There was hyperinflation- a kilo of rice reached 40 Rupees in the hill districts. On 10 August, a LPG carrying truck, was burnt near Tadubi (Senapati District- a Naga majority district) by Naga agitators. However, it must be noted that the blockade and violence were restricted only to Naga areas of Manipur, a point emphasized by Chief Minister of Nagaland.

The government of Manipur failed to provide an effective security to the transporters and the passenger bus services passing through the Naga areas of Manipur. The govt. did not impose a single curfew to prevent violence on the national highways. This has led to the people's belief that the government

is partisan and encouraging the Nagas to intensify their agitation. The apathy of the government resulted in some student organisations like the Manipur Students Federation (MSF), another powerful student organization, to call for a counter-blockade of the Naga-areas of Manipur. Later, they were persuaded by the United Committee of Manipur (UCM), spearheading the anti-cease-fire extension agitation to avoid a possible ethnic clash.

But the damage has been already done. The spirit of peaceful co-existence seems to have been lost among the Nagas. The United Naga Council (UNC) is now demanding the merger of Naga areas of Manipur to Nagaland. This is partly due to the revoking of the Cease-fire Agreement and the general feeling that the Meiteis have neglected the hills. The Meiteis generally use a derogatory term "Hao" for the tribes and is obviously resented by the tribes. The emergence of Naga nationalism has further alienated the Nagas from the Manipur mainstream. However, the so called Naga inhabited areas" is misleading for various other communities like the Zosccc, Nepalis also reside. The Naga-Kuki ethnic clash was the clash over land ownership in the hill districts of Manipur. No wonder, the Zo peoples too vehemently opposed the cease-fire-extension to the so-called Naga areas of Manipur.

National News

President Mukherjee arrives in Ghana on two-day visit

Accra (Ghana), June 13: President Pranab Mukherjee touched down in Accra, Ghana, on Sunday evening, on the first leg of his six-day three-nation state visit that would include visits to Cote d'Ivoire and Namibia as well. Carrying the presidential entourage, Air India One touched down in rainy weather at Accra's Kotoka International Airport at 3.45 p.m. local time after an approximately nine-and-a-half-hour-long flight. The president was received by Ghana's Vice President Kwesei Bekoe Amisshah-Arthur, senior Ghanaian government officials and Indian High Commission officials. The ceremonial reception at the airport included a group of Ghanaian dancers- male and female- performing some of their traditional

and popular dances and drum beats. School children from select schools in Ghana were also present on the occasion waving the national flags of Ghana and India. The drive into the city centre was also smooth with streets lined with poles carrying the flags of the two countries and some flags pinned onto massive tree trunks. During his two-day state visit to Ghana, the first by an Indian Head of State, the president will hold talks with his Ghanaian counterpart John Dramani Mahama on issues of bilateral, regional and multilateral relevance to the two countries. This visit will include attending a state banquet hosted by President Mahama on Sunday evening; attending delegation-level talks and the signing of bilateral agreements and addressing the business

community on Monday. President Mukherjee will pay his respects at the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum; unveil a statue of Mahatma Gandhi and also address faculty and students at the University of Ghana, also on Monday. On Tuesday, he will visit the Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence before departing for Cote D'Ivoire on the second leg of his official visit. Indian Investments in Ghana are substantial and amount to nearly three billion dollars in various sectors and trade between both the countries has gone up three times in the last three years. India's exports to Ghana were USD 680.39 million in fiscal 2014-15 and USD 502.65 million between April 2015 and January 2016. Major exports include pharmaceuticals, agricultural

machinery, transport vehicles, electrical equipment, plastics, iron and steel, beverages and spirits, cereals, made-up textiles and self-propelled heavy machinery. India imports Gold, cocoa nuts, timber products, aluminum waste and scrap, ferrous waste and scrap, cashew, coconut, Brazil nuts, cocoa beans and paste and oil seeds etc. Total Indian investments in Ghana are an estimated USD1.02 billion over the past two decades. The estimated number of Indians living in Ghana is about 10,000 persons, out of which about 3000 hold foreign nationalities. Some of these NRIs have established a base in Ghana stretching to over 70 years. The President's visit to Ghana is expected to open up new opportunities of cooperation between the two countries.

Monsoon weakens temporarily, revival from June 15: IMD

Pune, June 13: The desperate wait for rains in the parched regions of interior Maharashtra has been delayed by about five to six days as the monsoon current has become temporarily weak. The "monsoon like" rains happening on the Konkan coast north of Karnataka and Mumbai are likely to weaken in one or two days. As a result of two back-to-back droughts, India has turned importer of wheat, maize and also soyameal. However, as the met department has forecast a La Nina event towards the end of the monsoon season, the industry is upbeat about being able

to restart export of some agricultural commodities like maize and soyameal. After advancing till north Karnataka on June 10, there has been no progress of the monsoon current, especially on the west coast. Monsoon has yet not reached Goa and the coastal parts of Maharashtra, even though this region has been getting 'monsoon like' rains from a few days. "The strength of the monsoon flow and its spatial continuity are not enough to declare the onset of monsoon in this region. We expect revival in monsoon to happen from the

evening of June 15," said Sunitha Devi, Director (weather forecast), India Meteorological Department, PUNE. There should be cyclonic circulation in the Bay of Bengal for the water scarce regions of Marathwada and the rainshadow region of madhya Maharashtra to get rains. As this circulation is likely to happen from June 16, interior Maharashtra can get rainfall only after June 16. The Konkan coast of Maharashtra along with Mumbai has been getting rains due to westerly winds and thunderstorm. However, this rainfall activity too is likely to decrease in

one or two days. The monsoon is expected to further advance in north Bay of Bengal, some parts of north eastern states, sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim in next two to three days.

MiG-27 crashes, pilot ejects safely

PTI Jodhpur, June 13: A MiG-27 aircraft of the IAF today crashed in a residential area of the city, with the pilot ejecting safely. The plane crashed adjacent to a house in an open area in Mahaveer Nagar, SHO Bansi Police Station Rajesh Yadav told PTI. The pilot was on a routine training mission. He had reported a technical problem and sought priority landing. However, as the engine had failed, he had to eject, IAF sources said. The area has been cordoned off and police officials have reached the spot. **ACP Jodhpur (West) Sima Hingonia** said a portion of a house where the plane crashed was damaged. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered into the incident.

Afghan, Pak border guards clash in Torkham

ANI Kabul, June 13: The Afghan National Defense and Security Forces have been put on alert following reports of clash between the Afghan and Pakistani border forces in Torkham. The clash reportedly occurred yesterday over the installation of a gate by Pakistan and continued for several hours. Gen. Ayub Hussain Khel, a commander of the Afghan Border Police in east, confirmed that the clashes erupted over the installation of a door by the Pakistani border guards, reports Khaama Press.

An Afghan soldier lost his life while five others were wounded during the clash, though the exact number of Pakistani casualties is yet unknown. Stating that National Security Adviser Mohammad Hanif Atmar has reviewed reports regarding the indiscriminate move by the Pakistani forces in Torkham, National Security Council spokesman Tawab Ghorzang said that all forces in the east, including the Afghan border police and 201st Corps of the Afghan National Army, have been put on alert to defend against the aggression of the enemy and those supporting them.

13 ISIS loyalists killed, seven others wounded in Nangarhar province

ANI Kabul, June 13: At least 13 loyalists of the ISIS terrorist group were killed and seven others wounded during the clearance operations in eastern Nangarhar province. The operations were conducted in Achin and Deh Bala districts of Nangarhar province with the support of the Air Force and Artillery units. Khaama Press reported the Ministry of Defence as saying. The operations were conducted in the aftermath of an attack by ISIS loyalists on police headquarters of Haska Mina, which killed the district police chief along with five other cops.

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