

Editorial

Imphal, Wednesday, June 29, 2016

A lesson in death

The death of Isak Chisi Swu- the '1' of NSCK-IM after battling prolonged severe kidney ailments and urinary tract infection at the national capital yesterday marked a historic point in the struggle of the Nagas' aspiration for independence and a relentless journey "towards a possible meeting point of peaceful coexistence". His dedication to the cause he believed in had endured him and is responsible for making major breakthroughs in the protracted Naga issue. Fifty-eight years of unwavering struggle and unmitigated optimism would put any doubting Thomases to rest. While the veracity of the cause for which he sacrificed more than half a decade of his life is beyond the ambit of this piece, the spirit with which he, along with his like-minded colleagues mobilized and strode through the international arena laying down their point of view is worth appreciable- a worthy leader in every sense of the word. However, besides the Naga issue, there has been the simmering discontent from the various other communities against the perceived partiality and indifference by the state governments across the north eastern states. There are underground organizations, proscribed groups, social organizations and civil society bodies who are directly or indirectly sympathizing or supporting the innumerable causes being projected which have one grievance in common- that of serious social matters being sidelined and trampling the cultural and traditional aspirations of the region. There is an inherent threat to this commonality, in that the innumerable tribes, communities and ethnic groups are professing for separate and distinct geopolitical identities of their own, besides the decades-old armed struggles for total and absolute independence. These separate and evidently fragmented struggles with deviated set of demands and considerations tend to weaken the efficacy of the different struggles and drown out each other's reasoning, ending up in a cacophony of noise, which once again raise the long-standing question- if the different communities and ethnic groups in the North-Eastern states are fighting for similar demands, why cannot these groups and parties be projected as one which will solve a lot of problems and answer a lot of questions. The fragmented issues and struggles have created a psyche amongst the different communities and ethnic groups in the region which perceives people from other communities with suspicion and guarded acknowledgment. There is an increasing psychological divide amongst the different communities and groups which is posing a threat to the protracted struggles. The increasing confusion and uncertainty have also helped spawn a number of unscrupulous individuals and groups taking opportunity of the worsening law and order situations to carry out nefarious activities for personal gain. The situation is turning to be a disaster, and if the chaff is not separated from the grain at the earliest, the whole exercise is bound to defeat itself. This is where real and dedicated leaders like Isak Chisi Swu could have made a glaring difference. Had his struggle been for the region rather than for a particular tribe, things could have been different, and garnered wider acceptability. Perhaps his death will open the eyes for every stakeholder in the region to take a different perspective. The state governments should be the first to introspect on the matter.

Firebomb Attack outside Australian Mosque

Sydney, June 29: A firebomb attack outside an Australian mosque while worshippers were at prayer was condemned today by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, with one Islamic leader calling it a "hate crime". No one was injured in Tuesday night's blast which destroyed a car parked outside a mosque and Islamic college in the Perth suburb of Thornlie. "It is believed an accelerant was used to start the fire," Western Australian police said in a statement, adding that three other vehicles were damaged in the incident. "Anti-Islamic graffiti was located spray painted on a wall associated with the college, near the damaged vehicles." The mosque's Yahya Adel Ibrahim said the community in Perth had been visited "by hate" but would not retaliate by "hating and playing blame games".

"This, undoubtedly is a criminal act of hate, but it is the act of a person or group not the greater whole," he said on Facebook. "Despite what just transpired, everyone stayed to finish their prayers, refusing to give into the terror that had just occurred." Anti-Islam sentiment became more prominent in Australia last year as concerns mounted over homegrown extremism and citizens traveling to Iraq and Syria to support terrorist groups. But Turnbull, who faces a general election on Saturday, said Australia had a fundamental foundation of mutual respect. "I deplore and I cannot condemn strongly enough any attacks of that kind," he told radio station 6PR. Australian Islamic College executive principal Abdullah Khan said while the attack came as a shock, he had been reassured by the support from the community.

Handloom as a means of Economic Growth of the State

DIPR
The Department of Commerce & Industries, Govt. of Manipur is to promote the socio-economic conditions of the handloom weavers and to work for the harmonious growth of this sector. Handloom is the most important and fast growing cottage industry in Manipur. India's population in 2011 is reported as 1210 million including 2.72 million of Manipur (sharing 0.22% of all India). The Handloom Census 2009-10 reported that Manipur has 2.04 lakh handloom workers (sharing 5.30% of all India) and 1.90 lakh loom (sharing 8.02% of all India). Thus, Manipur has the highest concentration of weavers and highest concentration on the possession of loom in the country. The Sector has implemented various promotional, development and welfare schemes for the better earning and wellbeing of weavers of Manipur. Over a period of Three Five Years Plan, i.e. 2002-07, 2007-2012 and 2012-17, the handloom has sector has tremendously improved in all fronts. Among many achievements and improvement, a few exemplary achievements are highlighted in the following manner: Margin Money is a form of financial assistance provided to weavers to avail credit facilities from FI/Banks. The amount so provided to weavers

deposited in the bank account of the agency or SHG. The rate margin money under Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY) implemented from 2002 to 2007 was Rs.4000/- and Rs.6000/- per weaver under Integrated Handloom Development Scheme (IHDS) from 2007 to 2013-14. A total of 18272 were covered with Rs.698.40 lakh in these two schemes with contribution of 10% as State share. In order to facilitate weavers to switch over from low value items to better and high value added products, assistance for skill upgradation was given to 14497 weavers with Rs.471.80 lakh under DDHPY from 2002 to 2007 and IHDS from 2007 to 2014 as 100% funding of GOI. Additional 11550 weavers will be trained by Rs.1262.41 lakh under Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS) within 2017 with 10% as State share. 115 Common Facility Centres were constructed to carry out activities like warping, dyeing pre and post-loom operations with an amount of Rs.553.93 lakh under DDHPY from 2002 to 2007 and IHDS from 2007 to 2014 with contribution of 10% as State share. New loom for loomless, accessories for new loom, jacquard and dobby for producing new designs were provided to 28412

weavers for amount of Rs.866.88 lakh under DDHPY from 2002 to 2007 and IHDS from 2007 to 2014 with contribution of 10% as State share. In order to create a better working atmosphere with better light and environment, workshop were constructed for 17042 for amount of Rs.600.67 lakh under Workshed-Cum-Housing Scheme from 2003-2006. IHDS from 2007 to 2014 and North Eastern Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS) in 2014-15 with 10% as State share and to enable the weavers to work in a group of 5-6 weavers, a total of 306 group workshops were constructed and 306 solar light at the cost of Rs.1071.00 lakh were provided under NERTPS inclusive of 10% contribution of State share in 2014-15. One-time assistance was provided as a corpus fund to the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) to ensure supply of yarn to 117 Yarn Depots of 117 Handloom Clusters with a Corpus Fund of Rs.274.50 lakh under IHDS from 2007 to 2014 and NERTPS in 2014-15 as 100% GOI funding and also to monitor, supervise and producing new and attractive designs, a total of 166 Diploma and Degree in Handloom Technology, Textile Technology and Fashion Technology and Fashion Designers

were employed in 117 Handloom Clusters with 100% Central assistance of Rs.1016.40 lakh under IHDS from 2007 to 2014 and NERTPS in 2014-15. The Registrar of GI and Trade Marks, Govt. of India registered Three Manipur Handloom Fabrics, namely, Shaphee Lanphee, Wangkhei Phee and Moirang Phee under Geographical Indication of goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 on 31-3-2014. The National Awards to the weavers in recognition of their outstanding contribution, craftsmanship & development of craft. This recognition encouraged them to continue with the craft in a more enthusiastic and productive manner and ultimately encouraged other emulate them. There are 07 National Awardee, 03 Merit Awardee and 01 Sant Kabir Awardee in Manipur. The Powerloom & Allied Service Centre at Industrial Estate, Takyelpat was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Manipur Shri Okram Ibobi Singh in presence of Hon'ble Minister (Commerce & Industries) Shri Govindas Konthoujam and Hon'ble Minister (Social Welfare), Manipur Km. A.K. Mirabai Devi on 06-6-2014. It was set up under 100% funding of the Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India at the cost of Rs.94 lakh.

National News

36 killed in Istanbul airport bombings; Turkey PM blames Islamic State group

Istanbul, June 29: A triple suicide bombing and gun attack at Istanbul's Ataturk airport has killed at least 36 people, including foreigners, with Turkey's prime minister saying early signs pointed to an assault by the Islamic State group. The attackers began spraying bullets at the international terminal entrance before blowing themselves up at around 10:00 pm (1900 GMT) Tuesday, Turkish authorities said. It is the deadliest of four attacks to rock Turkey's biggest city this year, with two others blamed on IS and another claimed by a militant Kurdish group. Though there was no immediate claim of responsibility for Tuesday's carnage, "the evidence points to Daesh", Prime Minister Binali Yildirim told journalists at the scene, using another name for the jihadists. He said the dead included

foreigners, but gave no further details. Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag put the number of wounded at 147. The attack prompted the suspension of all flights at the airport — one of Europe's busiest hubs. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called for an international "joint fight" against terror, as Western allies including the United States condemned the "heinous" attack. Yildirim said the suicide bombers had arrived in a taxi and opened fire on passengers with automatic rifles before blowing themselves up. Security camera footage widely circulated on social media appeared to capture two of the blasts. In one clip a huge ball of flame erupts at an entrance to the terminal building, scattering terrified passengers. Another video shows a black-clad attacker running inside the building before collapsing to the



ground — apparently felled by a police bullet — and blowing himself up. Tuesday's attack follows coordinated IS suicide bombings at Brussels airport and a city metro station in March that left 32 people dead. An AFP photographer saw bodies covered with sheets at the terminal, which bore heavy damage from the blasts. Bullet holes peppered the windows

and shattered glass lay on the floor, while abandoned luggage was scattered everywhere. Hundreds of police and firefighters including forensic officers were at the scene. "Somebody came and shot at us and then my sister ran," Otfah Mohamed Abdullah told AFP. "I don't know which way she ran and after that I fell down. I was on the ground till the (the gunman) stopped... I can't find my sister."

Abducted Indian boy to return home today from Bangladesh after six years

ANIPatuaakhal, June 29: Abducted Indian boy Sonu, who has been handed over to the Indian High Commission in Dhaka by a court in Bangladesh's Barguna district, is likely to fly to New Delhi today and be reunited with his parents after a gap of six years. Barguna Additional District Judge Abu Taher granted Sonu's custody to Indian High Commission officials on Monday without the signing of a security bond of one

lakh Taka (Bangladesh currency) on humanitarian grounds. Sonu, who was tricked and brought to Bangladesh from Delhi by two women in 2010, was rescued by a Bangladesh citizen Jamal Ibn Musa who put in great efforts to reunite him with his family. "I am very happy. Finally, Sonu is getting reunited with his parents," the Daily Star quoted Musa, as saying. India's External Affairs Minister

Sushma Swaraj in a series of tweets thanked all who had looked after the young boy in Bangladesh. "Sonu - who was kidnapped from Delhi was found in a shelter home in Bangladesh. We matched the DNA with his mother. The test is positive," Swaraj tweeted. "Indian High Commission in Dhaka has obtained Sonu's custody. He will reach Delhi on 30th June. I thank all those who looked after our young citizen in Bangladesh," she said.

Monsoon session from July 18, Govt confident of GST passage

New Delhi, June 29: Government today asserted it has "enough" support for passage of the GST bill in the Monsoon session of Parliament that will commence from July 18 till August 12. After a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs chaired by Home Minister Rajnath Singh that recommended the schedule for the session, Parliamentary Affairs Minister M Venkaiah Naidu told reporters that the session could also be extended or curtailed by two-three days depending on requirement.

The session will have 20 working days for now. Emphasizing that the GST bill is in the larger interest of the country, Naidu said, "We have a wider support and we have enough numbers for GST but we would like to have all parties on board because it will have an effect on states." He said that the government wants to get the bill passed by consensus and is making efforts in that direction but asserted that even if consensus is not there, "we must get it approved in this session". He said that voting on the bill will

be the last option, suggesting that the government would like to avoid any trial of strength on this issue and will strive to take all parties along. However, since it is a Constitutional Amendment Bill, voting will have to take place. Replying to questions on whether Government will step up efforts to bring Congress on board, which has been opposing the bill on some conditions, he said Finance Minister Arun Jaitley is ready to hold further discussions with all parties including Congress.

Nepal President likely to visit India in August

ANIKathmandu, June 29: Nepal President Bidhya Devi Bhandari is likely to visit India in August. Talks are on between the two nations to reschedule her visit after her trip in May was cancelled because of political turmoil in Nepal and also because the Cabinet did not approve it. She was invited by Indian counterpart President Pranab Mukherjee. Indian Ambassador to Nepal Ranjit Rae has said that President Bhandari's India visit would be fixed soon, reports the Kathmandu Post. After her visit, reports say that President Mukherjee will be visiting Nepal. According to reports, officials in Kathmandu have said that New Delhi has proposed that President Bhandari undertake her state visit before the fourth Joint Commission meeting, and following it conclusion, facilitate a reciprocal visit by President Mukherjee.

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