

Editorial

Imphal, Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Diabolic effect

Will Mr. CM be able to find a solution?

After the signing of the 'Frame Work' agreement, final settlement between the government of India and the National Socialists' council of Nagaland (NSCN) lead by Th. Muivah and Isaac Chi Swe is finally at the door. India government earnest effort to solve the problem of 'the rebel group', which they consider to be the mother of all insurgency movement in the state has compelled the mainland administrators to finally fulfill some of the demands which will not hurt the interest of the Indian nation.

After engaging in several rounds of talk for over a decade the Indian Government had finally succeeded to divert the conflict between the country and the NSCN-IM to a conflict between the state governments of each North East Indian state with the rebel group. Now the ball has been successfully thrown to the court of Chief Ministers of Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

Interestingly, issues like ILPS or ST demand is heating up co-incidentally with the sorting of a solution between the two entities.

With the tending issues of ILPS in Manipur, which is dividing the people of the state into two groups, this time the GoI seems getting right opportunity to end the decades long problem of the NSCN-IM.

The declaration of the cease fire with the NSCN-IM on July 25, 1997 at the floor of Lok Sabha by the then Prime Minister of India, late Inder Kumar Gujral had already sparked tension among the various communities of the North East India, compelling some of the civil society organizations of the state to take up awareness campaign about the 'would be' affects of the cease fire agreement. Four years later, after the declaration of the ceasefire, the extension of the cease fire 'without territorial limits' on June 14, 2001, at Bangkok, which was later popularly known as 'Bangkok declaration', the simmering tension of the various communities of the state reached to catastrophe. Manipur was nearly torn to ash with almost 60 percent of the people of Imphal coming out to the street of Imphal and pouring their anger to the government set up of the state. Almost all offices of political parties, official quarters of MLAs, Ministers etc were set ablaze by the angry mob. Even the temple of democracy—the assembly secretariat was not spared. It was during this famous uprising in the history of Manipur that a complete change to the peoples' mandate during the general assembly election was brought.

Later, the political consciousness of the people had elected some of the persons whom the people believed that they would protect the people and the land of this erstwhile kingdom.

Perhaps, it was this strong 'political will' to safeguard the territorial integrity of this state that Okram Ibobi Singh was re-elected as the chief minister of Manipur for the three consecutive terms. But greed or isism is making the people skeptical now with the attitude of the Chief minister whom people had given mandate as he seems to show less interest in solving the issues of the people.

Having said so, the final scene is yet to arrive. Manipur once more burnt or not now remain in the wisdom of Okram Ibobi. Or else if Mr. Chief Minister think that he is not in the position to solve the complex issue trending in the state he better surrender and try someone whom he thinks is most capable of handling the kind of issue burning the state.

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT NOTIFICATION

Imphal, the 6th June, 2016

No. 1/13(6)/2014-LA(E)/Rett : It is hereby informed to all the candidates who have applied for the following posts in the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat that the viva-voce for direct recruitment to the said posts will be held on the date and time as shown below:

Sl. No	Name of post	Date	Time
1.	Librarian	09-06-2016	11.00 am
2.	Peon	10-06-2016	11am

All the candidates are, therefore, intimated to collect their admittances on or before the date of viva-voce scheduled above and also to appear for the respective viva-voce along with their original testimonials etc. without fail.

(G.Tapankumar Sharma)
Deputy Secretary(Admn),
Manipur Legislative Assembly

IT Bill/Dt. 7/6/2016

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MPSC gambles with the fate of CS aspirants

By : Maibam Basanta

Several days after the MPSC published the answer keys for the recently held preliminary exam for the state's civil services, the commission notified that the exam would be re-conducted again. It finally gave in to the pressure that came from many candidates who demanded re-conduction of the exam. The candidates cited confusion with the instructions in the question paper for their demand. The commission looked up the scores of candidates in order to verify the same, taking into account the number of questions attempted by candidates. The decision casts serious doubts on the integrity of the commission. There was no need of publishing the answer keys if the exam had to be re-conducted again. The commission has once again failed in doing justice to the candidates. It cornered the students who fared well in the preliminary exam and did not take into consideration the hard-work and labour they have put in while giving the exam. These are candidates who

gave the preliminary exam at centres where it was conducted fairly. At their centres, pictures were clicked with mobile phones by authorities as changes were announced. There were even cameras around at some of these centres.

Everybody had a great time till the answer keys came in and once it was published, hell was let loose. It also makes one wonder why the decision came so late and when many serious aspirants have already started their preparations for the mains. This has completely derailed the momentum of many and disengaged them too. There is no dearth to the number of mistakes that the MPSC could make. Mistakes are going to be there even if the exam is re-conducted. Will the commission keep re-conducting the exam each time there is a mistake in the question paper? Will there be a third preliminary round of exam again if the second round does not satisfy another set of students? Again if there are mistakes with the third, then should the candidates prepare for the fourth round instead of reading for the mains.

The decision to make the students who scored well go through the prelims again is like asking 1000 students who has climbed up a hill halfway to come down again so that another group can climb up together with them again. Politicians take great pride in voicing the concerns of students. One wonders where all have vanished... Or do they just see one side of the coin and are not satisfied enough?

There must be genuine candidates who couldn't attempt all the questions due to the doubt that there were negative markings, but there must be many candidates too who didn't have enough time to attempt all the questions despite knowing that there were no negative markings. The commission should have considered all the possible angles as it looked up the scores of the previous exam. Above this, there were many local candidates who spent huge amounts of money for travel from their current cities of study or work to give the exam and did well. Did the commission take into

consideration their plight while taking the decision to re-conduct the exam?

The commission should have come up with a smart way of sorting all the confusion that they have created with just one preliminary exam. In an exam where one finds it almost impossible to repeat the same fear again, the decision to let those who did well re-appear in the same exam is so wrong. If at all the exam is to be re-conducted it should be only for those who were genuinely unaware of the fact that there were no negative markings. Dragging those who have done well in the previous exam is quite an injustice to many candidates. We request the MPSC to do a proper and transparent investigation as to what happened at different centres where claims of misconducts came up. The question of re-conducting the exam should not be based on a candidate's answersheet or how many questions were left unanswered but rather on a proper investigation.

National & International News

Police, Students Clash in Papua New Guinea; 23 Injured

Canberra, June 8: Police in Papua New Guinea fired shotguns Wednesday to quell a student protest demanding the prime minister's resignation, the government said. The country's police commissioner said nearly two dozen people were injured, but denied reports that as many as four people were killed. Students in the South Pacific nation have been demanding for weeks that Prime Minister Peter O'Neill resign because of alleged corruption and mismanagement.

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said she had been advised by the Australian embassy that police shot students in Port Moresby, the capital, as hundreds prepared to march from the University of Papua New Guinea to Parliament. "I know that students been shot, but we're still trying to determine whether there have been deaths and how many have been injured," Bishop told reporters. "We call on all sides to be calm and to de-escalate the tension and certainly call on all sides to respect

the peaceful and lawful right to protest."

Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported that a Papua New Guinea lawmaker told Parliament four students had been killed and seven wounded.

Joe Duhube, personal assistant to lawmaker Gary Juffa, told The Associated Press that Juffa spoke to students after the shooting and was told "one of the students got killed instantly and others are in serious and critical condition."

Papua New Guinea Police Commissioner Gari Baki, however, said no deaths had been reported. In a statement, Baki said 23 people believed to be university students were treated at hospitals after the clash. The head of the emergency ward at Port Moresby General Hospital told police five of the students were in critical condition, Baki said.

O'Neill issued a statement saying he was told that a small group of students became violent, threw rocks at police

and "provoked a response that came in the form of tear gas and warning shots."

Staycey Yalo, a journalism student at the university, said police did not fire warning shots — they fired directly at the students. Yalo said she and the

other protesters encountered a line of police officers blocking them when they tried to march to Parliament. The police demanded they hand over the student president. When the protesters said no, an argument broke out, she said.

Shimla to get reconnected by air from tomorrow

PII
Shimla, June 8: After nearly four years of suspension of air travel, Shimla will get back plane connectivity from tomorrow with the launch of a daily service by a private carrier. "The IIC Technologies Ltd will commence its passenger service (Air Himalaya) between Shimla, Kullu, Chandigarh and Dharamsala from June 9," a Himachal Pradesh government spokesperson said. State Urban Development Minister Sudhir Sharma said the company will operate daily flights between Chandigarh and Kullu,

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Bandh has no future; why the Manipuris should

Bandhs, general strikes and blockades have become a cottage industry for Manipur. It has been victimized us either directly or indirectly. In Manipur, bandhs are generally called by various socio-political organizations like the Joint Action Committees (JAC), which mainly formed to get a particular demand from the government. Besides, there are instances of giving a bandh call by various organizations having connections with insurgent groups. The frequent bandhs and blockades are the reflection of government's failure to address public grievances in the state. Therefore, the public (or a section of public) call bandh to protest against the inaction of government authorities which led to implementing some ad-hoc policies. To this end, the government prevents people from debating on its various policies before implementing them. This ill-policy has been the main reasons for the loss of huge economy of the state and remaining as a backward state. The bandh callers feel that this is the only means to make the government listen to them. Meiteis and Muslims who inhabit the valley region are the worst sufferers of bandh. It leads to a larger number of causalities, serious damage to public and private property. It has not only restricted our fundamental rights Articles 19 and 21 under the Constitution of India but also diverted issues of development like health, nutrition, quality of foods, pollution, town planning and the

poor governance in the state. Ironically, these protests which are meant to be peaceful often turn violent and have far-reaching consequences in the people's day-to-day lives and in the officials' discharge of its duty.

This quick-fix solution has paralyzed the state. Bandh has become the ultimate form of protest for any group or civil society. It has become such a common/popular method of dissent that a boy killing his girlfriend calls a state-wide bandh; a case of suicide in another community's area results in a bandh; civilians kidnapped or killed by the military or by militants is also a reason for bandh. Considering this as a quick-fix method of demanding, the government has no choice but to treat this immediate symptom, not the actual cause.

According to a report by the Poknapham News Service, bandh/blockade have made to loss Manipur's economy Rs. 4,970 crore till date if we calculate the loss at Rs. 35 crores per day. Moreover,

afflicting everyone in the process—from the daily wage earner to the big thikadars (contractors), from the private concerns to the Government, and of course the student. Banning bandh will, of course, encroach certain parts of the fundamental right to express protest but it would certainly cure the ills born of the misuse of a legitimate democratic weapon. In a democratic setup, everyone has the right to express their views and vocalize their problems as long as it does not lead to infringement of the law. In a number of developed countries including the US and France, bandh is banned. It is quite regrettable that the some vested interest groups in Manipur abuse the democratic

rights of the people by calling these bandhs and strikes which often cause a roadblock to the economic development of the state. People can't go to work, students are unable to go to school and examinations get postponed. The backbone of the economy is affected badly. Is this the thing we looked for a progressive Manipur, certainly not! There is no logic for calling these bandhs and strikes when so much hardship is caused to the common people. It is the common people who bear the brunt of these so-called machinations of public welfare. We should remember that only sensible discussions and talks can bring us to a feasible solution and these talks should serve the interest of the common people holistically.

A bandh might have achieved some short-term goals by affecting personal and public life in Manipur but it would never achieve our long-term goals. We need to think of a new form of protests like gheraoing in the concerned offices and ministries. The time has come for putting up stiff public resistance against bandhs imposed on the common people by the tribe of some self-proclaimed patriots. Even when the issues behind bandhs are genuine and justified, there is no dearth of means to register one's protests in a manner that is both effective and not detrimental to public interest. At the same time, we need to produce leaderships of a different kind as we have seen enough of self-styled leaders who soon metamorphose into self-serving politicians.