

Editorial

Imphal, Tuesday, March 15, 2016

A matter to ponder upon

The prolonged social tensions and manifestations of discontents being underway at Churachandpur and the simultaneous demand to curb out portion of the state territory to form Nagalim have taken various shades and hues with the course of time. What is becoming more apparent with each passing day is not the clarity for the expressed demands, but for the implications of such agitations.

The increasing rigidity of the stances of the opposing parties has increased the necessity for an effective and speedy intervention. The state government however, having found itself caught in the middle as

always, has started the process of implementing its tried and tested formula of dumping the whole issue with the centre, or at least making it seem like so. Meanwhile, the adamancy of the extremists in sticking to their ends of the issue has elevated the present imbroglio up another notch in complexity. But for all the wise talks and fervent campaigns, the very fact remains that political boundaries and areas are never constant, and can be changed. Separation of East Timor from Indonesian occupation and, closer home, formation of Telangana state from Andhra Pradesh drives home the point. What is also an undeniable fact is that these separations have been at huge costs to lives and properties. Choosing to ignore the fact would be living in self denial and will eventually cost us more than we can afford to lose. There still is, however, a faint ray of hope for the beleaguered people of the state. History bears witness to the fact that the people of the state have endured unimaginable sufferings and extreme torments in the hands of the neighbouring Burmese invaders. That the very reason for the survival and continued existence of the people of the state irrespective of their community, customs, language or beliefs was the cooperation, support and solace extended and exchanged during the darkest days without the consideration for caste or creed. Are we ready to discard the very attribute which ensured the collective survival of our varied communities and cultures in the most trying of

times? The history of Manipur is one which is made up of the myriad cultures and customs being practiced in various forms and regions. It would indeed be a great insult to our forefathers in whose name we are preparing to take up the cudgel, if we are to part ways for the sake of our different cultures and customs. But if ever things have to come to such a pass, the prospect of bidding loving farewell is a distant dream. For those who are hatching the plots, there is more to life than a few acres of land or a few thousands worth of freebies. Who knows, the rest of the world might even leave their countries with us for more prospective planets while we are still drawing and redrawing our claims.

Srinagar Jammu national highway cleared for traffic

ANI Jammu, March 15: Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, which was blocked due to landslide, has now been cleared for vehicular movement this morning. The movement on the highway was also restricted earlier following the avalanche warnings issued by the Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE). Meanwhile, heavy snowfall in Pir

Panjal mountain range has led to many roads in the region being blocked. The authorities are working relentlessly to clear the blockage.

On Sunday, Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE) had issued a Medium danger avalanche warning for several regions in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

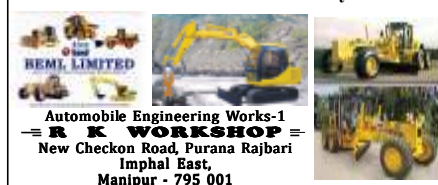
Four arrested for honour killing of student

Coimbatore, March 15: The Tirupur rural police on Tuesday nabbed four youths in connection with the murder of a dalit youth in Udumalpet on Sunday. They have been identified as Jagadeesan, Manikandan, Selvakumar and Madan, all hailing from Dindigul. V Shankar of Udumalpet was hacked to death by a five-member gang in full public view, in an alleged honour killing incident.

Shankar, a final year BE student at a private college in Pollachi, married a non-dalit girl, Kowsalya, who was his junior in college. The girl's family did not approve of the marriage. Kowsalya was a native of Palani in Dindigul district. All the four arrested are said to be close to the girl's father who surrendered before a judicial magistrate court in Dindigul on Monday. He was remanded to judicial custody till March 21.

WHENEVER YOU SEE CONSTRUCTION AND MINING EQUIPMENTS, JUST THINK OF US

A SOLUTION FOR EVERY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT



Automobile Engineering Works-1
R K WORKSHOP
 New Checkson Road, Purana Rajbari
 Imphal East,
 Manipur - 795 001

ALL KINDS OF SPARE PARTS AVAILABLE
 AFTER SALES SERVICE TO YOUR SATISFACTION

Authorised dealer **BEML Limited**
 (A Government of India Mini Ratna Company under Ministry of Defence)

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to "Imphal Times" can be sent to our e-mail: imphaltimes@gmail.com. For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-2452159 (0)

National & International News

Myanmar's parliament elects Suu Kyi confidant Htin Kyaw as president

Reuter Nanyitaw, March 15: Myanmar's parliament elected a close friend and confidant of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi as president on Tuesday, making Htin Kyaw the first head of state who does not hail from a military background since the 1960s.

Suu Kyi led her National League for Democracy (NLD) to a landslide election win in November, but a constitution drafted by the former junta bars her from the top office. She has vowed to run the country anyway through a proxy president, and on Thursday the NLD nominated Htin Kyaw for the role. He runs a charity founded by Suu Kyi and has been a trusted member of her inner circle since the mid-1990s. He is not a lawmaker.

"Today's result is because of the love of people for her. It is the victory of my sister Aung San Suu Kyi," Htin Kyaw told Reuters after

the vote. The NLD's sizeable majority ensured a comfortable win for Suu Kyi's pick in a vote by both houses of parliament. Htin Kyaw received 360 of the 652 votes cast, the parliamentary official counting the votes said.

Suu Kyi, who had been the first member of parliament to vote, clapped and smiled after the result was announced.

"This is the big day for us," Zar Ni Min, an NLD lower house MP, said after the vote. "This is what we have hoped for since a long time ago."

The still-powerful military holds a quarter of the seats in parliament and has the right under the constitution to nominate one of the three candidates for president. Its candidate, retired general Myint Swe, received 213 votes, making him the victor.

SIMMERING TENSIONS
 Tensions between Suu Kyi and the

military have simmered in the run-up to the presidential election and as her party prepares to take power. Relations between the armed forces and Suu Kyi will define the success of Myanmar's most significant break from military rule since the army seized power in 1962.

Suu Kyi wants to demilitarise Myanmar's politics, but to do so she effectively needs the support of the military itself.

The armed forces are guaranteed three ministries under the constitution, as well as a parliamentary minority that gives them a veto over constitutional amendments - enough to limit the potential scope of Suu Kyi's reforms.

Sources in Suu Kyi's camp say she has grown increasingly frustrated with military intransigence on issues ranging from amending the constitution to relatively minor formalities such as the location of

the handover of power. NLD lawmakers also privately said the military's choice of Myint Swe went against the spirit of reconciliation that Suu Kyi says she is seeking to foster.

Myint Swe served the junta as head of the feared military intelligence and is on the U.S. sanctions list.

The third candidate for the presidency, Henry Van Thio, was also nominated by the NLD. He will become second vice president and was chosen by Suu Kyi to represent the country's numerous ethnic minorities. He is a member of the Chin ethnic group from the northwest of Myanmar.

The president picks the cabinet that will take over from President Thein Sein's outgoing government on April 1, with the exception of the heads of the home, defence and border security ministries, who will be appointed by the armed forces chief.

Assam: Notification for 2nd phase of assembly polls issued

Guwahati, March 15: Notification for the second phase of assembly polls in Assam has been issued today. Polling will be held on 11th of next month in 61 seats in Central and Lower Assam. 22nd of this

month will be the last day of making nominations in this phase. Scrutiny of nomination papers will take place on 24th of this month and 26th of March is the last day of withdrawal of nominations.

Meanwhile, BSNL Assam circle is making available 577 telephone exchanges in the wake of assembly polls. Chief General Manager of Assam circle M K Seth said that the BSNL will provide best services

during election. He said that they have discussed the connectivity issue with the Election Commission. He said that BSNL is planning to set up 187 additional mobile exchanges in the state for poll purposes.

4 Hyderabad Students Killed, 30 Injured As Drunk Driver Flips Over Bus

Hyderabad, March 15: Four medical students from Hyderabad were killed and nearly 30 injured when a bus carrying them flopped over after hitting a tree on a major highway in Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh.

The driver of the private bus was also killed in the accident which took place late last night. He was drunk and speeding, said the police, reports the Indo-Asian News Service.

The students of the premier

government-run Osmania Medical College were returning to Hyderabad after participating in a sports tournament when the accident took place. Survivors of the accident said that earlier, when they asked the driver to slow down, he drunkenly argued with them. Injured students have been admitted to a private hospital in Vijayawada; some are reported in critical condition.

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu has ordered



officials to ensure best possible treatment to the injured students

and shift them to Hyderabad for treatment, if required.

Bangladesh central bank government resigns over heist

PTI Dhaka, Mar 15: Bangladesh's central bank chief resigned today after hackers stole over USD 100 million from the nation's foreign reserves in what is believed to be the world's biggest ever bank theft that embarrassed the government.

Atiur Rahman, 64, resigned over after a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"He (Rahman) has tendered his resignation to the Prime Minister," a Premier's office spokesman told PTI. Prime Minister's press secretary Ihsanul Karim said Rahman met Hasina at her office in the morning

and handed over his resignation, seven years after he was appointed as the Governor of Bangladesh Bank.

Earlier in the morning, an emotional and apparently distressed Rahman told newsmen he was ready to quit for the sake of the country. His resignation came weeks after the central bank confirmed that the huge amount was stolen from its account in Federal Reserve Bank of New York, sparking a worldwide uproar.

Bank spokesman had said that unknown hackers had stolen USD 101 million of which USD 81 million entered the Philippines and the rest went to Sri Lanka to be used

in casino business.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith had earlier said he was kept in the dark about the heist for weeks adding that the central bank management must explain its "audacity".

The hacking took place on the night of February 4, using information stolen through the

malware, which sent a total of 35 transfer orders to the NY Federal Reserve Bank where the Bangladesh's central bank has an account.

Reports said the hackers misspelled the name of a Sri Lankan non-governmental organisation, triggering a check of the request which raised the alarm.

Whistle Blowers Protection Bill to come up for discussion in RS

New Delhi, March 15: The Whistle Blowers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2015 will come up for consideration and passage in the Rajya Sabha today. The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016 will also be moved in the upper house. The Bill was passed by Lok Sabha on 9th of this month to amend a 48-year-old law to guard against claims of succession or transfer of properties left by people who migrated to

Pakistan and China after the wars. The Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, 2016 is also scheduled to be introduced in the Rajya Sabha. The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill will come up for consideration and passage in the Lok Sabha today. Rajya Sabha had passed the bill last week. The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2016 is also scheduled to be moved in the lower house.

Centre releases Rs 609 cr for upgrading prisons in eight States

New Delhi, March 15: The Centre has released 609 crore rupees for upgrading prisons in eight States as recommended by the Thirteenth Finance Commission. Kerala has got 154 crore rupees followed by Chhattisgarh, 150 crore rupees and Odisha 100 crore rupees.

Andhra Pradesh has been sanctioned 90 crore rupees and Maharashtra 60 crore rupees. The

other States to receive Central funds for modernisation of jails are Mizoram, 30 crore rupees, Tripura 15 crore rupees and Arunachal Pradesh 10 crore rupees. Minister of State for Home Haribhai P. Chaudhary stated this in the Lok Sabha today. He said there are over 4 lakh 18 thousand prisoners in jails across the country as against the capacity of 3 lakh 57 thousand

Book Preview

Title: CONTEMPORARY SOCIO-POLITICAL MOVEMENTS IN NORTHEAST INDIA

Pp. xxxi + 405, ISBN 97888193070444, Print price: Rs. 1500, First Edition 2016.

Editors: Prof. MC Arunkumar & Dr. Aheibam Koireng Singh. *Date of Release:* 16 March 2016; *Venue:* Leimayon Art Centre, Chingamkha near Model Club

Book Reviewer: Prof. S. Manti Singh, Pol. Sc. Dept., Manipur University (MU)

Chief Guest: Prof. H.N.K. Sarma, Vice Chancellor, MU.

Guests of Honour: Dr. RK Nimai, Consultant to Govt. of Manipur & Prof. Arambam Lokendra, Former Head, Audio Visual Research Centre, MU.

Published for: Centre for Manipur Studies (CMS), MU; *Published by:* Jain Book Shop Publication, Imphal

Available at: CMS, MU; PC Jain, Thangal Bazar; and all leading book shops in Imphal.

About the book

The book is an outcome of the three-day International Seminar on Movements in Recent Past and Present Northeast India with Special Reference to Manipur, organized by the Centre for Manipur Studies (CMS), MU on 27 - 29 November 2015 under the sponsorship of the Indian Council of Social Science Research, N. Delhi. The seminar addresses the relevant others and stated themes based on movements: *Anti Colonial, Socio-Religious Reform, Diaspora, Statehood, Anti-Foreign, Human Rights; Territorial Integrity, Alcoholism and substance abuse, Identity, Language, Religion and Cultural Renaissance; secession/ autonomy/ ethnic homeland; and Civil Society etc.* The seminar culminates finally to this book form consisting of 40 chapters by eminent personalities from various walks of life ranging from academia, activism, journalism, and those in the responsible government positions.

Notes on Editors

MC Arunkumar is Prof., Dept. of Anthropology, Manipur University and Director, CMS, MU.

Aheibam Koireng Singh is Asst. Prof., CMS, MU, and functionary of Conflict and Human Rights Studies Centre, Imphal. He is also Correspondent of *Imphal Times*. He can be contacted at akoireng@gmail.com.