

Editorial

Imphal, Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Bitter truth

“Even if you are on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there”:- the adage perhaps sums up the present political and economic scenario in the state more succinctly than anything. It must be said for the Ibooi led government that its efforts in displaying an apparent proactive approach towards development activities- or most of it- cannot be faulted, nor is it second to one. There have been a slew of activities ably and distinctly reported and mentioned in various media in the state regarding the inauguration, implementation, ideation or proposal of various public development activities and schemes ostensibly aimed at quickening the pace of progress in Manipur. It would not be an exaggeration to state that the publicity machinery of the government must be on an overdrive to cope with all the pressures that comes with such a blitzkrieg. Or has the focus been shifted so acutely towards publicizing its development activities- both implemented and conceived- that there is neither the time nor the resources to actually pursue them? Reports and images of inaugurations, seminars, dedications, groundbreaking ceremonies bombard the consensus of the general public day in and day out without any let-up. Yet the end result for almost all such announced and declared undertakings is yet to be enjoyed or even materialize. The only logical outcome, as has been experiencing by the public is the gradually intensifying social unrests and disruptions, deterioration in the law and order and escalation in inexplicable aberrations in public administration. For long, the public has been fed only on hollow promises and empty assurances. Make-shift solutions and haphazard steps to escape the present problem or sideline issues have started to yield an even more complex problem. Procrastination has perpetuated pandemonium, and incision has become endemic along the corridor of power in the state. Take any issue plaguing the state- AFSPA 1958, Inner Line Permit System, recruitment of state security personnel, Mapitbel Dams, ring road, education, Public Distribution System, minor irrigation, Loktak Development Agency, Suspension of Operation or rather the disintegrating process. All of these issues have a common thread of inadequacy running through them. All and every single one of them started off as an insignificant and containable hitch. It has been the continuing indifferent attitude and the dismissive behavior of those at the helm of affairs that have perpetuated the matter to the present situation. Too many minor glitches have been left to fester and grow instead of taking prompt and appropriate action. The public is getting restless and is starting to openly question the integrity of the government and its myriad activities. There is a pressing need to take remedial measures if the smouldering public displeasures are to be relieved. Only an earnest introspection coupled with a proactive and sincere approach towards the declared promises and purposes can make smoother the road towards a better future.

Jwalamukhi battalion organises cleanliness drive under swachh bharat abhiyan

Agencies
Imphal, March 16: Jwalamukhi battalion organised a cleanliness campaign aligned with national theme of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. The event was a successful in terms of making the surrounding clean to contribute towards the national aim of clean India. It was attended by approximately 300 local children from the various schools in the area. The events started with a lecture on importance of cleanliness with an aim to make common mass aware of various benefits of

sanitized surrounding. It included various aspects such as clean disposal of garbage, regular maintenance of sewage system and avoiding use of plastic as far as possible. The children and locals participated in the event with great zeal and enthusiasm. The lecture was followed by distribution of stationery items to the school children and Swachh Bharat T-Shirts and Cap to the locals. In order to carry forward the benefits, wastebins were also distributed for proper disposal of garbage in future.

Registration certificate lost

I, the undersigned have lost my Registration Certificate of BA bearing no. 0803703319 of 2008 from Manipur College issued by Manipur University from Thangmeiband to Paona Bazar at around 4.40am on 5th March 2016. Finders are requested to handover it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Tongbraun Jupitir Singh
Thangmeiband Thingel Loktak, Imphal West
Contact no. 8256908494

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National & International News

Bus blast kills at least 16 in Pakistan's Peshawar

Agencies
Peshawar, March 16: At least 16 people, including three women, were killed and over 30 others injured on Wednesday when a powerful bomb ripped through a bus carrying government employees in this restive northwestern Pakistani city. The blast took place as a bomb placed inside the bus exploded when the vehicle packed with government employees reached Peshawar from Mardan. The bomb exploded when the private bus was on Sanehi Masjid Road as it was taking civil secretariat employees for duty. At least 16 people, including three women, were killed in the blast targeting the bus carrying government officials, SSP

operations Peshawar Abbas Majeed Marwat said. He said about 50 people were on board the bus at the time of the explosion. Over 30 people were injured in the blast. The SP Cantt Kashif Zulfikar said the blast was caused by an improvised explosive device (IED) planted inside the bus. About 8 kg of explosives were used in the blast. The injured were shifted to Lady reading hospital. The condition of a majority of those injured was stated to be critical. Eight of the injured were admitted in ICU. The security forces and police cordoned off the entire area and started a search operation. Fear and panic spread among residents in the wake of the explosion.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. "The top part of the bus has blown off and is being cut to pull out the injured," an eye witness was quoted in the Express Tribune. Peshawar has seen scores of attacks on civilians as well as law enforcement personnel in the past. The city is also the home to the XI Corps, an administrative corp of the Pakistan Army, which manages all military activity in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and is currently engaged in a full-blown operation against militants in North Waziristan. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif strongly condemned the attack in Peshawar. He expressed grief over the loss of precious lives in the attack. "These cowardly attacks cannot

shatter our unflinching resolve against terrorism," Sharif said. Pakistan Army launched its offensive in the region in 2014 in a bid to wipe out militant bases. Attacks have fallen since the government crackdown after the 2014 Army Public School attack and the Taliban have been squeezed into small pockets of territory. However, militant groups remain able to launch sporadic attacks on security forces and civilian targets. Last week, 17 people were killed and 31 others injured when a suicide bomber blew himself up in a crowded court in Shabqadar Bazaar of Charsadda district near here, an attack the Taliban termed as revenge for the execution of liberal Punjab province governor Salman Taseer's Islamist assassin.

Two JNU students raised objectionable slogans: report

New Delhi, March 16: The high-level inquiry committee formed to look into the February 9 incident on the Jawaharlal Nehru University campus has blamed "masked outsiders" for raising "objectionable slogans" and held Umar Khalid, Anirban Bhattacharya and other organisers responsible for "allowing outsiders to take over the event". The report has also named two JNU students — Mubejeb Gattoo and Mohd. Qadeer — who were "seen in close proximity of the outsiders" and were seen raising slogans. "It is most unfortunate that the organisers allowed the event to be taken over by a group of outsiders who created a charged atmosphere by raising provocative slogans. This act by the outsider group has brought disrepute to the entire JNU community," notes the report which is in possession of *The Hindu*. While it mentions that Umar, Anirban, Ashutosh, Rama Naga, Shweta Raj, Gargi Adhikari, Chintu

Kumari, Banjojyotsana Lahri, Rubina Saife and Anjali were participating in sloganeering at the Sabarmai ground where various slogans were shouted including — *Hindustan ki barhadai tak jang rahegi and Manipur mange azadi*, *Nagaland mange azadi*, once it does not clarify who was shouting which slogan. Umar and Anirban were arrested by the Delhi police on sedition charges a few days after Kanhaiya was arrested and are still in judicial custody in Tihar Jail. The presence of a group of outsiders was confirmed by many other eyewitnesses. This group of students had their faces covered by a cloth/scarf most of the time. This group of people had engaged in shouting slogans like: *Kashmir ki azadi tak, jang rahegi, jang rahegi; Bharat ko ragda, de ragda, zar se ragdo, de ragda and Go India, go back*. Along with these outsiders, one JNU student

Mubejeb Gattoo was also seen participating in the sloganeering in the video clip," the report adds. The report, however, does not mention JNUSU president Kanhaiya's name in any of the objectionable sloganeering. It mentions Kanhaiya's presence only once the gathering had reached the Ganga dhaba. Kanhaiya was arrested by Delhi police on sedition charges for allegedly raising anti-national slogans and had to spend close to three weeks in police and judicial custody. "On one side in the procession Umar Khalid, Ashutosh, Rama Naga and Kanhaiya Kumar were present and on the other side JNUSU Joint Secretary and ABVP member Saurabh Sharma along with Vinit Lal and Shruti Agnihotri were also present. There was a scuffle between the two groups but no violence as a human chain was formed by the security guards," the inquiry committee has found.

It has further found Umar, Anirban and other organisers of the event of "not completing the process of seeking approval". The committee also notes that none of the JNUSU officers named in any of the objectionable sloganeering, including Kanhaiya, Rama and Saurabh acted with responsibility. "The office bearers had to behave with even more restraint and caution befitting the position that they hold. They need to rise above politics and other differences as they represent the student community," the report mentions. The five-member committee comprising JNU professors Rakesh Bhatnagar, HS Bohidar, Sumar K Dhar, GJV Prasad and Ummu Salma Bawa, was constituted on February 11 to probe the events of February 9 and had filed its report on March 11. The committee was given three extensions to submit the report. On the basis of the findings, the committee has recommended rustication for some students and fine for others.

4 Kashmiri students allegedly beaten at Rajasthan University over Beef Rumours

Agencies
Chittorgarh, March 16: Four Kashmiri students were allegedly beaten at a private university in Rajasthan over rumours that they were cooking beef in their hostel room. The incident allegedly took place on Monday at the Mewar University in Chittorgarh, about five hours from

state capital Jaipur. The police were called in to stop the attack on the four young men. Some Hindu activists reportedly scuffled with the campus and raised slogans. The police said the situation was controlled before it could escalate. The meat being cooked has been sent for forensic tests, said a police

officer. "We have students from all over the country...from 23 states. It is like a mini India. Sometimes, these small scuffles happen because people are from different socio-cultural backgrounds," University media liaison officer Harish Gurnani told the Indian Express newspaper. Yesterday, home ministry sources clarified that its advisory had been misinterpreted after a report said that colleges in Kolkata have been asked to collate profiles of all students from Jammu and Kashmir. An advisory seen by NDTV that was sent in February to state governments says "There is perception among the people of Jammu and Kashmir that their work are being treated with suspicion and hostility" at colleges. Officials

said that because families had complained that students have trouble finding housing, for example, they asked states to "ensure the protection of students from J&K". The advisory also asks for the "utmost care and sensitivity" in handling Kashmiri students. Reacting to the news report, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah had accused the Centre of making Kashmiri students "insecure" by "singling them out for profiling" by security agencies across India. Last year, attacks over beef rumours, including the mob killing of a man in Uttar Pradesh's Dadri, were cited as examples of "rising intolerance" in India, and the government's failure to check it.

Lecture on Hygiene and Sanitation

Agencies
Imphal, March 16: In continuation with the efforts of cleanliness drive in the state, Nonei Battalion under Loktak Brigade of Red shield Division organised a lecture on Hygiene and Sanitation for approximately 600 students and 20 teachers of Sharon Public School on 12 Mar 2016. This lecture on hygiene and sanitation is an initiative to create an awareness regarding good hygiene & sanitation, so that wellness of health can be achieved amongst the school children. Such



type of awareness lectures in remote areas will go a long way in building confidence among the people and the unit will continue to organize such type of lectures & classes for local populace in future.

US general attracts flak for demanding resumption of strikes against Taliban

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Washington D.C. (US), March 16: A senior American general, who commanded U.S. forces in Afghanistan until earlier this month, has called for resuming offensive strikes against the Taliban. The Washington Post has quoted senior Pentagon officials as complaining that General John F. Campbell has broken standard military procedure in forwarding his proposal in recent weeks directly to the White House without the knowledge of U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter. General Campbell, however, has claimed that he has followed normal channels in submitting his recommendations.

The alleged rift between the military and senior administration officials over the U.S. role in the war in Afghanistan, comes as Afghan forces struggle to hold back resurgent Taliban forces, which have reclaimed some areas won at great cost during the U.S. troop surge. Many Taliban fighters think "they are operating from a position of strength," according to General Campbell. Any escalation of the U.S. role underscores the ongoing vulnerability of Afghan forces and what is expected to be a violent 2016 summer fighting season, even as President Obama attempts to meet his campaign promise of ending the war.

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR DIRECTORATE OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES NOTICE

Imphal, the 8th March, 2016
No. HL-283/G&I/2015. The "TRIO HANDLOOM BUSINESS MEET" will be held on 5th April, 2016 during the first Manipur Industrial Expo, 2016. Shri Govindas Konthoujam, the Hon'ble Minister (Commerce & Industries), Manipur will grace the meet as the Chief Guest and Ms Rashmi Verma, IAS, Secretary (Textiles), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India along with her team of the Ministry of Textiles will attend the historic event.

I. Investment on Handlooms, the livelihood industry is invited from local BUSINESSMAN, ENTREPRENEURS, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPERS, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INDUSTRIALISTS for establishing a self-sustainable land of Manipur.

II. Consumers of Handloom Fabrics, the Saviors of lives are invited for bulk purchase of handloom fabrics for use in SCHOOLS, HOTELS, HOSPITALS AND GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENT for establishing a self-sustainable land of Manipur.

III. Producers of handloom fabrics, the Bread Earners are invited to weave prosperity for establishing a self-sustainable land of Manipur. All walks of life covered under the above TRIO set are informed to attend the "TRIO HANDLOOM BUSINESS MEET" on 5th April, 2016 at Lambokhongnangkong for inking a new history of Manipur on self-sustainability.

Sd/-
(B. John Thanginkhuma)
Director of Commerce & Industries,
Manipur
IT Bill/DIPR/16-3-2016