

Editorial

Imphal, Friday, March 4, 2016

The session ended - real issues skipped

13th session of the 10th Manipur Legislative Assembly saw healthy discussions on some of the developmental issues. But it is disheartening to learn that most of the hot issues like encroachers of Indian territorial boundary in Indo-Myanmar border at Chandel district of Manipur, the fifteen years long protest by Irom Chanu Sharmila, the failure of the state government in enforcing law of the land to hill districts of the particularly in National Highways and the traffic mismanagement were leaved aside during the session. Literally, budget session is normally held to discuss and passed the annual expenditure of the state. But this does not mean that other major issues associated with the interest of the state should be left aside. Any way this session saw some of the opposition acting tough. BJP MLAs Kh. Joykishan and Biswajit, NCP MLA L. Ibomcha, Trinamool Congress MLA Shyamkumar and Dr. Ibhalbai acting tough to the failure of the various government department. Misutilisations of fund and wrongfully awarding of work orders by violating the government rules and regulations were seriously argued by the opposition MLAs. What is appreciating is that this 13 session of the 10th Manipur Legislative Assembly is perhaps the only session of this term to see the presence of opposition. It is worth noting that BJP MLAs Khumukcham Joykishan and Thongam Biswajit walk out of the house as the ruling party forcible passed some of the demands without giving proper clarification - 'signed of healthy democracy'. But another unfortunate part of this session is the skipping of major issues concerning the people of the state. It is an open secret that the issues of NSCN-IM is a serious threat to the government of Manipur. Till now the so called framework agreement signed between the Gol and the outfit in August 3 last year has not been let known to the people. This is can be noted from the speech of Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi. The Congress leader had stated that even the Home Ministry officials and the IB were not let known on what the frame work is about. This showed that the Vice president is not informed about the agreement and it is logical that the Chief Minister of Manipur will certainly be blank on what is this framework agreement. On the other hand the issues about the lost of Manipur's Boundary due to the ongoing border fencing work has never been discussed even as some of the civil society organization and villagers of the border town of India had pleaded the government time and again to discuss the issue. Reports appeared in various newspaper including the Imphal Times had alerted the government that the geographical boundary of the state will be reduced by 1000 sq. Km if proper demarcation has not been conducted. The most important sitting of the state is concluded but all is not well. People need to send more opposition members in the house so that the real democracy shows its true colour.

130 Islamic State militants killed in Syria

Syria, March 04: In Syria, 130 Islamic State militants were killed in an Army operation on the Aleppo-Khanaser-Ithria road yesterday. The Syrian army sources said, the troops are preparing to launch a joint anti-terrorism operation to free more lands in IS-held Raqqa province. The sources said, Ithria-Khanaser road is highly strategic because it links Aleppo city to neighbouring provinces. Meanwhile, the United Nations has said, a new attempt at peace talks would begin on Wednesday in Geneva.

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National & International News

Lok Sabha adjourned till March 8 after paying tribute to Sangma

ANI New Delhi, Mar.4: The Lok Sabha has been adjourned till March 8 after paying tribute to former speaker P.A Sangma who breathed his last here on Friday following a heart attack. "We deeply mourn the passing away of PA Sangma ji. I had learnt how to run Lok Sabha with a smile from him," Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan said. Sangma, who unsuccessfully contested the presidential election as an opposition candidate against Pranab Mukherjee, was 68 years old. The former Meghalaya chief minister was elected to the Lok Sabha eight times since his first

entry to the Lower House in 1977. He was the Lok Sabha Speaker between 1996 and 1998. Sangma was expelled from the Congress in 1999 along with Sharad Pawar and Tariq Anwar for raising a banner of revolt against Sonia Gandhi over her foreign origin issue. Subsequently, the trio formed the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). However, he left the NCP in 2004 and formed a regional party, which later merged with Trinamool Congress. He later rejoined the NCP, but only to part ways with it later and unsuccessfully contested the presidential election against Pranab Mukherjee. He was supported by BJP, BJD, AIADMK and others.

P.A Sangma was a 'self-made leader': PM Modi

ANI New Delhi, Mar.4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday condoled the sudden demise of former Lok Sabha speaker P.A Sangma and described him to be a 'self-made leader', who made a monumental contribution towards the development of the north-east. "Shri PA Sangma was a self-made leader whose contribution towards the development of the Northeast is monumental. Saddened by his demise, Shri PA Sangma's tenure as Lok Sabha Speaker is unforgettable. His down to earth personality and affable nature endeared him to many," he said in a series of tweets. The Prime Minister also said that Sangma was deeply influenced by freedom fighter Subhash Chandra Bose. He also shared a link of a programme which he, along with Sangma, had attended in 2012 on Azad Hind Fauj. Meanwhile, Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said that Sangma's tenure as the Lok Sabha speaker was praiseworthy and it can't be forgotten by the Parliament and the people of this country. "He was a very good friend of mine and a very good human being. His work as the Lok Sabha speaker is

praiseworthy and it cannot be forgotten by the Parliament and the nation. He was always working for the development of the north-east. His demise is a very big loss for the Indian democracy. The Parliament has lost one of its ideal speakers," Gadkari said. Sangma, who unsuccessfully contested the presidential election as an opposition candidate against Pranab Mukherjee, was 68 years old. The former Meghalaya chief minister was elected to the Lok Sabha eight times since his first entry to the Lower House in 1977. He was the Lok Sabha Speaker between 1996 and 1998. Sangma was expelled from the Congress in 1999 along with Sharad Pawar and Tariq Anwar for raising a banner of revolt against Sonia Gandhi over her foreign origin issue. Subsequently, the trio formed the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). However, he left the NCP in 2004 and formed a regional party, which later merged with Trinamool Congress. He later rejoined the NCP, but only to part ways with it later and unsuccessfully contested the presidential election against Pranab Mukherjee. He was supported by BJP, BJD, AIADMK and others.

SC issues notice to CBI on raid at Kejrival's office

ANI New Delhi, Mar.4: The Supreme Court on Friday issued notice to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on a plea by the Delhi Government seeking the return of documents that the agency had taken from the office of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal following a raid at the office of the principal secretary Rajendra Kumar. During the raids at Rajendra Kumar's office, the agency had taken into its possession the

documents in the wake of the allegations of wrong doing on the part of the said officer. Kejriwal had claimed that this was done to scuttle the DDCA probe against Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and others and many of those documents seized related to that investigation. The lower court had directed the CBI to return some documents following which the investigating agency had appealed against this in the High Court which stayed the lower court's order.

24 Bangladeshis arrested for trespassing into Tripura

ANI Dhalai, Mar 04: As many as 24 Bangladeshi nationals, including women and three children, were arrested for trespassing into Tripura. The Bangladeshis were arrested from a motor stand in Tripura's Gandachara town. The arrested Bangladeshi nationals were sent to prison till March 8. The

Bangladeshis claimed that they had entered the Indian territory to meet a Hindu saint. Police are in the lookout for others who had crossed the border and took refuge in their relative's houses.

Pakistani intruder shot dead by BSF in Ferozepur

PTI Amritsar, March 04: A Pakistani intruder on Friday shot dead by BSF when he crossed into Indian territory during the wee hours and refused to surrender before the troops patrolling the Indo-Pak border. A BSF official said that the Pakistani intruder entered the Indian territory through DRD Border Out Post (BOP) falling in the Ferozepur sector.

46 child labourers rescued

ANI Gaya, March 04: As many as 46 children working as child labourers in a bangle-making factory were rescued from Jaipur. A rescued child said he was paid 3000 rupees a month. A police officer informed that the police are working towards rehabilitation of the rescued children.

An Open Letter to Nagaland CM

To
Mr. T R Zeliang
Hon'ble CM, Nagaland
Sir,

Kindly recall your speech at the venue of this year's Lui Ngai Ni Festival at Ukhrul, where you spoke of the aspirations of the Nagas. You were talking of the oneness of the Nagas and yet you had called the three bills passed by the Manipur Assembly to protect the local populace from being marginalized in their own state - anti-tribal. Mr. Zeliang Sir, let me remind you, you are not a chief of a Naga village nor the President of Zelianrong Union nor the president of Naga HoHo. You are a Chief Minister of a state of the country. A CM is next to the prime minister of India in the affairs of the state; and the first in the state itself. Someone said great power comes with great responsibility, I hope you would agree with this. However, your press statement issued through your office that have appeared in today's newspapers in response to "Mr. L. Ibomcha, MLA of Manipur" seems to be otherwise. You apparently have forgotten that you are a CM of a state. Instead you have conducted yourself as a chief/president of a civil society organisation or of a student body, where sentiments and emotion are the rule of the game. This is terrible. You would kindly remember that Naga exclusiveness was the tenets of your theme at Ukhrul that had induced the Naga Student's Federation to become ultra-communal when they pick out Meitei vehicles to ban in Naga area. What a leadership you have shown to your own Naga people! You are well aware - or are you not - of the problems and the issues that have become part of the socio-political ethos of this part of the world. Given the sensitivity of the issues that have been festering our region, how could you be so innocent and naive to infer the Nagalim ideas contained the 16-Point Agreement, etc. to justify your conduct. You must be well aware that your act have the potential to disturb the region that could have serious ramifications that you would not have thought of - or do you. You must have known that you yourself cannot practice what you have preached; otherwise how could the memory of the Naga legendary leader Rani Gaidinliu be insulted by your own people by not allowing a memorial site at Kohima in her honour, where you reign supreme. Therefore, Mr. Zeliang, please do not try to play with the people of this region because that could never bring any success to your scheme of things.

High Regards,

Yours faithfully,
(Heikrujam Nabashyam)
Ex-Vice President
Manipur People's Party

I believe in Constitution and Judiciary of India: Kanhaiya Kumar after release from jail

New Delhi, March 04: JNU Students' Union leader Kanhaiya Kumar returned to the University campus last night following his release from jail three weeks after his arrest in a sedition case. Addressing students at the campus, he said, they are seeking freedom within the country and not from India. Thinking all who stood by him while he was in Tihar jail, Kumar said, he believed in the Constitution and Judiciary of India. Kumar also said, he had many differences with the Prime Minister but he agreed with his tweet, "Satyameva Jayate" which Mr Modi had posted in praise of HRD Minister Smriti Irani's speech in the Lok Sabha on the JNU row. He said, he agrees with the tweet

because these words are in the Constitution. The JNUSU leader also said, he had no ill feelings towards anyone. Kanhaiya Kumar was slapped with sedition charges for allegedly raising anti-national slogans at an event organised in the campus on the 9th of last month. The Delhi High Court had granted him a 6-month interim bail in the case after which he was released from Tihar Jail yesterday. The court had asked him not to participate actively or passively in any activity which may be termed as anti-national. The court also said, Kanhaiya has to cooperate in the ongoing investigation and present himself before the investigators as and when required.

N Korea leader orders nuclear arsenal on standby

AFP Seoul, Mar 4: Leader Kim Jong-Un has ordered North Korea's nuclear arsenal to be ready for pre-emptive use "anytime," in an expected ramping up of rhetoric following the UN Security Council's adoption of tough new sanctions on Pyongyang. "We must always be ready to fire our nuclear warheads at any time," Kim was quoted as saying by the North's official KCNA news agency today. Kim also warned that the situation on the divided Korean peninsula had become so dangerous that the North needed to shift its military strategy to one of "pre-emptive attack". Such bellicose rhetoric is almost routine for North Korea at times of elevated tensions. While the North is known to have a small stockpile of nuclear warheads, experts are divided about its ability to mount them on a working missile delivery system. According to KCNA, Kim made his comments while monitoring the test firing of a new, high-calibre multiple rocket launcher yesterday, just hours after the UN Security Council unanimously adopted the resolution penalising the North for its recent nuclear test and long-

range rocket launch. South Korea's defence ministry said the North had fired half a dozen rockets about 100-150 kilometres (60-90 miles) into the sea off its eastern coast on Thursday. In a clear threat to neighbouring South Korea, Kim said the new rocket launcher should be "promptly deployed" along with other newly developed weaponry. "At an extreme time when the Americans... are urging war and disaster on other countries and people, the only way to defend our sovereignty and right to live is to bolster our nuclear capability," Kim said. The US-drafted UN resolution adopted by the Security Council late Wednesday laid out the toughest sanctions imposed on Pyongyang to date over its nuclear weapons programme that will, if implemented effectively, apply significant economic pressure to Kim's regime. The resolution breaks new ground, sanctioning specific sectors key to the North Korean economy - such as mineral exports - and seeking to undermine the North's use of and access to international transport systems.