

Editorial

Imphal Saturday, November 5, 2016

Undoing the collective efforts

There is a palpable air of urgency that is starting to be felt amongst the public, if albeit very faintly for the time being. Various development and improvement projects and schemes have been on the anvil and we can often catch the subtle nuances of the so called leaders and political parties beginning to warm up to the public, with the ruling party trying to play down the incidents that could, and most surely would be used with added glitz and effects against them by the oppositions who are ever vigilant to catch those at the helm of affairs at present wrong footing on any issue of which there apparently is no dearth of. In a society, of which ours is not an exception, where the institution of politics has been reduced to a game of one-upmanship and an avenue of securing personal gains rather than the noble activities of governing according to a set beliefs as is supposed to be, the only real losers, the butt of all jokes and the unwary beneficiaries of various Government largesse has been the common people all these while. Having said that, it would be immature thinking and rather irrational to raise a hue and cry about, when, in retrospect, the real reason behind the present political scenario with all the accompanying myriad defects and resultant reflections in the socio-economic conditions has been our own doing all along. This is not to mean everyone that has exercised their voting rights- in fact, there are a few who have used their rights to choose their own representatives without being influenced by money or power nor promises of personal benefits and gains- has thrown their personal integrity and diligence to the wind. The present system of voting to choose one's representatives in the affairs of governance is becoming more of an open marketplace- rather an auction house where the rights are offered up to the highest bidder. This only emboldens the elected persons to concentrate on maximizing the returns on their "investments" during the election campaigns, as well as creating healthy "buffer stocks" for the next election rather than in overseeing the development works and schemes which they are elected for.

The encouraging upsurge in the participative mode of the people on various issues of the society as witnessed very recently is a clear indication of the growing awareness and sensitivity of the common people towards the positives and negatives of governance. Yet it seems that a few amongst us have once again let themselves down and succumbed to the primal need for instant gratification by selling their rights for a pittance, an urge most humans have learnt to control. The reported assurance of the ECI to look into the allegations of proxy voting and exceptionally high voter turnout experienced in certain polling stations which are incidentally the strongholds of the ruling party clearly shows that some of us are still missing the plot, and are holding themselves, and the society alongside, down in the pits. So long as there are such rationally and morally challenged individuals in our midst, the unscrupulous element will still hold sway in the society.

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT NOTIFICATION

Imphal, the 4th November, 2016

No.1/13(11)/2016-LA(E)Pt.: It is hereby informed to all the candidates who have applied for direct recruitment to the following posts in the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat that they may collect their admit-cards from the Assembly Secretariat during office hours.

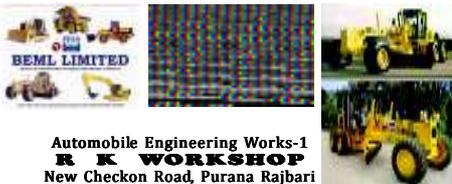
1. Legal Assistant
2. Reporter Grade-III
3. Office Assistant-cum-Computer Operator
4. LDA

The detail examination schedules of the posts mentioned above will be intimated through print and electronic media later on.

Sd/-
(G. Tapankumar Sharma)
Deputy Secretary (Admn)
Manipur Legislative Assembly

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National & International News

Assam boy bags five gold medals in South Asia Aquatic Championship, aims 2020 Tokyo Olympic

ANI Guwahati, Nov. 5: It is only through sheer hard work and strong determination that success can be achieved.

A 15-year-old Bastab Tapan Bordoloi from Assam's Jorhat district made the nation proud by bagging five gold medals and a silver at the recently concluded South Asian Aquatic Championship (SAAC) in Sri Lanka.

An aqua phobic since childhood, Bastab was encouraged by his parents to take up swimming. He started swimming at the age of nine and bagged his maiden medal (silver) in All Assam State Level Championship in 2012.

He was the only swimmer from the northeast region who participated in six events at the championship.

"It was a tough competition because the swimmers from the SAARC nations were all very good and I tried to give my best so that I win. I competed in 6 events and won golds in 50m butterfly, 50m freestyle, 4x100 mix relay, 4x100 freestyle relay and 4x200 freestyle relay and silver medal in 100m butterfly," Bastab told ANI.

The event brought together participants from six countries - India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka - in Colombo.

"I started practicing in a pool

under Jorhat swimming society and my coaches helped me in practicing. In indoors I broke a national record and now my ultimate goal is to represent India in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and also represent India in Asian games and bring laurels for the nation," he added.

Before participating in the SAAC championship, Bastab underwent an extensive practice at the Talkatora stadium and India camp in New Delhi.

Support from his parents made Bastab achieve his dream and represent India on an international platform.

"I was really excited the day when he achieved gold in the 50 meter

freestyle. I could not express how happy I am as it feels really overwhelming that he made it to the international level as it is a big deal to compete and win in the international level. It is really tough competition but it gives me immense pride that he won medals for our country," said Bastab's father Tapan Bordoloi.

As part of appreciation for his achievement, Jorhat Aquatic Society along with the sports club awarded Bastab with a Phulon Gamosa, bouquets, citation and a cheque worth INR 50,000.

This young boy now aims to compete more in international tournaments with a view to bring more laurels to the country.

12 injured in clashes in Srinagar

PTI Srinagar, Nov 5: At least 12 people were injured on Saturday in fresh clashes between protestors and security forces, following death of a 16-year-old boy due to alleged poisoning in Eidgah area of the city Qaiser Sofi from Eidgah area of the city died at a hospital here this morning.

After his burial, some youth indulged in stone pelting on security forces, prompting use of force by the law enforcing agencies, a police official said.

He said 12 people were injured out of which six have sustained pellet injuries.

Sofi was reported missing on October 25 and found in an unconscious state in Shalimar area of the city six days later and hospitalised, the official said.

However, local residents of the area alleged that the teen was force fed some poisonous substance by security forces.

Normal life elsewhere in the valley remained affected for the 120th consecutive day due to the separatist-sponsored strike.

While most of the shops, business establishments and fuel stations across Kashmir were shut, some were open in few areas in Civil Lines and outskirts of the summer capital Srinagar, the official said.

Capital punishment for man for killing wife, four daughters

PTI Lakhimpur Kheri (UP), Nov 5: A man has been sentenced to death by a local court here for killing his wife and four daughters so that he could marry another woman in his neighbourhood.

District and Sessions Judge Rajbeer Singh sentenced Ramanand to death yesterday and also slapped a fine of Rs 20,000 on the convict. According to district government counsel (DGC) Shiv Raj Yadav, Ramanand, a resident of Namdarpurwa in Dhaurehra area, had hacked his wife Sangita (35), daughters Tulsi (7), Laxmi (5), Kajal (3) and a two-month old baby daughter with a sharp edged weapon on Jan 22, 2010. After killing his entire family, Ramanand poured kerosene and burnt the bodies and tried to show that it was an incident of dacoity and murder.

Yadav said during investigation, police found that Ramanand eliminated his family mercilessly with a motive to marry another woman in his neighbourhood. During trial in the court of district and sessions judge, Ramanand was found guilty of murder.

He said most of the public transport continued to remain off the roads but auto-rickshaws and cabs were seen plying at some places in the Valley, including in few areas of the city here.

The separatists, who are spearheading the ongoing agitation in Kashmir, have been issuing weekly protest calendars since Hizbul militant Burhan Wani's killing in an encounter with security forces on July 8.

The separatists have extended the strike till November 10.

While there were no curbs on the movement of people anywhere in Kashmir, restrictions on the

assembly of people under Section 144 CrPc were in place throughout the Valley, the official said.

He said security forces have been deployed in strength at vulnerable spots and along the main roads as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order as well as to instill a sense of security among the people to carry out their day-to-day activities without fear. As many as 85 people, including two cops, have been killed and several thousand others injured in the ongoing unrest in the Valley. Around 5000 security forces personnel have also been injured in the clashes.

33 more people detained over attack on Hindu community in B' desh

Brahmanbaria, Nov. 5: In

Bangladesh, the police have detained 33 more people in overnight drives across Brahmanbaria district for their alleged involvement in the attack on minority Hindu community on 30th October. With last night's detentions, police have picked up a total of 48 people in connection with the attack. Meanwhile 3 leaders of Nasirgram unit of ruling Awami League were temporarily expelled yesterday from the party houses after six more houses were set ablaze. A five-member team is investigating their role in the mayhem. In the capital and in some other parts of the country several protests have erupted demanding strict action against those who instigated and participated both the October 30 and Nov 3rd attacks. National Human Rights probe team has already said the Oct 30 attack was pre-planned aimed at grabbing land of the Hindu families.

Meanwhile, protests have erupted in the capital and in some parts across the country demanding strict action against those who instigated and participated in the 2 mayhem attacks in which over 100 Hindu homes and several temples were vandalised on October 30 and November 3rd. Since yesterday's attack security has been further tightened. After the first attack, a team of the central committee of the Awami League had visited the area under the directions of the Prime minister and had assured the

affected families of all support.

AIR correspondent reports that Brahmanbaria Superintendent of Police Mizanur Rahman has said with last night's detentions, police have picked up a total of 48 people in connection with the attack. Meanwhile 3 leaders of Nasirgram unit of ruling Awami League were temporarily expelled yesterday from the party houses after six more houses were set ablaze. A five-member team is investigating their role in the mayhem.

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1 militant killed in encounter in Shopian

PTI Srinagar, Nov 5: A militant was

today killed and a soldier injured as an encounter broke out between ultras and security forces after the latter launched a search operation in a village in Shopian district of south Kashmir, police said.

Police assisted by security forces cordoned off Dobjan village, 60 kms from here, after getting information about presence of four

militants there, a police official said.

He said as the security forces moved to the target house, hiding militants resorted to firing in an attempt to break the cordon.

The security forces retaliated the fire. One militant was killed and a soldier injured, the official said.

A fierce gunbattle was going on when the last reports were received, he said.

'US strike killed top Al-Qaeda leader in Afghanistan'

PTI Washington, Nov 5: The US has

confirmed the death of a top Al-Qaeda leader in an air strike in northeastern Afghanistan last month, in a major blow to the terrorist group in the war-torn country.

"We can now confirm that the precision strike conducted by the US military on October 23 in Kunar, Afghanistan, resulted in the death of senior Al-Qaeda leader Faruq al-Qatani," the Pentagon Press Secretary, Peter Cook, said yesterday.

Al-Qatani was Al-Qaeda's emir for eastern Afghanistan and one of the terrorist group's senior plotters of attacks against the US, he said.

"This successful strike is another example of US operations to degrade international terrorist networks and target terrorist leaders who seek to attack the US homeland, our interests and our allies abroad," Cook said.

The Pentagon has been hunting for al-Qatani for four years. He had long-standing ties with Osama bin Laden before his death in the 2011 US raid on his Pakistan compound.

He said another Al-Qaeda leader in the country, Bilal al-Utabi, was targeted in a separate strike, though the results of that attack were not yet known.

"We are still assessing the results of that strike," the Pentagon Press Secretary said.