

# Editorial

Imphal Friday, April 28, 2017

## Politics of power

Four more MLAs which were elected as Congress party legislators today joined the BJP. Now the number of BJP MLAs reached 27 reducing the number of Congress MLAs from 28 to 22. MLA Shyamkumar was the first congress MLA who left the party and joined the BJP. He is now a Minister in the BJP led coalition government. And later MLA Ginsuanhao Zou of Singhat joined the BJP.

Without the 4 Congress MLAs, BJP led congress government under the chief Ministership of N Biren Singh is already a stable government. But why the 4 congress MLA joined the BJP besides knowing the provision of the 10<sup>th</sup> Scheduled of the Peoples' Representative Act. And why should the BJP allow their joining to the party besides knowing that the government is not having any threat to its stability.

The political theater in Manipur had been and is now a real battle field for politics of power. From Imphal Times perspectives, the welcoming of the 4 congress MLAs to the BJP is a warning to the coalition partners. The recent crisis over the suspension of the Health Director between the NPP and the BJP perhaps is an issue at which the BJP needs more MLAs for running the government without any hindrance from the partners. On the other hand what make the four MLA confident of their fate is also interesting. As for Th. Shyamkumar, the first congress MLA to defect the party and joined the BJP he openly declared that he is not afraid to contest the election any day, any time. He is confident because he won the assembly election from Andro Assembly constituency by a margin of over 8000 voters.

However, it was not so for the 4 MLAs who joined the BJP today. But one need to understand that these MLAs too have no fear to re-contest as candidates of ruling party both at the center and the state. The crude game has begun and for sure the coalition partner of the BJP particularly the NPP will not led an easy fight if re-poll were held in the 5 assembly seats. Besides, the congress party will also not want to miss the opportunity.

## Name Change

I have renounced the use of my old name Moirangthem Newyeson from this day and I shall be called Moirangthem Chingkheingamba, for all related works or documents related with me. And my date of birth has been wrongly written as 01/01/2004. It should be corrected as 10/07/2006.

S/-  
Moirangthem Chingkheingamba  
Contact No. 703031919 or 8412951916

## Eimi Times editor tenders apology

Dear Babina Diagnostics,

I am writing this letter to apologize for slandering you on Imphal Times on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2017, and also on social network Facebook. I had no right to say that your esteemed office could be so careless. The claim was unjustified and unsubstantiated.

I understand that this qualifies as defamation of character. I hope that you can understand that not only did I not have all the information but that I was extremely angry about my ailing sister in the capital for her cancer treatment and therefore not thinking clearly. I simply got caught up in the moment and I deeply regret it.

I hope that you can find a way to forgive me for my momentary lapse in judgment. I promise to intimate with your esteemed office in future in order to make it clear that my comments were unwarranted and untrue.

Sincerely,  
David Letgoulien Gangete,  
Editor, Eimi Times.

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## National and International News

### Sukma attack: Naxal's body recovered from site of ambush

**PTI Raipur, April 28:** The body of a Naxal has been recovered from the site where 25 CRPF personnel were killed earlier this week in an ambush by the rebels in Burkapal area of Chhattisgarh's Sukma district. "The body of a Naxal was recovered on Thursday night from the forest, just 500 metres away from the spot where the gun battle had taken place between the CRPF and the rebels on April 24," Special Director General of Police (anti-Naxal

operations) DM Awasthi told PTI. Acting on reports of the movement of Naxals in the area after the ambush, the security forces were carrying out the combing operations, he said. While cordoning off a forested patch in Burkapal area on Thursday night, the patrolling team recovered the body of the Maoist who is reported to have been killed in the ambush, Awasthi said. The body was yet to be identified, he said.

Following the ambush, there were reports of several casualties among the Naxal group in the firefight but the rebels managed to drag the bodies inside the forest. The search operation is underway in the interiors of the region to trace the ultras involved in the incident, the senior police officer said. On April 24, as many as 25 CRPF personnel were killed and seven others injured when the Naxals attacked a patrol party of 74th battalion of the paramilitary

force near Burkapal village of Sukma, around 450 kms away from Raipur. Besides, 12 men of the para-military force were killed in an earlier attack near Bheji village in the same district on March 11. The CRPF is set to overhaul its anti-Naxal operations in the south Bastar in the aftermath of one of the biggest attacks on the force in the state on Monday and a fresh offensive is expected to be launched soon.

### Malegaon: Purohit moves Supreme Court against Bombay High Court order rejecting bail

**PTI New Delhi, April 29:** Malegaon blast accused Shrikant Purohit today moved the Supreme Court against the Bombay High Court order rejecting his bail plea in the case. A bench headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar said that the petition will come up in regular course while rejecting the former lieutenant colonel's plea for an urgent hearing. The Bombay High Court had on April 25 granted bail to Sadhvi Pragna Singh Thakur, accused of plotting the September 2008 Malegaon blast, but rejected the bail plea of co-accused Purohit saying the charges against him were of grave nature.

Six persons were killed and nearly 100 others injured when a bomb strapped to a motorcycle had

exploded in Malegaon town of Nashik district on September 29, 2008. Sadhvi Pragna and 44-year-old Purohit were arrested in 2008. While Sadhvi Pragna, 44, who is suffering from cancer, is undergoing treatment at Madhya Pradesh hospital, Purohit is lodged in Talaja jail in Maharashtra. The High Court had said that prima facie no case was made out against Pragna and asked her to furnish a cash surety of Rs five lakh and surrender her passport to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The NIA, which was handed over the probe from ATS, had given a clean chit to Sadhvi Pragna but had opposed Purohit's bail plea noting that the charges levelled against

Purohit are of serious and grave nature. Referring to the report filed by the NIA, the HC had said, "Purohit was the one who prepared a separate 'Constitution' for 'Hindu Rashtra' with a separate saffron colour flag. He also discussed about taking revenge for the atrocities committed by the Muslims on Hindus." The HC had refused to accept Purohit's contention that he had attended the meetings as part of a "covert military intelligence operation." The court pointed out the statements of the witnesses that it was Purohit who said their right-wing group Abhinav Bharat should not be just a political party but should work as an organisation of extremists, having the capacity to

eliminate persons opposing the same. According to the investigating agencies, the blast was allegedly carried out by right-wing group Abhinav Bharat. The NIA had opposed Purohit's bail plea and argued that there was evidence in the form of audio and video recordings, call data records and the statements of the witnesses which prove his involvement in the case. According to the NIA, Purohit had allegedly taken active part in the conspiracy meetings and even agreed to arrange explosives to be used in the blast. Purohit had argued that the NIA was "selective" in exonerating some accused persons and that the agency made him a "scapegoat" in the case.

### Pakistan supporting ISI terrorist groups like Taliban, al-Qaeda: US

**PTI Washington, April 28:** Pakistan ISI is supporting terrorist organisations inside the country, US lawmakers were told by a newly formed Muhajir (refugee) group which alleged terror outfits like Taliban and al-Qaeda are trying to take control of the port city of Karachi. "Nowadays Pakistan has become a safe haven for extremist groups with full support of Pakistani intelligence agency ISI," World Muhajir Congress said in a letter

to members of The House Foreign Affairs Committee during a Congressional hearing on Afghanistan here yesterday. Representatives of the World Muhajir Congress met members of The House Foreign Affairs Committee and briefed them on alleged strong connection between the ISI and the terrorist groups. "We are afraid of Jihadi outfits are getting stronger with the support of ISI, important port city of Karachi which is the supply line of US and NATO could fall into the hands of

these terror groups," the letter said. "We fear for the safety of Karachi, Muhajir Nation and especially children, as these jihadi outfits are kidnapping/abducting young poor children and after brainwashing turning them suicide bombers, jihadis, and religious fanatics," it said. With Karachi being one of the most vital seaports of Pakistan, the letter said, "the Taliban/ISIS/al-Qaeda, and like minded groups" are persistently making every

endeavour to "capture the control" of this city. "Such control can open new resources for manpower and finance for their agenda," it said. Alleging that pro-Taliban and Islamic extremist elements are ever increasing in Pakistan especially in Armed forces and ISI, and are heavily supported financially, physically and armoured by ISI, the World Muhajir Congress urged lawmakers to help them in fighting this menace in the port city of Karachi.

### Seoul rejects Trump demand it pays for missile system

**AFP Seoul, April 28:** Seoul today brushed aside US President Donald Trump's suggestion that it should pay for a USD 1 billion missile defence system the two allies are installing in South Korea to guard against threats from the North. The first parts of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system have already been delivered to a former golf course in the South — infuriating China — at a time of heightened tensions over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programmes. Top US officials have said THAAD will be operational "within days".

"I informed South Korea it would be appropriate if they paid. It's a billion-dollar system," Trump was quoted as saying by the Reuters news agency. "It's phenomenal, shoots missiles right out of the sky." The two countries have been in a security alliance since the 1950-53 Korean war, and more than 28,000 US troops are stationed in the South. Seoul retorted that under the Status of Forces Agreement that governs the US military presence in the country, the South would provide the THAAD site and infrastructure while the US would pay to deploy and operate it.

"There is no change to this basic position," South Korea's defence ministry said in a statement. The row comes with tensions high on the Korean peninsula following a series of missile launches by the North and warnings from the Trump administration that military action was an "option on the table". But earlier this week it said it would seek stronger sanctions against Pyongyang and held open the possibility of negotiations, with US Pacific Command chief

Admiral Harry Harris saying it wanted to bring leader Kim Jong-Un "to his senses, not to his knees". The White House also wants China to do more to rein in the North, but Beijing has been infuriated by the THAAD deployment, which it fears weaken its own ballistic capabilities and says upsets the regional security balance. Social media commentators were derisive. "So he wants to start a war with North Korea and he wants South Korea to pay for it," wrote one Twitter poster.

### New China fears in Taiwan after Donald Trump snub

**Taipei, April 28:** Taiwan's fears that it will become a bargaining chip between China and the United States worsened Friday after a snub by President Donald Trump, who said he would not do anything to upset Beijing. Trump rattled China in December after taking a congratulatory call from the self-ruling island's new Beijing-sceptic president Tsai Ing-wen after his election, smashing decades of diplomatic precedent. But after Tsai suggested another call could take place in an interview with Reuters Thursday, Trump said he did not want to risk his newfound "personal relationship" with China's president Xi Jinping. "I think he's doing an amazing job as a leader and I wouldn't want to do anything that comes in the way of that. So I would certainly want to speak to him first," Trump told Reuters in a

separate interview. Ties between Trump and Xi seem to have warmed recently after they met at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida earlier this month. Since then, Trump has praised China for helping pressure North Korea over its nuclear and missile programmes. Taiwan's presidential office stepped back from the idea of a call after Trump's comments. "We understand the priority of the US side in handling regional issues and have no current planning (for another call) at this stage," it said in a statement Friday. Opposition lawmaker Chiang Wan-an called Trump's reaction an "embarrassment" for Taiwan. "Trump and Xi appear to have established very good relations. Taiwan needs to treat very carefully and be alert," he told AFP.

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