

Editorial

Imphal Saturday, February 11, 2017

Why should only blockade be an issue in this election?

Ruling congress seems to be rocking on with the eco-blockade euphoria in their poll campaign. The fifteen years old regime which faced multiple charges of corruption, nepotism and human rights violation is finally rolling on with blockade issue triggering the sentiments of the voters. The BJP which was assumed as the only challenger to this 15 years old regime has been kept aside from the mindset of the majority people by spreading the words that nothing is more important than protecting the territorial integrity of the state. It seems right when saying so because, what will be used of corrupt Free State when there is no such state at all.

Economic blockade now is in an enigma, with none of the stakeholder can decide even for the interest of the people. The state government is helpless now because the Code of Conduct has been in force and any decision will mean jeopardy to the election. The UNC too cannot simply lift it as it would be no less than a political immaturity as there is not a single agreement to the demands put up. The center too has to think over it again and again for any hasty decision would mean a revolt against the BJP which is running the government in the center. One thing that is felt necessary to remind our fellow reader is that of the series of agitation that has witnessed in the state to any attempt to distort the integrity of the state. Almost all offices of political parties as well as official quarters were targeted and as many as 21 people sacrificed in the protest for safeguarding the territorial boundary.

The state also witnessed the mighty India government, retreating its stand on the issue on seeing the fury of the people. Above the many happenings, what is needed to ponder upon is whether any force on earth can distort the integrity of the state.

Well the territorial integrity of Manipur has been fairly established for half a millennium, as one can verify easily it from Henry Yule's map of Manipur 1500 AD, down to James Johnstone's Map in 19th Century and to Surveyor general of India's Map of Manipur, 1984 AD. They have been corroborated and recognized by other countries in their official map and records. The boundary had so firmly established as to reduce any baseless claim to a heap of mockery and puerile absurdity.

It is purely a political strategy for any party to move ahead with their demands. And no matter how serious is the demand ultimately it is the decision of the people of the state that will decide on which way to go. When such demands are let free to be played by big time politicians just for a mere gain in election then it is not a fair game.

Renowned journalist Yambem Laba, at of his face book page wrote as stated by a leader of UNC - "When it was pointed out that even if the Ibobi Government wants to roll back the decision of creating New Districts they cannot do so because of existence of the Code of conduct in view of the forthcoming elections, Milan said that in case Ibobi announces that the creation of the New Districts would be rolled back he would be killed by the Kukis and the Meiteis and that if he as Secretary of the UNC calls off the blockade without getting the nod of approval of the Nagas of Manipur he too would be killed by his own fellow Nagas". This purely showed that everything is being played in such a shrewd manner that all the party were in stalemate getting plus point to only the Congress party which has been in power for 15 years.

It is time that we the people understand and open up the issues of corruption, nepotism and human rights violations in the last 15 years beside raising our voice against the blockade issue.

13 killed, 20 injured in bus-van collision in Bangladesh

PTI Dhaka, Feb 11: At least thirteen persons have been killed and 20 others injured when the CNG bus they were travelling in exploded after it collided with a van in southwest Bangladesh, officials said today.

The accident took place yesterday on a highway connecting Dhaka and Khulna town in Faridpur district when the vehicles caught fire as they collided head-on.

"The fire might have occurred by explosion of gas cylinder of the bus. Police and fire fighters rushed the spot and tried to bring the fire under control," Fire service and Civil Defence assistant director Montaz Uddin was quoted as saying by New Age Bangladesh.

Four fire fighting units from Faridpur were rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control. Both the vehicles have smashed badly, he said.

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National & International News

Interceptor missile successfully test-fired

PTI Balasore, Feb 11: India today successfully test-fired its interceptor missile off the Odisha coast, achieving a significant milestone in the direction of developing a two-layered Ballistic Missile Defence system.

The interceptor was launched from Abdul Kalam Island (Wheeler Island) of ITR at about 7.45 AM. This mission, termed as "PDV mission is for engaging the targets in the exo-atmosphere region at an

altitude above 50 km of earth's atmosphere", said a Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) official.

"Both, the PDV interceptor and the two stage target missile, were successfully engaged," he said.

The target was developed for mimicking a hostile Ballistic Missile approaching from more than 2000 km away was launched from a ship anchored in the Bay of Bengal.

In an automated operation, radar

based detection and tracking system detected and tracked the enemy's ballistic missile.

The computer network with the help of data received from radars predicted the trajectory of the incoming Ballistic Missile.

PDV that was kept fully ready, took-off once the computer system gave the necessary command for lift-off. The Interceptor guided by high accuracy Inertial Navigation System (INS) supported by a Redundant Micro Navigation

System moved towards the estimated point of the interception. Once the missile crossed the atmosphere, the Heat Shield ejected and the IR Seeker dome opened to look at the Target location as designated by the Mission Computer.

With the help of Inertial Guidance and IR Seeker the missile moved for interception. All events were monitored in real-time by the Telemetry/Range Stations, at various other locations.

Philippines quake kills at least 6, damages runway

Manila, Feb. 11: A powerful nighttime earthquake in the southern Philippines killed at least six people and injured more than 120 others, as officials on Saturday combed through crumbled buildings looking for more casualties.

The late Friday quake with a magnitude of 6.5 roused residents from sleep in Surigao del Norte province, sending hundreds to flee their homes. The quake was centered about 14 kilometers (8 miles) northwest of the provincial capital of Surigao at a relatively shallow depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles), said Renato Solidum of the Philippine Institute of Seismology and Volcanology.

Nearly 100 aftershocks have been felt, officials said. Evacuation centers accommodated wary residents overnight but many have returned home by Saturday. Welfare Secretary Judy Taguivalo said, adding officials were continuing to assess the damage in Surigao city and outlying towns. Solidum said the quake was set off by movement in a segment of the Philippine fault, which sits in the Pacific 'Ring of Fire' where quakes and volcanoes are common. At least six people were killed, some after being hit by falling debris and concrete walls, provincial disaster-response official Gilbert Gonzales said. At least 126 others were

injured in Surigao city, about 700 kilometers (430 miles) southeast of Manila.

"Rescuers pulled out a man pinned by a collapsed wall in his house but he died and was no longer brought to a hospital," Gonzales said by telephone.

TV footage showed the facade of a number of buildings heavily cracked, their glass windows shattered with canopies and debris falling on parked cars on the street below. Rescuers in one building are trying to break a collapsed concrete slab to check if there were people pinned underneath.

Roads had visible cracks in the coastal city and a bridge collapsed

in an outlying town. Rescue teams were checking for possible casualties in a village called Poknoy in the city of 140,500 people, officials said.

The city's airport was temporarily closed due to deep cracks in the runway, aviation officials said. A major port in Lipata district also was briefly closed while engineers checked the stability of an access road, Gonzales said.

The last major earthquake that struck Surigao, an impoverished region also dealing with a communist insurgency, was in the 1800s. A magnitude 7.7 quake killed nearly 2,000 people on the northern island of Luzon in 1990.

Chinese soldier returns home from India after five decades

Beijing, Feb. 11: A Chinese soldier, who was stuck in India for over 50 years after he crossed over the border following the 1962 war, today arrived here with his Indian family members to an emotional reunion with his Chinese kin.

Wang Qi, 77, was received by his close Chinese relatives, besides officials of the China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Indian embassy

when he arrived here along with his son, daughter-in-law and grand daughter from Delhi-Beijing flight. Wang became emotional as he hugged his relatives, their first reunion after he crossed into Indian side over five decades ago.

"It was an emotional reunion," an official present at the airport told PTI here.

Wang was accompanied by his son

Vishnu Wang, 35, daughter-in-law Neha and grand daughter, Khanak Wang. His Indian wife Shushila, however, stayed back.

Indian officials said Wang and family members will be later flown to Xian, the provincial capital in Shaanxi province from where he will be taken to his native village Xue Zhai Nan Cun in the province. His return became a possibility after India and China worked out modalities for both Wang and his Indian family to travel together to China and later return as per their wish.

Wang was caught when he entered the Indian territory shortly after the Sino-India War of 1962.

After his release from prison in 1969, he settled in Tirodi village of Balaghat district in Madhya Pradesh.

Though his story has been published by Indian media several times in the past, a recent BBC TV feature on him was widely picked by the Chinese social media highlighting his plight, prompting the Chinese government to initiate action in coordination with India to facilitate his return.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said on February 6 that he was provided a passport to travel to China in 2013 and he was also paid a living allowance.

Chinese ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui recently spoke to him.

While the Chinese government has provided visas for his family to visit China, India has provided a re-entry visa for Wang to return back if he chooses to.

Before leaving for Beijing, Vishnu told media in India yesterday that "my father joined the Chinese Army in 1960 and he entered India through the eastern frontier after losing his way in the darkness one night."

He landed in Assam where an Indian Red Cross team handed him over to the Indian Army on January 1, 1963. Indian officials terms the facilitation of the travel of Wang and his family by both sides a positive development, specially at a time when India-China relations were stuck with differences over issues like China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, China blocking India's entry into Nuclear Suppliers Group and listing of JeM leader Masood Azhar as terrorist by UN.

Open letter to Guv. of Manipur

Mrs. Najma Heptulla,
Her Excellency,
The Governor of Manipur

Madam Governor,

I have been privileged to have interacted with two former Governors of Manipur, Shri Ved Marwah and Dr. S. S. Sidhu (both have studied in the same college where I also studied) in New Delhi. Shri Ved Marwah gave me a trophy of being the best cadet, in academic, during my school days at Sainik School Imphal. I don't compare the governors; but I must write this to you - specially, because I find your presence on social media is uniquely appreciable. Madam, I have seen governors of the state - namely, Shri Chintamani Panigrahi, Lt. Gen. V. K. Nayar and Shri O. N. Shrivastava. I am indeed delighted to glance the office of Governor of Manipur, through you from the official facebook page of 'Governor of Manipur'.

I have a request to you. Madam, I believe that the children of Manipur would be finding themselves deeply encouraged, highly motivated and memorably refreshing in their future if your office and official residence are open to them for a specific timing, so that they could see Manipur's Raj Bhavan.

I am making this humble request, from an inspiration which the entire nation receives from our People's President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam who opened the Rashtrapati Bhavan for the children - the future of our great nation.

I hope and pray that you would hear my prayer.

Thanking you.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,
Ningombam Bupendra Meitei