

Editorial

Imphal Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Danger in dirty game

The recent sequence of events witness either in term of political circus and the struggle for protection of Manipuri identity is indeed a worrisome for all people.

The idea of nation having one identity, one religion, one culture, one language promulgated by some self style son of mother India has created fear psychosis to various ethnic communities in the country. At a time when chauvinistic idealism of creating a nation of only one community is seen marching ahead, it is natural that each and every ethnic communities of the nation have reason to be feared. Because it is family first then come the society then it is the nation.

India was and is a nation of diverse people. The beauty of India is the existences of different ethnic people with diverse cultural people. It is important that if India has to prove the world as the most successful democratic country, the leaders and the so called self style son of the soil should tried to become real son of the soil by accepting that the concept of one religion, one culture and one language should not be followed in the Nation called India.

During Kargil war, two soldier from this region, that too from a border village between Myanmar and India in the state of Manipur were martyred while fighting the Pakistani troops. Family of the two did not know the common language that their sons spoke with their fellow soldiers and moreover, the villagers of the two soldiers are fighting tough safeguarding their villages from intruders of the neighbouring villages. Yet they pray for the success of India.

The Indian administrators of the time was not the one which brought victory to the Kargil war, but it was the prayers of those thousand parents, whose sons were fighting for the country, but who never see Delhi, or who never understood the common language (Hindi) that make India success. Indeed, many critics are of the views that India is still in the process of nation building. But the reality is that India is already a nation. A nation of imagine community living under the same roof.

The peaceful co existence and communal harmony was put in dead danger with the rise of communal centric feudalism classes. They spew venom of hate feeling among the various communities for their mere selfish gain. Last few decades showed rise of many such feudalists and the rise of this class raises the feeling of enmity among the various community.

Coming back to the state of Manipur, the problem facing right now has similar roots. The force annexation is often pin point as the root of all sort of trouble here, but the reality is that the root of the entire problem facing in the state of Manipur is the chauvinistic attitude of the ruling government in the mainland India.

Instead of looking on the problem, the then ruler of the mainland India had sideline the real issue submitted by the then expert officials deputed by their government, they never tried anything to put a halt to the rise of the armed opposition group. But rather the then government incited hate feeling among various communities thinking that the same technique adopted the British ruler can suppressed any movement in the region.

Instead of taking into consideration and finding a means to end all sort of violent activism a Scheme called Surrendered Rehabilitation Schemes had been introduced and the result - people now suffered double the problem that they had faced before the coming of the scheme.

Well Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, the last President of USSR had understood the important of safeguarding each community and USSR was separated into various independent nations. Problem will be there as long as human kind exists. Because they think and act and those act are sometime negative from one's view point even if he or she thought it right from his viewpoints.

The fear factor right now is felt to everyone. Man dies and sacrifices for their children and nation. If the fear factor grows no one can guarantee any untoward incident at which the fear factor was challenge and wipe out completely to restore the once upon a time nation state called Manipur.

Consequences of violence on physical, social and psychological development of children

By : Dr. Deepali Devi

The introduction of the UN Study of the impact of armed conflict on children led by Grace Machel, expert of the Secretary General of the United Nations has emphasized the millions of children who are caught up in conflict in which "They are not merely by standards but deliberate targets". They are slaughtered, raped, maimed, expropriated and exposed to brutality as Grace Machel has said. "Nothing is spared, held sacred or protected". It is the singular characteristic of armed conflict of our time that children suffer most. In the study of Grace Machel presented to United Nations General Assembly in 1996 there was an estimated two million children in last one decade who fell victim to the armed conflict..... twelve million children are living in countries other than their home countries as refugees. An equally sizeable number of children suffer from malnutrition, physical deformities other type of deficiencies, crippled have been made sightless or speechless. These children being deprived from their parental affection, care and security of home environment deprived from their family ties, they have become a vulnerable group of children who may have to face a lot of future problems mentally, physically and socio-economically. Another big group has to lead their lives at the mercy of their relatives or on the street as street children whom the society also tries to neglect. On 20th Nov. 1989 the convention on the rights of the child was drafted by the UN commission of Human

Rights and adopted by the UN General Assembly. A set of International standards and measures were laid down to protect the lives and to promote the well being of the children of the society. After two years of research and field visits consultation Grace Machel the secretary General expert on the subject and a former education Minister in Mozambique submitted a report titled "The impact of Armed conflict on children" to the 1996 General Assembly. The reports most fundamental premise is that children simply have no part in warfare. It reveals the full extent of children's involvement in armed conflicts raging around the world and formula test its findings and recommendations aimed at government, intergovernmental and regional bodies, non governmental organizations and individuals. The wounds infected by armed conflict on children physical injury, violence, psychosocial trauma and emotional injury. The concomitant disruption of food supply destruction of crops and agricultural infrastructure, broken homes, broken families, destruction of educational facilities, health service facilities water scarcity, in sanitation all take a heavy toll on children. As quoted at the state of the world's children UNICEF 1996 one of the most distressing realities of our time is that most wars have fought in precisely those countries that could least afford them. Even if they have never seen a gun, millions of children suffer from wars as resources that could have been invested in development are verted

into armaments.

Health & Nutrition hazards:

Thousands of children are killed every where every year as a direct result of war, armed conflict, knife, bullets, bombs and landmines. The landmines in Vietnam maimed hundreds and thousands of people including children's. In Mozambique alone between 1981 to 1988, 454,000 children died due to direct hit in the ear. At the height of the conflict of Somalia more than half of the dead children were victims of measles, diarrhoea and fever. Cholera is a constant threat in refugee camps in Nepal, Bangladesh, Kenya, Somalia and Zaire. As per WHO survey, half of the world's refugees may be victims of Tuberculosis, Malaria, Respiratory tract infection, Cholera etc. which may prove fatal. Because of disruption of food supply & potable water many children become victims of malnutrition, starvation, dehydration ultimate fate is death. In a refugee camp whatever basic amenities are delivered, the grown up adults become amenities are delivered the grown up adults become so crazy that they neglect the health of their children. As such child mortality at such places are notably high. Even the mothers become scared to breast feed her infant child last they die of starvation themselves by feeding their child. As such mothers willfully neglect their breastfed children as they donot want to part with their milk in apprehension that breast feeding may cause their death.

Along with their body the conflict-

tarn children suffer psychologically too. For increasing number of children living in war-torn nations childhood has become a night marish experience. Armed conflicts destroy homes, disintegrate families, spinsters communities, destroys trust and inculcates a pervasive sense of insecurities. Seeing their parents being murdered and tortured, raped and maimed the child is psyche is severely traumatized never to be mended again. Their minds suffer from increased anxiety, depression even their sleep may be disturbed by fear and nightmare. Older children cannot bear this burst of anxiety and aggregation and they become depressed, despondent or even may develop aggressive behaviour.

As such when wars, conflict, racial clash break up it is the moral duty of the society to find ways and means to protect the children. Our future generation, Archbishop Desmond Tutu has very rightly commented that "we want a society where people are more important than things, children are more precious, a world where people can be more human, caring and gentle" claiming children as Zones of peace has become an important concept of humanitarian relief programmes. All warring parties should be committed to this principle, warring countries like Afghanistan. Sudan and others above 80 percent in case of "operation life line Sudan" arrangements were made for "Corridors of peace" so that relief supplies, medicine and vaccines could be delivered during relative lulls in the conflict.

National & International News

Plane in Melbourne crash could have flown on one engine, say investigators

Melbourne, Feb. 22: The twin-engine aeroplane that crashed in Melbourne killing five people was designed to take off with only one engine in cases of catastrophic failure, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau has said.

The Beechcraft B200 Super King Air plane took off from the southern runway of the Essendon Airport at 8.59am on Tuesday and veered left, hitting the roof of the Essendon Fields Direct Factory Outlet shopping centre, on the edge of the airport land.

All four passengers – US tourists Greg De Haven, Russell Munsch, Glenn Garland, and Josh Washburn, as well as the Australian pilot, 63-year-old Max Quartermain – were killed.

Greg Hood, the chief commissioner of the ATSB, said Quartermain had made a mayday call shortly after take off, before the plane crashed into the shopping centre, slicing into the rear of the Focus on Furniture and JB Hi-Fi stores.

He would not comment on early reports from police that the plane had suffered a "catastrophic engine failure", saying investigators were still gathering evidence at the crash site.

He added that "certainly modern aircraft with two engines are designed to fly on one".

Hood said ATSB investigators would deliver a preliminary report within 28 days, and would not comment on possible causes of the crash before then.

"The investigators are trained not to put any bias or any reliance on what is the obvious, it's really important that when investigating an aviation transport accident that you remain completely objective," he told reporters on Wednesday. "So whilst in the initial walk-through yesterday ... we have discovered some interesting facets, we really need to gather all of the evidence and do the analysis before we comment on what might have been the cause of the accident."

More than 100 witnesses have already been identified as part of the investigation, and anyone with

information about or footage of the crash has been asked to contact the ATSB.

The plane had been chartered by Corporate Leisure Aviation to fly to King Island as part of an extended golfing holiday, during which the four passengers, and their wives, had travelled around Australia and New Zealand.

The wives had stayed behind on this trip and were planning to travel down Victoria's Great Ocean Road while the men golfed.

The charter business was co-owned by Quartermain and his wife, Cilla, and specialised in luxury trips to Tasmania. Its website, which has now been taken offline, describes Quartermain as a pilot of 38 years' experience with 25 years experience in private charter flights.

Quartermain was being investigated by the ATSB over a near-collision with another aircraft in bad weather at Mount Hotham in 2015, but had been cleared to fly by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority after passing additional proficiency checks.

The report into that incident is expected in May.

He has been described as a "highly respected pilot" by friends in the industry.

The chief executive of Essendon Fields, Chris Cowan, told reporters on Wednesday that while he did not

know Quartermain personally, he "was well-regarded by the Essendon aviation community".

Family and friends of the four passengers, who all came from Austin, Texas, have described them as close friends on the "trip of a lifetime".

Victorian authorities are working with their families and the US consulate to help other family members travel to Australia, and to provide psychological support.

Washburn, a retired lawyer who had been general counsel at Dallas holding company Sammons Enterprises, and Munsch, a fellow lawyer, lived next door to each other in Texas.

Washburn's children told News Corp the 67-year-old "was an excellent father, who was kind and generous and always put his family first".

Munsch was a founding partner of law firm Munsch Hardt, which remembered him in a statement as "one of the best of all time," the Austin Business Journal reported. "Russ was a loving husband, father and friend, and he will be dearly missed," it said.

Colleagues of Garland at CLEAResult, the energy efficiency company he cofounded and headed until his retirement, described him as "a visionary and a close friend". "We have all lost an incredible man,"

cofounder Jim Stimmel said. "I am blessed to have known and worked closely with Glenn for many years." De Haven's sister Denelle Wicht paid tribute to the 70-year-old former FBI agent as "a really good guy".

"My brother absolutely loved golf and our parents loved golf," she told News Corp.

US president Donald Trump offered his condolences through the White House press secretary, Sean Spicer. "The president's thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims and the US embassy and consulate are ready to provide necessary and appropriate assistance," Spicer said on Wednesday.

Victoria police handed control of the investigation over to the ATSB on Tuesday afternoon, and four ATSB investigators were expected to remain on site gathering evidence for several days.

Essendon airport has been closed to aviation traffic, except for emergency services, which all quarter their air wing divisions at Essendon, "out of respect for the victims," Cowan said. The DFO has also been closed "until further notice."

The crash is the worst aviation disaster in Victoria since a training flight crashed into an Airport West house in 1978, killing six people in the house and seriously injuring three people in the aircraft.

Hyderabad: 6 killed in fire in cooler godown

New Delhi, Feb. 22: Six persons were killed after a devastating fire broke out in cooler godown in Hyderabad, according to ANI report. It has been learned that 6 bodies were recovered from the spot. Four fire tenders have managed to douse the flame. The cause behind the fire is yet to be ascertained. There were number of fire-related incidents in factories across the country. At around 5 AM a police team noticed flames erupting from the unit. They soon alerted Fire department officials as the blaze spread rapidly, a senior police officer said. "The fire has been extinguished with the help of four fire engines. The

six bodies have been taken out and sent to state-run Osmania General Hospital for post-mortem." Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shamshabad Zone) P V Padmaja told PTI. All the deceased belonged to Chhattisgarh and Bihar, the official said. The unit, which manufacture air coolers and battery operated vehicles is surrounded by residential area. Usually four workers are present at the unit but yesterday two more had joined them, she said. The DCP further said the owner of the unit has been taken into custody. According to the preliminary investigation, the owner had not

taken the minimum required precautions. "A case of negligence will be registered," the senior officer said, adding that the probe is underway to determine the exact cause of the fire.

This comes days after a fire broke out in the Government Victoria General Hospital here this evening, but there was no casualty, fire service personnel said. The blaze started on the first floor of the medical facility (popularly called Gosha Hospital), triggering panic among patients, who were swiftly shifted to safer places, they said, adding no one was injured.

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