

Poetry section

The measuring Tape

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Aha! What a gloomy day, it was
When her boundary loosen, still brittle
I never thought it would be safe again; to heed
This frightening body; her frozen feet;
Holding upon her, measuring
Measuring undoubtedly, what fate brings
This imperil measuring tape, into sixteen different shades
When her boundary loosen, still brittle

This joyless day; the shadowy shots of gun
Upon the uninviting grove,
And the murky suspicious night; measuring undoubtedly
Friends becoming foe; rivals to friends
Suspicion! Suspicion!
Oh! What a gloomy day, it was
Emulating wariness;
Holding upon her, measuring
This imperil measuring tape, into sixteen different shades
When her boundary loosen, still brittle

She struggled, struggled to fit in;
Colors; she noticed no one
All Brighten and greenery as ever; no mark
No taint could ever smear her Temple;
Holding upon her, measuring
Measuring undoubtedly, what fate brings
This imperil measuring tape, into sixteen different shades
When her boundary loosen, still brittle

Behold! Hold her frontier;
Cut in and cut out; survey her valuation
Make her no move, no uncertainty be marginalize
Touch her worth; leave her no uncertain bodily lines
Sure of her feeling, as she welcomes your hazy breath;
Holding upon her, measuring
Measuring undoubtedly, what fate brings
This imperil measuring tape, into sixteen different shades
When her boundary loosen, still brittle

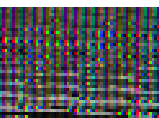
Stop waring; stop her hunting
Let her Clad, let her bloom green, red, blue, Black and white
Let her sing color chorus, cherish her desires
Make no wrinkle, make no ripples
Too Worth her bodily line, stop bewildering
Behold! Hold her frontier;
Holding upon her, measuring
Measuring undoubtedly, what fate brings
This imperil measuring tape, into sixteen different shades
When her boundary loosen, still brittle

Judge not, conclude not;
Her strength still firm, her feet still holding strong;
Complain not her worries; she's still breathing
Fresh, swinging her wavy hair;
Terminate not; her stretching palm
Too bloody tears could emerge her temple, still
Unfurling her unbending ménage;
Holding upon her, measuring
Measuring undoubtedly, what fate brings
This imperil measuring tape, into sixteen different shades
When her boundary loosen, still brittle

Proclamation

Team of Porompat Police Station Imphal East, has been looking for Shri. M. Bira Chandra Singh, son of late M. Ibomcha Singh, resident of Khurai Laishram Leikai, P.S. Porompat, Imphal East District Manipur, in connection with a case at the Court of Smt. Dr. M. Borah, Magistrate 1st Class, Diphu, Karbianglong, Assam. That, the accused has been absconded or is concealing himself to avoid the service of warrant of arrest. That, the said person could not be found at the address provided. As he was not available at his residence, the police have been searching his whereabouts. General public are informed to report the Porompat Police Station or any other nearby Police station if the said absconding person is found or have any information about his whereabouts.

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National & International News

Lucknow airport resumes operations, AAI studying how to avoid radar failure repeat

New Delhi, Jan. 15: The Lucknow airport became operational in the early hours of Sunday after remaining shut for close to 12 hours, during which nearly 20 flights to and from the city were cancelled. Airlines resumed flights as per schedule from Sunday morning. Airlines like Vistara and Air India confirmed they had resumed flights to Lucknow on Sunday.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) had despatched teams with the data card that needed to be replaced in the VHF omnidirectional range (VOR), a vital component of instrument landing system (ILS), to make it functional again from both Delhi and Kanpur.

"Our team from Kanpur airport reached Lucknow's Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport at 11 pm on Saturday. Since Kanpur airport is not used much, they took the data card from there and installed it in Lucknow VOR, making it operational just after midnight. The notice to airmen (Notam) issued earlier in the day about closure of Lucknow airport was lifted and airlines resumed operations from Sunday morning," said a senior AAI official.

The AAI is now studying how this problem can be avoided in future.

Duterte orders troops to blast militants and their hostages

Manila, Jan 15: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said he has ordered his troops to bomb extremists who flee with their captives in a bid to stop a wave of kidnappings at sea, calling the loss of civilian lives in such an attack "collateral damage."

Duterte has previously stated that he had told his Indonesian and Malaysian counterparts their forces can blast away as they pursue militants who abduct sailors in waters where the three countries converge and bring their kidnap victims to the southern Philippines.

He said in a speech late yesterday that he had given the same orders to Filipino forces.

He said he instructed the navy and the coast guard that "if there are kidnappers and they're trying to escape, bomb them all." "They say 'hostages.' Sorry, collateral damage," he said in a speech to business people in Davao, his southern hometown. He said such an approach would enable the government to get even with the ransom-seeking militants. "You can't gain mileage for your wrongdoing. I will really have you blasted," he said. His advice to potential victims? "So, really, don't allow yourselves to be kidnapped."

Duterte's remarks reflect the alarm and desperation of the Philippines, along with Malaysia and Indonesia, in halting a series of ransom kidnappings primarily by Abu Sayyaf militants and their allies along a busy waterway for regional trade.

LK Advani condoles Surjit Singh Barnala's death

PII

New Delhi, Jan 15: Senior BJP leader L K Advani has condoned the death of former Punjab chief minister Surjit Singh Barnala and said his demise was a loss to the people of the state. "Barnala was a very popular, dynamic leader. He has contributed a lot for the development and progress of Punjab in his long political career in Indian politics...his demise is a loss to the people of Punjab," Advani said in his condolence message.

Barnala, who served as chief minister of Punjab from 1985 to 1987, died at the age of 91 in a hospital in Chandigarh yesterday.

Air Traffic Control chief AK Dutta has sent technicians from Delhi to see how backup can be created for the data card that got corrupted on Saturday, leading to chaos with cancelled flights leaving hundreds of outbound passengers stranded in Lucknow and Lucknow-bound flyers stuck in other parts of the country. "This data card is the same for both the original and the backup VOR. We will see how to have a different card for the back up," said the official.

The closure of Lucknow airport

impacted Delhi-bound flights also indirectly as the former is the alternate airport for the latter in case of diversions due to fog in the national capital. If a nearby airport like Lucknow or Jaipur is closed for whatever reason, flights coming to Delhi have to carry more fuel as they would need to go to a distant diversion airport like Ahmedabad if they can't land at IGI Airport. To accommodate more fuel, airlines may need to offload some on cargo or passengers.

The VHF omnidirectional range

(VOR), a vital component of ILS used by incoming aircraft, had failed at 4.30 pm Saturday. Following this, the airport was out of bounds for any more arrivals. Consequently it meant that the flights which were to depart from there after landing were also cancelled.

VOR produces an angle between the station and the receiver in the aircraft, while distance measuring equipment (DME) does the same for range. The VOR/DME combine refers to radio navigation station for aircraft.

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Manipur: A time for Positive Bargaining

Manipur is home to various ethnic groups, prominently the meiteis inhabiting the valley and the Nagas and kuki-zomi group in the hills. The Naga-insurgency has since the beginning affected the Naga Districts of Manipur, so the naga insurgency issue is as much a problem for Manipur as it is for Nagaland given that the contagious naga ancestral areas comprises a large area of the state. When the Naga Ceasefire was extended without territorial limits in 2001 the GoM lodged strong protest and the valley of Manipur erupted in flame leading to destruction of public property and burning down of the Manipur Assembly and lose of 19 lives, this reaction came as a surprise to the Nagas of Manipur who otherwise garner little attention in the state, as it was seen an act of sabotaging the hard earned peace process as a direct insult to the sentiments of the Nagas in Manipur who has long suffered the brunt of insurgency and thus yearned for the return of peace and normalcy. The ground of objection from GoM and valley based organization was that the territorial integrity of the state must not be disturbed as corollary to the Naga peace process, interestingly while keeping this stance the GoM made no attempt whatsoever to reach out to the nagas of Manipur and explore alternatives thereby alienating the nagas completely in the state. Like in many other spheres of governance the GoM has failed miserably in dealing with the Naga issue which has now plunged the state into total chaos, not surprisingly this social unrest is seen as profitable on electoral grounds and politician creates public hysteria and harvest votes playing on the emotion of the mass divided on ethnic lines.

Given this backdrop the time has come for the people of Manipur and all parties concern to find a resolution to the current disequilibrium. Despite the complexity of Manipur's problem, by virtue of the versatility of the Indian Constitution there is still promising mechanism to yank the state out of its current situation. With basis on the Sixth Schedule of the Indian constitution some suitable arrangement can be made that can satisfy the basal demands of the conflicting groups in Manipur while keeping the territory of the state intact. For this elusive solution to come about each of the stakeholders must review its position and take definitive stances. The Nagas in Manipur has suffered long enough and direly needs alleviation from the current state of instability and uncertain future. Integration with Nagaland may sound ideal to some but that option is riddled with uncertainty on how smooth the transition will be, it may also exacerbate clan animosity within the naga sub-tribes. So the best bet for the Nagas of Manipur is to seek an alternative arrangement which can be provided for by the sixth schedule (or a derivation thereof) in the form of Naga Hills Territorial Council Area within the state of Manipur. This arrangement should ideally be extended to the kuki-zomi group who too share similar aspirations. Both the Naga and kuki-zomi group must also seek delimitation of assembly constituencies to provide for fair representation in the state assembly. Such an arrangement is also beneficial for non-tribal communities of the state as it makes possible their representation in the hill council through nomination and reservation. For a long time now the Nagas of Manipur has been depending on

CSO's for leadership, but as such organizations tends to work in sporadic fashions which entails reaction to some issue or the other, and as it has no administrative role the society has lacked behind in every sphere of development when compared to any other community in the North-East, thus there has to be some urgency and reasonable compromise as it needs to pull itself out of this quagmire.

For the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN), engaged in negotiation with the Government of India for almost two decades now and having signed the framework agreement it would be damaging to belie the hope of the Naga people for a peaceful conclusion to the talks. Thus for it to bring about something tangible it must seek something tenable. Possibilities in this regard includes the much speculated creation of a Pan-Naga Hoho (assembly) as a constitutional or statutory body which shall have functions of promoting Naga culture, safeguarding its identity, guardianship of land and natural resource concomitantly with the Government of India and state government, and the creation of a paramilitary force (border police) to man the international borders in Naga areas in auxiliary role. On the part of the GoM it must impress upon the centre that the state is willing and able to accommodate the aspirations of ethnic groups within its territory and seek special provisions for itself in the light of the aforementioned possibilities.

In the interest of the younger generation, the future and the people of the state as a whole Manipur must urgently explore all possibilities to trace its way back to normalcy and start the stride towards development, stability, security and dignity.

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