

Editorial

Imphal Friday, January 7, 2016

Requisites for a fresh start

If there ever is an allegory to describe the present social predicaments in the state, it would have to be the much amusing and entertaining game of Musical Chair where participants have to try and get to the chairs which are fewer in numbers and arranged in the centre of the circling participants as soon as the music stops. The intensifying trade of accusations between the UNC backed economic blockade supporters and the rest of the people in the state, especially those in the valley have reached such a low that the very issue prompting the restrictions of vehicles along the National Highways have been sidelined, instead picking up on the debate of chronological precedence and sanctimonious claims of the lands the opposing sides are in possession of. The views put forward by the different sides cannot have been more contrasting or illogical, to say the least. While UNC claims that the state government as well as the valley dwelling majority community is hell-bent on destroying the natural habitat of the Nagas and are attempting to wrestle away the land belonging to them, the valley people are countering the accusation and are putting up the argument that those claiming themselves to be Nagas are trying to disintegrate the state on the pretext of protesting against the policies of the state government.

With various CSOs and individuals from both sides of the divide putting in relentless efforts to bring the present debacle to a logical closure through participative dialogues, debates, discussions and deliberations, slowly yet surely a glimmer of hope is emerging from amongst the chaos. While terms such as 'ancestral land', 'communal government', 'oppressive majority' and 'shared aspirations' were much abused and presented out of context for reasons best known to themselves, what is becoming clearer each day is the repercussions of the long-neglected and often botched administrative misadventures being carried out in the state for so long. But to claim that such inefficiencies and inadequacies are affecting a particular community or are being targeted at them would be gross attempts at justifying the resultant moves.

True, those at the outer reaches and far-flung corners of the state occupied predominantly by the tribals are hit the hardest, yet the impact of such self-serving governance on the lives of the common people in the valley irrespective of their communities or groups cannot be discounted. This is the point where every stakeholder needs to shed their preconceived notions of communal rivalries and instead embrace the stark reality staring us in the face and put in earnest efforts to make a fresh start. As long as we cling on to the mindset of the past, we will remain fettered and any step forward towards a better inclusive future of the state will remain a tantalizing illusion. We need to be prepared to give grounds to make new grounds, and nothing can distort or wish away the fact. The greatest obstacle to inclusive growth and building understanding is lack of communication and productive engagement. Once everyone in the state start travelling and discovering places in the remote parts of the state, inhibitions, suspicions and reservations will automatically disappear and the bond of friendship will grow stronger. That is the only way to bridge the psychological divide and reach out to each other.

Correction

I, the undersigned, declare that my date of birth 03/06/1993 has been wrongly written as 03/06/1992 in my father's service documents record. And that my date of birth should be 03/06/1993 and is also recorded in my Matric certificate.

Sd/-
Moninder Kumar
S/o Om Prakash
VPO Karoli Tehsil, District Pathankot

Certificate Lost

I have lost my Original Certificate of HSLC Examination of 2007 bearing Roll No.19333 issued by the BOSEM on the way between Singamei to Bazar on 2/1/201. Finders are requested to handover the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-
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Prof. Gangmumei (Kabui) Kamei (1941-2017): A Personal Tribute

Dr. K. Ruhinikumar Sharma*

It is hard to believe that our beloved teacher Professor Gangmumei Kamei is no more among us. His innocent and ever smiling face will be very difficult to erase from our minds. A true worshipper of *Clio, the Muse of History* whose concern and mission for life was devoted to understand not only the past but also the present and future of this small place on a corner of the earth called Manipur. My words cannot begin to assess the life, work, achievements and rare shortcomings of this man who stood and shone like a star in the intellectual horizon of Manipur. Despite encyclopaedic knowledge of the history and culture of the

region, our teacher was humble enough to claim himself "a student of history", who is proud of the heritage and civilisation of a community of people called Manipur where a number of ethnics adopted the land as their home and shared and enjoyed vicissitudes of life.

My personal acquaintance with OjaKabui goes back to 1986 when I was enrolled as a student pursuing Bridge Course in history at Manipur University and our teacher was then the Dean of Students' Welfare. However, I have been introduced to his writings since the 70's of the past century through his columns in the then popular Manipuri monthly

'Lamyamba' edited by the firebrand (Late) Nonmeikappam Sanajaoba. In this journal he regularly contributed articles on the neighbouring countries of Southeast Asia under the caption 'Eikhoigee Yumlonnabal Lebakshing' which we read with awe how a person belonging to Kabui community could write such beautiful prose in Manipuri language. But when I enquired how he could perform such a feat, he laughed it off saying "your OjaThaimei (late Prof. Mangthoi Thaimei of D.M College) writes better than me in Manipuri language!" Such was the simplicity of a man called Gangmumei Kamei who was kind enough to offer us a

preview of his then yet to-be published manuscript on the "History of Manipur: Pre-Colonial Period" which is a magnum opus amongst the more voluminous historical works produced by this great teacher. His demise leaves a deep void in the hearts of many of his students. He shall forever be etched in our hearts as the loving OjaKabui. May his soul rest in peace in the affectionate care of Tingkao Ragwang.

*The writer of this piece is a former student of Professor Gangmumei Kamei and currently teaching History at Ideal Girls' College, Akampat, Imphal - E a s t . E - m a i l : kruhnikumar@gmail.com

National & International News

Pak hands over dossier on 'India's interference' to UN chief

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 7: Pakistan has handed over a dossier on India's alleged "interference" in the country to new UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and asked the world body to play a role in "restraining" India from such activities.

Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi delivered the dossier on "India's interference and terrorism in Pakistan" in a meeting with the UN chief here yesterday along with a letter from the Prime Minister's Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz.

Guterres' spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said that the meeting was held at the request of the Pakistani

envoy. When asked about what was discussed in the meeting, which took place at around noon, he said he did not have "any indication" of what was discussed in the meeting.

"The dossier contains additional information and proof of Indian/RAW interference in Pakistan and involvement in terrorism particularly in Balochistan, FATA and Karachi. This is a follow up to the three dossiers, which were shared with the United Nations in October 2015," the Pakistan Foreign Office said in a statement in Islamabad.

In the covering letter sent with the dossier, Aziz claimed that the arrest of "Indian RAW agent Kulbhushan Jadhav from Balochistan and his

confessional statement admitting involvement in activities aimed at destabilising Pakistan, and support to terrorist elements vindicated Pakistan's long-standing position about India's involvement in such activities."

He also claimed that India was carrying out these activities in clear contravention of the UN Charter and the resolutions of the UN Security Council on counter-terrorism and international conventions on terrorism.

Jadhav has been accused by Pakistan of planning "subversive activities" in the country. India has acknowledged that Jadhav had served with the navy but denied that he has any connection with the government.

India's "hostile intentions" towards Pakistan were also borne out by recent statements of its political and military leadership, Aziz was quoted as saying in the letter.

He claimed Pakistan had made a major contribution to global counter terrorism efforts and secured significant gains in its domestic fight against terrorism.

Aziz urged the Secretary-General and relevant UN bodies to seriously consider the matter in the light of information shared by Pakistan and play a role in "restraining India from these activities, which were in clear violation of international law and posed a threat to regional and international peace and security".

9 terrorists killed as army foils attack in Egypt

CAIRO, Jan 7: At least nine terrorists were killed and 16 others injured as Egypt's army foiled an attack on a number of security checkpoints in North Sinai, military officials said.

The attack, which took place yesterday, targeted different army checkpoints at the same time. The attackers used cars carrying explosives, motorcycles and electronic weapons, military

spokesperson colonel Tamer el-Refa'e said in a statement.

The armed forces exchanged fire with the attackers killing nine and injuring 16 others. They also destroyed six of their vehicles, he added.

North Sinai has been the stage for many terrorist attacks since the January 2011 revolution that toppled the ex-president Hosni Mubarak.

The attacks mainly targeting police

and military increased after the ouster of Islamist ex-president Mohamed Morsi in 2013 by military following massive protests against his rule.

Over 700 security personnel have been reported killed since then.

The military has launched security campaigns in the area, arrested suspects and demolished houses that belong to terrorists, including those facilitating tunnels leading to the Gaza Strip.

New Delhi World Book Fair begins today

New Delhi, Jan. 7: The 9-day New Delhi World Book Fair began at Pragati Maidan in national capital. The theme for this year's event is 'Manushi' which focuses on writings on and by women.

The fair will exhibit the rich tradition of women writings from ancient times till the present. Minister of State for Human Resources Development, Mahendra Nath Pandey inaugurated the fair.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Pandey said in the context of technological development, the books have to be viewed accordingly in tune with digital age. The minister also said, books continue to be more important as they reflect change in the society. He said, books have contributed in making India a culturally unique country.

Nearly 800 publishers from across the country and abroad are participating in it. About 20 countries including China, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan and Iran are taking part in the Foreign Pavilion.

Posters and panels of some of the eminent women scholars of ancient and medieval India, and women pioneers of modern India will provide an intellectual ambience to the presentation. Books on different genres like fiction, poetry, social science, and children's literature are forming the main ingredients of the exhibition.

Delhi govt approves fourth phase of Delhi Metro

New Delhi, Jan. 7: The Delhi government has approved the fourth phase of the Metro project, featuring six corridors measuring over a hundred kilometres. A decision to this effect was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. It will take the network to the outer areas of the national capital and make the airport more accessible.

With the completion of over 100-km-long Phase IV, the total length of the metro corridor in the city will cross the 450-km mark. The mega project, as part of which 72 new stations will be built, will cost

over 50,000 crore rupees, which is to be borne equally by the state and the Centre. Its Detailed Project Report (DPR) was cleared in June last year.

The Cabinet also approved the increase in old age pension, disability and widow pension by 1,000 rupees each. For old age pension, those between the age group of 60-69 years will get two thousand rupees. Senior citizens above 70 years, Disability pension and pension for widows and destitute women have been raised from 1,500 to 2,500 rupees. The government also approved a

scheme under which monetary incentive of 2,000 rupees and appreciation certificate will be given to people who help road accident victims in the city. The scheme is intended to encourage people to take accident victims in emergency situation to hospitals so that someone's life could be saved.

In another decision, Cabinet has convened the two-day winter session of the Assembly from 17th of this month. It will be the first sitting since Anil Bajaj assumed charge as the city's Lt Governor following the surprise resignation of Najeib Jung.

SC stays transfer and sale of 2G spectrum licences by Malaysian firm Maxis

New Delhi, Jan. 7: The Supreme Court has restrained transfer of 2G spectrum licences from Malaysia's Maxis, originally allotted to Aircel in 2006, to any other telecom company. A bench, headed by Chief Justice JS Khehar, also proposed to restrain earning of any revenue by using the licences. The bench also said, the instant order is being issued to bring to the notice of Malaysian businessman T Ananda Krishnan, the owner of Maxis group, to make his appearance in the apex court.

It said, if Krishnan and Ralph Marshall of Maxis fail to make appearance on the 27th of this month, 2G licences granted to Aircel shall be seized.

Krishnan and Marshall were summoned by CBI court in the case but they have not appeared yet. The apex court asked the Telecom

Ministry to devise ways and means to avoid adverse consequences following the order to Aircel subscribers by provisionally transferring 2G licences to other service providers.

The court directed the Indian

government to publish its instant order in two leading newspapers in Malaysia. It also directed that in case the proposed order is passed, it would not be open to any of the accused to raise the issue of monetary losses.

Pakistan military courts to be discontinued after 2 years

Islamabad, Jan. 7: Pakistan will wind up its special military courts from on Saturday, two years after they were set up for speedy trial of hardcore militants following the deadly Taliban attack on an army school that killed nearly 150 children. The courts were established through an amendment in the Constitution after the horrendous attack in Peshawar on December 16, 2014. The move generated heated debate

as the courts were billed by rights activists as violation of basic human rights as enshrined in the Constitution of the country and international charters.

However, they were allowed to function after the Supreme Court upheld as valid the 21st constitutional amendment and the Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill, 2015, enacted by Parliament in 2015. The amendment ensured that the courts will end after two years

through insertion of the "sunset clause".

There was no formal statement either from the government or the military announcing the end of the extraordinary powers for trial of civilians by the military, as they are deemed to end after a fixed time period of two years.

The first convictions under the military court were in April, 2015 and the last ones were pronounced on December 28, 2016.