

Editorial

Imphal, Tuesday June 13, 2017

Doubtful sincerity

Times are a changing but the sort of changes happening in our state is nothing to write home about or rather everything that should be made public. It has become a breeding ground for unscrupulous elements where the name of the game is "instant wealth". Gone are the days when enterprising people, by dint of their sheet tenacity and unwavering pursuit made fame and fortune. The "get rich quick" mantra being increasingly subscribed to by the younger generation has begun to bear fruit rapes, murders, extortions, thieves and burglary, drug trafficking and corruption the list growing longer by the day. The race to amass wealth even at the cost of giving up one's peace of mind and the hearth and home have taken precedence over the concept of a peaceful and fruitful easy life. Conscience and morality have been shoved off to the furthest corner of one's mind shedding the last remnants of humility to enter the temple of mammon. The result is a society where might is right and truth is relative. Honesty and sincerity is at a premium and the ideology of high thinking simple living having been replaced by the reckless aim to attain power and influence. Humility and respectfulness has begun to be looked down upon and is being equated with weakness a trait to be avoided. Truths are being sold and brought at a price and the collective mentalities have started to revert back to the Stone Age where survival of the fittest holds true. Making things worse are the growing number of indolent youths accustomed to luxury and exhibitionism influenced in no small measure by the western cultures but failing to capture the essence of the dignity of work and the regard for fellow humans that underlines the basic principles of these western societies. Abusing the powers entrusted to them and turning their official domain into their personal fiefdom is the order of the day for bureaucrats and politicians while the common people are left in the lurch with a feeling of betrayal and alienation in their minds. This has created a chasm that is growing wider with each passing day leading to a feeling of suspicion and getting cynical of the steps of the public. This social turmoil paves the way for a breed of human parasites living off the sweat of another's labour intimidation and fear being their weapon of choice and not thinking twice about taking lives if their whims are not catered to. Shouts of negligence and deprivation trying to drown out the screams of the unfortunate public destined to lead a life of uncertainty and fear. Tolerance is no longer a virtue and wealth is the benchmark of a person's worth never mind the means one used to acquire it. Public memory has inexplicably shrunk to let matters pass if only to wash their hands off the trouble of facing the bitter reality or to rectify it. Rationality has succumbed to power and ethics is an alien notion. A bleak future is in the offing it is for us to stand up and stand fast for the life we lead the way we want. It is in us to walk with our heads held high and taste the sweat and the fruit of our own labour. At the end of the day what really matters is an unburdened mind and a good sound sleep.

National and International News

American student released from North Korea prison arrives in US

AFP Washington, June 14: An American student who fell into a coma while imprisoned in a North Korean labor camp returned to the United States late on Tuesday after Pyongyang allowed him to be flown home, US media reported. A military airplane carrying Otto Warmbier landed in his hometown Cincinnati, Ohio, shortly before 10:20 pm (0220 GMT Wednesday), CBS News reported. The release of Warmbier, 18 months into a 15-year sentence, came as US President Donald Trump invited South Korea's new leader Moon Jae-In to Washington for talks on the escalating standoff over the North's nuclear program. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said earlier in the day that his agency had "secured" the 22-year-old's release in talks with North Korea and is pushing for three more Americans to be freed. It was not immediately clear if he had made any concessions. The news surfaced after the flamboyant retired NBA basketball star Dennis Rodman - a former contestant on Trump's "Celebrity Apprentice" reality show - flew to Pyongyang to resume his quixotic quest to broker detente between his US homeland and Kim Jong-Un's authoritarian regime. But State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said the visit "had nothing to do with the release". Warmbier's parents Fred and Cindy announced his release in a statement to CNN on Tuesday. "Sadly, he is in a coma and we

have been told he has been in that condition since March of 2016," they said. "We learned of this only one week ago." On arriving in Cincinnati's Lunken Airport, Warmbier was transferred to a waiting ambulance that rushed him to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center for urgent treatment, Fox News reported. Warmbier's parents were told their son was given a sleeping pill soon after his trial in March last year and never woke. US officials refused to comment on his condition, but former ambassador and New Mexico governor Bill Richardson said he had spoken with the family. "Otto has been in a coma for over a year now and urgently needs proper medical care in the United States," said Richardson, who has previously served as a special envoy to North Korea and still works on prisoner issues. "We received a call from Cindy and Fred Warmbier early today to update us on Otto's condition. In no uncertain terms, North Korea must explain the causes of his coma." Tillerson told US senators at the start of a budget hearing that the State Department had no comment on Mr Warmbier's condition "out of respect for him and his family." The United States had accused the North of using Warmbier as a political pawn, condemning the sentence as far out of proportion to his alleged crime. The announcement came amid tension between Washington and Pyongyang following a series of

missile tests by the North, focusing attention on an arms buildup that Pentagon chief Jim Mattis on Monday dubbed "a clear and present danger to all." Almost immediately on taking office in January, Trump and his team - having been briefed by the outgoing president Barack Obama - declared the North's attempts to build, test and arm a nuclear-capable ballistic missile to be Washington's biggest threat. Washington has stepped up pressure on China and other foreign powers to enforce existing UN sanctions, and has deployed increased military assets of its own in the region. Parallel to that track, basketball showman Rodman has arrived in Pyongyang wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with the logo of a cryptocurrency set up for marijuana marketers. The star has visited the Stalinist state at least four times before, most recently in 2014, when he attracted a deluge of criticism after being filmed singing happy birthday to his "friend for life," leader Kim. Before arriving this time, Rodman told reporters that Trump would be happy with the trip because he was "trying to accomplish something that we both need," prompting speculation that he may be operating as an unofficial envoy. US officials dismissed the rumors, saying he was traveling as a private citizen. Still, the basketball icon is probably Kim and Trump's only mutual friend.

Man gets 10-yr jail for possessing 40 kg drugs
PTI New Delhi, June 13: A man has been sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for possessing 40 kg of Ganja by a Delhi court, which also imposed a fine of Rs one lakh on him. The court awarded the jail term to 32-year-old Delhi resident Aminullah keeping in view the quantity of recovered the drug and its impact on the young generation. "Keeping in view the quantity of ganja recovered from his possession and its impact on our young generation and also the minimum sentence provided by the legislature, Aminullah is hereby sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of 10 years and to pay a fine of Rs one lakh," Special NDPS Judge Narinder Kumar said. The man was convicted under the provision of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act for possessing commercial quantity of the contraband drug. According to prosecution, on August 22, 2015, Aminullah was found possessing 40 kgs of Ganja near Yamuna Bazar in Central Delhi and was caught by the raiding team of police. He was nabbed on the basis of an information received by the police. Police said the man was carrying two plastic bags each having 20 kgs drugs. During the trial, the man denied the incriminating evidence against him and claimed to be implicated in the case. The court, however, said he has failed to show why he would be falsely implicated in this case.

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Contd. from previous issue

Manipur: The Boiling Bowl of Ethnicity

By: Dr. Aaron Lungleng

Oral traditions abound among the many Naga tribes regarding how they came, dispersed, etc.. Folk songs, folk tales and stories of Nagas tells the latest waves of migration and the particular spot from where they took off are traced back to China as their root habitation. According to Shimray, R.R. (1985), the Nagas had first followed the southward movement and after reaching the coast or some island, they turned north-west, but left their brothers somewhere near the coast or perhaps in some island. They take the westward movement and finally reached Burma from there they came to the present hills. The hypothesis of the Nagas that come from the sea coast or at least from some islands is strengthened by the lifestyle of the Nagas and the ornaments being used till today. Their fondness of cowrie shells for beautifying the dress, and use of conch shells as ornaments (precious, valuable and prestigious to them are marine gastropods which are found only on the sea beaches) and the fact that the Nagas have many customs and way of life very similar to that of those living in the remote part of Borneo, Sarawak, Indonesia, Malaysia etc. indicates that their ancient abode was near the sea, if not in some Islands. It is also said that in remote past one party having pierced ears left Chiangmai area in Thailand. This group of people with pierced ears is again seen by the Burmese who know them as Na Ka (Na means ear and Ka means holes in Burmese) so in Burmese Na ka means people with holes in the ears. This event is further substantiated by the account of Burmese. "According to Burmese Census report, successive incursion of the so-called Tibeto-Burman people come from a region of western China between the source of Hwang-Ho

and Yangtse-Kiang rivers" (Chatterjee, 1950). Many scholars of the Nagas are of the opinion that the Naga migration waves took from two directions, namely Southeast Asia and Eastern Tibet or Western China. It was followed that the Nagas passing through the mainland and the Irrawaddy and Chindwin valley during the Paleolithic or Neolithic Age had gradually moved up and finally settled at Hsawngsup, now Thangdaut in Burma (pronounced as Samsok in Tangkhul) from where they finally moved to the homeland that are occupied today. Their migration movement is traced through legends, stories and folk songs and that most of the Nagas tribe affirmed to have come out of a 'hole', here the hole in the earth is likely to refer to a cave or wall or a rugged ridge (Shimray, R.R. 1985). Another authentic theory on Naga dispersal is that; the Nagas forefather came from a watery domain through the 'Hourie river' (tributary of Chindwin in Myanmar) and reached the valley and settled there, but because of mosquito menace they move northward to a place called Makhreffii (which is commonly called Makhel). Hardly, any theory may stand against this popular theory of dispersal as belief, taboo, and relics which many Nagas tribes considered as sacred to them holds the support with evidences. This sacred place is situated at Mao-Maram region 7 kilometers away from the National highway 53. The name for Makhel is 'Makheffii' in Mao, 'Mekhroma' in Angami, 'Makhel' in Tangkhul and 'Mahou' in Zeliangrong. Therefore, Makhel occupy a very important place from a historical point of view not only for the Mao alone but for the Nagas as a whole. (Maheo M. Lorho, 2004). The Nagas is a generic name applies

to all the people inhabiting in the Naga Hills that refers to the confluence of India, China and Myanmar. The area which lies at the tri-junction is about 1, 20,000 sq.km lies within 93°E-96°E longitudes and 23 1/2°N-28°N latitudes (Raising et. al., 1994). In the word of J.P. Mills (1922), the area inhabited by the Naga is "bounded by the Hukawng valley in the northeast, the plain of Brahmaputra valley to the north-west, Cachar to the south-west and Chindwin (river) to the east. In the south, the Manipur valley roughly marks the point of contact between the Naga tribes and the very much more closely interrelated group of Kuki-Chin-Mizo tribe. The area of the present Nagaland State is 16,579 Sq. Km and the Nagas areas in Manipur measure 15,519 sq. Km. Many Nagas such as Somras Tangkhul, Konyaks, Khiemngans, and Yimchangers etc. are living in the Naga Hills of Burma (Myanmar). Today, one will find the Nagas in four divided folds in India and another two folds in the province of Kachins and Shans State of Burma (Myanmar) numbering to 4 million in population" (www.tangkhul.com/assessed/21/4/2010/). In the Indian side, there are 16 tribes in Nagaland and 32 tribes in Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Tanai in Kachin state of Myanmar is populated by the Tangshang Nagas while Khamti Township is populated altogether by all the Naga tribes. Around 120000 Nagas are said settle in the Naga Self-Administered Zone (Sagaing Division). Therefore, the stretch of Naga Hills in the tri-junction of China, India, and Myanmar is the home of the Nagas with its exotic culture that branched from Chinese civilization. Initially, the first confrontation with

the British was when Capt. Jenkins and Capt. Pamperon marched from Manipur and set foot into the land Angami region in Naga Hills in 1830 via Popolngmai and Samaguting (B.C. Allen, 1905). Then, an imaginary line within the Naga Hills stretch started to draw for the convenience of the British administration. Further, Indian after she freed from the British yoke, divided the Nagas and putting them under different administrative states such as Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh to loosen the Nagas cultural and political solidarity. As a result, the greatest conglomeration of Nagas scattered into pieces. The present Nagaland State of 1963 came into being as an outcome of the divide and rule policy of India executed through the Naga People's convention (NPC) to douse the flame of nationalism when the Nagas spirit runs very high for self-determination. Thus, the majority Naga population and their land are divided and placed under the sympathy of the different Indian Unitary Government. The present struggle for the self-determination is due to the repercussion of the Indian divisive politics. Historically, Nagas are not Indian subjects. The Indian national anthem openly and vibrantly declared its people and geographical landscape. The present Northeast was not at all part and parcel as well as the dream of Bharat. Rabindranath Tagore in sound mind and knowledge composed the anthem according to what and who Bharat was. The occupation of the Nagas solely confined to the Jawaharlal Nehru egotistic interest of subjugation else the Nagas lives within a good social and political set up of socialist democratic fully in self-independent sovereign village state. (To be Contd.)

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