

Editorial

Imphal, Friday June 16, 2017

Ripe opportunity for awareness and action

With the increasing pace of life and the corresponding increase in social as well as work pressures, food habits of the people around the world have taken a hit for the worse. The most glaring evidence of this unfortunate changing trend is the gradual increase in the number of fast-food joints and ready-to-eat snack bars as well as local kiosks catering to the public with mostly fried stuffs to satiate the hunger instantaneously. Food that can be had on the go is being preferred over those which are healthy and wholesome but takes time to prepare. However, there is also an increasing awareness amongst the conscious and connected public cutting across age groups and professions regarding the need to inculcate a good dietary habit in order to combat the increasing stress and strains of our daily life. The general consensus amongst the conscious eaters is that fruits and vegetables play a vital role in maintaining the health and even reversing the harmful effects of work and environment.

A very disturbing news doing the rounds about some unscrupulous elements using unfair and potentially harmful methods of ripening fruits in the state have however put a question mark on the safety and reliability of the food products being sold in the state. However, the incident should not come as a surprise to many as the practice has been carried on for decades without any significant restrictions or objections from the authorities. The failure of those authorized and entrusted to ensure the safety and usability of foodstuffs for so long have only emboldened these elements who would not think twice about using any and all means at their disposal, fair or foul to speed up their earnings.

The menace of food adulteration and indiscriminate use of chemicals to either speed up the ripening process or to slow down the rate of decomposition is not confined to fruits alone. If anybody would care to recollect, there had been news of farmers using chemicals to increase their products both in size as well as quantity, or even halt the process of decomposition by using formaldehyde as reported in the case of fishes being brought into the state. On the other hand, there is also the disturbing report of plastic rice and even eggs being dumped into the country. While most of the chemicals used for such purposes such as Calcium Carbide have been banned by the government, their use is still rampant. There is still the danger of misusing those chemicals which are still not banned such as Ethylene (if used within certain limits) as there is every chance of the chemical being abused in the mad rush for quicker profit.

Today, the threat of harmful chemicals contaminating our foods on a daily basis is a very real and disconcerting one, and such practice cannot be allowed to propagate and continue any longer. However, the issue is a complex one especially in a state like Manipur where the mechanism to ensure safety of food is almost absent as of now, and any means or effort to check such unfair practices requires the combined involvement of the whole community, government agencies, policymakers, fruit-sellers, farmers, scientists and consumers to find an effective solution to this matter. Meanwhile, the best and most satisfying option is to start our own fruit and vegetable garden.

Certificate lost

I, the undersigned have lost my original certificate of HSSLC examination bearing Roll No. 7986 of 2001 issued by Council of Higher Secondary Education on the way between Thangmeiband to Singjamei Bazar on 15/6/2017.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Laishram Ranjit Singh
S/o (L) L. Manijao Singh
Thangmeiband Sinam Leikai

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National and International News

Prez election: Rajnath, Naidu meet Sonia

PTI
New Delhi, Jun 16: Union ministers Rajnath Singh and M Venkaiah Naidu today met Congress President Sonia Gandhi to discuss the Presidential poll as part of the ruling BJP's outreach to stitch a consensus on the official

nominee. Singh and Naidu arrived at Gandhi's 10 Janpath residence to help election an agreement on the crucial election scheduled for July 17 RPT July 17. The meeting lasted for 30 minutes. However, it was not immediately

known as to what transpired at the meeting. Senior Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad and Mallikarjun Kharge were also present in the meeting, seen as the first major BJP outreach with the opposition on the significant matter.

The meeting comes barely two days after a sub group of opposition leaders constituted by Gandhi met in Azad's Parliament chamber to discuss the opposition strategy. The meeting had decided to wait for the government proposal on the matter before taking a further view.

Pakistan says ICJ rejected India's request to delay Kulbhusan Jadhav's case

Islamabad, June 16: Pakistan today claimed that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has rejected India's request to delay proceedings of Kubbhusan Jadhav's case until December.

Pakistan through its consulate in Netherlands came to know that the ICJ ordered India to submit a response by September 13, Dawn newspaper quoted Attorney General (AG) Ashtar Ausaf Ali as saying. Jadhav, 45, was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court in April.

"The ICJ has written a letter to Pakistan informing us of their decision," the attorney general said.

"India had asked the ICJ to offer it time till December to file pleadings in the Jadhav case, however, "the court has dismissed their request," Ali said.

"India had adopted the stance that the matter was one of life and death, but Pakistan had stated that the ICJ is not a court of appeals."

"The ICJ is supposed to conclude

whether or not Jadhav can receive consular access, for which a time period of two to three months is more than enough to file a response," he said.

Dawn reported that sources privy to the information noted that Pakistan will submit its response to the ICJ in December, while the

court proceedings will begin in January 2018.

In a hearing of the case on May 18, a 10-member bench at the The Hague-based ICJ restrained Pakistan from executing Jadhav.

India moved the ICJ against the death penalty on May 8. The next day, the global court stayed the

sentence as a provisional measure. Pakistan claims its security forces arrested him from its restive Balochistan province on March 3 last year after he reportedly entered from Iran. However, India maintains that he was kidnapped from Iran where he had business interests after retiring from the Navy.

'At least 65 people missing or feared dead in London fire'

London, June 16: The Sun newspaper on Friday listed 65 people who it said were still missing or feared dead in a London tower block fire which police said has left 17 people dead with the death toll expected to rise.

When asked on Thursday whether the death toll could exceed 100, London police commander Stuart Cundy said: "I'd like to hope that it isn't going to be triple figures."

London Fire Brigade chief Dany Cotton earlier said urban search units backed by specialist dog teams would scour the building as structural surveyors helped make the tower

safe. The cause of the blaze, the worst in the British capital in a generation, was being investigated. Speaking within weeks of London's deadliest attack by militants in more than a decade, Cundy said nothing suggested the fire was linked to terrorism.

UK Prime Minister Theresa May, who has promised an investigation into the disaster, visited the scene on Thursday to meet members of the emergency services, but left without making any public comment.

Local residents say there had been repeated warnings about the safety of the building, which recently

underwent an 8.7 million pound (\$11.1 million) exterior refurbishment, which included new external cladding and windows.

Planning documents detailing the refurbishment did not refer to a type of fire barrier that building safety experts said should be used when high-rise blocks are being re-clad, according to Reuters research.

Queen Elizabeth said her thoughts and prayers were with those families who had lost loved ones and with the many people still critically ill in hospital. She also paid tribute to the bravery of firefighters who risked their lives to save others.

Contd. from previous issue

Manipur: The Boiling Bowl of Ethnicity

By: Dr. Aaron Lungle

Discourse on Peaceful Co-existence

1. Claim over land and dominance:

From the documented historical views, land and dominance among the Nagas and Meitei does not overlap in Manipur but ethnically and distinctly marked since time immemorial. Both Hill and valley coexist in friendliness without any imposition or subjugation to one another. Ever since the inception of Princely state or settlement of the Republic village states, it is observed that they were not invasive nor interfering but protective yet sympathetic to one another. Therefore, Ibobi's "the land belongs to the state" is a rhetoric statement and a sacrilege to universal human rights. Such notion is trepidation to peaceful coexistence within complex and assorted ethnic identities. One has to understand the reality of imaginary demarcation for one time convenience (as seen in the conquest/conquered status) is impermanent, but, distort historical rights over inheritance and uniqueness of one's nation. However, it is apparent to refine and reshape as "there is a time for everything under heaven". Another, unfortunate claim over the land right considering Kukis are the indigenous dominant ethnic group of Manipur and that the Kukis were in supreme command over all the hills and valley of Manipur. Sominthang Doungel (Secy Political Affairs Kuki Inpi Manipur) claimed that Kukis are the overlord to the hills East of Imphal valley extended up to the Burma border contiguous to the Thongdut State and part of Somra Tract. The western and northwestern part of Imphal Valley, the Lushai Hills of Assam, the North-West and the Imphal Valley in the North-East, the areas were occupied by the Manluns (Zou), the South-East of Imphal valley extending upto the areas of Kobo Valley, The Doungel-Kuki chief, the North-East of Imphal Valley, extending Chingai sub-division of Ukhrul district to the un-administered area of Somra Tract (SOMINTHANGDOUNGEL), Secy.

Political Affairs Kuki Inpi Manipur). According to him, we could conclude that Mizoram, Manipur and part of Burma is the homeland of the Kukis. Such rhetorical claim is a direct insult either to the Meitei or the Nagas and the Zomis who are the aboriginal since time immemorial. However, the turning down the owner as non-existence on top of that, the Nagas ancestral land is termed as rather absurd, ridiculous and unfounded. The concocted story cannot become history. The Kuki appearance in Manipur was said to be during the 1850s who came into Naga ancestral lands in Manipur after they were defeated by the Burmese. Nowhere in the history Kukis are recorded neither aboriginal nor dominant ethnic group in Manipur either by the Britisher or the Chronicle of the Kings except to mention as a nomadic immigrant or refugee from Burma and Chittagong Hill track. Further, the President of Manipur State Darbar issued by Captain Harvey Order No. 11 of 18.8.1931 declared that the Kukis were not permitted the use of Fire Arms due to their savagery acts being committed against the Nagas and for jeopardizing the peaceful atmospheres in the hilly Naga territory. In the part 2 of the same Order, the Kukis were granted Fire Arms on loan merely for protections against wild animals only. The standing Order of the President Manipur State Dabur, TA Sharp in his Order No. 9 of 09.09.1933 declared that the Kukis shall pay annual House tax to the Chief of the Naga Village a sum of Rs.6/ per annum. Again, the standing Order of the President of Manipur State Dabur T.A Sharp in his Order No. 2 of 23.7.1941 declared that, the Kukis shall obtain prior permissions from Naga Village Chief for settlement within the Naga territory. The refugee status is reaffirmed by the relief fund that was sanctioned to a bona fide refugee in 1970s, during R. Suisa (first Naga Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha of India) who sympathize the pathetic condition of the Burmese Chin ethnic Kukis refugees in Manipur.

The Refugee Relief Fund was sanctioned by the Finance Ministry of Home affairs GOL, Vide Memo P. 3/9/66 and payment was made to the Kuki refugees through the State Govt. of Manipur Vide. Memo No. 01/R/RL and the amounts of which were distributed to the Kukis refugees as follows - 1. First payment: 22 April, 1957, 2. Second payment: 07 July, 1959, 3. Third payment: 28 February, 1966 and 4. Fourth payment: 18 July, 1968 respectively.

The Kuki INPI needs to refrain from propagating false genesis to the younger generation, because imagination is more beautiful than reality. Reality is harsh and freezing, therefore, it is always the best not to play politics at the cost of their thousands future. So, usher peaceful coexistence rather than provoking the generosity of the landlord. Today's, false propagators will pass away, but it is their generations to harvest the impregnated concocted lies. Deviation from reality- the future of the Kukis refugees' status blight as Rohingas of Rakhine, Burma and the Tibetans refugees in India in the

aftermath of the Indo-Nagas political settlement. It is strongly convicted that even though Kukis (Thadous) are refugees, they are well treated as equal and gives equal opportunity in all spheres of life within Nagalim. Such hospitality will never earn equally from other nations.

Ones' civilization cannot trace from others evolution and claim the areas surpassing their own genesis (migration, decent, customs, tradition and believe). What human don't want? - Unlimited! Restraining ones want in reverence to others' wants make living undemanding to access, gain peace and harmony. Further, if one is a brother nothing remains other than saying- what belong to me is yours; my achievement is ours and vice versa. The only thing we lack is consciousness in tracing common descent and heritage. This should be the common exercise for the Nagas and the Meitei and expose accommodating gesture towards the other.

(The writer is an anthropologist and can be reached at doctungleng@gmail.com) (To be contd.....)

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