

Editorial

Imphal Thursday, March 23, 2017

The almost perfect team but for the missing "Lok Ayukta"

The people of Manipur have one very good reason to believe that the state BJP's Nongthombam Biren Singh led Manipur government will surely deliver justice to each and every citizen of the state. Before elaborating on why it is expected, one should laud the wisdom of the new chief minister over his understanding regarding the administration of a democratic form of government. His assurance in the house to complete the incomplete structures of various central sponsored schemes is worth praising and we the people of the state believed that the new Chief Minister who had converted into concrete action his party's promise to solve the 139 days old economic blockade along the National Highway within a span of 24 hours after swearing in of the MLAs of 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly is a legit example to make the public repose it's belief that there is hope in the coming days.

The other thing that makes Imphal Times feel the new government will streamline governance is that, the team includes almost all professionals from every field. Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren was one of the most celebrated Editors of a newspaper published here in Imphal before he entered politics. Deputy Chief Minister Yumnam Joykumar is still known for his skill in bringing the state into a relative state of normalcy and calm when he was the DGP, even though the method he utilized was highly criticized from various sections. On the one hand L. Jayentakumar began his career as a lawyer and later became a 1st class Judge. On the other hand the young and energetic BJP MLA Th. Biswajit who is also the spokesperson of the newly formed BJP led government is known for his skills and finesse in interacting and communicating with the public. He already has good rapport on dealing with hostile agitators.

One fortunate thing for the BJP is that the party also has an MLA who was once a principal secretary to the government of Manipur. Yes, P Sharat who was elected from Moirang Assembly constituency knows everything that is to be known about the functioning of the executive. Precisely N. Biren led Manipur government is an almost perfect government and as such, it is only natural that the people expect many things from his government.

The only thing that Imphal Times would like to suggest is a transparent and efficient mechanism to prevent and/or weed out corrupt practices of the elected leaders as also the bureaucrats. For that the need of the hour is introduction of "Lok Ayukta" in the state. Many states have introduced it and there is no reason why such a powerful and relevant system should not be implemented in Manipur without further delay. After all, the vision document of the BJP had clearly mentioned of wiping out corruption from the state in line with the vision projected by the charismatic leader and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mr. Chief Minister, there is not a shred of doubt that the people of the state will have more faith, goodwill and support in your government if corruption is checked properly by introducing and implementing "Lok Ayukta".

Agrawal elected U'khand Assembly Speaker

PTI
Dehradun, Mar 23: Three-time BJP MLA from Rishikesh, Prem Chandra Agrawal, was today elected unopposed as the Speaker of Uttarakhand Assembly. After he was elected to the post, Agrawal was handed over charge as the new Speaker of the House by pro-tem Speaker Harbans Kapoor.

Introducing him in the Assembly, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat described Agrawal as a resolute man of action. With no one else filing nomination for the post yesterday, Agrawal's unopposed election as the Speaker was a foregone conclusion. 56-year-old Agrawal, who has an RSS background, has won from Rishikesh seat for a third time.

Name correction

I, the undersigned, Kumar Thapa, do hereby clarify that my wife's real name Geeta Thapa has been wrongly mentioned as Geeta Chhetry instead of Geeta Thapa in my service record. I do hereby declare that my wife's name should be Geeta Thapa in all my service record and not Geeta Chhetry. This is being clarified to avoid any complicity in future.

Sd/-
Kumar Thapa Kanglatombi (Shantipur)
P.O/ PS Sekmai, Imphal West district.

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THE BLAST OF MD KORA AND HIS SHADOWS

By: MIRAJ SHAH KORI

This is the story how the sangai festival was decorated with the red blood of a poor rickshaw driver which was being celebrated to promote Manipur as a world class tourism destination which showcased the best of what the state has to offer to the world in terms of art and culture, handloom, handicrafts & fine arts, indigenous sports, cuisines & music, eco & adventure sports as well as the scenic natural beauty of the land.

The day when poverty has driven this poor old man out from his rented room with a rickshaw plied it on hire to earn for a meal for his wife and son meet his last hour in a morning. That morning claimed his soul blasting him with a gifted bomb paying his only assets, his soul for which he earned his livelihood by sacrificing his sweat

the festival ground, none came forward to the rescue of Md Kora. The deplorable situation was again unfortunate for him when a 99 percent injured body was asking for help and no one including the security personal had come forward to respond with any sort of empathy or sympathy of human being to this poor man. After a few minutes, a team of Imphal West District police led by Additional SP Birbabu went up and interrogated the injured rickshaw driver as if he was like Dawood Ibrahim instead of shifting him to a nearby hospital or giving him any aid so that he can get a chance to hold his life in his eleven hours of departing his soul. The safety and security of the citizens is not the priority but the interrogation of Md. Kora on

has claimed responsibility for the blast till the time of filing this report. Followed by the incident, JAC against the killing of Md. Kora was formed and submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister in connection with the incident wherein it expressed its demands. The State Government should book the culprits and compensation of Rs 10 lakh should be given to the bereaved family of Kora and also a suitable Government job should be provided to the family.

Tragedy of surviving victims

The widow Pishak and the orphan Imran have been struggling to survive after the dismissed of Md. Kora. They are still staying in the rented room where they couldn't afford to buy a new house

hardships he has been facing, he is very good in his studies and stood among the top fifth in his every school exam.

I had sensed the frustration he went through that affected his studies at various instances. He was so young and under qualified to experience all these suffering in his age where most of his friends were enjoying the lap and warmth of their parents demanding the moon and the stars. The poverty and the bomb blast had swallowed his happiness. He is still working hard against the entire disadvantage and the idle sneer of the world. This boy is expecting the help of the ALMIGHTY ALLAH (SWT) to realize his dreams and to rescue from their despair and pain. Talking about the family Imran said, "my mother has spent nearly fifty thousand to meet the expenses of the lawyers and other people who are associating with her work for the ex gratia of my deceased father from the Government. She afforded all this money by borrowing from the near and dear ones in the high hope to return it as soon as the money is received from the Government. However neither a single penny has been awarded nor any sort of affirmative initiative has been extended from the Government of Manipur, and we are still with this heavy debts"

Postscript

Critically analyzing the above narratives of past and present of the story, some question can be put as a concluding remark.

Why had this KCP faction's cadre picked up a Rickshaw driver as their suicide Bomber by paying him Rs.20?

Why hadn't this faction of KCP taken the responsibility of killing a poor old man by surviving his wife and little child in a rented room?

Why hadn't any full swing movement of the so called civil society organization like Apunba lup, AMMUCO, UCM, HERICON, happened against the incident like the movement after 21st July of khwairambandh?

Why hadn't the government compensated the grief of the deceased family with any sort of affirmative assistance where the same government had awarded the 10 to 20 lakhs of rupees per head of the similar cases?

The rickshaw driven by Md Kora had also been blown up into pieces. According to some eyewitnesses from the news reports, amidst the smoke emanating from the explosion; Md Kora was seen lying on his back among the mangled parts of his rickshaw. Perhaps stunned by the explosion, Md Kora did not make any sound nor show any sign of pain. After lying in that position for about 5 minutes, Md Kora started moving and waving his hand as if asking for help. Despite both his legs severed from his body, Md Kora managed to support himself by holding on the handle of the damaged rickshaw.



and blood. His lunch was served for the day with his flesh and body part scattered around him decorated on the bloody plate of dust.

The deadly blow

It was happened six years ago on November 30, 2011 in which this rickshaw driver was killed and four other people including two women sustained injuries when a remote-controlled bomb went off near the main gate of the ongoing Manipur Sangai Festival, 2011 at Hafta Kangeibung at around 11 am. The deceased rickshaw driver was Md Kora 55 years s/o late Ibobi of Mayang Imphal Irong Umang Leikai but staying in a rented house belonging to one Md Sanajaoba at Hattat Golapati for the last 10 years. Md Kora plied the rickshaw taken on hire on daily basis from one Okram Jilangamba of Kongba Nongthombam Leikai. He left behind his wife, Pishak and a 10-year old son, Imran. Pishak is a vegetable street vendor in Khwairamband Bazar. Sometimes she sells plastic basket at the street which belongs to non-Manipur shop. (source news report)

The bomb, which was suspected to have been kept inside a carton box, was said to have been loaded in his rickshaw by one who identified himself as a member of the proscribed KCP from near New Checkon crossing with the instruction that it should be taken towards the festival venue and gave Rs 20 to Md Kora, who apparently did not know anything about the content of having a powerful bomb, for carrying the box. However, as the rickshaw crossed the main gate, the bomb went off. The impact of the blast was so terrible that both the legs of Md Kora were severed from his body at the explosion. One of the severed legs was found near the drain of MB College while the other was found lying around 20 meters from the blast site.

Courage of conviction

That was a horrifying scene with the terrible consequence of the bomb in which the situation explained the uneasiness to believe all his five senses. However he could understand the eyes of people around him but they were reciprocal to feel the pain of Md. Kora. Although many security personnel were seen in and around

the dying bed is for the Manipur police. In the conversation, Md Kora said without showing any sign of losing consciousness that he was given Rs 20 by one unknown person who identified himself as a member of the proscribed KCP for delivering some goods towards the festival venue. After about 20 minutes of questioning at the blast site to this injured man who had lost both of his legs where his body parts were scattered around him and people were watching as Sumang Leela. Manipur police department could not arrange an ambulance in the heart of the capital city that the injured rickshaw driver was taken in a DI Tata of the police for treatment at JNIMS where he passed away at around 11.50 am.

The four persons who sustained injuries in the blast have been identified as Chabungbam Bidyapati (24) d/o late Bihari of Awang Khunou Mamang Leikai, Yumnam Bala (50) w/o Rajendro of Konthoujam Awang Leikai, Md Sattar (20) s/o Atou of Moijing and Wahengbam Kulladhawaja (42) s/o Lalabi of Kangla Uchonkhong. Bidyapati is a recruit of North East Security Services and she was manning the ticket counter of the festival while Bala came to see the festival when the explosion took place. Bidyapati was hit by bomb splinters on her right hand while Bala on her right thighs.

No empathy shown

After the explosion, DGP Y Joykumar present Deputy Chief Minister of Manipur, Senior SP of Imphal East L. Kailun, Senior SP of Imphal West Clay Khongsai, other police officers, bomb experts, Assam Rifles, Army and BSF and National Security Guards who were in Imphal in connection with the planned visit of the then Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, rushed in for spot inspection. Tourism Minister TN Haokip and other government officials also arrived at the spot for inspection. All of them had witnessed the incident that how this poor rickshaw driver was killed. However no assistance or any affirmative measures had given for that widow and orphan.

JAC as usual

Although police claimed that KCP (MC) had earlier given restriction on organizing any sort of entertainment programme, no one

anywhere in Manipur. Their livelihood has been earning from what Pisak get from her daily work where she use to sell the plastic basket of Non Manipuri shopkeeper at the Bir Tikendrajit Road. She is sharing the profit with the shopkeeper with which she buys rice and meets other expenses. She earns about Rs 100 on a normal day. On the days of strikes, her child has to go bed without food. Her earning is seriously affected by the frequent general strikes and Bandh. And like many other street vendor at khwairambandh, she is also subjected to face the atrocities of city police and VDF. These made her to earn their daily bread and to afford the admissions and tuition



The scene of the interrogation of Md. Kora by police officers on the spot of the bomb blast

fees of his son. She is struggling a lot to meet the requirements of his son's education.

Md Kora's son Imran has grown up now. He is now studying class in tenstandard. I had witnessed many of difficult times this kid had faced. Imran has been known to me since my graduation days at DM college of Arts as my student. He was admitted to our coaching center without any fee which was running during my graduation days at Imphal. He was more mature than his age. He was brave and can talk freely about their family and his father. He is hard working and precocious. Despite of all these

The poor people are the easy target to pick by the terrorist for their terror activities whenever need arises to confront with their opponent. Md Kora was such victim of Rs 20. For a rickshaw driver, they calculate their daily earning from the total sum up of their every single Rs 20 which is the cost of a kilogram of low cost rice in Manipur. However these terrorist had made Md Kora to pay his life for that Rs 20 which he hope for the cost of a meal. Ultimately Md. Kora paid a heavy price for that holy 20 rupees.