

Editorial

Imphal Tuesday, May 2, 2017

The Final settlement

The final settlement between the government of India and the National Socialists' council of Nagaland (NSCN) led by Th. Muivah is finally at the door. India government earnest effort to solve the problem of 'the rebel group', which they consider to be the mother of all insurgency movement in the state has compelled the mainland administrators to finally fulfill some of the demands which will not hurt the interest of the Indian nation.

The signing of the frame work agreement is the roadmap to end the decades old issue of the NSCN-IM. A National media had published a leak report on the framework agreement and people once more are eagerly awaiting the outcome.

But things need to remember is the the declaration of the cease fire with the NSCN-IM on July 25, 1997 at the floor of Lok Sabha by the then Prime Minister of India, late Inder Kumar Gujral had already sparked tension among the various communities of the North East India, compelling some of the civil society organizations of the state to take up awareness campaign about the 'would be' affects of the cease fire agreement. Four years later, after the declaration of the ceasefire, the extension of the cease fire 'without territorial limits' on June 14, 2001, at Bangkok, which was later popularly known as 'Bangkok declaration', the simmering tension of the various communities of the state reached to catastrophe. Manipur was nearly torn to ash with almost 60 percent of the people of Imphal coming out to the street of Imphal and pouring their anger to the government set up of the state. Almost all offices of political parties, official quarters of MLAs, Ministers etc were set ablaze by the angry mob. Even the temple of democracy - the assembly secretariat was not spared. It was during this famous uprising in the history of Manipur that a complete change to the peoples' mandate during the general assembly election was brought.

Later, the political consciousness of the people had elected some of the persons whom the people believed that they would protect the people and the land of this erstwhile kingdom. Now a new government led by BJP is running the state. The final scene is yet to arrive. Manipur once more burnt or not now remain in the wisdom of Chief Minister N Biren.

US aims to eliminate ISIS from Afghanistan this year

Washington, May 2: After dropping a monster bomb on its fighters, then targeting its leader, the US military is looking to destroy the Islamic State group's Afghan branch before battle-hardened reinforcements arrive from Syria and Iraq.

While US and Kabul government forces have mainly been combatting Taliban fighters since 2001, IS's local offshoot — also known as Islamic State-Khorasan, or ISIS-K — has a stronghold in eastern Afghanistan.

First emerging in 2015, ISIS-K overran large parts of Nangarhar and Kunar provinces, near the Pakistan border, but their part in the Afghan conflict had been largely overshadowed by the operations against the Taliban.

Many Americans first heard of ISIS-K last month when the US dropped the "Mother Of All Bombs" on its Nangarhar bastion — an aerial munition that the Pentagon said was the biggest non-nuclear weapon it had ever used in combat.

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Let us help Mr Muivah sign an Agreement



By :- Sh. Ajit, Khongnam.

This is the Framework Agreement as revealed by the Week, 23 April Edition. The content may be right or wrong. The Week may violate the game rules of politics in Naga world: the Government of India may or may not be happy as a party cannot keep the secrecy of the controversial Agreement. With a smile, let us read the content as published by the Week:

The final accord will spell out permanent resident status for the Nagas, like in Jammu and Kashmir. Only permanent residents will have the right to vote and acquire land in Naga territory.

The exploration and exploitation of oil, natural gas, coal, minerals, forest and other natural resources will be in the state's domain. Some subjects may shift from the concurrent list to the state list.

The Union government will clarify about the deployment of its armed forces keeping in mind the fact that law and order is a state subject.

The Union government will create an autonomous district council with financial autonomy on the lines of the Bodoland Territorial Council for the four hill districts of Manipur (Senapati, Tamenglong, Chandel and Ukhrul). Whether it will be done under 6th schedule of the Constitution or a state act is yet to be discussed.

A Naga regional council will be set up, which would look after the religious, cultural, traditional and social interests of all Nagas. NSCN(IM) general secretary T. Muivah may be made its chairman. A separate flag for the council is under negotiation.

A formula for the rehabilitation and absorption of the 15,000-strong Naga army is under negotiation. Its soldiers will surrender their arms and may be inducted into newly-formed battalions of the Border Security Force and Rashtriya Rifles. Whether the Nagas would be allowed to have a new nationality called "Indian Naga" in their passports is being explored.

<http://www.theweek.in/theweek/cover/the-secret-deal.html>

NOW, Let us re-open the debate over Framework Agreement which was initiated by All Manipur

Students' Union (AMSU) just before the Manipur Assembly Election 2017 with the newly revealed contents by NSCN (IM) and the Week. AMSU launched its campaign, Protection of historical and political Identity of Manipur. They demanded to bring out Framework Agreement which was signed on 3 August 2015 between NSCN (IM) and Govt. Many BJP spokespersons, at the election times, said that there was nothing to worry about in the Framework Agreement. Their statements were guided by loyalty to their party.

NarendraModi, Rajnath Singh and many BJP national leaders expressed at election rallies that not even word, Manipur, was not in the Framework Agreement and promised Manipur's integrity would not be compromised while finding out a Naga Solution. The State leaders wanted to defend what national leaders said out of fear of losing Meitei and Kukli votes in the forthcoming Election. One of their spokespersons further added that Framework Agreement was just an agreement to draft an Agreement. That was election days and political logic was different from that of normal days. AMSU and many civil society organizations did not buy BJP explanation and asked Government of India the reason why the Agreement what Prime Minister of India called historic agreement, was kept secret. Their questions were not simply related with the Meitei interest or Manipur's interest but also around the solution to pains and sufferings of the Naga working class, the jhumias.

The week before was flooded with statements on Naga peace talks, issued by NSCN (IM). The organization even threatened India that it would go to China (as if China would welcome them at any time). The GOI's recognition of history, identity and territory of the Naga in the Framework, if the claim by NSCN (IM) is true, is a direct threat to the very existence of India as a Nation. India, if it is a Nation, cannot recognize the unique history, identity and territory of particular groups of people. One can note here that NSCN (IM)'s words: If India wants to keep the Nagas under Indian Constitution, it would accept.

The special provisions in Indian Constitution like Art 371 are not for Naga or tribes of particular States have uniqueness in history and territoriality. I think the legal fiction of these provisions is that these areas are inhabited by 'uncivilized' peoples whose development requires special intention. While BJP State leaders in Manipur tried to defend Modi, Rathnath or Kiren Rijju's statements in election rallies, the Party expressed of their commitment to Manipur's integrity — both emotional and political. However, in the post-election

period, though they have a BJP-led government in the State, any State or National BJP leaders do not say anything to clarify the NSCN (IM) statements so far. Even the UNC conditions in which the recognition of Naga's ancestral land in Manipur is profound very much are not negated. They overlook the politics of recognizing ancestral land; instead, they try to draw public attention to the opening of National Highways by negotiating UNC, the previous Government wanted to declare unlawful organization. The Chief Minister was publicly asked to support the Naga Integration meaning Nagalim in Ukhrul. He took the memorandum which was, literally, Death Sentence to the existence of Manipur. During the Election, BJP candidates including present Chief Minister rebuked Okram Ibobi who had come back without taking action when a group of youths welcomed him with a banner saying "Welcome to South Nagaland."

AMSU's campaign for projection of historical and political identity of Manipur provoked the critical minds of the Manipuri intelligentsia. The discourse over the one-ness of Manipur and threat from Framework Agreement is suppressed by ongoing government's endless announcement of doing this or that in the name of transparency, anti-corruption or "Go to the Hills." The discourse is still needed in Manipur. The people of Manipur, for that matter of India too, have to discuss on how India deals with violent struggle and the endless process of creating new tensions between the ethnic groups in one or another State. Will Framework Agreement or any agreement deduced from it bring any change in Nagaland? Is it a move to save its face, NSCN (IM) tries to gain a state within State of Manipur by defining ancestral land of the Nagas? Will Naga poor families gain anything out of the agreement? Many questions are before us. Here, don't we need an informed debate for a solution to the problems of all the ethnic groups and the Meitei? The urgency is due to the situation as reported in the WEEK: The Union government aims to offer an accord and give Muivah time, maybe six months, to build consensus among the Nagas. The hope is that Muivah, 83, wants to ink the deal in his lifetime. With elections due in Nagaland early next year, the process is likely to gain pace by the end of this year. Why should not Manipur help Muivah signing an accord based by bringing up a consensus of all the peoples before his last breath? He suffered a lot; Nagaland may discard him but Manipur cannot. He is one son of soil. This can be done only when we have a debate at social forum only. For this, Prime Minister of India should hand over the Framework Agreement to the people of India.

National and International News

Pakistani army provided cover with firing to BAT to behead 2 jawans: BSF

Agencies

New Delhi, May 2: The Pakistani army provided cover with firing to 'border action team' personnel to attack and kill our jawans in the Krishna Ghati sector of J&K's Poonch district, the BSF said on Tuesday.

"Taking advantage of the firing from the Pakistan side, BAT (Border Action Team) forces attacked our jawans and mutilated their bodies," KN Choubey, BSF ADG Western Command, said in a press briefing on Tuesday.

Choubey said the third jawan, who was injured in the attack, is in hospital and is stable now.

"Army and BSF will sit together to plan more steps in order to avoid further such incidents," Choubey said.

In a fresh outrage by Pakistan, two Indian soldiers were beheaded and another injured by a Pakistani 'border action team' (BAT) that sneaked into Indian territory under the cover of heavy shelling in the Krishna Ghati sector of J&K's Poonch district on Monday.

The incident in Krishna Ghati sector along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir occurred when a joint team of the army and BSF had gone to check the veracity of an intelligence report that landmines had been planted by Pakistani troops on the Indian side.

As they were looking for landmines, the patrol was taken by surprise by Pakistan's Border Action Team (BAT) which had laid an ambush over 250 metres deep inside the Indian territory.

While the Pakistani troops attacked two forward posts with rockets and mortar bombs, the BAT personnel lay in wait for their targets. The Indian army patrol too came under fusillade of gunfire, resulting in the death of two soldiers.

The BAT personnel quickly moved in and beheaded two fallen soldiers, official sources said in New Delhi. It was still not known if landmines had indeed been planted in the area. K K Sharma, the Director General of BSF, one of whose personnel was killed in the attack and decapitated, met Union home secretary Rajiv Mehriishi and briefed him on the incident. "It was a pre-planned operation by

Pakistan army. They had pushed in the Border Action Team over 250 metres deep inside Indian territory and set up the ambush for a long period to carry out the attack," a senior officer said in Jammu.

"Their target was a patrol party of 7-8 members, which had come out of a post," the officer said, adding that as the posts were engaged, the patrol team members ran for cover. Two troopers - one of the army and another of BSF - were targeted by the BAT.

Head constable Prem Sagar of 200th Battalion of the BSF and Naib Subedar Paramjeet Singh of 22 Sikh Regiment of the army were killed and their bodies mutilated.

The BAT is specifically employed for trans-LoC action. In Pakistan, the SSG (special services group) forms the core of BAT. Its primary task is to dominate the LoC by carrying out disruptive actions in the form of surreptitious raids.

There have been several BAT attacks in the past in which jawans have been beheaded or their bodies mutilated.

On October 28, 2016, militants attacked a post and killed an Indian army soldier and mutilated his body close to the Line of Control (LoC) in the Machil sector. In January 2013, Lance Naik Hemraj was killed and his body mutilated by BAT. It also beheaded Lance Naik Sudhakar Singh. Constable Rajinder Singh of the BSF suffered injuries in the attack.

In June 2008, a soldier of the 2/8 Gorkha Rifles lost his way and was captured by BAT in Kel sector. His body was found beheaded after a few days.

During the 1999 Kargil conflict, Captain Saurabh Kalia was tortured by his Pakistani captors who later handed over his mutilated body to India.

In February, 2000, terrorist Ilyas Kashmiri had led a raid on the Indian army's 'Ashok Listening Post' in the Nowshera sector and killed seven Indian soldiers.

Even then, Kashmiri had taken back to Pakistan the head of a 24-year-old Indian jawan Bhausaheb Maruti Talekar of the 17 Maratha Light Infantry.

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