

Editorial

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Tears for justice of an innocent soul Is our legal system responsible?

"Justice delayed is justice denied." William Ewart Gladstone the then Prime Minister of Britain wrote. It's over 100 years that the political thinker had written this sentence understanding the needs for rendering of justice to the victims without delay.

2017 AD, the current year, where communication technology reached its peak, where people across the globe are fighting for human values and rights, when political leaders promise justice for all, where human rights is the concerns for the world community, legal complications or perhaps system errors still leaves thousands in India deprive of what they deserve. Even dead souls would have floated between heaven and hell waiting for the judgement on where he would go.

Its over 14 years, that soulless death body of 8 years old Lungnila Ellizabeth, a student of class IV of Little Flower School, Imphal was found at Tera Sadokpam Leikai here in Imphal. The Indian system still is yet to punish those involved in the killing of the minor till today.

The year 2003, the year at which the minor girl was found death, cry for justice by punishing the culprits filled the air of the state. The inhuman heinous killing had shocked almost all people of the state and the thirst for blood of those child murderers joined the law enforcers in hunting them.

The kind of uprising was not because, father of Lungnila Ellizabeth was a Minister of that time, but because no people in the state ever thought that there would be animals minded human being who can kill an innocent child for money.

The poor angel was allegedly kidnapped by the bloody murderers for ransom of Rs. 10 lakhs. She was kidnapped by the bloody murderers on November 4 of 2003 and her death body was found on November 12, 2003. Only God knows how the innocent child was kept in custody for 7 days by the gruesome murderers.

Now 3 out of 4 accused are in judicial custody. Of the four one accused O. Deven @ Arnold is no more. The three accused are now in judicial custody. May be because the then state law enforcers are not very efficient in dealing with the case, the case had been handed over to CBI on February 6, 2006. Since then, the trial of the four accused namely Thokchom Nando, Lethhosei

Haokip @ James Kuki and Ningthoujam Rome Meitei are being conducted in Special Court, CBI, here in Imphal.

By now, many of the classmates of Lunilla Ellizabeth may have been in government service or may be doing higher studies. For sure some of them might have been in the investigating agency or some may be in the Judiciary service. This is being said because if she survives she would be 22 years old by now.

Yesterday hearing for the trial of the case was held at Special Court, CBI and again it is scheduled on December 15. Who knows the special court may fix another date for another hearing at another time, but 22 years has gone and the justice delivery system of the country still cannot convict the murderer of the innocent child.

Something is seriously wrong with the system, those in the judiciary need to look into the problem for it is at this point that people sometime felt that mob justice as a better instrument to punish any culprits.

Education Minister laid the foundation stone of government polytechnic

'Tamenglong district should be in the first priority list for inclusive development'

DIPR

Imphal Nov. 30: Education Minister Thokchom Radheshyam Singh yesterday laid the foundation stone of Government Polytechnic at Khongjaron, near 5th Manipur Rifles, Tamenglong District. He said the institute is aimed and targeted to start its session from next year.

Already served as the Superintendent of Police, Tamenglong District for three years, the Minister said that the problems and difficulties faced by the people of this district are not new to him. "Tamenglong District should be in the first priority list for inclusive development as this District is the most backward district, situated far from the state and national highway", exclaimed the Minister with deep concern. With the utmost feeling to give the ray of development to the people of Tamenglong, he said



the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and council of Ministers during the cabinet meeting usually discussed of giving special attention for the development of the district like any other developed districts.

Addressing the gathering, he said the polytechnic would benefit the people from all over the district, even the remotest corners and other parts of the state. As an Education Minister, he assured that he strives to bring and deliver transformation

in the education system of this district. He said he will also look into prospect of introducing science stream in the Government Tamenglong College and other possibility of establishing additional higher secondary as well.

Speaking in terms of on the approaches made for new developments in the educational institutions, he said there is plan to renovate and redeveloped

at least two government schools under the sponsorship of the central government. Under this project two school has been approved, one in hill district i.e., Somdal Village, Ukhrul and another at valley, The Churachand Higher Secondary School, Imphal. Sanction has also been granted for the construction of transit hostel for four hill district including Jiribam, he added.

He further stated that teachers will always be the essential guiding force for the efficient management of educational institutions. He expressed that if the district has qualified people then they could be trained for teaching.

During the visit he also inspected the Government Tamenglong College and Tamenglong Higher Secondary School. He was accompanied by the MLA Tamenglong AC Shri Samuel Jendai, DC Tamenglong Shri Armstrong Pame and concern officials

National and International News

CISF jawan shoots dead 3 in JK unit

PTI

Jammu, Nov 30: A CISF jawan today allegedly shot dead three persons, including his wife and colleague, at his unit in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The incident took place at about 2:00 am at the Central Industrial Security Force unit tasked to guard the NHPC power plant at Dhulasti in Kishtwar district of the state.

The reported reason for the jawan allegedly pumping bullets into his wife, his colleague and his wife is suspected to be linked to an extra-marital affair, they said.

The jawan used his service weapon to perpetrate the killings in the residential unit at Shalimar chowk and has been arrested by the local police.

The killing has rendered four children, two each of the couples, orphan.

"We have suspended the accused jawan and the force will take care of the children of both the families," CISF Director General O P Singh told PTI in Delhi.

The jawan, I Surinder, who allegedly committed the crime had joined the force in 2014 and hailed from Telangana.

The dead couple has been identified as constable Rajesh and his wife Shobha.

Govt moves to amend notification banning sale of cattle for slaughter

New Delhi, Nov. 30: The environment ministry has sought advice from the law ministry as it moves to amend its May notification regulating cattle trade, that many saw as an effective ban on cow slaughter motivated by ideological reasons.

Secretary, Ministry of Environment, said that a final decision regarding amendments has not been made and consultations were ongoing. "We have sent the file to the law ministry," CK Mishra, said. "We are some distance away from a decision."

The May 25 notification sparked protests in many parts of the country, notably in Kerala, West Bengal and Meghalaya where cow slaughter is permitted. While welfare of animals is a union ministry subject, regulation of cattle trade falls within the purview of the state government.

The Madras High Court had granted an interim stay on the implementation of the rules, which was later extended to the entire country in July by the Supreme Court. The rules, that apply to trade in cows, buffaloes, bulls, bullocks, heifers, calves and camels, aimed to regulate cattle markets so that cattle are traded only for agricultural purposes and not for slaughter. Cattle sellers have to produce a written declaration that the animal was not being sold for slaughter, under the rules. The notification also limited the trade to farm owners, a move that would have hit poor landless farmers, and restricted supplies to India's Rs. 1 lakh-crore meat industry. India is the largest exporter of beef, most of which is buffalo, not cow meat. Environment minister Harsh Vardhan, who took over the ministry in May, indicated that revisions would be made. "The aim of the rules was to prevent cruelty to the animals he said in June. "It has nothing to do with the slaughter business, it has nothing to do with changing your food habits." An animal welfare board member, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the revisions being considered pertained to transport of cattle and suggestions to remove Buffaloes from the list. Other members alleged that work at the board was stalled under the new minister. The amendments will have to be approved by the Animal Welfare Board of India. However, the board met in May to look into representations made by states and is set to meet again only in January.

Pope Francis heads to Bangladesh with Rohingya crisis looming large

AP

Yangon, Nov. 30: Pope Francis wrapped up his visit to Myanmar on Thursday with a Mass for young people before heading to neighboring Bangladesh where the Muslim Rohingya refugee crisis was expected to take center stage. Francis has so far refrained from speaking out about Asia's worst humanitarian crisis in decades out of diplomatic deference to his hosts in Myanmar, who consider the Rohingya as having illegally migrated from Bangladesh and don't recognize them as their own ethnic group.

The Vatican has defended Francis' silence, saying the pope wants to "build bridges" with the predominantly Buddhist nation. But human rights groups and Rohingya themselves have expressed disappointment that Francis, an advocate for refugees and the world's most marginal, refrained from condemning what the UN has said is a textbook case of ethnic cleansing.

Vatican spokesman Greg Burke said Francis took seriously the advice given to him by the local Catholic Church, which urged him to toe a cautious line and

not even refer to the "Rohingya" by name during his trip.

"You can criticize what's said, what's not said, but the pope is not going to lose moral authority on this question here," Burke told reporters on Wednesday.

Rohingya have faced persecution and discrimination in Myanmar for decades and are denied citizenship, even though many families have lived there for generations. The situation grew worse in August when the army began what it called clearance operations in northern Rakhine state following attacks on security positions by Rohingya militants. More than 620,000 Rohingya have since poured into refugee camps in neighboring Bangladesh, where they have described indiscriminate attacks by Myanmar security forces and Buddhist mobs, including killings, rapes and the torching of entire villages.

Burke stressed that Francis' diplomatic stance in public in Myanmar didn't negate what he had said in the past, or what he might be saying in private.

In the past, Francis has strongly condemned the "persecution of our Rohingya brothers," denounced their suffering because of their faith and called for them to receive "full rights."

While he called in his first major

speech on Tuesday for all of Myanmar's ethnic groups to have their human rights respected, his failure to specify the Rohingya crisis on Myanmar soil drew criticism from Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and Rohingya themselves.

On Wednesday, Myanmar Bishop John Hsane Hgyi suggested that reports of atrocities being committed against the Rohingya were not "reliable" or "authoritative," and that those who criticized Myanmar's response to a complex situation should "go into the field to study the reality and history" to obtain "true news."

The government has barred independent groups from traveling to northern Rakhine state.

In his final event in Myanmar, Francis celebrated Mass in Yangon's St. Mary's Cathedral for young Catholics. The young worshippers, many dressed in the traditional clothing of their ethnic groups, leaned out to touch or kiss Francis' hand as he slowly walked by.

During the Mass, Francis told them to not be afraid to make their voices heard. "Do not be afraid to make a ruckus, to ask questions that make people think," he told them. "Make yourselves heard."

AK Antony to undergo surgery at Delhi's RML Hospital

New Delhi, Nov. 30: Former Defence Minister AK Antony will undergo surgery at the Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) hospital in New Delhi following a brain haemorrhage, hospital authorities said today.

Currently, the 76-year-old is undergoing conservative treatment as doctors needed time to decide on the next course of

action. Conservative management is a type of medical treatment defined by the avoidance of invasive measures such as surgery or other invasive procedures, usually with the intent to preserve function or body parts.

"There was a meeting of neurosurgeons and general surgeons today (Thursday) morning to decide on the surgery," said a hospital official.

The senior Congress leader was admitted to RML on Wednesday afternoon.

"He was brought to the hospital in the afternoon. There is nothing to worry as it was a minor brain haemorrhage," said a doctor on the condition of anonymity.

Mr Antony served two terms as Defence Minister and three times as Kerala Chief Minister.

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