

Editorial

Thursday, April 19, 2018

Land of thousand heroes

For any sons or daughters, who are young enough, to learn the art of living in today's materialistic world, parents are their only means to shape their future. Without them they are like in a boat without canoe in the middle of the vast ocean.

No human being are immortal, if born they will have to die. Knowing so die at young age or die at a time when they have someone to look after; when there are dependent especially by children, only God knows the future. To the world the children become orphan.

If it is in the case of minor girl, it is the hardest life. A recent accident, at which a mother and her 7/8 months old son died while they were carrying back the dead body of her husband left two minor girls as orphan.

Manipur was once known to the outside world as a place of conflict, hostilities and barbarism. These were being engraved to the mind of the outsider with the negative news carried by media houses outside the state which struck the mind of the people outside the state. Rumours about hate story towards outsiders spread by some vested interested people over some issues like ILPS and others had created bad name to the state for so long.

But what people from outside the state felt about Manipur is totally different. Unlike yesterday, what is being happened in reality now can be reached to all the people across the world through newly invented technologies. An event happened hear spread throughout the world through social networking site like - facebook, twitter, Whatsapp, etc.

The road accident of April 11, 2018 which left the two minor girls as orphan, and another story of an 8 years old girl fighting for survival with both kidney failed as well as stories of peoples' contribution to support poor players are some of the example to prove that - Manipur have more kind hearted people than any other people of any other states or Union Territories in the country.

A father, a mother who had sold all their properties and mortgaged even their house in trying to safe their 8 years old finally smile with thousands of people extending financial contribution for kidney transplantation of the 8 years old girl, at a time when they are left with no money to bore the treatment of their daughter.

The two minor girls from Sekmai Parao, whose parents and an infant brother on April 11 now see hope as hundreds of people including politicians came for help.

State fencer who was not in the position to take part in International tournament abroad due to financial constrained is now ready for departure with the contribution from many people of the state.

The people of Manipur are fearless and aggressive when it comes on the issue of identity. They uproar, burnt even the state assembly if anybody tried to distort the integrity of the state. But they are kind people who always come forward to help the needy. This is a land of thousands heroes.

Leader writer - Laishram Ranbir

National & International News

US wants to continue expanding defence, security ties with India: Wells

Agency
Washington, Apr 19

The Trump Administration plans to continue to expand its defence and security cooperation with India and support New Delhi's growing relationships throughout South Asia, a top US official has said. Speaking with PTI, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia Affairs Alice Wells said the US-India strategic partnership was based on a shared commitment to uphold the rule of law and free and fair trade among other things.

"The US-India strategic partnership stands firmly upon a shared commitment to uphold the rule of law, freedom of navigation, democratic values, and free and fair trade. We plan to continue to expand our defence and security cooperation and support India's growing relationships throughout the region," Wells said.

Wells has been running the crucial South and Central Asia Bureau of the State Department for more than a year now in the Trump Administration in the absence of an Assistant Secretary of State. Responding to a question on her impression about the India-US relationship in more than a year of the Trump Administration, Wells quoted the US president and said the ties "had never been stronger, never been better".

"His words have rung true for me since taking this position last summer. The USA and India, as the world's oldest and largest democracies respectively, collaborate on a broad scope of issues to support the freedom, openness, and peace that have brought so much prosperity Indo-Pacific over recent decades," Wells said.

These issues were at the top of her agenda during her recent trip to India, Wells said.

She said she was "excited" about the first U.S.-India 2+2 to be held in the coming months.

"We are working to identify

mutually convenient dates. This engagement will further support our efforts to deepen diplomatic, security, and military cooperation to confront our most pressing global challenges, from Afghanistan and North Korea to the threat of terrorism," Wells said.

"We are also focused on strengthening economic ties,

including increasing two-way trade, which has more than doubled over the last decade to roughly USD 125 billion," she said.

The two countries are also working hard to strengthen their energy partnership, Wells said, adding that Energy Secretary Rick Perry's recent visit to New Delhi for the Strategic Energy Partnership

"elevates the role of energy in advancing shared goals".

"Our collaboration in oil and gas, renewables, coal, and civil nuclear cooperation is helping to improve India's energy security and support its inclusive development while supporting thousands of US jobs and reducing our trade deficit," Wells said.

IIT Kanpur student commits suicide by hanging himself from ceiling fan in hostel room

Agency
New Delhi, April 19

A third-year PhD student at the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, allegedly committed suicide on Wednesday by hanging himself from the ceiling fan in his hostel room. The news was confirmed by Manindra Agarwal, Deputy Director of IIT-Kanpur, who said that the reason behind the suicide is still not clear. The police said they have found a note from the student's room which was reportedly torn into pieces.

"The reason behind his suicide is not clear. A letter has been recovered and is in the

possession of forensic team of the police," Agarwal said.

The student has been identified as Bheem Singh and was last seen on Tuesday. Bheem was missing for a day and other students noticed that his room was locked from inside. When they knocked, there was no response. The students then informed the authorities and broke the door. They found Bheem hanging from the fan and police was informed which did a preliminary investigation.

Bheem Singh hails from Faridabad near Delhi and his parents have been informed of the incident. He had completed his B.Tech from NIT in Warangal, and had joined the

mechanical engineering department of IIT-Kanpur in 2015. Some of his friends have reportedly told the police that Bheem was under severe stress. The post-mortem will be done on Thursday. The incident comes in a string of similar cases at the premiere technical institution. It was these incidents that prompted the IITs across the country to set up wellness centres to help students deal with stress. The step was taken because of the increase in campus suicide cases. Education minister, Prakash Javadekar, had said that these wellness centres will offer remedial courses and there will be an induction programme for freshers joining IITs.

Resignation of judge who delivered Mecca Masjid blast verdict rejected

Agency
Hyderabad, April 19

The High Court of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on Thursday rejected the resignation filed by the judge who delivered the Mecca Masjid Blast verdict.

As per sources, Ravinder Reddy, the special National Investigation Agency (NIA) judge who delivered the verdict in the above case, has been asked to attend to his duties immediately.

On Monday, a special NIA court at

Nampally had acquitted all accused in the case due to lack of evidence provided against the latter.

Hours after the verdict was pronounced, Reddy tendered his resignation.

The blast, which took place on May 18, 2007, at the Mecca Masjid here during Friday prayers, had killed eight people and left 58 injured, and was allegedly carried out by a group of right-wing terrorists.

The NIA had taken charge of the case from the Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI) in 2011, in which ten persons were named as accused. However, only five of them, namely Devendra Gupta, Lokesh Sharma, Swami Aseemanand, Bharat Mohanlal Rameshwar and Rajendra Chowdhary were arrested and faced trial in the case.

Meanwhile, two other accused-Sandeep V Dange and Ramchandra Kalsangra- are absconding, while one of the accused, Sunil Joshi was allegedly murdered while the case was being investigated.

Contd. from yesterday issue

Manipuri Pony A Cavalry Horse Par Excellence

By: **Moirangthem Shantikumar Singh**
Earlier, Raja Charairongba, father of Garibniwaz had presented one of his daughters in marriage to a Burman King. Garibniwaz suspected that the princess was not well treated. In 1724, the king said he would present another girl to provide company for the one presented earlier. But when three hundred lords, ladies and attendants from the Ava Court came to escort her at the mouth of the Yu River in the upper Chindwin district, not far from Tammu, they were met not by a tame princess but by wild horsemen who carried them as captives into Manipur. Cheitharol Kumbaba, the Royal Chronicle records graphically, "...Manipuris swiftly moved closer to the garrison and hand-to-hand fight started near the stockade; 10 men including Thangsaba Hidang Khagokpa, succumbed to the musket shots. Inside the forest, 90 men and 10 women who came to escort the princess were captured by Khullakpa's party on the bank of the River". The Burmese expedition sent in revenge was ambushed at Heirok and captured 157 Burmans with 160 muscats and 10 horses. The survivors retreated back to Burma. Thus, continuously for decades, Manipur carlary became the terror of Burma. In 1738 Sagaing was completely

devastated when the Manipuri King "burnt every house and monastery up to the walls of Ava, and stormed the stockade built to protect the Kaunghmudaw Pagoda at Sagaing). They slaughtered the garrison like sheep in a pen and killed the commandant, a minister of the Hluttaw Council; the old door-leaves of the pagoda's easter gateway show a gash made by the sword of Gharib Newas when he was forcing an entrance." The famous sword mark on the door of the pagoda was an such a testimony to the high potential of these legendary Ponies as to the valour of their masters. Garibniwaz's cavalry-mount was completely fearless and invincible. All the more noticeable in the ponies was what the jungle-war veterans often call, a built-in "wood-sense" of the breed. It defines how the ponies develop a natural way of traversing water obstacles and swamps without panicking or getting stuck in the mud. If a horse panics in water, then it is not a complete warhorse. Having experienced the swamps in the valley of Manipur, the ponies were deterred neither by the tropical rain of Burma nor by the torrential streams crisscrossing the Indo-Burma border. The scrambling in a melee in the polo field taught the ponies and thier

armed riders to be alert and quick-witted during a cavalry charge. The scene could be graphically visualised when the young warrior King Garibniwaz stormed Sagaing on the advice of his royal Hindu priests in the first decade of the 18th century. In the thick jungle of Kabaw valley, the puddles and pools of water could be laying on top of the ground until they were trodden into sludge by the thousands of hooves when the trial of warriors and horses were passing through. Yes, sometimes the monsoon wind battered the rain against the pony's flanks and the hill tracks blurred under the swell of so much water. The Burmese war of 1824-26 was the last battle which the Manipuri cavalry had to engage in the field, outside Manipur boundary. With the establishment of a Political Agency in Manipur, the British had virtually taken charge of the security of the "native state" and the British had rviewed the positional relevancy of the cavalry. Still, Pemberton complained in 1835, "[t]hat cavalry were of little or no use in the eastern frontier...[is a] mistaken impression." He said that it was the Manipuri Cavalry that saved the day when the British forces under Lieutenant Brooke faced a strong Burmese offensive at

Rangpur, Assam, Manipur had a regular cavalry stenth of 100 at that time. Time changes, Manipur is no longer a stand-alone sovereign state requiring a cavalry for the war front. Moreover, mechanisation and motorisation has changed the mounts from horse to tracked and wheeled vehicles, through the missions of reconnaissance and security remain the same. We have polo to be pursued in the traditional style of the game when the height limit of the mount was restricted at 13.2 hh. Like the international games of tennis which are played at the grass, clay and hard courts to suit the veritable tastes and aptitudes of individuals and nations, we can have separate formats of pony-polo and horse-polo to add to the variety of the sport; and help preserve the ancient gene pool of the original Polo pony for the future of mankind. By providence we have the heritage Manipuri Pony in our midst with a minuscule population of less than 1000, as a vestige of the bygone era and a relic of the past. The heritage Manipur Pony is a symbol of our society's cultural entity, the indelible part of our heritage and a precious link with our ppast. Can we give the Manipur Pony a place under the sun before it slides into extinction?

(Concluded)

An Appeal from TBICA

This is to appeal to all peace loving citizens to pray for peaceful co-existence in our State. The Executive Council of TBICA helps all concerned to know the truth against the allegation made by MNFF in the Newspaper (Imphal Times- April 15, 2018) regarding the misuse of fund of UTLAM, a sum of Rupees forty lakhs (40,00,000) withdrawn by TBICA leaders. The letter sent from Mr. Wat Santalawat, Sr. Vice President for Partnership Operations & Support of World Vision International, clarifies your doubt and queries. Please find the letter printed below:



World Vision

September 22, 2003

Mr. W. Santalawat
Chief, Partnership UTLAM
Post Office Box 11
P.O. Langthlun
Imphal, Manipur 791042
INDIA

Re: UTLAM Chair

Dear Mr. Santalawat,

Dearings from World Vision International

Thank you for your letter of September 1, 2003. On behalf of World Vision International, I am writing in response to your various letters concerning the matter. As this time, I understood that you have filed a motion against World Vision of India and others (including the Board of World Vision International) to sue World Vision of India to support UTLAM projects in Manipur, India.

We kindly reiterate that the World Vision International has not seen any funds designated or contributed by World Vision of India to any projects in Manipur, India. Please note that World Vision International has never sent funds to World Vision of India to help you in running your projects.

World Vision of India employs its own staff to operate and manage Area Development Programmes (ADPs) and projects. Your cooperation to World Vision International has been found exclusively to assist you in detail at IMR and not in other areas.

We therefore sincerely wish you not to proceed with your litigation on this side either. We do hope you will understand our position and cooperate with us in solving the just and the healthy people by withdrawing your writ petition filed against World Vision.

Very respectfully,
Dr. Sunil Joshi
Sr. Vice President for Partnership Operations & Support

cc: Dr. Sunil Joshi, President
Dr. Madhukar Flory, National Director, World Vision of India

Executive Council, TBICA- April 17, 2008

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail : imphaltimes@gmail.com. For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-2452159 (0)