

Sunday Poetry

Fear

By - Dr Nunglekpam Premi Devi  
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I have a fear, a fear of dread darkness;  
So wild and too forbidding, within me;  
'Darkness' instill unauthorized, making me shaky;  
All I feel is nowhere round, I traveled far off;  
Losing ever inch of my bravely confidence,  
I struck loosely nowhere infusing shady phantoms;  
Its mortal dark and, I see things! I cried loudly  
Hang in there! Wait and look for me!  
Mother! Mother! Still all, quite and hush;  
I lost self presence, 'fearing' quieting my breath;  
Concealing all colors, darkness the one rules hallucinating;  
Breathing in and breathing out, as I stand still  
Silence speaks all, merging more wraiths stilly.

Perturbed every single night, Uneasy lies within me;  
Afraid! Collecting 'nura' wasn't welcoming;  
Fear as hell, darkness has eaten me all;  
Stretching out my arm searching nura, here and there;  
I stopped breathing, not an inch I see unclear,  
I see things, many things as I could imagine, marching towards;  
Get me a light; get me a *podon*! I cried loudly,  
None hears the call, neither attended, I surf along vividly;  
Still continued, searching unsuspected with the unseeing eyes;  
Losing total control, one arm out and one pulling back;  
I flattered dangers, 'mother' stand by me! I whisper  
Hating 'self' consciousness, I roar within loud out;  
Fear rules, as I stood kneeling reaching out hand.

I have a fear, a fear of dread darkness;  
Ceasing my arm, I jumped in the empty, halting;  
Suspended searching, one and two and three,  
Onto the bamboo stalks, I never did find 'nura';  
What was that? I hold onto, soft and cold creamy,  
Feeling shocked touching out 'toad' breathing underneath;  
I cried of danger and I scream for the light;  
Jumping back and front appealing and pleading;  
Light! Light! As do I beg, Mother watches me over;  
I feel blessed beholding distant *podon* lights, overwhelming;  
And she bubbles away frothing 'smiling' adorably;  
Assembling my senses, I tried instilling darkness into lights;  
I walk through reoccupying, with lamp in the hand.

One and two and three, I looked around searching;  
Blinking eyes open out, with a lamp in the other hand,  
Oh! There you are! Connecting to abandoning piece;  
Catching and holding firmly, I spaded faster;  
Turning back sooner, overlooking *podon* in the left,  
I run and rush faster as I could; dashing and smashing;  
With one heap breath, flash! Go away the little light;  
I flipped inside the door, soothing breathing;  
How great! I throw it back in the dark wilderness;  
Lessening 'Fear' that forbidding within me.

Delhi held to ransom by traders: HC on amendment of masterplan

**PTI New Delhi, Feb 11:** In an apparent disapproval of the government's proposed amendment of the master plan after traders protested against the sealing drive, the Delhi High Court has observed that a few people have "held the city to ransom". A bench of Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C Hari Shankar further observed that by sitting on a dharna "you can get the master plan changed". "Not because it is required nor after checking if the city can handle it. It is done because a few hundred people sit on a dharna. "The master plan is being amended because the traders have held the city

to ransom by pulling down their shutters," it said and asked the authorities whether an environment impact assessment was conducted before proposing to amend the Master Plan-2021. The Master Plan-2021 is a blueprint for urban planning and expansion in the metropolis to ensure overall development and the proposed amendments were for bringing a uniform floor area ratio (FAR) for shop-cum-residential plots and complexes on par with residential plots. The observations by the bench came while hearing matters pertaining to unauthorised constructions and encroachment of public land.

National & International News

Toll in attack on Army camp rises to 6

**PTI Sunjwan, Feb 11:** The toll in a terrorist attack on Sunjwan Army camp rose to six with the deaths of three more Army personnel and a civilian even as the operation to flush out the JeM militants entered the second day today. A group of heavily armed Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorists had struck the sprawling camp of the 36 brigade of Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry early yesterday, triggering a gunbattle. Two Army personnel, including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) were killed yesterday. A top police official said three more Army men and a civilian, who was the father of an Army personnel, were

killed, taking the toll to six. Two of the attackers in combat gear were gunned down yesterday. "The operation is on and the evacuation (of people from the family quarters) is in progress," Jammu-based Army PRO Lt Col Devender Anand told PTI. He said a number of families were still there and the Army's aim was to ensure their safety. "There was no firing since last night," the officer said, adding that bodies of only two terrorists were recovered from the encounter site. The latest attack on the camp took place nearly 15 months after the Jammu region was hit by a similar attack. On November 29, 2016,

terrorists had stormed the Army's Nagrota camp on the outskirts of the city, killing seven Army personnel including two officers. Three terrorists were also gunned down. The terrorists had struck before dawn yesterday and managed to sneak into the camp from the rear side of the base after a brief exchange of fire with the sentry on its periphery. "The terrorists entered the family accommodation complex after which quick response teams cordoned off the area and isolated the terrorists, who are holed up in a few houses (inside the camp)," officials said. While there was no action around the main entrance and vehicles were

moving along the Jammu-Lakhanpur bypass in front of the camp, Army personnel in bullet-proof vehicles engaged in the operation to rescue people from the family quarters in the rear side of the base. Contingents of CRPF and police were posted outside the boundary wall and were keeping curious onlookers at bay to avoid civilian casualties. A high alert has been sounded in Jammu and security beefed up in and around the city. Intelligence inputs had warned of an attack on an Army or security establishment by Jaish-e-Mohammed in view of the death anniversary of Afzal Guru who was hanged on February 9, 2013.

India's ties with UAE much more than that of buyer-seller: PM

**PTI Dubai, Feb 11:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said India's relations with the UAE was much more than that of a buyer and a seller as he hailed the country's growing ties with the Gulf countries as "deep, broad and vibrant". Addressing the members of the Indian community at the Dubai Opera House here on the second day of his two-day visit to the UAE, Modi said his government was trying to bring India

to a global benchmark. "Today, be it the UAE or other Gulf nations, our relation with them is not just that of a buyer and a seller. It has become much more," Modi said. The Prime Minister assured the Indian community that his government will work to bring to reality their dreams. "India's leap in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Rankings from 142 to 100 is unprecedented. But we are not satisfied at this, we want to

do better. We will do whatever it takes to make it possible," he told the gathering. Modi hailed his government's bold decisions like demonetisation and implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST). "GST had been languishing for seven years, but now it is a reality," he said in his nearly 20-minute speech. Taking a dig at his detractors, Modi said even the poor people agree with the fact that demonetisation was a right move. But some people lost their

sleep and they are still mourning, he added. Modi also thanked the UAE which provided almost 30 lakh people from India a home like environment, away from home. Earlier, Indian High School student and Guinness Record Holder Sucheta, who has the unique ability to sing in 107 languages, performed a medley of regional Indian language songs ahead of Modi's arrival at the Dubai Opera.

At least three killed, four injured in Grand Canyon helicopter tour crash

**New York Daily News, Feb. 11:** At least three people were killed in a helicopter crash near the Grand

Canyon with a sightseeing company behind the death of five New Yorkers in 2001.

The chopper, operated by the Las Vegas-based business Papillon, had at least seven people on board, including the pilot, when it crashed on the Hualapai Nation reservation just before 5:30 p.m., Hualapai Nation Police Chief Francis Bradley said. Four other passengers, despite being critically injured in the fiery wreckage, could not be airlifted to safety due to swift winds, according to KSNV-TV. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Allen Kenitzer identified the downed aircraft as a Eurocopter EC130. He was unable to elaborate where the helicopter went down or what caused the crash. The aircraft, which took off from Las Vegas, sustained "substantial damage," Kenitzer said in an email. An employee who answered

Papillon's aerial tour reservations phone line late Saturday declined to comment on the crash. Spokeswomen for the company did not immediately respond to repeated requests for comment. The victims in the crash Saturday were not identified. The company has undergone about a dozen aviation probes by the National Transportation Safety Board since 2001, when five people from Brooklyn were killed during the canyon tour. The pilot lost control of the American Eurocopter AS350 aircraft and crashed into the Grand Wash Cliffs near Grand Canyon National Park, killing six people on board, including himself. Chana Daskal was the sole survivor of the wreckage that claimed the life of her husband and four friends.

More State News

Assam Rifles nabs drug and weapon dealers

**Imphal, Feb. 11:** In its continued efforts towards drug and crime free Manipur, 26 Assam Rifles and 39 Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) along with Thoubal Police Commandos nabbed three notorious drug and weapons smugglers while they tried to escape the joint cord of Assam Rifles and Thoubal Commandos near Slopeland. A double

barrel shotgun, two mobile phones, two live rounds and Rs. 9,710/- in cash was recovered from the smugglers. The individuals on interrogation revealed that they were involved in peddling of drugs and were also waiting for an opportunity to kidnap government employees for ransom. The individuals were handed over to Thoubal Police.

Assam Rifles conducts lecture on importance of sports

**Imphal, Feb. 11:** 11 Assam Rifles of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) conducted a lecture on "Importance of Sports" at Thangbung Minou village, Tengnoupal District on 10 Feb 2018. A total of 43 villagers (24 Males, 07 Females and 12 Children) attended the programme. The aim of the lecture was to make the local populace aware about the importance of sports and the other facilities available with the Company Operating Base Thangbung Minou for upcoming sports lovers among the villagers and other nearby

areas. During the event example of various great sports star from India was given including Mary Kom, the boxer from Manipur to motivate the villagers and to make them understand the importance of sports. All the participants were satisfied and motivated by the discussion and appreciated the initiative by 11 Assam Rifles. It also promotes mutual understanding and friendly relations between the Assam Rifles and the local populace of the village. At the end the villagers were served with tea and snacks as a refreshment.

3,000 TN fishermen chased away by Lankan Navy

**PTI Rameswaram, Feb 11:** More than 3,000 fishermen from Tamil Nadu, who had put out to sea in 460 mechanised boats, were today chased away by the Sri Lankan Navy when they were allegedly fishing near Katchatheevu islet, Fisheries Department officials here said. The Lankan navy personnel also warned the fishermen from Rameswaram not to poach fish near Katchatheevu and snapped the nets of 10 boats, Assistant Director of Fisheries A.Manikandan said.

Later, the navy personnel asked the fishermen to take back the snapped nets and warned them not to venture near the islet, he added. Seven Tamil Nadu fishermen were arrested on February 8 by the Lankan navy, which also snapped the fishing nets of at least 50 vessels while they were allegedly fishing near Katchatheevu islet. On February 6, more than 1,500 Tamil Nadu fishermen were chased away by the Sri Lankan Navy while they were allegedly fishing close to Katchatheevu islet.

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