

Editorial

Monday, October 22, 2018

Benevolence behind the iron fortress

During an interview at India Today conclave held at the city of joy recently, Manipur's Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had stated that law and order condition of the state have improved a lot since the coming of his government in March 2017. His contention is spot on when compared to the days of the last government. The introduction of the Night Plaza and 'comparatively smoother', adept handling of almost all potential public angst and pacification of major civil bodies and *meira paibis* have relieved the law enforcing agencies to a considerable degree.

The blast that occurred on the evening of October 20 at the crowded Nagamapal which killed a CRPF personnel while injuring another cannot validate the Chief Minister's statement as minor incident of the kind happening in every developing cities. To be frank the law and order situation of the state have improved a lot and the credit should be given to the Chief Minister N Biren Singh.

Having said so, someone visiting the state will hardly believe that the law and order condition have been improved. It is okay with the changing lifestyle like comforting visitors with night life and other extravaganzas.

But the Barricades cordoning the Chief Minister's Bungalow from the northern side till the end at southern side prohibiting pedestrians, besides having a concrete wall and an iron gate to repel any attack automatically defy the chief minister's statement, as no office of the chief minister of governor were protected, the way important offices are protected during war time.

The same is with the Raj Bhavan. The presence of highly trained security guard is enough to guard the gate. The simplicity of her Excellency the governor of Manipur is being maligned with the presence of the iron barricade topped with barbed wire.

When the office of the head of the state need iron barricades topped with barb wire despite the fact that the office are being fenced with concrete wall, what is the need of the iron barricade? After all, police are well trained - or we are made to believe - to control democratic protests. Justifying the cordoning of the Chief Minister's office to prevent protestors kicking the gate of Chief Minister's office is akin to convincing a fool to say 'yes' to whatever is being taken up whether people are happy or not.

What is the use of organizing peoples' meet every month when the government has lost faith in its people?

This column had earlier brought up the issue of cordoning the CMO with barricade and suggested that it should be removed as the situation is now calm.

An answer justifying the cordoning of the CMO by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh to a young citizen of the state surprises everyone. How could he be chosen as the best Chief Minister of BJP ruled states in the country when the attitude showed signs of an authoritarian? The justification sounds more like a threat or intimidation to any person who criticize the act of the government, if felt wrong.

Well there had been incidents of bombs exploded near the Chief Minister's Bungalow by unidentified miscreants earlier. Extra security measures were taken up and cordons were set up in the perimeter-but temporarily till the perpetrators were ascertained and the threats removed. The present barricade in front of the CMs office however looks like a permanent arrangement which is proving to be a great inconvenience and unnecessary nuisance for the public who have to climb down on the road in order to pass the place, which happens to be at a very busy intersection in the heart of the city thereby putting the pedestrians at risk of injury. The very arrangement also presents an ironic picture that is in stark contrast to the claims of an improved social atmosphere by the very government who is functioning behind what has increasingly come to resemble a mini iron fortress.

Nirode K Barooah to attend press club program



By NJ Thakuria Guwahati, Oct. 22

Eminent historian Professor Nirode K Barooah will attend the 'Guest of the Month' program of Guwahati Press Club on Tuesday (23 October 2018). The interactive session with the author of Chitto: The Life and Times of an Anti-Imperialist in Europe, 'Gopinath Bardoloi, the Assam problem and Nehru's centre', 'India and the Official Germany, 1886-1914 (European University Studies)', 'Germany and the Indians', 'David Scott in North-East India' etc will start by 3 pm. Born in 1937, Dr Barooah completed his doctorate degree in modern history from London University (1964) as well as from Bonn University (1977). Presently lives in Germany, the prominent Assamese scholar has done extensive historical research in diverse fields & different periods and published many books & papers.

Some of the areas of Prof Barooah's research include the earliest British administrators in Assam and their administrative ideas, the German- Indian relations during 1886-1945, the Gopinath Bardoloi period of Assam's history etc. Member-journalists of the press club are requested to participate in the program.

Mini Marathon – in the memory of BSF Martyrs

IT News Imphal, Oct. 22

54 Battalion under the aegis of Sector Head Quarter BSF, CI (OPS) Koirengi organized Martyrs Mini Marathon at Tac HQ Loktak on 21st Oct. 2018 at 05.30 hrs in the memories of Martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for our Country during various Insurgent/Militant encounters and attacks. In the Mini Marathon total 100 personnel participated from 54 Bn BSF.

MKT Simte, 21C/Offg. Commandant of 54 Bn BSF has flagged off the Mini Marathon at 05.30 hrs at Tac HQ Loktak and also distributed the prizes to the Jawans who achieved 1st, 2nd, 3rd position and consolation prizes to the personnel participated in the Mini Marathon.

In addition to that, at 08.00 hrs, the police commemoration parade was also conducted at unit Tac HQ, Loktak, in which all troops and officers kept two minutes silence to pay tribute to the martyrs who had



laid down their precious life in the line of duty.

At the annual conference of Inspectors General of Police of States and Union Territories held in January 1960, it was decided that October 21st would be observed as "Commemoration Day" in all Police Lines across India to mark the memory of police personnel who were killed

in Ladakh in a faceoff with the Chinese Army and all the other Police personnel who have been killed on duty elsewhere.

The faceoff took place at Hot Springs in North Eastern Ladakh. A memorial has been erected at Hot Springs and every year. Police personnel from across India trek to Hot Springs to pay their respects every year.

BSF organizes cultural programme

IT News Imphal, Oct. 22

In continuation to yesterday's martyrs Mini Marathon, a cultural programme on patriotic fervour was organized by 182 Battalion BSF at Battalion HQ Koirengi for family members of BSF martyrs of Manipur. The event organized under the aegis of Commandant 182 Bn BSFND Mao, was intended to show gratitude & reach out to family members of BSF martyrs of Manipur State. The colourful event was graced by

Bala Devi w/o M. Lekhendro Singh, Commandant (Administration) as Chief Guest, Sushila w/o Dr. Momo Kom, CMO(SG) of DIG HQ BSF Manipur and M. Bharati Devi w/o Thokchom Binot Singh, Offg. Commandant 182 Bn as Guest of Honour.

The invitees were treated to a colourful cultural programmes performed by BSF Mahila Constables & family members.

Offg. Commandant of 182 Bn BSF further says that more such interactive programmes/events are

being planned for the family members of the BSF martyrs to show concern and respect for the sacrifice all these martyrs had done for the motherland.

Commandant also further says that family members of these martyrs can always approach BSF for any of their help and BSF will be more than happy to extend whatever little help BSF can do for them.

Gifts were also distributed to the family members and the event culminated with sumptuous refreshment.

Kuriakose, who testified against Bishop Franco Mulakkal, found dead

Agency New Delhi, Oct. 22,

Father Kuriakose Kattuthara, who testified against Bishop Franco Mulakkal in the nun rape case, died under mysterious circumstances on Monday morning. According to his relatives, the 67-year-old priest was

found dead in a room attached to a church at Dasuya in Punjab.

Fr. Kattuthara, hailing from Pallippuram near Cherthala in Alappuzha, had given a statement against Bishop Mulakkal to the police in the alleged rape of a nun belonging to the Missionaries of Jesus under the Jalandhar diocese.

His relatives have filed a complaint before Alappuzha District Police Chief. S. Surendran demanding a detailed probe into the death. Earlier Fr. Kattuthara had alleged that he was constantly threatened by church officials for supporting the nun.

Bishop Mulakkal was arrested on September 21 on a case registered by the Kuravilangad police in Kottayam district. He was granted bail by the Kerala High Court on October 15 under stringent conditions.

The nun had alleged that she was raped by the bishop from May 5, 2014 to May 6, 2016 on 14 occasions in a room attached to the St. Francis Mission Home, Kuruvilangad.

Punia enters World Championship semifinals Three other Indians fade away early

From a correspondent New Delhi, Oct. 22

Jakarta Asian Games gold medalist Bajrang Punia beat Tulga Tumur Ochir of Mongolia 5-3 to enter the Freestyle 65 kg semifinals on the second day of the World Wrestling Championships at the Papp László Sportaréna in Budapest today.

In a thrilling quarterfinal, the Indian held upper hand until the last minute, leading 4-1. But Punia conceded to his Mongolian opponent three crucial points, including one for the neutral position and two for the takedown within 40-odd seconds, almost stopping the Indian's progress.

But luckily, Punia held his nerves and even thwarted a challenge by the Mongolian in the last second, thus earning an additional point for the CWG gold medalist.

"I am happy I was able to keep my cool in the last few seconds to see this through. I am confident and I also knew that the challenge cannot go against me," said a relieved Punia, who led 3-1 at the end of the first period, "said the grappler from Budapest over phone.

The Indian will take on in the semifinals, later tonight, Alejandro Enrique Valdes Tobier of Cuba. Coach Jagminder was equally



happy to see the grappler enter the semifinals. "I am happy for Bajrang. He is an experienced player and did well throughout the bout but I am particularly happy that he could keep cool and win it despite the match being very close," said the National Men's Freestyle Coach.

Earlier, Punia defeated Roman Asharin 9-4 in the first round and beat Korean Lee Seungchul 4-0 in a bout which saw both grapplers trading cautiously. After having earned three points in the first period, Punia added just one more in the second even as the Korean was concentrating more on his defence. In other bouts of the day, Sandeep

Tomar scored an excellent first-round win over his Guatemalan opponent Jose Mox Arias with a score of 10-0, six of his points coming in the second period. He, however, lost the second round to Azerbaijan's Giorgi Edisherashvili 2-2—his opponent was declared winner because of a warning which the Indian received in the first period.

Sachin Rathi lost his first round 92 kg category bout to the strong Mongolian wrestler, Unurbat Purejav, 13-1, the latter outclassing the Indian in the second period. On the other hand, Deepak, who received a first-round bye, lost the second-round bout to Liubomyr Sagaliuk of Ukraine 4-0.

MeToo: SC declines urgent hearing of PIL seeking registration of FIRs

Agency New Delhi, Oct. 22,

The Supreme Court on Monday declined urgent hearing on a PIL seeking the registration of FIRs based on allegations of sexual misconduct and assault levelled by women across various sectors, part of what is being referred to as India's #MeToo movement.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice S.K. Kaul told lawyer M.L. Sharma, who had filed the petition, that it will come up for hearing in the regular course.

Besides FIRs, the petition also seeks a direction to the National Commission for Women (NCW) to give security and assistance to the women who have come out in the open with their allegations.

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