

# Editorial

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

## Disrespect to mother earth

Crimes against humanity deserve the worst form of punishment. Different nations have different legal system to protect the interests of their country. The enforcement of certain laws - like capital punishment; Special powers act to armed forces may have strong and supportive argument as it is about the security of their respective nations. Gross violation of human rights at certain parts of the country and other parts of the world may receive severe criticisms from many who are concerned for Human values. Arguments may continue for certain human causes permitting each sides to stand tight with their act. But what about some issues like global warming, water scarcity and deforestation?

There is no wrong in saying that environment has no boundary. A massive destruction of forest or extraction of crude oil or mismanagement of natural water is among the issues which no nations could give reasonable arguments as it affect regions beyond politically drawn boundaries. After all, these issues are about human beings across the globe.

Reports about the scarcity of usable water have been top news at almost all newspaper in Manipur. As for the state of Manipur there is adequate rainfall every year but faced acute shortage of water almost every year in the last couple of decades. Interestingly, during rainy season the state also witnessed flood almost every time. In short the state suffers the ugly face of flood during rainy season while they had to bear drought in the remaining days. In view of the arising situation that we are facing right now, there is an urgent matter that needs to be pondered on what went wrong?

Is it the people or is it the government who is responsible for the present crisis?

Deforestation has been taking place illegally at different parts of the state has been often blamed - both by government and the many social activists which is universally accepted by all. One thing we at Imphal Times suggest is that we cannot completely blame the people who are responsible for cutting the trees for their livelihood. It is the government which is responsible and why shouldn't it be? It was all about their survival and mind it some people do not have any alternative for survival. On paper government had passed many schemes to substitute the livelihood but it is an open secret that none of this schemes meant for the poor people had never been benefitted by the targeted beneficiaries as the money meant for them had been pocketed by government authorities who were assigned for implementation of the projects.

Another matter, which we at IMPHAL TIMES is concerned is the poor understanding of the government department about the need for storage of natural water underneath the earth. There seems to be complete lack of knowledge by the government authority about the need to let the earth absorb any source of water. Clear example is the drain constructed under huge funding from the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNURM). The cubicle shaped drainage construction has no mechanism to let the drain water absorb underneath the earth. This is not only the case with any government infrastructural development work there is no sign of the government authority showing concern about the importance of harvesting the rain water. Harvesting rain water does not mean that it should be stored in a tank or some man-made water storage tank. It is about harvesting inside the earth core which can be reused using other means.

For a state endowed with resources, such object failure to utilize and benefit from the gifts of nature only undermines the apathy and complacency of the state government.

## Contd From Yesterday Issued

## Highlights Of Interim Budget 2019-20

### Vision for the next Decade

Foundation for India's growth and development laid in the past 5 years Poised to become a Five Trillion Dollar Economy in the next five years -Aspire to become a Ten Trillion Dollar Economy in the next 8 years thereafter

### Ten dimensions of Vision for India of 2030

India would be a modern, technology driven, high growth, equitable and transparent society 1.To build physical as well as social infrastructure and to provide ease of living 2. To create a Digital India, digitize government processes with leaders from youth 3.Making India pollution free by leading transport revolution with Electric Vehicles and focus on Renewables 4.Expanding rural industrialisation using modern digital technologies to generate massive employment 5.Clean Rivers, safe drinking water to all Indians and

efficient use of water through micro-irrigation 6.Besides scaling up of Sagarmala, Coastline and Ocean waters powering India's development and growth.

7. Aim at our space programme - Gaganyaan, India becoming the launch-pad of satellites for the World and placing an Indian astronaut into space by 2022

8. Making India self-sufficient in food, exporting to the world to meet their food needs and producing food in the most organic way 9. A healthy India via Ayushman Bharat with women having equal rights and concern for their safety and empowerment 10. Transforming India into a Minimum Government Maximum Governance nation with pro-active and responsible bureaucracy.

(Concluded)

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## Bangladesh Army to send 1,600 minesweepers to KSA

Siam Sarower Jamil, Dhaka, Feb 5

Bangladesh Army decided to send 1,600 minesweepers to Najran and Jizan to sweep landmines in the southern provinces of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The country's security experts cautioned the Bangladesh Army not to get involved in proxy wars.

Army officials told Imphal Times that in July two Bangladesh Army contingents were expected to reach Saudi states bordering Yemen under a memorandum of understanding to be signed by Bangladesh and the KSA in February envisaging military cooperation.

Bangladesh ambassador in Riyadh Golam Moshi told Imphal Times Monday that the two sides would sign another MoU under which Bangladesh army's minesweepers would participate in sweeping mines reportedly laid by Houthis in Yemen between 2014 and 2016 killing over 1,500 and leaving 3,000 other injured until June.

The KSA which heads the Arab Coalition against the Iran-backed rebels in Yemen took the minesweeping project in liberated areas in Yemen bordering Saudi Arabia.

Under UN Peacekeeping Mission, Bangladesh Army's minesweepers won international acclaim for clearing landmines from war torn countries in Asia and Africa.

But it would be for the 1st time that the Bangladesh Army would participate in any minesweeping operation under a bilateral framework.

Retired Major General Shahidul Hoque said Monday minesweeping by Bangladesh Army would look nice

so long it only sweeps mines in Najran and Jizan.

But if the Bangladeshi soldiers cross the borders to sweep mines in Yemen it would grossly flout the foreign policy of Bangladesh as it would tantamount to involving Bangladesh in 'proxy war' between Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

In May 2017, following KSA's request Bangladesh agreed to send its army to Saudi Arabia only if Makkah and Madinah came under attack.

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies president retired major general ANM Muniruzzaman said it would be too early to comment on the issue before knowing the pros and cons of the proposed MoUs from the Bangladesh Army. While talking on the proposed MoUs, Inter Services Public Relations director Lieutenant Colonel Abdullah Ibn Zaid said that the army would definitely keep the public informed if needed in due course.

He told Imphal Times that the ISPR had nothing to share 'right now'. ISPR officials said that Bangladesh Army peacekeepers earned international acclaim by sweeping landmines from Kuwait after 1991. During the demining process in Kuwait 270 Bangladeshi soldiers lost their lives and 56 others were wounded, according to a Kuwait Times report on Kuwaiti-Bangladeshi military ties distinctive: Senior officer' published on November 22, 2016.

As the Army was highly trained in minesweeping Brig General Mohammad Turki Al-Gaml, defence attaché in Saudi Embassy in Dhaka requested the Armed Forces Division in October to send troops under specific instruments.

## Guv's speech at Assam Rifles Public School at Mantripukhri, Imphal

I am very happy to be here today and to see the assembly of young students on the occasion of 2018-19 Annual Day Celebration. It is also heartening to know that this institution has been serving as an excellent study centre of the State for the last more than three decades, shaping the future of the young generation.

As you are well aware, peace is a pre-requisite for prosperity. In our State of Manipur, people of different communities and religions have been living together harmoniously since time immemorial. If we adopt the philosophy of tolerance, then each one can go his way, adopt his views and make his contribution to the upbuilding of the State as well as the country. Young students need to inculcate this idea in their minds. It will make them better human beings and worthy citizens of our great country. I would like to advise all the students of Manipur, particularly students of this school through this function to learn to respect others not only their life and property but also their intangible possessions such as their good name and reputation. You should try to avoid small talk or gossip and particularly slandering others. Whatever line of work you undertake you should bring to it an honest, disciplined mind. You will then succeed and have the joy of your work. Ultimately, you can become good citizens of the State and the country. Let me also iterate that education of the students should not be disturbed at any cost for meeting the ends of some vested interests. Nothing detrimental to the educational health of the students should be encouraged. Therefore, I appeal to all concerned not to disturb education under any circumstances considering the profound importance of education in the civilizational development of a Nation. Fortunately, there may not be any disturbance of education in the Assam Rifles Schools because of its location.

The motto of the school is 'To lead towards enlightenment from the darkness of ignorance'. It is indeed a noble thought and I am happy that the school has been truly living this thought as evidenced from the result of students in the curricular and extracurricular activities. Besides, the humanitarian task taken up by the school to promote assistance to 26 Below Poverty Line students of the state for education and hostel facility is indeed commendable and praiseworthy. It is also satisfying to know that the school provides special assistance to the BPL day scholar students with exemption of tuition fees in addition. The aims and objectives of the school such as developing competence for pro-active participation in day-to-day activities, developing basic mental abilities & skills, growth in physical health and developing proficiency in games and sports are quite encouraging and will stand the students in good stead. I am hopeful that the students of the school, with the love and care they have been brought up and nurtured, will be able to meet squarely the challenges that may come in their way. I am also quite impressed to see the achievements in school examination, games and sports in State and National level competitions. I am sure that the students of Assam Rifles Public School will continue earning laurels not only for the school but for the State and the country as well. My blessings are always with you in your future endeavours.

I am glad to know that as done during the previous years, Annual Day has been organized by the students of this institution along with the teachers. This will help in strengthening the love and affection between the teachers and students and bring them closer. Such efforts of the institution deserve appreciation and encouragement by all with unflinching support from the Assam Rifles authorities.

## Free Heart Screening Camp at Jiribam and Silchar



IT News Imphal, Feb 5,

SKY Hospital & Research Centre Pvt. Ltd. has successfully conducted Free Heart Screening Camp at Meherpur, Silchar 5, Assam in association with PC Hridayalay : A Poly Clinic and Heart Care Diagnostic Centre, Meherpur, Silchar 5 Assam On the next day, a full day free heart screening camp was also conducted at Jiribam District of Manipur at Lairembi Phampak Club. At the 2 camps, SKY Hospital has provided free Heart OPD, free Echo, free ECG and free Diabetes tests to the people of Silchar, Assam and Jiribam District of Manipur.

In both the free camps all together 116 patients were seen, of these 28 patients were provided free Echo Screening, 32 patients free ECG and 56 patients free RBS (Blood Sugar Test). Altogether 13 patients were found having heart problems which would require further treatment at SKY Hospital soon.

Dr L. Shyamkishore Singh Chairman & Chief Cardiologist of SKY Hospital & Research Centre Pvt. Ltd asserted that SKY Hospital in association with other interested parties from North Eastern Region would conduct such free heart camps in the peripheries of Manipur and other states in the North Eastern Region of India.

## Letter to the Editor

## Open Letter to the Chief Minister of Manipur

Sir,

When you become the Chief Minister of Manipur, one of the first things you do is to take steps to end bandh, blockages, shutdown, etc., in the State. Based on the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, you have declared bandh of all forms as unlawful activities and directed the Police to register FIR against any Org/Assn violating the directives, as a result it has reasonably decreases bandh or shutdown in the State. Kudos to you, Sir.

However, the situation in Churachandpur is shockingly reverse from what happen in other parts of the State. You have rewarded Mr V. Hangkhanlian for burying the Tribal Martyrs which eventually ends the anti-Tribal Bill movement. Today, his workers under the shadow of YPA and PTC continues to terrorised the innocent people, called bandh and Shutdown at will, kidnapped people and tortured them, resorted rampant violence thrashing any person who do not subscribe their views, declared night curfew in certain pockets of the Town and beaten up any passerby without even considering the sick. All these happen under the watchful eyes of law enforcing agencies in the District who claims that Minister Hangkhanlian put pressure not to act against his workers.

Sir, the two persons who allegedly attempted your life were arrested and are released recently. But in case of Churachandpur, the incumbent leaders of YPA and PTC GHQs threatened lawyers not to represent the two persons, arrested and put under judicial custody for their alleged preparation to attempt to murder Lianmuanthang Valtre, the General Secretary, YPA, HQ. It is unprecedented that an accused is denied of a Counsel, taken to JIC three times and suffered third degree torture in the attempt to force him to make a statement, contrary to the truth, so as to drag the ZRO/ZRA in the case. Another statement was recorded recently (01.02.2019) at Sajiwa Jail with similar intention. What is more shocking is the involvement of the District / c Minister in the case. He instigated his workers, who are also leaders of present YPA GHQ, to take full advantages of the case to implicate a person, who has nothing to do with the case, and arrest him. Neither the first nor second accused in the case mentioned about the involvement, directly or indirectly, of the Organisation or its leadership. Is the Minister and his workers powerful enough to be above the law, pressure the government to arrest someone without any judicial sanction? Surprisingly, Mr Calvin H. ex-VP of ZRO/ZRA rebel against the President on the same issue after receiving political backing from your Minister. Is he assigned to create faction within the SoO groups to derail the tripartite political talks and promote lawlessness in Churachandpur?

Lastly, almost all communities of Manipur lived together happily in Churachandpur Town. The Town should never be permitted to be under the hegemony of a particular Assn of a particular tribe in order to maintain peace and communal harmony in the District.

Thank you.

Zogam Thang, Vengnuam, New Lamka Churachandpur