

Editorial

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

The crisis continues; BJP's image in serious trouble

The first year of BJP led N. Biren Singh government gave hope to the people of the state. Prolonged bandh, general strikes, school shut down, street protest were considered history and promises for development showed sign of relieve and hopes of the future generation enthralled every citizen of the state. The obstacles face by the students due to the disturbances from sections of society was also put in the archive when N. Biren Singh Government comes to powers.

Perhaps it was not N. Biren Singh which has engraved so much faith in the new government, but the well discipline structures of the BJP party that had made people believe that Manipur will see changes.

Two and half years have almost completed the picture of the government which the people had so much trust when it comes to power is lost. The similar regalia in the running of the government returns. Earlier, it was the issue of the anger of the peoples belonging to various groups. Now the issue is in the party itself that is ruling the government. The political instability happening in the state due to indifference among the MLAs of the BJP is indeed an unfortunate event that maligns the image of the BJP which is considered as the most disciplined political party in the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, National President Amid Shah, all are dedicated party man who always work to strengthen the BJP. Many strong men of the BJP who were capable of becoming Prime Minister and who had been in the parliament for over two three terms never question to the leader appointed by them. In politics everything happened and it is natural that there at be differences among the BJP MPs either in Parliament or in any of the state. But such indifference and fight never comes in the public domain.

The crisis among two groups of BJP MLAs which is leading the state, perhaps is the first of its kind in the annals of BJP.

When one took a deeper look and analyzed the situation, one can easily noted that there is something wrong in the organization of the Manipur Pradesh BJP. President of the Party seems to forget that he is the sole person who is responsible for controlling the BJP MLAs. And that he should not be bias and sided with any group as he is the leader.

Why K Bhabananda, who is the president of the BJP Manipur Pradesh fails to initiate any measures to end the nearly two month old political crisis? Reason- K. Bhabananda seems to have committed a mistake by siding with another group.

As the president of the BJP Manipur Pradesh is incompetent to handle the presence chaotic state of the BJP MLAs, center should think of replacing someone who can summon both the conflicting group and settled it. Or if the center think the matter is state issue K Bhabananda, the president should be advice to act and solve the issue without favouring any of the conflicting parties.

What is disturbing is that after two and half years of BJP led government, people now face bandh called, minor girls died in hostel room of private schools or boarding which do not follow any regulations formed by MARC for running of hostels. Many married lady are thrown out by their in-laws leaving them helpless. Many married men are encouraged to marry two or three wives. Young girls are found murdered and the person who exposed the Indo-Myanmar border has been put in jail on other alleged charges of corruption. What surprised the people is - Why only ex-DC of Tengnoupal, why not those who were directly or indirectly involved in the appointments of 18 contract staffs of a MIFH project as gazetted officers in the horticulture department violating the rules and regulations of the Manipur Public Service Commission. After 2 years, the N. Biren Singh government seems to be no different from the earlier government. And this is the most unfortunate part of not only BJP but also the people of Manipur as well.

Letter to the Editor

Plastics should be banned

Respected Sir,

Through the columns of your esteemed daily, I beg to state that the careless use of plastics are damaging the environment. These days many people chew, smoke tobacco products, pan masala, eat chips and kurkures and throw the plastic packets in the road. These packets polluted the streets and drain at rivers. As a result the waste water from the drain comes in the road. Many peoples take polythene bags and use them carelessly. They tie the vegetable peels and other things in the polythene bags and throw it in the roads or beside the roads. As a result, animals like cows are coming and trying to eat those vegetable peels, they aren't able to open the bags and thus, eat the vegetable peels along with plastics which leads to death of animals. These happened just a few days ago in my locality.

Government should take necessary steps to prevent this harm to environment. I hope that you will grant my request and add it to your editorial columns.

Thank you
Your's faithfully
Dhanapati Yengkokpam
Class XII, Yaikhom Mani Girls College

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Are we really putting efforts on grassroots football?

By-Ningthoujam Rameshchandra

Football (soccer) is not a new thing to the people of Manipur. It is as old as the British colonial period. The British colonial officers introduced it to the people of Manipur during the flag end of the nineteenth century. Today we have 'N' numbers of international players, national players and local level players, retired or continuing. Somotai Shaiza, Khangembam Ratan, Khwairakpam Balin, Guanbir Singh, Mutum Bijen Singh, P. Renedy Singh, Gouramangi Moirangthem, to name a few, were among the most talented and popular names to every football loving households in Manipur. Today, we have Jackichand Telem, Udanta Kumam, Dhiraj Moirangthem, Amarjit Kiyam, Jeakson Singh, and so on, playing in different clubs in all over Indian cities. So many more are there to name, many more talented or extraordinary talented players are expected to come up to be the household names very soon.

Mention may be made here that these above-mentioned players were hardly trained and groomed in Manipur. They are all groomed/well trained in some other State's academies like Tata Football Academies (TFA) or Chandigarh Football Academy (CFA) or somewhere else. Why? And why these boys all left Manipur for training to some other cities? Because Manipur doesn't not have proper academies to train. Simple as that. Well, we have Sports Authority of India (SAI), but everyone knows how SAI runs and works. Except Mutum Bijen Singh (who was the product of SAI, that too during his school days at Sainik School Imphal), hardly any players came up from SAI to be the international player from Manipur. It is of fortunate case that today, we have witness some football academies in and around Imphal city or few at far off places that are run by some private agent or local clubs. But these are not function as residential one. The only residential football academy so far, is the Chakpa Football Academy (CFA), located at a village called Phayeng in Imphal West District of Manipur. The Classic Groups of Companies, Manipur, has started one to function as residential academy very recently. I hope this can be one of the best academies in Manipur. It is a sad news to learn that NEROCA Football Club gradually closing due to sponsorship issue. Otherwise, it is quite exciting to see



many such developments in terms of grassroots football in Manipur. In fact, escalation of football academies can be taken as the launching pad for the budding footballers of Manipur. These platforms can be used to become football stars at international levels. However, on the sad note, it is quite disheartening to see how the state agencies and other related stakeholders run the grassroots football programmes in Manipur. Take for instances, the organising scenarios of the Subroto Cup Tournament for Schoolboys by the Youth Affairs and Sports (YAS). Mention may be made that there is "hardly any" tournament organised for the young budding footballers (this may applies the same for the whole Indian football scenario too). The Subroto Cup Tournament was and is the only tournament organised for younger age groups like Under 14 and Under 17, where the young boys compete and showcase their talents. If not, most of the state/national level tournament organised was and is mainly of "senior level" tournaments.

So, I am sure, when such tournaments comes up "once in a year", many of the young talented boys might be so excited to take part in it, as it might have a chance to flourish. The Subroto Cup has been considered as one of the tournaments in India, where boys get call up for national duty. It is a matter of pride for them to take part in it. However, it is quite demoralizing for these young boys as well as the private agencies or local clubs who groom these boys to take part in such tournament. Why? Because, age group is not strictly followed by the organiser

(Y.A.S. in the case of Subroto Cup). It appears that cheating is openly promoted by the Y.A.S. Boys who are over-age are allowed to field-in into the match just by checking the numbers of tooth. What if the over-age boys have extracted their tooth? Ultimately, the match is obviously one sided and eventually, demoralised the hope of the young boy and kill the local club's aspirations. Thus, talents are lost in the nowhere.

Not only the Subroto Cup case, we witness many discrepancies in the selection process for the age group School Level trial selection to participate at National Level tournament, organised by YAS. There was a trial selection on 18th July 2019 for U17 boys at Khuman Lampak Artificial Turf Ground, Manipur. Boys who do not show up on the 18th July are allowed to participate on the 19th July, i.e. on the Final Selection process. My question to YAS is that, on what criteria you do such satanic/generous act? I am not quite sure whether such act will do "good" for those boys who follow the rule, or to those boys who do not follow rules. But I am pretty sure that you are not doing justice to the grassroots football. You are not helping the Indian football.

We have heard of Gaurav Mukhi's case for age-fraud who claimed to be very young but actually not. Now he is suspended from playing football. To check such discrepancies Y.A.S. or other related stakeholders should do some homework. I think science and technology are not that remote to Manipur too. We have scanning technology to detect age and so on. I am not quite sure whether Y.A.S. is that poor enough to

acquire such machines and technology. IF YAS can do acquired such technology, it would be of immense step/help to groom the budding stars and I am sure Y.A.S. will do that in future for the better future.

We must realised that every football clubs in India has minimum two (2) to three (3) players each from Manipur, and Manipur has been considered as the power house of Sports including football. I believe that everyone has taken this tag as a matter of pride. Therefore, every Manipuri including YAS, Manipur, may take this seriously to continuing to get this tag. To wrap up, I appeal to all the football loving related agencies that we must realise that, to have a good National Senior Team/Squad, we required proper grassroots football development programmes at all age levels. And such development programmed be organised in such a way that all the age groups are strictly followed with proper mechanism/system. Otherwise, India's dream of "FIFA World Cup Football Tournament" is a distant dream - an untenable dream.

(Footnotes)

Ningthoujam Rameshchandra is a football enthusiast. He was a local level footballer during 1990s - and early 2000s. He had participated the Subroto Cup at New Delhi, representing Sainik School Imphal as the Captain of the Team in 2002-03 tournaments. He had also contributed many articles on the development of football in Manipur. You may reach him on via e-mail: rameshningthoujam@gmail.com Reliance cup and so on has come up very recently.

Opposition Demands Modi's Clarification on Trump Claims About Kashmir Mediation

Courtesy The Wire
The Wire Staff

US President Donald Trump's claim that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had asked him to mediate on Kashmir with Pakistan led to the opposition raising questions about whether India had changed its stance on third-party mediation in the dispute. On Monday, Trump met Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan for the first time after both of them were elected.

Answering a question from the media on Kashmir, Trump claimed that Modi had asked him to mediate on Kashmir.

"So, I was with Prime Minister Modi two weeks ago and we talked about this subject. And he actually said, would you actually like to be a mediator or arbitrator? I said, where? He said Kashmir," Trump stated.

India completely denied Trump's claim. "No such request has been made by PM Narendra Modi to US President," tweeted MEA

spokesperson Raveesh Kumar. Congress party spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala said that Trump's claim was "deeply disturbing and distressing". "No Indian PM has ever dared to breach the cardinal principle of 'no third party mediation' in terms of 1972 Simla Agreement," he tweeted. Before India's official denial, the Congress spokesperson had termed Trump's claim a "sacriligious betrayal of country's interests". "Let PM answer to the Nation!" he added.

Following MEA's response, he reiterated, "Why is PM mum?" Incidentally, Congress MP and former minister of state for external affairs Shashi Tharoor had tweeted that Trump likely doesn't have "the slightest idea about what he's talking about".

"He has either not been briefed or not understood what Modi was saying or what India's position is on 3rd-party mediation. That said, MEA should clarify that Delhi has never sought his intercession," he posted on the social media website.



He also posted the link to a 2016 media report with the comment, "In fact, he has already said the same thing in 2016!"

At a 2016 interview with the *Hindustan Times*, then Republican presidential candidate Trump had volunteered to be a mediator between India and Pakistan. "I think if they wanted me to, I would love to be the mediator or arbitrator." But while Trump has previously expressed willingness to be a peacemaker, the US president has

never previously stated that India has asked for mediation on Kashmir. In his initial remarks, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah had also expressed scepticism about Trump's trustworthiness. The National Conference leader added that it would be crucial to see if the Indian government would call Trump a "liar" or "has there been an undeclared shift in India's position on third party involvement in Kashmir".