

Editorial

Monday, February 3, 2020

Manipur's Theatre is facing a dark time

Like any other organ of mass media, proscenium theatre is very much a part of our life. The illustrators in this medium are as tough as those of the newsmakers. Like, the newsmen, who harness all their energies to alert or make aware of the day to day happenings around us, these proscenium players forecast the reality of the present contemporary society. However, a slight difference between the two is that, while newsmen condemn the venality of politicians, law enforcers, and corrupt administrators in the form of direct reporting or editorial write up; the proscenium players interpret the retrospection of the societal conflict and tension with the stylization of the body movement and dialogue. However, this intrapersonal oral medium of communication cannot rally its impact to the society without the help of newsmen due to the limitation of its receivers. The paradox arisen here is that this society still does not recognize the importance of this medium of mass media - on its roles in reforming society. The ignorance of the theatre culture as a source of wisdom by the so-called bureaucrats or politicians is the most unfortunate part.

When a treasure of Manipur's culture is facing dark times, people of the state need to appreciate 'Khundongbam Brojendro Cultural Trust, which had successfully organized the 5th Khundongbam Brojendro Theatre Festival 2020 at JN Dance Academy here in Imphal in January middle week.

The present-day society faces numerous problems, but one problem that every well to do family or else those working on hand to mouth is having more than one wife. The first day saw Khundongbam Brojendro 'Kari Nungee Nupi Lonjaruba' - a play that depicts the crisis of a husband who has two wives. This play needs to be watched particularly by our bureaucrats, lawmakers and even those in the law enforcement sectors. At least one troubling but mostly obscured problem could have been solved if those watching the play rethink on why noted playwright Khundongbam Brojendro wrote it.

Theatre (proscenium plays) originally was considered as a tool of societal reformation and some continue to serve as a tool to correct the wrong in the society in most understandable languages. However, the popularity of proscenium plays is degrading these days when it comes to the state of Manipur. There may be many reasons for that - 1) theatre performers lost interest due to requirement of higher-income which they felt will never get by remaining in the profession, 2) Production cost of a single play is high and cannot be recovered from the audience forget about payment of the artists fees, 3) Commercialization of theatre production is next to impossible due to lack of understanding about the value of theatre among the elite class as well as to the common people, 4) Substitution of the medium by low-cost digital medium which saves both time and money and, 5) lastly but not the least some people is converting the precious treasure as income-generating means as the government is providing some grants to encourage them despite knowing the fact that popularizing of theatre (proscenium play) needs qualified performers or artists.

A R recover contraband items in tengnoupal district

IGAR (South) Imphal Feb.3

Tengnoupal Battalion of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) stopped a suspicious black color Chevrolet Optra Car, bearing registration number MN07 L 0092 at Tengnoupal Check Post near Sita road junction on yesterday at around 03:15 pm, which was being driven by Mr Luthlakh Vaiphei, age - 19 years of Moreh who was travelling alone.

On carrying out a thorough check of the vehicle, suspected WYI tablets weighing 3.196 Kg which has an international cost worth Lakhs. Seizure has been made in presence of Tengnoupal Police Station representatives. Suspected WYI tablets were deliberately hidden under the driver seat of the Car in a black bag. These were being transported to Imphal. The Apprehendee and the recovered items have been handed over to Police Station Tengnoupal for further investigations.

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail : imphaltimes@gmail.com. For advertisement kindly contact : - 0385-2452159 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.

Coronavirus outbreak: India issues fresh travel advisory for China

Agency New Delhi Feb. 3

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued a fresh travel advisory on Monday urging people to refrain from visiting China.

"Travel Advisory further revised informing the public to refrain from travel to China and that anyone with travel history in China since January 15, 2020 and from now on could be quarantined," said the statement released by the ministry here.

The statement also said, "e-Visa facility for Chinese passport holders has been temporarily suspended."

The ministry informed that e-Visa already issued to Chinese nationals was not valid temporarily. "The facility for submitting the application online for the physical visa from China is suspended," the ministry said.

It also advised to contact the Indian embassy in Beijing or consulate in Shanghai or Guangzhou in case of people having compelling reasons to visit India.

Earlier on Sunday, the Ministry had informed that apart from China, people coming from Singapore and Thailand were also screened at the airports.



The World Health Organization (WHO) has also released information and advisory to the public regarding the novel coronavirus outbreak in China, which the world body has declared a global health emergency.

"Antibiotics do not work against viruses, but only against bacteria," the WHO said on its official website, noting that as it was a virus, antibiotics were not effective in preventing or treating it, reported Xinhua news agency. However, if a patient is hospitalized for the virus, the person may receive antibiotics since "bacterial co-infection is possible", the organization added.

Up till now, there is no specific medicine for preventing or treating the virus, but some particular cures are being studied and will be tested in clinical trials, the WHO said, adding that it was working with partners to help accelerate related research and development work.

"People of all ages" can be infected with the novel coronavirus, while the elderly and those with pre-existing medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes and heart disease are more susceptible, the WHO said.

But the organization advised people to wash hands with soap and water after contacting pets,

which can help protect them against "various common bacteria such as E.coli and Salmonella that can pass between pets and humans".

On Monday, the number of deaths in China rose to 361, with 17,205 confirmed cases and 475 discharged from hospital, according to the National Health Commission.

More than 1,52,700 people are under observation, among which there are a total of 21,558 suspected cases. There are two confirmed cases of novel coronavirus in India too. Both have been reported from Kerala.

The other countries with coronavirus cases are Japan (20), Thailand (19), Singapore (18), South Korea (15), Hong Kong (15), Australia (12), Taiwan (11), Malaysia (eight), the US (eight), Germany (eight), Macao (eight), Vietnam (seven), France (six), UAE (five), Canada (two), Italy (two), the UK (two), Philippines (two), Russia (two), Cambodia (one), Finland (one), Nepal (one), Sri Lanka (one), Spain (one) and Sweden (one), according to a BBC report.

Myanmarese drug dealer detained under NSA in Manipur

Agency Imphal Feb. 3

A Myanmarese drug dealer has been detained under the National Security Act (NSA) in Manipur's Thoubal district, police said on Monday.

The drug dealer, Kyaw Kyaw Naing, was detained under the NSA after he got bail from a court on January 28.

Thoubal District Magistrate, N Bandana Devi, in a statement, said that based on a police report, the activities of the Myanmarese national was found to be "prejudicial to the security of the state and maintenance of public order".

So the NSA was slapped as "an alternative preventive measure" against the 33-year-old man.

Special Judge (ND & PS) on January 28 had ordered that Naing be "released on bail on his furnishing a personal bond of Rs 1,00,000 only with two sureties of Rs 1,00,000 each."

The court had also directed the Thoubal Police Station to return the passport so that he could "apply for extension of visa" to enable him to stay in Manipur till the disposal of the case.

Naing was arrested by the police from the gate of Imphal International Airport in August last year for his alleged involvement in supplying drugs in Manipur.

Bala to focus on current football opportunity

Agency Imphal, Feb. 3

India's first woman footballer Nangam Bala Devi of Manipur who has signed a professional contract with a European club, said her primary focus is only on the current football opportunity. "Right now my focus is on the current football opportunity," Bala said while responding to a question when she returned to her Irengbam Mamang Makha Leikai home in Manipur's Bishnupur district.

Twenty nine year old Bala who is the current top scorer for the Indian national team becomes the first Indian woman footballer to be signed by Rangers FC, one of the top football clubs in Scottish League for an 18 months contract which allows her to be available for two seasons. Well known male Indian footballers Bhaichung Bhutia, Sunil Chhetri and Gurpreet Singh Sandhu had played for foreign football clubs in the past.

Sharing some of her happiness moments in the past, Bala who joined national women football team when she was just 15 years old, said achieving the title of women footballer of the year in 2014-15 apart from getting the top scorer title during Maldives



National Women's League (2015) was one of her memorable moments.

In the Maldives National Women's League, Bala scored 26 goals in six matches for New Radiant Sports Club.

Indian national team forward Bala who netted 52 goals from 58 appearances since 2010, also informed that she feel good and so happy for creating a historic feat in women football.

"So I will work hard and try to bring laurels for the country because such opportunity is my childhood dream," says the youngest among siblings of four. At the same time, the current top scorer for the Indian national team also expressed her gratitude

to all her guides and coaches in her locality and the state for their continuous support to reach ongoing journey.

Bala who captained the national team (2016-18), has over 100 goals in 120 games at domestic level.

Two times All India Football Federation Women's Player of the Year title winner (in 2015 and 2016) is one of the six new international signings by Rangers ahead of the new season.

Bala's journey to Rangers FC started in November 2019 when she visited Ranger facility in Glasgow for six days and managed to impress the technical staff.

Nagal, Ramanathan face tough challenge in the singles opener as third edition of Tata Open Maharashtra kick off tomorrow

From a Correspondent Pune, Feb.3

The India No. 2 Sumit Nagal will be up for a stiff challenge as the much-awaited main draw at third edition of Tata Open Maharashtra is all set to kick-off at the Mhalunge Balewadi Stadium here tomorrow. The 22-year-old Indian sensation will start his campaign at home against former World No. 12 Viktor Troicki in the singles opening round match. Troicki has been in sensational form in the recent past. Partnering alongside Novak Djokovic, he led Serbia to ATP Cup triumph.

Nagal, who took a set away against legendary Roger Federer in his Grand Slam debut match at 2019 US Open, made cut into the main draw with a direct entry. Another Indian will be seen in action tomorrow, Ramkumar Ramanathan who will face seventh seed Italian Salvatore Caruso. India No. 3 Ramanathan was earlier



awarded a wild card into the main draw.

"There first two days of the qualifiers saw some amazing games and now we all are geared for the main draw. This will be first time that all Indians players stand a chance to make a mark at a competitive level like this tournament and I wish our players all the best," said Prashant Sutar, Tournament Director.

The Serbian star Troicki entered the main draw with an easy 6-2, 6-4 win over Evgeny Karlovskiy of Russia in the final singles qualifying round match

yesterday.

The South Asia's only ATP Tour tournament will see world's top tennis stars, such as Benoit Paire and Ivo Karlovic, competing in the singles main draw while, the doubles main draw will witness Indian great Leander Paes' final glimpses at home. Paes, who has been awarded wild-card alongside his Australian partner Matthew Ebden, will be appearing in his final tournament in India.

"This edition is special in more than one way, while we are celebrating 25

years of the tournament in India this will also be the last chance for Tennis Fans to watch Leander play live in Pune and India," said Sunder Iyer, Secretary of Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association (MSLTA).

Meanwhile Serbia's Nikola Pijolic, Italian Roberto Marcora and Czech player Lukas Rosol also made their way into the singles main draw with wins in their respective final round match in the qualifiers of India's premier ATP 250 event, which is organised by MSLTA in association with Government of Maharashtra. While Mijolic thrashed Netherlands' Robin Haase 6-3, 6-3, Marcora upset Slovenian Blaz Rola 6-4, 7-6 in a hard-fought clash. In the fourth match of final qualifying round, Rosol managed 6-2, 7-5 win over Australian Mathew Ebden.

While Nagal will play at 6.10pm, Ramanathan will begin his challenge at 7.30pm. The matches will be telecasted on Star Sports.