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SFs foils cross border smuggling of Narcotics

IT News
Imphal, August 23:

Moreh Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) and Manipur Police in a joint operation foiled cross border smuggling of narcotics at Friendship Bridge, Moreh, Tengnoupal district today.

At around 0215 hours, based on specific input, a joint operation by Assam Rifles and Manipur Police was launched in general area Friendship Bridge, Moreh. The joint team of Security Forces observed the suspicious movement of two individuals from Myanmar to India near Border Pillar 77.

On being challenged, both individuals dropped their sacks and fled towards Myanmar territory. On thorough search of the sacks, 8.60 kilograms brown sugar of worth Rs 17.20 Crore was recovered.

The recovered items were handed over to Moreh Police for further investigation.

Book released

IT News
Imphal, August 23:

A book titled "A New Approach to Science and Environment" was released yesterday at the VC Chamber of Dhanamanjuri University. The book, edited by Dr. Ningthoujam Uma Devi, Associate Professor of DMU, was released by Prof. N. Rajmuhon Singh, Vice Chancellor of DMU, and Dr. A. Kananbala Devi, Retd. Principal DM College of Science as Chief Guest and President, respectively.

RPF clarifies

IT News
Imphal, August 23:

Proscribed group Revolutionary People's Front (RPF) today clarified that the 3 individuals, which the state police claimed arrested as cadres of PLA on August 22 by a combined team of Thoubal Police Commando and 16 AR are not related and have nothing to do with the activities of RPF or its armed wing PLA.

A statement by Bangkim, Assistant Secretary, Publicity, RPF said that the 3 individuals, Sansam Gobin alias Mani Meetei (32), S/o S. Manglemba Meetei, Wangoo Saban Maning Leikai, Ward no. 4, Sansam Manglemba (56), S/o (Late) S. Chini Meetei, Wangoo Saban Maning Leikai, Ward no.4 and Nandeibam Jilangamba alias Bungecha (26), S/o N. Niladhaja of Pourabi Awang Leikai are not related with the RPF or its army wing PLA.

Chief Minister N. Biren inaugurates Technical Textiles Conference



IT News
Imphal, August 23:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has said that Manipur is changing under the present Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other Central leaders and invited corporate sectors to come to Manipur and see the potential of the State.

The Chief Minister was addressing the inaugural session of the Technical Textiles Conference at Hotel Classic Grande, Imphal today.

N. Biren said Manipur has lots of potential in every sector. We have started exporting various items including ginger, pineapple, he said, adding that even in sports out of our seven athletes at the recently concluded Commonwealth Games, five of them brought medals for the country. He cited the silk produced in the State, highlighting the State's potential in the handloom and handicraft sector.

Manipur with its rich textile tradition, strategic location and vibrant entrepreneurial eco-system has significant potential. Manipur is the land gateway of India to South East Asia, he said.

Further stating that Asian Highway is progressing fast, the Chief Minister further appreciated the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation for the work along Imphal-Moreh highway.

The Chief Minister also highlighted cheap labour,

round the clock water supply, power supply, customs office at Moreh, law and order improvement and added that all these has created investment opportunities for entrepreneurs and industrialists in the State.

Further commending road work taken up by the Border Road Organisation in Arunachal Pradesh as highlighted in a power-point presentation by Chief Engineer (P) Arunank Border Roads Organisation, (BRO), the Chief Minister expressed that Manipur needs these new technologies.

Citing that Manipur has soft soil, witnessing frequent landslides and long monsoons, the Chief Minister said that these types of technologies including the geo-textiles are very much important. He further requested Secretary Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India to ensure that these technologies are utilized along the Imphal-Jiribam, Imphal-Mao, Imphal-Aizwal and Imphal-Moreh roads. Further citing the lack of transportation options in the State, the Chief Minister asked the Secretary for dedicated teams along the Imphal-Jiribam and the Imphal-Mao highways to expedite road work progress.

Lauding the officials from the central ministries visiting the State, the Chief Minister said that such visits are important as the officials could study and understand the local reality during such visits.

He continued that schemes specific to the North East region have been taken up by the Ministry of Textiles to promote use of agro textiles and geo-textiles in the region.

Under such schemes, Manipur has taken up pilot projects with the technical textiles in National Highway construction, PMGSY road construction and lining of water reservoir, he added.

Union Minister of State for Textiles, Darshana Vikram Jarosh lauded Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and said what a double engine government is, should be learned from his government. He said after returning for his second term, the Chief Minister has worked along with all departments and ministries to take Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision forward.

She further said that we can witness Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat in how different ministries of the government or stakeholders are working together.

The MoS also explained the vision of the Textile Ministry under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Cabinet Minister Piyush Goyal.

Our industry is mostly cotton based industry and globally people prefer man-made fibre, she said, adding that in order to increase India's stake in man-made fibre, some schemes have been initiated.

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All must work together to end sexual abuse of children: Minister Dingo

IT News
Imphal, August 23:

Social Welfare Minister Heikham Dingo Singh has stressed the need to cooperate amongst the stakeholders in order to stop sexual abuses against children in the state. The Minister was speaking at the closing function of Mass Awareness Rally Against Child Sexual Abuse held at Ima Khunthokhanbi Sanglen, Thangmeibam in Imphal today. The programme was organized by Department of Social Welfare, Government of Manipur.

Minister Dingo said for the last one year the number of cases relating to the sexual abuses amongst the children in the state has been increasing in an alarming rate. He said more than 150 cases have been registered under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, till date. Expressing concern over the increasing number of such cases, the Minister said Manipur top the list in reported cases of sexual abuses against children in the country which is quite unfortunate and therefore all stakeholders including CSOs, Meira Paibis, local clubs and student organizations should cooperate to stop such crimes in the state.



Minister further added that mass awareness programme regarding POCSO Act will be organized in all the districts. This will help in creating awareness among the people and also in stopping crimes especially sexual abuses against the children. Organizing such rallies will definitely help in spreading messages to the masses, he added.

Reiterating that children are the future of the Nation, the Minister said that any inhuman act like sexual abuses should be immediately reported to the concerned so that follow up actions can be initiated against the culprits. If proper action has not been taken up in time, it will help in recurrence of the

crime and will also give huge impact to the society, Minister added.

Earlier, a mass rally against Child Sexual Abuse was flagged off by P. Vaiphei, Additional Chief Secretary, Social Welfare, Govt. of Manipur covering Imphal areas. More than 2,000 children from various districts of the state took part in the rally.

Dr. Usham Deben Singh, M.L.A. Wabagai AC; Ng. Uttam Singh, Director, Social Welfare; K. Saroja Devi, Deputy Director (CP), Social Welfare; Child Welfare Committee and Juvenile Justice Board members of all the 16 districts; Children Home from 5 districts; students; officials and staffs of Social Welfare Department attended the closing function.

Exact date of Congress presidential election to be announced soon: Jairam Ramesh

Agency
New Delhi, August 23:

As the election for the new Congress president is around the corner, the party's General Secretary in-charge Communications, Jairam Ramesh on Tuesday noted that the poll process will conclude by September 21. He also noted that the exact date of the election will be announced in a few days.

"It has been said that process will begin on 20th August and conclude by 21st September. The exact date of the election will be announced in a few days. Let's see what happens," Jairam Ramesh said.

Notably, Rajasthan CM and Congress leader Ashok Gehlot yesterday stated that the party is 'unanimously in favour of Rahul Gandhi for president post.' He added that 'considering the sentiment of party workers, Rahul Gandhi should accept the role.'

"The unanimous opinion is in support of his (Rahul Gandhi) becoming the president. So, I think he should accept it. It is not about Gandhi or the non-Gandhi family. It is the work of the organisation and no one is becoming a prime minister," Ashok Gehlot said.

"In the last 32 years, no person from the Gandhi family became the prime minister or

the union minister or the chief minister. Then why Modi ji is afraid of this family? Why does Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal have to say that nothing happened in the country in the last 75 years? Why is everyone attacking Congress?" he added.

It is important to note here that Rahul Gandhi had tendered his resignation as Congress president after the party's second consecutive defeat in the 2019 General elections. Sonia Gandhi took over the reins of the party again as interim president. But she also offered to quit in August 2020 after an open revolt by section of leaders, referred to as G-23, but the CWC urged her to continue.

SC pulls up Baba Ramdev, says it's good you popularised Yoga but don't criticise allopathy medicines

Agency
New Delhi, August 23:

In a huge embarrassment for Baba Ramdev, the Supreme Court on Tuesday criticised the yoga guru for his statements against "modern medicine systems" like allopathy.

"Why is Baba Ramdev accusing Allopathy Doctors? He popularised yoga. Good. But he should not criticise other systems. What is the guarantee that what he fol-

lows will cure everything?" asked Chief Justice NV Ramana during the hearing.

The apex court made the remarks while hearing a petition filed by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) seeking to control the smear campaign against the vaccination drive and modern medicines in the country.

Notably, the Delhi High Court on August 17, 2022 rebuked Ramdev for questioning the efficacy of Covid-19



vaccine.

"I am concerned about the good name of Ayurveda not being destroyed. It is a recognised, respected and ancient system of medicine," Delhi HC judge Justice Bhambhani said while pulling up the yoga guru.

Baba Ramdev had moved the apex court seeking stay on the proceedings in connection with multiple FIRs lodged against him by the IMA in Bihar and Chhattisgarh over

his remarks against use of allopathic medicine during COVID-19 pandemic.

The FIRs were filed after the IMA alleged that Ramdev's remarks may dissuade people from availing proper treatment against the coronavirus pandemic.

The yoga guru was booked under Sections 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 269 (negligent act likely to cause infection of disease dan-

gerous to life) and 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) of the IPC.

The yoga guru's alleged statement against allopathy had led to a huge controversy with the Indian Medical Association strongly reacting to it. Ramdev, however, had withdrawn his statements after receiving a letter from former Union health minister Harsh Vardhan who had called his remarks "inappropriate".

★ Editorial

Manipur's traditions is the product of its civilization

Understanding the way of life, culture, traditions and religion leaving aside the economic conditions and society's existence is perhaps one important subject that one is desirous of understanding that society. So it is important to let my readers understand the nature of the Manipuri society before going to the core issues.

As found in some of the writings of social scientists - the arrival of Hinduism during the reign of Miedingu Pamheiba (1709-1748) had brought tremendous change in the religious practices of Manipur. With the adoption of this new religion, human values of the Meitei people have become much worthy. From birth till death there are various stages at which necessary rituals are performed. Poor or rich in the Manipuri society makes no difference this rituals are performed with religious and traditional fervor. If any scholars or social scientist want to see living culture of a specific community, there is no doubt in saying that Meitei community could be best suit.

The adoption of Hinduism by the Meitei people may have been due to political necessities of the time. The political scenario of that time - that is during the reigns of Miedingu Charairongba (1697-1709), Miedingu Pamheiba (1709-1748) and Miedingu Chingthangkomba or Bhagyachandra (1749-1798) was described by historians as - at the most critical junctures. And it was also during the reign of these three successors that the social life of Meitei people was transformed to a momentous change.

They played very significant roles in the history of Kangleipak. After the death of Paikhomba, his nephew Charairongba, the son of his younger brother Tonsengamba, ascended the throne in 1697. His reign was a transition period from traditional Meitei social situation to a Hindu Meitei Society. He constructed several temples for Meitei deities like Panthoibi, Sanamah and Hindu deities after his espousal with Vaishnavism. The relation with Burma was deteriorated and more strengthened with India after conversion into Vaishnavism.

The advancement in technology and the fast growing standard of lifestyle under the influence of western culture cannot really give any impact to the ritual practice of the Manipuri people. Perhaps it is because of this religious practice that Manipur lady still remain as a symbol of Manipur's identity.

A Meitei Hindu performs Swasti puja of a child on the fifth day after its birth. Unlike the Hindus of other states of India, when a Meitei Hindu performed the Swasti puja it was associated with the traditional "Ipan Thaba" which was followed before the coming of Veisnavite culture. The beauty of Swasti puja is the gathering of friend and relatives of the family coming to give blessing to the new family members.

Later, after the child is three month old another ritual called "Chakumba" is performed. Chakumba is another ritual which cannot be skipped as it is a ritual at which the new member of family can start taking rice.

When the new member enters 3 or 5 years old, another ritual called "Nahutpa" is performed. This ritual signifies that the child has grown up enough to join with his friend and other member of the society to learn his or her surroundings.

The above mentioned rituals are regarded as essential rituals to be performed for both boy and girl child. Another additional ritual which is accepted necessary for a boy is "Lukun Thangba" ritual. Here the boy have to tonsure his head and performed some rituals. This ritual is often performed when the boy is around 18 to 20 years or more. This ritual signifies that the boy is permitted to get married and start a new life.

Marriage is one important event of every human being. As for the Meitei veishnavite it is conducted in big way with cultural fervor. Five days after the marriage there is again Ningol Chakouba - at which the family of the bride called both the bridegroom and their relatives and friend to a grand feast. In both the event all Meitei have to wear the traditional white Pheijom and Pumat for the male and traditional clothes for the lady.

Death is one of the most important events of the Meitei people. The Meitei mourn the death for 13 days by performing rituals. First the dead body will be burnt and pray to the God. Later, every afternoon the family and the elders of the locality will gathered and listen verses from the Gita by an expert priest till the Sardha is performed on the 12th day after the death. On the fifth day of the death there is also a ritual called ASHTI.

The death soul is then remembered by offering feast to the elders every month for one year. And then "Phiroi" a ritual on the completion of one year was performed. This is the last rituals of a Meitei veishnavite.

This is unique traditions hardly known by any Hindu of any other places in the world including those in the Mainland India.

What would you feel if you go back to the 90's? It would be humorous to hear but actually having a Luna Scooty was a celebration, possession of a black and white TV was a royalty. Messages could be sent only as far as a horse could gallop. Surprisingly, the chronic lifestyle was genuinely a nasty and horrible one as compared to today's simplified lifestyle.

Everyone has an untold story but it is merely a unique one, even the closest clones have different life stories. One's life story may be romantic, comedic, tragic, motivational or many more.

A motivational story that has been changing my life since I was a child is what I am about to recount. It was in 1994-95, long before I was born, a simple man became the General Secretary of a certain club. Not only that he was also an executive member of different other civil organizations including General Secretary of a youth club. He worked for the welfare of the society in relation with several departments of the state. Programs for agriculture, fisheries, anti-drugs abuse, free healthcare campaigns and youths welfare were conducted which were formerly unavailable in my village.

Why is he my hero?

By: Satellite Nongmaithem

A good deed for humanity has no price, it will naturally be rewarded in return. He was awarded the District Youth Award - 1995 under Nehru Youth Sangathan, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. His ceaseless efforts made him an applicant for the National Youth under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India in 1997-98. Unfortunately, one applicant from the same village misinformed about him to the organizing authority, telling that he was working in a government related teacher post. This incident resulted in failing the event. Even so, the impatient man never gave up. Instead, that failure made him stronger. For the second time, he became an applicant for the same in 1998-99. Regrettably, no information for his selection of the event could be gathered from the concerned department. While the prizes of the winners were going to be distributed in Ahmedabad on the National Youth Festival. Besides no response for the selection could be obtained, believing in his intuition and self-confidence never vanished. He politely asked the department authority to include himself with their representatives for the festival. But they neglected his pro-

posal. The helpless man had to accompany a junior from his own locality for his journey. Both of them had no experience railing on a train. Luckily, on the way from Kolkata to Surat, they met a Master tailor who worked in Kolkata in their compartment.

They shared about their journey. The next day, some thugs turned towards their compartment and told both of them to empty their seats. However, the master tailor did not allow them to do so as it was almost 10 km. left to reach Surat. Anyhow they arrived at Gandhinagar in time. When he reached there, his first choice was neither to look for a rent nor change of a new dress but to glance at the list of selected candidates. His happiness knew no bounds when his name appeared on the list. The long struggle bore its fruit. What a play! The received award was bearing it call weeks later for the invitation to join in receiving the award came after the award was already received. Call it luck or passion!

If you didn't miss any lines in this article, you may feel anxious about who the man is? Luckily, by the Grace of God, I am now with him. He is my father, Nongmaithem Shantakumar Singh who is the el-

dest son of N. Angouba Singh of Kumbi Terakh, BPO & PS, Kumbi, Bishnupur District, Manipur. Presently he is the founder of Sanatombi Oriental Higher Secondary School, Kumbi. Though he is preoccupied with the busy schedule of running a school, he never quits working for the welfare of the people and society. In honor of his works, he was appointed as the member Secretary of Eco club Bishnupur District under Department of Implementation and Monitoring of Environment Forest and Climate Change in 2004.

To wind up, we need a comparison within ourselves how we were and how we are now in this advanced society. It should also be noted that life experienced more struggle during olden days. Must be a story or a piece of article to most of you but it was an alarm for me, a waking call, a never ending bell telling me every now and then that 'If there is a will, there is a way.'

(The writer is an ex-student of Sanatombi Oriental Higher Secondary School and currently a student in The Oratory Academy for his IELTS exam, as he will have his further studies in University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.)

Five years of the Myanmar-Bangladesh Rohingya crisis: Where is the solution?

By: Samina Akhter

Myanmar's violent ethnic cleansing program, which forcibly forced roughly a million Rohingya Muslims into Bangladeshi refugee camps, is going to mark its fifth anniversary upcoming August month. Myanmar's persecution of Rohingya Muslims is not new, with major waves of emigration recorded in 1978, 1992, and most recently in 2017.

Some 30,000 Rohingya children are being born every year in Bangladesh on average. As such, the number of Rohingya population has increased to more than 1.2 million. In this context, Bangladesh has requested the United Nations (UN) to put emphasis on family planning in the Rohingya camps.

Foreign secretary disclosed this information after the 39th meeting of the National Task Force on Rohingya affairs at his office on Sunday afternoon.

The start of a horrific military attack against the Rohingya people in Myanmar, which prompted three quarters of a million Rohingyas to flee over the country's borders, was nearly five years ago on August 5, 2017. The Myanmar military's deliberate, systematic, and extreme violence in killing, sexually assaulting, and displacing Rohingyas from their homelands and out of the country has been correctly labeled genocidal - that is, violence "committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group." Though the persecution of Rohingyas in Myanmar did not begin on this date (it has been going on for decades), it was undoubtedly one of the largest and most methodical attacks against the minority in recent years. The unprecedented refugee flood of Rohingyas people and other communities from Myanmar's Rakhine State into Bangladesh began almost five years ago.

Following a briefing by the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to Myanmar, Bangladesh's permanent representative addressed the UN General Assembly on Monday (June 12, 2022), urging the UN to expand its programs in Rakhine State, Myanmar, to return the forcibly displaced Rohingyas. The envoy further requested that the Special Envoy endeavor to ensure that the bilateral return arrangements for Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh are implemented



as soon as possible.

Bangladesh's representative to the UN, we believe, was quite explicit in her speech. It's been nearly 5 years. In one of the worst man-made humanitarian tragedies in modern history, almost a million Rohingyas were forced to flee their homes. And the assurance of their safe return has yet to be fulfilled.

In November 2019, Gambia, on behalf of the fifty-seven-nation Organization of Islamic Cooperation, filed the first international lawsuit against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice, accusing the country of violating the UN Genocide Convention. The court unanimously ruled in January 2020 that Myanmar must take emergency measure to protect Rohingyas from violence and preserve evidence of possible genocide. A final ruling in the case could take years. Separately, the ICC authorized an investigation into alleged atrocities in November 2019. The International Court of Justice ruled on July 22, 2022, that The Gambia's case for genocide against Myanmar would proceed despite Myanmar's preliminary objections. According to academics and rights campaigners, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling has opened up fresh opportunities for the international community to put pressure on the Myanmar military to provide justice for the Rohingyas.

We're also concerned because the Russian invasion of Ukraine has shifted the world's attention away from Rohingya migrants and toward millions of fleeing Ukrainians seeking asylum in a variety of European nations. The Rohingya agenda should, at the very least, take a backseat in the face of an ongoing war and a rapidly changing World Order.

The point is that Myanmar is at the heart of the Rohingya catastrophe. The ruling military junta in that country must step up its efforts to secure the refugees' voluntary and dignified return.

Bangladesh has done more than enough to accommodate over a million Rohingya refugees at enormous economic, environmental, and security costs; now it is time for the UN to assess the situation. Bangladesh's efforts alone will not be sufficient to bring about a long-term solution to the situation.

At the same time, accountability for all transgressions and atrocities in Myanmar is critical. As a result, we would like to remind the UN Security Council to keep an eye on the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) Provisional Measures in the case brought by the Gambia on behalf of the OIC.

The international community, particularly UN member nations, has a tremendous humanitarian responsibility and commitment to Rohingya refugees.

The world community must awaken from its slumber and see that the man-made crisis was not caused by Bangladesh, but rather by Myanmar's internal turmoil, which was unfairly imposed on Bangladesh.

Despite a series of UN resolutions, Myanmar has showed little interest in repatriating the refugees in dignity and with full citizenship rights.

Apart from UN member states, regional countries and Myanmar's commercial partners, such as China, India, Japan, Indonesia, and Germany, ASEAN and OIC countries must also step up to put pressure on Myanmar to solve the humanitarian situation seriously.

Last but not least, if the international community fails to find a long-term solution to the humanitarian catastrophe, it must commit to taking in a million or more forcibly displaced refugees currently sheltering in Bangladesh, as it has done with many other refugees in the past.

We urge immediate action to assist in making significant progress in building the conditions for the safe, voluntary, dignified, and long-term return of refugees to Myanmar. It is vital to address the core causes of Myanmar's systematic discrimination, disenfranchisement, and communal violence.

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With 8,586 new Covid-19 cases, daily positivity rate down to 2.19%

Agency
New Delhi, August 23:

India logged 8,586 new coronavirus infections taking total tally of cases to 4,43,57,546 while the active cases have declined to 96,506, according to the Union health ministry data updated on Tuesday.

The death toll climbed to 5,27,416 with 48 fatalities which includes six deaths recorded by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The active cases comprise 0.22 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.59 per cent, the

health ministry said.

A decline of 1,142 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 2.19 per cent and the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 3.31 per cent, according to the health ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,37,33,624, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry, 210.31 crore doses of Covid vaccines have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.

It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one crore mark on December 19.

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4, three crore on June 23 last year and four crore on January 25 this year.

The 42 new fatalities include seven from Delhi, six each from Karnataka and Punjab, four each from

Rajasthan and West Bengal, three from Haryana, two each from Bihar and Himachal Pradesh and one each from Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim and Uttarakhand.

Maharashtra logged 1,183 fresh infections in the last 24 hours - of which Mumbai accounted for 592 and Thane for 257 new cases.

While Delhi reported 625 Covid cases, Rajasthan saw 425 new cases and 591 infections were reported in Tamil Nadu. Chhattisgarh saw 222 cases, while 195 were reported in West Bengal as per data shared by news agency.

Meghalaya-Assam Border Dispute: Garo Hills Organisations protest against MoU as States begin talks



Agency
Guwahati, August 23:

"Don't sell our land without our consent." The message was loud and clear as a conglomeration of organisations from Garo Hills comprising Garo Students Union, Federation of Khasi Jaintia and Garo People (FKJYGP), the Achik Youth Welfare Organization (AYWO) along with the local leaders of the Assam bordering on Monday held sit-in protests in Shillong against the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the state and Assam in March this year.

Holding placards that read, "In 6th schedule the land belongs to the people, not the Gov-

ernment", "We oppose MoU Mallangkona area," the organisations urged the state Government to review of the MoU signed between the government of Meghalaya and the government of Assam.

Pritam Areng, President, FKJGP (Garo Hills Zone) said, "This protest is basically because of the MOU signed between the Government of Meghalaya and the Government of Assam on 29th March 2022, basically the Assam and the Meghalaya Government they signed the MOU by overlooking the five mutually agreed principles which includes Historical Facts, Ethnicity, Administrative Convenience, Geographical Continuity and Willingness of the People."

Areng said these issues have not been reflected or addressed in the state MoU as per the aspirations of many people who are affected by the signing.

Expressing their unhappiness with the government, the organisations said the state government is yet to provide them the regional committee report based on which the MoU was drafted.

Echoing a similar view, Dalseng Bira Ch. Momin, President, ADE Apex Committee said, "I am taking the placard which reads 'Don't sell our land without our consent,' that is the main reason, so the MDA Government has signed the MoU without discussing and without any consent of the local people."

Rahul Gandhi should accept Congress president post, says Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot

Agency
Jaipur, August 23:

As the election for Congress president inched closer, senior leader and Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot on Monday urged Rahul Gandhi to accept the top party post once again. The election is scheduled to be held on September 20.

During a press briefing, Gehlot said, "If Rahul Gandhi does not become the party president, it will be a disappointment for the Congressmen across the country. He should understand the sen-



timents of Congress workers and accept this post."

The chief minister said even within the party, there is an opinion in favour of mak-

ing Rahul Gandhi the new president.

"The unanimous opinion is in support of his becoming the president. So, I think he should

accept it. It is not about Gandhi or non-Gandhi family. It is the work of the organisation and no one is becoming a prime minister," he said.

It should be noted that Rahul Gandhi had resigned as Congress president after the party suffered its second consecutive defeat in General elections in 2019.

Sonia Gandhi who took over the reins of the party again as interim president had also offered to quit in August 2020 after an open revolt by a section of leaders, referred to as G-23, but the CWC had urged her to continue.

Career Guidance

Higher education is very important in society



By: Vijay GarG

The development of any country is closely related to the development of its people. A country has progressed and progressed on the path of development only when it has adequate means of research and research at the level of higher education. Administrative thinker Peter Drucker had said decades ago that in times to come, the knowledge society will become more competitive than any other society in the world. The level of prosperity of a country will be judged by the level of education there changing global

In perspective, now the world will also decide on this assessment that what is the level of research and research of the leading country. It is worth mentioning that the medium of education, research and extension work is the medium of fulfillment of these three objectives, whereas the knowledge of mankind, culture and society is governed by research. According to UNESCO, the creative work done in a planned manner to increase the store of knowledge is called research and development. If seen, higher education is very important in a knowledge

driven economy and learning society. As far as vocational education and vocational training is concerned, its demand has increased over the last few decades.

The New Education Policy 2020 is also imbued with similar sentiments. One of the questions that emerges regarding higher education is whether the various institutions of higher education and knowledge are changing according to the situation in the midst of rapidly changing developments in the world scenario? And secondly, is the country able to reap the great benefits of education being a technology? Similar questions have been emerging on the mind about research and research. So there are some questions that relevant in the context of India.

For example, what is the status of India's research and development in today's scientifically competitive world? Why is India lagging behind countries like China and Japan in terms of research work? What is the obstacle in India's progress in research and development which is stopping the wheel of research? It is noteworthy that initially the transfer of knowledge creation in various universities was on the basis of global learning and global sharing. Due to marketism, education increased quantitatively and privately It also developed in institutions, but in terms of quality, it became weak. It was from here that the wheel of progress of higher education and the research involved in it began to slow down.

There is no doubt that the challenges before India in the

field of research and development have increased. Research shows that about five decades ago, more than fifty percent of scientific research was conducted in universities. Not only this, universities were also seen as bastions of higher education and research centers. But at present, the situation is now only till the distribution of titles appears limited.

A major reason behind this is also the lack of availability of funds for research. Along with this, there is also less involvement of youth in research and more involvement in other fields. In the case of women, it would not be irrational to say that access to higher education is the biggest achievement for them. Barring achievements in a few selected areas, India's position on the global stage in research and research does not appear to be strong. At present, the number of people pursuing higher education in the country is more than 40 million in all formats.

The number of all types of universities is also more than a thousand. There are more than forty thousand colleges. Apart from this, many government and private research institutions can also be seen. The sooner it is understood that research suggests such a scientific way of development in a proper, sure and estimating and predictable way, by which it is possible to strengthen not only the inclusive structure of the country, but also the face of self-reliant India can be achieved. The development of any country is closely related to the development of its people any country. It has progressed on the

path of development and can grow only when it has adequate means of research and research at the level of higher education. In research and innovation, India spends only 0.7 percent of its total GDP, while the US has a comparative advantage with 2.8 percent and China with 2.1 percent. Not only this, countries like Israel and South Korea spend more than four percent of the total GDP on research related activities. If we look at the inclusive spending of America and China from the point of view of research, then fought the trade war and diplomatic

Apart from this, there is also heavy competition in both the countries regarding research and higher education. China has overtaken the US in publishing research and in higher education. If we look at the report of the Ministry of Science and Technology of Japan, it is clear that China has the largest share in the number of research papers published all over the world. It is followed by America and Germany. Significantly, between 2018 and 2022, China published 27.2 percent of research papers, while the same figure in the US is 24.9 percent.

The report also reflects that while China is doing the most research in engineering, mathematics, materials science, the US is doing the most research in basic life sciences and physical sciences. Due to lagging behind China, the US has decided to spend two hundred US dollars in the next ten years to strengthen its research work. Now let's talk about India. India's global position in research is not good. This is the reason due to which the ben-

efit of research is not available to the public. Unless research costs increase till then the ground reality will remain something else. Considering the global situation of knowledge and research, India also needs to increase efforts for research.

However, talk of setting up a National Research Foundation has already been made. With its establishment, all the ministries need to cooperate more with IITs in the field of science and research. To put it bluntly, higher education and research are such shining words, if they are rubbed in better ways, then India's shine will never fade in the world. Higher education and research they are the backbone of the progress of the nation. Research plays an important role in higher education. In other words, both are complementary to each other. If the combination of higher education and research takes a comparative edge with the slogan Jai Anusandhan, then along with inclusive development, good governance will also get a boost.

However, India ranks seventy-seven in the Global Innovation Index, followed by Switzerland at first, the US at sixth and China at seventeenth. Low-density countries such as the Netherlands, Sweden, the UK and Singapore are second in terms of innovation, respectively, third, fourth and fifth place. That is why educationist Professor Yashpal had said that educational institutions which do not pay attention to research and its quality, they can neither do good to education nor to society.

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Five years of the Myanmar-Bangladesh...

We also urge the world community to remain in solidarity with Rohingya refugees, as well as the Bangladeshi government and people who are kindly hosting them. The United Nations is committed to providing active help in the future. The Rohingya's misery must not become a political football.

At a time when the funds for the Rohingyas are dwindling, and when the international community has grown evidently disinterested in safeguarding the community, the sustainable course of action that the international community should undertake is the safe and dignified repatriation of the Rohingyas through international mechanisms.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet paid an official visit to Bangladesh on 14-17 August 2022. The visit came ahead of the fifth anniversary this month of the Rohingya exodus from Myanmar to Bangladesh. However, acknowledging Bangladesh's great difficulty in dealing with the Rohingya crisis, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet assured the UN's continued efforts to realise the safe and voluntary return of the Rohingyas to Myanmar. She made the assurance when Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen said that the protracted stay of the displaced Rohingyas in Bangladesh bears the risk of the spread of radicalism and transnational crimes and thus may hamper

regional stability. During her trip to Cox's Bazar, the high commissioner visited camps housing Rohingya refugees from Myanmar and met with the forcibly displaced Rohingya people, officials and non-governmental organizations. High Commissioner Bachelet appreciated Bangladesh's humanitarian gesture towards the Rohingyas and recalled that the government took good care of the displaced Rohingyas during the pandemic by providing vaccines.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has rightly pointed out to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, that Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh must eventually return to Myanmar. It's been almost five years since the Myanmar military carried out its most recent genocidal campaign against the Rohingyas, forcing around a million of them to flee to Bangladesh in search of safety. For a resource-constrained country like ours, hosting so many of refugees for five years has been a great challenge indeed.

Thus, on the fifth anniversary of the Rohingya crisis, we urge the world to do something for the Rohingya refugees. They are not naturally refugees. They have birth right to live in their birthplace, Myanmar, with proper dignity. Otherwise, as a conscious human being, we can't ignore our responsibility. (The author is a Dhaka-based columnist and human rights activist)

Manish Sisodia summoned in Kamrup Court in connection with defamation suit filed by Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

Agency Assam, August 23:

Kamrup's CJM court on Monday summoned Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia on September 29, in connection with the defamation case filed by Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma. Notably, Sarma filed a defamation suit against Sisodia last month after the latter alleged corruption at the Assam government's behest over contracts to supply PPE kits above market rates during the pandemic in 2020.

Sisodia had alleged that the Assam government had given contracts to Sarma's wife's firms and son's business partner to supply PPE kits above market rates during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Sarma was the state's health minister then.

Manish Sisodia noted that "while the Assam government procured PPE kits for Rs 600 per piece from other companies, Sarma gave contracts for the same to the firms of his wife and son's business partners for Rs 990 per piece taking advantage of the emergency situation."

Delhi Deputy CM also informed that Assam CM's wife's firm does not even deal in medical equipment. "While the contract given to the firm of Sarma's wife was cancelled as the company could not supply PPE kits, another supply order was given to the firm belonging to the business partners of his son at a rate of '1,680 per kit,'" the AAP leader added.

Notably, Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife, Riniki Bhuyan had also filed a defamation suit of Rs 100 crore against Manish

Sisodia for 'dragging her name in a political statement,' her lawyer stated.

Sarma had responded to Sisodia's allegations saying his wife donated PPE kits free of cost to the government.

"At a time when the entire country was facing the worst pandemic in over 100 years, Assam hardly had any PPE Kits. My wife took the courage of coming forward and donating around 1500 free of cost to the govt to save lives. She didn't take a single penny," Sarma wrote on Twitter.

BJP suspends Telangana MLA T Raja Singh amid row over his controversial remarks against Prophet Muhammad

Agency Hyderabad, August 23:

The BJP has suspended its Telangana MP T Raja Singh amid furore over his comments against Prophet Muhammad. The Goshamahala MLA was arrested in Hyderabad on Tuesday as protests raged in various parts of the city over his remarks. A day earlier, the politician had released a video criticising stand-up comedian Munawar Faruqui (who recently performed in Hyderabad) and purportedly made some comments against religion.

"Please also show cause within 10 days from the date of this notice as to why you should not be expelled from the party," the letter sent by the BJP added.

Earlier this week an FIR was filed against Singh under various sections of IPC pertaining to promoting enmity between



different groups on grounds of religion, deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs and criminal intimidation.

On August 19, Raja Singh

had been taken into custody by the police after he tried to reach the venue of a show held to be held next day by the stand-up comedian. Faruqui had gone on to perform the show even as the police picked up 50 people

who tried to reach the venue and protest.

Singh had then made a video claiming that Hyderabad Police had given protection to the stand up artiste and helped to make his show successful. The BJP MLA alleged that Faruqui had made certain remarks that hurt religious sentiments and used foul language for him.

Protesters gathered in front of the city Police Commissioner's office demanding immediate action against the BJP MLA on Monday night after the video went viral. A case had been filed and the police had also taken the protesters into custody.

As the situation remains tense, the Hyderabad police have increased security measures in parts of the city and have deployed forces out of the Hyderabad police commissioner's office.

Assam Rifles organised Security Meet with CSOs

IT News Imphal, August 23:

Phudrei Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(South) organized a CSO meet today at village Wabagai, Kakching district, Manipur.

During the meeting, all CSOs were briefed about the ongoing security situation in the

area of responsibility and to ensure a safe environment for overall development of the region. A more depth discussion was held on current issues to include extortion demand, drug trafficking, targeting of Non Manipuri people etc.

All village CSOs extended their full support to help Assam Rifles in curbing the

nefarious plans of insurgents to disturb the peace in the area and also to avoid any law and order situation which may hinder the growth of the society.

The village CSOs expressed their gratitude for organizing the event. A total of 16 representatives of various CSOs participated in the event.

AR provides medical aid to snake bite victim

IT News Imphal, August 23:

Loktak Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) extended life saving medical assistance to a snake bite victim of T Munjangvill, Churachandpur

district, Manipur on August 22, 2022.

A 26 years old male named Paulsamsang was bitten by snake on left ankle while working in field. Individual had mild swelling and local pain at the site of bite.

The individual was brought by relatives to the Unit hospital of Assam Rifles on 22 August.

The Medical staff examined and immediately rendered Essential medical care to the individual and stabilized his condition.

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Chief Minister N. Biren inaugurates....

Darshana Vikram Jardosh further elaborated the PLI (Production Linked Incentive) scheme for textiles, the PM Mitra Scheme.

Textiles Commerce and Industries Minister Nemcha Kipgen said that the importance of technical textiles have grown leaps and bounds and have become more relevant and important along with time as the varieties and different segments of technical textiles are growing in numbers having different purposes and usefulness, and is one of the sunrise sectors.

The invention of specialty fibres and their incorporation in various areas suggest that the importance of technical textiles is going to increase in future, she said.

The Minister also said that today, the usage of the technical textiles ranges from agriculture to forestry, horticulture, animal and poultry rearing including animal clothing besides enhancing crop productions.

BrigAS Kanwar, Chief Engineer (P) Arunank Border Roads Organisation, (BRO) provided an overview of the BRO, challenges and case studies and mitigation of the challenges using new technology.

He talked of the challenges being deployed in the northern areas, where the Himalayan ranges post specific challenges. He said that there are new fold mountains, massive landslides, landslips, sinking of foundation and we have to overcome these challenges using new technology, he said citing some road works being taken up in Arunachal Pradesh.

Highlighting the successful use of geo-textiles in soil stabilization, slope stabilization, he said geo-textiles are extensively used in Arunachal Pradesh for slope stabilization.

He continued that the BRO remains committed to the use of modern technology to look for practical solutions to problems in the field.

Joint Secy., Ministry of Textiles, Rajeev Saxena briefed the gathering about National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) and explained why India needs technical textiles. He said that with the traditional textile we cannot fulfill our requirements and we need man-made fibres.

He continued that the NTTM has four components or focus areas which are Research, innovation and development, Education, Training & Skilling, Promotion and market development and Export promotion.

Rajeev also talked on the implementation mechanism under NTTM and key initiatives of the NTTM.

The inaugural session was also attended by Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Secretary Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, GoI Gridhar Aramane, Indian Chamber of Commerce Pradeep Sureka, officials from BRO, Ministry of Textiles, among others.

Sports

Durand Cup 2022:

ISL Champions Hyderabad FC beat TRAU 2-0; East Bengal play goalless draw with Indian Navy

Agency Imphal/Kolkata, August 23:

Indian Super League champions Hyderabad FC began their Durand Cup campaign with a dominating 2-0 win over local side Tiddim Road Athletic Union (TRAU) FC at the Khuman Lampak Stadium, Imphal on Monday. (More Football News)

This was TRAU's second successive loss in the tournament. Halicharan Narzary (27th) and Borja Herrera (52nd) scored for Hyderabad in group C match. TRAU, who were coming into the match after a 1-3 loss to local rivals NEROCA in their opening game, started the brighter of the two sides. They controlled possession and looked for openings in the Hyderabad defence. The ISL champions took a while to settle down in the match.

Hyderabad gained confidence as the match wore on and started to create chances.

They took the lead in the 27th minute through a quality Halicharan Narzary strike. It was Spaniard Borja's pressing that



forced an error from the TRAU midfielder and the loose ball was latched on to by Halicharan, who curled a spectacular shot from a distance into the top right corner.

Hyderabad slowed down the game after the goal but there was a lack of intention from the home side to press for the equaliser.

Hyderabad took complete control of the proceedings in the second half, as they continued to play the attractive football that took them to the ISL summit last season.

The second goal also came

through a screamer, in the 52nd minute, through Borja, who was rightly declared the Man of the Match. Mohammed Yasir found him from the right, and the Spaniard took a sublime first touch to produce a left-footed scorching into the top corner.

Hyderabad continued to maintain total control of the game and created a host of chances but could not convert them. They hit the bar at least twice without luck.

Hyderabad coach Manolo Marquez brought on his regulars for the last half hour which totally shut down the game for

TRAU.

In another match, East Bengal (EB) and the Indian Navy drew 0-0 in their Durand Cup opener on Monday at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Kriangan (VYBK) in this city.

The Red & Gold dominated the match, especially in the second half, earning Harkrishna A.U. the title of Man of the Match.

First half was tense due to EB coach Stephen Constantine's decision to play an all-Indian playing eleven and a four-man midfield. When Naorem Mahesh Singh had an

injury and had to be replaced by Tuhin Das, his initial plans probably went awry.

The lone noteworthy opportunity in the first half most likely came from EB's VP. Suhair, who broke through inside the box and passed it outside to Tuhin. Tuhin's cross back-in found Amarjit Kiyam in space, but the midfielder was unable to get the direction right.

In the second half, EB started strong. Coach Constantine made this intention plain by replacing Aniket Jadhav at halftime with Brazilian Alex Lima.

The opening chance of the half was made by the team's captain on that particular day, Sumit Passi, whose magnificent pilerdriver from at least 30 yards out beat Navy goalkeeper Vishnu and thundered off the right upright before rebounding.

As the first goal continued to elude them, Constantine kept making substitutions, replacing Angousana and Amarjit Kiyam with midfielder Souvik Chakrabarti and striker Mahitosh Roy to inject new life into the assault.

AIFF Elections to be held on September 2, Nominations to be filed from Thursday

Agency New Delhi, August 23:

The elections to the AIFF Executive Committee will be held on September 2 and aspiring candidates can file fresh nominations from August 25, the returning officer has announced.

The Supreme Court on Monday terminated the Committee of Administrator (CoA), as demanded by the world governing body FIFA, and pushed back the AIFF election by a week.

Hours after the SC order,

returning officer Umesh Sinha issued a fresh notice, outlining the process afresh.

The nominations for the posts can be filed between Thursday and Saturday while the scrutiny will be done on Sunday (August 28).

The candidates, whose nominations are deemed valid, will have a chance to withdraw the nomination, if they want, on August 29 while the returning officer shall prepare the final list of contesting candidates and put it on the AIFF website on August 30.

RC Book Lost

I, the undersigned have lost my Registration Certificate issued by the Department of Transport, Govt. of Manipur, for my vehicle bearing registration number MN06-LB-6259, Engine No. of my vehicle is G4LAFM798336, Chassis No. MALB51BLFM156673 in between Thoubal to Keishampat on August 20, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Md Manjur Khan
Phudrei Makha Leikai, Thoubal - 795 148