



THE MORUNG EXPRESS

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THE POWER OF TRUTH

The moment we are living right now, this generation, represents the largest increase in expressive capability in human history — Clay Shirky



Malaysia says Myanmar violence against Muslim Rohingya "ethnic cleansing"

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International Day of People with Disabilities observed

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Ruthless Chelsea fight back to sink Man City

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REFLECTIONS



'People of UK, Nagaland have a shared history'

Stone-pulling ceremony of the Angami tribe spreads message of unity, peace

Our Correspondent

Kohima | December 3



Men from the Angami community at the stone-pulling ceremony at Kohima on Saturday. (Morung Photo)

You'd be upset too, if the organiser gave you 500 Rs each and gave you an IOU for the rest of the 5 lakh cash prize!

Disabilities Bill proposes penalty for discriminating against disabled

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3 (PTI): Discriminating against persons with disabilities can draw a jail term up to two years and a fine of maximum Rs. 5 lakh once a Bill in this regard is passed in Parliament. The amended Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014, proposes imprisonment of at least six months to not more than two years, along with a fine ranging between Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 5 lakh for discriminating against differently-abled persons. "The provisions of penalty up to Rs. 5 lakh and imprisonment up to two years have been included for the first time for effective implementation of the legislation once it is passed in Parliament," Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaarav Chand Gehlot said today. The Bill, which aims at securing and enhancing the rights and entitlements of disabled persons, has been introduced in Parliament and is likely to come for discussion on Monday. On November 30, the Union Cabinet approved the proposed amendments to the Bill, that seeks to replace the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. The Bill proposes strengthening the office of chief commissioner and state commissioners for Persons with Disabilities which will act as regulatory bodies. The bill was examined by the parliamentary standing committee last year. Then, a Group of Ministers, headed by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, examined the provisions of the bill and sent their recommendations to the Prime Ministers office.

Attired in traditional fineries, thousands from the Angami community today came together to participate at the traditional stone-pulling event here in the state capital Kohima. This event is part of the Hornbill Festival of Nagaland in commemoration with the golden jubilee celebration of the Angami Sports Association scheduled next year.

In a brief address, Nagaland Chief Minister TR Zeliang who was the chief guest said that stone-pulling ceremony is one of the most interesting traditions of the Angamis, which has been practiced since time immemorial. He said this is not only a mere event in pulling the stone or wooden gate, but it has a great significance, which showcase the unity among different khels, clans in the village. "We strongly believe that through this colorful event, the message of unity, peace and progress will reach out to the other parts of the world," he said.

Appreciating the presence of Alan Gemmel, OBE Minister Cultural Affairs, British Council, India, Zeliang said Nagaland had a very special relationship with the British Government for almost a century prior to India's independence. And even after India's independence, that special relationship with the British

government and its people continues, especially in the field of socio-educational development.

"The Kohima War Cemetery constructed and maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, has been, and will continue to provide that special linkage between us for many years to come," he said.

The Chief Minister also asserted that the Nagas, while moving fast towards modernization, are equally good in preserving their roots, its identity, culture etc.

According to him, "the North East tribals are small in number, and unless we take care to preserve our culture and identify, the bigger communities will not

recognize or respect us."

"I think the innate desire of the Nagas to preserve our culture and identity is one of the important issues in the Naga political movement, as well as in the ongoing political dialogue on the Nagapolitical problem," the Chief Minister said.

Guest of honour, Alan Gemmel said the people of UK and Nagaland share many things. He said that he was pleased to see so many lights and trees for Christmas on his journey, adding "I thought I was back in my own country of Scotland."

"We also have a shared past as so many Naga people supported the British army during the battle of Kohima," he said and also expressed excitement about "our shared history and our passion for education, sports and culture means for our future."

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Stating that next year is year of cultural exchange between UK and India, he hoped that "it will have a special connection at the next year's Hornbill festival."

Also lauding Chief Minister TR Zeliang for his vision to improve the education of the people of Nagaland and use culture to promote the state to the people all over the world, he said, "We will use this commitment to education and culture to deepen the long and special bonds of friendship between the people of Nagaland and the UK."

2 soldiers killed as Assam Rifles convoy ambushed in Arunachal

GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 3 (IANS): Two soldiers were killed and eight others injured as militants, believed to be from the banned Naga outfit NSCN-K, ambushed a convoy of the Assam Rifles along the India-Myanmar border in Arunachal Pradesh on Saturday, a defence spokesman said.

An Assam Rifle spokesman said the attack took place at Nginu village in Tirap district, in the radius of 20 kms from the border.

"Soldiers belonging to the 16 Assam Rifles were returning from a patrol when the heavily armed militants fired at them. While two of them including a JCO (junior commissioner officer) died, eight others were injured. The condition of two of them are stated to be serious," the spokesman said adding more forces have been sent to

launch counter-insurgency operations in and around the area.

"We believe it to be handiwork of anti-talk faction, Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang militants who have some presence in Tirap district.

On November 19, a combined team of the NSCN-K and the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) had carried out an ambush on Army personnel in Assam's Tinsukia district, killing three soldiers and injuring four others.

After this attack, the United National Liberation Front of Western South East Asia (UNLFW), which is a joint platform of all the northeastern militant outfits ambushed a group of commandos of 21 Para in Chandel district of Manipur on November 26, injuring five soldiers.

Migration in the time of Conflict: Experiences from Nagaland state

Morung Express News

Dimapur | December 3

In a transformative effort to engage with the pressing issue of migration, the Stockholm University in collaboration with The People Channel, and The Morung Express from Nagaland organized a round table discussion on "Migration in the time of Conflict: Experiences from Nagaland."

In her introduction, Anthropologist Dr Dolly Kikon pointed out that the discussion and the main issue was not on the question of whether migration was good or not. She also shared a brief synopsis on her research and personal experience with Indigenous migration and migrants. Sharing his view on the theme, Anthropologist Professor Bengt G Karlsson from Stockholm University, stated that Migration has really accelerated in the past ten to fifteen years, and in a way, all of us understand why this is happening. What really generated migration in the North East India, he said, could be attributed to factors like employment and educational opportunities.

Also participating in the discussion was Vikheho Swu, Cabinet Minister of Road & Bridges, termed migration as a global issue and a 'reality check on a phenomenon which is bound to happen to any developing society'.

Highlighting the 'craze' for government jobs in Nagaland, he stated that there is an excess of 40,000 government employees. He pointed out that from the total population of 19 lakhs in the state, there are about 1.20 lakh government employees when the actual need for about 80,000.

Furthermore, with not enough support from the



Anthropologist Prof. Bengt G. Karlsson from Stockholm University, anthropologist Dr. Dolly Kikon from Melbourne University at the panel discussion, "Migration in the time of Conflict: Experiences from Nagaland" at Hotel Acacia on Saturday. (Morung Photo)

State government in terms of policy, there is an absence of development function in rural areas, Swu added.

"The reason for such grim situation is because Nagas lack in vision, planning and management therefore policy makers, educationist, social activist and entrepreneurs have to put their heads together to plan. We must accept the fact that migration is here and here to stay," Swu concluded.

Three panel sessions were held on topics of "Why migration matters", "Challenges and experiences of migration", and finally concluding with "Community reflections on migration".

The first session moderated by Dr RK Debbarma from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences had on the panel Dr Rajdeep Singha, also from TISS, Rozelle Mero from The People Channel, Kwulo Lorin from Tetsso College and Vijaya Eastwood of Harley ventures, Gurgaon.

Introducing the topic, Dr Debbarma urged, "Let's talk about migrants without de-

humanizing them," insisting that terms such as "illegal immigrants" are dehumanizing in nature.

Highlighting the huge scale of migration within India, Dr Singha revealed that 72 million - almost equivalent to Germany's entire population - of India's populace cross migrate with female out-migrating men.

Also speaking on the panel, Lorin shared that his experience of working in the city has helped build a network, which in turn has helped students of Tetsso College find job placements. Lorin was however of the opinion that youngsters in Naga society lack direction in finding opportunities.

The second session moderated by Rozelle Mero had Tiala Jamir, Lomi Shikhu, Metsino Chase and Jai Syied - all of them working professionals who have served across the country and abroad - as panelists.

All of them shared their experiences and challenges faced as migrants themselves. During the discussion that ensued, the challenge

of re-entry back to the society in Nagaland was raised with the observation that Naga society looks upon those who have been abroad with a judgmental eye.

The post-lunch session on "Community reflections on Migration" was moderated by Dr Dolly Kikon and had in the panel MLA and former Parliamentary Secretary Mhonlumo Kikon, Jenny Esther from Don Bosco Tech, Dr Sedevi Angami from Christian Institute of Health Sciences & Research, and Jenpu Rongmei of CAN Youth.

Discussing the pros and cons of receiving migrants, Dr Sedevi opined that, "Migrants add variety and increase the talent pool in the society."

Issues on high prevalence of dropouts and unemployed youth in Nagaland and the challenges on uneducated unemployed youth were discussed while the need for introducing migration policy and a policy mechanism for youths were also raised.

One of the reflections was that the community as well as the government has failed to understand conditions of uneducated unemployed youth as many policies such as skill development were towards improving the conditions of educated unemployed youth.

In her concluding remarks, Dr Dolly Kikon observed that often "conflict attached to migration" is not talked about. Migration to a large extent is also caused by "structural violence and militarization," she noted.

She called for looking at time not in the linear past-present-future context, but by envisioning the future, relating it to the past, and then living the present as a way towards the envisioned future.

SCAD to sponsor a Naga student next fall

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Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), the University for Creative Careers will sponsor a Naga student to study at the prestigious and highly rated American University next fall. This was announced by Executive Director of International Recruitment and Relations, SCAD, Maken Imcha Payne at an exclusive event held at Maple Tree School, Dimapur on Saturday evening.

"SCAD, as an institution has decided to create one full tuition scholarship for one student from Nagaland," Payne stated. She said it was an exciting, important and a historic day as the first SCAD event is being hosted in Nagaland and espoused hope that the platform they are establishing will actually lead to welcoming the first batch of Naga students at SCAD for the next fall of 2017.

Referring to its Hongkong campus, she said that Nagas will feel very much at home because it is in Asia and moreover pointed out that SCAD is the only American art and design university in Hongkong with 100% job placement.

She also impressed upon that SCAD is a student centric university and believes in supporting their students all throughout their career. Asserting that they don't want starving artists, she said, 'one of the first things we teach our students is business and the marketability aspect of their work.'

She further showed glimpses of the various locations of SCAD, which has its presence in Hongkong, Savannah, Lacoste, Atlanta through a video presentation while emphasizing that such facilities and thriving learning environment is where Nagastudents or individuals will also step into.

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Associate Director of International Admission, SCAD, Pelesino Ane Kevichusa noted in her opening remark that SCAD is the most comprehensive art and design university. She said that it has over 100 degree programs in art and design with 13000 students from over 100 countries.

Emphasizing that there is a program for every interest, Sashila Ozukum, Administrator of Hope Academy, Dimapur said that attending the Educators' Retreat at Atlanta in October was an eye-opener that reaffirmed her belief that 'if you have the passion for anything, you can be successful and also make a living out of it.'

She asserted that Nagas with their inherent creative abilities will thrive in a place like SCAD and urged upon parents to allow their children to bloom and grow. "When our children do what they want and what they love, everyone will be so engrossed that our land will become a peaceful place," she added.