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Taxi drivers cry 'murder'

Gives seven days to state government to arrest 'culprits'; warns of state-wide strike

Our Correspondent Kohima, Sep. 4 (EMN): Fuming taxi drivers, led by the Kohima-based All Nagaland Taxi Association (ANTA), has served the state government with a seven-day deadline to solve the suspected murder of one of its members, Swüdüve Nakro.

Nakro was found dead near Dzüvüve, between Chiechama village and Nachama village junction under Kohima district on September 3 last, with injuries on his head suspected to have been caused by a blunt object.

On Monday, hundreds of taxi drivers led by ANTA leaders gathered at the office of the deputy commissioner of Kohima and submitted a representation demanding the arrest of the 'culprit(s)' within 1 week.

They warned the authorities of an indefinite strike throughout the state in the event of the government failing to meet their demand. The representation was submitted to DC Kohima, Rajesh Soundararajan.

The ANTA, in its rep-



Agitating taxi drivers seen outside the office of the deputy commissioner of Kohima on September 4.

resentation, has also asked the state government to provide ex-gratia to family members of Nakro, and provide safety and security measures for all taxi drivers, especially at night.

While appealing for immediate action and intervention, the association has appealed the authorities concerned to pursue the case at the earliest to avoid 'all complications and further misunderstanding between the public and the association'.

Meanwhile, ANTA has cautioned that during the period of strike threatened that in the event of any private vehicles found indulging in ferrying/carrying passengers, the drivers/owners of those particular private vehicles would be held solely responsible for any untoward repercussions.

In a meeting held between SP Kohima, Joseph Hesso, ANTA officials and DC Kohima, Rajesh Soundararajan at his office

chamber, the DC conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family members, and assured all help and support from his end.

He also requested the ANTA officials to extend all cooperation and support to the police in the process of investigation.

Hesso assured that the police would give their best and expedite the investigation in order to nab the culprit(s), and requested the ANTA to refrain from organising bandhs/strikes

which is likely to disturb "the peace and affect the public."

Addressing its members gathered outside DC's office, ANTA president, V. bassetuo Solo asserted that the association would not rest until justice was delivered, while stating that this was not the first and only time that taxi drivers were 'abused and killed.'

Recalling an incident in which a taxi driver from Dimapur was killed in the month of July, Solo said the safety and security of the taxi drivers were at stake. These incidents, he said, have created a sense of insecurity, confusion and disillusion among the taxi drivers.

Solo also maintained that taxi drivers were often abused and humiliated which mostly go unreported, and hence asked the government to provide safety and security to the taxi drivers stating that human lives were more important than any other.

He also informed that as a sign of resentment, all the taxis under Kohima district would ply with black flags for a week.

NSCN cadre killed, soldier injured in Myanmar border

New Delhi, Sep. 4 (IANS): An NSCN (K) cadre was killed and a soldier injured in an operation by Special Forces on Monday in Arunachal Pradesh's Longding district bordering Myanmar, army sources said.

The security operation comes a day ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the neighbouring country on September 5-7.

Army chief General Bipin Rawat clarified it was a "routine operation" within the Indian territory.

"It's a normal, routine operation. Such operations happen every day. There's nothing big about them," General Rawat told reporters here on Monday.

An AK-56 assault rifle and 200 rounds of ammunition were seized during the operation against the National Socialist Council of Nagaland militants be-

longing to the Khaplang faction in Longding district, where India shares border with Myanmar.

Army officials said the action in the hinterland was a typical counter-insurgency operation.

A surgical strike was carried out by the army along the Myanmar border in response to an ambush by Naga rebels in Manipur's Chandel district on June 4, 2015, in which 18 soldiers were killed.

Army chief downplays Arunachal operation

Army chief General Bipin Rawat today sought to downplay the latest operation by security forces against the NSCN(K) along the Indo-Myanmar border, saying such actions are taken regularly.

"It was a normal encounter. These operations go on everyday. Nothing big about this operation,"

he told reporters here after a meeting with minister of state for home Kiren Rijiju.

The encounter between the Army troops and the Khaplang faction of the Naga insurgent group NSCN in Longding district of Arunachal Pradesh, along the border with Myanmar, took place just a day before the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Myanmar.

At least one NSCN(K) militant was killed and another injured in the encounter during which a hideout of the outfit was destroyed.

The security forces had launched the operation following specific input about the presence of NSCN(K) rebels near Votnu village in the district. The forces came under heavy fire from the rebels and retaliated, Defence spokesman Colonel Chiranjit Konwer said in Itanagar. (PTI)

87,000 Rohingya migrants arrive in Bangladesh, says UN

Dhaka, Sep. 4 (IANS): At least 87,000 Rohingya Muslim migrants arrived in Bangladesh last week from Myanmar, a UN official said here on Monday.

The official told Efe news that 81,000 migrants were currently lodged in makeshift shelters and the remaining 6,000 settled with relatives in the permanent refugee camps in Cox's Bazar district.

Thousands continued to arrive at the border, some of them with gunshot wounds, fleeing sectarian violence in Myanmar's northwestern Rakhine state.

On August 25, the Myanmar Army began an operation following armed assaults on several police posts by hundreds of Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) rebels.

Members of Myanmar's Rohingya ethnic minority walk through rice fields after crossing the border into Bangladesh.



Hundreds of people, mostly Rohingyas, were killed during the attacks and the government response later.

International organisations have reported claims of human rights violations and summary executions allegedly carried out by the Myanmar army.

On Friday, the UN expressed deep concern at reports about violence committed by the security forces in Myanmar and made an appeal for calm to prevent a humanitarian crisis.

The exodus of Rohingyas from Rakhine comes after at least 70,000 Rohingyas fled the same area amid alleged attacks by the military following a similar assault on border

posts by the group's militants in October 2016.

The military's response was slammed by the UN for human rights violations.

More than a million Rohingyas live in Rakhine, where they face growing discrimination due to sectarian conflict, which killed at least 160 people in 2012 and displaced nearly 120,000.

Myanmar authorities do not recognise members of the community as citizens, while Bangladesh considers them to fall under Myanmar's authority.

Between 300,000 and 500,000 Rohingyas live in Bangladesh, of whom only about 32,000 have refugee status.

Mizoram rejects demand for another district council for tribals

Aizawl, Sep. 4 (IANS): The Mizoram government on Monday rejected the demand for another autonomous district council for Hmar tribals, a top official said.

The government has been holding peace talks with Manipur-based terror outfit Hmar People's Convention-Democratic (HPC-D) over its demands for all-round development of Hmar tribals, who mostly live in Mizoram and Manipur.

However, a faction of the HPC-D led by Lalhmingthanga Sanate has stuck to its long-pending demand for the autonomous district council under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution in areas having Hmar tribals and for tripartite talks involving central officials.

"The Mizoram government has decided not to constitute any more autonomous district council for any tribe in the state. We are holding peace talks with the HPC-D's major faction led by H. Zosangbera.

"This faction had abandoned its autonomous district council demand before talks were started with the state government last year," a Home Department official told IANS on the condition of anonymity.

He said: "The next round of talks with Zosangbera faction will be held in the third or fourth week of this month. These talks will be the last official ones as the parleys will be taken to the political level thereafter."

The Lai Autonomous District Council and Chakma Autonomous District Council in Lawngtlai district of Mizoram and Maraland Autonomous District Council in Saiba have been set up under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution for the all-round socio-economic development of the minority tribes.

Manipur to host the Dalai Lama



Manipur assembly Speaker Yumnam Khemchand sharing a moment with Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama at Dharamsala on Saturday.

Our Correspondent Imphal, Sep. 4 (EMN): Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama has been invited to attend an International Peace Conference scheduled to be in Imphal, Manipur, this year.

This was informed by the speaker of Manipur Assembly, Yumnam Khemchand, while addressing reporters in Imphal on Monday after meeting the spiritual leader during his recent visit to Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh.

Khemchand had met the Dalai Lama on the sidelines of a conference on "Tribals of India and Social issues", held recently at Himachal Pradesh University in Shimla. "The tentative date for the (peace) conference will be finalised soon according to the convenience of the spiritual leader and others," said Khemchand. The primary objective of the conference was to bring peace in the north eastern states.

It may be recalled that the Dalai Lama had conducted a 12-day visit to Assam and Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh) in April this year.

Elaborating about the conference he attended in Himachal Pradesh University on the invitation of its Vice Chancellor Dr. Kuldip Agnihotri, Khemchand said the gathering had discussed the "burning issue of protection of indigenous people." But interestingly, according to law

of their land, the non-Himachalis cannot buy agricultural land in Himachal Pradesh (as the state is fully dependent on agriculture), he added. "So it would be interesting to study such kind of land laws at this juncture," he felt.

Manipur has been experiencing widespread public movement for implementation of the Inner Line Permit system (or a similar mechanism) as implemented in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram to monitor the influx of non-locals, which has been seen as threat to the indigenous people.

Expressing satisfaction over the good condition of the roads in Himachal, said to be one of the wettest places in the world, Khemchand appealed to the engineers and contractors in the state to make such kind of all-season roads in Manipur as well.

Meanwhile, the Manipur assembly authority is all set to organise the first ever one-day seminar on 'Media and Parliamentary Reporting' at the conference hall of the assembly complex in Imphal on September 6. Manipur's Information and Public Relations minister, Th Biswajit, speaker Khemchand and MLA TN Haokip will attend the seminar while former chief minister Radhabinod Koijam and former opposition firebrand, O Joy will deliver lectures.

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.
Thomas A. Edison

Mirror Takes



O why are you punishing us for being government teachers! No salary, no proxy allowed...and no teacher's day gifts also.

WEATHER TEMPERATURE	
KOHIMA	Max: 25° Min: 18°
DIMAPUR	31° 25°
KOHIMA	RF: 0%
DIMAPUR	0mm 93%
* Rainfall (RF) % Relative humidity (RH) Temperature in State Capitals	
Aizawl	28° 21° Itanagar 28° 22°
Agartala	33° 26° Shillong 24° 18°
Gangtok	26° 16° Delhi 35° 27°
Guwahati	33° 25° Kolkata 35° 27°
Imphal	29° 21° Chennai 34° 26°

Dimapur warned of dengue outbreak

Health authorities in the state on Monday sounded an alert concerning what it stated was the 'beginning' of the 're-surfacing' of dengue in Dimapur. In relation to this, the directorate of Health and Family Welfare has issued an advisory. (Full text in page 7)

Sitharaman joins powerful 'sisterhood' of female defence ministers

United Nations, Sep. 4 (IANS): Nirmala Sitharaman is now a member of a powerful sisterhood of 16 female defence ministers, in a sign of rising women empowerment in an overwhelmingly male-dominated arena.

Sitharaman, who got the portfolio on Sunday, heads the world's third largest defence force of 1.4 million personnel. It is also the strongest of those headed by female defence ministers.

She and Florence Parly of France are the only two women to head the defence ministry of nuclear-armed nations.

Parly succeeded another woman, Sylvie Goulard, who stepped down after less than two months on the job amid allegations that as a member of the European Parliament she had used her assistants for

party work.

France has a defence force of 204,000 active duty personnel including reservists, according to the Global Fire Power (GFP), which tracks military statistics from around the world.

In Bangladesh with 160,000 active duty military personnel, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina holds the defence portfolio.

The other important women defence ministers are (with the size of their active duty military personnel according to GFP in parenthesis): Italy's Roberta Pinotti (247,000), Germany's Ursula von der Leyen (180,000), Spain's Maria Dolores Cospedal (124,100), South Africa's Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula (78,050), and Australia's Marise Payne, (60,000). Africa has another



President Ram Nath Kovind administers oath to Nirmala Sitharaman as a Cabinet Minister at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Sunday.

woman holding the defence portfolio, Raychelle Omama of Kenya. Her

position is uncertain now because Kenya's Supreme Court has annulled the

election of President Uhuru Kenyatta and called for fresh elections.

Three small countries formed after the break-up of Yugoslavia in a region that was wracked by wars, civil wars and insurgencies in the 1990s have women defence ministers: Marina Pendes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Radmila Sekerinska in Macedonia, and Andreja Katic in Slovenia.

The other European defence ministers are Norway's Ine Marie Eriksen Soreide, Netherlands's Hennis-Plasschaert and Albania's Mimi Kodheli.

Olta Xhacka is scheduled to succeed Khodeli this month.

Latin America has only one woman defence minister, Martha Elena Ruiz Sevilla of Nicaragua, a country that has seen prolonged civil war and insurgency.

North America has none, although Kim

Campbell held the defence portfolio in Canada for less than six months before becoming Prime Minister in 1993.

In 1960, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandarnaike became the first woman to hold the defence portfolio and she was followed by Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Marta Elisabeth Rehn of Finland in 1990 became the first woman who was not a prime minister or president to head a defence ministry.

The first woman in Asia to hold the portfolio solely as minister was Japan's Yuriko Koike. She held the job for less than two months in 2007 and resigned after revelations that navy personnel leaked classified information about the high-tech AEGIS radar systems.