

Pile up the heat on Ranjit



First it was Arbind Rajkhowa and now it is the turn of Ranjan Daimary. The top leaders of two most powerful militant outfits of the North East, ULFA and NDFB have been picked up by the security forces from Bangladesh recently. This is certainly a gesture by the Sheikh Hasina government that should be appreciated by one and all in the entire North East. For the people of Assam these two names have spelt bloodshed and violence over the past two decades. But now they are in the custody of Assam police. And look at the ground situation in Assam. It has improved . Every year these outfits have been calling for regular boycott of the Republic Day and Independence Day celebrations and creating havoc.

Now that these two leaders have been booked the focus of attention has fallen on whether Ranjit Debbarma, head of ATTF will be picked up by the authorities in Dhaka and

handed over to the authorities in Tripura or not. The group that gives the boycott call of Independence Day and Republic Day includes TPDF, political wing of ATTF. But this front has become weakened with the ULFA and NDFB bosses now in custody of the authorities. So why is the Bangladesh government not picking up Ranjit Debbarma. Some highly placed sources said that before Sheikh Hasina comes to Agartala to get the D. Lit. to be conferred by President Pratiba Devi Singh Patil she will indeed act . Ranjit Debbarma will be picked up and handed over to the authorities . But for this to happen pressure has to be piled up on the Bangladesh authorities. But unlike the Assam Government the Tripura government has not been so vociferous on the issue of handing over the top leaders like Ranjit Debbarma. One has also not heard whether chief minister Mr Manik Sarkar who called on Sheikh Hasina during her recent visit to Dhaka made any request in this regard. There is another option before Ranjit Debbarma. He could come to the mainstream by laying down arms .The last time one had heard from Ranjit Debbarma was in 2004 when he had said that ATTF would enter into peace talks only if three conditions are fulfilled. These include the issue of sovereignty (sounds similar to the stand taken by Paresh Barua).

When this article is been written there are conflicting reports about the whereabouts of Ranjit Debbarma. But reports said, Ranjit Debbarma, the ATTF President, has taken refuge in Bangladesh. According to reports , he has a owns a four-storied building in Dhaka he purchased in the second half of year 2003. He also owns a motor garage and also runs a travel network in Dhaka.

So, time has come for all peace loving people of the state to pile up the eat and make sure that the state as well as the central government tells the Bangladesh government to hand over Ranjit Debbarma without any further delay. Only such a move will ensure everlasting peace in tiny Tripura.