



THE SUNDAY POST

Kasab's death sentence has opened a Pandora's box of questions which need to be answered **Page 1**



BUSINESS

Gold skyrockets to all-time high of ₹31,725 per ten grams, sparked by a steep rise in global prices **Page 12**

SPORT

India ready to take on strong Cameroon in the final of the Nehru Cup today **Page 15**



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SHORT TAKES

Ramdev declares fresh agitation

New Delhi: Yoga guru Ramdev on Saturday announced a fresh agitation targeting Congress from October 2 that will last till next Lok Sabha elections. —P7

Obama names IIT grad to key post

Washington: US President Barack Obama has appointed Indian-American Romesh Wadhvani to a key administration post, making him a member of the board of trustees of the prestigious John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. —P6

Iran wraps up NAM summit

Tehran: Iran closed a summit of non-aligned states after two days of sometimes conflictual speeches over Syria and stepped-up pressure over its nuke programme that overshadowed the proceedings. —P10


Raj faces flak for anti-Bihari jibe

New Delhi: Raj Thackeray's comments threatening to brand Biharis as "infiltrators" have fuelled a controversy with leaders from political parties slamming the MNS chief over the issue. —P6

Terror module: Five suspects held

Bangalore: Police have held five suspects in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh in the "terror module" busted in Karnataka, as probe showed that a nuke installation and defence establishments were targeted for attack. —P6

Weather

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Mostly Cloudy | |
| High: 31.6°C |  |
| Low: 27.3°C | |
| Rainfall: 0.9mm | |
| Forecast | |
| High: 34°C |  Chances of T-storms |
| Low: 27°C | |

Coach who accompanied death-leap women

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The probe into the death-leap of three women from a posh high-rise residential complex on Friday found that Mukuta Mukhopadhyay, one of the deceased, had entered the precincts with her table tennis coach R N Chatterjee on Thursday night. She was accompanied by her mother and sister, who also jumped from the 35th floor of one of the residential

towers on Prince Anwar Shah Road. While going through the CCTV footage, the investigating officers noticed a middle-aged man entering the complex around 7.57 pm with Mukuta and the two other women. They immediately started inquiries and identified the man as Mukuta's table tennis coach. Mukuta was a state-level TT player, who later worked as a sports journalist.

On Saturday morning senior police officials called Chatterjee to Lalbazar for questioning. He admitted he had been with the women on Thursday night. Sources said Chatterjee was very close to the family and claimed that Mukuta requested him to accompany them to the high-rise. "She (Mukuta) told me that she along with her mother and sister wanted to meet someone at the guest house on the 35th floor of the high-

rise. I accompanied them. They were looking sad over their father Nihar's death on August 26. "But I didn't notice any suicidal tendency in any of them. It is shocking for me, too, because I came home after they entered the complex and the next day I heard they were all dead," Chatterjee told his interrogators. Confirming that Chatterjee was questioned, joint commissioner of police (crime) Pallab Kanti Ghosh said,

"There are many things which we are still investigating." Sources said Chatterjee was present during Nihar's cremation and he had signed all the documents required for the funeral. The police have also come across a letter written by Mukuta, addressed to another family friend Samir Bose, in which she mentioned the family's plan to hand over their property to Rabindra Bharati University.

Continued on Page 2

CM ends tour with a flourish, lays stone for HC bench in Jalpaiguri

■ SUDIPTA CHANDA
SILIGURI

The festive season may still be some way off, but the gift hamper is already brimming for north Bengal, courtesy chief minister Mamata Banerjee.

Health, education, employment opportunity, social development — name it, Banerjee has generously granted most items on people's list over the past three days, crowning her north Bengal tour on Saturday, laying the foundation stone for the permanent complex of the Calcutta High Court circuit bench in Jalpaiguri.

If "stay well," was the opening line of her speech at the day's ceremony in Jalpaiguri, people reciprocated with equal warmth. They have been celebrating her arrival in the town since last night.

On Saturday, they came in droves from all directions ignoring the early morning rain to catch a glimpse of her and hear her speak. Isn't she bringing goods and services to their doorstep as promised?

Saturday's stone-laying for



Chief minister Mamata Banerjee, Calcutta High Court chief justice Jainarayan Patel (right behind the CM) and railway minister Mukul Roy in Jalpaiguri on Saturday

the permanent circuit bench complex was another example that the incumbent state government would not dither. Sitting on problems and issues was out, solution was the keyword. And, people

loved it. The circuit bench issue had been hanging fire since 1963 and very nearly spoilt social links between Jalpaiguri and contender Siliguri. It finally took Mamata Banerjee to take

the bull by the horns and settle the issue for good. Jalpaiguri no wonder is happy. The chief minister is aware of the background, the struggle and emotion associated with the issue. "Today is a spe-

cial and historic day for you. The day marks the end of a long wait for you all. Now you can sigh in relief," she told the assemblage acknowledging the people's sentiment. Keeping her speech short,

the chief minister informed that the state government had already set up 20 human rights court during its brief tenure so far and envisaged setting up 65 all-women police stations of which 10 were

already functioning. "The state government also plans to set up a Lok Adalat in every block of the state so that the pressure lessens somewhat on the judiciary and the litigants too get early and quick relief. Upgrading every court in the state is also in our agenda," the CM added.

Urging the youth "not to lose hope or self-confidence," the chief minister also assured refugees from the recent Assam hostilities that the state government would not let them down.

In addition to the judicial programme, the chief minister inaugurated a 'Khadya Bhavan,' for Jalpaiguri and floodlight facilities for Kanchanjanga Krirangan, Siliguri by remote facility before leaving for Kolkata.

Expressing happiness at the development, the Calcutta High Court chief justice Jainarayan Patel said: "We expect the permanent structure of the circuit bench to come up within two years. Once done, efforts would be made to set up a permanent bench of the Calcutta High Court in Jalpaiguri." More on Page 5

Sonia calls Sushma to end logjam

■ PTI
NEW DELHI

Keen to break the logjam in Parliament over the CAG report, Congress president Sonia Gandhi has reached out to leader of opposition Sushma Swaraj but the BJP appeared unrelenting on its stand.

Taking the initiative, Gandhi talked to the senior BJP leader on Friday coinciding with her hectic consultations with the party top brass including Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, sources said. BJP, however, said there is no change in their stand of seeking the PM's resignation on the issue. "There will be no let up. We will further intensify our fight inside and outside Parliament," BJP spokesperson Shahnawaz Hussain said. Asked if BJP would allow passage of some crucial bills, he said, "This is not a question of bills but of the na-



Sonia Gandhi



Sushma Swaraj

tion. Our fight will continue." Congress sources said Gandhi's reaching out to Swaraj is a further vindication that the party is always prepared to consult all stakeholders on any issue in keeping with the best traditions of Parliamentary democracy, where a way should be found out through dialogue and debate. Gandhi and the PM deliberated at length the strat-

egy ahead as business in Parliament was washed out for the eighth consecutive day on Friday on the coal block allocation issue. After the consultations with the PM and his senior Cabinet colleagues, Gandhi is learnt to have decided to hold consultations with UPA constituents and allies on ways and means to break the deadlock in Parliament.

There will be no let up. We will further intensify our fight inside and outside Parliament... Our fight will continue.

Shahnawaz Hussain,
BJP spokesperson

The government has already rejected demand for cancellation of coal blocks and slammed BJP for demanding resignation of the PM over the issue. SP chief Mulayam Singh Yadav, who is extending outside support to the UPA government, has demanded an inquiry by a sitting Supreme Court judge into the coal block allocation scam. More on Page 7

Man caught smuggling 309 tortoises worth ₹1 cr from city airport

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Bidhannagar City Police rescued 309 tortoises of the rare Star breed and arrested Abu Taher Hossain on Saturday from the city airport. According to the police, he was on his way to Bangkok in Thailand, where he planned to sell the tortoises.

A resident of Kottaiapatti in Tamil Nadu, 26-year-old Hossain came to Kolkata on Saturday afternoon on the Chennai-Howrah mail. At around 4.30 pm, when Hossain was about to enter the airport, a team from the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International police station intercepted him.

Acting on a tip-off, the police rescued the endangered tortoises in front of the domestic lounge which were kept inside a black travel bag.

According to sources, Hossain was about to board the Air Asia flight to Bangkok. He was immediately arrested and the forest department was informed. During the interrogation, Hossain confessed that he was taking these tortoises to Bangkok where these are used as ornamental pieces inside aquariums.

"We received a tip-off that someone will try to smuggle out some endangered species tortoises through the city airport. We have arrested a person under the Wildlife Protection Act. We are investigating further to find how who else are involved in the racket," said additional deputy commissioner (airport) Santosh Nimbalkar of Bidhannagar City Police.

Sources further informed that the value of the rescued tortoises is worth ₹1 crore and there could be a bigger racket behind the smuggling.



An official shows tortoises which were seized at Kolkata Airport on Saturday

Generally, these kinds of tortoises are found only in south India. After the rescue, the amphibians were removed to the wild life rescue centre at Salt Lake.

According to state forest minister Hiten Burman, the state government is trying to create awareness among masses to stop such smuggling.

"We have instructed the police to be more alert in areas around railway stations, airports and bus terminus. However, it is not possible to rescue such endangered species without tip-offs," he said.

SHORT
TAKES

CPM cadre held
for molestation

Kolkata: Ajay Purokayet, a resident of Baikuntha Ghosh Road in Kasba and a CPI(M) cadre, was arrested for allegedly molesting a 10-year-old schoolgirl on Saturday. According to locals, on Saturday afternoon when the girl was alone in her home he tried to rape her. He fled when the girl shouted. Later at night Purokayet was arrested on the basis of the complaint filed at the Kasba police station. —BP

Minor blaze at
Bhawanipore

Kolkata: A fire broke out at a stationary shop at Jadubabu Bazar on Saturday at around 10 pm. Three fire tenders doused the fire within a short period of time. According to fire officials, the blaze had broken out place due to a short circuit. Meanwhile another fire broke out behind a super-specialty hospital at the EM Bypass at around 8 pm on Saturday. —BP

State gears up for
Bhutan PM's visit

Kolkata: The state home department has instructed other concerned departments to be prepared for the reception of Bhutanese prime minister Lyonchen Jigmi Y Thinley who is coming to the state on September 9. Sources said he would depart on September 10, but during his stay he might pay a courtesy call to the Governor. State will honour him as a VVIP guest. —BP

Foreigner as PU faculty

Philosophy dept to have British asst professor if council recommendation is accepted by govt

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

If the Presidency University (PU) council's recommendation is accepted by the state government, then it will be the first varsity in independent India to get foreigners teaching as full-time assistant professors.

The council on Saturday selected 17 faculty members for three departments -- philosophy, sociology and molecular biology. David Allan Rob-jant, a British national who completed his PhD from University of Wales, has been se-

lected as an assistant professor for the philosophy department.

Sugata Bose, chairperson of the Presidency Mentor Group said, "David Allan has been selected as a visiting faculty, but we will be sending a recommendation to the state education department so that David can be invited as a full-time permanent faculty. State and Central government's co-ordination will be required for this initiative." He also said that he had discussed the matter with the state education minister, Bratya Basu, and that if the proposal is



The council also decided to honour Prasanta Roy with the title of professor emeritus

accepted, then this would be a pioneering step in higher education.

Of the 17 faculty members selected, most are from foreign universities and have expressed their willingness to return to the country and help build up PU as a centre of excellence. Only one professor for the sociology department has been chosen from the option form category.

Defending the selection of most of the faculty from foreign institutions, PU vice chancellor Malabika Sarkar said, "It is not that foreign candidates are getting more

preference in the selection process. We are giving weightage to academic merit. Most of the in-house professors did not opt for the option form and so very few are selected." She also said that the international image of PU would be boosted by an international faculty.

The PU council also decided to honour Prasanta Roy of the sociology department with the title of professor emeritus.

Bose said that within a month or two the selection committee would pick more faculty members.

Water supply disrupted, city life unaffected

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

There was no water in several areas in the city on Saturday evening as the authorities tested a new transmission line that is being installed to increase water supply in the city.

After the usual morning supply of water, evening and night supplies were stalled, leading to a water shortage in north and central Kolkata and affecting some parts of south Kolkata on Saturday night.

"A transmission line of 64-inch diameter is being installed from Tala to Palta to supply 25 to 30 million gallons of extra water to the city. The water supply had to be stopped during the evening and night hours to complete this procedure," said a senior official of the civic water supply department.

"However, normal supply will be restored by Sunday morning," he added.

There was no supply in areas that receive water from the Indira Gandhi water treatment plant, Palta, Tala pumping station, Jora Bagan water treatment plant, Mohammad Ali park booster pumping station, Subodh Mallick Square booster pumping station.

The other areas affected were those fed by Auckland Square booster pumping station, Baghmari booster pumping station, Park Circus booster pumping station, Kasba booster pumping station and Kalighat booster pumping station.

Mayor Sovan Chatterjee said the increasing population and changing lifestyles in the city had led to a massive increase in demand for water.

"If the demand increases, so must the production. The new 23-km long transmission

line that costs over Rs 300 crore will help us to cater to the increasing demands," he said.

Even though the water supply was interrupted on Saturday, city residents faced no trouble as the Kolkata Municipal Corporation had already issued a prior notification asking people of the city to save up water for September 1 when there would be a shortage.

"We had planned to conduct the test on August 25 but the Eid celebrations compelled us to postpone our plans to September 1," said Chatterjee.

In South Kolkata, areas like Behala and Jadavpur that are dependent on the Garden Reach water treatment plant, received their usual supply and faced no problems. Tala and Palta are already connected by five pipelines that run parallel to B T Road.

"This would be the sixth installation between the two points. Bidhan Nagar municipality and South Dum Dum municipality receive 10 million gallons of water daily but this pipeline will add another seven million gallons of water to these areas," said Chatterjee.

The senior official of the civic water supply department said that the shutdown was mandatory as the pipeline had to be connected at both ends.

"The work has been long completed and some dust may have gathered. The pipe has to be filled with water to ensure it is clean. This will take up to 10 days. Following that, the pipeline would be checked on technical parameters which will take up to seven days. Then the pipeline will be commissioned," he said.

Philanthropist Remembered



Students of Hare School take out a rally in memory of school founder David Hare

Arijit Saha

Wetlands integral part of sewer system: Report

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW), a Ramsar site, is integral to wastewater management in the city and needs to be protected from encroachment, says a new study.

Governor MK Narayanan released the report by the Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) on Saturday in the presence of the Union minister of state for urban development Saugata Roy and CSE director Sunita Narain.

The CSE study, 'Excreta Matters: The 7th State of India's Environment Report', analysed water and sewage treatment in 71 cities, including Kolkata.

The study said the EKW saved the city an estimated Rs 400 crore a year in water

treatment costs, handling 810 million litres a day of wastewater.

The wetlands also support nearly 40,000 people, helping them produce 8,000 tonnes of fish annually and 150 tonnes of fresh vegetables every day, said the study.

"Kolkata is blessed with water-rich resources like the Hooghly river and the East Kolkata Wetlands. But a lot of water is wasted during supply. The exploitation of ground water is leading to contamination and hence efforts need to be made to conserve water," Narain said. According to the study, treating waste water is a great concern for the city and local civic bodies and the government needs to do more on this issue.

"Governmental and non-governmental intervention

are essential in conserving water resource as well as treat wastes. The world wars of future would be fought for water and hence it is only common sense and no nuclear science to work for sustainable development," said Narayanan.

Saugata Roy said the Union government would sanction more funds for sewage treatment under phase-II of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JN-NURM).

"According to the Central Pollution Control Board, only 31 per cent of the waste water generated in the country is treated by 69 odd sewage treatment plants, most of which are not working satisfactorily," said Roy. There is need for more treatment plants and the work in JN-NURM-II, he added.

Subrata gives ₹1 lakh to school

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

State panchayat minister Subrata Mukherjee has sanctioned Rs 1 lakh from his MLA local area development fund to install computers at the Sir Iqbal Sishu Shiksha Kendra (SISSK) on Bright Street, which is run by the state municipal affairs department.

"Subrata Mukherjee was the chief guest at our annual school function last year. At that time, he assured us that he would install computers in the school for the children. He kept his promise and we are grateful to him for this noble cause," said Rehana Hos-sain, a teacher at SISSK.

The primary school, which has 72 children, starts at 9 in the morning and continues till noon. It is run from the premises of Aman Mohallah Society (AMS), a social organisation. The AMS doubles up as a clinic as doctors treat poor people in the evening.

We received a letter before Eid-ul-Fitr stating that Subrata Mukherjee had allocated Rs 1 lakh from his MLA fund to instal computers

Anwar Hossain, secretary, SISSK and AMS

"We received a letter from borough seven near Mullick Bazar before Eid-ul-Fitr which stated that Subrata Mukherjee had allocated Rs 1 lakh from his MLA fund to instal computers," said Anwar Hossain, secretary of SISSK and AMS. The letter was sent in the name of AMS president Sheikh Raja. "The borough seven officials have asked us



Trinamool Congress MLA and state panchayat minister Subrata Mukherjee at Trinamool Congress Bhavan in the city on Saturday

Abhijit Adhya

to furnish the necessary documents of both SISSK and AMS. They have asked us to submit registration certificate of the society, bank account, audit report and other documents. The compiling process of these documents is on. We will soon submit the documents to borough seven officials," said Hossain.

He further pointed out that

it has not been confirmed whether the money would be directly handed over to the AMS authorities or computers would be installed directly at the SISSK. "Following the installation of computers, we will offer basic computer classes to poor children and adults in the evening. We are grateful to Subrata Mukherjee," added Hossain.

Clubs ask CESC for Puja-time discount

■ OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The city-based Durga Puja organisers requested private power utility CESC officials for a rebate of 10 per cent on the electricity bill during the Puja season in October. Like every year, they had a meeting on Saturday with Kolkata Police, Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), Pollution Control Board (PCB) and Fire and Emergency Services officials at Kalamandir and requested for the rebate.

They have also urged the Kolkata Police to allow them to make arched gateways in front of the puja pandals for advertisement purposes. The gateway ban last year led to huge monetary losses for the puja committees. "We had a discussion over gates and there are some differences of opinion. The matter is yet to be resolved, but the deadlock will be cleared soon," a senior police officer said.

Like previous year, this year too there will be a single window system for puja organisers to get mandatory no-objection certificates from KMDA, KMC, Kolkata Police, PCB and Fire and Emergency Services department without any hassle.

There was a long-pending demand for a single window system and the government last year started the facility for the convenience of the puja organisers. Earlier, they used to visit all the departments for permission, but now they can get no-objection certificates from their respective police stations.

Forms to get no-objection certificates will be distributed from the police stations from August 27 to September 29. It was also decided at the meeting that all puja committees would have to install closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in their pandals as a precautionary measure to prevent untoward incidents.

common NAME

SINP irked by boson 'case', to take up issue with CERN chief

■ IANS
KOLKATA

The Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics (SINP) would take up with European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) chief Rolf-Dieter Heuer the case of sub-atomic particle boson, derived from an Indian scientist's name, being rendered in the lower case.

Heuer, director-general of the Geneva-based institute, would be on a two-day visit here from Monday to address an international science conference organised by the Centre for Natural Sciences and Philosophy and the Critical Issues Forum. On September 4, he would also deliver a lecture at the SINP.

The discovery of a new subatomic particle, possibly the Higgs boson, considered "a key to the cosmic riddle", in July had triggered celebrations among scientists worldwide.

However, the Indian scientific community had expressed its displeasure at boson being spelt in the lower case



Scientists from SINP had worked in the Higgs boson research

while Higgs (after British physicist Peter Higgs) being spelt in the upper case. The word boson is derived from the surname of Satyendra Nath Bose, who

did path-breaking work on quantum mechanics in the early 1920s using mathematics to describe the behavioural pattern of bosons — one of the two families of fundamental particles that the universe is classified into.

SINP chief Milan Sanyal had then received a lot of telephone calls and emails and promised to write to CERN. "However, since Heuer would be on a visit to Kolkata, I thought it would be better to talk to him rather than send a missive. He will also visit our institute. I shall take up the matter with him then," said Sanyal.

SINP scientists had collaborated with CERN in the Higgs boson research. Members of the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) research team at the SINP helped the CERN experiment with data analysis and by developing hardware for the experiment tunnel.

Five faculty members from the institute were part of the core CMS team, besides 10 PhD students being part of the project.

Folk music maestro fights penury, waits for Mamata's helping hand

■ OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Prahlad Brahmachari is unwell and on the verge of penury. Those who remember his mellifluous voice often wonder where the maestro of folk music has vanished.

Brahmachari, whose voice enthralled generations of music lovers with his soulful melodies and words of Baul philosophy, is now in great distress. It is a cruel twist of fate for a singer who for more than five decades performed to rousing applause at auditoriums and open-air theatres across Bengal and in other parts of the country.

For the last few years, his only source of income has been a monthly allowance of Rs 2000 he started receiving from the earlier state administration. With no shows to perform at the advanced age of 72 and various age-related ailments, Brahmachari is

feeling the pinch of poverty.

Hearing of the bard's condition, the city-based democratic and human rights organisation CPDHR came forward as the proverbial Good Samaritan with a helping hand. The body's joint secretary, Mithu Chakraborty, went to meet him and heard the old man's plea for financial and medical assistance. When Chakraborty later raised the issue with CPDHR president Dr Mainul Hossain, the latter said they would do their best to help Prahlad. "We will help him and are confident that chief minister Mamata Banerjee's humane ways will be evident once again and she will help out Brahmachari," Hossain said.

Meanwhile, the ailing bard reminisces about the good old days, when he was able to stand on his own two feet and even dance to the songs he belted out before packed audiences.

Former prime minister, Narasimha Rao, former president Venkataraman, eminent artiste Kishore Kumar were among his admirers. In 1968, in the city of Sofia in Bulgaria, he won the first prize in the mass song section at the International Student and Youth Festival.

Following this, he acted as a Baul in several dramas. After seeing his performance in 'Adarsha Hindu Hotel', eminent singer Sachin Dev Barman blessed him by putting his hand on the brahmachari's head. In 1976, his album, 'Sadher Bostomi', sold like hot cakes.

Though several private companies earn a huge amount by selling his albums, he usually gets nothing. "I was addicted to the music. I did not think of making money but now I face financial problems," he said. Now he is awaiting help from chief minister Mamata Banerjee.

Four-wheelers across state rush to get registered

■ SANTASREE MAJUMDER
KOLKATA

Registration of four-wheelers and other vehicles has gone up manifold across the state in the last two working days since Thursday, after the state government announced its new taxation policy.

“We have recorded an all time high rate of registration

for newly purchased cars in the city and suburbs.

The Public Vehicles Department (PVD) in Kolkata and Alipore witnessed a massive rise in the number of people getting their vehicles registered.

There have been around 850 cars in the two days with people waiting in long queues,” said a transport de-

partment official.

The Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) witnessed the same scenario at its district headquarters and additional RTOs at the subdivisional level.

“We have 26 regional offices across Bengal for registration of new cars. Although the rate is not as high as in Kolkata, the number of registrations

at the district offices is also quite high,” added the official.

PVD officials at Beltala confirmed that generally 200 to 250 cars register every day. That shot up to 850 since Thursday.

The Alipore PVD primarily does the registration of motorcycles. Officials said usually 130-150 two-wheelers are

registered in a day. This climbed up to nearly 1,000 in the last two days whereas the registration of cars reached nearly 40 which is also a record.

“This is nothing. The car owners are unnecessarily scared due to the announcement of the lifetime tax. They feel that the earlier system was better. However, we have

pointed out that the new system, which would ensure a hassle-free ride, is very much convenient to the taxpayers,” assured the official at the Writers’ Buildings.

In general cases, car buyers get their vehicles registered with an interval of 7-14 days. “Some wait for a suitable number to come while others are keen on choosing the

right moment due to superstition. In some cases, car financing agencies delay the process,” said a PVD official at Beltala.

Officials explained that under the new system, cars with a 900 cc engine capacity will have to pay 10 per cent of the ex-showroom price or ₹40,000, whichever is higher. Non-AC 800 cc cars will be al-

lowed a rebate of ₹10,000 on the lifetime tax.

For cars with more than 2000 cc engine, the tax will be ₹1 lakh. For older cars, if included in the new system after a year, the amount of lifetime tax will be 100 per cent and, beyond 10 years, it would be 36 per cent of the ex-showroom price of an equivalent model.

Messiah Returns



Chief minister Mamata Banerjee arrive with MP Kunal Ghosh and others at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport on Saturday

‘Anti-imperialist’ rally brings city to a halt

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Commuters were severely inconvenienced as a so-called anti-imperialism rally taken out by the Left Front brought the city to a halt on Saturday. Office-goers and even ambulances were caught in the severe traffic snarls that were caused on Chittaranjan Avenue as the rally marched from Esplanade to Deshbandhu Park near Shyam-bazar in north Kolkata.

According to the police, several route diversions had to be made to continue the traffic flow. Although the traffic rush was somewhat low on Saturday due to obstructions on several important roads, traffic congestion was acute. “We initiated several route diversions. The traffic flow of Red Road and north-bound Jawaharlal Nehru Road were diverted through Strand Road. Also the traffic movement across CR Avenue was suspended due to the rally and traffic had to be diverted through Lenin Sarani,” said Dilip Adak, deputy commissioner of police (traffic).

The Left seemed disoriented with even senior leaders like Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee and Biman Bose trying to



Biman Bose with other leaders at the Left Front rally on Saturday

salvage lost ground by spreading canards against the state government.

Abdur Rezzak Mollah, the rebellious CPI(M) leader, was conspicuous by his absence though. Sources close to him, however, said that according to him, he would rather spend time with farmers than waste time by raising so-called anti-imperialist slogans.

According to analysts, the CPI(M) was suffering from an identity crisis due to the protest by Mamata Banerjee over FDI, rise in petroleum products and pension schemes.

Insiders further said that in a bid to malign the state government and chief minister, Bhattacharjee, Bose and other leaders have resorted to spreading canards.

Hoping to regain its former ground and realising that its relevance in state polity was almost lost, they claimed from their anti-imperialist platform that if US President Barack Obama comes to take part in the World Youth Festival being organised by the state government on January 12, 2013, then they would again block roads and bring the city to a standstill.

State must follow Andhra model for food security, says scientists

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The state should follow the Andhra Pradesh model in agriculture for food security and seed sovereignty rather than go in for a second green revolution considering its future adverse affects. This was stated by agriculture scientists at a seminar on the Alipore campus of Calcutta University.

“Punjab was the seat of green revolution in India and considered the food bowl of the country. But, in the near future, Punjab would suffer a lot due to the adverse effect of the green revolution. The surveys, conducted by agriculture experts and scientists, reveal that by 2020, the water level will dry up and land fertility, which is at 0.1 per cent at present will be negative,” said Devinder Sharma, renowned agriculture scientist and food and trade policy analyst.

“At a time when the country is producing surplus food grain, what is the need for a second green revolution in northeastern states?” he asked. The green revolution has many adverse effects resulting in a decrease in water level, soil infertility, loss of seed sovereignty and emission of green house gases leading to global warming, said Sharma.

As many as 108 of the 138 blocks in Punjab, which are rich in agriculture, have become dark zones, where the underground water has been extracted at a very large scale. Hybrid varieties of seeds have been cultivated which required around 1.5 times more water than the indigenous seed. Excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides is also hampering the soil condition.

“In spite of that Punjab is prospering in agriculture because of its adoption to technology, land character and

well-linked mandis (crop marts) spread across the blocks. Bengal is also producing surplus food grain. But, lack of well-linked mandis has resulted in farmers incurring a loss. They are not getting proper prices and thus, there is an agriculture crisis in the state,” said Sharma.

Both Sharma and Pushma Mitra Bhargava, the founder-director of Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad, insisted that Bengal should follow the Andhra model where 35 lakh hectare spread across over 20 districts has been declared as non-pesticide zones while another 20 lakh hectare has been declared a no-chemical fertiliser zone.

It is gradually diversifying towards high-value commodities such as fruits, vegetables, milk, meat, eggs and fish from staple cereals, setting up adequate infrastructure and market support and

promoting investment in agri-processing sectors.

Based on the aggregate share of these commodities in the total value of agricultural production, the districts are clustered into high, medium and low diversification zones.

Sharma also praised chief minister Mamata Banerjee for opposing foreign direct investment in retail and announced the setting up of mandis and cold storages in all blocks across the state. “This will definitely improve the agricultural scenario in the state. Uttar Pradesh had also set up several mandis during Mayawati’s tenure,” pointed out Sharma.

Sharma, Bhargava and other dignitaries were addressing a seminar of Crisis in Agriculture and Alternatives organised by the Centre for Social Sciences, CU and Development Research Communication and Services Centre on Wednesday.

Dengue kills three in city, 638 affected

■ AGENCIES
KOLKATA

Following the death of an 11-year-old boy in the city, the dengue epidemic has claimed its third victim in the state, said the health department on Saturday. The number of confirmed cases has gone up to 638.

“An 11-year-old boy died of dengue at the B C Roy Child Hospital today (Saturday). The total toll of dengue deaths in the state is three. The number of confirmed dengue cases in West Bengal has gone up to 638,” said a health department statement.

Nine-year-old Sreeja Das was the first dengue victim in the state.

The epidemic first struck in the second week of August. Several people in and around Kolkata have been hospitalised with symptoms similar to dengue.

The dengue-prone areas have been divided into categories A and B, going by the intensity of the disease. Kolkata is under category A and areas of Howrah, Siliguri and Asansol fall under category B.

Dengue has afflicted 269 more persons in the metropolis in the past 24 hours, official reports said on Saturday. Apart from Kolkata, other districts hit by the vector-borne disease were North and South 24-Parganas, Howrah and Nadia, the reports said.

The website of the health department said dengue has so far claimed three lives in the metropolis where 1,160 persons have been afflicted. Sources in the health department said the deaths were caused by the dengue shock syndrome.

Health officials said precautionary measures have been taken by the Kolkata Municipal Corporation and municipalities in the districts to prevent the disease from spreading.

Certificate course inaugurated

Kolkata: The Gurusaday Museum inaugurated its three months certificate course on “Field work and field survey- data collection and processing techniques” on the Museum campus in Bratachari-gram. Former registrar of Rabindra Bharati University, Dilip Kumar Ghosh, eminent scholar and Amiya Chaudhuri were present on the occasion. The function was attended by many. —BP

বেহরু চিলড্রেন্স মিউজিয়াম

শুক্রবার ৭ সেপ্টেম্বর ১২, সন্ধ্যা সাড়ে ছটা শিশুর মুখে **নানো রঙের দিন**

রচনা অভিজিত বসু পাণ্ডায়া
নির্দেশনা রমা প্রসাদ বণিক
মহাবিদ্যা প্রাইমারী
রচনা ও নির্দেশনা রমা প্রসাদ বণিক
মূল তত্ত্বাবধায়ক জীবন সাহা
টিকিট ৫০, ৩০, ২০, ১০ মিউজিয়াম ও হল

SAHA INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS
(Aided Institute under Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India)
Sector-1, Block-AF, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 064
Phone : (033) 2337-5345/0571, Fax : (033) 2337-4637, website : www.saha.ac.in

Special Lecture
will be delivered
by
Professor Rolf-Dieter Heuer
Director-General, CERN, Geneva
at 17.00 hrs. on Tuesday,
4th September, 2012
at the **MEGHNAD SAHA AUDITORIUM, SINP**
Professor Milan K. Sanyal
Director

Interested persons, Press and Media are invited
to attend the function with their photo-identity card

State primary education is all set to issue books which are innovative and colourful

Studying becomes fun & frolic for kids

■ FARAH ABDUL
KOLKATA

The state government is trying to make learning fun for children. Following the recommendations of the expert committee on school syllabus, the state primary education department is all set to issue books for classes I, III and V which are innovative, practical and colourful, using a story-telling format to attract the young ones.

Hoping to shut the door on rote learning, the state government is welcoming the concept of teaching through anecdotes and incidents and other innovative measures. For example, if children find counting tables boring and even difficult, now they can learn by playing Snakes and

Ladders. For Class I, there will be only one book to teach English, mathematics and the second language. In Class III, there will be four books for subjects like English, Bengali or another second language, mathematics, and environmental sciences. In Class V, there will be an English book and another where the content will be a mixture of science, geography and history.

“We have kept one book for Class I and three books for Class III following the National Curriculum Framework 2005 (NCF), which suggests integration of subjects. We also included aesthetics, paintings and other art forms for composite and complete development of a child,” said Aavek Ma-

jumder, chairman of the expert committee. English was hardly given any importance in the primary section during Left Front rule. Now the children will be taught advanced words like ‘wily’ and ‘murmured’. Majumder said, “We have enhanced the standard and laid emphasis on oral and aural skills to develop proficiency in English.”

The English books for

classes III and V, both called Butterfly, have colourful illustrations on their covers and are based on themes. For Class III, the theme is *Life around us* and stories or narratives are used in such a manner that the children not only learn English but also get information on animals, nature, the origin of transportation and one’s surroundings.

Majumder said they were following the NCF. *Culture and Heritage* is the theme of the English book for class V. Its chapters provide information on monuments, mountain-climbing, painting and even social reformers such as Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Ram Mohan Roy, Begum Rokeya and others. There is also information

on personalities like Henry Louis Vivian Derozio, athlete P.T. Usha and cosmonaut Rakesh Sharma. “We have introduced the theme, *Culture and Heritage* to make the children proud of India and to make them aware of the nation’s achievements and its glorious past. This is contrary to earlier books that provided information mostly on the West,” said Majumder.

Stress has also been laid on inculcation of values like respect for elders, importance of family and religious tolerance. “We want students to know about the diverse communities in India and understand the message of social integration so that they can learn to be tolerant,” Majumder said.

TENDER

Rampurhat-I Panchayet Samity
Rampurhat, Birbhum

NIT No. 06/R-I P.S **NOTICE INVITING TENDER** **Date:- 28/08/2012**

Sealed Tender is invited from bonafide approved supplier of ARD Department having experience in same nature of Animals & Birds of ARD Schemes in the district of Birbhum. Number of chicks may vary 5% for which there is no change of rate will be allowed.

| Sl. No. | Name of the work | Estimated amount (Rs.) | No. of chicks to be supplied | Credentia/Experience during on single year (Rs.) | Cost of Tender Form (Rs.) | Time of completion of work | Remarks |
|---------|---|------------------------|------------------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| 1 | Supply of 28 days old RIR chicks Vaccinated with RD- FI (Booster) and Gumboro at diff. G.P. Head Quarter of Rampurhat-I Block (PHAGE-I) | Rs. 45,73,152.00 | 1,28,640 | Rs. 4,57,315.00 (10% OF WORK) | Rs. 10,000.00 | 120 Days | Credentia/ required same nature of work |
| 2 | Supply of 28 days old RIR chicks Vaccinated with RD- FI (Booster) and Gumboro at diff. G.P. Head Quarter of Rampurhat-I Block (PHAGE-II) | Rs. 45,73,152.00 | 1,28,640 | Rs. 4,57,315.00 (10% OF WORK) | Rs. 10,000.00 | 120 Days | Credentia/ required same nature of work |
| 3 | Supply of 28 days old RIR chicks Vaccinated with RD- FI (Booster) and Gumboro at diff. G.P. Head Quarter of Rampurhat-I Block (PHAGE-III) | Rs. 45,73,152.00 | 1,28,640 | Rs. 4,57,315.00 (10% OF WORK) | Rs. 10,000.00 | 120 Days | Credentia/ required same nature of work |

Application for tender paper should be submitted to the undersigned during the office hours on 18.09.2012 upto 2.00 PM along with valid S. Tax and IT clearance certificate and credential (in the form of payment certificate and completion certificate during a particular financial year) of the Officer in Charge must be submitted in original and photo copy thereof. In case of running work, work Order and up to date payment certificate of the engineer in charge must be produce as above.

The Tender form will be issued to the qualified supplier(s) on 21.09.2012 up to 2.00 p.m. the undersigned is not bound to issue tender papers to all the applicants.

Decision of the undersigned regarding issue of tender papers are final.

1. Tender paper duly filled in and in sealed cover will be received in Tender Box in this office up to 2.00 PM on 25.09.2012 and will be opened on the same date at 3.00 Pm. The intending Tenderers may remain present at the time of opening of the offer. For details visit our Website: www.rampurhat1debblock.org

Executive Officer
Rampurhat-I Panchayet Samity
Rampurhat, Birbhum

Date :- 28.08.2012

SHORT
TAKES



Customers try out colourful umbrellas in Behrampore on Saturday

Fake bomb scare at Gazole bank

Malda: A fake bomb scare rocked State Bank of India's Gazole branch on Saturday. But the bomb squad could not find any suspicious things there. It is learnt that at around 11.45 am bank officials received a phone call over the landline where someone threatened them in Hindi that a time-bomb had been kept inside the bank and the bomb would burst just half an hour later. Scared bank officials contacted the police and within a few moments a huge police force rushed to the bank premises. Even the bomb squad was called from Malda town. But after long search the bomb squad announced that there was no bomb. Police said that they were trying to detect the caller. —BP

Girl run over by superfast train

Barrackpore: A 10-year-old schoolgirl was mowed down by a train at a railway crossing in Shyamnagar on Saturday. Subhashree Das, along with her mother, was walking down the tracks on Saturday afternoon. They failed to notice that a superfast train was approaching them. —BP

Session on water conservation held

Kolkata: The Bengal Chamber's Environment and Energy Conclave organised a session on water conservation on Friday and Saturday. The theme was "Water Forum – Conserving Energy. Preserving Environment towards Tomorrow." The leading environment and energy consulting firm in the world, Frost and Sullivan, were the Knowledge Partners. The Water Forum of the Environment and Energy Conclave 2012 presented a strong educational conference, founded with an emphasis on commercial free discussions on technology. —BP

WBPTA to discuss teachers' issues

Kolkata: The West Bengal Primary Teachers' Association will be organising a convention on Sunday to discuss about the problems, requirements and other factors related to the primary teachers. Justice Shyamal Sen will be the chief guest. —BP

Students to have medical scheme

Kolkata: Under the initiative of Malabika Sarkar, vice-chancellor of Presidency University has taken steps in framing a medical scheme for its students, staff and faculties which is lacking in the state and central universities. Sarkar has collaborated with most of the hospitals and two students have also got the benefit. —BP

Mother sells daughters, held by cops

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
DIAMOND HARBOUR

A woman was detained by the police in Diamond Harbour on Saturday for selling her three daughters at three different places in the district. It is alleged that she sold her three daughters below the age of 10 for a total of Rs 155. Purnima Halder, 30, reportedly walked out of her house in Malancha under Diamond Harbour police station along with her three daughters about 15 days ago, claiming that she was regularly tortured by her husband. She even alleged that her husband, Utam Halder, beat up her daughters after returning home in a drunken state. Purnima and her three daughters took shelter at the Diamond Harbour railway station for three days. Later, she met a stranger at the Diamond Harbour Bharat Seva Ashram, who advised her to sell off her daughters. Her eldest daughter aged 10 was sold at Koparhat for only Rs 30. Her second daughter aged eight was sold for Rs 100 rupees at Joynagar. And her youngest daughter, aged four, was sold for Rs 25. The locals, after learning about the

We have detained Purnima Halder after the locals reported the incident to us. The girls will be sent to a home initially

Kaushik Bhattacharya,
SDO, Diamond Harbour

incident, reported it to the subdivisional officer (SDO), Kaushik Bhattacharya. Later, the inspector-in-charge of Diamond Harbour, Utpal Chatterjee, and his forces detained the woman under the instructions of the SDO. The inspector and the woman went to rescue the girls late on Saturday evening. SDO Kaushik Bhattacharya stated, "We have detained Purnima Halder after the locals reported the incident to us. Forces had been sent for the rescue operation along with the woman. The girls will be sent to a home initially and later action will be taken according to the law."

Nandigram: Accused's property attached

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
MIDNAPORE

The CID and the district police seized the property of Anil Patra, a member of the CPI(M)'s West Midnapore zonal committee, on the instructions of the Haldia subdivision court. Patra was said to be involved in the Nandigram missing case. A resident of Bahurupa village under Narayangarh police station in West Midnapore district, Patra has been declared absconder in the above case. Haldia court named him and other absconders in the case as wanted. Later, the same court ordered that the property of the absconders be attached. According to the directive issued by the court, the CID, along with the Narayangarh police, went to his house on Saturday and seized his property worth about Rs 2 lakh. Seven workers of the Bhumi Uchchhed Pratirodh Committee (BUPC), backed by the Trinamool Congress, went missing during the Nandigram recapture operation launched by the CPI(M) on November 10, 2007. Family members of the victims later filed habeas corpus cases in the Calcutta High Court. Thereafter, the CID was asked to investigate the matter. It filed a charge sheet against 88 CPI(M) leaders and workers, including Haldia strongman and former party MP Lakshman Seth. So far, twelve people, including Seth, have been arrested in this connection so far and 76 others are still on the run, against whom the court had issued a non-bailable warrant and the deadline was April 24.

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Commissionerates celebrate anniversary, hand out promises

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
ASANSOL

The Howrah City Police and Asansol police commissionerates on Saturday celebrated their one year of initiation with much enthusiasm and promises. The police commissionerates of Howrah was formed on September 1, 2011 as a part of chief minister Mamata Banerjee's plan to bring small towns having more than 10 lakh population under police commissionerates to improve law and order situation and provide good governance to the residents. In Howrah, the one year completion programme was celebrated at Shibpur police line in the morning through flag hoisting, march past, blood donation and participation of hundreds of city police

volunteers who joined the force to help police in maintaining traffic discipline and mob control in the festive days. The commissioner of police, Ajey Mukund Ranade, said: "The situation of law and order and traffic discipline have improved significantly during the one year tenure of foundation of city police in a highly dense cosmopolitan city like Howrah. We have to improve more in day to day functioning of the force and provide better service to the resident in future." Similarly, the Asansol police commissionerate celebrated the first anniversary of the commissionerate since Saturday morning. A parade had been organized at the police line. Cultural programs will be organised at the com-

misionerate for the next 3 days. Police commissioner Ajoy Nanda stated: "Asansol was a subdivision when the Asansol-Durgapur police commissionerate was established on September 1, 2011. Later it became a police district." He added: "We are able to curb the entire menace of the black marketeering of coal in the area within one year. This was the biggest challenge for us. It was possible for us to build interstate police collaboration between the Jharkhand police and the Asansol police." He also mentioned that a woman police station has been constructed, CCTV at every corner of the street had been stationed and a civil police body has been made to bring discipline in the area.



In Howrah, the anniversary was celebrated through flag hoisting, march past and blood donation

Med college ransacked over doctors' negligence

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
BANKURA

Violence resulting from the resentment on behalf of the relatives of patients due to medical negligence of the medical staff in different hospitals of the state continues unabated. And this time it is the turn of Bankura Sammilani Medical College and Hospital. According to maternal uncle, Probodh Bandyopadhyay of the patient, Rimpa Adhikary (16) was admitted to Bankura hospital on August 26 with acute abdominal pain. She was a resident of Tentulgha village falling under Barjora police station. On August the doctors operated her and removed her highly inflamed appendix. After the surgery her condition suddenly started to be deteriorated. Doctors referred her to be put in intensive care unit (ICU) of the hospital. In the wee hours of Saturday Rimpa was declared dead by the hospital authority. On receiving the news, the relatives and neighbours raised allegation of medical negligence on behalf of the medicos and paramedic staff of the hospital as the main cause behind untimely death of Rimpa. They became livid and ransacked the hospital damaging valuable medical equipments and a portion of the hospital building. The mob was reportedly led by one Palto Sen, who was said to be a local thug. The mob even thrashed some paramedic staff and doctors. Among the hospital personnel, ward master Sudhanshu Chakraborty and nursing superintendent Dipali Nag were severely beaten up.

16-year-old domestic help raped in Nadia

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
SHANTIPUR

Around 500 members of the association of domestic workers in Nadia district demonstrated outside the police station of Shantipur on September 1. They raised slogans demanding the immediate arrest of the accused Dilip Dhar who allegedly raped a 16-year-old tribal girl on August 27 evening. The girl used to work as a domestic help in his house. In an effort to suppress his misdeed, Dhar, a rich jute merchant and a CPI(M) leader with political clout in the locality, torched the girl by dousing her with kerosene. Ultimately the girl succumbed to her injuries. The members of the association also criticised police inaction. They alleged that after receiving a hefty bribe from Dhar, the police of Shantipur police station were trying to save the culprit from getting caught. The demonstrators got involved in a verbal duel with the police. "We were physically heckled by corrupt police personnel when we went to the police station to demand the immediate arrest of the perpetrator of this heinous crime," said Baruna Guha, secretary of the association's Nadia district unit. Protesters gheraoed the police station for about two hours on Saturday.



Ministers Rabiranjan Chatterjee and Madan Mitra attend a football tournament in Burdwan town on Saturday

Six injured in RSP-TMC clash

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
BASANTI

Six persons have been severely injured in political clashes between the RSP and the Trinamool Congress (TMC) at Nebukhali village under Basanti police station on Saturday. Three houses were been torched by the activists. Local sources revealed that the clashes initiated over a public rally in the area. Five RSP members and one TMC activist have been injured in the incident. Both the sides are blaming each other for the initiation of the clashes. The injured have been admitted at a private nursing home. The situation came under control after a huge police force was de-

The political clash started over a public rally in Basanti

ployed in the area. Currently a police picket has been stationed at the spot. Subhas Naskar, the local RSP leader and MLA, said: "As our members gathered to start a rally on Saturday evening a huge number of TMC activists attacked us with sticks and rods. Five of our members have been injured in the incident." He added: "The police and administrative body failed to provide protection to the people of Basanti even after re-

peated requests to them." Meanwhile, local TMC leader and MLA of Gosaba, Jayanta Nasakar, said: "It was a completely false allegation. Actually, the RSP members torched the houses of three of our supporter as they came out with the rally. They even beat up two of our activists." He also stated: "Panic gripped the villagers after the incident. The police failed to take any action even after repeated complaint." The additional police superintendent (east), Kankar Prasad Barui, said: "A clash between the two political parties erupted on Saturday evening. We are investigating the case. However, no one have been arrested till now."

Mamata storms Cong bastions all over Bengal, blows war trumpet

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

With the panchayat polls slated for next year, chief minister Mamata Banerjee has now trained her guns at Congress bastions in the state, making a determined bid to extend the Trinamool Congress's (TMC) sway over more districts. The CM has just returned after visiting Congress strongholds like Murshidabad, Malda and North Dinajpur. She started her campaign from Nadia, where the Trinamool had won the bulk of its seats in the 2009 Lok Sabha and last year's assembly polls. Allies at the Centre and in the state, the Congress and the Trinamool Congress have been behaving more as bitter rivals. Much before the rural electoral battle begins, a war of words between the two has intensified. As the chief minister addressed a huge gathering in Murshidabad — one of the strongest Congress forts led by MP Adhir Choudhury — jitters in the Congress camp seemed apparent as it went on an overdrive, attacking Banerjee. Of the total 22 seats in Murshidabad district, the Congress had won 14 in last year's assembly election while the Trinamool just one. Now the party is trying



Mamata Banerjee addresses a rally in South Dinajpur district

to strengthen its base in the district before the panchayat election. While the TMC, including Banerjee, claimed the rally to be the "biggest gathering in decades", the Congress did not agree. "She (Banerjee) has a knack of creating a mountain out of a mole hill. She surely knows magic. Otherwise how can she turn a gathering of a few thousands into lakhs?" quipped Banerjee's bete noire, Choudhury. While Banerjee continued her visit in the districts addressing

rallies and showering sops, the issue of forcible land acquisition — which has been the harbinger for a turnaround in the state's political landscape — cropped up again to haunt state politics. The setting up of an AIIMS-like hospital in Raiganj, North Dinajpur district, has been caught in political brinkmanship. "I will prefer death to acquiring land forcibly from farmers. I went on a 26-day fast and was about to die, but did not compromise," said Banerjee, referring to her 26-day hunger strike in December 2006 to demand

the return of 400 acres to farmers, who unwillingly parted with their land for the Tata Motors small car project in Singur. The hospital project is likely to fall through if the state government does not provide land. The centrally funded project was planned for North Dinajpur, the home turf of Congress MP Deepa Das Munshi. Reacting to Banerjee's accusation that the Congress was politicising the hospital issue, Das Munshi blamed the chief minister for shirking her responsibility and vowed to "fight to the last to see that the hospital comes up". The tug of war between the warring allies started much before Banerjee's visit when leaders from both sides attacked each other on the foundation day of their respective student wings. "The Trinamool used the Congress's name and money to come to power, and now instead of trying to get rid of the CPI(M), it is aiming at uprooting the Congress from the state," said Choudhury. The same day, the TMC supremo dropped a bombshell when she announced that her party was ready to face any mid-term poll. "We do not want the UPA government to fall. But I can tell you that our party is ready for polls any time," she said.

core ISSUE

States discuss land dispute

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
CONTAI

A dispute has cropped up with the demarcation of a piece of land measuring eight acres between West Bengal and Odisha. High officials of the two states met to discuss the issue at the Badhyia gram panchayat office under Ramanagar Block-I of East Midnapore district. The meeting was also held to strengthen cooperation between the two states to reduce law and order problems in the area. The meeting was attend-

ed by East Midnapore zilla parishad's vice president Mahmud Hossain, Contai sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Indrajit Basu, circle inspector Samir Basak, the block development officer of Ramnagar Block-I Rana Biswas, the officers in charge of Ramnagar and Digha police stations and local gram panchayat officials. The SDPO of Jaleswar sub-division of Baleswar district of Odisha, Santosh Kurmar Nayek, Tehesildar Hajambar Mohanti and other sarpanches were also present at the meeting. All the partici-

pants wanted the land problem between the two neighbouring states solved at the earliest through dialogue. At the same time, officials on both sides of the border agreed to cooperate with each other at every administrative level to reduce the surge in inter-state crimes. The officials agreed to make arrangements to provide security and safety to tourists who visit the sea beaches of both the states. According to insiders, the issue of curbing terrorists and extremists by monitoring the entire coastal area of the two

states was also discussed at the meeting. Finally, the officials discussed the peculiar problem of the village, Sakhamuthi, whose inhabitants are on the voters' list of both the states. In another bizarre anomaly, they were said to have ration cards valid in both states. "The dispute surrounding eight acres of land between two states has been created by the wrong policy followed by previous Left Front regime and we shall bring every problem discussed at the meeting to the notice of higher authorities," said Mahmud.

Thrashed boy in hospital

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
MALDA

A Class VI student was badly beaten up by his teacher in school. The boy had to be admitted to hospital and a complaint was lodged with the police by his guardians. The incident occurred at the Umesh Chandra Bastuhara Vidyalaya (UCBV) of Malda town under English Bazar police station in Malda district on Friday. It is learnt that Shamim Akhtar failed to sub-

mit his homework in the Bengali class on Friday. So, the teacher, Sukumar Roy, was furious. He asked two students to hold the hands and legs of Shamim and then caned him in the back. After the beating, a devastated Shamim somehow managed to take his seat. But he could not sit for long and took leave to go home early. "I was a little surprised when Shamim returned home early. Later, when he took off his shirt, I was shocked to see the

marks of beating all over his body," said Shamim's grandmother Rabeya Biwi. Resident of Ramkrishna Pally in English Bazar, Samim is the only child of Soma Biwi, who was abandoned by her husband. Soma, who works as a domestic help, lives with mother Rabeya and her child. After learning from Shamim what had happened, Rabeya went to the school to lodge a complaint with the headmaster against Roy. But the school allegedly did not take

much note to it. Shamim was then taken to hospital. Later, a complaint was lodged against the teacher with the police. But the police have not taken any action yet. Rabeya also alleged that it was not the first time that the teacher had beaten Shamim. He had done so earlier, too. Then, I personally met the teacher and requested him to bear with him as we could not afford his tuition. "It is true that the student was beaten up badly. We are ready to bear

all the medical expenses of the boy," said Sanat Saha, the headmaster of the school, adding that the teacher would be served a show cause notice. District inspector of schools (secondary) Parthasarathi Jha was taken aback when he heard the news. "No one from the school or the boy's guardian has informed me about this serious incident. Such action cannot be tolerated. I will definitely look into the matter," he said.

Mamata bowls over admirers and supporters

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
ALIPURDUAR

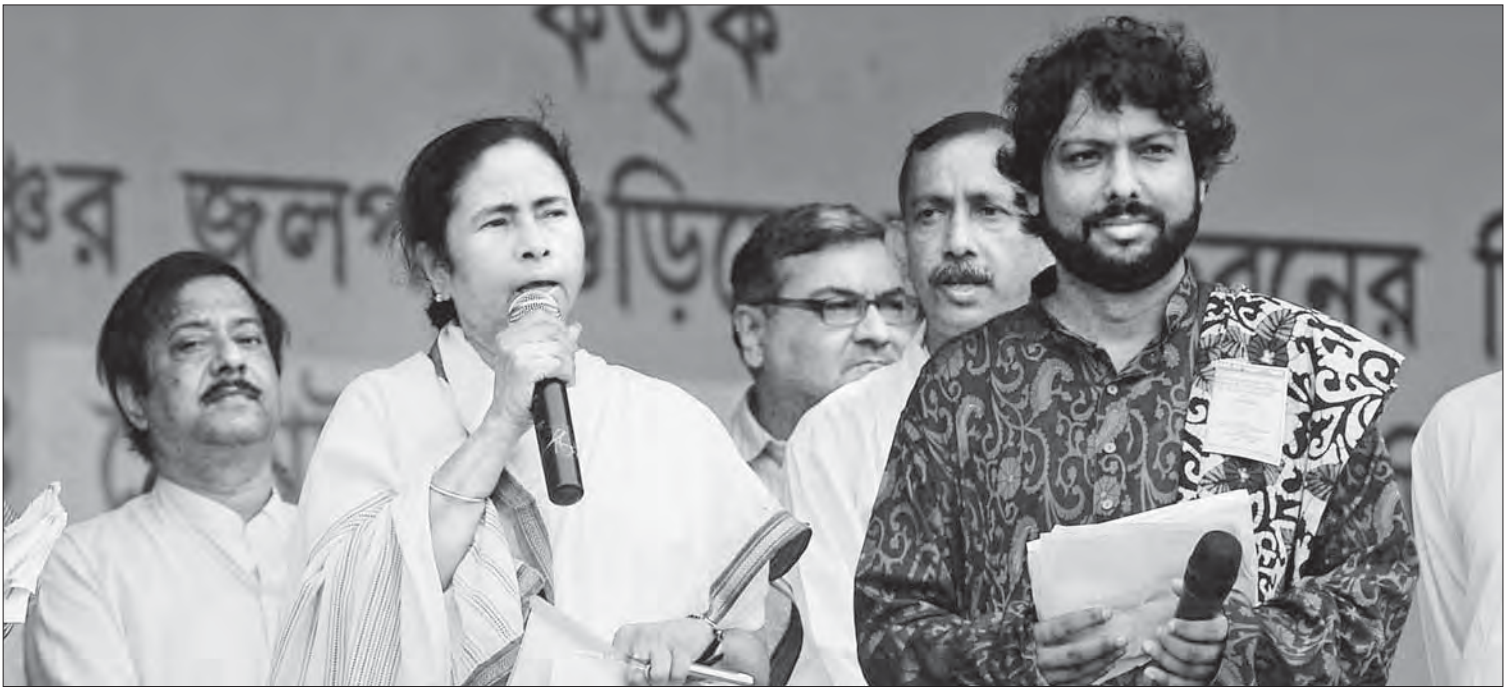
The stage was taken over by the people's leader and chief minister Mamata Banerjee and her entourage. In front of her were thousands of admirers and supporters — almost as far as one's eyes could see. The chief minister appealed to the masses to sing her a song in unison. Thousands lent their voices to the enchanting Sujalam, Sufalam... and their voices echoed throughout Jalpaiguri town. And, the crowd was egged on by a beaming and clapping chief minister. Next, the CM requested all

The CM asked all the women to accompany her by sounding conch shells

the women present at the gathering to accompany her by sounding conch shells and ululating as she inaugurated the circuit bench of Calcutta High Court in Jalpaiguri town. The sight and sound that followed was unprecedented to say the least. Such was the proactive response from the crowd. But, as the chief minister of the state, she soon

donned the role of a people's leader. Banerjee went on to greet all the party workers — starting from local leaders to North Bengal development minister Gautam Deb — in her speech. Yet, what took the ministers and the officials present by surprise was how the busiest person of the state could remember the names of about a hundred grassroots-level party workers. Thus came to an end the pre-panchayat poll district tour of Mamata Banerjee. The CM addressed the overwhelming crowd at the RSA Ground of the town before leaving for Bagdogra airport.

CM's Visit



Chief minister Mamata Banerjee addresses a rally in Jalpaiguri on Saturday

Saikat Das

Lean weather hits N Dinajpur sericulture

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
RAIGANJ

The sericulture department of North Dinajpur are wary that the production of silk cocoons might be hampered in the next 'Bhaduri crop' season due to the inadequate production of silkworm eggs during the present crop season. The prolonged dry spell and the sultry conditions have already hit production of mother butterflies in the state-run farmhouses in Hentabad and Soharoi. "During the 'Ashari crop' season, the silkworm eggs did not hatch properly due to

the bad climate and sultry conditions. As a result, the production of female silkworms (Nistari variety) is not adequate," said S Das, the deputy director of sericulture, North Dinajpur. Das also said: "We fear that the production of the cocoons of silkworm eggs for the production of cocoons in the coming 'Bhaduri crop' season will not be adequate to maintain the supply." At present, due to the hot weather and sultry situation, the farmers have suffered losses, having failed to save the silkworms at the beginning of the 'Ashari crop' season.

Forest dept staff union demands arms for safety

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
COOCH BEHAR

West Bengal Forest Service Employees Federation (WBFSEF), which is backed by the Trinamool Congress and affiliated to the State Government Employees Federation (Unified), has been demanding security while working to protect forest and wildlife in forest areas. The WBFSEF leaders said forest employees were putting their lives at risk while working in the forests due to the threat from animals and poachers. So, they have asked for modern arms to do their job properly. At the bi-annual conference of the WBFSEF's Cooch Behar Division Unit at the forest auction centre in Cooch Behar, leaders also demanded other facilities, too. They alleged that during their 34 years of rule, the Left Front government did not think about the forest employees and also failed

The WBFSEF has asked for a proper transfer policy in the forest department

to stop corruption in the department. For instance, many employees were working at the same place for years and the LF government did not bother to transfer them. But the new government has already started the transfer process. So, the WBFSEF has demanded a proper transfer policy in the forest department. "Many posts in the forest department are lying vacant. So, the government should take steps to fill up these posts and also provide modern arms to keep wild animals and poachers at bay," said Balaram Ghosh, secretary of the WBFSEF.

inspirational LEADER

South Dinajpur yet to come out of CM spell

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
BALURGHAT

It has been almost 24 hours, but the people of South Dinajpur are still stuck with Friday's images and the aura of benevolence that their favourite leader exuded. The people are busy analysing and reliving Friday's rally all day long. The favourite topics in the local symposiums seem to be the host of development projects for the district and the massive footfall at the Buniadpur rally. At the symposiums, on trains, on buses — people are busy discussing the projects the chief minister gifted to the districts. Some seemed more interested in wondering at the massive turnout at the public rally. After a long time, the people of South Dinajpur have been excited about and impressed by the meeting of a political leader. There have been mass meetings in the past also. But, the people, this time, are refusing to let go of their chief minister. A striking thing was people gathering at newspaper stalls even before the sun rose on Saturday. Left the newspapers were all sold out! As soon as the newspaper-laden

trucks reached the district from Siliguri, all the stocks were sold out as hot cakes. Newspapers seemed to be more precious than gold at least for Saturday. While those who could buy the newspaper counted themselves lucky, the ones who could not had to make do with photocopied portions of news regarding Banerjee and her public rally at Buniadpur. Meanwhile, sensing the unprecedented demand, the newspaper hawkers hiked the prices of dailies at some places of the district. On the flip side, some have lost their sleep after Friday's public rally. Five of the six assembly seats are already in Trinamool Congress's control and moreover, the way the chief minister — accompanied by Narmada Chandra Roy, the lone RSP MLA of the district — presented horde of projects for the district one after the other, the Congress and the Left Front leaders are worried like anything. These leaders kept themselves busy strategising a way to get over the Mamata Banerjee hangover and finding out a way to rub Friday's images from the hearts and minds of the people of the district. That, however, seems far from possible as of now.



People wait for chief minister Mamata Banerjee to arrive in Buniadpur

BP

Moulding Faith



An artisan continues his work on the Durga idol at Buniadpur in South Dinajpur on Saturday

Saikat Das

District to develop minority areas

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
COOCH BEHAR

The Cooch Behar district would spend ₹101.5 crore for the development of the area populated by the minority community in the district. According to the district magistrate (DM), Mohan Gandhi said that the state government had done a lot of work for the development of the minority community in the district last year. For that, they would

receive bonus funds from the central government this year. ₹31.5 crore would be given to the Cooch Behar district for the project during the present financial year. The district administration is already planning a project for the development of seven blocks of the district, which has more than 25% minority population, under the Multi-Sectoral Development Program (MsDP). The MLAs of Cooch Behar have decided to send a proposal for

the ₹70 crore development project to the Centre after it is approved by the state government. The administration has plans to start a drinking water project at Dewanhat GP, build several hostels in Madrasas, construct 15 health centres, Self-help group training centres, 50 primary and 10 higher secondary schools, develop two ITI in Cooch Behar, and infrastructure development at Haldibari Hujur Saheb Mela ground and others.

The medical team is working in the area and the blood samples have been sent to a laboratory for testing

Kajal Mondal,
chief medical officer, S Dinajpur

The role of the health department has, meanwhile, irked the locals. According to local sources, Munna Aziz of Kutubpur; Saiful Mondal, 21, of Jayantihar; Jahir Mondal, 9, and Ayanbid Ali, 15, of Narayanpur, have died from the unknown fever in the past one week. Aziz died after he was shifted to North Bengal Medical College and Hospital. "Three persons have died from the fever so far. The affected have been admitted to Barahar hospital and Balurghat District Hospital. The medical team is working in the area and blood samples collected by them have been sent to a laboratory for testing," said Kajal Mondal, chief medical officer of health, South Dinajpur. "We cannot say anything further before the report comes," added Mondal.

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
DARJEELING

The Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) Sabha on Saturday formed about 19 committees comprising GTA members who would be entrusted with advisory and supervision duties among others in 19 of the subjects. There are 57 subjects in all in the GTA and though most of them are likely to come under various departments, not everything regarding who will look after what has been decided yet.

"According to the GTA Act, we can form committees known as Members on Duty (MoD) which will have duties like supervision, documentation and advisory functions. But the right to approve and sign would remain with the person heading the department," said GTA member Binay Tamang. Some committees have only one member like that of tourism for which the Member on Duty (MoD) would be Dawa Lepcha and similarly, the MoD for the excise department would be Taranga Pandit. Again, some committees will have three members and they would be responsible for each of the three hill subdivisions. For example, in the irrigation department, the MoD for Kurseong subdivision would be Mahendra Pradhan, while the MoD of the Kalimpong subdivision would be C P Gurung and the member of the Darjeeling subdivision would be Satish Sharma. Incidentally, all the above mentioned departments are being headed by GTA chief executive Bimal Gurung. Tamang also said that there would be three water kingdoms. That is one each in the three hill subdivisions of Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong as part of a tourism project. "We had sent a proposal for a water kingdom in each of the three hill subdivisions which has been approved by the state government," said Tamang, who refused to divulge any further details of the project.

**SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY**

CORRIGENDUM
Corrigendum against Tender Notice No. (1) COS/EPS/12/30 at 8/8/2012 and (2) COS/EPS/12/31 dt. 13/8/2012 published earlier by Controller of Stores, Garden Reach, are :- (1) For Tender No. 56,1 1.3071B (SI No. 543) **Due date** will be read as **10/9/2012** instead of 3/9/2012 and **Inspection Clause** will be read as **RDSO/QA** instead of RITES (2) For Tender No. 31.12.3012 (SI. No. 582) **Tender No.** will be read as **31.12.3032** instead of 31.12.3012 and **Due date** will be read as **12.9.2012** instead of 5/9/2012. All other terms and conditions in original notice will remain unaltered **PR-678/C**

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MISCELLANEOUS WORK
Sealed Open Tender (Tender Notice No. DRM(Engg)/ADA/159/2012, dated 27.08.2012) is invited by the Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Adra for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works :-

| Description of works | Approx. Value (₹) | Earnest Money (₹) |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| O.T. for raising of PF level to High level with renovation of water booths, sealing arrangements etc. at BERO & SANKA stations. | 50,06,147 | 1,00,130 |

Cost of Tender Form : ₹ 5,000. Completion time/Period from the date of issue of acceptance letter : 08 (eight) months. Date of Opening : 05.10.2012. Detailed Tender Notice is available at South Eastern Railway's website: Tender Notice and Tender Documents are available on N.I.C website (i.e.tenders.gov.in). Tenderers can also download the Tender Documents from the above website from 17.09.2012 upto 18.00 hrs. on 04.10.2012. Definition of Similar Nature of work for above works :- Execution of any Civil Engineering Works.
PR-660

SHORT
TAKES



Villagers perform mask dance during Ladakh festival in Leh on Saturday

Congress leader
Sat Mahajan dies

New Delhi: Veteran Congress leader and five time minister Sat Mahajan died here this morning following a brief illness. Mahajan, 85, is survived by a son and a daughter. He was ailing for some time and had undergone angioplasty at a hospital here on August 22. His body is being brought to Nampur and the cremation would be held on Sunday. —PTI

Minister regrets
remarks on Nitish

Patna: A Bihar minister on Saturday regretted his remarks asking BJP to make chief minister Nitish Kumar the NDA's prime ministerial candidate for the 2014 general elections. "I regret my remarks in deference to the sentiments of the chief minister who expressed displeasure for airing my personal views in public," rural works minister Bhim Singh told a press conference at the JD(U) office here. —PTI

Sri Lankan Prez
to visit India

New Delhi: Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa will visit India later this month, primarily to lay the foundation stone of a Centre for Buddhist Studies in Madhya Pradesh's Sanchi, home to some of the vital and finest Buddhist monuments. Rajapaksa will do the honours on September 21 in the presence of Bhutanese Prime Minister Lyonpo Jigme Thinley and the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha Sushma Swaraj. —PTI

Geetika killed
self: Chaddah

New Delhi: Aruna Chaddah, an aide of former Haryana minister Gopal Kanda and co-accused in Geetika Sharma suicide case, on Saturday denied her involvement and claimed the former airhostess took the extreme step as she was upset with her parents. She also filed a bail plea which will be heard on September 5. —PTI

Yashwant insists
on tapping charge

New Delhi: BJP leader Yashwant Sinha on Saturday said he was not surprised at the government dismissing the charge that his phone was being tapped and insisted that "illegal" tapping is being done. "It is well known that even Pranab Mukherjee's phone was tapped when he was the finance minister. Did the home secretary give permission for that?" Sinha said. —PTI

Probe into
foreign firearms

Ranchi: While the National Investigation Agency was probing the seizure of a US-made self loading rifle, a M-16 rifle and a UK made bullet-proof jacket, the police believe the source could be a Northeast militant organisation. —BP

Terror module: Five more suspects held

■ PTI
BANGALORE/MUMBAI

Intensifying the crackdown on the "terror module" busted in Karnataka, police have arrested five more suspects in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, as a probe showed that a nuclear installation and several defence establishments were targeted for attack.

With the arrest of the five suspects—four in Nanded and one in Hyderabad—who allegedly had links with the 11 people held by the Bangalore police, the number of those detained in the terror plot rose to 16.

The eleven persons including a journalist and DRDO scientist arrested by Bangalore police earlier this week were suspected to have links with with Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Harkat-ul-Jihad-Al-Islami (HuJI) and were allegedly plotting to target MPs, MLAs and mediapersons in Karnataka.

Maharashtra ATS arrested four terror suspects from Nanded district for their alleged links with the arrested persons



ATS chief Rakesh Maria

in Karnataka, an ATS official said in Mumbai on Saturday.

"We have arrested four persons, who have links with the terror suspects arrested in Bangalore," ATS chief Rakesh Maria said. However, Maria refused to divulge any further details. According to police sources, following the arrest of the terror suspects in Bangalore by the local police, they had shared some in-

formation with Maharashtra ATS officials, which has resulted in the arrest of the four persons.

The 21-year old Obedulla-Ur-Rehman was arrested on the basis of information given by the 11 terror suspects taken into custody in Hubli and Bangalore earlier this week, police commissioner Jyotiprakash Mirji told reporters in Bangalore. "Obedulla-Ur-Rehman along with others had conspired to kill two corporators and one prominent leader of a Hindu organisation of Hyderabad," Mirji said. During interrogation, those arrested in Karnataka on Thursday confessed that the module had planned to attack a nuclear installation and vital navy and army establishments located in South India following directives from their LeT and HuJI handlers based in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, government sources said in Delhi.

The sources said Muti-ur-Rehman Siddique, a reporter among the accused, was sharing information about the movements of politicians and also prominent journalists because of his accessibility (to them).

Pakistan daily says Zardari-Singh meet a mere ritual

■ AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD/SRINAGAR

Pakistan has to "dispel the impression that the procrastination of the Mumbai suspects' trial is on purpose", said a leading Pakistani daily that described President Asif Ali Zardari's meeting with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at Tehran as a mere ritual.

"Had there been no meeting between Zardari and Manmohan Singh on the sidelines of the NAM summit, it would have been the news of the day," *Dawn* said Saturday in an editorial titled "Mere ritual".

"There have been nearly half-a-dozen ritualistic and informal meetings between the Indian Prime Minister and Pakistan's top leaders at one or the other summit," it added. After their meeting at the 2010 SAARC summit in Thimphu, former prime minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and

the Indian prime minister met three times - at Mohali last year during the cricket World Cup semifinal, at Addu, Maldives in November 2011 and in Seoul in March 2012.

The daily said that the Tehran meeting showed the "Indian leadership is still stuck at Mumbai, with Singh emphasising the need for the expeditious conclusion of the trial of the Mumbai terror suspects".

Meanwhile, Union minister Farooq Abdullah on Saturday expressed hope that the Indo-Pak foreign minister level talks will lead to positive developments with regard to easing visa laws and facilitating cross-LoC trade in Jammu and Kashmir. "We are hopeful that the September 8 meeting (between external affairs minister S M Krishna and his Pakistan counterpart Hina Rabbani Khar) will lead to developments...the confidence building measures will move forward," he said.



File photo of Indian Prime Minister's Manmohan Singh meeting with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari in Tehran

Kashmir lets SRK relax and unwind

■ IANS
PAHALGAM

Shooting for Yash Chopra's yet untitled movie in this picturesque south Kashmir hill station seems to have helped actor Shah Rukh Khan unwind himself from an otherwise boring routine of lights and camera. "Slept for 10 hours after a long time. God I feel rested... even my beard seems fresh," SRK posted on his twitter account on Friday.

The otherwise sleep-starved King Khan appears to be thoroughly enjoying his first ever shooting schedule in the Valley. In another post on Twitter, he wrote: "Phone back on silent... beard dyed... teeth brushed... feel like a million bucks, but if I don't rush for shoot won't get my 100 bucks per diem."

Vasan against Lankan training

■ PTI
CHENNAI

Union shipping minister and Congress leader G K Vasan on Saturday said the state party unit was against imparting training to Sri Lankan defence personnel and he would soon take up the issue with defence minister A K Antony.

"All political parties in Tamil Nadu have stated similar views on the issue. That is the same also with the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee. We will urge the Centre to send back the (Sri Lankan) personnel. In future, TNCC would take a strong step so that this kind of situation does not recur," he told reporters here.

Chief minister Jayalalithaa and DMK

president M Karunanidhi, a key ally of the UPA, have strongly objected to the training of Sri Lankan defence personnel in India, saying it hurt the sentiments of people of the state in view of the war crime charges faced by the island government.

"Our demand is that those who are being trained should be sent back (to Sri Lanka). There is no second thought about it. We are firm in our decision. Soon after I reach Delhi, I will have a detailed interaction with the defence minister about this matter. We will take it up, so that there is a solution to this issue soon," Vasan said.

On BJP stalling Parliament proceedings over coal blocks allocation issue, he said: "The only objective of the BJP

was to stall the proceedings of Parliament" and such action would "impair" the country's growth.

"It is against people. There are several Bills and official matters pending to be cleared in Parliament," he said, appealing the BJP to cooperate for the functioning of Parliament.

He also criticised Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi's comments on women in the context of malnutrition, saying: "A responsible chief minister should not have commented like this. No one in this country will accept his remark." Modi had recently said in an interview to *Wall Street Journal* that "Gujarat is ...a middle class state. The middle class is more beauty conscious than health conscious...that is a challenge."

Thackeray faces flak for comments against Biharis

■ PTI
NEW DELHI

Raj Thackeray's comments threatening to brand Biharis as "infiltrators" have fuelled a controversy with leaders from various political parties slamming the MNS chief over the issue.

Congress general secretary Digvijay Singh said the Thackeray family itself belonged to Bihar and had settled in Dhar in Western Madhya Pradesh from where they migrated to Mumbai. "If you look at the history of Mumbai, then it is a city of fishermen. Rest all have settled there from outside," Singh said.

Thackeray had on Friday threatened to force Biharis out of Maharashtra if authorities in Bihar take legal action against Mumbai policemen who picked up a teenager from there without informing their counterparts in that state. Thackeray, whose party has often launched violent campaigns against Hindi-speaking peo-

ple in Maharashtra, was reacting to reports that Bihar chief secretary Navin Kumar has written to Mumbai police commissioner voicing displeasure over the arrest of the youth for vandalising the martyr's memorial during Azad Maidan protest on August 11.

Shivanand Tiwari, a senior leader of the ruling JD-U in Bihar, hit out at Congress over the issue suggesting that the ruling party at the Centre and in Maharashtra is propping up Thackeray and drew parallels with the rise of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale in Punjab during the terror days there.

"This (the conduct of Raj Thackeray) is a challenge to the Constitutional authority. Thackeray says in Azad Maidan of Mumbai that the police commissioner should be transferred and it is done soon after. Does the Congress-led government in Maharashtra giving an impression that Thackeray bigger than the government there.

"I will request the Congress at the Centre as well as the Congress-led government in the state to learn from their experiences in Punjab, where they propped up Bhindranwale. They are creating extra Constitutional authorities and strengthening them. A time will come the same forces will destroy them like the demon Bhasmasur," Tewari said.

The JD-U leader said that is established as per law that whenever the police from a state goes to another state to arrest somebody, it has to inform the local police and then produce the arrested person in local court from where he can be taken elsewhere only after getting transit remand.

BJP leader and a minister in the state government Giriraj Singh said: "This is against democracy. A case of treason should be filed against Thackeray. I also appeal to Anna Hazare, who belongs to Maharashtra that he should also raise his voice against Thackeray."



President Pranab Mukherjee with a delegation of cartoonists at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Saturday. The cartoonists presented him some caricatures drawn by them

Artisans' Gathering

CPI stages daylong fast over defence training issue

■ PTI
CHENNAI

CPI on Saturday staged a day-long fast here protesting against Centre imparting training to Sri Lankan defence personnel and demanding that New Delhi re-negotiate with Colombo on such exercises.

Senior party leader D Raja, who inaugurated the fast in which leaders and party activists took part, said India continued to train Sri Lankan defence personnel despite all parties in the state demanding that it be stopped.

He said the Centre's argument that Sri Lanka was a friendly country and the training was extended under the bilateral agreement was not "valid and not acceptable".

"Bilateral agreements can be reopened and re-negotiated," Raja, national secretary of the party, said.

Observing that chief minister Jayalalithaa had also written to the Centre demanding that the training be stopped and the personnel be sent back, he said the Centre was not heeding to the demand.

India should strive for a political solution to the Sri Lankan Tamils issue, he added.

The state parties have been strongly opposing any training to Sri Lankan defence personnel on the ground that it hurt the sentiments of Tamil people in view of charges of war crimes against civilians during the last leg of the 'Eelam' war against LTTE in 2009.

Modi dumps loyalists after Naroda verdict, says Sanjiv Bhatt

■ PTI
AHMEDABAD

Suspended IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt, a known Narendra Modi baiter, has accused the Gujarat chief minister of 'abandoning' his 'loyal lieutenants' after the Naroda-Patiya verdict by the special court Bhatt claimed that he had tried to take part in the much publicised live online chat by Modi on Friday on 'Google+Hangout', the first by any prominent Indian politician, but his questions were not chosen for the session.

"You must have been apprised about the punishment meted out to your loyal lieutenants Dr Maya Kodnani and Babu Bajrangji, as well as the misguided foot-soldiers of misconceived Hindutva, who have now been condemned to spend a life in prison," Bhatt said in one of his questions he had posed to the BJP stalwart.

"Was it perchance that you

smartly distanced yourself from all these unfortunate people at an opportune moment? Have you spared a thought for the innocent family members of the accused who have been sentenced to a lifetime behind bars?" Bhatt said.

"Have you even once thought whether it is really worth it to sustain power, even if it requires sacrificing fellow human beings at the altar of expediency? Have you ever considered, even once, whether it is alright to facilitate or connive in the killing of another human being just because he does not conform to your beliefs? Is it really worthwhile to deceive your own self... or, is it only a small price to pay for your political ambitions?" the suspended officer went on to question.

Bhatt has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court alleging that the riots were carried out under the patronage of Modi.

Wadhvani will work in the John F Kennedy Centre for Performing Arts

Obama appoints Bombay IIT graduate to prestigious post

■ IANS
WASHINGTON

President Barack Obama has appointed Romesh Wadhvani, an Indian American founder of several software and IT companies, on board of trustees of the John F Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts.

Announcing his intent to appoint Wadhvani and nine other general trustees of the centre, Obama said: "These dedicated men and women bring a wealth of experience and talent to their new roles and I am proud to have them serve in this administration."

"I look forward to working with them in the months and years to come," added Obama, whose administration has over a score Indian-Americans serving in senior positions, more than any other previous administration.

Set up in 1971 as a living memorial to former President John F Kennedy, the centre is the busiest performing arts facility in the United States and annually hosts approximately 2,000 performances for audiences totaling



nearly two million.

According to a White House announcement Wadhvani, who received a BA from the Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay and an MS and PhD from Carnegie-Mellon University, is the founder, Chairman, and CEO of Symphony Technology Group.

He is actively involved in Kennedy Centre initiatives, having served as co-chair of the Maximum India Festival in 2011 and as a supporter of the 2010 Honours Gala.

These dedicated men and women bring a wealth of experience and talent to their new roles and I am proud to have them serve in this administration. I look forward to working with them ...

Barack Obama, US president

He is the founder and Chairperson of the Wadhvani Foundation, and serves on the Board of Trustees of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies. Previously, Wadhvani was the founder, Chairman, and CEO of several software and IT companies, including Aspect Development, Inc.

SHORT
TAKES



Kashmiri girls during the centenary celebrations of a missionary school, in Srinagar, on Saturday

Al stops ferrying animals for labs

Mumbai: After protests by the rights activists, Air India has stopped ferrying animals like rabbits, cats and dogs for laboratory tests, where they are experimented upon and finally killed, a PETA official said on Saturday. Air India has also confirmed that it has banned ferrying animals for experimentation purpose from all its national and international flights since last week. — IANS

Maoist blast kills BSF man in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: A powerful land mine blast triggered by Maoists on Saturday killed a BSF personnel in Odisha's Koraput district, the police said. The incident occurred near Palur village, when a group of about 35 BSF personnels were walking down in the forest as a part of anti-Maoist operation, SP Avinash Kumar said. — BP

Night Safari soon in Greater Noida

Lucknow: Greater Noida of Delhi will soon have the first night safari of the country. Work on the project is to begin soon. The Greater Noida Master Plan 2021 was approved by the National Capital Region Board. The project is conceived on lines of the famed Singapore Night Safari. — BP

Soni Devi prays for Jha's DNA test

Ranchi: The woman, who claimed that she was a wife of Jharkhand agriculture minister Satyanand Jha Batul and has a child from the marriage, on Saturday moved the High Court seeking a DNA test to establish the truth. In her petition, Soni Devi Choudhary claimed she had married Jha in a temple in 1996. — PTI

Stalemate over Coalgate continues

■ OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Things remained much the same with the BJP unrelenting in its stance on coalgate a day after Congress chief Sonia Gandhi reached out to the leader of the opposition Sushma Swaraj, while Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said he would not get into a slanging match with the BJP. BJP chief spokesperson Ravi Shankar Prasad said it is the BJP's right to seek the Prime Minister's political, constitutional and moral accountability. "The right to ask questions and seek political, constitutional and moral accountability of the PM is indeed the constitutional and parliamentary obligation of the opposition. And Mr Prime Minister this is not 'tu-tu main main'," Prasad said.

In his press interaction while returning from the NAM Summit, Singh had said he does not want to get into 'tu tu main main' with the opposi-



Ravi Shankar Prasad

tion as he has to keep the dignity of the office he holds.

The BJP, which has been stalling the Parliament demanding Singh's resignation in the coal block allocation issue, reacted sharply to his comments.

"If the people have given you the mandate to govern they have also made the opposition the custodian of their interest and we shall continue to safeguard that whether you call

it 'tu-tu main main' or seek solace in your silence by reciting an Urdu couplet," Prasad said.

The main opposition demanded that Singh clarify why some of the biggest scams since Independence like the financial irregularities in the Commonwealth Games projects, 2G spectrum allocation, Adarsh Housing Society scam, land scam in the airport privatisation and the coal block scam have happened with 'alarming regularity' during his prime ministership.

"The PM always maintains a conspicuous silence and colossal indifference. It is now evident that Union ministers were lobbying for their kith and kin and the PM as the coal minister was facilitating that," Prasad alleged, referring to the controversy over then minister of state for food processing Subodh Kant Sahai writing a letter to Singh in 2008 for allocation of two coal blocks to SKS Ispat and Power Limited in which his brother

er Sudhir Kant Sahai was a director. The PMO had taken up the request by writing to the coal secretary to 'take action as appropriate'.

"Why should there be double standards? If A Raja and Dayanidhi Maran were forced to resign because of the CBI inquiry, how can Dr Manmohan Singh remain PM when the CBI is investigating and finding irregularities even in the preliminary probe," Prasad said.

He reiterated his party's demand for the cancellation of all the 142 coal blocks allotted during the UPA regime and a fair, time-bound probe.

On the response to Sonia Gandhi speaking to Swaraj to break the stalemate in the Parliament, the BJP said there is no change in their stand of seeking the PM's resignation on the issue.

"There will be no let up. We will further intensify our fight inside and outside Parliament," BJP spokesperson Shah Nawaz Hussain said.

Sept 15 deadline for coal block de-allocation

■ PTI
NEW DELHI

A deadline for September 15 has been set by the government for initiating action on de-allocation of the coal mines to many of the 58 allottees to whom showcause notices have been issued.

Pushed by an upset PMO, the coal ministry has got into action to expedite the process of de-allocating the blocks ahead of the Inter-Ministerial Group meet scheduled for Monday.

According to sources, the coal ministry decided to complete by September 15 the entire exercise in all cases where

showcause notices were issued. The PMO had in April asked the ministry to review cases of all blocks where production is yet to take place.

Notices were issued in April to 58 blocks, including 25 private firms like Tata Power, ArcelorMittal, Reliance Power, Hindalco, Grasim Industries, GVK Power.

The coal ministry expects to do due diligence in a faster pace and recording all specific reasons for recommending de-allocation of the blocks.

Specific focus is on two blocks allotted to Usha Martin and Congress MP Naveen Jindal's Jindal Steel and Power.

Fresh stir against Cong: Ramdev Congress on countrywide campaign over coal issue

■ PTI
NEW DELHI

Yoga guru Ramdev on Saturday announced a fresh agitation targeting the Congress from October 2 that will last till next Lok Sabha election with immediate attention on upcoming assembly election in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh.

Addressing a press conference, Ramdev said he will continue his work despite the Congress targeting him and his fight will be for a change in power and system.

Though the location of launch of the fresh campaign was not announced, Ramdev

said the programme is likely to start from Himachal Pradesh.

Asked whether he was on a collision course with erstwhile Team Anna as it is likely to announce its political party on the same day, he said he was not in competition with anybody and that he will not comment on whether he will support them.

Queried about a survey which put Anna Hazare above him, he refused comment initially but later said it was done by a foreign agency. "Media only said when I came (to Jan Tar Mantar for Hazare's stir), crowd came and when I went, the crowd left," he said.

Targeting the Congress on the coal block allocation issue, Ramdev alleged the party has garnered 'gold medal in scams' and described it as a 'sinking ship'.

On why he was shying away from pointing fingers at the BJP, whose state governments were also named in the CAG report, he said: "Many parties are involved in this. But Congress is in the leadership. They have got the gold medal in scams. Whoever is involved in corruption should be punished. This whole allocation should be cancelled."

He alleged the amount involved in the coal scam was much more than the figure of

₹1.86 lakh crore provided by the CAG and Congress received commission for it.

Ramdev alleged the government was using machineries to harass him and his aides, including Balkrishna who was arrested in connection with allegedly providing fake documents for obtaining an Indian passport.

He also alleged some people, probably at the behest of government, had approached his people, offering them money to defame his associates and movement. Ramdev also asked Sonia Gandhi to restrain her party leaders not to use 'derogatory words' against him and his aides.

■ PTI
NEW DELHI

Taking the opposition head-on on the issue of coal block allocation, senior Congress leaders will visit all the states after the Monsoon Session of the Parliament ends on Friday to articulate the party's view on the current political situation.

A Union minister and AICC in-charge of each state will address the media and interact with party workers as the BJP stuck to their demand for the resignation of PM Man-

mohan Singh on the issue of coal block allocation, Congress sources said.

The decision to go the states between September 8 and 15 was taken at a meeting of AICC general secretaries convened by senior Congress leader Janardan Dwivedi.

The government has already dismissed the BJP's demand for resignation of the PM in wake of CAG findings on the issue.

The issue of deadlock in the Parliament over the coal block allocation issue was discussed at the meeting of the Con-

gress Core Group chaired by Congress president Sonia Gandhi yesterday.

Samajwadi Party supremo Mulyam Singh, whose party is a key outside supporter of the UPA, has demanded an inquiry by a sitting Supreme Court judge into the coal block allocation.

Yadav made common cause with the Left parties and TDP to demand the judicial probe. They demanded the Parliament be allowed to function and an end to the 'match-fixing' of the Congress and BJP to disrupt it.

For a Cause

Actor Amitabh Bachchan with columnist and novelist Shobha De on behalf of Parikrma Foundation launches 'Jeanathon', a global initiative to help the poor by signing and donating jeans and donating money, in Mumbai, on Saturday

Stringent mobile radiation norms comes into force

■ IANS
NEW DELHI

Stringent new radiation norms for mobile phone towers and mobile handsets will come into effect Sep 1 across the country, the government announced Friday, keeping in view their possible adverse impact on human health.

"We have to be careful as a nation. Technology must be embraced but ultimately public health should not be compromised," communications minister Kapil Sibal said, unveiling the norms.

Under the electromagnetic frequency (EMF) radiation standards, all handsets will have to display their exposure limit on the handset like IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) number display.

A penalty of ₹5 lakh will be liable to be levied per tower per service provider for non-compliance of EMF standards.

7 Asaram Ashram men charge-sheeted

■ PTI
AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat CID has filed a chargesheet against seven office-bearers of Asaram Babu Ashram for their alleged role in mysterious death of two boys there in 2008.

The chargesheet was filed on Friday in the court of the chief metropolitan magistrate D B Barot by investigating officer P M Parmar under Sections 304 (causing death by negligence), 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) and 114 (abettor present when offence is committed) of the Indian Penal Code, besides section 6 of Juvenile Justice Act.

Abhishek Vaghela, 11, and his cousin Dipesh Vaghela, 10, went missing from a residential school of the Asaram Babu's Motreya Ashram in Ahmedabad in April 2008.

Their decomposed bodies were later found from the banks of Sabarmati River near

Those chargesheeted are Uday Sangani, Pankaj Saxena, Yogesh Bhati, Ajay Shah, Kaushik Vani, Vikas Khemaka, Minketan Patra

the Ashram.

The chargesheet was filed against seven sadhaks — Uday Sangani, Pankaj Saxena, Yogesh Bhati, Ajay Shah, Kaushik Vani, Vikas Khemaka and Minketan Patra — whose role in the case was investigated by the crime branch.

The case was handed over to CID in 2008 following a public outcry over the issue, which after a year of probing had filed a complaint of culpable homicide and booked seven sadhaks of the Ashram.

exodus REVERSED
Special train leaves Guwahati for Bangalore



Northeast people on-board the Guwahati-Bangalore special train, in Guwahati, on Saturday

■ IANS
NEW DELHI

A special train to Bangalore left a railway station here on Saturday to help people from the Northeast return to their places of study or work in southern states after their mass exodus last month over fear of attacks.

The train started from the railway station at Paltan Bazar around 2.40 pm and would reach Bangalore on Monday.

Another special train is scheduled to leave for the same destination September 5, said Assam environment and forests minister Rockybul Hussain, who met the passengers before the train's departure.

A 10-member special security team of the Assam Police joined the RPF personnel for boosting the special train's security.

Hussain and Assam agriculture, horticulture and food processing minister Nilamoni Sen Deka bid farewell to the passengers at the railway station.

After reaching Bangalore, the train would start its return journey to Guwahati on Tuesday, railway sources said. While most of the passengers were people from Assam and other northeastern states working in Bangalore and other southern cities, some of them were also students — who decided to return after the assurance by the respective state governments.

Although the train was scheduled for departure at 1.15 pm, it got delayed as the authorities had to add one more compartment to it due to the rush. The train included 18 sleeper-class coaches.

"When we came to the station we saw some people on the wait list. We convinced the railway officials to attach one more compartment to accommodate them," said Hussain.

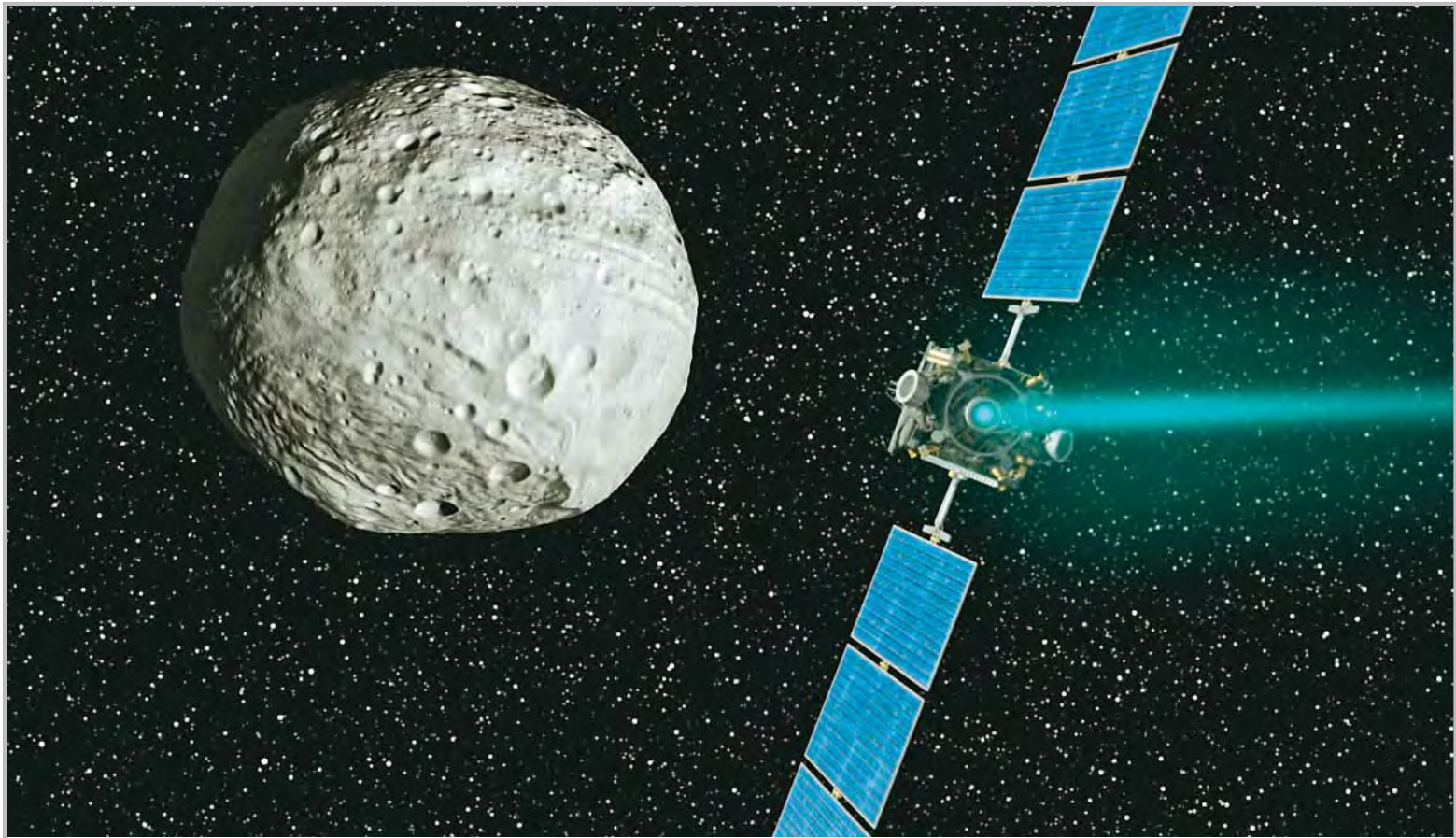
The exodus of people from the Northeast from southern states started August 15 after rumours went viral through internet, SMSes and MMSes threatening them to return to their states before August 20 or face dire consequences.

১০ সেপ্টেম্বরে
মাধ্যমিক
বিশেষ
প্রস্তুতি
অঙ্ক

৩ সেপ্টেম্বরের আকর্ষণ
NTSE প্রস্তুতি অঙ্ক

শিক্ষক
দিবসের
জাব্বা

সকালবেলা
প্রতি সোমবার
সকালবেলায় সঙ্গে
বিনামূল্যে



Dawn prepares for trek toward dwarf planet

NASA's Dawn spacecraft is on track to become the first probe to orbit and study two distant destinations to help scientists answer questions about the formation of our solar system. The spacecraft is scheduled to leave the giant asteroid Vesta on Sept. 5 EDT (Sept. 4 PDT) to start its 2 1/2-year journey to the dwarf planet Ceres.

Dawn began its 3-billion-mile odyssey to explore the two most massive objects in the main asteroid belt in 2007. Dawn arrived at Vesta in July 2011 and will reach Ceres in early 2015. These two members of the asteroid belt have been witness to much of our solar system's history.

The valuable evidence Dawn gathered from examining the first of these cosmic fossils up close improved our understanding of asteroids and provided context for a future human mission to visit an asteroid.

The spacecraft will spiral away from Vesta as gently as it arrived, using a special, hyper-efficient system called ion propulsion. The ion propulsion system uses electricity to ionize xenon to generate thrust. The 12-inch-wide ion thrusters provide less power than conventional engines but can maintain thrust for months at a time.

"Thrust is engaged and we now are climbing away from Vesta atop

a blue-green pillar of xenon ions," said Marc Rayman, Dawn's chief engineer and mission director, at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, Calif. "We are feeling somewhat wistful about concluding a fantastically productive and exciting exploration of Vesta, but now we have our sights set on dwarf planet Ceres."

Dawn provided close-up views of Vesta and unprecedented detail about the giant asteroid. Findings revealed that the asteroid had completely melted in the past, forming a layered body with an iron core. The spacecraft also revealed the collisions Vesta suffered in its southern hemisphere. The asteroid survived two colossal impacts

in the last 2 billion years. Without Dawn, scientists would not have known about the dramatic troughs sculpted around Vesta, which are ripples from the two south polar impacts.

"We went to Vesta to fill in the blanks of our knowledge about the early history of our solar system," said Christopher Russell, Dawn's principal investigator, based at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). "Dawn has filled in those pages and more, revealing to us how special Vesta is as a survivor from the earliest days of the solar system. We now can say with certainty that Vesta resembles a small planet more closely than a typical asteroid."

NASA

Breast milk promotes a different gut flora

The benefits of breast milk have long been appreciated, but now scientists at Duke University Medical Center have described a unique property that makes mother's milk better than infant formula in protecting infants from infections and illnesses.

The finding, published in the August issue of the journal *Current Nutrition & Food Science*, explains how breast milk, but not infant formula, fosters colonies of microbiotic flora in a newborn's intestinal tract that aid nutrient absorption and immune system development.

"This study is the first we know of that examines the effects of infant nutrition on the way that bacteria grow, providing insight to the mechanisms underlying the benefits of breast feeding over formula feeding for newborns," said William Parker, PhD, associate professor of surgery at Duke and senior author of the study. "Only breast milk appears to promote a healthy colonization of beneficial biofilms, and these insights suggest there may be potential approaches for developing substitutes that more closely mimic those benefits in cases where breast milk cannot be provided."

Earlier studies have shown that breast milk lowers the incidence of diarrhea, influenza and respiratory infections during infancy, while protecting against the later development of allergies, type 1 diabetes, multiple sclerosis and other illnesses. As scientists have learned more about the role intestinal flora plays in health, they have gained appreciation for how an infant's early diet can affect this beneficial microbial universe.

In their study, the Duke researchers grew bacteria in samples of infant formulas, cow's milk and breast milk. For the infant formula, the researchers used three brands each of popular milk- and soy-based products, and they purchased whole milk from the grocery store. Breast milk was donated and processed to separate different components, including proteins, fats and carbohydrates. They also tested a purified form of an antibody called secretory immunoglobulin A (SIgA), which is abundant in breast milk and helps establish an infant's immune system.

The infant formulas, the milk products and the SIgA were incubated with two strains of *E. coli* bacteria – necessary early inhabitants of the gut that are helpful cousins to the dangerous organisms associated with food poisoning.

Within minutes, the bacteria began multiplying in all of the specimens, but there was an immediate difference in the way the bacteria grew. In the breast milk, bacteria stuck



together to form biofilms -- thin, adherent layers of bacteria that serve as a shield against pathogens and infections. Bacteria in the infant formula and cow's milk proliferated wildly, but it grew as individual organisms that did not aggregate to form a protective barrier. The bacteria in SIgA had mixed results, suggesting that this antibody by itself isn't enough to trigger the beneficial biofilm formation.

"Knowing how breast milk conveys its benefits could help in the development of infant formulas that better mimic nature," Parker said. "This could have a long-lasting effect on the health of infants who, for many reasons, may not get mother's milk."

Parker said additional studies should explore why human whey has the clumping effect on the bacteria, and whether it has a similar effect on strains of bacteria other than *E. coli*.

"This study adds even more weight to an already large body of evidence that breast milk is the most nutritious way to feed a baby whenever possible," said Gabriela M. Maradiaga Panayotti, M.D., co-director of the newborn nursery for Duke Children's and Duke Primary Care. "We know that babies who receive breast milk have better outcomes in many ways, and mother who breast feed also have improved health outcomes, including decreased risks of cancer. Whenever possible, promoting breast feeding is the absolute best option for mom and baby."

Duke Medicine News and Communications

Extinction haunts spineless creatures

The vital tasks carried out by tiny "engineers" like earthworms that recycle waste and bees that pollinate crops are under threat because one fifth of the world's spineless creatures may be at risk of extinction, a study showed on Friday.

The rising human population is putting ever more pressure on the "spineless creatures that rule the world" including slugs, spiders, jellyfish, lobsters, corals, and bugs such as beetles and butterflies, it said.

"One in five invertebrates (creatures without a backbone) look to be threatened with extinction," said Ben Collen at the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) of an 87-page report produced with the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

"The invertebrates are the eco-system engineers," he told Reuters. "They produce a lot of the things that humans rely on and they produce them for free."



The report said that invertebrates, creatures that have no internal skeleton, faced loss of habitat, pollution, over-exploitation and climate change.

The 'services' they provide - helping humans whose growing numbers threaten their survival - include water purification, pollination, waste recycling, and keeping soils productive. The value of insect pollination of crops, for instance, has been valued at 153 billion euros (\$191 billion) a year, it said.

A 1997 study put the global

economic value of soil biodiversity - thanks to often scorned creatures such as worms, woodlice and beetles - at \$1.5 trillion a year.

Other services include seafood from mussels and clams, silk spun by worms and the purple dyes from a type of snail that were used exclusively in the robes of Roman emperors.

The study said the level of threat was similar to that facing vertebrates - creatures with internal skeletons - including mammals like blue whales and lions as well as reptiles and birds. A 2010 IUCN study found that one fifth of vertebrates were at risk.

Collen said people have wrongly tended to ignore spineless creatures, thinking of them as small, abundant and invulnerable to human pressures.

"This report tries to put invertebrates on the map," he said. Invertebrates make up almost 80 per cent of the world's species.

Reuters

Staying a while in van Allen Belt

Since the dawn of the Space Age, mission planners have tried to follow one simple but important rule: Stay out of the van Allen Belts. The two doughnut-shaped regions around Earth are filled with "killer electrons," plasma waves, and electrical currents dangerous to human space travelers and their spacecraft. Linger in one of these areas and you're in trouble.

So much for the old rules. NASA has launched two spacecraft directly into the radiation belts--and this time they plan to stay a while.

NASA's Radiation Belt Storm Probes blasted off from Cape Canaveral on August 30th, 2012. Bristling with sensors, the heavily-shielded spacecraft are on a 2-year mission to discover what makes the radiation belts so dangerous and so devilishly unpredictable.

"We've known about the Van Allen Belts for decades yet they continue to surprise us with unexpected storms of 'killer electrons' and other phenomena," says mission scientist David

Sibeck. "The Storm Probes will help us understand what's going on out there."

When the radiation belts were discovered in 1958, they upended orthodox ideas. Most people assumed the space around Earth was empty. America's first satellite, Explorer 1, proved otherwise. The tiny spacecraft was equipped with a Geiger tube for counting energetic protons and electrons. Circling Earth, Explorer 1 found so many charged particles that the counter registered off-scale most of the time.

Back in the 1950s the radiation belts had little effect on ordinary people. Today they are crucial to our high-tech society. Hundreds of satellites used for everything from weather prediction to GPS to television routinely skim the belts, subjecting themselves to energetic particles that can damage solar panels and short-circuit sensitive electronics. During geomagnetic storms when the belts are swollen by solar activity, whole fleets of satellites can be engulfed, imper-

iling the technological underpinnings of daily life on the planet below.

"The Radiation Belt Storm Probes directly address these down-to-Earth problems," says Lika Guhathakurta, the lead program scientist of NASA's Living with a Star Program, which manages the mission. "RBSP is a unique mix of pure science and practical application."

One of the biggest mysteries of the radiation belts is the crazy way they react to solar storms. "Almost anything can happen," says Sibeck.

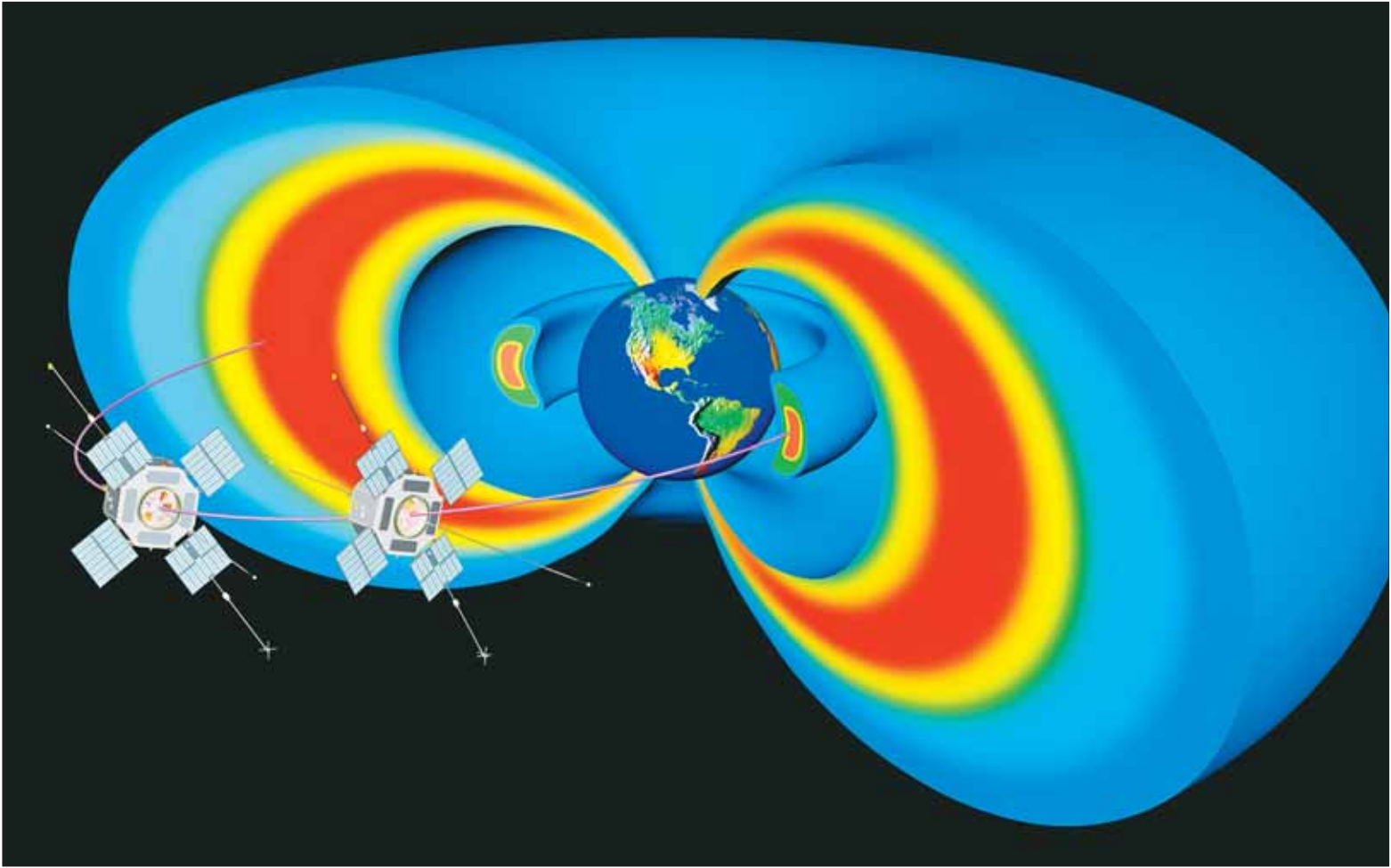
When a storm cloud from the sun hits the radiation belts, they often respond in counterintuitive ways. One possible outcome is that the radiation belts fill with energetic particles such as the potent "killer electrons" that worry mission planners. However, just as often the opposite happens. A solar storm can cause the belts to lose their killer particles, temporarily making them a safer place. And sometimes nothing happens! The belts remain completely unchanged.

"The problem is, there is no unified idea of what phenomena are most important inside the belts," says Sibeck. He describes attending scientific conferences on the subject. "If there are 100 people at a meeting, there will be 100 different answers for every question. How are killer electrons energized? Some say plasma waves do it; others point to solar wind shocks; others favor diffusion. The list goes on and on."

Researchers hope RBSP will narrow the possibilities. During storms, the probes can sample electric and magnetic fields, count the number of energetic particles, and detect plasma waves of many frequencies. The inner workings of the Van Allen Belts will be an open book to the two spacecraft, providing data for predictive models that tell forecasters when it's safe to enter the belts, perform spacewalks, and operate electronics.

"The Van Allen Belts are part of our home in space," adds Guhathakurta. "RBSP will help us learn how to live there."

NASA



An artist's impression of two doughnut shaped regions around the Earth filled with "killer electrons"

NASA

Dogs can help beat the blues

Dogs may empathize with humans more than any other animal, including homo sapiens themselves, a new study has suggested.

The latest study found that pet dogs may truly be man's best friend if a person is in distress. That distressed individual does not even have to be someone the dog knows.

"I think there is good reason to suspect dogs would be more sensitive to human emotion than other species," Discovery News quoted co-author Deborah Custance as saying.

"We have domesticated dogs over a long period of time. We have selectively bred them to act as our companions.

"Thus those dogs that responded sensitively to our emotional cues may have been the individuals that we would be more likely to keep as pets and breed from," Custance said.



For the study, Custance and colleague Jennifer Mayer, both from the Department of Psychology at the University of London Goldsmiths College, exposed 18 pet dogs - representing different ages

and breeds - to four separate 20-second human encounters.

The human participants included the dogs' owners as well as strangers.

During one experimental condition, the people hummed in a weird way. For that one, the scientists were trying to see if unusual behaviour itself could trigger canine concern. The people also talked and pretended to cry.

The majority of the dogs comforted the person, owner or not, when that individual was pretending to cry.

The dogs acted submissive as they nuzzled and licked the person, the canine version of "there there". According to Custance and Mayer, this behaviour is consistent with empathic concern and the offering of comfort.

ANI

Three years after Aila

The Sunderbans are still recovering from the destruction wrought by the cyclone, Aila, which hit the region with elemental fury in May 2009

The long road back to recovery

■ BARUN HALDAR

The devastating cyclone Aila, which struck the coastal region of South 24-Parganas district, battered and washed away river embankments. Vast areas were flooded. This has made the arable land of the entire coastal area barren. There was also enormous damage to property.

It may be recalled that the growing deltas of tributaries, mainly of the Ganga, located in the coastal area of South 24-Parganas district are low-lying areas prone to flooding by tidal waves. The embankments, locally known as *bandhs*, have for ages acted as a defence against the waves of brackish water during high tide. If an embankment is breached, the salty water submerges the area, marring agriculture as well as pisciculture in fresh water, two mainstays of the economy in this part of the state. So the effect of Aila is still being felt in the Sunderbans, a unique mangrove forest fanning out on this side of the border from Sagar Island in the east to Gosaba in the west.

Aila affected river embankments at about 600 points in Sagar Island, Patharpratima, Kakdwip, Namkhana blocks at the eastern end of the Sunderbans. Out of those, the authorities have earmarked 140 places as extremely dilapidated that need immediate repairs. But the havoc caused by the cyclone was not as grievous on the eastern side as in the western part of the Sunderbans, in areas like Basanti, Gosaba, Sandeshkhali and Hingalgunge.

When asked by *The Bengal Post*, the state's minister of irrigation Manas Bhunia said, "The repair of breached embankments and construction of ring embankments in vast stretches of the Sunderbans has been going on in phases. However, the progress of work has fallen behind target because of various official and procedural glitches.

"We have already started the land acquisition process needed to reconstruct embankments and construct ring embankments. Owing to the flawed land acquisition policy followed by the Left government in its pursuit of a half-baked policy of industrialisation in its last term, the issue of land acquisition has become very sensitive in West Bengal. According to the officials of the land and land reform department, the process of land acquisition for embankment works has become very tardy because of the sensitivity of the farmers.

"But our government has been trying earnestly to acquire land required for reconstruction of embankments without using force. After that we shall complete the reconstruction of river embankments in the entire Sunderbans."



■ PRASENJIT SAHA

This was a storm which devastated even people hardened by a constant struggle against nature in the Sunderbans. The cyclone Aila, which hit the region with an elemental fury on May 25, 2009, left behind an unprecedented trail of destruction whose effects are still being felt.

Worst hit were the inhabitants of Canning subdivision, in Bali 1 and 2, Rangabalia, Satjelia, Dayapur, Punjali, and Amtali under Gosaba block. While the official death toll stood at 28, more than 1 lakh houses collapsed and 4.5 lakh houses suffered partial damage. A total of 773 km of river embankments were washed away and around 3,000 km of embankments badly damaged, leaving the inhabitants exposed to the dangers of flooding.

Three years have passed since the cataclysm. The people are slowly returning to their normal rhythm of life. But the vanished and dilapidated embankments have left them all the more vulnerable, endangering their existence in this harsh land. To protect themselves, the locals took up the task of repairing the embankments, but there is only so much they can do on their own.

The then irrigation minister and present MLA of Basanti, Subhas Naskar, got a project sanctioned to rebuild the embankments on the lines of those in Bangladesh. The previous Left government received ₹183 crore in the first phase of the project, but no significant work was done.

Political turmoil has hindered the construction of the embankments in the last few years. The Sunderbans development affairs minister Shyamal Mondal claimed that the erstwhile Left government had not built any embankment in the Sunderbans. "They are creating trouble in land acquisition, so we are unable to do the work," said the minister. The land needed for building embankments has proved hard to get with

the people reluctant to give up the least bit of ground they hold even for their own safety.

Speaking on the issue, Subhas Naskar said: "We had got ₹5,032 crore sanctioned from the central government at that time. But we received the money around a year after Aila. In the first phase, we received ₹183 crore, using which several ring embankments were constructed. However, then came the assembly elections at a time when we were supposed to acquire lands. Thereafter, the government changed. But the accusation of obstructing government work is totally false."

Post-Aila, much of the agricultural land in the Sunderbans was rendered infertile as salt water swept into the fields. Hence, many farmers had to leave the area and go off to states like Kerala and Tamil Nadu for work. Also, large numbers of cattle died when the storm hit, thus affecting agriculture. There was a time when the farmers had to plough the land themselves because of the scarcity of cattle.

However, they were later provided with cattle by the government. The farmers were also given tractors and paddy seeds that could grow on fields with high salt content. Agriculture has now seen a boom here on the joint initiative of the Indian Rice Research Institute at Dehradun and the Sunderbans Saline and Salinity Research Institute.

The Left government reportedly declared a compensation of ₹10,000 and ₹2,500 respectively for the construction of houses and the renovation of those damaged. However, even after three years, many people have not received the money.

District magistrate Narayan Swarup Nigam said they were paying compensation while abiding by government regulations, hence the delay. He added that already 80 per cent of the targeted beneficiaries had received compensation.

Mamata Banerjee visited the area on January 30 to look into the situation. She instructed the irrigation department to

construct the embankments with immediate effect.

Scientists from the West Bengal Fisheries and Animal Research Institute have found that the salinity in the ponds and water bodies of the Sunderbans had risen to about 35 per cent, up from the normal 7 per cent. In summer, the percentage varies from 10 to 11 per cent. The unusually high salinity has affected fishing. Hence, the scientists have started looking for newer methods of pisciculture. "We have tested the waters in various parts of the Sunderbans. The cultivators need to cultivate fish conducive to a semi-saline atmosphere," said scientist Sourav Dolui.

The zilla parishad has always stood beside the people of the Sunderbans, be it in the distribution of relief or providing jobs under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA). They have come forward for all the development work in the area, including construction of new roads.

"Aila is a nightmare for us. The Sunderbans was ripped apart in a moment. But the area is returning to normal on the initiative of the state government. We are also trying to help the residents in every possible way," said zilla parishad sabhadhipati Shamima Sheikh.

Though the people suffered immensely, Aila could hardly affect the wildlife of the Sunderbans. This was primarily because of the widespread mangrove vegetation. The only way to save the Sunderbans from another disaster is by planting mangrove to deter soil erosion, said Sunderbans expert Tushar Kanjilal.

The Sunderbans' Project Tiger field director Subrata Mukherjee said: "We do not think much has changed in the core areas of the Sunderbans because of Aila. We have not noticed any significant changes in the unique biodiversity here before and after Aila."

The wilderness has been able to withstand the fury of nature which wreaked havoc on human settlements. Man has not conquered nature yet in the primeval mangrove forests of the Sunderbans.

Flicker of hope amid hopelessness

■ PARTHA BANDOPADHYAY

Sunderban Unnayan Niketan (SUN), a voluntary organisation working for the wellbeing of the socio-economically backward residents of the coastal mangrove forest area and maintaining the fragile ecology of the Sunderbans biosphere, organised a seminar at their base in Sonakhali-Ramchandakhali villages in the Basanti block of the Sunderbans in January. At the seminar, experts on the environment discussed the future of the Sunderbans after Aila.

In a candid interaction with *The Bengal Post*, eminent river expert and environmentalist Kalyan Rudra pointed out that rampant reclamation of mangrove forests by myopic colonists and zamindars who wanted human settlements in the Sunderbans for their own gain had destroyed the ecological balance of the region since the middle of the 18th century. This was the main reason for the alarming devastation caused by the cyclone Aila, which struck the coast on May 25, 2009.

Besides, he said global warming in general made the Sunderbans extremely vulnerable, as the sea was advancing rapidly to engulf the land. He pointed out that, post-Aila, the balance between fresh water and brackish water in the area had been upset because the tributaries of the Ganga flowing through the Sunderbans were choked with silt. According to Rudra, the flow of fresh water had dropped also because of the construction of big dams in the upper reaches of the arterial rivers of the northern Indian plain. Aila made the problem more acute.

The salinity in land, water and even in the general atmosphere in the area rose alarmingly after Aila. Rudra stressed that the region would not remain habitable for humans in coming days. Many other experts in the seminar expressed similar ecological concerns.

Zafar Iqbal, the secretary of SUN, said their organisation had embarked on a project to set up a Bandh Suraksha Committee in the Sunderbans as they felt that bandhs or dykes were needed to protect human settlements in the coastal area. SUN was trying to build a network for coordinating all the voluntary organisations active in the area by forming an umbrella organisation.

Under the plan, the voluntary organisations would contribute according to their ability to protect the fragile ecology by building ring embankments as a second line of defence against high tidal waves and also help repair dilapidated embankments. This, according to Iqbal, would supplement in a small but meaningful manner the massive reconstruction work undertaken by the panchayats and other government institutions, which are also building and repairing embankments.

In addition, the organisation has embarked on social forestry, planting suitable mangrove saplings near riverbanks to stem soil erosion in the Sunderbans. They also made an effort to convince the local residents to help shore up the riverbanks in their own areas. They asked the people to donate land for constructing ring embankments, as requested by the state government.

Guided by a group of experts, SUN is also urging the people in the Sunderbans to adopt alternative kinds of cultivation with genetically modified seeds suitable for growing in an increasingly saline environment.



The devastation in North 24 Parganas

■ PURANDAR CHAKRABORTY

The cyclone Aila bore down on North 24 Parganas with a vengeance. Worst affected were Hingolgunj, Sandeshkhali-1 and Sandeshkhali-2, Hasnabad and Basirhat-2 under the Basirhat subdivision.

Though the district officials were reluctant to reveal the actual count, sources at the Basirhat block office revealed that several people died in Basirhat subdivision itself. Some were crushed to death as walls collapsed. Many mud huts were destroyed and cattle killed. Lakhs of

people became homeless.

The state government has come up with specific plans for building embankments after the change of guard. The Centre has also promised to provide the financial aid demanded by the chief minister. The reports sent by the state administration to the Centre stated that, during the Left Front rule, the reconstruction work moved at a very slow pace.

Sanjay Bansal, the district magistrate of North 24 Parganas, said: "The chief minister has instructed the district administration to start building embankments as soon as

possible. Moreover, we have been instructed to concentrate on disaster management in the near future. We have tried to distribute money, clothes and medicines to the Aila victims after I took charge of the district. The work to build embankments has already started at six spots."

Sunderbans development minister Shyamal Mondal said, "The building of embankments has already started under the instructions of irrigation minister Manas Bhuniya. This project will not only improve the connectivity between the areas with the other parts of the district. It will also improve the condition of the people affected by Aila. The embankments will prevent such disasters in the future."

Sources in the irrigation department revealed that 263 km of embankments would be repaired in the first phase. Six thousand acres of land will be needed for the embankments. However, the project is being delayed by problems over land acquisition.

The Trinamool Congress MP from Basirhat, Haji Nurul Islam, stated, "A total of 140 acres of land had been acquired till the month of May. The state government has already announced packages for those from whom the land was acquired. The work is proceeding at a steady pace. Ten per cent of the work has already been done. Currently railway tracks are being laid in the Aila-affected areas."

Debash Mondal, TMC leader from Hingolgunj, said, "The TMC government is addressing the issues at a very early stage. The administrative body is unable to keep pace with the projects proposed by the government." He was hopeful of a brighter future. "Schools and hospitals will also be constructed here in the near future," he said.



WORLD WINDOW



Warehousemen dismantle a case containing a bust of Louis XII in one of the rooms of the Louvre-Lens museum, a regional branch of the Louvre, in the northeastern French city of Lens, three months before its official opening

Thousands return home in Indonesia

Guian: Tens of thousands of people on a central Philippine island returned home on Saturday after a tsunami alert was lifted following a 7.6 magnitude undersea quake, as local authorities began work to repair damages to public infrastructure.—Reuters

Twin suicide bombings kill 12 Afghans

Kabul: A twin suicide bomb attack targeted a NATO base in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, killing eight civilians and four Afghan policemen, local officials said. A spokesman for NATO's International Security Assistance Force said no one from the alliance was killed in the attack, which happened in Wardak province's Sayed Abad district. "The truck bomb was huge, killing 12 and wounding 50 more," said provincial governor spokesman Sahidullah Shahid. —Reuters

Kyrgyz acting Prime Minister resigns

Bishkek: Kyrgyz acting Prime Minister Omurbek Babanov has tendered his resignation, the government press service said on Saturday. Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev dismissed the government on August 24, following the break-up of the majority coalition in parliament, and entrusted the Social-Democratic Party with forming a new coalition. Babanov said he hoped the new government will continue the reforms that "have laid the groundwork for economic growth, better state governance, minimisation of state interference in the business sector, the struggle against corruption and protection of citizens' rights". Atambayev is yet to accept Babanov's resignation. —IANS

'Ex-Navy Seal did not violate secrecy'

Washington: An ex-Navy SEAL, who has written a book on the raid that killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan, has not violated any non-disclosure agreements, his lawyer said, rebutting Pentagon's charge that the author had leaked classified information. "He has earned the right to tell his story," Robert Luskin, the former Navy SEAL's lawyer, said in a letter to the US defence department. Luskin said in the letter, author Matt Bissonnette, "remains confident that he has faithfully fulfilled his duty" not to disclose classified information.—PTI

NAM summit ends

■ AFP
TEHRAN

Iran on Saturday closed a summit of non-aligned states after two days of sometimes conflictual speeches over Syria and stepped-up pressure over its nuclear programme that overshadowed the proceedings.

Representatives from the 120 members of the Non-Aligned Movement adopted a document that condemned unilateral sanctions, backed the right of Iran and other states to peaceful nuclear energy, and supported the creation of a Palestinian state, Iranian media reported.

The document also reportedly advocated nuclear disarmament, human rights free from political agendas and opposition to racism and "Islamophobia". The text was not available late today on the



(L-R) Venezuelan foreign minister Nicolas Maduro Moros, Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Iranian foreign minister Ali Akbar Salehi and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad attend the closing session of NAM summit in Tehran on Saturday

foreign ministry website dedicated to the summit. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad chaired the closing ceremony, reflecting his country's presidency of the NAM for the

next three years, after which it will pass to Venezuela.

With around 30 heads of state or government attending, and senior officials filling out the other two-thirds

of the heavily secured hall, Iran portrayed the summit as a triumph over Western attempts to isolate it over its disputed nuclear activities. Ahmadinejad said the summit was "unique in quality and in the number of participants." But the nuclear issue came back to take a bite out of that goal, with the UN atomic watchdog releasing a report half way through the summit accusing Iran of having "significantly hampered" inspectors' efforts to investigate a suspect military site, Parchin.

The report also said Iran had in the past three months installed more than 1,000 uranium enrichment centrifuges in its fortified Fordo nuclear bunker that is one of the prime concerns of the United States and fellow permanent UN Security Council members.

Iran: Ban calls for diplomatic solution

■ IANS
UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has regretted that Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are yet to reach agreement on resolving Iran's nuclear issue, and pressed for a "diplomatic and negotiated solution" to the prolonged problem.

"It is regrettable that Iran has [is] yet to reach agreement with the IAEA on a plan to resolve all outstanding issues," reported Xinhua citing Ban as saying in a statement issued here Friday.

The secretary-general made the statement in response to the latest quarterly report by the IAEA on Iran's disputed nuclear programme.

The IAEA report said on Friday that Iran is hindering the UN nuclear watchdog's inspection of its Parchin mili-

Iran is hindering the UN nuclear watchdog's inspection of its Parchin military complex, a suspected site for weapon development

tary complex, a possible site being used for suspected nuclear weapon development.

The report also noted that Iran has doubled its capacity to refine Uranium, saying it is unclear about its purposes of the development. Iran insists its nuclear programme is only for peaceful means, and they will not give up their right to do so.

Romney's Louisiana visit not political, says Jindal

■ IANS
WASHINGTON

As Mitt Romney visited Louisiana's storm-ravaged coast, the state's Indian-American governor Bobby Jindal said he had invited both the Republican presidential nominee and President Barack Obama and there was nothing political about it.

The newly minted Republican presidential candidate had called to express concern about the damage Hurricane Isaac caused to the state and he told Romney that he is "welcome to come here and see for himself," said Jindal at a news conference in the state capital of Baton Rouge on Friday. The governor said he also extended the same invitation to Obama, according to The Times-Picayune.

"The president of the United States is always welcome in Louisiana," said Jindal. He declined to say where Obama would be going. "I don't want to get ahead of the White

House for security reasons," said Jindal. "We are not talking politics."

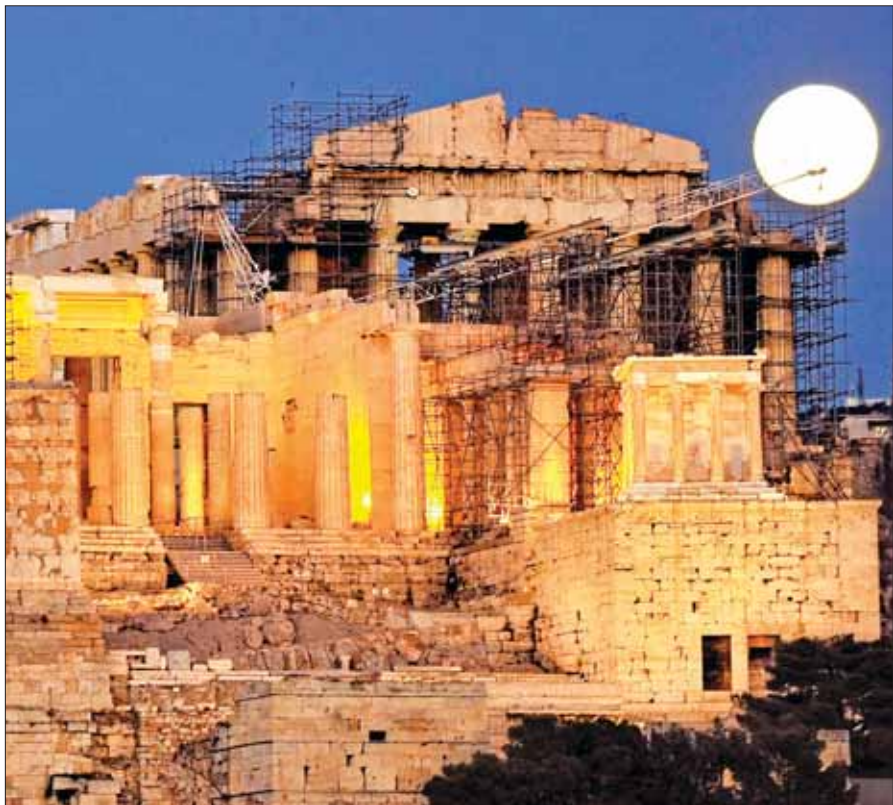
"It is an honour for the state to get a visit from the president of the United States and Romney in a four-day period." Romney, meanwhile, skipped a planned post-convention rally in Virginia and headed to Louisiana to survey the damage. Hours later, White House announced Obama will visit the State on Monday.

However, White House press secretary Jay Carney insisted the president's trip to Louisiana was in the works before Romney headed there.

Romney on Friday toured flooding in southern Jefferson Parish, particularly the small town of Lafitte, that had been inundated with water.

"I'm here to learn and obviously to draw some attention to what's going on here," "So that people around the country know that people down here need help," said Romney.

Once in a Blue Moon



A full moon, the second in August also called blue moon, above the ancient Acropolis hill in Athens on Friday

30 feared dead in Guinea boat accident

■ AFP
CONAKRY

About 30 people were believed to have drowned after an overloaded boat sank off the coast of Guinea, as rescue workers said on Saturday. They had given up hope of finding survivors after an all-night search.

"We are continuing the search without hope of finding survivors, that means about 30 are already dead," said rescue official Lanfia Camara. "It is difficult and even unthinkable that we could find a survivor in the water after more than 15 hours. None of the passengers were wearing a life vest." The pirogue, a flat-bottomed boat used by fishermen and for transport, capsized a few minutes after setting off for Kassa Island. Camara said authorities at the Boulbinet Port jetty were to blame as they "don't even know how many people boarded" the boat.

hygiene STORY

Wipe your phones before you call!

■ PTI
LONDON

Next time you use your mobile phone, you might want to wipe it! Researchers have discovered there are more bacteria on an average mobile phone than on a toilet seat.

A new study has found that there were up to 10 times the amount of bugs which can cause nausea and stomach problems in mobile phones than were present in a lavatory, the Daily Mail reported.

Researchers at the University of Arizona said that phones are often passed between people which spreads the germs around - but they are never cleaned which means the diseases keep on building up.

Charles Gerba, a microbiologist at the University of Arizona, said during his ongoing experiments he has found that bugs get onto a phone because it is so close to our hands and mouths.

Since mobiles are electronic some people are reluctant about cleaning them. Phones are just not part of our cleaning routine whereas we should think about giving them a wipe with an antibacterial substance every now and then, Gerba told the paper.

A previous research has found that other things we assume are clean are in reality rather disgusting.

British scientists discovered that cash machines have similar levels of pseudomonads and bacillus, bacteriae which are known to cause sickness and diarrhoea, as they found in public toilets.

A previous study has found computer keyboards, remote controls are also five times dirtier than the average lavatory seat with poisoning bugs like e.coli, coliforms, staphylococcus aureus and enterobacteria which are hazardous to human health.



Seven Shiites gunned down in Pakistan

■ PTI
ISLAMABAD

Seven members of the minority Shia community were shot dead in two separate sectarian attacks by unidentified gunmen in Quetta city of southwest Pakistan on Saturday.

In the first shooting, gunmen ambushed a vehicle with five persons in Hazar Ganji area of Quetta and fired indiscriminately at the car. All five persons were killed instantly, said the police. All the dead were Shia Hazaras, witnesses said. Two more persons were gunned down in a second attack, in the same area a short while later, added the police. No arrests have been made yet.

Week-long film festival kicks off in Dhaka

■ ATAUR RAHMAN
DHAKA

A week-long film festival began on Saturday morning at National Museum auditorium in the city for 100 years of Indian film and Soumitra Chatterjee Film Retrospective.

The celebration will be held in between September 1 to 8 (excluding September 6, 2012). The Indira Gandhi Culture Centre, Dhaka in association with the Bangladesh Film Development Corporation has organised the week-long India-Bangladesh Joint Celebrations.

Information and Cultural Affairs minister Abul Kalam Azad inaugurated the festival in the morning while US Am-



Farooq Sheikh addressing the conference while Muzaffar Ali (second from left) with other officials look on

bassador Dan W Mozena was present there as the special guest. In this festival, 15 films from India and 8 films from Bangladesh will be screened in the DVD format.

Cultural secretary Suraiya Begum, information secre-

tary Hedayetullah Al Mamun, director of Directorate of Film Festivals of India Rajeev Kumar Jain, actor Farooq Sheikh also were present the inaugural session along with the high commissioner of India to Bangladesh Pangkaj Saran.

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I, Ranjit Thapa, S/o Rambahadur Bosel, R/o 25 Gurupally, Santiniketan, Birbhum, W.B shall henceforth be known as Ranjit Bosel vide affidavit sworn before Notary Public Kolkata on 2.7.12.

BPN1617

I, Jaba Khan, D/o Abdul Hameed Khan, R/o 19, Alipore Rd. Kol-27 shall henceforth be known as Zeba Khan vide affidavit sworn before Notary Public Kol. on 30.8.12.

BPN1618

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BENGALI

Tara Muzik
6.30: Puber Alo
7.00: Aaj Sakaler Amontrone
9.00: Chirantani
11.30: Aaj Sakaler Amontrone (Repeat)
14.30: Bhalo Achi, Bhalo Theko
17.30: Chirantani
19.30: Take a Break Live
21.00: Amar Shahar
21.30: Playback
22.30: Tara Club

STAR JALPA
7.00: Maa... Tomay Chara Ghum Ashe Na
8.00: Bhasha
9.00: Bandhabi
9.30: Ishti Kutum
10.00: Care of Keya
11.00: Aanchal
12.00: Tapur Tupur
16.00: Phade Poriya Bogi Kade
19.30: Jani Dekha Hobe
22.00: Maa... Tomay Chara Ghum Ashe Na
23.00: Tapur Tupur
23.30: Ishti Kutum

৪৮ বাঁশী
13.00: Movie
16.30: Prothoma
17.30: Sadhok Bamakhyapa
18.30: Rojgere Ginni
19.00: Apur Katha
19.30: Arakshaniya
20.00: Sholoyana
20.45: Binni Dhaner Khoi
21.30: Palabadal
22.30: ETV News
23.00: Aaj Sara Din

SONY S
7.30: Mobile Baba
9.30: Songs Program
12.00: Antorer Bhalobasa
14.30: Mrityur Kinaray
16.30: Goonda
19.00: Mamoni Nei
21.00: Khooni Pradip

২৪ ঘণ্টা
10.30: Chander Buri O
Magic Man
11.00: Didi No. 1
Season 4
12.00: Labonyo
12.30: Ranna Ghar
13.00: Anupama
14.00: Amar Prem
17.00: Banglar Sera Paribar
18.30: Ranna Ghar
19.00: Sanyashi Raja
22.00: Agni Pariksha

আরাম
15.30: Film @ Songs
16.00: Lifestyle Metro
17.00: Gopal Bhar
17.30: Bhalo Theko/
Health Programme
18.30: Radhuni/ Cookery Show
19.00: Aaj Bangla
20.00: Face Book Bangla
21.00: Garmagaram

ENGLISH

STAR WORLD
13.00: Masterchef Australia
16.00: Glee (Season 3)
17.00: Once Upon A Time (Season 1) : Snow Falls
18.00: Dexter (Season 6) : Get Gellar
23.00: Two and a Half Men (Season 4) : Smooth As A Ken Doll

PRIME BIG@CBS
7.00: Galileo Extreme
7.30: Frasier
8.00: Survivor 24
9.00: America's Got Talent
10.00: CSI
11.00: Dexter - S1
12.00: America's Got Talent
14.00: Dexter - S1
16.00: Survivor 24
19.00: Dexter - S1
20.00: CSI
21.00: America's Got Talent
22.00: Dexter - S1
23.00: Galileo Extreme

MGM
4.45: Annie Hall
6.15: The Curse of Inferno
7.45: Body and Soul
9.30: A Family Thing
11.15: Follow that Dream
13.00: A Passage to India
15.45: Psych-Out
17.15: Brannigan
19.15: Home for The Holidays
21.00: Miles from Home
23.00: 3:15

FOXCRIME
5.30: CSI NY (Season 5)
6.30: Alfred Hitchcock Presents (Season 2)
7.30: Num3r5 (Season 2)
8.30: Law & Order (Season 12)
10.30: CSI NY (Season 5)
14.30: Law & Order (Season 12)
18.30: Law & Order: Criminal Intent (Season 1)
19.30: Psych (Season 6)
20.30: Psych (Season 6)
21.30: Alfred Hitchcock Presents (Season 2)
22.30: Law & Order (Season 12)

AXN
4.10: Caught on Camera
6.00: E Buzz
9.00: Estate of Panic
10.00: Minute to Win It (Season 2)
11.00: Caught on Camera
12.00: Breaking The Magician's Code: Magic's Biggest Secrets Finally Revealed
13.00: Three Kings
15.00: Justified (Season 2)
16.00: Estate of Panic
19.00: Ripley's Believe It or Not! (Season 1)
22.00: Frequency

HINDI

StarPlus
5.30: Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon?
6.00: Teleshopping
7.00: Diya aur Baati

Hum
8.00: Superstar Preview
8.30: Pyaar Ka Dard Meetha Meetha Pyara Pyara
11.00: Lakhon Mein Ek
13.00: Housefull 2
16.30: Star Parivaar Awards 2012
21.00: Teri Meri Love Stories
22.00: Jaan

ZEE TV
6.00: Shakti Yug
6.30: Joel Osteen
7.00: Hill Song
7.25: Ek Nazar
7.55: Jhalak
11.00: Ramayan
12.00: Nayak
19.00: Punar Vivaah: Zindagi Milegi Dobara
20.00: Ramayan
21.00: Dance Ke Superkids
22.30: Fear Files
23.30: Sapne Suhane Ladakpan Ke

SONY BAHU
5.00: Bhakti Slot
6.30: Bhakti Slot
8.00: Ladies Vs Ricky Bahl
11.15: Crime Patrol: Dastak (Season 4)
13.00: Indian Idol (Season 6) : Grand Finale
19.30: Adaalat
20.30: Kahani Comedy Circus Ki
22.00: C.I.D
23.00: Crime Patrol: Dastak (Season 4)

colors
8.00: Chal... Sheh Aur Maat
8.30: All is Well with Dr. Ahluwalia
9.30: Jhalak Dikhla Jaa (Season 5)
13.00: Jeet Hamari
20.30: Rascals
22.30: Zindagi Ki Haqeeqat Se Aamna Saamna (Season 2)
23.00: Jhalak Dikhla Jaa

Life OK
8.00: Jaan Se Pyara
12.00: 4 Times Lucky
16.00: Naqaab
19.30: Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye!
22.30: Laughter Station

Life OK
5.00: Laugh India Laugh
8.00: Chutti Special
11.30: Devon Ke Dev... Mahadev : Kahani Mahadev Ki - Special 35
12.30: Savdhan India @11
17.00: Life OK Blockbusters @5
21.00: Hum Ne Li Hai...Shapath

▼ Watch *Ladies vs Ricky Bahl* at 21.00 on Set Max



▲ Watch *The Princess Diaries* at 9.30 on Star Movies

NEWS

CHANNEL 7
7.00: Good Morning Bangla
9.00: Doshor

Khabor
9.30: Enter 10
10.00: Doshor Khabor
12.00: Doshor Bangla
15.30: Enter 10
18.30: Doshor Khabor
19.00: Panel Discussion
21.00: 9Tar Reporter

Tara News
11.00: Test Paper
12.00: Newz
16.30: Boi Pora Boi

Para
18.00: News
19.00: Newz (Zilla)
19.30: Tech Talk
22.00: Antar Mahal

ইন্ডিয়া
6.00: Khabar India
8.00: News NDTV

India
8.30: Khel India
9.30: Sports special
10.30: Entertainment Special
11.00: India is hafte
12.00: News NDTV India
13.30: Zaika India Ka
15.30: Cinema India
16.00: Muqabla
17.00: News NDTV India
17.30: Sports special
20.00: Hum Log
21.30: Raftaar

BBC WORLD NEWS
8.00: Mixed Britannia
9.00: Click
9.30: BBC World

News
10.00: Newsnight
11.00: India Business Report
12.00: Fast Track
12.40: UK Reporters
13.00: One Square Mile
13.40: Reporters
14.00: Dateline London
14.40: UK Reporters
15.00: The Ideas Exchange
16.00: Working Lives
18.00: One Day In

IBN7
9.00: Breakfast News
10.00: Sunday News
10.30: Young Indian Leaders : Winners Special
11.00: Zindagi Live
12.00: Sunday News
12.30: Teekhi Baat: Prabhu Ke Saath
13.00: Sunday Lunch
13.30: Serial Jaisa Koi Nahin
17.00: Sunday 2 Ghante
17.30: Citizen Journalist
18.30: Clean Bowled
19.30: Teekhi Baat: Prabhu Ke Saath
20.00: Zindagi Live

SPORT

ESPN
5.00: Sportscenter

Week In Review
5.30: Saturday Night
5.37: Sec Football : Michigan vs. Alabama
9.00: British Masters H/l's
10.00: Grand American Series
11.00: Full Time Reaction
11.32: MLB Regular Season
2012 : Texas Rangers vs. Cleveland Indians
14.41: Sportscenter Weekend
14.43: South Africa Tour of England 2012 : 4th ODI
20.00: Super Sunday
20.25: Barclays Premier League 2012/13 : Southampton vs. Manchester United
22.30: Planet Speed

NEO SPORTS
4.00: Web.com Tour : Mylan Classic
6.00: PGA Classics
7.00: PGA Tour 2012 : DEUTSCHE Bank Championship
11.00: Flyingfisher Winning Post
11.30: Mobil 1 the Grid
12.00: Bundesliga : FC Nuremberg vs. Borussia Dortmund
18.00: Chilli Factor
19.00: Bundesliga : VfL Wolfsburg vs. Hannover
21.00: Bundesliga : Bayern Munich vs. VfB Stuttgart

STAR CRICKET
7.00: 2007 ICC T20: It's Raining

Sixes
7.30: New Zealand Tour of India 2012 H/l's : 2nd Test Day 2
8.30: Cricket Extra : Pre Show
9.30: New Zealand Tour of India 2012 : 2nd Test Day 3
17.00: South Africa Tour of England 2012 : 4th ODI
22.30: India Tour of Australia 2011/12 H/l's : T20: Match 2

TEN/SPORTS
9.30: WWE: Superstars
10.30: US Open 2012 H/l's : Men's & Women's 3rd Round
11.30: Australia Tour of Pakistan 2012 (UAE) H/l's : 2nd ODI
13.30: FIVB Beach Volleyball Swatch 2012 H/l's : Quebec City
14.00: UEFA Super Cup 2012 : Chelsea vs. Atletico Madrid
17.00: WWE: NXT
18.30: US Open 2012 H/l's : Men's & Women's 3rd Round

KIDS SPECIAL

▼ Watch *Mr Bloom's Nursery : Accidents* at 13.35 on Cheebies



CN CARTOON NETWORK
5.00: Codename: Kids Next Door
8.00: Tom & Jerry Show
9.00: Tom & Jerry: The Fast & The Furry
12.00: Tom and Jerry: A Nutcracker Tale
13.00: Oggy and the Cockroaches
14.00: Tom and Jerry: Shiver Me Whiskers
21.00: Beyblade Metal Masters
22.00: Ben 10: Alien Force

২৪ ঘণ্টা
7.00: Lucky Man
8.00: Shinchan
9.00: Chillar Party
11.00: Shinchan Movie: Adventure in Henderland
13.00: Shinchan
16.30: Doraemon
17.30: Shinchan
19.00: Shinchan Movie: Adventure in Henderland

Cheebies
7.30: In the Night Garden (Season 1)
8.00: Waybuloo

8.20: Baby Jake : Loves Surprising You
8.35: Numtums
8.45: I Can Cook (Season 1)
9.00: Mister Maker (Season 3)
9.20: Nina and the Neurons: Brilliant Bodies (Season 6) : Fingertips Feel
9.35: Mr Bloom's Nursery : Bees
9.55: Kerwhizz (Season 1)
10.20: Big and Small (Season 3) : Balloonatics
10.30: ZingZillas (Season 2) : Sunshine
10.45: ZingZillas ZingBop (Season 1)
10.50: The Large Family : Girl's Stuff
11.05: Teletubbies (Season 11) : Catching leaves
11.30: In the Night Garden (Season 1)
12.20: Baby Jake : Loves Sticky Fun
13.20: Nina and the Neurons: In the Lab (Season 5)
13.35: Mr Bloom's Nursery : Accidents
14.50: The Large Family : Good as Gold

Movies In Town

English

●The Expandables 2 : Fame South City 11:40am, 5:50pm
Fame Hiland Park 9:15am, 2:30pm, 4:45pm, 10:15pm
Inox Forum 5:00 pm 1:15 pm
Inox Swabhumii 10:00 am
Inox Rajarhat 9:40 am
●Finding Nemo: Fame South City 12:55 pm
Inox Forum 11:00 am
●The Dark Knight Rises: Fame South City 11:20am(G)
Fame Hiland Park 10:05 am
Inox Salt Lake 10:00 am
●The Campaign: Fame South City 9:15am, 4:00pm, 10:50pm
Inox Forum 1:05 pm 9:15 pm
●Ice Age 4 3D: Fame South City 5.50 pm

Hindi

●Joker : Fame South City 9:00am, 10:05am, 11:10am, 1:25pm, 2:30pm(G), 3:40pm, 6:00pm, 7:05pm(G), 8:15pm, 9:30pm(G), 10:35pm
Fame Hiland Park 9:15am, 10:15am, 11:30am, 1:45pm, 4:00pm, 6:15pm, 8:30pm, 9:45pm, 10:45pm
Inox Forum 9:00 am 11:10 am 1:20 pm 3:30 pm 5:40 pm 6:40 pm 7:50 pm 8:50 pm 10:00 pm 11:00 pm
Inox Salt Lake 9:00 am 10:10 am 11:20 am 1:30 pm 3:40 pm 5:50 pm 7:00 pm 8:10 pm 9:20 pm 10:30 pm
Inox Swabhumii 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:20 pm 2:30 pm 3:40 pm 4:40 pm 5:50 pm 6:50 pm 8:00 pm 9:00 pm 10:10 pm
Inox Rajarhat 9:30 am 11:40 am 1:50 pm 4:00 pm 5:10 pm 6:10 pm 7:20 pm 8:20 pm 9:30 pm 10:30 pm
●Ek Tha Tiger : Fame South City 9:50am, 12:30pm, 3:10pm, 8:05pm, 10:45pm
Fame South City 9:00am, 11:40am, 4:40pm, 7:20pm, 10:20pm
Inox Forum 9:10 am 12:30 pm 4:45 pm 10:15 pm
Inox Salt Lake 10:15 am 1:00 pm 4:15 pm 7:10 pm 10:40 pm
Inox Swabhumii 10:00 am 2:50 pm 5:30 pm 8:10 pm
Inox Rajarhat 9:40 am 2:30 pm 7:40 pm 10:20 pm
●Shirin Farhad Ki Toh Nikal Padi: Fame South City 9:00am(G), 12:15pm, 4:45pm(G), 10:45pm
Fame Hiland Park 2:20pm, 10:20pm
Inox Forum 11:50 am 7:05 pm
Inox Salt Lake 12:20 pm 9:50 pm
Inox Swabhumii 12.40 pm
Inox Rajarhat 12.20 pm

Bengali

●Chitrangada : Fame South City 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm
Fame Hiland Park 2:05pm, 4:50pm, 7:35pm
Inox Forum 2:00 pm 7:30 pm
Inox Salt Lake 2:30 pm 5:15 pm 8:00 pm
Inox Swabhumii 2:00 pm 7:50 pm
Inox Rajarhat 2:00 pm 5:50 pm 8:35 pm
●MuktoDhara : Fame South City 4.40 pm
Fame Hiland Park 3.35 pm
Inox Salt Lake 4.00 pm
Inox Swabhumii 4.40 pm
Inox Rajarhat 2.35 pm (G) For the Gold class auditorium at Fame, South City Mall

Helpline

Hospital/Nursing Home

Amri(Dhakuria): 24612526/2626
Amri (Saltlake): 23357710
Amri Clinic

(Southern Avenue): 24644594/95/4948
Anandalok: 23592931
Apollo Glenagles:- 23202122/23203040,
Emergency: 1066
Apollo Clinic: 24815741/42, 222837407/08/09
Assembly Of God Church: 22294676,22294853, 22294892
Aurobindo Seva Kendra: 24733601
BC Roy Hospital For Children: 23528101/9740
Belle Vue: 22472321/6925/7437
Bhagirathi Neotia Women & Child Care: 22815000
BM Birla Heart Research Center: 24567777/7890/70019,24567890
245678004
Calcutta Medical College And Hospital: 224149012
Fortis Hospitals: 66284023
Emergency: 105711
Howrah General Hospital: 22604738-39/5695/2813
ILS Hospitals Salt Lake: 40206500/ 9830400441
Kothari Medical Center: 24567049-52
Ruby General Hospital: 224260914
Woodlands Hospital: 24567057
Columbia Asia: 033-39898969

Oxygen
BOC: 9831277777
Sarin Brothers-Bd

Market, Salt Lake: 23373091

Blood

Central Blood Bank: 23510619
Lifecare Medical Services: 23444940
Haemophilia Society: 2416 3739
Bhoruka Blood Bank: 22339619/8092

Ambulance

Amri: 65500000/ 23202147 /23202122
Apollo Glenagles

Hospital: 1066
Arambagh General Hospital: 953211255095
Asia Rescue Medical Services: 9831008900/9830365276/393
Aswini Nagar Ch. & Welfare Society: 24112323/28673030
Bandhab Sangha: 26624682
Barasat Citizen Forum: 25525595
Basudebpur Five Star Club: 26797315
Bharat Relief Society: 22342670/22359952
BM Birla Heart Research Centre: 24567777
Calcutta Medical Research Institute Critical Care Ambulance: 9836490247
Care And Cure Nursing Home: 95343-2568374
Curewell Mobile Clinic: 22942202/0760
Dakshin Behala Auto Sangha Dhanwantary Ambulance Services (Shambhunath Pandit Street): 24547941/9830584845
(Diamond Harbour Road): 24495168/9331254856
Mahabodhi Society Ambulance

Service: 22415214
St John Ambulance-Tollygunge Centre: 24761935
KMC Control Room: 2286/1212/4

Pathology Labs

MP Birla Eye Clinic: 22817780
Medinova: 24661780 /0708/3651
Nightingale: 22827255 /7669/7263
Roy&Tribedi: 22268789/6643
Tropical Laboratory: 26675580
Wockhardt Medical Center: 24754320

Latenight Chemists

Dhanwantary: 24495594
Chemist Corner (Behala): 24780334
Jibandeep(Hazra): 24550926
Nandan Medical Hall(Salt-Lake): 23581732/9617
Nursing Bureau Swasti: 247448881
Sanjivani: 23607881/8785
Saha Nursing Center: 24838830
Mobile Cardiac Unit Dreamland Nursing Home: 25553216
Divine Nursing Home: 23502761
Rameshwara Nursing Home: 23374247
Marwari Relief Society – Indian Association
Eye Bank

International Eye Bank: 23585758
Howrah Lions Eye Bank: 26602015
Susrut Eye Hospital: 23580201
Anandalok Netralaya: 23592931

Disha(Prova) Eye Bank: 25933737
Medical College: 22413853

Electricity

CESC Fault Reporting Center: Central/South 1912, North 23500928,
North Suburban: 25537581, 22817780
Medinova: 24661780 /0708/3651
Howrah: 26669161/62, Serampore: 26524585,
West Suburban: 23591896
WBSEB Emergency: 23591896

Railways

Howrah Station (Old Complex): 1310/1331/1332, 26387412 /35422581,
(New Complex): 26382217
Sealdah: 25303535/3537
Reservation Enquiry: 138
Recorded Information: 1331/1332

Passport Office

2554893, 2554762, 2254084

Airlines

International Air India: 2222356/6012/ 9831
Aeroflot: 22823765/9861
Air France: 22882161/1169
Gulf Air: 22477783
Kuwait Airways: 22474495
Royal Brunei: 22292092 /4464/7112/ 7105/2092
Biman Bangladesh: 22292843/2844, 22497309, 25118787

British Airways: 9831377470
Druk Air: 22402419, 22805365, 22470050
KLM: 22403151/1636, 25118329/8330
Lufthansa: 22299365/69
Qatar Airways: 22298363/8370, 22208371
Qantas: 224270718, 22400930, 22807777
Royal Jordanian: 24745091/94
Royal Nepal: 22888534/8549
Singapore Airlines: 22809898
Thai Airways: 22801630/35
Domestic
Air India Helpline Number: 1407 (Toll Free Helpline), From Landlines: 16001801407, Enquiry (Manual) Airport: 25119637
Enquiry (Manual) Airlines House: 22114433
Tele Check In Airport: 25119633/25118564
Jet Airways: 22922277 /2237/2214/2813
Air Sahara: 22822786/8969/9075
Airport Enquiry: International: 25118787, Domestic: 25118787
Hearse Services
Hindu Saktar Samiti 93, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Burrabazar, Kolkata - 700007 — 22413849
Brahmo Social Service Organisation
D 42, Lake Garden Station, Charuchandra Place East, Tollygunge, Kolkata - 700033 — 24229375
Shri Kashi Vishwanath Seva Samity
42, AC Market, Burtolla Street, Burrabazar, Kolkata - 700007 — 22694113

Fire

Fire Emergency No.101
Control room: 22440101

Police

Lalbazar Control Room: 22143230/3024
PBX: 22505000
Jorabagan: 22184094, 22700428
Butolla: 25557599, 25335579
Burrabazaar: 22687554, 22683802
Posta: 22595606, 5536
Jorashanko: 22697279
Taxi refusal: 22155000 (extn. 5096)

Colleges

Jadavpur University: 24735508
Shyamaprasad College: 24555242
South City College: 24406689
Ballygunge Science College: 24753680
Lady Brabourne College: 22448120
Jogmaya Devi College: 22555242

Car Problem

Automobile Association Of Eastern India: 24755131/3,
Breakdown Services: 24755131, 24768810

Women's Hostels

City Working Women's Hostel : 65/C Ramakant Bose Street
Shabari Ladies Hostel: 40, Mg Road

Animals

Compassionate Crusaders: 24647030, 22104365
Wildlife Control Room: 30958798

Knowledge

Discovery
8.00: My Shocking Story : Living Without Skin
9.00: Man Woman Wild (Season 2) : Newts and Roots
11.00: Factory Made : Semiconductors, Banjos, Stainless Steel Pans and Oil Paints are Made
11.30: Massive Engines : Ships
12.00: Gold Rush (Season 2) : In The Black
13.00: I Shouldn't Be Alive (Season 4) : Shipwrecked Family
16.30: Food Detectives : Heartburn Remedies

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
7.00: I Didn't Know That (Season 3)
8.00: Lions Behaving Badly
9.00: Creative Vision
1

SHORT TAKES



Stricter radiation emission norms for mobile towers came into effect from Saturday, with a view to reducing emission to one-tenth of the present levels. Failure to abide will attract a penalty of ₹5 lakh per tower

Dhar Diwan new HCL CMD
Kolkata: Kailash Dhar Diwan has taken over as the chairman and managing director of Hindustan Copper (HCL) with effect from Saturday. Diwan succeeds Shakeel Ahmed. —BP

Union Bank cuts vehicle loan rates
Mumbai: Union Bank has slashed interest rates on vehicle loans to 10.95 per cent (0-7 years) from two slabs 12.50 per cent (0-3 years) and 13.50 per cent (3-5 years). —BP

Apollo Munich launches plan
Kolkata: Apollo Munich Health Insurance has introduced a health insurance product - Optima Senior, for senior citizens above 61 years of age. —BP

US wins WTO case over China
Washington: The US has won a case at World Trade Organisation (WTO) over Chinese effort to discrimination against its financial services companies. —PTI

Spice introduces mobile phones
Kolkata: S Mobile Devices has launched a range of mobile phones- “BOSS” with battery backup, speaker and expandable memory. —BP

KNPP likely to load fuel soon
Chennai: Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project would commence loading real fuel for unit-1 in the Indo-Russian venture by the end of next week. —BP

CX Partners to invest in SIS
Kolkata: CX Partners, a leading private equity firm plans to invest ₹500 crore in Security and Intelligent Services (India). —BP

Spain okays Brussel's 'bad bank' rescue

Spain's government has approved a new financial sector overhaul required by Brussels as a part of a bank-rescue programme, creating an asset-management agency - or 'bad bank' - to segregate troubled real-estate assets and paving the way for the orderly resolution of non-viable entities. The overhaul, the third enacted by Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's conservative administration since he took office in December, also requires all banks to raise their

Panel moots GAAR delay by 3 years

■ PTI
NEW DELHI

The expert committee on general anti avoidance rules (GAAR) on Saturday recommended postponement of the controversial tax provision by three years and abolition of capital gains tax on transfer of securities. As a step towards reassuring global investors, the committee in its draft report suggested that GAAR provisions should not be invoked to examine the genuineness of the residency of entities in Mauritius. Mauritius is the most preferred route for foreign investments because of the liberal taxation regime in the island country. India has a double taxation avoidance treaty with Mauritius. The committee, headed by Parthasarathi Shome, has recommended that GARR be

Committee scope expanded

The government has expanded the scope of the expert committee on GAAR to include all non-resident tax payers, even as the committee submitted its draft report to the ministry. The announcement to increase the scope of GAAR committee, which is headed by tax expert Parthasarathi Shome, was made after the panel in its report suggested changes in the Income Tax Act and rules. “The draft report has recommended certain amendments in the Income-tax Act, 1961; guidelines to be prescribed under the Income-tax Rules, 1962; circular to clarify GAAR provisions along with illustrations; and other measures to improve tax administration specifically oriented towards GAAR matters”, a finance ministry release said on Saturday. applicable only if the monetary threshold of tax benefit is Rs three crore and more. The draft report, which was submitted to the finance ministry, has also sought comments from the stakeholders by September 15. The Shome committee was set up by Prime Minister

Manmohan Singh to address the concerns of foreign investors. Meanwhile, the finance ministry has also expanded the scope of the terms of reference of the committee to include all non-resident tax payers instead of only FII's. The draft report of the

Shome committee said: “...GAAR should be deferred for three years. But the year, 2016-17, should be announced now. In effect, therefore, GAAR would apply from assessment year 2017-18. Pre-announcement is a common practice internationally, in today's global environment of freely flowing capital”. In view of wide-spread concerns by foreign investors, the government had earlier postponed implementation of GAAR, which was introduced by the then finance minister Pranab Mukherjee in his Budget for 2012-13 to check tax evasion. The committee, which was set up by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in July to address concerns of foreign and domestic investors on GAAR, suggested the government should issue a circular to clarify GAAR provisions along with illustrations.

270 government websites hacked till July

Over 270 government websites were hacked till July this year, communication and IT minister, Sachin Pilot said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha this week —PTI



China PMI dips below 50 pc in August

China's manufacturing activity slid further in August with the purchasing managers index (PMI) falling below the 50 per cent mark, reflecting decline in demand —PTI

Gold skyrockets to record ₹31,725

■ PTI
NEW DELHI

Surpassing all previous records, gold skyrocketed to an high of ₹31,725 per ten grams in the national capital on Saturday on frantic buying by stockists, sparked by a steep rise in global prices. Delhi led the rally, rising the most by ₹550 to ₹31,725 per ten gram followed by Kolkata with ₹540 to ₹31,715. The metal in Mumbai spurted by ₹520 to ₹31,400 and in Chennai by ₹540 to ₹31,575. With the general firming trend, silver in Delhi recorded a biggest gain of ₹2,250 to ₹59,500 per kg and ₹2,020 in Chennai to ₹60,975. It shot by ₹2,040 to ₹60,140 in Mumbai and ₹2,000 to ₹59,200 in Kolkata. Trading sentiment was bolstered as the precious metals posted the highest monthly gains since January in overseas markets after Federal Reserves Chairman Ben S. Bernanke indicated more measures to aid the U.S. economy, lifting demand for the metal as an inflation hedge. Gold in global markets, which normally set price trend on the domestic front, jumped by 36.30 dollar to 1,691.60 dollar an ounce and



silver by 4.27 per cent to 31.74 dollar an ounce in New York last evening soon after Bernanke speech. On the domestic front, gold of 99.9 and 99.5 per cent purity spurted by ₹550 each to ₹31,725 and ₹31,525 per ten grams respectively, a level never seen before. Sovereign shot up by ₹200 to ₹24,950 per piece of eight gram. In a similar fashion, silver recorded a hefty rise of ₹2250 to ₹59,500 per kg on hectic buying by industrial units and coin makers. Silver weekly-based delivery surged by ₹2275 to ₹59,015 per kg. Silver coins zoomed by ₹5,000 to ₹75,000 for buying and ₹76,000 for selling of 100 pieces.

JSW swap ratio fixed at 1:72

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

JSW Steel, on Saturday, announced the merger of JSW Ispat with itself to create the second largest domestic steel producer with a 14.3 million tonnes per annum production capacity. The boards have approved the merger at 1:72 share swap ratio (shareholders of JSW Ispat will get one JSW Steel share for every 72 shares they hold). Announcing the merger between the two companies, Sajjan Jindal, chairman and managing director said, “This gives us opportunity to do brownfield expansion in Vijaynagar and Dolvi Maharashtra plant. Vijaynagar will concentrate on southern part of India.” In December, 2010, the Sajjan Jindal-led firm had acquired 41 per cent stake in debt-ridden Ispat Industries for about ₹2,157 crore from

its then promoters Pramod and Vinod Mittal and subsequently renamed it as JSW Ispat Steel. Post-merger the promoters of JSW Steel will hold 35.12 per cent in the merged entity, JFE Steel with 14.92 per cent stake is the second largest shareholder. “JFE Steel will probably look into infusion of equity post-merger to retain its stake at 15 per cent in JSW Steel,” Jindal said. The finance cost for JSW Ispat will drop down to 7.5 per cent from 11 per cent post merger. In quantitative terms, the merger will bring down interest cost of JSW Ispat by Rs 250 crore, said Seshagiri Rao, joint MD and group CFO. JSW Steel has earmarked Rs 12,000 crore capital expenditure over the next two years in the merged entity. Jindal said the net debt level of the merged entity will be Rs 25,200 crore with a debt to equity ratio of 1:1.15.

US factory orders up by 2.8pc in July

■ IANS
MADRID

New orders for US manufactured goods rose 2.8 per cent in July, indicating that the US manufacturing sector was gaining momentum, the US department of commerce reported. In July, US factory orders increased to a seasonally adjusted \$478.6 billion, following a revised 0.5-per cent decrease in June, reported Xinhua. New orders for durable goods, or big-ticket items expected to last at least three years such as computers, cars and machinery, rose 4.1 per cent to \$230.5 billion in July. New orders for nondurable goods, including food, paper products, petroleum and coal products, increased 1.5 per cent to \$248.1 billion for the month.

Learned Look



Union minister for communications, IT & HRD, Kapil Sibal, and minister of state for communications & IT, Sachin Pilot, during the first convocation ceremony of the Central University of Rajasthan at Kishangarh, about 80 km from Jaipur, on Saturday

Rising airfares may hit domestic travel

■ SOUMONTY KANUNGO
KOLKATA

Domestic travel, during October-December, is likely to witness a slowdown by almost 20 per cent, thanks to rising air fares. The fares have gone up by 20-25 per cent over the last year, resulting in a lower growth in domestic travel movements. According to Ajay Prakash, immediate past president, Travel Agents' Federation of India (Tafi), a possible decline is evident in the travel sector due to a weakening rupee and high airline ticket prices. “Outbound travel has been affected because of a depreciating rupee against the dollar, while on the domestic front, a slowdown is visible due to increasing fares. Besides, there is liquidity pressure in the economy as well,” Prakash said. He said domestic travel is currently 15-20 per cent weaker compared to last year but may pick up in the coming months. According to recent data published the



director general of civil aviation (DGCA), the high fares have been a major reason for recording an 11 per cent fall in domestic air travel in July, when 45.4 lakh people flew against 50.4 lakh in the same month last year. “It is a difficult year as we are witnessing much lesser enquiries. Translation of enquiries into actual travellers is also less. Air fares have gone up tremendously and hotel rates are also high. This is hav-

ing a cumulative effect on domestic travel,” said Jayita Pal, manager, domestic and MICE, Club7 Holidays. According to Pal, there is a 25-30 per cent decline in enquiries this year for the peak festive season. “Room rates will again go up by 5-7 per cent from October, which means, inclusive of service tax and other charges, hotel tariffs will be effectively up 15-20 per cent in actual terms. Some four-star hotels in specific locations, like Goa, have increased tariffs by a steep 30-40 per cent,” she said. Despite a visible slowdown, places like Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh are expected to draw better traffic this year compared to Kerala, Goa, Mumbai and Delhi. The rise in air fares and hotel tariffs are also affecting the margins of travel companies, who are forced to operate at 8-10 per cent margins currently, according to a travel source.

Shipping ministry drafting land policy for major ports

■ PTI
CHENNAI

The shipping ministry is working on formulating a new land policy for major ports that is aimed at ensuring level playing field for all stakeholders. “My ministry is also relentlessly working on formulation of new land policy as well as captive land use policy for major ports,” shipping minister G K Vasan said at the curtain raiser event of international conference on ‘India Maritime 2012’ in Chennai. The policy would be more transparent and provide “level playing field” to the stakeholders, he said. Soon it will be placed before the Cabinet for its approval. Efforts are also on for setting up two ports in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, he added. “During this financial year, measures would be initiated to get approval of the union Cabinet for establishing these

two ports,” he said. Stating that his ministry issued new guidelines to streamline processing of security clearances in port development projects, he said: “The ministry is also taking steps to ensure expeditious grant of environment clearance, land acquisition and litigation.” Vasan said in order to meet the traffic of more than 1,700 million tonne during the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17), major and non-major ports present in the country have conceptualised various capacity augmentation schemes at an estimated investment of Rs 1.80 lakh crore. The estimated capacity by the end of the 12th Five Year Plan would be nearly 2,700 million tonne, he said. “PPP (public private participation model) will continue to be the preferred mode of development of port infrastructure during the 12th Plan period too. Private sector participation will play a major role in realising the planned capacity.

M&M, Toyota Kirloskar, Ford report increase in August numbers, while GM, Honda decline

Maruti sales skid, Hyundai, Tata charge ahead

■ PTI
NEW DELHI

Domestic car sales of Maruti Suzuki India declined by 35 per cent in August, hit by a month-long lockout at its Manesar plant, but the other two main players, Hyundai and Tata Motors posted positive growth during the month amid tough market conditions. Other manufacturers, Mahindra & Mahindra, Toyota Kirloskar Motor and Ford India also reported increase in their sales in August compared to the same month last year, while General Motors India and Honda SIEL Cars India saw their sales decline. Maruti Suzuki India's (MSI) domestic sales in August this year stood at 50,129 units, compared to 77,086 units in the same month last year, down 35 per cent.

The company was hit hard by month-long lockout at its Manesar plant. The lockout was lifted on August 21. The overall sales, including exports, declined by 40.8 per cent at 54,154 units as against 91,442 units in August last year. Hampered by the production constraints, sales of its popular compact sedan Dzire was down by 60.7 per cent to 3,085 units during the month. Sales of small cars, including the M800, Alto, A-Star and Wagon R, also declined by 41.2 per cent to 22,062 units. During the month, sales of mid-sized sedan SX4 fell by 76.4 per cent to just 447 units, MSI said, adding there was no sale of the luxury sedan Kizashi during the period. On the other hand, Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) reported 5.9 per cent growth in its domestic sales during the month under review at 28,257 units compared to 26,677



units in the year-ago period. “The overall market demand is suppressed due to general inflationary trend, high fuel prices and interest rates. Unless any major triggers get activated, market sentiment is not expected to improve very much,” HMIL vice-president (national sales) Rakesh Sri-

vastava said. Tata Motors said its sales of passenger vehicles for August, 2012 were at 22,311 units, higher by 33 per cent over 16,829 units in August last year. Mahindra & Mahindra reported a healthy 19.77 per cent jump in domestic sales at 42,826 units during the month against 35,756 units in August, 2011. “The overall sentiment for the auto industry is low which could benefit from a relief in interest rates to boost sales. At Mahindra, we continue to remain cautious and watchful of the situation,” Mahindra & Mahindra chief executive (automotive division) Pravin Shah said. Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) was another company which saw sales grow in August this year, posting a 19.83 per cent increase in sales at 13,995 units during August 2012.

Djokovic blitzes into 3rd round, Roddick victorious



Novak Djokovic returns a shot to Rogerio Dutra Silva (not in picture) in New York on Friday.

■ REUTERS
NEW YORK

Defending champions Novak Djokovic and Samantha Stosur had little trouble advancing, as Djokovic blitzed Brazilian Rogerio Dutra Silva 6-2, 6-1, 6-2 in sun-drenched Ashe Stadium, while Stosur cruised by American Vavara Lepchenko 7-6, 6-2 on the same court. Djokovic dropped just two games in his opening-round win over Italy's Paolo Lorenzi and Silva managed only three more as the second-seeded Serb was in a different class.

"I didn't know much about my opponent," said Djokovic. "Never saw him play. So that could have been difficult at the start in order to figure out what his game plan is. But I played well from the start to the end."

Stosur was broken in the opening game of her match, setting the tone for a gruelling first set, which lasted 59 minutes. But the Australian secured the tiebreaker 7-5 and blew

through the second set over a frustrated Lepchenko in 29 minutes.

Meanwhile, Andy Roddick's transition from the tennis court to the rocking chair was delayed when the former world No. 1 reached the third round of the US Open on Friday, joining a parade of former champions advancing at the year's final Grand Slam. Roddick, who announced a day earlier he would retire at the end of the tournament, served his way past Australian talent Bernard Tomic 6-3, 6-4, 6-0 in his second-round match.

Joining Roddick in the winner's circle Friday were former titlists Juan Martin Del Potro and Lleyton Hewitt, who reached the third round and Maria Sharapova, who secured a fourth-round berth. Top-ranked Belarusian Victoria Azarenka, who won the Australian Open earlier this year, needed only 59 minutes to rout China's Zheng Jie 6-0 6-1.

One favourite who was handed a third-round exit was Zheng's compatriot Li Na, who became the latest

victim of British giant-killer Laura Robson. None of Friday's array of former champions excited the passions of the Flushing Meadows faithful more than Roddick, the never-say-die Texan who never saw a fight he did not like.

Robson's gritty 6-4, 6-7, 6-2 triumph over former French Open champion Li, who triumphed in Cincinnati earlier this month, also created a buzz at Flushing Meadows. Robson sent four-times Grand Slam champion Kim Clijsters into retirement in the second round but her upset of ninth-seeded Li surely made believers of those who thought she might be a one-hit wonder.

Sharapova continued her imperious march through the draw as she crushed American college player Malory Burdette 6-1, 6-1 to reach the fourth round. The Russian, who has lost just seven games in her first three matches, next plays compatriot Nadia Petrova, a 6-4, 7-5 winner over Czech Lucie Safarova.

Paes-Stepanek in third round

■ PTI
NEW YORK

Leander Paes and his Czech partner Radek Stepanek entered the third round of the US Open men's doubles event after getting the better of Brazilians Joao Souza and Thomaz Bellucci here.

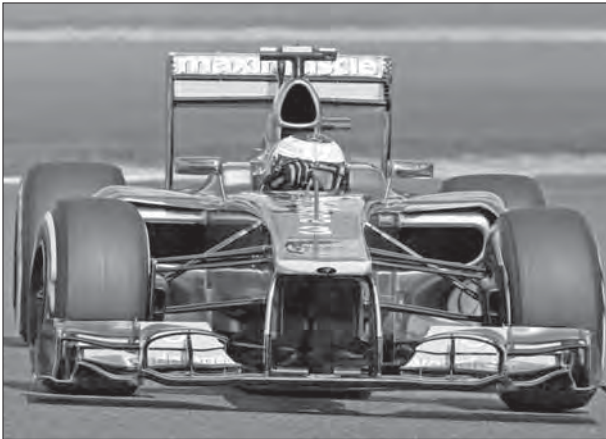
The fifth-seeded Indo-Czech combo took an hour and 45 minutes to register a 7-5, 7-6 (7-3) victory over their unseeded opponents.

Even as the Brazilian pair failed to convert the lone breakpoint they earned in the first set, Paes and Stepanek converted one of the two breakpoints they managed to seal the set. However, the Indo-Czech combo, which had won the Australian Open title earlier this year, wasted as many as five of the six breakpoints in the second which went into the tiebreaker.

In the tiebreaker though, they held their nerves to walk away with the set as well as the match.

They next play Jesse Levine of USA and Australia's Marinko Matosevic, who had upset Wimbledon champions Jonathan Marray and Frederik Nielsen 6-1, 6-7(6), 6-4.

Button puts McLaren on pole in Belgium



Jenson Button during the qualifying session at the Spa-Francorchamps circuit on Saturday.

■ REUTERS
SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS (BELGIUM)

Jenson Button celebrated his 50th Formula One race for McLaren by ending a three-year wait and taking pole position in qualifying at the Belgian Grand Prix on Saturday.

The pole was Button's first since the 2009 Monaco Grand Prix, the year in which he won a memorable championship with Brawn GP, and his first at McLaren and at the majestic Spa circuit.

Japan's Kamui Kobayashi put his Sauber on the front row, a career best for him and only the second time a Japanese driver has qualified so high on the grid, alongside the Briton with Venezuelan Pastor Maldonado in third place for Williams.

"It's been quite a long time since I got my last pole position," grinned Button, who whooped with delight after being told he was 'P1' over the team radio, on a sunlit afternoon after heavy rain washed out Friday practice.

"It's pretty emotional...it's so important to come back after such a long break with a good result on Saturday," added the Briton, referring to the August shutdown following the previous race in Hun-

gary in July. "I know the race is tomorrow (Sunday) but this is close to winning a Grand Prix for me, it's been so long," said Button, who had complained in final practice that his car lacked balance.

Di Resta qualifies 10th

Sahara Force India's Paul di Resta on Saturday qualified 10th on the grid while his teammate Nico Hulkenberg will start Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix in the 12th position as action returns to Formula One after the summer break, here.

However, the Indian team which is desperate to improve its position in the constructors' championship will have to deliver an outstanding race since their close rivals Sauber and Williams have their cars ahead on the grid.

Red Bull's Mark Webber will drop places on the grid after a five-place penalty due to unscheduled gear-box change. Force India's second driver Nico Hulkenberg's effort of 1:48.855 stuck him in Q2 and it was good enough for 12th place. When Webber is dropped, his teammate Vettel will move into top-10 and will also push Di Resta to ninth. Narain Karthikeyan will start 24th and last on the grid.

Indian men let the USA off the hook

■ PTI
ISTANBUL

Grandmaster Krishnan Sasikiran slipped in the final stages as India settled for a draw despite being at the threshold of victory against the USA in the fourth round of the 40th Chess Olympiad here.

Sasikiran missed out on a draw against world No. 7 Hikaru Nakamura towards the dying stages of the first time control which would have meant an excellent victory for the 13th seeded Indians against fifth seed opponents. The advantage was made possible by former world junior champion P Harikrishna who pulled off a sensational victory against former world championship finalist Gata Kamsky on the second board. Young Grandmasters Parimarjan Negi and Abhijeet Gupta put in their effort to draw with Alexander Onischuk and Varuzhan Akobian respectively before the team settled at 2-2 after being close to victory. The draw proved costly as Indians slipped to joint fifth with seven points out of a possible eight.

The lead is now shared by top seed Russia, Ukraine, Armenia and Hungary who all have a perfect eight points following four victories in as many matches. For each match win here, two points are awarded while a draw entitles one point apiece to the teams involved.

While the men pitched in and the draw was still a good result, the sixth-seeded Indian even fumbled big time and could only manage a 2-2 draw against the 19th seeded Serbian women in the women's Olympiad being held simultaneously. International Master Tania Sachdev saved the blushes on an otherwise bad day as Eesha Karavade lost to Maria Manakova while D Harika survived some anxious moments before holding out a draw with Natasa Bojkovic on the top board.

Learning to value sports



ROVING EYE

Elora Sen

The London Olympics have been good for India in more ways than one. Not only has India returned with their best-ever show in the Games, with six medals, but it has triggered off long-term plans for making Olympic Games more popular in India. But the most important direction towards making India a more sports oriented country has perhaps been suggested by the Union Sports Minister Ajay Maken. The suggestion that marks be given in schools for physical fitness is something that needs to be given a serious thought. For Indians, passionate sports lovers, are very rarely seen to actually take to the field and play.

India can easily be termed as a country of spectators and arm-chair sports critics. Why is the passion for sports not translated into success on field? Well the reasons and excuses are many. Lack of infrastructure, climate, poverty – all have a part to play. But Maken has been able to identify a very important area – that of an average middle-class Indian's priority.

In India almost every parent wants his or her child to succeed academically. Even for those who do well in sports, the school years close to board exams are focused on academics. That means the optimum years when a sports person can develop—say from age 14 to 18, the stress is only on academics for

most Indian families.

Here is where Maken's plan can lead to a more healthy nation. Even if we don't produce Olympic champions by the dozens, if every child is encouraged to take up some sports and give importance to physical fitness, the nation as a whole will become fitter. And with more and more kids playing, each and every sport will have a larger pool of talent to choose from.

The scheme suggests evaluating every school going child studying in Class V and above on six components of physical fitness — cardio respiratory endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, explosive strength and body composition (percentage of body fat).

So now a child who is good at running 100m, may just be able to add that to his or her grades in much the same way that the maths wiz kid does.

Academics will always remain important and rightfully so. But if a sports culture has to develop in this country, then this is perhaps the right way forward. Hopefully, this will not be another way of adding stress to a child's already overburdened school curriculum and not be used as a discriminatory tool for those who are not able as physically as a normal child.

Just as the London Olympics have been a mode for England to encourage and inspire future generations, hopefully India too will be able to take a step ahead – enjoying the value of sports and learning from the positive aspects that sports and games can provide.

Noh upstages Tiger at Deutsche Bank

■ REUTERS
NORTON (MASSACHUSETTS)

Tiger Woods produced a stunning surge in the opening round of the Deutsche Bank Championship on Friday but was overshadowed by 21-year-old South Korean Noh Seung-yul, who rocketed to a one-shot lead.

Noh tore apart the TPC Boston course with a bogey-free nine-under-par 62 that left him one shot clear of American Chris Kirk in the second of the PGA Tour's four FedExCup playoff events.

Woods, Jeff Overton and Ryan Moore were tied in third place after the American trio shot matching 64s while world No. 1 Rory McIlroy and American Bryce Molder were a further shot back.

Woods had earlier set the Boston crowds alight with a birdie blitz reminiscent of his glory days.

The 14-times major champion played his first eight holes in two-under par before carding six consecutive birdies to lead by as many as four shots at one stage.

"I played really well today (Friday). I hit a lot of good shots, and on top of that I putted well at the same time ... it was a nice little combination," said Woods, who made five birdies from 12 feet or longer. "I hit the ball well enough to probably shoot maybe one or two more."

Woods, the 2006 champion at this event, played the back nine first and wasted little time making a move.

After his tee shot at the par-three 11th landed 12 feet from the hole, Woods coolly drained the birdie putt for some early confidence on the greens. Two holes later Woods sank a 19-footer that put him at two-under par.

He came within inches of an eagle from 42 feet on the 18th but took the birdie, the first of six on the trot, including a 12-footer on his 11th hole and a 15-footer on his 12th.

The heat dissipated a little over his final four holes as Woods missed a chance for a seventh consecutive birdie before scrambling for pars on the seventh and eighth holes.

The only blemish of the day for Woods came on the last hole when he overcooked his approach shot at the par-four ninth and failed to get up and down.

Noh, a rookie on the US Tour, shot his lowest score of the year with seemingly effortless birdies and was not afraid to admit that he did so while trying to copy Woods's swing.

The South Korean works with Woods's Canadian swing coach Sean Foley and often tries to mimic the former world No. 1's mechanics af-

ter looking at photos of his childhood idol.

"Sometimes (Foley) sends photos to me by text, like Justin Rose's swing, and then Hunter (Mahan) and Tiger's swing sometimes gets sent to me, and then he says to look at the three guys' swing, and then think about myself and then try to do it myself, so that's a good thing," said Noh.

"Everything was good today (Friday). Swing, putting, everything was great today. I'm just trying to make the Tour Championship points, but hopefully finish at the top five."

The leading 70 players on the FedExCup points list after this event advance to the BMW Championship, with the top 30 then advancing to the Tour Championship finale in Atlanta where the overall points winner pockets a \$10 million bonus.

Gayakwad finishes 12th

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

India's lone swimmer at the London Paralympic Games, Sharath Gayakwad finished third in his 100m breaststroke heat with a personal best time of 1:18.20s.

Finishing 12th among 21 swimmers across three heats, he missed out on qualifying for the finals, as only the top 8 swimmers go through. Sharath had qualified for the 100m breaststroke event with a timing of 1:20.18s. Racing against the best swimmers in the world, Sharath clocked a personal best time of 1:18.20s, 2 seconds faster than his qualifying time.

rare F E A T

Boy without feet causing stir in Brazil

■ REUTERS
CAMPOS

Brazilian Gabriel Muniz, 11, is one of the best players at his school despite being born without feet and he dreams of being a footballer when he grows up, even though he knows it can only be at disabled level. After an appearance in Brazil's most popular sports show on the TV Globo network, Gabriel was invited to take part in a Barcelona training camp in Sagurema, a town in the state of Rio de Janeiro.

His special skills impressed the Spanish club's coaches and he has been invited to meet his idol Lionel Messi next month. "When he arrived there no one believed in him but he

proved to everyone he can go head to head with any boy. So much so that he was invited to go to Spain to showcase his talent," said his gym teacher Jose Lopes. Gabriel was not yet one when he started walking on his stumps and he went on from there. He plays soccer like anyone else but without feet, kicking the ball with his stumps. Gabriel's mother Sandra said her son has always lived a normal life despite his physical limitations.

Every day the boy wakes up at 06:30 and rides his bicycle to school along with his older brother. Last year he received a donated foot-ankle prosthesis but his mother says she cannot afford any special treatments for him.

"Gabriel started walking before he was one. We would go after him, expecting him to keep

falling, but he never fell," she said. Lopes said the boy may help to create opportunities for children like him. "The disability only exists inside our heads and he is proving it to everyone, he is challenging the social norms," Lopes explained.

"To this day there isn't a Paralympics 11-a-side football team but Gabriel is showing this will have to change because he wants to play 11-a-side football."

His best friend, 13-year-old Lucas Santos, said Gabriel is a great player. "He is skilful, he goes after the ball and he is fearless. He also makes good passes," he said. The trip to Spain is already a dream come true for Gabriel whose imaginary team begins with him and includes a good part of Barcelona's squad.



Gabriel Muniz

2 Minute
Sport

Lajong win NE Super Series

Shillong: Shillong Lajong came from behind and struck twice to beat New Zealand based A-League club Wellington Phoenix FC 3-2 in the final of the North East Lajong Super Series Football Championship. Jeremy Brockie, who played for New Zealand in the 2010 World Cup scored for visitors in the 10th minute.

BCCI in search of new buyer

New Delhi: Deccan Chargers, the champions of second edition of Indian Premier League, is unlikely to feature in the next edition of the cash-rich league which may force the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to lookout for a prospective buyer in the next few days.



A competitor takes part in the cycling part of the "Triathlon XI" on Saturday.

Gangjee makes halfway cut

Canonsburg (USA): Rahil Gangjee made the halfway cut despite dropping three bogeys on the back-nine in the second round of the Mylan Classic at South-pointe Golf Club here. Gangjee carded two-over 73 and that alongside his first round 67 placed him at two-under 140 and in tied 45th place.

Randhawa makes the cut

Crans Montana (Switzerland): Seasoned Jyoti Randhawa and SSP Chowrasia made the cut, but Gaganjeet Bhullar dropped bogeys on the last three holes to exit at the halfway stage of the Omega European Masters golf tournament.

— Agencies

Falcao hattrick leads Atletico to Super win



Atletico Madrid players celebrate with the Uefa Super Cup after beating Chelsea at Stade Louis II in Monaco on Friday.

Colombian striker Radamel Falcao scored a brilliant first-half hat-trick as Atletico Madrid crushed European champions Chelsea 4-1 with a glittering display of attacking soccer in the Super Cup final on Friday. After hitting the bar in the fourth minute, he opened the scoring two minutes later when he chipped Chelsea keeper Petr Cech with the ball going in off the post.

His second 13 minutes later was from a superb curling shot and his third just before halftime completed another rapid Atletico breakaway. It was his second hat-trick in five days

following the one he scored when Europa League winners Atletico beat Athletic Bilbao 4-0 in La Liga on Monday. Miranda made it 4-0 after 60 minutes to make sure of the victory before Gary Cahill scored Chelsea's consolation when he fired in from close range after Atletico failed to clear a corner.

The final was the 15th and last to be played in Monaco before the game is moved around Europe in future years and like the majority of the last 14, it ended in a victory for the underdogs over the European champions. Atletico became the ninth team who either won the old Cup Winners Cup or Uefa Cup/Europa League to beat the European champions and their victory

was thoroughly deserved and could have been even more emphatic.

Chelsea defender David Luiz, who had a poor game, almost gifted Atletico a fifth in the 90th minute when his clearance rebounded off his own post but by then the outcome was inevitable. Atletico, breaking from the back with pace and accuracy tore Chelsea's midfield to shreds with Adrian Lopez, Koke and Arda Turan finding Falcao with embarrassing ease.

Although Chelsea were without their suspended talismanic captain and centreback John Terry, they were still second best in almost every position and looked a shadow of the side that has started the Premier League season with three straight wins.

Former Atletico striker and self-confessed Atletico fan Fernando Torres hardly had a touch of the ball, but was hugged by some Atletico fans and most of the Atletico players after the final whistle. While the match may have been bitter-sweet for Torres, it was also a significant one for Atletico's Thibaut Courtois, the 20-year-old keeper on loan from Chelsea for a second season at the Vicente Calderon.

He hardly had a save to make and could do nothing to prevent Cahill's late goal on a night that belonged to the Spaniards whose fans hugely outnumbered Chelsea's, with many of those in blue leaving long before the final whistle.

There's only one Falcao & he is ours, say Atletico

Radamel Falcao's reputation as one of the most wanted strikers in the world was underlined when he grabbed a hat-trick in Atletico Madrid's 4-1 Super Cup rout of Chelsea on Friday but his club said he was going nowhere. The Colombian international, nicknamed the Tiger, scored three times in the first half against the European champions and hit the post three times as the Europa League winners ran riot in Monaco.

"There is only one Falcao and he is ours," Atletico's majority shareholder Miguel Angel Gil told Spanish television. "He is a great team player. We are going to fight to keep him." Atletico splashed out \$50.42 million to buy the striker from Porto last year, after he netted 17 goals to lead the Portuguese team to victory in the 2011 Europa League final, and he quickly helped repay some of the outlay.

Brought in to replace Sergio Aguero and Diego Forlan, Falcao scored 12 times to help the Spaniards to victory in last season's Europa League and bagged two in the final against Athletic Bilbao.

He also bagged 24 in La Liga. Falcao started out where he left off last season, notching a hat-trick against Bilbao in the league on Monday. "I have dreamed of scoring this amount of goals. I thank God for the opportunity," he said on Friday.

"We played a great game and we are delighted. We have to work to maintain this level. We knew we had to start

with great intensity from the first minute and we were very effective with the chances we had."

Asked about his future with Atletico, Falcao said: "I don't know what is going to happen in the future. I know some clubs were interested in maybe signing me in the summer but Atletico made every effort to keep me and I am delighted — this was our reward."

With the transfer window in Europe about to close Atletico, who are struggling with huge debt problems like many Spanish clubs, look to have secured their prize asset at least for the coming season. Chelsea coach Roberto Di Matteo said his side's chances were ruined by Falcao's opening goals in the sixth and 19th minutes.

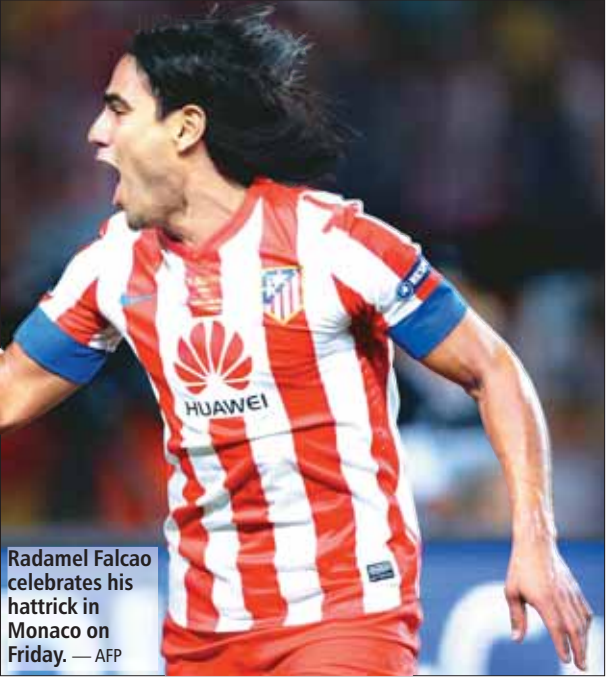
"We were never really in the match after conceding those two early goals," the Italian

told a news conference. "We gave them too much space and you see what happens if you give a player like Falcao too much space. He is one of the top strikers in European football and his second goal was a really good strike. But the fact we never really got into the game is the most disappointing thing and we lacked penetration."

"After they scored those two early goals they defended with a lot of men back and they made it difficult for us to find any space," added Di Matteo.

Asked if he had tried to sign Falcao during the transfer window he replied with an emphatic "no", adding: "I have two very good strikers in Fernando Torres and Daniel Sturridge and I am very happy with my squad."

"We have been very difficult to beat recently but that wasn't the case tonight."



Radamel Falcao celebrates his hattrick in Monaco on Friday. — AFP

SHORT TAKES



Amal Dutta, Subrata Bhattacharya and P K Banerjee unveiling the bust of Sailen Manna on his birth anniversary at Harish Park on Saturday.

East Bengal to meet Tolgay on Monday

Kolkata: East Bengal have asked Tolgay Ozbey to come to the club tent on Monday at 6:30pm for the meeting, which was earlier cancelled by the red and golds officials as they were unhappy with the rescheduling of Calcutta Football League, Premier Division, matches from August 29 to September 1.

Kolkata Police emerge champions

Kolkata: In the final of the Division I of Calcutta Cup (Rugby), Kolkata Police blanked Armenians 29-0, while in the Division II, Sergeant Institute became champions defeating FA Ruggers 22-0 on Saturday.

Bengal in East Zone final

Kolkata: In the men's (Rahamatulla Cup) semi-finals of the East Zone Inter-state Badminton Championship, West Bengal defeated Orissa 3-0 in Cuttack on Saturday. In the singles, Bengal's Arup Baidya beat K Manojkumar 21-5, 21-6 and Sourav Chatterjee defeated Promod Rana 21-11, 21-5, while in the doubles Arup Baidya & Sourav Chatterjee got the better of Kamal Das & C R Satpathi 21-18, 21-11.

Air India lift Durand Cup

Kolkata: Air India on Saturday lifted the Durand Cup defeating another Mumbai outfit Dodsall FC in a penalty shootout after both teams failed to score during regular time. Air India won the shootout 3-2, bagging the prestigious trophy after reaching the final for the very first time. The scorers for Air India were Pradeep, Sethi and Ramandeep, whereas goals of Dodsall were scored by Sunil Kumar and Diakhate.

Thomas planning to set up academy

Kozhikode: Former national coach and Dronacharya awardee, Sunny Thomas, who retired from his post early this month, is set to start a shooting academy in Kerala.

Thierry Lincou announces retirement

New Delhi: Frenchman Thierry Lincou, the first continental European to top the men's world squash rankings, has announced his retirement from the PSA World Tour. Winner of the world title in 2004, twice a European champion and a record 11-time French national champion, Lincou has enjoyed a remarkable career.

— Our Correspondent & Agencies

Cavani signs new 5-year Napoli deal

Uruguay striker Edinson Cavani has ended media speculation about his future by signing a new five-year contract with Napoli.

The club made the announcement at a news conference on Friday where flamboyant president Aurelio De Laurentiis initially made out that Cavani was moving to Manchester City.

Juve sign Bendtner

Juventus have signed Denmark striker Nicklas Bendtner on a season-long loan from Arsenal. "The club has reached an agreement with Arsenal for the loan signing with an option to buy," the Italian team said on their website www.juventus.com on Friday. Juve have the option of buying the player for

six million euros at the end of the loan deal.

Toni rejoins Fiorentina

Former Italy striker Luca Toni has completed a surprise deadline-day return to Fiorentina, the Serie A club said on Friday.

It had been rumoured that the 35-year-old forward would be joining Tuscan rivals Siena, but Fiorentina officials made a late swoop for their former player, who has signed a one-year deal.

Borriello rejoins Genoa

Italian international Marco Borriello joined Genoa, one of his former clubs, from AS Roma for an undisclosed fee on Friday. "Il Grifone has rediscovered one of those strikers who has written his recent history to the sound of goals," Genoa announced on their website www.genoacfc.it.

Old hands lift Man City v QPR

Manchester City again splashed the cash on transfer deadline day but it was old hands Yaya Toure, Edin Dzeko and Carlos Tevez who secured a 3-1 victory over Queens Park Rangers on Saturday.

Ivorian Toure fired City, who memorably needed two stoppage-time goals on the final day of the season against Rangers in May to win the top-flight title for the first time since 1968, ahead at Eastlands.

The hosts then needed Dzeko's header on 61 minutes, which quickly cancelled out Bobby Zamora's equaliser, to restore control. Tevez sealed the points in stoppage time with a scuffed effort that sank new-look Rangers.

England striker Andy Carroll made an immediate impact for new club West Ham United in a 3-0 Premier League demolition of Fulham, showing he could prosper in

the capital after an ineffective spell with Liverpool.

The burly frontman, who joined on a season-long loan on Thursday, played a part in West Ham's opening goal and caused the west London side plenty of problems before he

was substituted in the second half with a tight hamstring.

Fitting in immediately with West Ham's direct approach, Carroll flicked a long ball on to Ricardo Vaz Te who in turn found Kevin Nolan to score after just 53 seconds at Up-



Manchester City's David Silva (right) vies with QPR's Park Ji-Sung at The Etihad Stadium on Saturday.

rich H A U L

Real sign Essien on loan from Chelsea

Real Madrid have agreed to take Ghana midfielder Michael Essien on loan from Chelsea for the rest of the season, the Spanish champions said on Friday. The 29-year-old, who joined Chelsea from Olympique Lyon in 2005, links up again with former Stamford Bridge boss Jose Mourinho.

The combative midfielder has won two Premier League titles, four FA Cups and one Champions League at the London club.

Essien did not feature when Champions League winners Chelsea were thumped 4-1 by Atletico Madrid in the European Super Cup in Monaco on Friday.

Malaga land Onyewu

Malaga have signed United States defender Oguchi Onyewu on loan from Portugal's Sporting Lisbon with an option to buy next year, the Spanish club said on Friday.

The 30-year-old central defender has played for a number of clubs in Europe including Standard Liege,



Michael Essien

Newcastle United, Inter Milan and Twente.

Onyewu is Malaga's fourth signing in the last 24 hours after they also landed Paraguay striker Roque Santa Cruz on loan, Argentine striker Javier Saviola and Chile midfielder Manuel Iturra.

Qatari-owned Malaga have been drawn in Champions League Group C along with AC Milan, Zenit St Petersburg and Anderlecht in their first venture into Europe's elite club competition.

They also signed Paraguay striker Roque Santa Cruz on a season-long loan from Manchester City, the Spanish club said. The 31-year-old, who was on loan at La Liga side Real Betis last season, passed a medical earlier in the day.

Santa Cruz is Malaga's third signing in the last 24 hours after they also landed Argentine striker Javier Saviola and Chile midfielder Manuel Iturra. Qatari-owned Malaga were on Thursday drawn in Champions League Group C along with AC Mi-

lan, Zenit St Petersburg and Anderlecht.

Babel agrees on deal with Ajax

Former Netherlands international Ryan Babel has agreed a one-year deal with Ajax Amsterdam after he was released by Bundesliga club Hoffenheim, the Dutch club said on Friday. The 25-year-old wide player, who has won 42 caps for the Netherlands, came up through the youth ranks at Ajax before joining Liverpool in a big-money move in 2007. He struggled to make an impact in the Premier League and joined Hoffenheim in 2011.

Kakuta joins Vitesse on loan

Chelsea midfielder Gael Kakuta signed for Dutch top-flight team Vitesse Arnhem on a season-long loan deal on Friday. The 21-year-old Frenchman will join Stamford Bridge teammates Tomas Kalas and Patrick van Aanholt on loan at Vitesse, the London club said on their website www.chelseafc.com.

Japan-Brazil friendly in October

Asian champions Japan will taken on Brazil in Europe in an October friendly as coach Alberto Zaccheroni continues his push to test his side against the world's best teams. The Japan Football Association (JFA) said Japan will face the five-times World Cup winners in Wroclaw, Poland, on Oct. 16, four days after a scheduled game with France in Paris.

"It's very pleasing to get the chance to play two games against such strong opposition," Zaccheroni, bidding to guide Japan to their fifth successive World Cup, said.

"It is important for Japan to challenge the best teams away from home." The two games come before the resumption of the final round of Asian 2014 World Cup qualifiers.

The lions stand in India's path

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A formidable Cameroon stands between India and its hatrick of Nehru Cup football title in the final slated for Sunday. It will need a lost from India to leash the Indomitable Lions, who gave the hosts a taste of African power football in their 1-0 win at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here Friday night.

Cameroon expectedly will come hard against India as coach Emmanuel Bosso rested nine of his first team players on Friday night. India, who made five changes in their last group match, are also expected to come out with renewed vigour.

Though India lost their group encounter with Cameroon, the attacking approach and the never-give up attitude of the 168th ranked team was like a breadth of fresh air. While Cameroon enjoyed the advantage of size, India with their free-flowing game were impressive despite having conceded a goal in the second minute of the game.

In fact, India's passing game, that their new Dutch coach Wim Koevermans has been preaching, has blossomed as the tournament progresses. The team is responding well to the new 4-4-1-1 formation.

In Friday's loss they kept their heads high, prompting Koevermans to say that the team was shaping perfectly well for the future.

"A good team needs a strong bench and I'm pleased to see the bench playing so very well when given a chance.

"The likes of Manandeep (Singh), Jewel (Raja), Gurwinder (Singh) and Alwyn (George) fought so valiantly against a world Class team like Cameroon," he said.

Asked where his bench strength stand in comparison to the first team, Koevermans said: "Cameroon are ranked 59th in the world but the way our boys played against them was laudable. The bench is at par with the starting XI and that's a very good sign for the future."

Win or loss, Koevermans main target is to see the national team qualify for the 2015



Wim Koevermans with the team during the morning practice session at Jaypee Greens in Noida on Saturday.

Asian Cup for the second straight time. Sacrificing the Nehru Cup title could be a big step in that way. What gives Koevermans is the manner with which his boys played against Cameroon.

"The way the boys played against a top ranked team was commendable. If they are good for Cameroon, I think they can play any team of that level," he said.

Koevermans prefers to stay positive despite the fact that his boys will have a mountain to climb in the title-clash. "I'm confident ahead of the final. I always stay positive so that the boys can be confident as well. You need to

feel good ahead of a big match."

The Dutch was also impressed with his defence. Subrata Paul is expected to be back under bar behind the defence line of Nirmal Chhetri, Raju Gaekwad, Gourmangi Singh and Syed Rahim Nabi.

A lot will depend on wing-back Nabi and Clifford Miranda on the left flank. They have been overlapping with each other beautifully to trouble the opposition defence.

The half-line has also combined well with youngsters like Francesco Fernandes and Lenny Rodrigues orchestrating the attack with the aggressive Mehtab Hossain. Sanju Prad-

han also found his bearing right against Cameroon and skipper Sunil Chhetri may find himself with a barrage of crosses from both left and right.

Koevermans said the experience of playing against Cameroon will stand in good stead for India. "Cameroon are a top side and there is no denying that. They are physically very strong and have a lot of pace in their ranks. They may be better equipped than us. But we are prepared as well. Playing against Cameroon in itself is a great achievement. It's a great exposure. We'll take back a lot," he said.

We need a concerted team effort: Chhetri

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India captain and star striker Sunil Chhetri feels that the two-time champions have it in them to beat the formidable Cameroon for a hatrick of Nehru Cup title here Sunday.

One the eve of the final, Chhetri said it won't be an easy task as India have to put on a stupendous show at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. "Every team takes the field a sole aim to win. But it's not that easy every time. To win against Cameroon, we need a concerted team effort on the field. We need to play to our potential and not bother about other aspects. We need to play like a team possessed," he said.

Chhetri said he was proud of India's performance in the last group match against Cameroon here Friday night. "I'm very proud of the manner we played. We came back strongly after conceding an early goal. They didn't have many shots at our goal except for the penalty and the last minute chance. Instead, we created more openings and should have scored," he said.

Asked how he rates the African giants, the Sporting Lisbon 'B' striker said: "They are a very strong side. In fact, among all the teams that have played the Nehru Cup since 2007, this is the most capable side. They are a class side.

"I have been fortunate

enough to play against Japan, Australia, South Korea donning the national jersey and I can tell you they are among the strongest teams I have played against."

They are a very strong side. In fact, among all the teams that have played the Nehru Cup since 2007, this is the most capable side. They are a class side.

Sunil Chhetri
Captain, Indian football team

Chhetri also said that there was no added responsibility on him as the captain. "Maybe yes; maybe no! It's about eleven players playing together at the same time on the field.

As a captain, it feels good to see the team playing so well. Off the field, it's nice to see all gelling well and moving as an unit - from the breakfast table to the field to the pool to the practice sessions to everywhere. Everyone stays committed to the task ahead.

The team is certainly not about one single individual with the armband. It's a team, a football team," he said.

Platini snipes at autocratic Fifa president Blatter

■ REUTERS
MONACO

Uefa president Michel Platini criticised Fifa president Sepp Blatter's autocratic style on Friday saying that important decisions regarding soccer's future had not been discussed by Fifa's executive committee. The 57-year-old Frenchman is against the use of goalline technology which was approved by Fifa in July, following a change of heart by Blatter two years ago.

"When you talk about technology, Fifa didn't decide on goalline technology, President Blatter did," Platini told reporters at an informal gathering in Monte Carlo.

"No one in the executive committee was consulted, nor was anyone in any other Fifa committees invited to give their views. It was just the Fifa president along with IFAB (the body that determines the laws of the game). He's in charge and it's up to him."

Blatter made no secret of his dislike of technology until an incident in a 2010 World Cup match between England and Germany when a Frank Lampard shot clearly crossed the goalline but was unsighted by officials. Earlier, that year Blatter had said the matter was off the agenda, but then began to embrace technology, saying if it could prove to be 100 percent reliable he would fully support it.

Platini said the decision by the law-making International Football Association Board (IFAB) this July to sanction goalline technology was purely down to Blatter.

IFAB comprises the four British associations, who have four votes and Fifa, who also have four votes and proposals need a majority of six to become law. Platini, a member of Fifa's Executive Committee, said the issue was never discussed by him or other members of the committee.

Platini is against goalline technology and instead prefers the additional assistant referees (AAR) system which Uefa has adopted. AAR involves having two additional assistant referees behind the goalline to assist the man in the middle.

"I respect the tradition and the fact that the four British associations for 125 years have always taken a traditional decision and I respect that. I think the 4 votes for the British are okay, it's the four votes for Fifa I don't understand.

Bulgaria coach calls up Berbatov for qualifiers

■ REUTERS
SOFIA

Bulgaria coach Luboslav Penev has called up Dimitar Berbatov for next month's World Cup qualifiers, giving a strong hint that the striker will end his self-imposed international exile. "It's true, an official summon has been sent," Penev was quoted as saying on the Bulgarian Football Union's website www.bfunion.bg on Friday. "We'll have one more talk (to clarify things)."

Berbatov, who completed his move from Manchester United to Fulham on the frantic final day of the transfer window, quit the Bulgarian national team in 2010. His unexpected retirement from international soccer was met with a mixture of anger and,



Dimitar Berbatov

in some cases, a strong sense of betrayal in his homeland.

Earlier this year, however, Berbatov said he would be open to an approach from Penev after he moved to a club where he could play regularly. The 31-year-old, who is Bulgaria's all-time leading scorer with 48 goals, will hold a news conference in Sofia on Monday to discuss the issue and his transfer saga.

Arshavin left out of World Cup qualifiers

■ REUTERS
MOSCOW

New Russia coach Fabio Capello has left captain Andrei Arshavin out of his 24-man squad for next month's World Cup qualifiers against Northern Ireland and Israel. The Italian, who replaced Dick Advocaat last month, promised to give the under-fire Arsenal forward a "second chance" after he took a lot of blame for Russia's poor showing at Euro 2012.

Last week Capello named Arshavin in an expanded list of 37 players, saying the 31-year-old "still plays an important role in the team", but on Friday he decided to drop him. Arshavin, who has seen his career nosedive in recent months, said he was not surprised. "I talked to Fabio during our last training camp (in August) and he told me he would not select me next time if I don't play enough for my club so his decision looks very logical," Arshavin told the *Sport-Express* newspaper. "It doesn't surprise me at all."

In February, Arshavin rejoined former club Zenit St Petersburg on loan

from Arsenal following a turbulent year at the London club but failed to rediscover top form. Former England manager Capello also dropped strikers Roman Pavlyuchenko and Pavel Pogrebnyak while winger Yuri Zhirkov and 36-year-old midfielder Sergei Semak, who was recalled by Russia last week after a two-year absence, are injured. Goalkeeper Vyacheslav Malafeyev is also missing after deciding to put his international career on hold. Russia begin their qualifying campaign at home to Northern Ireland on September 7 before facing Israel four days later.

The squad
Goalkeepers: Igor Akinfeyev, Anton Shumin, Vladimir Gabulov; **Defenders:** Alexander Anyukov, Alexei Berezutsky, Vasily Berezutsky, Sergei Ignashevich, Georgy Shchennikov, Taras Burlak, Andrei Yeshchenko; **Midfielders:** Igor Denisov, Roman Shirokov, Konstantin Zyryanov, Vladimir Bystrov, Viktor Faizulin, Alan Dzagoyev, Denis Glushakov, Magomed Ozdoyev, Alexander Samedov, Dmitry Kombarov, Diniyar Bilyaletdinov; **Forwards:** Alexander Kerzhakov, Artem Dzyuba, Alexander Kokorin.



Andrei Arshavin

fine INTERCEPTION

Manchester City buy Javi Garcia from Benfica

■ REUTERS
LONDON

Manchester City have signed midfielder Javi Garcia from Benfica for an undisclosed fee, the English Premier League champions said on Friday. The 25-year-old is expected to fill the gap left by Nigel De Jong, who joined AC Milan earlier in the day, although he can also play in the centre of the defence.

The Spaniard was a regular at Benfica after arriving from Real Madrid in 2009, scoring six times in 73 appearances for the Portuguese club. Garcia, who has one cap for Spain, will wear the number 14 shirt at City.

In another swap deal Serbia defender Matija Nastasic left Fiorentina for Manchester City for an undisclosed fee on Friday. Montenegro defender Stefan Savic, 21, has joined the Italian club as part of the deal, City said on their website (www.mcfc.co.uk).

Nastasic, 19, moved to Fiorentina from Partizan Belgrade in 2011 and quickly established himself in the back four, a rare bright spot in a disappointing season for club. He has twice been capped by Serbia, making his debut against Cyprus in February. Savic made 11 appearances for City, scoring once in the 4-0 win over Blackburn Rovers in October.

Dempsey to Tottenham

United States forward Clint Dempsey completed a shock move from Fulham to London rivals Tottenham Hotspur for an undisclosed fee on Friday. "We are delighted to announce we have reached agreement with Fulham for the transfer of Clint Dempsey," Spurs said on their website (www.tottenhamhotspur.com).

The 29-year-old had been strongly linked by the media with a move to Liverpool following his 17-goal haul in the Premier League last season but the Anfield club failed to meet Fulham's transfer evaluation. Dempsey joined Fulham in 2007 from New England Revolution, scoring 60 goals in 224 appearances for the Craven Cottage team.

Meanwhile, Olympique Lyon have allowed France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris to join English Premier League Tottenham Hotspur. "Lloris has signed a four-year contract," Lyon said on their website (www.olweb.fr) on Friday. Spurs will pay a fee of



Javi Garcia

\$15.88 million for the 25-year-old plus possible add-ons worth five million pounds.

Everton sign Oviedo

Costa Rican international Bryan Oviedo, who can play anywhere on the left, joined Everton from FC Copenhagen for an undisclosed fee on Friday. "He can play left back, left midfield and left wing... which will help us and give us good cover in the squad," assistant manager Steve Round told the English Premier League club's website (www.evertonfc.com).

"I have been abroad and watched him, as have all the scouts and the manager (David Moyes)."

The 22-year-old joined Copenhagen in 2010 from Costa Rican side Saprissa. "I am very happy for the opportunity I now get to play in the world's biggest league," said Oviedo who has 13 international caps.

"It's really hard for me to leave because the club has meant so much to me and aided my development. I could have seen myself at Copenhagen for a long time but a switch to a historic club in the Premier League is a dream now fulfilled."

Fulham sign Dejagah

Fulham signed right winger Ashkan Dejagah from VfL Wolfsburg for an undisclosed fee on Friday. The 26-year-old spent five years at Wolfsburg, making more than 150 appearances for the Bundesliga club. He also has three international caps for Iran.

"I'm very happy to come and play in the Premier League," Dejagah told the club's website (www.fulhamfc.com).

"I know Sascha Riether, (Fulham's German right back) well and he told me very good things about the club." Dejagah has signed a three-year deal with the Londoners.

Mbia joins QPR from Marseille

Queens Park Rangers signed defender Stephane Mbia from Olympique Marseille, just minutes before the transfer window closed, for an undisclosed fee on Friday. Rangers midfielder Joey Barton, the former England international, travelled in the opposition direction to join the French club on a season-long loan deal.

Defender Mbia, 26, who can also play in midfield, is QPR's 12th signing since the end of last season. He has agreed a two-year deal. Mbia, capped 36 times by Cameroon, played 103 games for Marseille in three years at the club. "Stephane is a very good player and can play in a number of positions," Rangers manager Mark Hughes told the club's website (www.qpr.co.uk). "He is very adept as a defensive midfielder but he has been regularly playing at centre back so we have got another player who can add to the flexibility of the squad.

"He is a big, strong guy with a strong mentality. He wants to win and is the type of

player I want at the club."

Southampton sign Ramirez

English Premier League newcomers Southampton signed Uruguay striker Gaston Ramirez from Italian side Bologna for an undisclosed fee on Friday. Ramirez was linked with a move to the club earlier in the transfer window, with a work permit in place and personal terms signed, only for the deal to fall through.

The player, however, agreed a four-year contract just hours before the window closed. "A lot of hard work has gone in ... with a lot of negotiations behind the scenes to get this deal done," Southampton manager Nigel Adkins told the club's website (www.saintsfc.co.uk).

"Great credit to everyone because we have a young, exciting talent joining us who is one of the best around. We have got one of the most exciting prospects in world football coming to St Mary's."

The 21-year-old Ramirez scored 15 times in 60 appearances for Bologna, having joined the Serie A side from Penarol in 2010. Ramirez has been capped by his country 10 times.

Aston Villa clinch Benteke

Belgium striker Christian Benteke has joined Aston Villa from Racing Genk, the English Premier League club announced on Friday. The 21-year-old, who has five international caps, arrives at Villa Park on a four-year deal for an undisclosed transfer fee.

"It was motivation for me when I went to join up with the national team and saw all the players from the Premier League: Vincent Kompany (Manchester City), Thomas Vermaelen (Arsenal) and Eden Hazard (Chelsea)," Benteke told the Villa website (www.avfc.co.uk).

"The manager (Paul Lambert) also convinced me this was the perfect move. Villa are a very historic football club and my colleagues on international duty have said good things about the football here in England. Meanwhile, Macedonia defender Popov quit Dynamo Kiev for West Brom, even as Spain international Pablo Hernandez has joined Swansea from La Liga side Valencia for a club-record fee of 5.55 million pounds (\$8.82 million), the Premier League club said on Friday.

‘India need a big knock from either Kohli or Dhoni’



Suresh Raina in Bangalore on Saturday.

■ PTI
BANGALORE

India responded well to New Zealand’s respectable total with some good batting on Saturday but Suresh Raina said either skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni or young turk Virat Kohli will have to play a big knock, if the hosts are to achieve a favourable result in the Test match.

In reply to Kiwi’s 365, the hosts were 283 for five with Kohli batting on 93 in company of Dhoni who was unbeaten at 46 at the end of the second day’s play.

“It is necessary for Dhoni and Virat to play well in the first session tomorrow (Sunday) and if either of the one makes a big score it will benefit us. The next three days of the Test match are very crucial for India,” Raina, who scored 55 on Saturday, said.

Raina said the Kiwi pacers bowled well on Saturday and were well supported by the fielders, who saved about 30-40 runs. Raina said he came out with a positive frame of mind, counting on good partnership he had with Kohli earlier.

“We looked to play positively and decided to hang in and left good balls because Tim Southee and Trent Boult were bowling well and getting reverse swing,” he said. Raina said there was no conscious plan to attack Kiwi spinner Jeetan Patel and he was actually advised by Kohli to stay calm and wait for loose deliveries.

“We had to play positively because the Kiwi seamers were bowling well, but at the same time we checked our aggression spend more time at the crease,” he said.

Kohli saves Team India the blushes

■ PTI
BANGALORE

Virat Kohli performed a brilliant recovery act and was just seven runs short of his second Test century as India bounced back from a precarious position to leave the second Test against New Zealand evenly poised here on Saturday.

After restricting New Zealand to 365 in the first innings, the Indians were tottering at 80 for four at one stage before Kohli (93 not out) led the Indian fightback as they reached 283 for five at close on the second day at Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Suresh Raina (55) and captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (batting 46) also played an important part in India’s recovery. The home side still trail by 82 runs with five first innings wickets intact after a half-and-hour’s extended play. The umpires Ian Gould and Steve Davis decided to extend play as 34 minutes were lost on Friday due to bad light. However, play continued under the lights for the



Virat Kohli celebrates his half-century against New Zealand in Bangalore on Saturday.

second consecutive day.

Kohli was involved in a crucial 99-run partnership with Raina for the fourth wicket and then put on 104 runs with Dhoni for the unbroken sixth wicket stand.

Kohli initially played a waiting game until he found his

bearings and executed some delightful drives early on. Later on, he intermittently raised the tempo scoring couple of boundaries in an over. The Delhi batsman chose loose balls to attack and paced his innings well to see India narrow the deficit.

Kohli brought his fifth Test half-century off 100 balls in style by clipping pacer Tim Southee to fine leg fence for four. Dhoni arrived at the crease when India were in a spot of bother at 179 for five and targeted Kiwi spinner Jeetan Patel in order to get the

momentum going.

Dhoni was a delight to watch against Patel as he smashed four boundaries, one off the backfoot through covers and then a helicopter shot over long on and two over deep square leg fence.

Raina, who was looking to capitalise on a partnership with Kohli, began the post tea session with caution, not playing too many shots. He was soon snapped up by keeper Krugner van Wyk on 55 when he tried to glance a Tim Southee delivery to fine leg. Raina faced 90 balls and hit nine fours and a six. The Kanpur batsman was unhappy with himself for getting out in this fashion for the second time in the series.

Earlier Raina and Kohli took India to 168 for four at tea. Raina, who walked on to the middle when India were reduced to 80 for four, took charge and immediately launched an attack against Kiwi bowlers.

Raina was ruthless against Doug Bracewell and Tim Southee, who had packed the Indian top order batsmen

SCORE BOARD

| | |
|---|-----|
| New Zealand | |
| First innings (Overnight 328/6) | |
| K van Wyk c Raina b Khan | 71 |
| D Bracewell run out | 43 |
| T Southee lbw Ojha | 14 |
| J Patel c Gambhir b Yadav | 00 |
| T Boult not out | 02 |
| Extras: (b-2, lb-9) | 11 |
| Total: (in 90.1 overs) | 365 |
| Fall of wkts: 7/345, 8/353, 9/353 | |
| Bowling: Ojha 28.1-10-99-5, Khan 22-2-83-2, Yadav 16-1-90-1, Ashwin 24-5-82-1 | |
| India | |
| First innings | |
| G Gambhir b Southee | 02 |
| V Sehwag c Flynn b Bracewell | 43 |
| C Pujara c Boult b Southee | 09 |
| S Tendulkar b Bracewell | 17 |
| V Kohli batting | 93 |
| S Raina c van Wyk b Southee | 55 |
| M S Dhoni batting | 46 |
| Extras: (b-10, lb-2, wd-1, nb-5) | 18 |
| Total: (for 5 wkts in 78 overs) | 283 |
| Fall of wkts: 1/5, 2/27, 3/67, 4/80, 5/179 | |
| Bowling: Boult 19-2-75-0, Southee 15-4-35-3, Bracewell 15-4-66-2, Franklin 10-4-17-0, Patel 19-5-78-0 | |

Dernbach stars as England beat SA

■ AFP
LONDON

Jade Dernbach marked his return to England duty with three wickets, including the prized scalp of Hashim Amla, in a four-wicket win over his native South Africa in the third One-Day International (ODI) at The Oval. Dernbach, recalled in place of Tim Bresnan, took three for 44 in nine overs on his Surrey home ground on Friday as South Africa were dismissed for a below par 211 with 20 balls of their innings left.

Fellow seamer James Anderson took four for 44 in 9.4 overs, including a spell of three for one in eight balls that polished off the tail to help set up a win — England’s first over the Proteas this season in any format — that levelled the five-match series at 1-1. England slumped to 64 for three in reply before a fourth-wicket partnership of 108 between former South Africa youth international Jonathan Trott (71) and ex-Ireland left-hander Eoin Morgan (73) punished the tourists for not making enough runs after winning the toss.

| | |
|---|-----|
| South Africa | |
| H Amla b Dernbach | 43 |
| G Smith b Anderson | 18 |
| D Elgar b Dernbach | 42 |
| A B de Villiers c Bell b Tredwell | 28 |
| F du Plessis b Bopara | 01 |
| J P Duminy c Bell b Tredwell | 33 |
| W Parnell c Kewter b Dernbach | 13 |
| R Peterson not out | 23 |
| D Steyn b Anderson | 01 |
| M Morkel b Anderson | 07 |
| L Tsotsobe lbw Anderson | 00 |
| Extras: (lb-1, w-1) | 02 |
| Total: (in 46.4 overs) | 211 |
| Fall of wkts: 1/50, 2/73, 3/120, 4/122, 5/141, 6/155, 7/195, 8/203, 9/211 | |
| Bowling: Anderson 9.4-0-44-4, Finn 8-0-42-0, Dernbach 9-0-44-3, Bopara 10-1-31-1, Tredwell 10-0-49-2 | |
| England | |
| A Cook c Elgar b Peterson | 20 |
| I Bell lbw Steyn | 12 |
| J Trott c De Villiers b Parnell | 71 |
| R Bopara c De Villiers b Morkel | 00 |
| E Morgan c and b Peterson | 73 |
| C Kieswetter run out | 14 |
| S Patel not out | 13 |
| J Tredwell not out | 01 |
| Extras: (lb-1, w-6, nb-1) | 08 |
| Total: (for 6 wkts in 48 overs) | 212 |
| Fall of wkts: 1/14, 2/61, 3/64, 4/172, 5/189, 6/207 | |
| Bowling: Steyn 7-0-32-1, Tsotsobe 7-0-55-2, Morkel 10-1-41-1, Parnell 10-1-23-1, Peterson 10-0-39-2, Elgar 4-0-21-0 | |
| MoM: Eoin Morgan | |

Jamshed steers Pak to series-levelling win

■ AFP
ABU DHABI

Opener Nasir Jamshed hit an aggressive 97 to guide Pakistan to a seven-wicket win over Australia in the second One-Day International (ODI), levelling the three-match series at 1-1 here. The 22-year-old left-hander took the attack to the Australian bowlers during his 98-ball innings, hitting 11 boundaries and two well-timed sixes to help his team successfully chase a

challenging 249-run target in the 43.4 overs at Abu Dhabi Stadium on Friday.

Australia owed their recovery to another left-hander Michael Hussey (61) to post a challenging total despite an impressive performance by Saeed Ajmal (4/32). Australia had won the first match by four wickets in Sharjah.

SCORE BOARD

| | |
|--|-----|
| Australia | |
| M Wade b Junaid Khan | 07 |
| D Warner lbw Ajmal | 24 |
| M Clarke lbw Hafeez | 37 |
| M Hussey b Ajma | 61 |
| D Hussey lbw Ajmal | 00 |
| G Bailey c & b Rehman | 39 |
| G Maxwell st Akmal b Ajmal | 28 |
| D Christian c Jamshed b Khan | 18 |
| M Johnson b Khan | 02 |
| J Pattinson not out | 02 |
| M Starc not out | 11 |
| Extras: (lb-9, w-5, nb-5) | 19 |
| Total: (for 9 wkts in 50 overs) | 248 |
| Fall of wkts: 1/8, 2/74, 3/86, 4/87, 5/153, 6/211, 7/214, 8/235, 9/235 | |
| Bowling: Tanvir 9-0-59-0, Khan 9-0-52-3, Hafeez 10-1-28-1, Rehman 10-0-54-1, Ajmal 10-0-32-4, Ali 2-0-14-0 | |
| Pakistan | |
| Md Hafeez c Hussey b Christian | 23 |
| N Jamshed c Starc b Johnson | 97 |
| A Ali not out | 59 |
| A Shafiq b Pattinson | 09 |
| M Haq not out | 35 |
| Extras: (lb-6, w-20) | 26 |
| Total: (for 3 wkts in 43.4 overs) | 249 |
| Fall of wkts: 1/66, 2/167, 3/190 | |
| Bowling: Pattinson 8-0-46-1, Starc 7.5-0-43-0, Johnson 9-0-51-1, Christian 8-0-40-1, Maxwell 4.4-0-37-0, Clarke 3.1-0-12-0, M Hussey 1-0-8-0, D Hussey 2-0-4-0 | |
| MoM: Nasir Jamshed | |



Nasir Jamshed in action at the Abu Dhabi stadium on Saturday.



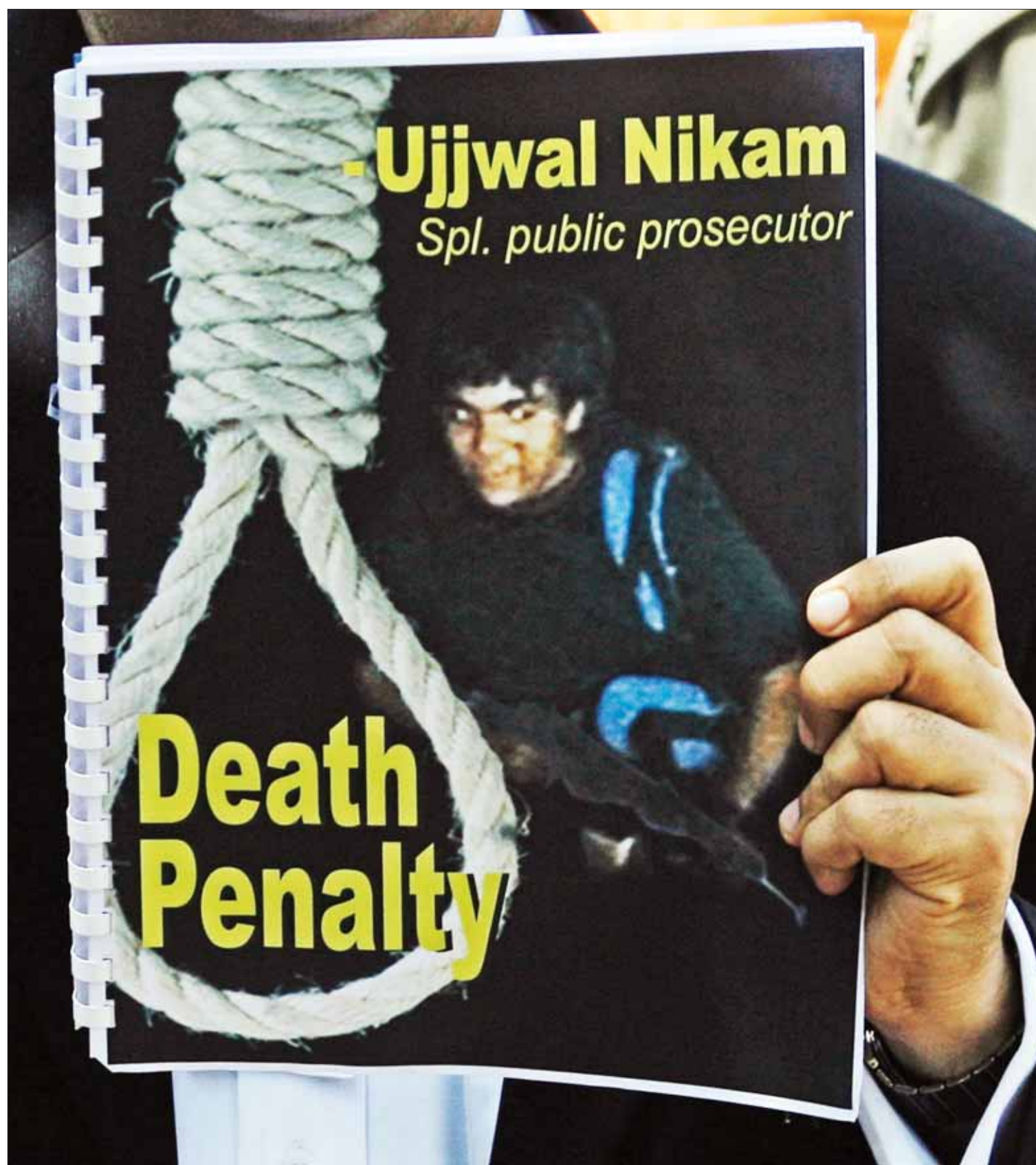
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Clockwise: Special Prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam holds up a document, with a cover showing Mohammad Ajmal Kasab at Arthur Road Jail, where Kasab's trial was held in Mumbai in 2010; Nikam gestures outside the Bombay High Court in 2011; Members of youth wing of BJP shout slogans and burn an effigy of Kasab in a protest condemning terrorism in Hyderabad in 2011 - Reuters

The final verdict

As the Supreme Court of India upholds Mohammed Ajmal Amir Kasab's death sentence, Anirban Roy makes an assessment of the situation

A file photo



Kasab Chronology

- Nov 26, 2008: Kasab and 9 terrorists launched a commando raid in Mumbai.
- Nov 27, 2008: At 1.30am, Kasab caught and placed under arrest, admitted to Nair Hospital.
- Nov 29, 2008: All places under siege secured, 9 terrorists were killed.
- Nov 30, 2008: Kasab confesses before police.
- Jan 16, 2009: Arthur Road Jail was selected for Kasab's trial.
- Feb 20/21, 2009: Kasab made a confession before the magistrate.
- Feb 22, 2009: Ujjwal Nikam was appointed special public prosecutor.
- Feb 25, 2009: Charge-sheets against Kasab, two others were filed in court.
- Apr 1, 2009: Anjali Waghmare was appointed Kasab's lawyer.
- Apr 15, 2009: Anjali Waghmare was removed as Kasab's lawyer.
- Apr 16, 2009: Abbas Kazmi was appointed as Kasab's lawyer
- Apr 17, 2009: Kasab's confession was opened in court, he retracted.
- May 6, 2009: Charges were framed, Kasab charged on 86 counts, but he denied the charges.
- Nov 30, 2009: Abbas Kazmi was removed as Kasab's lawyer.
- Dec 1, 2009: KP Pawar took the place of Kazmi.
- Dec 18, 2009: Kasab denied all charges.
- May 6, 2010: Kasab was sentenced to death by the trial court.
- Feb 21, 2011: The Bombay High Court upheld the death sentence to Kasab.
- March 2011: Kasab wrote a letter to the SC challenging the HC order.
- Oct 10, 2011: The SC stayed the execution of the death sentence awarded to the Pakistani terrorist
- Oct 10, 2011: Kasab told the SC that he was brainwashed like a robot to commit the heinous crime in the name of God and did not deserve capital punishment because of his young age.
- Jan 31, 2012: Kasab told the SC that he was not given a free and fair trial in the case.
- Aug 29, 2012: The SC upheld the death sentence of Kasab

The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the death sentence of 26/11 Mumbai attack convict Mohammed Ajmal Amir Kasab, saying that waging war against India was the primary offence committed by the Pakistani terrorist. A bench of the apex court, comprising judges Aftab Alam and C K Prasad, dismissed the plea of 25-year-old Kasab challenging his death sentence awarded by the Bombay High Court. The judges also rejected his argument that he was not given a free and fair trial.

In a special leave petition against the Bombay High Court judgement, which confirmed his death sentence, Kasab had told the Supreme Court that he was brainwashed like a robot into committing the crime in the name of God, and pleaded that he did not deserve the death penalty because of his young age. The apex court had stayed Kasab's death sentence on October 10 last year. Kasab, along with nine other Pakistani terrorists, had landed in south Mumbai on November 26, 2008 night after travelling from Karachi by sea and had gone on a rampage in the city landmarks, killing 166 innocent people. While Kasab was captured alive, the other terrorists were killed by security forces during the counter-terror operations. Reacting to the verdict, senior advocate Raju Ramachandran, who was appointed as amicus curiae to defend Kasab, said, "I bow down to the apex court verdict."

Within hours of the Supreme Court's order, New Delhi asked Pakistan to immediately punish those involved in Mumbai terror attack "hiding" in that country. Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde took up with Islamabad the issue of bringing the perpetrators of the Mumbai attack to justice. According to reports, LeT founder Hafiz Sayeed, two ISI officers, and



LeT commander Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi were involved in planning and execution of the Mumbai attack, and are "hiding" in Pakistan.

The Home Minister said even if Kasab files a mercy petition, the government would ensure that it is disposed of as early as possible. Cutting across political lines, leaders of almost all the parties have demanded early execution of the Pakistani terrorist. It is now important that the sentence is expedited to ignite the spirit of nationalism in India. Moreover, delaying the execution would mean additional financial burden for the state. So far, to keep Ajmal Kasab alive has cost Maharashtra government over ₹35 crore.

If executed, he will be the 52nd person to be hanged since independence. Kasab will in all probability be hanged at Yerawada jail in Pune. There are two gallows in Maharashtra, one at Yerawada and the other at Nagpur. The government may choose the Yerawada jail since it is closer to the place where Kasab is lodged, and would reduce the risk of transporting him to the gallows.

The last of the hangmen that Maharashtra had was Jhadhav but he retired in 1995. However, the state may recall such a person if

they do not find anyone else. In this case the state may prefer someone from outside as the whereabouts of Jhadhav are not known. The only hangman available is Prabhat Mullick, son of Nata Mullick, who had hanged Dhananjay Chatterjee in Kolkata. It is now for the trial court to announce the date for Kasab's hanging. But, how soon will he be hanged?

Since Wednesday, most reactions to the verdict revolved around on how soon Kasab be executed. The Supreme Court's order effectively closed all legal doors for the Pakistani terrorist. Now, he may file a review petition in the apex court, and can make mercy petition with the President. And, India, as the torch-bearer of democracy, will never oppose the move. Harish Salve, former Solicitor General of India, said Kasab's mercy plea should not be entertained by the government. "Let him apply, that application should be disposed of in 24 hours," Salve said, adding that anybody trying to wage war against the country, should be dealt with an iron fist.

Newly-elected President Pranab Mukherjee has more than 20 mercy petitions pending before him, and the most famous one is that of Afzal Guru, convicted in the 2001 Parliament attack case. Once Kasab files his mercy petition, the rule demands that the earlier petitions are to be taken up and disposed off. However, the President reserves the right to fast track a particular case, provided he is convinced. Hopefully, public sentiment on the Mumbai attack is a strong factor that the President can take into consideration. Family members of the victims of the Mumbai attack are desperate to hear Kasab's hanging at the earliest.

While people are tired of waiting to hear Afzal Guru's hanging, there is a strong skepticism over fast-track execution of Kasab. The court order to hang Afzal Guru was on October 20, 2006, but his wife filed the mercy plea and it has been in abeyance ever since.

The popular feeling is that no mercy should be shown to Kasab. The Mumbai attack was an assault on sovereignty of India, and it is time that we stop compromising on terror. Maharashtra Home Minister R R Patil said that he will ask the Centre to ensure that Kasab is hanged as soon as possible. Welcoming the verdict, senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said those who wage war against the country and kill innocents deserve no mercy.

Interestingly, a section of media has again started a debate — should India abolish the death penalty? The BBC reported that two-thirds of the world's countries have done away with the death penalty in law or in practice. Last year, according to Amnesty International, death sentences

inside



People

Astrophysicist and author Biman Nath talks about his second novel, a historical fiction, *The Tattooed Fakir* **3**



Culture

An exhibition of Derry Moore's photography shows his sensitive eye for details **4**



Travel

Malaga in southern Spain is a city of rare beauty boasting rich history **6**



peanuts



archie



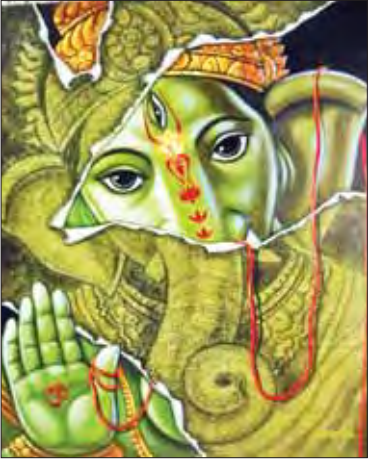
sunday sudoku

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2 | 6 | 4 | | 1 | | | |
| 3 | | 1 | | 6 | | | | 4 |
| 8 | 7 | | | 3 | 9 | | | |
| | | | | 5 | | | 6 | |
| | | 3 | | | | 2 | | |
| | 5 | | | 2 | | | | |
| | | | 6 | 4 | | | 8 | 9 |
| 6 | | | | 9 | | 5 | | 1 |
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YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| 4 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 7 |
| 7 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 6 |
| 3 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 9 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 8 |
| 5 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| 1 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 1 |
| 6 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 2 |

editor's pick of the day



Art Exhibition
Ganesha — The Vighnaharta show-cases paintings of renowned artists like Anjan Bhattacharya, Ashish Gupta and Nripen Nath, among others
Venue: Mirage Art Gallery, New Alipore, Kolkata
Time: 12noon - 7pm

Solo Exhibition
Artist Samaresh Poddar presents his fourth solo exhibition of paintings
Venue: Chemould Art Gallery
Time: 2pm-7pm

An Interstitial Intimacy
Attend a group show of print works. The list of artists includes Atin basak, Abdul Salam, Amitabha banerjee, Rajesh Deb, V Nagdas and Sayak Mitra, among others
Venue: Aakriti Art Gallery
Time: 12noon - 7pm

Film Screening
A documentary film, *A Journey of Jhumur*, will be screened and *Jhumur* songs will be presented by Sunil Pal



Venue: Baitanik, Elgin Road
Time: 6.30pm

Green Asian Food Festival



Feast on bean curd, vegetable summer roll and more
Venue: The Wall, Sarat Bose Road
Time: All day

Chinese Delights
Chomp your way through the most tantalising Chinese delicacies
Venue: Nosh, Chrome Hotel
Time: Lunch and dinner

Thy Name is Woman
Witness an exhibition of paintings and poetry by Albert Ashok and Subodh Sarkar
Venue: Chemould Art Gallery
Time: 12noon - 7pm

All Under One Roof
Lions Club of Kolkata Circular Femina presents an exhibition cum sale of costume jewellery, apparels, ethnic wear, lifestyle products and mouth-watering delicacies, among others. A free medical camp will

also be organised
Venue: Anushthan Bhawan, Rashbehari Avenue
Time: 10am - 8pm

Live in Ghungroo
Watch a performance featuring maestro Ashimbandhu Bhattacharjee
Venue: ICCR
Time: 7pm - 8pm



fortune teller

Aries : You might find your choices split between practical realism and a dreamlike state. You may have an important decision to make connected with your job and career issues midweek. You might be eager to find a practical solution. Today's Full Moon will take you into another space this week which is great for parties and having fun as well as for deeply spiritual matters.

Taurus : You may be frustrated by a lack of energy combined with mental confusion. Don't worry. Instead, embrace the gifts that come when you take a break. Let your mind become still and listen to your instincts. Slow down and success will come naturally to you. This is a day when you may feel somewhat cut off and isolated from your partner.

Gemini : You can't fight the universe when it comes to love. If you keep running into someone, it isn't a coincidence. If you have a certain feeling about something, follow your instincts. There are bigger forces at work here. So don't underestimate brushing your teeth or giving up alcohol for a period of time, there are things you will automatically think of when you ask yourself the question seriously. Don't be afraid to take steps to improve your manners or physical appearance. It's a healthy con-

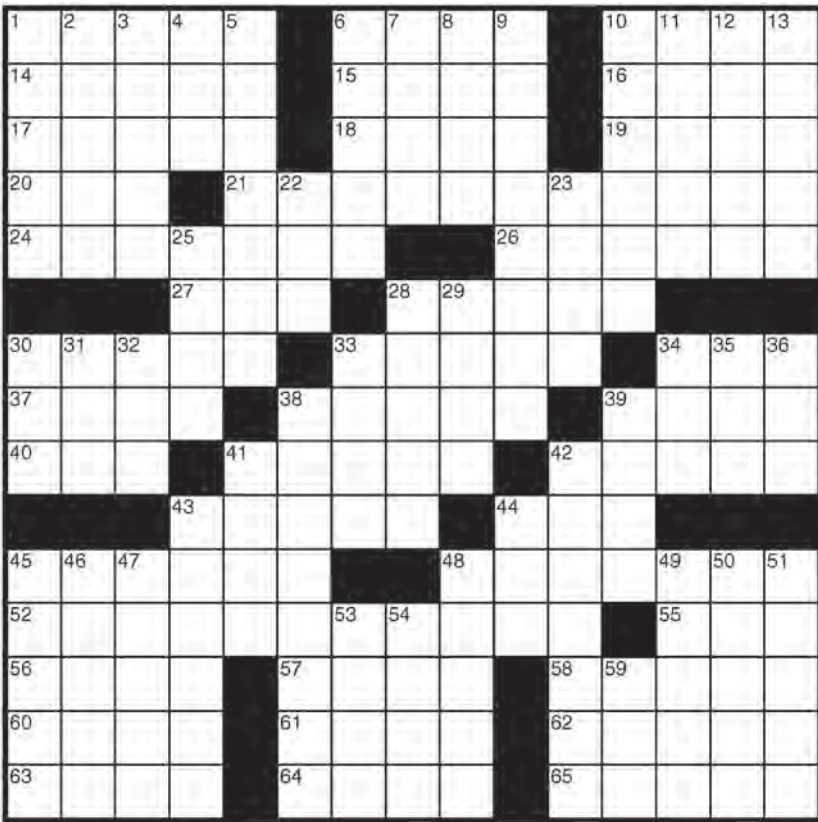
science that wants to fit in and look good! So go ahead and make all the necessary changes this week.

Cancer : You will be on a creative spree in the week ahead. Make the most of it and indulge in all possible creative pursuits. Don't cry over spilt milk. Accept the fact that some mistakes cannot be undone and the best thing to do is to just forget about them and start afresh. Welcome new people into your life.

Leo : The day's planetary configuration may bring you down to Earth with quite a bump with regard to a close association or relationship. You may have been placing your loved one on a pedestal and worshipping him/her. You may suddenly be faced with the fact that he/she is entirely human and has feet of clay. Although this may come as something of a shock, it is better to have a realistic perspective. Don't have far-fetched expectations.

Virgo : The day's planetary configuration may make you feel a little disappointed. If you have become estranged from your partner for a particular reason, it may be a good idea to overcome any initial fears and start the process of trying to understand what has gone wrong. Although this may seem like adding fuel to the fire, it will help shift obstacles if there are any.

sunday crossword



Across

- 1. Drop a glass
- 6. Trendy
- 10. Pear variety
- 14. __ luego!
- 15. _ - _ -tat-tat
- 16. Soprano's counterpart
- 17. Gain admission
- 18. Dolly and her clones
- 19. Use a spatula
- 20. Not sm. or med.
- 21. Fiber sources (2 wds.)
- 24. Left in the lurch
- 26. Assert without proof
- 27. Tattoo site
- 28. Brawl
- 30. Athletes
- 33. 100 kopecks
- 34. __ wheel
- 37. Autobahn vehicle
- 38. Beatles' "Eleanor"
- 39. Raspberry stem
- 40. Mo. multiples
- 41. Keg stoppers
- 42. Blandly urbane
- 43. Groovy
- 44. Stick up
- 45. Cellar access
- 48. Spooky
- 52. Thingamajig
- 55. Carioca's home
- 56. Diatribe
- 57. Really impresses
- 58. Fix a manuscript
- 60. Adams or Brickell
- 61. Found a roost
- 62. Cast a shadow
- 63. Got a load of
- 64. Sudden urges
- 65. All-out

Down

- 1. Rock ledge
- 2. Tropical fruit
- 3. Late bloomer
- 4. Sault __ Marie
- 5. Bays
- 6. Squeaking noise
- 7. Goldie of "Laugh-In"
- 8. Gossip tidbit
- 9. Offhand
- 10. Stump
- 11. Dragon puppet
- 12. Hurt a little
- 13. Grove
- 22. Not RAM, but ...
- 23. Beat a retreat
- 25. S.A. monkey
- 28. Humid
- 29. Subsidies
- 30. Blue-gray bird
- 31. Not just my
- 32. Boombox platters
- 33. Ice palace
- 34. Meadow murmur
- 35. Mdse. bill
- 36. "Golly!"
- 38. Escapes (2 wds.)
- 39. Windy City
- team
- 41. Laird's accent
- 42. Closest to now
- 43. Was the right size
- 44. Sorority letter
- 45. Fallen-rock
- debris
- 46. Bootlicker
- 47. Comics orphan
- 48. Main points
- 49. Buy a round
- 50. Grammy win-
- ner __
- Ronstadt
- 51. Matterhorn echo
- 53. Ply a gondola
- 54. Bed size
- 59. Electrical unit

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | A | J | A | H | | R | E | P | S | | T | S | A | R |
| A | G | O | R | A | | A | Y | L | A | | B | O | N | E |
| M | E | E | T | S | | B | R | O | W | N | O | U | T | S |
| | | | | | | E | S | P | I | E | D | | I | N |
| S | N | A | R | L | E | D | | O | P | E | | | | |
| A | I | R | I | E | R | | J | U | M | P | S | H | O | T |
| L | A | C | E | D | | L | U | R | A | Y | | A | W | E |
| A | C | T | S | | N | A | D | E | R | | W | Y | N | N |
| M | I | | R | A | N | G | Y | | M | I | D | I | S | |
| I | N | C | H | A | R | G | E | | H | E | L | E | N | E |
| | | | A | K | C | | P | A | L | I | N | G | S | |
| F | U | G | U | E | | A | P | E | M | A | N | | | |
| I | N | U | N | D | A | T | E | D | | N | E | W | E | R |
| L | I | L | T | | S | E | A | R | | I | S | E | R | E |
| M | V | P | S | | H | E | R | O | | E | S | S | A | Y |

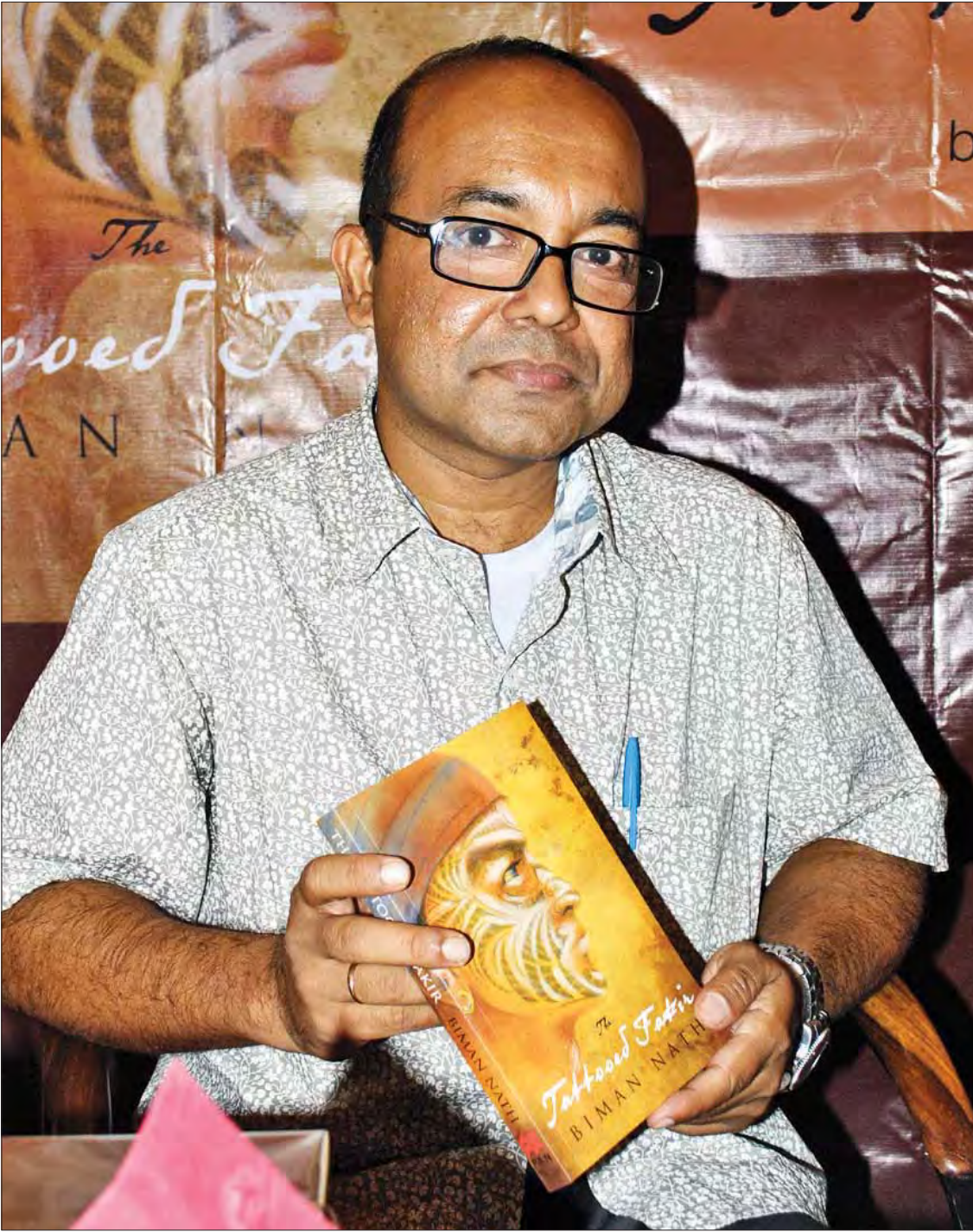
Writing is all about opening one's vein and letting it bleed

By Soumyabrata Gupta

For Biman Nath, a person can only become an author if he can question himself. "I think honing the skill of introspection is what makes a good author. One has to learn the craft and give a lot of time to think about it. Writing is not the only objective. Looking back at the product and thinking about it as objectively as possible and re-writing whatever is necessary is what makes an author," says Nath, adding, "Being able to edit one's own work, often dispassionately, is what makes a layman turn into an author." Following his first work of fiction, *Nothing is Blue*, Biman Nath now presents readers with his second book, *The Tattooed Fakir*, recently launched at Star Mark, South City Mall.

Be it the works of Bankimchandra or the more contemporary Amitava Ghosh, Biman Nath has always been intrigued by historical fiction, a fact that found voice in his first book and is now re-established by his second novel as well. "*The Tattooed Fakir* is a novel set in the northern part of Bengal in the late 18th century. The plot follows sanyasis and fakirs who are up in arms against the erstwhile colonial overlords," Biman says, adding, "The protagonist is a Muslim peasant who, through the turn of fate, turns into a *fakir* himself. There is a French angle to it, replete with espionage as well. There is also an illegitimate child, shunned by his mother, who grows up in the house of a French indigo planter and is then taken away by the *fakirs* and turned into one of them." According to the author, the book at one level is a quest for self-realisation through multiple angles.

Astrophysicist by day and author by night, Biman Nath was born and brought up in Assam. "I did my education till the 12th standard in Assam and then I went to Delhi to complete my graduation in Physics," says Nath who next went to the US to get a post graduation degree in Astronomy. Following his education, the author spent two years in Europe before coming back to India. After a short stint in Pune, the author has been working



in the CV Raman Research Institute in Bangalore for the last fifteen years.

While serious writing is something that Biman Nath has been doing for close to fifteen years, it was astrophysics which has always ruled his heart and soul. Elucidating upon his choice of career, the author says, "Having a career in this field was a childhood decision. When I was in class nine, I developed a passion for astronomy. At that time, my parents gave

me a telescope and that sort of sealed my fate!" He added, "As a profession, I have never thought about anything else." As a kid, the author was not aware of Astrophysics being a separate branch of science, but there was always something about the celestial bodies that intrigued him a lot. "As an adolescent, it started as a romantic inclination towards the night sky, but soon I started doing experiments with my telescope as well," says the author, adding that

not long after, he realised that he had to study Physics to unravel the mysteries behind the celestial bodies as well. The author eloquently says that astrophysics had always been his childhood love.

Although the author came from a family that lived in small towns and villages when he was a child, there house always had a substantial collection of literature to read from. Thus, while the author discovered his love for stars at an early age, his interest for literature

bloomed alongside his primary passion. "As kids, we always had a big library and my father used to keep buying us books to keep us occupied. By the time I was 10 or 11 years old, he not only made me read books but also asked me to write what I thought of those books. He even instilled the habit of writing a diary, in me," says the author, adding that in subsequent years, as he moved to Delhi, he started penning down short stories and non fiction as well. "Though what I wrote was not published as a separate book, but while in Delhi, I usually wrote small pieces for newspapers," the author says.

There were always certain stories that Nath would mull over for a long time, not being able to decide how to proceed with them. Out of this confusion and because he was not able to get rid of the ideas from his head, the author decided to write a short story. "I do not know if I really like writing or not but the short story grew into a novel and subsequently, I have a second novel as well!"

Speaking about the formation of his first work of historical fiction, *Nothing is Blue*, the author says, "I had been collecting notes and had been sporadically writing a few chapters here and there but I had never seriously considered compiling it all into a novel. I had never really given any serious thought to it. In the meantime, I went to the United States for a year to a town where they have the highest concentration of Buddhists in America." The author further elucidates, "There was also a university of religious studies and after I completed my work hours, I would meet several interesting people there, many of whom discussed Buddhist philosophies and also gave me several books on Buddhism. The Centre for Buddhist Studies also had their campus wings named after famous Buddhist sites like Nalanda and whenever I would roam around the campus, these signboards would strike me. So I guess something just popped in my mind, prompting me to write the book. It would probably not make much sense to many, but, in a way, since my mind was ripe with these ideas, every little hint acted like a catalyst to my brain, thus further making me want to write." For the author, it was almost as if the universe was giving him subtle hints

to follow his idea. Being a man of science, the author is skeptical about calling external determinable factors and internal influences as being the act of the Divine in his creative endeavours. He, however, agrees that there are always some things in the author's sub conscious mind, which under the influences of small catalysts, gain predominance in the author's conscience, leading to an outburst of emotions.

However, the art of writing according to the author, is much more than just spontaneity. The author says, "For me, writing is all about opening one's vein and letting it bleed. But then again, that is just the first step. The real art involves the revision and editing which follow the initial outburst. Both spontaneity and the subsequent introspection are important in the art of writing." While people around the world are adept at writing, it is only a few who make their mark as an established author. The transitional period in history with its turbulent socio-economic and political background is what has always interested Nath the most. "I have always found transitional periods very interesting. The chaotic situations of those times have intrigued me a lot. There is a lot of turbulence in society and if one puts an ordinary individual into those chaotic situations, he or she would be able to do extraordinary things. To me, that was very interesting. And I also wanted to write an indigo novel, something which has not been dealt with on a major scale earlier," says the author, whose other motive behind writing *The Tattooed Fakir*, was to talk about these armed hermits who are lost in the pages of history.

The author, who usually writes at night, claims that his style, to begin with, was very random, adding however that, "Once the thing gels and starts getting a shape, I usually spend a couple of hours on it each day. Plus writing has a cathartic effect on me. Even when I am tired, I usually sit down to write." The author believes that English Literature in India has seen a boom in the last few years and rues the fact that he is unable to read as much as he would like to. He concludes with a laugh by saying, "I am working on a book which is not a historical fiction. It will surely hit the stands in the next four-five years."

interview

newsmakers



Wedding bells for Koel

Tollywood's leading lady has decided to call it a day and settle down in blissful matrimony. Koel Mallick is a happy woman and it shows in her bluish and radiant smile. After hogging the limelight and giving one superhit after another, Koel is finally ready to wed her long-time boyfriend, the very handsome and dapper, Nispal Singh. The man of good means heads the production house, Surinder Films. In fact, the latest film from this production house, *Paglu 2* is just out, starring none other than Koel. Whether the pretty damsel will continue to scorch the scene or sacrifice her career and turn into a homely housewife, is yet to be seen. Koel and Nispal's wedding is set to become one of the hottest events of 2013. The date has been fixed — February 1. Here's wishing the winsome twosome a very happy married life!

Naked salute to Prince Harry

Even though it has been a little more than a week since the nude pictures of Prince Harry were



published, the issue doesn't seem to rest. Every now and then, some newspaper or the other has been publishing those pictures. Not only that, new developments associated with the night in question, have been constantly reported over the past one week. And as if that wasn't enough, we now have people showing solidarity with the naked prince. Prince Harry might have been put in the royal doghouse but kudos to him as his fans have been totally inspired by his naked act. Recently, a Facebook group named Support Prince Harry with a Naked Salute has managed to pull in 16,000 members from all over the globe. The group also has an additional 10,000 requests yet to be confirmed. Harry's fans range from young women to male soldiers and even include babies and animals, all pictured saluting the prince. The group has posts from places like Brazil, Israel, Italy and the Netherlands. Support Prince Harry with a Naked Salute also has a website, www.salute4harry.co.uk.

Gunday comes calling

After the highly successful *Mere Brother Ki Dulhan* and *London, Paris, New York*, director Ali Abbas Zafar is ready to go on the floors with his next YRF project, *Gunday*. Produced by Aditya Chopra, the film stars Ranveer Singh and Arjun



Kapoor in lead roles. The story is set in Calcutta during 1971 to 1988. Amidst the most turbulent times in the history of Calcutta, Bikram and Bala rose from being small-time wagon breakers and coal thieves to becoming the biggest and most powerful black marketing mafia-men. A rare combination of vigour and wit, the two were inseparable and the city of Calcutta swore by their friendship. The leading lady is still to be cast. This is both Ranveer and Arjun's third film with the banner. The film goes on the floors this December.

CRR issue heats up!

State Bank of India chief Pratip Chaudhuri's observation at a recent banking conclave in Calcutta that the Reserve Bank of



India (RBI) should phase out the cash reserve ratio (CRR), seems to have stirred up a hornet's nest. The CRR is the portion of deposits that banks keep with the RBI on which no interest is paid. Chaudhuri had added that keeping the required funds with the RBI sans interest was costing the banking system Rs 21,000 crore. Soon after the controversial comment, the apex bank itself came down heavily on Chaudhuri. RBI deputy governor, K C Chakrabarty, minced no words

when he said, "If the SBI chairman is not able to do business as per our regulatory environment, he has to find some other place." Next it was the turn of ICICI Bank chairman KV Kamath who disagreed with Chaudhuri saying that the CRR is part of the monetary policy and no issue can be made of it. Call this money talk!

Item number creates stir

The music of director Madhur Bhandarkar's films has always been their high point. From *Kitne Ache* in *Page 3* to *Jalwa* in *Fashion*, they have



all created a buzz. His latest film, *Heroine*, is also all set to break records at every step as it inches towards its release date. The film's song, *Halkat Jawani* made quite a stir when it was released around 10 days back. The song has crossed viewership of one million on YouTube in this short time. While the comments span from compliments for the choreography of the song to actress Kareena Kapoor's good looks, the song itself has been touted as a classy item song as compared to the rest in the league.

Basking in Olympic glory

The Arjuna and Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards given to Indian sportsmen this year have a special meaning. With India's best show



ever in the Olympics, the ceremony has great significance. It is instant gratification for the Olympic medal winners. Shooter Vijay Kumar and pugilist Yogeshwar Dutt were the Khel Ratna recipients. It was an apt occasion for these London Olympians to get recognition from the government, encouraging them to do well in future tournaments. Cricketer Yuvraj Singh received the Arjuna Award. The award came at a time when the resolute player, who overcame cancer, was reselected for the T20 World Cup in Sri Lanka, making it back to the playing field.

Contributed by **Ashok Chatterjee, Samabrita Sen, Madhumita Mookerji and Supreeta Singh**

One of the most celebrated photographers in the world, Derry Moore knew how to record history and capture beauty through his images, finds out Supreeta Singh



Interior Monologues

Luxure Louis Philippe, Tasveer and The Seagull Foundation for the Arts is presenting an exhibition of photographs called 'Evening Ragas' showcasing works by world's celebrated photographer, Derry Moore. The exhibition illustrates the craftsmanship and qualities that Moore is famous for – a poetic insight into the lifestyle and culture of people who inhabit his images, a natural eye for architectural angles and the rare art of subtlety balancing the modern and the ancient.

In this particular exhibit, the focus is on India and Moore beautifully captures the many moods and moments of Kolkata, Lucknow, Hyderabad, Rajasthan, Benares and Jaisalmer. The exhibition,

which will remain open till September 5, also has Moore's portraits of well-known personalities of India. The exhibition itself derives from a book bearing the same name as the exhibition which Moore published in 1997. There are more than 100 photographs in the book that studies the mesmerising beauty of India in the post-colonial period.

In a note sent for the exhibition, Moore writes, "The photographs in this exhibition were taken during a series of visits to India that started in early 1976. My initial idea had been to photograph some of the places whose days, I knew, were numbered. In the event what fascinated me was not simply the places themselves but also the hybrid quality of many of the lesser buildings that had been constructed since the first arrival of the British

in India. A cultural osmosis was clearly discernible, that of British and European architecture on Indian buildings, and that of India and its climate, as well as its styles, on the British. In the latter instance a grandeur and a sense of space, such as are rarely seen in Britain, were frequently the outcome: rooms were higher, windows larger, corridors wider, detail more lavish; the porticoes of relatively humble might have been snatched from the front of the British Museum. The appearance of their inhabitants too surprised me. I had been expecting folkloric looks, where as what I found was far more interesting – the look and atmosphere of another century."

There are ample examples of Moore's sentiments as expressed in the above statements in his collection of photographs. He freezes the rich quaintness and Chaumahlia Palace of Hyderabad (1976), Mr Mitter's house in Kolkata (1980) and a lady caught unawares on the verandah of a Burdwan palace (1977) in his lyrical lenses. There is a set of photographs displayed together that is as much a powerful verdict of historical value as a visual treat – owners of Marble Palace lounging languidly against the derelict but still splendid remains of the house (1977); a boy sitting ramrod straight on a chair in a vast room in Burdwan House (1977); Nawab's son in the Chaumahlia Palace of Hyderabad (1976); Maharja of Jaipur looking austere in his regal attires (1970); dining room at Murshidabad Palace (1980). The photographs would transport the viewer to an era of sophisticated glamour, resilient power and grand authority.

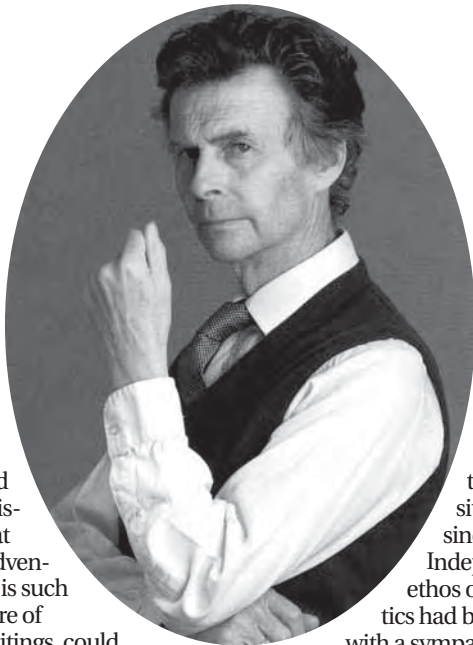
Moore who was born in 1937 and educated at Eton and Cambridge, studied at Oskar Kokoschka's School of Seeing in

Salzburg where he was deeply moved by a book of Eugene Atget's photographs and also by A Night in London by photographer Bill Brandt and later became Brandt's pupil. Moore began his professional career in 1971 and soon found himself fascinated with India. His relationship with the country was not limited to recording the reminiscent exuberance of the Raj-era kingships, but extended to capturing the idiosyncrasies of men and women as well. He shot with equal pleasure Anita Desai, Bina Shivadasani, Yamini Krishnamurthi and Amrita Patel among others taken between 1976 and 1978. At the exhibition, these portraits are put together with a prostitute from Bombay and a grandmother-mother-granddaughter trio levelling class distinctions and revealing the universality of emotions. In the same vein, portraits of Soumitra Chatterjee (1982), Satyajit Ray (1980) and Krishnamurthi (1982) are juxtaposed with a man climbing down stairs. The black and white images are swathed in splashes of light and darkness and Moore gathers up the facial expressions of his subjects with his perfect framing.

In the note, Moore continues, "Though I did not realise it at the time, a transformation was beginning to overtake India, a transformation effected not merely by political change, such as the revocation of the princes' rights and privileges, and thus the effective extinction of the princely states, but also by technological change. In 1976 the telephone still appeared to be in its infancy – to telephone from one part of Bombay to another could take the best part of a morning, and as for telephoning from, say, Gwalior to Lucknow, only an optimist would attempt it. Inconvenient as this might be, it

had the effect of making the country even vaster. Life was more unpredictable and more surprising, and that feeling of adventure, which is such a vital feature of Kipling's writings, could still be sensed. Television was barely known, its homogenising effects yet to come. Mass tourism, with its camp-follower banality, was also a virtual stranger. Anything imported was prohibitively expensive, and 'handmade' was the rule rather than the exception. The motor car - and by 1976

there were effectively only two models, both quite humble, to choose from – was a luxury rather than a necessity. Moreover, since Independence the ethos of Indian politics had been Socialism with a sympathetic tilt towards the Communism of the Soviet Union. This had created a veneer of progress beneath which a traditional way of life was carried on with no more than its customary inconveniences." Moore's sensitive artistic nature and shrewd intelligence of an observer combines to produce such insight.



From classical roots to free flow in Indian dance

By Madhusree Chatterjee

Contemporary Indian dance drew much attention at the just-concluded Edinburgh International Festival, among the few international festivals dedicated solely to performing arts. A troupe led by Kathak exponent Aditi Mangaldas represented Indian dance with two recitals - one traditional and the other contemporary - in the Scottish town last week. The response from the audience was effusive.

Contemporary dance in India, unlike in the west, has evolved from classical roots. Over the last 60 years, traditional dances have moved beyond the confines of temples to the proscenium. Dancer Jayachandran Palazhy in his treatise Performing Arts in India: Dance and Theatre observes that "today an artist's engagements are often outside structured and institutional set-ups". He continues, "Students of dance are seeking diverse inputs in their education that was virtually impossible a few years ago. Training in established forms of dance as well as other physical traditions such as martial arts, sports and body care systems from qualified teachers and institutions...experimenting with one's own peers, learning from videos or through the Internet and being influenced by styles that are seemingly at opposing ends of the spectrum, are all part of the dance activity in the country."

Experts say while in the west, contemporary dances drew on elements from modern and post-modern dances together with elements from classical ballet and deconstruction by icons like Martha

Graham, in India pioneers like Rabinranath Tagore and Uday Shankar broke through conventions to give traditional dance a contemporary colour in the early 20th century.

According to Kathak guru Vikram Iyenger, Tagore brought the grace of Manipuri, the precision of Bharatanatyam and the drama of Kathakali to create the Rabindra Nritya stylised fusion at Shantiniketan. "But I think the father of all Indian contemporary dance is Uday Shankar.

He was the one who followed his heart to assemble material from different dance forms to create a new idiom. Before Uday Shankar, Tagore's style was the precursor of contemporary dance in India," said Kathak exponent Shovana Narayan.

"Most dancers have basic training in a traditional style, which is later amalgamated with a western style.

Contemporary dance with classical roots is now finding its own space. Even

in the west, it did not evolve overnight; the movement took 150 years to evolve," Narayan says. "I am satisfied with the contemporary style in the Kathak idiom," says the danseuse, who draws from Kathakali, Bharatanatyam, Manipuri and Chhau and also moves from Kalaripayattu to narrate new stories about changing times.

One of the pioneers of the contemporary dance movement was Chandralekha, whose unique style could not be copied after her death, says Bharatanatyam veteran Prathibha Prahlad. The Chennai-based Chandralekha used dasi attam – a form of temple dance - with yoga and Kalaripayattu in her contemporary minimalistic productions to talk about social angst and freedom.

There is a strong sense of style in Indian contemporary dance, Prahlad says. The dancer modernises her content in the framework of Bharatanatyam. Prahlad interprets Krishna in "Call of the Flute" in the backdrop of the rural-urban divide in a new contemporary India. Krishna wants to return to his flute, village and Radha - the symbols of the countryside he left behind.

History and cataclysmic events like the two World Wars, along with literature and folk traditions, find expression in contemporary dance in India, says Odissi exponent Sonal Mansingh. "The technical aspect plays a huge part in the contemporary Indian dance; the music is a mix of tabla and jazz. But the inspirations for the body language are from other Indian dances. I have been on the stage for 50 years. I am always contemporary, because I live in contemporary times," Sonal Mansingh signs off. - IANS



New England to old, Zadie Smith refocuses

Author of *On Beauty*, set in New England university town, tells Charlotte Higgins at the Edinburgh festival she will not set another work in the US

books

Her previous novel, *On Beauty*, set in a New England university town, was widely admired by critics, but Zadie Smith, whose eagerly anticipated fourth novel, *NW*, has just been published, has said she will not set another work in America.

The author - whose public appearances are increasingly rare, and who declined to be photographed - told the audience at the Edinburgh international book festival that she had received a great deal of feedback, pointing out inaccuracies in *On Beauty*. The novel, with a cast including a West Indian professor, a would-be rapper, an east coast poet and a Florida hospital administrator, was about two academic families, the Belseys and the Kippses, who, despite an intellectual feud pursued by their patriarchs, become embroiled in each other's lives. "You've no idea how much email I get telling me

how wrong every single thing in the book is. There are a lot of very specific things that Americans don't say and English people don't realise ... Also New York has enough writers, and I don't think I need to add to them," she said.

With *NW*, Smith has returned to her home turf - the north-west London where she grew up - to describe the lives of four people in their 30s born on the same housing estate. She said she wanted to "replicate the experience" of London through its often discontinuous and stylistically diverse prose. "You can imagine the same book written in a really smooth tone, but the city I grew up in isn't like that ... Life is not smooth and seamless, and I wanted to replicate that, too."

Smith said that if the novel did anything new, she hoped it was "to demonstrate that people of colour do not think of themselves as exotic. We think of ourselves as white people think of yourselves, as central to ourselves, and not some stylisation, political points, added extras: none of those things. We are ourselves." *NW* was a surprise miss on the Man Booker longlist, although critics have so far been enthusiastic: the *Observer*



urged that "you should rush to buy this book before the summer is out", and the *Scotsman* praised it as "delightful, intelligent and fundamentally grown up".

Smith, who splits her time between London and the US, where she is a professor at New York University's English department, also spoke about how having a child had changed her as a writer. She warned that it might be a long time before we see another book because "lady writers with children, we're on a different

schedule". *NW* was eight years in the writing. The author of the novels *White Teeth* and *The Autograph Man* said that motherhood had changed her in an extreme way, both "practically and aesthetically", limiting her writing time to four or five hours a day.

Smith said she had not set out with a carefully devised plan for the book but, rather, she had embarked "like a jazz musician" who "has some scales, some tone, a colour, and the rest is improvisation". She added: "I always think of plot as a

great weakness of mine - it was only by not consciously concentrating on the plot that the plot worked out ... The subconscious is a great organiser of material. I felt this book was the best plotted [of mine], but it came without any plan."

Part of the "feeling" of the book, she said, was a sense of expressing how it feels to be in time - the "genuine relativity" of time speeding up as one gets older. She had also wanted to pick through the intricate class system that operates

in London, with poverty and wealth existing cheek by jowl.

"My feeling is that people in particular classes look on people in other classes with some kind of pity or sorrow, or with a feeling that life must, by necessity, be hard in this other class. My feeling is, having lived in different classes, that people want equality of opportunity ... that's the thing that makes me despair: the idea that people aren't given equality of opportunity." - *Guardian News Service*



Vapid vixen unplugged

By Tanushree Mukherjee

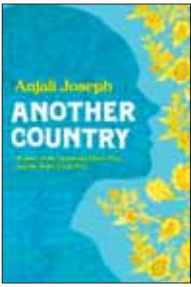
The book, *Another Country*, written by Anjali Joseph and published by Fourth Estate, is unfortunately one more insipid tale of a twenty-something from a rapidly expanding tribe of vapid vixens. In spite of the suitably impressive credentials of the author —reading English at Trinity College, Cambridge and teaching the language at the Sorbonne— the travails of Leela Ghosh, the book's central character, are at best a forced read while one is commuting perhaps.

One does not really get the point of the book, which is accompanied by the ambitious intro about "the three cities of Paris, London and Bombay forming the backdrop to a journey through Leela's twenties at the dawn of the new millennium". Leela, a bored and confused young woman like millions others across the globe, does not need to step out of her own backyard, let alone travel to France or the UK, to

engage in her kind of pursuits, namely chasing men, and then over-analysing her interactions with these men. Every bored and confused twenty-something female without a real vocation in life would behave exactly the way she does. We don't need one more book on that.

For a novel, Leela's characterisation is sketchy at best. We never really come to understand where she is coming from in terms of her personality or inclinations. Being aloof is one thing, being vague quite another. Unfortunately Leela falls into the latter category. And why give Leela an unmistakably Bengali last name when it could just as well have been Sherawat or Sawant especially since, for some inexplicable reason, she declares she is 'not really Bengali'?

The author's fluid writing style is what makes the book bearable, in spite of really basic errors such as using the word 'presently' when she probably means 'currently'. One would think Vodafone IVR was the only one that still made that mistake.



Another Country
Anjali Joseph
Fourth Estate
Pages: 263
₹499

Journey of a nation and a man

By Soumyabrata Gupta

We are always intrigued by fateful events that sees a nation emerging from the ravages of decay and destruction like a phoenix. What intrigues us more, and intrigue emerges out of the inability to formulate hard facts, is the lives of the millions who are affected by this mammoth evolution in the history of nations. Closer home, Hindustan, as it staggered to form two new nations when the clock struck twelve on August 15, 1947 still baffles us. Renowned historian Tapan Raychaudhuri tells one such story as the country staggered to rise on its two feet.

Coming from a class that has been hugely ostracised in fiction through the ages, Tapan Chaudhuri traces his life, and subsequently that of his family, from their *zamindari* days in Comilla till they became landless after the partition and his own rise through the ranks in life (he had been acquitted and imprisoned for his involvement with the Quit India movement), his journey to Oxford and the subsequent success that greeted him with age.

The World in Our Time has been written in a lucid manner which shows considerable penmanship on the part of the author. However, one plaguing factor, recurring throughout the bildungsroman-like-narra-

tive is the repetitions that have been used by the author in his attempt at stressing and re-stressing upon various points.

Raychaudhuri introduces plots and characters, but leaves them mid way with a promise of returning to them later on in the novel. However, the fact that the text is an autobiographical narrative weaves enough scope for such sudden anomalies since the author weaves in the story about his own life and has complete freedom of choosing which character might appear at what time during the whole context of the novel.

Another interesting facet of *The World in Our Time* is of course the author's own immediate and extended family. Whereas much has been written and spoken about the millions of common folk who made the 'great migration', transgressing the newly formed rickety boundaries, the history of the so-called lords of the lands, the *zamindars*, are mostly left out from the pages of the historical texts. It is here that Raychaudhuri's memoir is most successful. His own tale of false glory (the author himself agrees that *zamindars* were but a ghost of their former self by the



The World in Our Time
Tapan Raychaudhuri
Harper Collins
Pages: 364
₹399

time the subcontinent was partitioned) and woe is what is sure to captivate readers.

Stories of erstwhile affluent and yet unlucky family members who lived a life of penury and deprivation forms some of the most thought provoking parts of the memoir.

The book is replete with all the characteristics that might make it a must-read. However, a gradual dip in the narrative, as the author goes into a long discourse over his career is somewhat a letdown. The second last chapter of the book, *Glimpses of Moksha* is perhaps what salvages it to a great extent. The author's description of surviving an open heart surgery and looking through his window, "at the John Radcliffe Hospital, the fields of rape seed..." and the general physical pleasure of having survived it all is inspiring to say the least. The conclusion to this epic journey, if I may call it so, with the author describing his acceptance of the Padma Bhushan, accepting amidst it all the fact that a flawed dream is better than a dream unfulfilled is an appropriate conclusion to *The World in Our Time* — the story of man's great migration.

In Search of the Omnipresent

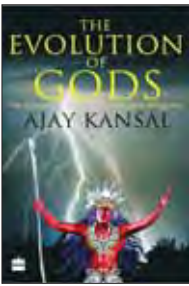
By Shilpi Guha

One man, his ideas, beliefs, doubts and reasons to debate the ever-debatable existence of God is what *The Evolution of Gods* is all about. Author Ajay Kansal explains his atheism through his various experiences in life as a doctor. He makes an attempt to explain religious scriptures all over the world.

Kansal does an admirable job of dispelling various myths and beliefs by backing them up with solid historical and anthropological facts to explain the evolution of gods and religion in a manner that makes sense. The book is a product of keen research and provides food for thought. The author provides incredible examples from across the world from Skhul Cave in Israel which contains evidence of the first burial to the Naskapi - a tribal group in Canada where people consulted the priest before every venture. In the first chapter, Kansal says that in ancient times, when science was not thought of, natural disasters and everything that was beyond people's control were considered to be in control of a supernatural power. Later, groups of people who were mainly the priests of the community took advantage of this syndrome and began establishing themselves as the messengers of that supernatural power. Gradually, to keep their position secure in the society, they made efforts to make the belief in the existence of God even firmer.

Kansal rightly points out the extends of human suffering as a doctor and says if temples were of any use then the purpose of hospitals and nursing homes would be lost forever. His real life experiences will force you to doubt your faith on the Almighty. The language of the book is simple and makes for an easy read. The book might seem to be an out and out work of an atheist but the book is not a seethe against religions but a scientific explanation behind each and every belief which exists around them.

All in all, Kansal's efforts are worth appreciation and the book is evidently an interesting ride right from page 1. It is well written and to the point. The question that will leave you enthralled is, "Whether man evolved from God or God evolved from man?"



The Evolution of God
Ajay Kanjal
Harper Collins
Pages: 232
₹199

An enchanting spectacle of beauty and charm

Visual artist Debolina Dubois cannot but help draw parallels between the languid and historically rich city of Malaga and the old-world atmosphere of her beloved home town, Calcutta



Vigour, power, poise, expression — all are attributes of a Flamenco dancer bringing together the aggression of a bullfighter mixed with the tenderness of a passionate lover. Every breath, sight and starlit night reminds you of Antonio Molina s famous song, “Málaga bella, luz de una estrella, copla de sal, en ti se mira, por ti suspira, por ti suspira, el sol y el mar” (beautiful Málaga, starlight, couplet of salt, if you look it sighs for you, sighs for you, the sun and the sea).

A city and a municipality of the Autonomous Community of Andalusia, Málaga is the sixth most populous city of Spain. Located on the south, it lies on the Costa del Sol of the Mediterranean, about 100 km east of the Strait of Gibraltar and 130 km north of Africa. Malaga enjoys a subtropical-Mediterranean climate, quite similar to that of Calcutta. With a history that spans over 2800 years, Málaga is one of the oldest cities in the World. It was also home to the famous painter Pablo Picasso, the author Federico García Lorca and the actor Antonio Banderas. Above all, the cultural parallels and historical stamp on Málaga, makes it my nostalgic escape from homesickness. Hence,

I decided to make Málaga my second home in Europe. Perhaps due to its intriguing history, Málaga appeals to some deeper sense in every traveller. The Phoenicians founded it as Malaka around 770 BC; it remained under the hegemony of Ancient Carthage

from 6th century BC, and was then ruled by the Roman Republic (later the Roman Empire) as Malaca. Finally, after the fall of the empire it was under the Islamic Arab domination as Mlaqah for 800 years. The archaeological remains and monuments of the city under the



Clockwise from top: Debolina Dubois at the Strait of Gibraltar; Tarifa; City of Malaga; A cup of coffee is the best way to begin sightseeing; A Flamenco dancer; A view of the Malaga City; Malaga cathedral



Pics: Debolina Dubois



Phoenician, Roman, Arabic and Christian eras make Málaga an open museum, displaying more than 3000 years of history. This passionate city has had many admirers. The traveller Ibn Battuta, characterised Málaga as "one of the largest and most beautiful towns of Andalusia [uniting] the conveniences of both sea and land, and is abundantly supplied with foodstuffs and fruits". For a Bengali, it is easy to blend in there. Not just the height, weight, looks and similarities in the phonetics, but also food. The typical dishes of Málaga are a constant reminder of a less spicy Bengal. For example – *patatas bravas* are cube shaped *alur chop*, *arroz con leche* is really the Bengali *payesh*, *gazpachuelo malagueño* is very similar to *mâcher jhol* cooked with olive oil and more *tok* (sour), *gambas al pil pil* is *bhaja chingri*. Of course every restaurant has its own interpretation or variation of these typical dishes, which undoubtedly have their origins in the distant past (times of the Romans, Moors, and Christians), when most of Andalusia was primarily an agricultural society, and the recipes can be considered as humble fare, quite similar to the cultural melting pot of Bengal under the Aryans, Mughals, French and the British. For a foodie like myself, I went looking for fresh, gourmet, and Andalusian delicacy particular to the region of Málaga. Apart from my favourite Casa José located at

Paseo Marítimo (for the fresh catch of the day – roasted in open air), I'd also suggest El Jardin Restaurante next to the Cathedral Gardens (for the exquisite experience of live flamenco performances and absolutely delicious food along with Sangria). The star struck tourists can try El Pimpi – autographs and photographs of famous Spaniards from Paloma Picasso, Cayetana Alba to Antonio Banderas are hung all over the place. For art students especially interested in old poster designs, this is a paradise you wouldn't want to miss. The fact of comfortably sun bathing on a recliner at a private beach of the restaurant Casa José and reading *Sebastian's Arrows: Letters and Mementos of Salvador Dali* and *Federico Garcia Lorca*, despite the routine buzzing sound recurring every fifteen minutes due to small propeller aeroplane flying past with advertisements of David Guetta or the Aqua Park, I could master a feverish want of staying back forever. The poet and artist in us seem to be more awake here in Málaga. Some important places of interest in Málaga consists of The Cathedral of the Encarnation, the military fortifications (of Islamic Spain) the 'Alcazaba of Málaga' (which was originally built to defend the city from the incursions of pirates), Roman theatre of Málaga (1st century BC), La Concepción (botanical and historical garden), Palacio de la Aduana (Fine Arts and Archaeology Museum). Also one must visit the Museo Picasso Málaga, where the oldest architectural remains of Málaga, the walls of the Phoenician city, are visible in the basement.

For shopaholics and loving partners, who wish to spoil their loved ones or simply themselves, should visit the City Centre of Málaga for a good legitimate shopping session. If that doesn't suffice, rent a car and drive down to Puerto Banús and Marbella. You'll have all the exclusive brands from Louis Vuitton, Prada, Armani to Custo Barcelona. Although my every trip to Puerto Banús consists of a new Vuitton, this year I managed to buy a galore of hand crafted pure silver hair comb from the jewellery stores in Málaga City Centre. Traditionally worn by Spanish women during wedding and Flamenco dancing, these combs reminded me of my teen-age days. Similar plastic combs were suddenly fashion in the 1990s in Calcutta, and they became a daily part of my droning school uniform. While en route, you might also want to visit Gibraltar; the last British occupied Spanish land. Another very interesting excursion in this region is the Ruta del Califato. It goes through Córdoba, a former capital of the Moorish empire. La Mezquita is the main tourist attraction of Córdoba, a constant reminder of the Arabic splendour. The Medina Azahara is also worth the visit. Or one can drive down to the Granada to visit the Alhambra, a Moorish architecture, which was in line of succession with the Taj Mahal for the title of the New7Wonders of the World as chosen by the Swiss corporation New7Wonders Foundation. To me, the Alhambra, literally "the red one", is a symbol of multiculturalism, beauty, intelligence and superiority of a race that once dwelled within its four walls. I marked the many similarities of this architecture to the 'Red Fort' in Agra and Delhi. There are separate structures for the many wives, baths, windows veiled with meshes to keep the inside cool in warm summer, including the water channels built to air condition the surroundings.



My favourite part would have been the heart of this architecture. The Court of the Lions or Patio de los Leones is the main court of the Nasrid dynasty Palace of the Lions. Currently under renovation, I could only capture the lions and the court separately. I was amazed at the arches in the court. The downward pointing details of the columns, which are said to have represented the palm trees of an oasis in the desert, deeply related with Paradise in the Nasrid imagination, have some uncanny similarity with the Christian Gothic architecture that were beginning to grow during the same era. For me, the truth in the poem of Ibn Zamrak on the basin of this fountain, summed up the reason for the existence of these majestic marble lions: "The fountain is the Sultan, which smotheres with his graces all his subjects and lands, as the water wets the gardens." Amongst sun-sand-and-beach with a bottle of "cerveza" San Miguel, Cruzcampo or Victoria; amongst bullfighting, flamenco, food, music and diverse cultural influence lies Málaga in Andalucía España. A city in a principality that culturally and psychologically suits the temperament of many Bengali including myself. Besides, where else can a "Bong Babe" dare to laze on a friendly beach in their skimpy bikini to soak a good dose of Vitamin D?





Mystic river lives again

LA's concrete storm drains conceal a living, breathing waterway that has been rarely explored - until now. Rory Carroll paddles a kayak into California history

A scorching morning in the San Fernando valley and I am driving up and down Balboa Boulevard, parks and fields either side of the motorway, lost. The talking GPS on my dashboard has lapsed into silence, defeated by an arcane destination with no zip code. I spy a park attendant emptying a bin and pull over to ask directions. He eyes me, baffled. I wonder if he is deaf and repeat the question. He still looks confused. "Did you say river?" Yes, I reply. Where is the river? He shakes his head. "What river?"

I find an elderly woman with a straw hat walking her terrier and ask the same question. She looks puzzled. "What river, honey?" The river I am supposed to kayak, I reply. She looks at me compassionately, as if I have sunstroke. "I don't think you're in the right place."

But I am. Swishing below, all but invisible from the park and motorway above, is the Los Angeles river. A river with water, fish, tadpoles, birds, reeds, banks, a river that flows for 52 miles skirting Burbank, north Hollywood, Silver Lake, downtown and Compton and empties into the Pacific Ocean at Long Beach. A regular river, except that to most Angelenos it's a secret. I ask three other people and receive the same blank looks until finally a park ranger confirms that, yes, there is a river at the bottom of a ravine all of 150ft away.

There, amid the reeds, bob a dozen little green and red kayaks, and people wearing helmets and lifejackets are clambering inside them. It is the inaugural season of

LA River Expeditions, a pioneering effort to reclaim a waterway that vanished from the city's consciousness almost a century ago. "Welcome," says George Wolfe, the group's founder. "I hope you're ready for adventure." We push off into the current.

Until recently this excursion would have been considered not just mad but illegal. City authorities encased the river bed in concrete in the 1930s, turning it into a flood-control channel that was a byword for contamination and forbidden to boaters. For decades it languished all but forgotten, save for Hollywood using its storm drains in films such as *Grease* and *Terminator 2*. Now, however, it has formally opened to boating tours, specifically kayaks and canoes. Activists hope it is the first step towards transformation. "It's a milestone, and hopefully there are more to come," says Charles Eddy, a board member of Friends of the LA River, and part of this expedition, as he navigates his kayak through brambles. "If you think of the river as a blank palette, people will create all sorts of wonderful things."

The kayak excursions are the latest twist in California's water wars, a saga immortalised in Roman Polanski's 1974 film *Chinatown*, a neo-noir exploration of intrigue and treachery with Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway set during the state's 1930s battles over land and water rights. The river, fed by streams from the Simi hills in Canoga park, originally provided food, water and transport for Gabriolino Indians and Spanish settlers. After the US seized control from Mexico the city's water needs

outgrew the river. An aqueduct completed in 1913 directed water from the Owens river in the Sierra Nevada mountains to LA, ending dependence on the LA river. Disastrous flooding prompted its conversion - desecration, some critics would say - into a glorified drainage ditch. And so it remained for decades, a butt of jokes, a rubbish dump, out of sight and mind except when used as a backdrop for Hollywood car races and chases.

Its nascent revival this summer as a source of recreation and environmental awareness comes amid a renewed water battle. The diverted Owens river is no longer enough - LA county is home to about 10 million people, not to mention vast farms further south clamouring for irrigation. Governor Jerry Brown is championing a proposed \$14bn tunnel system to divert water from northern California to southern California's parched cities and farms. Two tubes, each 33ft wide, would direct part of the Sacramento river - up to 9,000 cubic feet a second - to existing pumps and aqueducts, supposedly ending the water conflicts that Ronald Reagan, Arnold Schwarzenegger and a string of other governors failed to resolve.

"This thing is never going to be free of controversy and conflict," Brown told a press conference last month. "But we know a lot more today than we did then. Here we are, 30 years later, with a lot more knowledge and a lot more science." The US secretary of the interior, Ken Salazar, said the new tunnels would end "the epic water wars that have plagued this state for decades".

Maybe, but the plan will have to overcome resistance from environmentalists who say it will kill salmon and farmers who complain about costs. Some analysts think the water wars will drag on, with southern California seeking ever more desperate remedies for its water shortages.

The Los Angeles river, once the city's lifeblood, is a sideshow to the latest high-pow-



ricin-producing plants. Further on, hallucinogenic gypsum weed. "Around the next bend is the Apocalypse Now bit," says Wolfe. We encounter "fish sticks": improvised traps made by unknown hands to trap carp, tilapia and other species. A discourse on how to make the traps is drowned out by a passenger jet roaring low overhead, briefly breaking the spell.

The sense that this is something special returns as we moor our boats and slosh ashore, inspecting plants, a turtle shell, a cascade, before resuming the journey. It is difficult to believe that the 405 freeway, the gridlocked bane of LA motorists, is just a mile away. Three hours later we return to where we started, a swampy bank, and moor the kayaks amid some ducks. The tour is over. We saw nothing that would excite David Attenborough. But we glimpsed another LA, one not consumed by automobiles, or turned into a strip mall, where nature and human optimism thrive in a watery realm, an ever so slightly mystic river. — *Guardian News Service*



ered struggles for water. But to a coalition of artists, historians, environmentalists and outdoors enthusiasts its fate symbolises an attempt to make LA, branded by critics a soulless, dystopian metropolis, a kinder, gentler, more integrated city.

"We have to start thinking in new ways, and using words differently. If you call it a sewer ditch you treat it like a sewer ditch. Call it a river and you treat it like a river," says Wolfe,

the expedition leader, as our group paddles upstream through a gorge. An advertising copywriter with a passion for canoeing, Wolfe and some companions made the first journey down the entire river over three days in 2008. It was technically illegal - the city did not want anyone in its drainage ditch - but they rebuffed police challenges with a (legitimate) filming permit, a magical pass when dealing with the LAPD, and made it to Long Beach.

Clockwise from top: Kayaking down the LA river; Californian farms ready for irrigation; Balboa Terminal; A man fishing at the Upper Owens River; San Farnando Valley





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my calcutta

Rajib De

Wheels of life

One of the greatest bon vivants of our time



This is the age of indifference. The twenty first century has excluded style, social graces and elegant living. Life's lavishness has been sacrificed at the altar of a carefully cultivated vulgarity. Lineage and pedigree count for very little these days and those who possess them have retreated into oblivion.

Mr Purnendu Narayan Roy of the Bolihar *raj* family was an old world aristocrat — a connoisseur of wine, women and song, he was the ideal *bon vivant* who enjoyed life to the hilt. He passed away a few months ago weighed down by the dreadful infirmities of old age. There was a time when he was in his prime and many gravitated towards him to hear him and savour his well known hospitality. Those days seem so far away now, brooding on their isolation.

He was essentially a great entertainer at home. He served delectable snacks with the drinks and the dinners he produced for the delight of his guests had some special quality as if a magic wand was at work. The *rata-touti* he served seemed more palatable than the one we were used to at home. There were so many items on display which made us feel ravenous. His cook, Manikchand, was an absolute wizard and never failed in his attempts to startle and satisfy the people who sat at the table.

Mr Roy was a bachelor but his dinner evenings were arranged so meticulously that one did not suspect that there wasn't a lady in the house presiding over the evening's events.

He made it a point to invite a colourful assortment of men and women from different dispensations, different persuasions. The conversation sparkled with coruscating wit and the carefree laughter of the guests would

have warned anyone's heart. I remember meeting Dr Tapan Roy Chowdhury, the historian from Oxford, Jahar Sen Gupta, the corporate heavyweight, Imrat Hussain Khan whose musical accomplishments as a sitarist were well known to all. The actor George Baker and his attractive partner, Alpana Goswami, livened the scene sometimes. Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra, one of the greatest exponents of Odissi, was there once, sipping whisky with a look of satisfaction on his face. He trained a battalion of pretty young women striving to become full fledged performers. One evening we met the stunningly attractive Bharat Natyam dancer, Malavika Sarukkai. She sat there with a distant look in her eyes but became voluble when questioned about her philosophy of life and the themes she chose for her performances.

From this it can be well imagined how successfully the parties went off with raillery and

banter propping up the evening. Mr Roy sat in our midst surveying the scene and calling the shots. His choice of guests could not have been improved upon. None of these carefully chosen gatherings were ever unwieldy which would only have led to confusion and even boredom.

Mr Roy will always be remembered for his inimitable qualities as a raconteur who could trot out highly amusing anecdotes about various people at the drop of a hat. He spoke haltingly with a slight stutter and studied our reactions after the first few lines. He related the stories with a minimum of fuss but was determined to get to the point where the audience would be in stitches. How well he remembered those incidents and how charmingly he dressed them up.

Whenever he went abroad, he looked at the faces of men and women on the road, in the cafes, the restaurants, the book shops. He

seemed fascinated by the infinite variety he saw and I can well believe how much facial expressions can contribute to our memory album. The faces reveal such a lot about a country and its culture.

He was a gentleman to his fingertips and lived up to his credentials as a member of the landed gentry. He found feminine company highly desirable. We remember quite a few lis-some young ladies who were captivated by his acts of generosity and stayed as his house-guests.

My wife and I long for him to return with that familiar smile on his face, ready to delve into the past to bring out nuggets of humour. There will never be another jolly evening with Mr Roy looking shyly at us, wanting to know which tales we wanted him to repeat. He took away with him all the merriment that once lubricated our frigid world.

— The writer is a raconteur and connoisseur of old Calcutta

When childhood memories foreshadow social change

By Sharmila Ghosal

Where do an adult's childhood memories start? Obviously at home and with the first people that he sees as an infant from the time his cognitive skills start functioning. And so it is with me. For me, home was where my parents were. A major share of my childhood reminiscences, therefore, is reserved for my parents, who were not just my guardians but my first friends as well.

India has always been known as the land of hospitality. But in this age of television, Internet, theme parties, discos, corporate beat-ups and outstation trips with friends, Indians who were once the epitome of warmth and hospitality are slowly losing that image. Busy schedules and new leisure activities are making guests progressively less welcome to most households and the concept of dropping in without warning, literally a thing of the past. It would be no exaggeration to say that one would need an appointment to visit family and friends nowadays. It is in this context that I am reminded of how my mother, the Ma Annapoorna of our large extended family, would go out of her way to welcome all and sundry into her hearth.

Ma, a beautiful, aristocratic lady was also my 'lady in white' those days. For some reason, she preferred to wear white blouses with many of her pastel coloured *saris* and hence this vision of her. No mat-

ter who came to the house and no matter when, this lady always had a meal ready for him or her. As I look back, I somehow get the feeling that some of the meals that she so willingly served sometimes came from her own share of the food that she had foregone silently so as to be able to feed her unexpected guests. Also, *ma* never let on her nervousness or difficulty in fending for these guests to anyone. With a pleasant smile and a warm air, she welcomed them all into the house. She truly believed in the dictum, *Atithi Devo Bhava* (the guest is god). And the best part is, even though the times have changed and hospitality is no longer a favoured virtue any more, this frail beauty still maintains those high standards of hospitality to this day, at the ripe age of 75!

My *baba*, who is 82 years old today, is as enthusiastic about socialising and trying out new things as he was as a young man. In most respects, he is the exact opposite of my *ma*, except for the fact that he too believed in the *Atithi Devo Bhava* theory. No wonder, we had a steady stream of guests those days. And fun times were they because more guests at home automatically meant less time for studies. Of course, my parents never had to nag my sister or me to do our homework. Besides, the little *Atithi Devo*s who tagged along with the bigger ones needed looking after too!

The times have changed in more ways than one. Children of all age-groups, particularly adolescents and young adults, no

longer find the time or urge to sit around and discuss their pressing concerns with their parents. Nor do working parents have the luxury anymore of spending long hours with their offsprings. 'Each to his own' seems to be the mantra today. But the remarkable thing about my *ma* was that you could talk to her about anything. She was a quiet person and a patient listener. When I became a teenager and the usual boyfriend problems invaded my life, it was to my mother that I turned with all those problems. She would listen to my story keenly and then give her solution in simple, unequivocal terms. One invaluable piece of advice that she gave us regarding our friends, I give to my own children today. She said that personal friends of each family member should become family friends of the whole family. Only those friends whom you can introduce freely to your family members without fear or embarrassment can be termed as good friends. When I joined college, she specifically forbade me to skip classes and go for outings. "Your studies will suffer like this. Bring your friends home. Give us a chance to meet them. You can go out with your friends on special occasions," said *ma*. Now with an intelligent, understanding friend like that at home, who would want to play truant? So there were no skipping of classes, no secret rendezvous with strange boys or clandestine cinema shows. If there was a jam session or a new year's bash-up, I would inform my *ma* about it and she never denied me permission to attend it. She felt happy that I was taking permission to go out with friends. Such a prophetic thought and still as relevant today as it was way back in 1977!

The other change that I find around me today is the growing importance of private tutors. Nobody seems to believe that kids can learn much in their school or college and this band of non-believers includes parents, children and even the teachers themselves. It's no surprise then, that wherever you go, you will find private tutors invading homes to fortify the children's learning process. Alternatively, children will rush off for tuitions to catch up with the day's proceedings or to do their homework under the tutor's eagle eye.

But my father, a mechanical engineer, a Chinese language specialist and a DRDO scientist, all rolled in one, never ever believed in the private tutor system for



school children. Neither he nor any of his siblings had ever needed private tuitions to do well in their studies. "And we started our academic careers from village schools", he would say proudly. *Baba* could never understand why little children now required an army of private tutors to see them through school examinations. As you can guess, I never had a single tutor through school and college. To *baba*, less marks always meant that I was not attentive enough in class or studious enough at home! And so it happened that the only "tutors" who were allowed to come home were a *Kathak* guru and a Rabindrasangeet teacher, probably because none of these subjects featured on the school curriculum!

Today's modern kid has an active social life that is full of picnics and parties. Talking of parties, the pride of place most certainly goes to the omni-present birthday party. My childhood however was quite different in this respect, being completely bereft of any birthday parties to celebrate our birthday. *Baba* believed that birthday parties increased a child's greed, making him focus more on the attractive gift boxes that the guests brought with them, rather than on the guests themselves. He told us to treat our friends on every other day except our birthday. Of course, we attended numerous birthday parties ourselves (no other dad had such unique views on birthday parties as our dad) and gave numerous birthday pres-

ents to our friends as well. And, in all fairness to the man, *baba* never grudged buying presents for all those kids.

Do you think feminism had a late entry in our country? Well you haven't met my father in that case.

He was always a true feminist at heart which he continues to be till date, much to the satisfaction of his only grand-daughter, a contemporary young woman. I will give just two examples here.

The first example relates to a sociological trend that is prevalent up to this day. The trend relates to the issue of having daughters and the fact that many fellow Indians still curse their fate on having female offsprings. Numerous government public awareness campaigns, and efforts by the media and other agencies have failed to turn around the prejudice operating against the girl-child. But this forward-looking man trudged all the way up to the Vaishno Devi Shrine over 50 years ago just to ask the goddess to bless him with twin daughters. Although Vaishno Devi did not bless him with twin girls, she certainly gave him two girls who were destined to be born in the same calendar year with very similar fates and attitudes! To this day, *baba* maintains that it was an impossible task that he had set the goddess because his wife was already carrying her first daughter by the time he decided to visit the holy shrine with his unusual prayer.

And what about the inhuman dowry system that is also pretty widespread in most parts of the country to this day? This evil social practice has taken many lives in the past and led to many divorces in recent times. So here's my second example. When we grew up, my father made a decision not to give dowry in any form to get his two daughters married. He resolved to say no, on principle, to all those families who demanded anything, in cash or in kind, however good they or their sons might be. "I prefer to keep my daughters unmarried whole life and fend for them rather than hand them over in marriage to these villains of society," declared *baba*. "If I fail to find decent matches for my girls, I will use the money that I've saved for them for their studies abroad," he added.

Today, as I look at this warm-hearted, silver couple, I feel a sense of pride, joy and hope. I feel proud to be born as their daughter, my joy stems from seeing them live full lives (touch wood and thank god!) and the hope is also a prayer that the good times continue...



Illustration by Sourav Bhattacharya