



WEEKENDER

Three top fashion designers showcased wedding finery on the first day of Couture Week in New Delhi **Page 8**



SPORT

Lightning strikes twice as Usain Bolt rewrites history on his way to 200m gold with a timing of 19.32 **Page 16**

NATION

On the second day of his fast, Ramdev asks PM to show political will to get back black money **Page 7**



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VOICE OF THE EAST

Holy Feast



Chief minister Mamata Banerjee at an iftar party in Park Circus Maidan on Friday

Rahul Chattopadhyay

SHORT TAKES

Plate tectonics on Mars discovered

Los Angeles: The phenomenon of plate tectonics, previously thought to exist only on Earth also occurs beneath the surface of Mars, a scientist has claimed. A University of California - Los Angeles researcher found that the geological phenomenon, which involves the movement of crustal plates beneath a planet's surface, also exists on Mars. —P10

SBI posts 137 pc jump in Q1 profit

Mumbai: State Bank of India on Friday posted a 137 per cent jump in net profit at ₹3,752 crore for the June quarter, though bad loans rising to ₹20,324 crore remains a cause of concern. The rise in non-performing assets sparked concerns in the stock market. —P12

Fresh raid at Kanda's residence

Sirsa: Delhi Police carried out fresh raids at the residence of absconding former Haryana minister Gopal Kanda, who is wanted in air hostess Geetika Sharma's suicide case. —P7

Business

Indices

Sensex: 3.13

Nifty: 2.6

Bullion

Gold/10gm ₹30,160 Silver/1Kg ₹53,150

Top Gainers

Technocraft -19.96% SHREE TULSI -12.47%

Dollar 54.91
Pound 85.46
Euro 67.15

Weather

Overcast

High: 32.2c

Low: 26.3c

Rainfall: 6.8mm

Forecast

High: 32c

Low: 26c



Health dept steps up efforts to contain dengue spread in city

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

With a dengue outbreak affecting 11 people in the city, most of them from Salt Lake, the state health department is working with the Bidhannagar sub-divisional hospital, Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) and the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine (CSTM) to control the disease.

While several people have been admitted to city hospitals and nursing homes during the past one week with

dengue symptoms, government officials see a delayed monsoon as the primary reason for spread of the disease.

The authorities have so far identified dengue in 11 people, including six admitted to the Bidhannagar sub-divisional hospital, one to the Beliaghata ID hospital and another to the CSTM, authorities said.

Three others who have also tested positive for dengue are yet to be hospitalised, officials said. "Hospitals and nursing homes have been

asked to adhere to World Health Organisation guidelines and follow the diagnostic and treatment protocol," a senior official said.

Atin Ghosh, member, mayor-in-council in charge of health at the KMC, said that reports of the spread of the disease have been received from four KMC wards, mainly from Kasba and Anandapur, where civic personnel are taking steps to spray medicated oils.

He said that the KMC had also asked the CSTM to formulate a treatment protocol.

The KMC has already held a high-level meeting with health officials, the CSTM and the National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, besides representatives of 25 nursing homes and private hospitals to review the situation.

State health minister Chandrima Bhattacharya told reporters all private hospitals and nursing homes had been asked to regularly report dengue cases to her department.

Mumbai lawyer died resisting rape: Cops

PTI MUMBAI

Most missing links in Pallavi Purkayastha's murder have been accounted for. Blinded by lust, Sajjad Ahmed Mughal, 22, a watchman at the housing complex where the 25-year-old Mumbai lawyer lived, tried to rape her and stabbed her to death when she resisted, police said on Friday.

Pallavi, daughter of IAS officer Atanu Purkayastha, a joint secretary in the agriculture ministry, was found lying in a pool of blood in her 16th-floor apartment at the upscale Himalayan Heights in Wadala on Thursday morning. It was her live-in partner Avik Sengupta who found her. Sajjad, a native of Uri in

Jammu's Baramulla district, had opened Pallavi's flat with stolen keys, tried to force himself on her, and stabbed her to death when she offered resistance, joint commissioner of police (crime) Himanshu Roy said.

"It is the perversion of the highest order, heinous kind of perversion which deserves nothing but death sentence," Roy said. Giving details of the incident, he said, Pallavi, who worked as a legal advisor with filmmaker Farhan Akhtar's firm Excel Entertainment Pvt. Ltd, returned to her rented flat at 11 pm on Wednesday night. Finding that there was no electricity, she texted Avik, her senior at Indian Law School at Pune, who lived with her. Avik advised her to call an electrician, who came

and set things right. After some time, power was gone again. She called the electrician who was accompanied by Sajjad. This was when Sajjad stole the keys to the flat.

The problem was fixed and Pallavi retired to her bedroom

after switching off the high-volt appliances, as advised by the electrician to avoid tripping.

Roy said Sajjad had told his interrogators that he had "manipulated" the electric meter of the flat located on the ground floor which led to a second power cut. After entering Pallavi's flat, Sajjad sneaked into her bedroom and tried to force himself on her. A scuffle ensued and Pallavi, a former national-level swimming champion, put up stiff resistance. Sajjad then stabbed her and fled the scene after concealing the murder weapon, a knife, under a shoe rack on the third floor. He jumped over the fence to escape being noticed by fellow watchmen but was caught by police near Mum-

bai Central Railway station before he could board a train to Jammu and Kashmir, Roy said. He said when Avik returned to the flat around 5 am, he saw the door ajar and a badly wounded Pallavi lying in a pool of blood. Avik tried to revive her but failed.

Calling the murder a "premeditated kind of an act", Roy said, "apparently Sajjad had been planning it for some time". Asked if Pallavi had made desperate attempts to call her neighbours by pressing the door bell but only without success, Roy said the blood stains on the bell could have come from Avik, who had tried to revive Pallavi and then woke the neighbours up. "But she indeed came out as there was blood outside the flat," Roy said.



Pallavi Purkayastha

chew on THIS

Junk food can lower kids' IQ: Study



ANI LONDON

Breastfed kids are more likely to succeed in primary school than those who are brought up on fizzy drinks.

A healthy diet makes children smarter, suggests a new study, and the sooner they get it, the better. The food children have when they are six months to two years old can affect their IQ level.

Little girls may be made of sugar and spice and all things nice, according to a nursery rhyme, but those are pre-

cisely the stuff to avoid - the sugar and spice, that is, not the girls.

It was found that eating too much chocolate before the age of two can hamper children's IQ by the time they are eight, reported the *Daily Mail*.

The study conducted by the University of Adelaide found that by the age of eight, the "junk food" tots had IQs up to two points lower than kids on a healthy diet.

Dr Lisa Smithers and her team studied the link between the eating habits of

children at six months, 15 months and two years, and their IQ at eight years of age.

They compared the diets and IQs of 7,000 children.

"Diet supplies the nutrients needed for the development of brain tissues in the first two years of life, and the aim of this study was to look at what impact diet would have on children's IQs," said Dr Smithers.

"We found that children who were breastfed at six months and had a healthy diet regularly including foods such as legumes, cheese, fruit

and vegetables at 15 and 24 months, had an IQ up to two points higher by age eight," she said.

"Those children who had a diet regularly involving biscuits, chocolate, sweets, soft drinks and chips in the first two years of life had IQs up to two points lower by age eight.

"We also found some negative impact on IQ from ready-prepared baby foods given at six months, but some positive associations when given at 24 months," she added.

Yuvraj picked for T20 World Cup squad

PTI MUMBAI

Yuvraj Singh was included on Friday in the Indian team for the World Twenty20 Championship in Sri Lanka and the two T20s against New Zealand in September, within months of his recovery from a rare germ cell cancer.

In another interesting pick, senior off-spinner Harbhajan Singh was recalled to the team after a gap of one year along with veteran seamer Lakshmi-pathy Balaji, who makes a comeback after three years. Yuvraj's selection was on the cards after he was declared fit by the physio and trainer at the National Cricket Academy where he had been camping for the past one month.

"Yuvraj has been declared fit, so he makes a comeback. And all of us know, if he gets going, he can singlehandedly win matches," chairman of selectors Krishna-machari Srikanth said.

According to sources, Yuvraj's selection wasn't exactly unanimous as

couple of selection committee members was apprehensive about picking him for the T20 World Cup starting September 18. This was because Yuvi had not played competitive match for the past nine months.

Harbhajan Singh too was included in the squad. His selection was simply based on his past record as India's spin department. The surprise inclusion was Piyush Chawla. The inclusion of Balaji was based on his impressive performance for Kolkata Knight Riders in the last two editions of the Indian Premier League.

The only tearaway pacer in the squad is Ashok Dinda while the other two seamers will be the experienced duo of Zaheer Khan and Irfan Pathan.

The squad consists of eight players - Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Gautam Gambhir, Virender Sehwag, Yuvraj Singh, Irfan Pathan, Rohit Sharma, Piyush Chawla and Harbhajan Singh - who were a part of India's historic T20 triumph in South Africa five years back.



UP minister to officials: Steal a little, work hard

RAJIV RANJAN JHA LUCKNOW

PWD minister Shivpal Singh Yadav, uncle of chief minister Akhilesh Yadav, candidly told officials that they could steal a little bit of public money if they worked hard but they should not become "dacoits".

He also draws the line at snitches. Just how the media got wind of what he said at a closed-door meeting is a matter of investigation, he said, claiming he had been quoted out of context.

Clearly, in his book, reporting what he said behind closed doors was a crime, calling for an investigation. As he pointed out, the media was not allowed at the meeting.

The minister reportedly gave officials the licence to steal at a meeting in his home district of Eta on Thursday.

Chairing a meeting of the district programme committee, he said, "Maine to usi din PWD walo se khule aam keh diya tha agar mehnat karoge to thodi bahut chori kar sakte ho, dakaiti nahi daloge (I have already told PWD people openly that if you work hard, you can steal a little, but don't behave like dacoits)." "Agar mehnat karoge, jee la-gaoge, agar inhe meetha paani de doge to chori kar sakte ho (If you work hard, if you give them water, then you can steal)," he added.

Once the news got out, all

hell broke loose.

The BJP and other opposition leaders were predictably outraged and lashed out at the minister for giving corruption official sanction.

Realising his faux pass, the minister went into a damage control exercise and, on his arrival in Lucknow on Friday, called a select group of newsmen and said he had been quoted "out of context".

Shivpal, a senior cabinet minister in the Akhilesh Yadav government, was hard pressed to explain his remarks and said it was a closed-door meeting with PWD officials in which the media was not allowed.

According to him, what has been reported in the press is out of context. "I had stated that the erstwhile government had indulged in large-scale corruption, cheating and stealing which, I said, should be stopped," the minister said, adding that the Samajwadi Party had come to power vowing to end corruption.

When reporters persisted with questions on his controversial remarks, Shivpal said, "I have taken back those words. So, why are you raking it up? I have always co-operated with the press. I don't know why the media is targeting me."

Calling Shivpal's statement "unfortunate", UP Congress Committee president Rita Bahuguna Joshi sought a clarification from him.

US-based NGO holds session on democracy

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Urging youth to know their political rights and participate in government matters on a more active note is the need of the hour. A US-based organisation discussed the practice of a person's democratic rights and stated that a watchdog was needed in the country as well.

Youth from the city as well as from Delhi interacted with Rock the Vote, a non-partisan non-profit organisation that ensures that youth are fully aware of their voting rights, via video-conference on Tuesday. This was aimed at a set-up that would enable youth to interact with political leaders and discuss youth-related issues such as employment, higher education and others.

"Money and criminal activity are two issues that play predominant roles in politics. Most youth do not feel part of the electoral process because they are naïve, feel threatened and are not enthused enough to make great leaders out of themselves. Thus, they do not see the importance of electing great political leaders," said Heather Smith, president, Rock the Vote.

With the help of music, popular culture and new technology, the organisation has registered over five million youth who vote in every election.

SHORT TAKES

State TMCP unit rally against SFI

Kolkata: The Trinamool Chhatra Parishad (TMCP) on Friday took out a procession from Surendranath College to the Sealdah South GRP booth to protest against the alleged assault of a TMCP activist by SFI cadres. A charter of demands was also submitted to the GRP office.—BP

Metro stopped at Esplanade station

Kolkata: An air-conditioned Metro rake had to be stopped at Esplanade station on Friday at around 8.41 pm as sparks started coming out from under the wheels. Passengers were asked to get down from the train as engineers rushed to the spot. Metro Railway authorities said the train would be repaired overnight. The incident happened due to friction between the gear and the wheels.—BP

Zonal conference for govt staff

Kolkata: The State Government Employees Federation started their 10th zonal conference in Salt Lake on Friday. State technical education minister Rabi Ranjan Chatterjee inaugurated the conference. A blood donation camp was also organised where around 100 staff donated blood. The conference will end on Saturday.—BP

New railway tracks laid

Kolkata: Construction of the new railway line from New Mal Junction to Changrabandha and a new station building have been completed and work on the platform building is on.—BP

I convey my best wishes to everyone on the occasion of auspicious celebration of 'JANMASH-TAMI'. This day reminds me of the life and works of Lord Krishna and His great preachings in the Bhagavad Gita. What appeals to me most is to follow the right path and never to tolerate injustice. At the same time, I also believe in the ideals of performance of action without expectations. These ideals are universal in nature. If the mankind follows these principles, the world would truly become a better place of living.

Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister, West Bengal



Rainy Day



A sudden spell of showers brought relief to city dwellers on Friday

Prabir Bhattacharya

2 Nigerians held in Net-banking fraud

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Following the arrest of five Nigerians earlier this year in May for fraud in a Net-banking case, two more were arrested from Mumbai on the same charge on Friday. Allegedly, the duo is responsi-

ble for having lured people from across the country to open accounts in international banks without any initial deposit.

The two accused are 35-year-old Okwara Chinnedu Ferdinand, alias Mike, alias Chinweke and 38-year-old Kingsley, alias Kings. A vic-

timm Debashish Dutta, a resident of Raja S C Mullick Road in Garia in the city, who reported the two accused, reportedly received an email from an unknown account whose logo was similar to the logo of the State Bank of India. The mail sought Dutta's current bank account details.

Upon noticing the slight difference in logos, Dutta reported the case to the police, following which the two arrests were made. Earlier in May, the victim had lost Rs 3.94 lakh from his bank account after he responded to a similar mail and provided his account details.

Entrance exam modules now available online

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The lack of comprehensive coaching classes for entrance examinations such as the common admission test (CAT) in rural or semi-rural regions is a thing of the past as modules are now available either online or in CD format, bridging the infrastructural gap. The preparatory models available online allow students to get coaching at their own convenience.

This online coaching system came to the fore with the gaining popularity of mastering English-speaking skills. This peaked with the emergence of entrance examinations and similar tests. It seemed as a boon for working professionals or those students who aspired to pursue mainstream studies as well as cracking these aptitude tests.

Ashish Kumar, a professional, said: "Online coaching is the need of the hour and is extremely convenient for professionals who could not spare much time to opt for coaching classes. With the wider usage of computers, its demand has increased."

Companies such as Tata McGraw-Hill have come up with the 'CAT ONLINE' prepara-

tory CAT aid or teaching material. It recently launched its second edition for CAT aspirants and they claim that the practice of self-mentoring might not produce guaranteed results.

Author and expert in CAT training Arun Sharma said: "The educational kit consists of a printed reference book containing theory and practice material that provides a complete panoramic perspective of the exam. Its preparation strategies equipped with practice modules, sectional tests and model test papers provide the reader with the necessary skills to crack the prestigious exam." The unique preparatory kit integrates print, electronic and online media for preparation for CAT aspirants.

Several coaching classes have also started the practice of rendering online coaching for their students and of late, it has been found that universities or educational establishments are collaborating or hiring foreign faculty or experts and arranging live tutorials or seminars. However, Rupsa Mazumdar, who passed her CAT, said: "The online coaching systems are quite popular now. But still, personal guidance is the safest bet."

Pinki rejoins duty as ER revokes suspension

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Athlete Pinki Pramanik rejoined her duties as a ticket collector at Sealdah station after Eastern Railway (ER) revoked the former Asian Games gold medalist's suspension from service on Thursday.

An ER official said the suspension was revoked after she submitted a copy of her bail order. Pinki was granted bail on charges of rape earlier on Tuesday.

"I feel relieved after all the trauma I had gone through. I am thankful to the railways for reinstating me," said Pinki after rejoining work.

She had reportedly appealed to get back her job on Wednesday and received the joining order immediately, said Pinki.

She had been arrested on charges of rape and gender misrepresentation that were levelled against her by her alleged live-in partner and was suspended from railway service after 48 hours in custody, as per central government rules, said an official. Medical tests were carried out as per court orders and now that the court has granted her bail, ER considers her innocent, the official said.

"It is not for us to question the medical test reports. She



Pinki Pramanik

Athlete caught in gender crisis

Pinki Pramanik, an athlete who had won multiple medals for the nation in the Asian Games, was charged with raping her live-in partner, Anita Acharya. Later, Pramanik had to face medical tests to prove her gender. She was also found involved in a land scam at south Kolkata's Kasba where she had allegedly sold a government-gifted plot to another former athlete Avtar Singh illegally.

got bail and she appealed to us. Following that, her suspension was revoked," said ER CPRO Samir Goswami. When asked what measures ER would take in case Pramanik was found guilty later, the official said: "We will work according to court orders. Who are we to go against the law? But let us wait and watch."

Meanwhile, Pinki said her co-workers were supportive and showed great respect towards her. Many people in fact were having their pictures taken with her, she said. Pinki had first joined the Sealdah division of ER as a khalasi (a Group 'D' post) in 2003 at the age of 17, an exception, as railway rules do not allow minors to be recruited.

Wheat worth ₹2.75 cr seized

EB sleuths raid godown near Kidderpore dock

■ OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Enforcement Branch (EB) of Kolkata Police seized 20,000 quintals of wheat after raiding the godown of a private company near the Kidderpore dock on Friday. The seizure is an extension of a similar operation on July 28, during which police had seized 4,500 quintals destined for Bangladesh.

According to sources, the EB raided the godown of MMG International and found wheat worth around ₹2.75 crore after they received information during the interrogation of those arrested on the earlier occasion.

While the raid was conducted under the aegis of the EB, it was conducted under the jurisdiction of South Port police station, said senior EB officer Debabrata Das.

Senior officials said that the latest seizure was part of the huge consignment of 4,500 quintals that was meant to be

While the raid was conducted under the aegis of the EB, it was done under the jurisdiction of South Port PS

smuggled to Bangladesh. The total consignment was meant for Bangladesh, instead of for people below the poverty line.

The officials also said that the consignment was taken out from godowns of the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

Following the last seizure, state food and supplies minister Jyotipriya Mullick had initiated a primary investigation into the PDS wheat-smuggling case, which led to the transfer of Swarup Mondal, district controller of the

food and supplies department in South 24-Parganas, to the department's main office on Mirza Ghalib Street.

Mondal had earlier said that he refused to accept responsibility for the wheat which his office signed for but ended up on-board a ship bound for Bangladesh, instead of to ration stores across the concerned district. Supposed to be transported to three flour mills on 37 trucks, instead, the consignment went to the Kidderpore docks.

According to senior FCI officials, the wheat left the Budge Budge godown on July 27 and was signed for by officials from Mondal's office.

FCI general manager Ajit Kumar Sinha told reporters during the earlier occasion that his office would upload the relevant documents.

Including the release orders and gate passes, to prove that the wheat consignment was received and duly signed by an official from Mondal's office.

Ecotourism project for Birbhum to be completed by Puja

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Tourists will now be able to enjoy the lush greens of North Bengal in an eco-friendly way as an ecotourism hub there will have log cabins, mud huts for shelter, solar lamps for lighting, fresh organic produce for food and adventure sports to attract more tourists.

"We have started a similar project in Birbhum that will be completed well before Durga Puja this year. For the second project which is in North Bengal, 75 hectares of unexplored land have been acquired. We will soon start work to transform this into an ecotourism hub and it should be completed by November," said entrepreneur Arijit Dutta.

The land in the hills spreads over four tea gardens which were shortlisted after a seven-day reconnaissance of six facilities. The four tea gardens include the Mim Tea Estate near Ghoom, Ambootia Tea Estate near Kurseong, Malooat Tea Estate below Kalimpong and Carron Tea Estate near the Bhutan border.

"The land that we have identified for this project is flat and located in the valleys with a river flowing through the tea gardens and at the

The project will follow the mandates of the Environment Protection Act

same time is not very conducive to tea plantation. There are forests and gorges around the area, too," said Dutta.

The project will follow the mandates of the Environment Protection Act and thus not install any concrete structures. Tents, log cabins and huts made of eco-friendly materials would be among sheltering options to choose from.

Dutta got the idea of mud huts and tents, which he has also installed in Birbhum, from Kenya's Masai Mara National Reserve and Rajasthan's villages.

"Most travellers trekking through North Bengal follow the Kurseong-Ghoom-Darjeeling-Kalimpong track. But the neighbouring areas are ignored. I thought with this facility, these neglected areas could be used to endorse ecotourism. Tourists would put up in their own earthy accommodations with individual kitchens, cold storage and toilets," said Dutta.

brighter FUTURE

SER trains to change colour

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

A new colour scheme has been implemented for the first time in all local trains run by South Eastern Railway (SER), said an Official. The old local trains were painted 'gulf red and pale cream' while the new colour scheme would be 'golden yellow and telegrey' with a horizontal band of 'blue lilac'.

"We have introduced a fresh colour scheme that is similar to the ones used on the local trains of Central and Western railways. They have been taken very well by passengers there and we hope the same would happen here, too," said Soumitra Majumdar, SER CPRO. SER has introduced the new colour scheme in all its Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) and Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) trains.

The new colour scheme would be implemented gradually as the rakes go for periodical overhaul at the Kharagpur workshop, said Majumdar.



BP

So far, the Kharagpur workshop has turned out two EMU and one MEMU rake with the new colour scheme. These trains reportedly started running from Kharagpur on Monday.

"All EMU and MEMU trains would gradually be painted according to the new scheme in the next 18 months when they go to the Kharagpur Work-

shop for their periodical servicing," said Majumdar.

The new colour scheme would not just look striking but also promises to be more cost-effective. "The quality of the paint used for the new colour scheme is such that it will not peel off easily and thus, last longer. Moreover, as compared to the earlier paint's quality, the new one will also help reduce corrosion," said Majumdar. SER general manager A K Verma had instructed the change of colour scheme of local trains run by SER, added the official.

The EMU and MEMU lines operated by SER serve the southwestern suburbs of Greater Kolkata. SER also operates local trains in the southwestern part of Howrah at stations like Santragachi, Andul and Amta. SER locals also run through Digha, Tamluk and Haldia in East Midnapore and Panskura, Kharagpur and Midnapore in West Midnapore.

Dengue: KMC wants treatment protocol

OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine has been asked by the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) to formulate a treatment protocol for dengue in a meeting held at civic body headquarters on Friday. Stopping the spread of dengue and dengue deaths were on the agenda of the meeting.

Doctors of both private and government hospitals would treat dengue patients according to this protocol, said member, mayor-in-council, health, Atin Ghosh at the meeting. "We have asked the director of the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine to formulate a treatment protocol to fight dengue for city-based medical practitioners after considering the clinical and technical aspects," said Ghosh.

Representatives from 25 diagnostic centres and hospitals -- government and private -- were present at the meeting along with representatives from the central and state governments. All private diagnostic centres have been asked to report



Press meet at Bidhannagar Municipality on dengue prevention on Friday

Debabrata Biswas

dengue-positive cases on a weekly basis. Based on the reports, a monitoring committee would decide the future course of action. This monitoring committee would consist of representatives from the Centre, state, the KMC and private doctors. Spokesperson of the state health and family welfare department, Asit Biswas, said:

"The problem in fighting dengue is the lack of awareness among citizens." As per KMC records, the standard set by WHO and the National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme states that if the immunoglobulin M is positive in the blood test, it would be treated as dengue. However, if NS 1 is positive, it is not always dengue. Ac-

ording to KMC health department records, till date, 64 persons have tested positive for the immunoglobulin M test and 80 for NS 1.

Apart from this, to arrest the problem of dengue, the KMC has started an awareness campaign and is putting up 40 posters in all wards in different languages. "The city has a population of 50 lakh

and many come from outside. Considering the tropical environment, dengue is nothing unusual. This year, the worst dengue-affected parts of the city were Kasba, Anandapur and Ruby. There are open drains there and dengue mosquitoes breed on fresh water. Since councillors had cleaned the drains, with the rain, dengue mosquitoes

were able to breed here," said Ghosh.

He asked media and citizens to inform the KMC health department about any cases in their surroundings so that preventive measures can be taken. Hospitals such as B P Poddar, CMRI, Woodlands, Apollo Gleneagles and Kothari, whose representatives were present at the meeting, were asked not to disclose dengue cases and inform the KMC so that the civic body could take preventive measures.

"We do not have state-of-the-art infrastructure but we are doing the best we can with what we have," Ghosh said. He said that for awareness, TV channels and radio stations have also been roped in.

Apart from this, Section 496 of the KMC Act states that if there is stagnant water within the premises of anybody's residence and it becomes a breeding ground for vector-borne diseases, a case can be filed against him in the municipal court. Ghosh stated that the civic body would implement the KMC Act if any person is found violating the rules.

11 instances found in Bidhannagar area

OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Bidhannagar Municipality and the joint director of health services, Himadri Sekhar Sanyal, have asked all private hospitals in Salt Lake to submit a detailed report on patients suffering from dengue.

The municipal authorities have also urged Salt Lake residents to keep their households clean and drain out all stagnant water. According to Sanyal, till date, 11 persons are suffering from dengue in Salt Lake. Earlier, six persons were admitted to Bidhannagar Sub-divisional Hospital with dengue. On receiving this information, Bidhannagar Municipality collected 11 blood samples from different wards and blocks. "Among the 11 blood samples collected on Thursday, the dengue virus has been

found in three. Two persons with dengue have been admitted to the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine and the Beliaghata ID Hospital," said Sanyal. "We have initiated an awareness campaign to prevent dengue. We have already started spreading bleaching other mosquito repellents across the municipality area and the canals.

A team from the Kolkata Municipal Corporation has trained our staff in this regard," said municipality chairperson Krishna Chakra-borty. She asked residents of the township should be more careful and urged them not to panic over the issue. Sanyal said: "The only treatment for dengue is to take paracetamol tablets and drink plenty of water. Also, long rest is needed but tablets should be taken under medical supervision."

Police asked to clamp down on violence against women

OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Instructions have been issued by the highest echelons of the government to the police across the state to act fast and effectively on any complaint of atrocities against women. Director-general of police Naparajit Mukherjee said this at a press conference on Friday.

"Recently some incidents of atrocities on women were reported from Howrah, Burdwan and Asansol. The police are investigating those incidents very seriously. All the superintendents of police and commissioners of police have been instructed to arrest those accused of being involved in such incidents," said Mukherjee.

The DGP said a case of inhuman torture on a woman was reported from Gurap in Hooghly district in 2010. "The police had acted fast and efficiently in that case that resulted in the culprits getting 10 years' imprisonment. So,

All the superintendents of police and commissioners of police have been instructed to arrest those accused of being involved in such incidents

Naparajit Mukherjee
director-general of police

instructions have been sent out all around to follow this example," he pointed out.

Asked to comment about allegations against the police of not accepting FIRs in some such cases, Mukherjee said: "We have sent out clear instructions that all such complaints must be registered immediately. We have also advised the police across the state to undertake certain steps so that such incidents could be prevented in future."

Referring to the murder of

Pallavi Purakayastha, the DGP said: "Her father, Atanu Purakayastha, was our colleague. We are shocked that his daughter was killed in such a manner. We are always on the alert so that such things do not happen in our state."

Mukherjee also alleged that many people released from prison on recommendation of the committee formed by the state government to suggest names of political prisoners who should be released were indulging in "unlawful activities".

He also mentioned that "certain organisations are encouraging" these persons. "It is not the government's policy to keep anyone behind bars without providing him or her access to due course of justice. Accordingly, we have also released many prisoners. But some of them are again taking part in unlawful activities after their release and some organisations are encouraging them. We are asking them to desist from such activities and warning them that the police are keeping a close watch on them," said Mukherjee.

New book on Tagore poems launched



Kunal Ghosh (left), Anindya (2nd from left), Somnath Dutta (3rd from left), Joy Goswami (3rd from right) and others at the launch of Rabi Thakurer Kachhe Dhaar Kore Tomake book on Friday

OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Book lovers and lovers, here's the time to visit your favourite bookstore for journalist and MP Kunal Ghosh has just come out with a very special selection of Rabindranath Tagore's love poems. Titled *Rabi Thakurer Kachhe Dhaar Kore Tomake* (Borrowing from Tagore to Gift You), it has 59 love poems of the bard.

The book was launched at a private function on Friday. Among those present on the

occasion were journalist Ranjan Bandyopadhyay, writer Pracheta Gupta, journalist Biswajit Sinha, MP Srinjoy Bose, senior vice-president of Saradha Media Group Somnath Dutta and owner of Deep Prakashani Sankar Mondal. Journalist Abhijit Ghosh presented a song right at the beginning of the event and journalist Kingshuk Pramanik was the master of ceremonies.

The unique selection has received rave reviews from all quarters. "It is a wonderful

and unique selection. It is most befitting that such a book should be published to observe the 150th anniversary of Tagore. 'To gift you' means the book is for you — it may be for all of us. Personally I am an admirer of Kunal Ghosh. He is a fine novelist and author. He does everything with passion. Naturally, this book is also wonderful," said Joy Goswami. "Ghosh has in his mind a lady whom he loves. Instead of expressing that love through his own words, he

has done it through this selection of Tagore's poems," remarked Ranjan Bandyopadhyay.

"Through this book, Ghosh has expressed many people's thoughts. The selection will remain in the hearts of people for years to come," said Pracheta Gupta.

"He has published the book in his own way. I will always be beside him and wish that he keeps writing well. I wish he presents people with more of such gifts," observed Somnath Dutta.

State govt to hand over powers to GTA

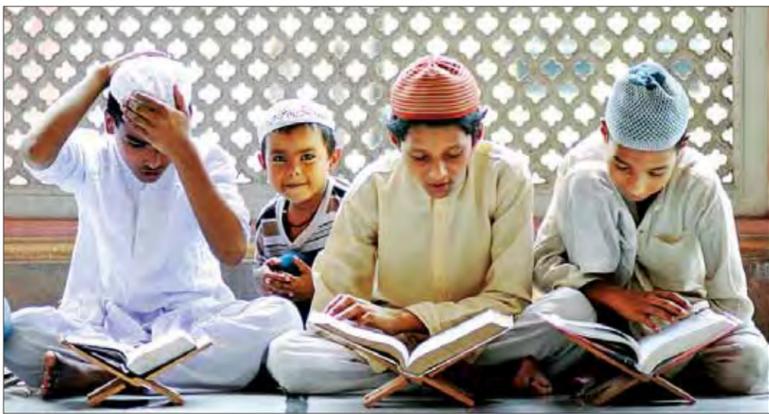
OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The state government has initiated a process to transfer the powers and responsibilities of various departments, which have offices within the Gorkhland Territorial Administration (GTA) area to the GTA executive committee by August 31, chief secretary Samar Ghosh said after a high-level meeting at Writers' Buildings on Friday.

"We had a meeting with the secretaries of various departments on the transfer of powers. We hope it would be completed by August 31," said Ghosh. The state administration would also formulate a detailed guideline for the smooth functioning of the GTA. The chief secretary ordered the secretaries of other departments to come up with draft guidelines before the deadline.

The state government has already increased the number of departments under the GTA's jurisdiction in comparison to the erstwhile Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC). The DGHC had 38 departments altogether while the GTA will have 64 departments following the passing of the GTA Act in the assembly this year. And, the distribution of portfolios would be decided by the 14-member executive committee of the autonomous body.

Religious read



Boys read the holy Quran at Nakhoda Masjid on Friday

Arijit Saha

WBUT to instruct colleges to take anti-ragging steps

OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The West Bengal University of Technology (WBUT) will soon instruct engineering and technology colleges affiliated to it to take anti-ragging measures complying with a Supreme Court order and UGC guidelines as these institutes have recorded the most ragging cases.

"We are into the fresh academic session for engineering students and the university is committed to curb incidents of ragging in colleges affiliated to the university. We are writing to all institutes to enforce the regulations in the colleges," said WBUT registrar Syed

Rafikul Islam.

"Colleges have to form a college-level committee to halt ragging and also publicise a helpline for the use of students. There are also rules like maintaining confidentiality of a complainant. Forming a state-level monitoring committee is also a part of the rules," said a teacher at the university.

According to the registrar, increasing incidents of ragging in technical institutes have made WBUT enforce the anti-ragging rules. Only last year, there were two incidents of ragging in colleges affiliated to the university, said Islam.

The Supreme Court in its directives against ragging rests the pri-

mary responsibility for curbing ragging, with academic institutions and incentives should be made available to curb the menace. However, there should be disincentives for failure to do so as well.

The All India Council of Technical Education also instructs every student getting admitted into an institute to sign an undertaking that he would not indulge in ragging. The Heritage Institute of Technology (HIT), affiliated to WBUT, welcomed the measures. "The step by WBUT to prevent ragging is welcome. Our college already has an anti-ragging committee," said an HIT spokesman.

West Bengal Agro Industries Corp. Ltd.
23B, N.S. Road, 3rd Floor, Kolkata - 700001
Phone No. : 2230-2314/15
Important Announcement
The 2nd phase of interview for recruitment in Gr-D posts for office support service (Guards) would be held on 17.08.2012 from 10.30 AM at the above address. Call letters have been sent by ordinary post to the candidates for interview. The details may be seen in company's website www.wbagroindustries.com. Candidates who are not in receipt of call letters may contact at the above address for issue of duplicate call letters.

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New station will be partly built with the voluntary help of local residents CM to inaugurate station at Nandaigram

OUR CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

A new station at Nandaigram will be inaugurated on Saturday on chief minister Mamata Banerjee and railway minister Mukul Roy's initiative to fulfil the long-standing demands of the passengers of the Bandel-Katwa section under the Howrah division of the Eastern Railway (ER). The foundation stone for a new Hazi Muhammed Mohsin station will be laid on Sunday, said an ER official.

Madan Mitra, minister of state for sports and transport, will inaugurate the Nandigram Halt station between Dhatrigram and Samudragarh stations in Burdwan at 11 am

on Saturday. Local MLAs Swapan Debnath and Tapan Chatterjee will be present on the occasion. Four local trains - Bandel-Katwa, Howrah-Katwa and two Katwa-Howrah trains - will halt at the new Nandaigram station daily.

MP Ratna Dey Nag will lay the foundation stone for another new station, Hazi Muhammed Mohsin station between Bansberia and Tribeni stations, in Hooghly at noon on Sunday.

Construction of the new station was sanctioned early this year and a part of it will be built with the voluntary help of local residents. Both the stations are personal initiatives of the chief minister and the railway minister.



Transport minister Madan Mitra in ER meet at Press Club on Friday

Subhrajit Chandra

SHORT
TAKES

Janmashtami celebrated in Iskon on Friday

Unknown youth rapes Class-V girl

Suri : A girl studying in Class V was allegedly raped by an unknown youth on her way to a pond on Friday at Charicha village under the Mohammad Bazar police station. The police have started investigation. The victim, a student of Sawrakuri High School, said: "I was going to a pond outside the village in the morning. On my way an unknown youth intercepted me. When I protested, he beat me and tied my hands and legs. Then he raped me. I lay unconscious for a few minutes beside a bush. On returning home, I said everything to my grandmother." —BP

'Molestation' on WBSU campus

Barasat : A woman was allegedly molested by a gang of miscreants on the West Bengal State University (WBSU) campus at Barasat in North 24-Parganas district on Friday afternoon, when she had come to pick up admission forms. She has lodged a complaint of molestation at the Barasat police station. The woman, a resident of Barasat's Dakshinpara, had come to the WBSU campus to collect forms for MA (Education). She alleged that one of the students, K A Miraz, and his friends started harassing her. As she protested, they allegedly molested her. She also complained that when her companion Partho Roy tried to protect her, he, too, was beaten up. —BP

Bodies recovered from Sonarpur

Sonarpur : Two unidentified bodies were found by the police from different areas of Sonarpur on Friday. One of the bodies was found lying on a road in the Gangajowar Khalpar area. Police said that the body had no wounds. The person is assumed to have been suffocated. In a separate incident, another body was found in Goalhati area with its throat slit. —BP

Twin murder accused held

Barasat : The prime accused in the twin murders of 2009, Chandrashekhar Debnath, was arrested from Rajasthan and presented at Barasat court on Friday. He was remanded in 14 days' jail custody. 11 accused had been arrested previously and 3 arrested now. —BP

Girl drowns in Barrackpore pond

Baranagar : Mystery shrouded the discovery of a 17-year-old girl's body at a local pond at Baranagar in North 24-Parganas district on Friday morning. Pujya Sau's school bag was recovered from a distant place near the Noapara Bagjala pond. This gave rise to suspicion whether the girl was killed or had committed suicide. —BP

Maoist victims' kin get compensation

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
PURULIA

Abanindra Singh, the district magistrate of Purulia, handed over cheques of Rs 3 lakh as compensation on behalf of the central government to each of the 10 families of the district who had been victims of Maoist atrocities.

The cheques were handed over in the presence of a number of senior district officials at the DM's office on Friday afternoon. The local authorities also mentioned that a proposal to provide government jobs in either state or in central government to one of the eligible members of such politically persecuted families was also under consideration. Many families in this backward district, who had opposed the politics of violence perpetrated by the Left-wing extremists, were persecuted by the members of the Maoist militia.

Several members of such families also pointed out that they did not get any help from the previous Left Front government.

For example, the family members of Chapala Garait, the panchayat pradhan of the Jhalda-Danda gram panchayat, narrated how a group of armed Maoists dragged her out of her home at Bagbindha village on the night of December 16, 2010, and pumped bullets into her in a field nearby.

Her family then left the village out of fear and they had to spend almost a year and a half in utmost penury.

Chapala's husband Dukhu Garait blamed the Forward Bloc for not standing by them despite Chapala being a member of that party.

Other families targeted by the Maoists had similar stories to tell.

At the same programme, the DM also handed over cheques of similar amount to the families of three persons, who had died during ethnic clashes in the Hutmura area of the district in February 2010.



Cheques being handed over to the next of kin of Maoist victims by the Purulia DM on Friday

Other families targeted by the Maoists had similar stories to tell.

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CPM dist secy's son held for preventing government work

■ BALARAM DUTTA BANIK
SURI

Abhik Ganguli, the son of CPI(M)'s Birbhum district secretary Dilip Ganguli, was arrested along with three aides for preventing officials from doing their duty, destruction of government property, snatching away arrested persons and beating up policemen.

On Friday, the five arrested were produced in court and remanded in judicial custody till August 15 and produced in the court again on August 16. Police sources said the arrested persons are Abhik Ganguli, Khokan Das, Tapan Saha and Rajesh Dan, all residents of Kabutia village under the same PS.

On Thursday evening, around 8 pm, a pre-panchayat election meeting of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) was being held at Mahula village under Balijuri gram panchayat under Dubrajpur PS. Swapan Bagdi of the CPI(M), who was drunk, attacked the meeting along with 10 others. They also abused TMC supreme Mamata Banerjee. The leaders informed the police to restore normalcy in the area.



Abhik Ganguli at Dubrajpur court on Friday

The police came and arrested Bagdi. The others fled.

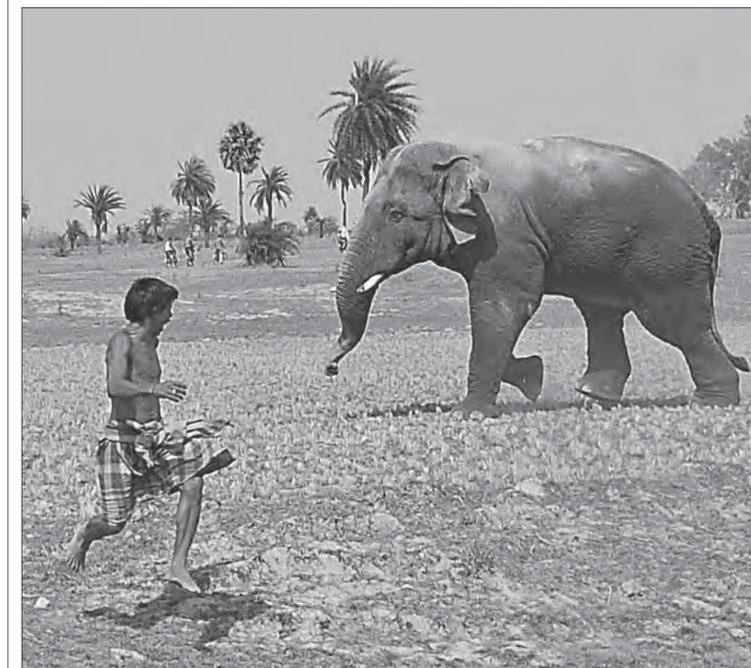
Around 11 pm, Abhik Ganguli went to the Dubrajpur PS with 12 others. They tried to snatch Bagdi from the police. When prevented, they broke tables, chairs and snapped telephone lines. They also thrashed two officers, including the OC, and two constables.

Hrishikesh Meena, the superintendent of police, said the police had to lathicharge to restore normalcy. Otherwise, the arrested person might have been snatched

away. We have arrested five persons, including Swapan Bagdi. Others, however, managed to escape. The police are in search of the rest and have filed a case against the arrested under sections 143, 186, 188, 189, 332, 353 and 120(B).

"My son went to the police station to discuss the release of the arrested worker with the OC. But they did not damage government property or beat up the police. The police have framed them with a vicious motive," said Dilip Ganguli.

Tusker Menace



An elephant raids a farmland in Bankura on Friday

'Pradip Ta victim of infighting'

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
BURDWAN

Trinamool MP Subhendu Adhikari on Friday claimed that Burdwan CPI(M) district committee member and former MLA Pradip Ta was killed as a result of a feud within the CPI(M).

At a public meeting at the Palitpur Football ground in Burdwan, the MP said: "Any death is unfortunate. We do not want deaths. But, when people catch hold of thieves, robbers or murderers, this is the way they react. Our workers have been framed in this case. The party would stand by them and free them with legal help."

Adhikari also claimed that the erstwhile left government had curbed the democratic rights of the people by not allowing freedom of speech. "They had not even allowed the opposition party to nominate their candidates at the panchayat elections and those at other levels. While in power, they have carried out mass killings all through the state including Singur and Nandigram. People like Binay Konar, Nirupam Sen, Amal Halder, Madan Ghosh and Anil Basu have killed people at Saibari and forced the deceased's mother to eat the blood-soaked rice," he said.

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee had started her political struggle to restore democracy in the state in 1992,



Trinamool Congress MP Subhendu Adhikari addresses a public meeting in Burdwan on Friday

on Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary. Democracy was finally regained after the Assembly elections in 2011. Leaders like Lakshman Seth and Sushanta Ghosh have been put behind bars, added Adhikari, asking people to vote for Trinamool Congress in the coming panchayat elections.

Adhikari also handed over Rs 1 lakh to Kakali Ta, daughter of the deceased

Congress leader Kashinath Ta, for a statue to be built in the honour of the Congressman.

Pradip Ta was allegedly killed by some Trinamool Congress workers when he was out a rally on February 22. His brother, Prabir Ta, filed an FIR against 22 people of whom four were arrested immediately. Two others were arrested by the CID on March 12 and five others on March 19.

Indefinite minibus strike CPM leaders surrender

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
DURGAPUR

In protest against the "harsh" punishment given to driver Susanta Ghosh, who was held responsible for the death of a girl student of Class II in an accident on August 6 near Muchipara of Durgapur Township, the minibus operators of 15 routes called an indefinite strike starting Friday.

This strike caused immense inconveniences to the hundreds of passengers in and

around the township.

According to Ghosh's colleagues, he had surrendered on his own in Coke-Oven police station. So, the magistrate of sub-divisional court of Durgapur should not have remanded him in 14 days of jail custody.

The association of minibus drivers and conductors even submitted a memorandum to the SDO of Durgapur demanding the withdrawal of punishment ordered for the accused driver.

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
BANKURA

CPI(M) Patrasayar zonal committee secretary and another zonal committee member surrendered at the Bishnupur subdivision court on Friday for being involved in the murder case of three Trinamool Congress (TMC) workers and for unleashing terror in the area.

Lalmohan Goswami and Mohammed Hak Mondal

were remanded in 14 days' judicial custody. Political clashes were a regular feature in Patrasayar, Bankura district, as Goswami and Mondal formed Harmad forces and unleashed a reign of terror in the area in 2010.

On January 29, 2010, TMC worker Prabir Pal was murdered at Balshi village in Patrasayar. On August 11, another TMC worker Badri Alam was killed at Fakirdanga. The trend continued with TMC

worker Jagannath Bagdi being killed at Moukudi village on January 27, 2011.

The family members of the deceased lodged complaints with the police against Goswami and Mondal. Following the complaints, the duo appealed for anticipatory bail in Calcutta High Court thrice. But the judge rejected their pleas each time. So, they surrendered in the Bishnupur court on Friday after absconding for long.

Mentally ill housewife molested by godman

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
BURDWAN

A village shaman, Barjan Seikh aka Raja Fakir, who practices black magic to cure people suffering from different types of ailments were caught by the villagers of Hatuchewan Pirtala village under Burdwan police station on Friday morning. Fakir was caught on charges of attempting to molest and rape of a mentally ill housewife while pretending to treat her. Fakir was called to treat the woman by her family members. The fake fakir was said to be a resident of Nanoor area of Birbhum district. The 'godman' was severely

thrashed by the livid villagers, when the housewife cried for help to save herself from the sexual advance of Fakir. A team of police from Burdwan police station rushed to the spot on receiving the news. They rescued him from public anger and admitted him in Burdwan Hospital in a critically injured condition under strict police vigil. On the other hand, in accordance to the laws, required medical tests of the housewife would have to be performed. "Charges of rape and molestation against the fake fakir have been framed," said Saiyad Muhammad Hussain. Mirza, superintendent of police, Burdwan.

Khudiram's death anniversary is commemorated as Martyrs' Day
Martyrs' Day observed in Mahubani■ SAHAJAN ALI
MIDNAPORE

The 104th death anniversary of Shahid Khudiram Bose would be observed for two days at his native, Mahubani in West Midnapore district. Several programmes were organised on Friday to start the event.

MP, Subhendu Adhikari and state minister, Soumen Mahapatra would participate in the soiree to remember the martyr and inaugurate a museum on Saturday, August 11, the day on which 19-year-old, Khudiram Bose was hanged.

The village under Keshpur police station can boast of being the birthplace of one of the

youngest martyrs of the Indian independence struggle. Khudiram Bose was born to Trailokyanath Bose, revenue agent of Nadazol and Lakshmi Priya Devi at Mahubani village, 15 kms from Keshpur on December 3, 1889.

Later he moved to Habibpur in Midnapore town to his maternal aunt's house, where he spent his childhood. He started participating in the revolution against the British rule since his adolescence and was hanged on August 11, 1908, when he was barely 19.

Khudiram's death anniversary is commemorated as Martyrs' Day to remember one of the youngest revolutionaries. His

cousins and other relatives still reside at Mahubani but the ancestral home has been ruined in due course. However, a park on his name has been built in the area, where his house existed, covering an area of more than one acre. Shahid Khudiram library and a guest house also adore the park.

A two-day commemoration has been organised, starting from Friday. On the first day, a blood donation camp was organised in the morning, followed by a cultural competition in the evening. Saturday would begin with a 'prabhat pheri' and then a cultural programme would be organised to remember the great martyr.



Students commemorating the death anniversary of Khudiram in Midnapore on Friday

Six dead and two injured in Purulia lightning strike

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
PURULIA

Lightning killed six women and injured two others in separate incidents at Purulia district. The injured were admitted to a Purulia Sadar hospital in a critical state. According to the police sources, the women were sowing paddy at a field in Chatrani village under Kotshila police station on Thursday evening when the lightning struck.

Two women died on the spot and two others were admitted to a hospital in a critical condition of whom one died soon after. Meanwhile, a mother-daughter duo died and another woman was injured in a similar manner at Pilai village under Jhalda police station. Another woman was similarly electrocuted at Kashtapara village under Santuri police station. The bodies were sent to Purulia Deben Mahato Sadar hospital.

Gurung will head nine departments

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
MALDA

The Gorkhland Territorial Administration (GTA) Sabha decided who would head some of the departments in the GTA at a meeting on Friday.

There are 59 subjects in total in the GTA and though most of them are likely to come under various departments not everything regarding who will look after what department was declared today.

However, at a meeting on Thursday only, it had been decided that the GTA chief Bimal Gurung would be in charge of nine subjects namely land and land reforms, tazi, panchayat and rural department, food and civil supplies and consumer affairs,

tourism, relief-rehabilitation and disaster management, finance, planning and development, weights and measures and statistics.

At Friday's meeting at Lalkothi it was decided that Roshan Giri would take charge of school education while Kalyan Dewan would be looking after agriculture and R B Bhujel would be in charge of college education and library service. Binay Tamang would be in charge of subjects like information and cultural affairs, theatre-dramatic programmes and cinema-entertainment and amusement, printing and stationery (GTA press), publicity and public relations-regularisation of media. Tamang would also be in charge of the GTA establishment section and regularisation

of cable channels. The other names mentioned on Friday were that of Ramesh Lama would be in charge of animal husbandry and veterinary while Urmila Rumba would look after social welfare. Phubi Rai has been given the charge of micro and small scale industries and Samuel Gurung in charge of Cinchona plantation.

Asha Gurung would be in charge of health along with registration of birth and death. Prava Chettri will be in charge of women and child development and social welfare while J K Rai would look after transport and RTO. Anit Thapa has been given public health engineering.

"We will announce who will be in charge of what department later," said GTA member Roshan Giri.



A farmer ploughs his field at Pandua in Malda district on Friday

Pankaj Ghosh

NBSTC to undo illegal promotions Woman arrested for trying to steal baby

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
COOCH BEHAR

The North Bengal State Transport Corporation (NBSTC) is set to take action against staff who were illegally promoted during the time of the Left Front government. This was decided in a board meeting held at Paribahan Bhavan on Friday, said NBSTC chairman and North Bengal development minister Gautam Deb.

He said that every month, NBSTC is spending close to Rs 60 lakh to pay salaries of these staff. NBSTC will now demote the staff who were illegally promoted. The chairman also announced that 30 new buses would be on the road before Durga Puja. Currently, NBSTC has 504 buses out of which 104 are in need of repairs. To get these buses back on the road, NBSTC will allot Rs 1.5 crore.

Deb said: "Our chief minister is giving a human face to the development process and we are also trying to give shape to a hu-



Minister Gautam Deb at the Rajbanshi Academy in Cooch Behar on Friday

Subhendu Bhattacharjee

man face of development in NBSTC. This is why we are taking different steps to revive the condition of this organisation."

Speaking on unfit drivers, Deb said that they would set up a medical board. If the board deems certain drivers unfit, NBSTC would offer VRS. The board also decided that heritage double-decker bus services would be started again in Cooch Behar,

using completely refurbished vehicles.

Deb arrived here on Friday to attend the board meeting, following which an administrative meeting was held. He also visited the site for the Rajbanshi Academy and said it would open soon. On Saturday, he is scheduled to visit Khalishamari, the birthplace of Thakur Panchanan Barma.

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
MALDA

A newborn baby was rescued from a woman who tried to steal him from the Malda Medical College and Hospital on Friday morning. The woman was caught and handed over to the police.

It is learnt that Anjana Halder, 20, of Tipajani village under English Bazar police station in Malda district gave birth to a baby boy on Monday. Early on Friday morning, a woman entered the ward. She took out the four-day-old baby lying beside his mother and sneaked out.

At that point, Anjana's mother-in-law Renuka Halder discovered to her utter horror that the baby was missing. At once, she raised a cry and informed all concerned about the missing baby. Sometime later, the woman was found with the baby on her lap after a hectic search. She was immediately caught by the other women of the ward and handed over to the securitymen who kept her confined at the police outpost in the hospital. Later, a complaint was lodged with

the police and Rupa Biwi of Gangarampur in South Dinajpur was arrested.

"Following a written complaint from the hospital authorities, we have arrested the woman. We are trying to get more details on her through the South Dinajpur police," said Malda superintendent of police Jayanta Pal. On the other hand, patients at the hospital and their relatives raised questions about the security rather the lack of it at the MMCH. "Had I not reacted on time, then I might have lost my grandson!" said Halder.

"At present, there are 28 securitymen working at the hospital. We need 28 more," said Hinadri Ari, the superintendent of MMCH, adding that an emergency meeting would be held on the security issue on Saturday.

"We are planning to introduce CCTV cameras in some of the important areas of the hospital. And, all the workers would be issued identity cards to prevent the entry of outsiders as well as such incidents in future," said Uchchhal Bhadra, the principal of Malda Medical College.

10-yr-old killed in Malda mishap

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
MALDA

Road accidents have become a regular occurrence in the diesel shade area of Malda railway station under the English Bazar police station. A student was run over on the Malda-Chanchal state highway on Friday morning.

Shanku Roy, 10, a student of Class V of Jote Arapur Tipajani High School, was travelling on a bicycle with his father Badal Roy to his four-cottah farmland near the diesel shade area of Malda railway station. A speeding truck coming from the diesel shade hit the duo just metres away from their farmland, witnesses claimed.

A mob, including Shyamali Roy, the mother of the deceased, joined the blockade immediately after the news spread. Police from English Bazar police station rushed to the spot and lifted the blockade.

Islampur locals yet to receive ration cards

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
RAIGANJ

The 24,000 residents of Islampur subdivision under North Dinajpur district who have applied for ration cards to the food and supplies department, cannot get their cards processed in absence of government staff. However, according to the food and supply department sources, there is some problem regarding the printing of the cards and so they have not been able to supply the ration cards to the applicants after processing.

"Since the past one month, the supply of printed ration cards has been irregular and for that reason we are not being able to issue the cards to the applicants even after completion of inquiry and processing. We have asked the state government to recruit staff to the vacant posts but we have not yet got any. So we are not being able to satisfy the applicants who are waiting for ra-

tion cards. Currently, 24,000 applications are lying with us," said Subhranshu Das, the food supplies controller of the district.

According to the Islampur subdivisional food and supplies department, four food inspectors' posts out of the sanctioned six are lying vacant for a long time. Similarly, two sub-inspectors have been doing the work of 12 sub-inspectors in this subdivision.

"We are aware that the applicants for ration cards have been facing problems," conceded an official of the department. According to the census of 2011, the population of North Dinajpur district is around 30 lakh and the number of ration card-holders is 29,30,326. So, about 70,000 people do not have any ration cards. In May 2012, in Islampur subdivision area, the number of applicants for ration cards is 23,610.

"Due to shortage of staff, the ration cards have not been issued to the applicants," said an official of the department.

Politics stalls renovation of hospital

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
BALLURGHAT

An appeal to suspend the renovation of the Gangarampur subdivisional hospital has been submitted to the PWD office by CPI(M) contractor Niren Biswas after the change of power in the district. The project has been inactive for the past two months.

According to the sources from the district health department, there is only one sub-divisional hospital in the entire Gangarampur area of South Dinajpur. Niren Biswas started work in 2011 and was warned many times for his slow work. After the change of guard, he stopped the work. He was continuously warned regarding his decision and summoned to the PWD office, but he did not appear before them.

Former CPI(M) minister and Niren Biswas's brother, Narayan Biswas, has avoided the issue by stating that he has no relations with his brother.

After Antaheen, the actress plays a scribe once again

Radhika happy to be back in Bengali films

■ PTI
KOLKATA

Marathi actress Radhika Apte, who is playing the role of a journalist for the second time in her next Bengali film *Pendulam*, says she has nothing to crib about it.

The actress also played a TV journalist in her first film *Antaheen*, directed by Aniruddha, which fetched her a National award.

Asked if she feared being typecast, she said, "It is a mere coincidence that I am back into Bengali films with *Pendulam* where I again play the character of a journalist."

Radhika said that she has developed a love affair with Bengali films and especially Bengali directors, whom she finds unmatched in sensitivity and intensity.

Her second film *Pendulam* is being directed by Soukaro Ghoshal, who will make

his directorial debut with the movie. "The film deals with interplay of different emotions and mood swings — a very new concept which I always come across when I get to act in Bengali movies," Radhika said. Soukarojo on his part said,

"I principally cast Radhika taking into consideration her very Bengali look and easy-going girl-next-door image. The film's subtext chronicles the city of Kolkata as it shifts through time to emerge as a complex psychological allegory of a decadent metropolis."

The actress also said that she is always open to work with new Bengali directors, as they offer new insight into the scripts. "I wish to feature in Tonyda's (Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury) work again," Radhika said.

She said that she was supposed to be part of a second project by the director, but

it did not take off. Asked if she thinks her role in *Pendulam* will help her get another National award, she said, "I am not into such thoughts. I want the role of the entire cast and crew to be appreciated, not mine alone."

Radhika said the reason it took her three long years to be part of another Bengali movie after 2009 film *Antaheen* was that she was not getting good offers.

"And I was busy with Hindi and Marathi films after return from London where I went to do a course on contemporary dance," she said.

Radhika, who starred in *Tukaram* in her mother tongue Marathi besides *Shor in the City* and *Raktacharitra* in Hindi, said that apart from Marathi, Hindi and Bengali are the two other languages which come naturally to her.

South Eastern Railway
We serve with a smile

OHE WORKS IN KGP DIVISION

Sealed tenders are invited by Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/TRD, S.E. Railway, Kharagpur, for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works:-

Tender Notice No. & Description of work	Tender Value	EMD
1. TRD/KGP/W/2012-13/04 & 09,	₹ 44,22,376/-	₹ 4,49,360/-
Dated 06.08.2012. Renewal of Overhead Equipments Ph-II & Ph-III over Kharagpur Division.		
2. TRD/KGP/W/2012-13/07,	₹ 3,90,88,753/-	₹ 3,45,440/-
Dated 06.08.2012. Replacement of power supply installation equipment over Kharagpur Division.		

Cost of Tender Documents : ₹ 10,000/- for each. Date of Opening : 13.09.2012. Tender Notice is also available at South Eastern Railway's website : www.tenders.gov.in & www.ser.kgp.gov.in. Tender documents can also download from the above website from 14.08.2012 and up to 16.00 hrs. of 12.09.2012. (PR-568)

South Eastern Railway
We serve with a smile

MISCELLANEOUS WORKS

Sealed open tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), S.E. Railway/Adra, for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works:

Tender Notice No. & Description of Works	Approx. Value	Earnest Money
1. DRM (Engg)/ADA/142/2012, dated 06.08.2012. O.T. for Operation and maintenance of 3 Nos. 30,000 GPH Rapid Sand Gravity filter plant, Clariflocculators including chlorination arrangements at Adra Settlement under ADEN/Settlement/Adra.	₹ 1,58,25,000/-	₹ 2,29,130/-
2. DRM (Engg)/ADA/143/2012, dated 06.08.2012. O.T. for Supply and loading into wagons/hoppers 25,000 cum 50 mm gauge machine crushed hard stone ballast at RAJGRAM for Adra Division under the jurisdiction of SSE(P.Way)/Garbeta including unloading the same from Railway wagons and spreading the ballast in track.	₹ 60,89,000/-	₹ 1,21,780/-
3. DRM (Engg)/ADA/144/2012, dated 06.08.2012. O.T. for TTR of existing 52 kg/90R 1 in 8.5 turnouts on steel/wooden sleepers with 52 kg. curved switches and CMS crossing on PSC sleepers for Garbeta-2 sets, Burnpur-20 sets, Damodar-2 sets, Mohisla -3 sets, Radhanagar-11 sets, with DS at Garbeta-2 sets, Salboni-1 set, Burnpur-9 sets & Radhanagar-2 sets in Adra Division.	₹ 89,10,000/-	₹ 1,78,200/-
4. DRM (Engg)/ADA/145/2012, dated 06.08.2012. O.T. for (i) TTR(S) B/E yard, (ii) TTR(S) Adra yard, (iii) TTR of existing 90R 1 in 8.5 turnouts on steel/wooden sleepers with 52 kg. curved switches and CMS crossing on PSC sleepers at SNTD-5 sets, Total -1 in 8.5 = 5 sets. & (iv) TTR(P) of existing 90R/52kg. rails laid on CST-9/ST/Mixed sleepers (1540) laid under 90R/52kg. rails with new PSC sleepers (1540 Nos./km.) along with widening of cess to standard and of screening/raising of ballast cushion to 25 cm at line no. 5, 6 & 7-1, 469 km at Adra yard. TTR(S) of existing 90R/52kg. rails with SH 52 kg. rails at different yard line of Adra Division. Total 7,749 km.	₹ 1,73,65,500/-	₹ 2,36,830/-
5. DRM (Engg)/ADA/146/2012, dated 06.08.2012. O.T. for (i) TTR(P) of existing mixed sleepers (1540) laid on 90R/90BS rails with new PSC sleepers (1540 Nos. km.) & elastic fastening including widening of cess & deep screening/raising of ballast cushion to 25 at Khanudih - L No. - 8 & Chas yard - shunting neck and buffer line - 0.85 km. (ii) TTR(S) of the existing 90R rails laid on PSC sleepers (1540 Nos./km.) with SH 52 kg. rails for 15.175 km. at yard line of Mohuda = 5.1 km., Khanudih = 8.265 km., Talgoria = 1.44 km., Jamuniland 1.524 km., Chas = 0.746 km. (iii) TTR of existing 90R 1 in 8.5 turnouts on steel/wooden sleepers with 52 kg. curved switches and CMS crossing on PSC sleepers at VAA-3 sets, LYD-6 sets, MLN Siding-5 sets, JBO Siding-6 sets, MHQ-6 sets, KNF-8 sets, JNN-3 sets & DS at VAA -6sets, MHQ -5 sets, KNF -5 sets, Chas-2 sets & JNN-2 sets. Total -1 in 8.5 = 39 sets & DS-20 sets.	₹ 1,16,27,500/-	₹ 2,08,140/-
6. DRM (Engg)/ADA/147/2012, dated 06.08.2012. O.T. for TTR of existing 52 kg/90R 1 in 8.5 turnouts on steel/wooden sleepers with 52 kg. curved switches and CMS crossing on PSC sleepers for Adra -81 sets in Adra Division.	₹ 2,05,57,000/-	₹ 2,52,790/-
7. DRM (Engg)/ADA/148/2012, dated 06.08.2012. O.T. for (i) Execution of high level Platform to accommodate 18 coaches at Garbeta Station and provision of extra two counters in the existing booking office, (ii) Extension of Platform to accommodate 18 coaches at Godapiasal, (iii) Extension of platform to accommodate 18 coaches and rising of Platform level from low level to high level at Salboni, (iv) Extension of Platform to accommodate 18 coaches and rising of Platform level from low level to high level at Chandrakona Road, (v) Extension of island PF no. 1 & 2 to accommodate 23 coaches train with extra water booth & seating arrangements at Bishnupur Station. (vi) One upper class waiting room separately for ladies and gents and one VIP room at Salboni. (vii) Raising of Platform level from medium level to high level at Jhantipahani.	₹ 3,000/- for sl. no. 1; ₹ 5,000/- for sl. no. 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 and ₹ 10,000/- for sl. no. 7. Completion Time/Period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 12 (Twelve) months for sl. no. 5, 1, 2 & 7; 09 (Nine) months for sl. no. 3 and 10 (Ten) months for sl. no. 4, 5 & 6. Date of Opening : 14.09.2012. 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 27.08.2012 up to 18.00 hrs. on 13.09.2012. Definition of Similar Nature of work for above sl. no. 2 : Supplying machine crushed stone ballast. Definition of Similar Nature of work for above sl. no. 3 & 6 : P.Way work on running lines. Definition of Similar Nature of work for above sl. no. 4 & 5 : Execution of P.Way works on running lines can be considered similar to the instant work. Definition of Similar Nature of work for above sl. no. 7 : Execution of any Civil Engineering Works. (PR-566)	

Temporary cancellation of Maitree Express on 17 and 18.08.2012 on the occasion of Eid-UI-Fitr

On account of Eid-UI-Fitr, as requested by Bangladesh Railway, 13107 Maitree Express will remain cancelled between Dhaka & Kolkata on 17.08.2012 (Friday) and 13108 Maitree Express will remain cancelled between Kolkata & Dhaka on 18.08.2012 (Saturday).

Chief Passenger Transportation Manager

EASTERN RAILWAY

Power & Traffic Block at Bardhaman station on 12.08.2012 (Sunday)

To facilitate maintenance of overhead equipment at Bardhaman station, Power & Traffic Block will be necessary for 1½ hours (from 10.15 hrs. to 11.45 hrs.) on 12.08.2012 (Sunday). Consequently, the following arrangements have been made in train running :-

Short Termination / Short Origination : ● 37821 Howrah-Bardhaman Local via main line will be short terminated at Rasulpur (arr. 09.56 hrs.) and will return as 37834 (dep. 11.41 hrs.) to Howrah ● **36819 Howrah-Bardhaman Local** via chord line will be short terminated at Madhusudanpur (arr. 10.08 hrs.) and will return as 36836 (dep. 11.33 hrs.) to Howrah. **Re-scheduling : ● 13053 Howrah-Suri Express** will leave Howrah at 09.20 hrs. instead of 08.35 hrs. ● **13007 Udayan Abha Toofan Express** will leave Howrah at 09.50 hrs. instead of 09.35 hrs. ● **12337 Shantiniketan Express** will leave Howrah at 10.20 hrs. instead of 10.10 hours and pass Bardhaman after the cancellation of Block.

The block is absolutely essential from safety point of view as well as smooth running of trains. There may be delay in service during block period. Inconvenience likely to be caused is deeply regretted.

Divisional Railway Manager/Howrah

EASTERN RAILWAY

Cancellation of some trains due to Traffic and Power Block at Sealdah Passenger Yard on 12/13.08.2012 Night

For track maintenance work, Traffic and Power Block for 9 hours (from 19.00 hrs. to 04.00 hrs.) will be necessary on 12/13.08.2012 (Sunday/Monday) night at Sealdah Passenger Yard.

Consequently, Sealdah-Naihati locals (31443/31444, 31449/31450), Sealdah-Duttapukur locals (33625/33630), Sealdah-Dankuni locals [32250 (Sunday), 32211 (Monday)] will remain cancelled.

During block period out of total 353 EMU locals of Sealdah Main/Central/CCR Section, only 8 EMU locals will remain cancelled

The block is absolutely essential from the safety point of view as well as smooth running of trains. There may be delay in train running during block period. Inconvenience likely to be caused is regretted.

Divisional Railway Manager/Sealdah

EASTERN RAILWAY

Appointment for House Surgeons at Kancharpara Railway Hospital

Applications are invited from the Medical Graduates (M.B.B.S.) who have completed one year internship, for appointment as **House Surgeon** on ₹ 24,741/- p.m. in the Workshop Hospital, Eastern Railway, Kancharpara, Pin : 743145. (1) The House Surgeon will be appointed for one year, which may be extended for a further period of 12 months on satisfactory performance as per terms and conditions. (2) Minimum one month notice should be given to the Railway Administration if any one desires to resign from House Surgeonship or he must have to forfeit one month stipend to the Railway Administration. (3) The applicants should submit attested xerox copies of relevant certificates and Bio-data along with attested two copies of recent passport size photograph. They must attend to the office of the **Chief Medical Superintendent, Eastern Railway, Kancharpara at 11.00 hrs. on 22.08.2012**. Final selection will be held on **22.08.2012** in the Chamber of Chief Medical Superintendent/Kancharpara at 12.00 hrs. Candidates must bring the relevant certificates in original i.e. date of birth, three professional mark sheets, Internship certificate, Registration certificate, Citizenship certificate etc. for verification. The appointment may be terminated at any stage without assigning any reason.

House Surgeon = 4 Posts + Panel

Vacancy :

- (1) General Medicine - 2.
- (2) Chest Medicine - 1.
- (3) Radiology - 1.

Chief Medical Superintendent/Kancharpara

EASTERN RAILWAY

SHORT
TAKES

Family members mourn the death of boat mishap victims, in Bihar, on Friday

Boat mishap in Bihar, six killed

Patna: Six women died on Friday afternoon, when a boat turned turtle in the Kosi River near Belahi village under Bheja police station in Madhubani district, officials said. Madhubani district magistrate Adesh Tirmare said that around 25 women devotees were crossing the river after offering prayers for Janmashtami in a temple on the other side when the boatman lost control and the accident occurred. All the six bodies have been pulled out of the river. Madhubani district magistrate Adesh Tirmare assured ex-gratia of ₹1 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased. —BP

Militant hideout unearthed

Jammu: Security forces have unearthed a militant hideout in the Mughal Maidan area of Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir and recovered some arms and ammunition from there, including 3 kg of explosives. —PTI

Prohibitory orders in Srinagar

Srinagar: The district magistrate on Friday imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC, which bans assembly of five or more persons without prior permission, within the territorial jurisdiction in the Srinagar for two months. —PTI

Commandant's house renamed

Patna: To commemorate literary giant George Orwell's birth in Bihar's East Champaran district, the CRPF commandant's residence in Motihari will be named as 'George Orwell House', CRPF sources said on Friday. The Champaran district had seen several great personalities like Mahatma Gandhi and Orwell, Parma Shivan, new commandant of 153rd battalion CRPF said. —PTI

Free bicycles to TN ITI students

Chennai: The AIADMK government in Tamil Nadu on Friday proposed providing free bicycles to over 21,000 students studying in Industrial Training Institutes. Chief minister J Jayalalitha allocated ₹6.36 crore for providing bicycles "free of cost," considering that a large number of students in ITIs hailed from economically poor background. —PTI

Vehicle used by Fiza recovered

Ambala: The police have recovered a Scorpio car allegedly given to Anuradha Bali aka Fiza by a Chandigarh-based advocate for a few months. Lying abandoned on Jarot road close to Ambala City, the vehicle was recovered on Thursday night, police said. Bali (39), estranged wife of former Haryana deputy CM Chandermohan, was found dead at her residence in Mohali near here on August 6. —PTI

Rao for US rethink on free use of gun

■ IANS
WASHINGTON

Echoing President Barack Obama's call for "soul searching" over Sunday's rampage in a Wisconsin gurdwara, Indian ambassador Nirupama Rao has raised questions about the free use of guns in the United States and problems Sikhs have faced in the country whether "in schools or in the workplace".

While as a foreign diplomat she could not take a position on gun control over the incident that left six worshippers dead, people in India did raise questions about why Sikhs should become "collateral damage" in such violent incidents, she said in an interview.

"But I wanted to say that in India, you know, when we see



Nirupama Rao

violence of this nature and we see Sikhs somehow becoming some kind of collateral damage in many senses, obviously, you know, questions do arise about the use of guns in the United States

and why all this should happen," she said.

"You know, so when President Obama spoke about soul searching, you know, the need for soul searching on these issues, I think he really hit the nail on the head," said Rao just back from a visit to Oak Creek to meet the families of the shooting victims. "We need an architecture of soul searching on this," she said.

Meanwhile, conditions of two of the three men injured in Sunday's rampage have shown improvement, according to hospital officials.

Oak Creek police Lt Brian Murphy, who was shot eight to nine times by gunman Wade Michael Page as he arrived at the scene in response to a 911 call, is recovering well and has been upgraded to satisfactory condition.

Gurdwara opens again

■ PTI
WASHINGTON

Six days after a deadly shooting struck an Oak Creek gurdwara, the shrine on Friday opened its gates again to the public, with over 100 community members returning to clean it ahead of the funeral for the victims.

The gurdwara in Oak Creek in Wisconsin state "is now open for the public," Jagajit Singh Sandhu, a member of the temple committee said.

"We expect the cleaning to be over soon, but it is open for the public now," Singh said, as men re-painted the walls of the gurdwara and cleaned its carpets.

Floods and Ulfa threats stall work at heritage sites

■ OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Conservation and beautification work at the historic Ahom heritage sites in Assam's Sibsagar district has slowed down due to floods and an Ulfa faction threat of subversion and sabotage during the run-up to Independence Day celebrations on August 15.

Assam additional director general of police, law and order, A P Rout, had recently said that a general security alert had been sounded and security tightened throughout the state. "The anti-talk faction of Ulfa (headed by Paresh Baruah) is desperate to carry out subversive activities to show its presence but the police have sounded the alert to thwart such plans."

Conservation and beautification work at several historic sites like Garhgaon, Gaurisagar and Joysagar in the Ulfa stronghold of Sibsagar district was begun by the Guwahati circle of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) earlier this year. Sources in the ASI, Delhi confirmed that the "conservation work at the Ahom sites, which had already been adversely affected by floods in the state, has now almost stalled due to the high security threat from the Baruah-led Ulfa faction."

The 36-month project has been taken up at the initiative of the National Cultural Fund (NCF) which is keen to develop the large complex of the Ahom period buildings extending from the 13th to 19th centuries into a national heritage site to draw tourists not only from the Northeast but from all parts of the country and even from

The 36-month project has been taken up at the initiative of the National Cultural Fund which is keen to develop the Ahom period buildings

overseas to this rather remote and isolated part of the country. The state and the central governments believe the development of the historic heritage sites of the region can play a major role in isolating and curbing Ulfa militancy.

Apart from the scientific measures of conservation of the four monuments — Talatal Ghar, Rang Ghar, Kareng Ghar and the group of four maidans in Charideo — the emphasis is also on developing tourist infrastructure.

The ASI would be laying down pathways, visitor seating, signage, universal / disability access, route maps, lighting, electrical installations, and security cover for the tourists.

The NCF of the Union ministry of culture has arranged a grant of about ₹4 crore for the conservation and beautification project which is estimated to take three years to complete, though an exact time frame will be worked out only after a survey of the present state of the concerned monuments is done. The development of the priceless heritage complex is a matter of prestige and pride for all Assamese.

26/11: Jundal wants to confess

■ PTI
MUMBAI

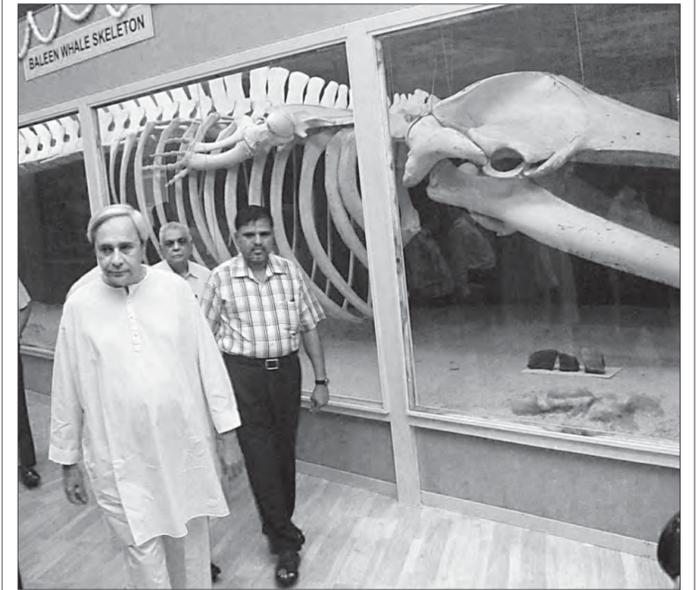
Abu Jundal, one of the handlers of the 26/11 terrorists, on Friday expressed his desire before a metropolitan court to confess his complicity in the brazen attacks, a day after he was confronted with Ajmal Kasab, the lone surviving assassin in the case.

Thirty-year-old Sayed Zabiuddin Ansari, alias Abu Jundal, made a verbal plea before additional chief metropolitan magistrate P S Rathod that he wanted to make a voluntary confession about his role in the attacks, sources in the Crime Branch, which is investigating the 26/11 case, said.

The magistrate explained to him the procedure of recording the confession and also informed him that his confessional statement could be used against him. Jundal, sources said, replied in the affirmative when asked if he wanted to make his confession voluntarily.

In keeping with legal provisions, Jundal was told by the court that he would be given time to think whether he really wanted to give confession. He would be produced again before the court after two days and his statement will be recorded if he still wants to make the confession, sources said. Jundal, who was hitherto in the custody of the Crime Branch, would now be lodged in soli-

Gallery Visit



Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik visits the Northeast biodiversity gallery at the Regional Museum on its eighth foundation day, in Bhubaneswar, on Friday

Indian flees Qaida-linked captors in Philippines

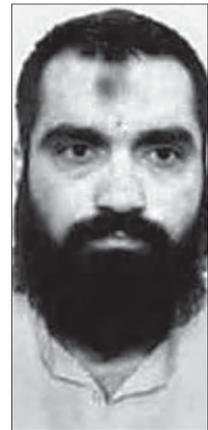
■ PTI
MANILA/KOZHIKODE

After 14 months in captivity, an Indian national abducted by Al Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militants in southern Philippines on Friday dramatically escaped from his captors while they were sleeping after fasting for Ramadan.

The 36-year-old Kolaraveetil Biju from Kerala, who worked as an operation manager for a garment company in Kuwait, was abducted by the militants in Sulu province in the Philippines in June 2011 while visiting his Filipino wife's family in Patikul. He escaped from his captors and was found by residents of a Parang village, which he did not name, before dawn on Friday, senior superintendent Antonio Freyra said.

"The kidnapers were resting. They had been fasting (for Ramadan) and they got tired and fell asleep, so he slipped away," Freyra was quoted as saying by the media. Biju, who said he lost 20 kilogram in captivity, "is now in the custody of the Sulu provincial police office and is undergoing medical check up and debriefing," Freyra said.

The Indian national appeared to be in good health, the Sulu police chief was quoted as saying. In March, the Sulu police said it got information that Biju was executed by the Abu Sayyaf because his family could not pay ransom, according to local media. The kidnapers demanded about \$7,100 in ransom, but his family refused to pay. He said he was not harmed as he is a Muslim.



Abu Jundal

Isro plans 58 missions in 5 years

■ PTI
BANGALORE

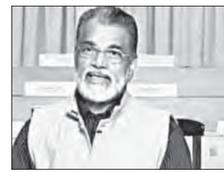
India's premier space agency Isro plans to undertake 58 satellite and launch vehicle missions in the 12th Five year period and sees larger role for industries in realising these ventures.

Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) chairman K Radhakrishnan said India had done 10-13 missions in each of the 8th, 9th and 10th plan period, and completed 29 in the 11th five-year Plan period 2007-12.

"So, that was a quantum jump. During 2012-17, we are planning about 60 missions," Radhakrishnan, also secretary in the department of space and space commission chairman, said.

To be precise, Isro proposes to undertake 33 satellites and 25 launch vehicles missions. "25 missions have been

That (the funds required for realising the 58 missions) will get finalised through discussions in the coming months

K Radhakrishnan,
Isro chairman

lined up in the next two years itself," the Isro chief said.

Asked about the cost involved in these missions, he said in the 11th plan Isro had an allocation of about ₹20,000 crore, plan and non-plan put together.

"That (the funds required for realising the 58 missions) will get finalised through discussions in the coming months," he said.

Radhakrishnan said the role of industries in realising the missions would go up, particularly in the area of value addition, and their responsibility would be larger.

Isro's outsourcing of the Indian space programme currently is about 50-60 per cent — mainly in the areas of supply of components and fabrication, among others, to some 500 firms.

"Today we have Indian industries working with us but each one looks at specific elements of it (the space programme). A couple of them started next level of integration. So, what we are working with industries now is how to enhance the role of industry in realising PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) (and also in building satellites)," he

said. Radhakrishnan sees larger role for industries in space programme going forward.

"Value addition (by industries in these programmes) will go up. (Their) role will go up. Responsibility will be larger."

Right now, contribution of industries is at the "first level" but we are getting into larger assembly (by industries)...finally rocket and satellite. May not be 100 per cent (industries will not do all work). But closer to that. That's what we are expecting," he said.

August marks the end of slavery and independence

Freedom month for India, Trinidad & Tobago

■ IANS
PORT-OF-SPAIN

India and Trinidad and Tobago will jointly celebrate each other's Independence Day here, said Indian high commissioner Malay Mishra who noted a "paradigm shift in bilateral relations".

Mishra said India will join Trinidad and Tobago to mark the 65th and 50th Independence celebrations of each other's country.

The month of August is "freedom month as the first of August marks the end of slavery, then India gained independence on August 15 and will celebrate its 65th anniversary, while Trinidad and Tobago will celebrate its Independence August 31," he said at a press conference.

Trinidad and Tobago's Indian diaspora consists of 44 per cent of the population of 1.3 million people.

Minister of communications Jamal Mohammed said India and Trinidad and Tobago shared "a long, long friendship and cordial relations".

He recalled that his uncle, Ka-



maluddin Mohammed, spoke "in glowing terms and with dignified respect" of his meeting with both the late Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and his daughter Indira Gandhi.

Mishra said since the visit to India by Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar there has been a "paradigm shift in bilateral relations".

One of the highlights of the celebrations will be the staging of a con-

ference, "Inheritance, Innovation and Continuity", which will encapsulate 50 years of Trinidad and Tobago and India. India was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations when this country gained Independence in August 1962.

Bhoendradatt Tewarie, minister of planning and sustainable development and chairman of 50th Independence celebrations, will formally open the party on August 17.

A number of subjects will be discussed on August 18 including music, arts, the media, Indian films, Ramayana traditions, role of women in society, Hindu women in society, Ayurveda, dance and Indian cuisine. Minister of foreign affairs, Winston Dookeran, will give a valedictory address, "50 years of India-Trinidad and Tobago elations Perspectives", at the session on Saturday.

Indians were brought to these Caribbean islands between 1845 and 1917 to work on sugar and cocoa plantations, principally from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Harassed Hindus flee Pakistan: Report

■ IANS
ISLAMABAD

Hindus are fleeing Pakistan after their shops were looted, houses raided and women were converted to Islam, a media report said.

Rehman Malik, adviser to the Pakistani Prime Minister on interior affairs, however, said that visas being issued to 250 Hindu families by the Indian high commission was a conspiracy. Malik was responding to a query on migration of Hindu families to India from Sindh and Balochistan after complaining that their shops had been looted, houses raided and women forced to embrace Islam.

Malik said in Lahore that the government had stopped the Hindus of Jacobabad from leaving for India. They would be allowed to leave after complete verification.

"The Indian high commission should say why it has is-

sued visas to them," he was quoted as saying.

The government has decided to beef up security for religious minorities following large-scale migration of Hindu families to India. Seven Hindu families comprising 90 men, women and children from Jacobabad left for India on Wednesday night.

They left by train and were seen off by relatives and a large number of people of the community at the Jacobabad railway station. After reaching Lahore, they intended to enter India at the Wagah border.

The move comes just six months after 52 Hindu families migrated to India.

Jacobabad police official Muhammad Younus Chandio maintained that complete security was being provided to the community and said the families were not migrating but were going to India to perform religious rites and would return soon.

SHORT TAKES



Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar at an Iftar party on the campus of Haj Bhavan, in Patna, on Friday

Aug 21 deadline for cable deal

New Delhi: Signalling a clear intention to implement cable digitalisation by the due date, broadcasting sector regulator TRAI has pulled up broadcasters and multi-system operators (MSOs) for not finalising inter-connection agreements and has now set a August 21 deadline for it. —PTI

Comprehensive probe against BSY

Bangalore: The Lokayukta court on Friday ordered a comprehensive probe by Lokayukta police into a complaint against former chief minister B S Yeddyurappa and his son relating to alleged denotification of land in Bhadravathi. The case has been adjourned to August 31 for Lokayukta police to submit their report. —PTI

Plane skids off apron area

New Delhi: A Boeing 737 aircraft of Jet Konnect skidded off the apron area at IGI airport here as the maintenance staff lost control of the aircraft while taxiing it from the hangar but no one was injured in the mishap. Airport operations were not affected and quick action by airport personnel avoided any damage to the aircraft, sources said. —PTI

DMK chief faces defamation case

Chennai: Tamil Nadu chief minister J Jayalalithaa on Friday moved a sessions court against DMK chief M Karunanidhi and his party organ *Murasoli* for alleged defamatory remarks against her published in the newspaper on July 30. According to the city public prosecutor Karunanidhi had made some comments on Jayalalithaa's stay in Kodanad and said her absence from the state capital for about two months was a concern for voters. —PTI

Deshmukh's condition 'stable'

Chennai: The condition of Union minister for science and technology Vilasrao Deshmukh, undergoing treatment for a serious liver ailment at a hospital here, was stated to be stable on Friday. Hospital and family sources remained tight-lipped, but several political leaders who visited the hospital quoted the family members as saying his condition was stable. —PTI

Crop loan for farmers

Chandigarh: The Centre on Friday decided to reschedule crop loans for Punjab and Haryana farmers besides providing them financial assistance to deal with losses due to deficient rain. Agriculture minister Sharad Pawar noted that monsoon in Punjab and Haryana is deficient by 68 per cent and 71 per cent, respectively. —PTI

'Show political will to get back black money'

■PTI
NEW DELHI

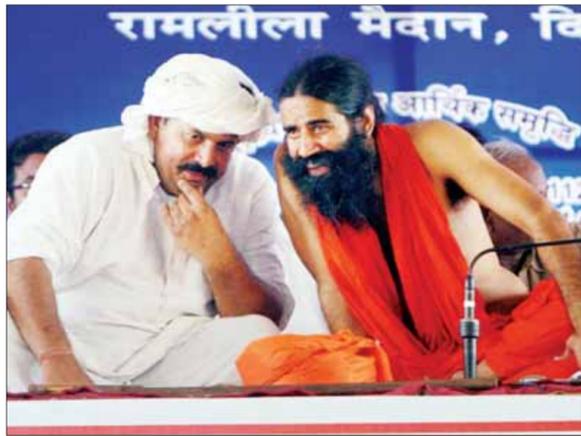
As his fast entered the second day, yoga guru Ramdev on Friday asked Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to demonstrate "political honesty and political will" in bringing back black money stashed away in foreign shores which can be spent on empowering the people.

He also claimed that terrorism and Naxalism in the country can be tackled if the government controls the flow of black money and the rising inflation.

"The government has the list of people who have stashed away black money in foreign shores. We don't want the names of those people, but at least disclose the amount. What is the harm in it? Why is the government reluctant?" he asked.

He said India can become the 'super power' in the world and the army can become more powerful than those in China and the US if the black money is brought back and spent on people and national security.

"We need an honest PM. I



Yoga guru Ramdev with Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait during the second day of his agitation over corruption and black money at the Ramilla ground, in New Delhi, on Friday

want the current PM to demonstrate his political honesty and political will on the issue of black money," he said addressing the gathering at his three-day fast venue at the Ramilla Ground here.

He also said that the government has to spell out its agenda on black money, cor-

ruption and Lokpal by on Saturday. "Many people say I have no agenda. The agenda is to save the country. The people of the country will ask the government and all parties to spell out their agenda," he said. If the black money is brought to India, then the country can boast of world-

class hospitals, educational institutions and other facilities, he said.

"People are talking about the equation I and Anna Hazare shares", Ramdev said and added: "Every day people say there has been a fight between me and Annaji. I don't know from where people get

such stories." He said: "People don't like us because we don't have anything to lose." He said in his speeches both the Prime Minister and the President say corruption is the biggest enemy. "If they know why don't they take steps to curb corruption?" he questioned.

India can win gold for corruption: Ramdev

■IANS
NEW DELHI

If the Olympics gave a medal for corruption, India could have won a gold, yoga guru Ramdev said on Friday as thousands poured into the Ramilla Grounds here for day two of his fast. Calling on all of India to support his agitation against black money and graft, Ramdev said: "India could have won gold if there was a competition for corruption in the Olympics."

The crowds cheered and clapped enthusiastically. To which Ramdev said: "This is not a matter to applaud." He addressed the crowd in a speech that pitched for his movement against black money as well as for a stringent Lokpal Bill, an independent CBI and a citizen's charter — also the demands of the disbanded Team.

RSS chief says Bihar model better than Gujarat

■OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat is reported to have said that in public perception of effective governance, Bihar is ahead of Gujarat.

"RSS' Mohan Bhagwat's first-ever chat with foreign media. Asked to rate state governments on good governance, he said Bihar, Gujarat, in that order," tweeted Rama Lakshmi, a journalist with the *Washington Post's* New Delhi bureau.

The RSS said Bhagwat has not been quoted correctly. It says the RSS chief said that the people of each state feel that the model followed by their government is superior.

Interacting with some foreign journalists, a cautious RSS chief said his opinion was that of the common man and not his personal one. Maintaining a guarded approach, Bhagwat said the BJP-led Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh states are also governed well.

Bhagwat's comment, however, is sure to lead to heartburn among some BJP leaders. The statement assumes significance as in June 2012, he had backed Narendra Modi for the prime ministership and slammed Nitish Kumar for saying the NDA should have a secular PM nominee.

Bhagwat reportedly said: "People used to hail Modi for his 'Gujarat model' in development works and his (Modi's) style of functioning but Nitish has given him a challenge. Bihar, where the options for improving the state was tough, Nitish did a commendable job and 'Bihar model' could be called better than 'Gujarat model'".

Incidentally, Kumar had earlier opposed Modi as the NDA's choice for PM and said he would back another BJP leader for the top post. Kumar led-JD(U) is the BJP's biggest ally and the saffron party would not want to annoy the Bihar CM.

Modi is believed to have upset sections of the BJP and the RSS, particularly on the Sanjay Joshi issue. Under pressure from Modi, the BJP first accepted Joshi's resignation from the national executive committee and later removed him. An editorial in the BJP's *Kamal Sandesh*, spoke of arrogance of some leaders and said there's a need to send out a signal to all BJP workers that no individual is bigger than the party. Senior BJP leader L K Advani blogged: "A non-Congress, non-BJP PM heading a government supported by one of these two principal parties is feasible."

Bihar, where the options for improving the state was tough, Nitish did a commendable job and 'Bihar model' could be called better than 'Gujarat model'

Mohan Bhagwat, RSS chief

Kanda evades arrest, relatives quizzed

■PTI
NEW DELHI/SIRSA (HARYANA)

Former Haryana minister Gopal Kanda, accused of abetting suicide of a former employee, dodged police for the third day on Friday even as fresh raids were conducted at his premises and close relatives questioned to trace him.

There was speculation that Kanda may surrender before a Delhi court on Monday.

Asked about this, his brother, Govind, said no decision has been taken as yet. Geetika Sharma (23), a former air hostess with Kanda's now defunct MDLR airline, was found hanging in her flat in north west Delhi on Sunday. In a suicide note found at her residence, Geetika said she was ending her life due to harassment by Kanda and MDLR official Aruna Chaddha. Both have denied the allegations.

Kanda, an Independent MLA who held home, urban bodies and industry and commerce portfolios, resigned the following day. Fresh raids were conducted at Kanda's residence in Sirsa in Haryana last night and his premises in Delhi. His close relatives were also questioned but he could not be located, a senior police official said.

A police party headed by ACP Shailender Singh search-

ed the former minister's Rania Road house in Sirsa last night, officials said on Friday. This is the second such raid within 24 hours at the sprawling mansion of Kanda.

Kanda's anticipatory bail plea to avoid arrest in the case was on Thursday rejected by a Delhi court which said the charges against him were serious and that he may hamper the probe. Kanda has refused to appear for question-

ing before the Delhi Police. In Chandigarh, Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said Kanda should join the investigations in connection with the suicide case. On being pressed that Kanda is deliberately evading arrest, the Hooda said that "anybody (whose name crops up in any case) not joining the investigations is unfair." "As a law abiding citizen one should assist in the probe".



Relatives cry over the death of retired deputy superintendent of police Abdul Hamid Bhat, who was shot dead by militants outside a mosque at Batmaloo, in Srinagar, on Friday. No militant outfit has so far claimed responsibility for the incident

2 killed, over 225 injured in dahi handi functions

Nation drenched in Janmashtami revelry



A human pyramid of devotees fails to break the dahi handi during the celebrations of Janmashtami, in Mumbai

■PTI
NEW DELHI/MATHURA

Chants of *Hare Krishna Hare Rama* and *Govinda ala re* reverberated the air on Janmashtami on Friday as devotees, gripped by festive fervour, thronged decked-up temples and took out colourful processions across the country to mark the birth of Lord Krishna.

Janmashtami's *dahi handi* celebrations, however, turned tragic by the death of two persons while over 225 revellers were injured in other parts of the state. In Maharashtra's Raigad district 19-year-old Durvas Patil was killed after he fell from a six-level human pyramid while in Thane, 35-year-old Deepak Tupe, who belonged to the Hanuman Mandal in Kurla, died at Panchkhadi after falling off the human

pyramid and suffocation. The condition of a 22-year-old *govinda*, who sustained burns after falling on an overhead electric cable is serious.

Amid blowing of conch shells and beating of drums, worshippers offered prayers since early morning in temples where special religious discourses, *Krishnalila* or dance dramas and community kitchens were held.

Tight security arrangements were made for the festival. Lakhs of pilgrims paid obeisance in the temples of Mathura, birth place of Krishna, Vrindavan, Nandgaon, Mahaban and Baldeo, and performed circumambulation of hillock Govardhan. The temples of International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) celebrate the festival with great fervour and pomp, too, attracting large congregations.

Bathing ceremony of the deity — *Abhishek* — was performed with milk, curd, honey, ghee and *khandasari* amid chanting of vedic hymns. *Baal-Gopal* was placed in swings which were ceremonially swayed by devotees in temples.

Thousands of people poured into the streets in Mumbai and other cities for *dahi handi* festivities with youngsters moving around in processions and making human pyramids to break the pots filled with butter or curd, which are hung at a considerable height, to win prize money.

This year's festivities were also marked by rising cash prizes and presence of Bollywood personalities, lending a glamour quotient to the annual event. Rains failed to dampen spirits of devotees in Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and J&K.

Pawar slams Joshi remark on NDA unification

■PTI
NEW DELHI

Sharad Pawar has termed as "highly irresponsible" a Shiv Sena leader's remark that the NCP leader has the political acumen to unify NDA and lead it to power in the 2014 general elections.

The NCP supreme said his party has been with the Congress through thick and thin. "The statement made by (Sena leader Manohar) Joshi as regards the NCP and me is highly irresponsible. If Joshi has to make any predictions, he should do them about himself and his party Shiv Sena and should not make remarks spreading misunderstanding about other parties," Pawar told reporters here.

The statement of Joshi, a former Lok Sabha speaker, had come against the backdrop of BJP leader L K Advani's prediction of a non-BJP and non-Congress Prime Minister after the next parliamentary elections. It had also come at a time when the Congress and the NCP have arrived at a truce after Pawar had threatened to pull out of the UPA government and support it from outside till the 2014 polls.

Noting that the NCP and the Congress are in alliance in Maharashtra since 1999, he said the tie-up was still going strong. "We are the people who keep their word. In coalition politics, credibility and coalition dharma is of utmost importance. Our conduct has always been in keeping with that. In such a backdrop, the statement made by Joshi does not reflect reality but his illusions. Workers of both the parties in the alliance need to be alert against such attempts to spread misunderstanding," he said.

Joshi had reportedly indicated the "patch-up" between the Congress and the NCP would not last long, and Pawar might come to the NDA fold before the next elections. "If the first Marathi *Manoos* makes it to the Prime Minister's post, my party chief and I will certainly be very happy. "The Shiv Sena chief had also supported UPA candidate Pratibha Patil during the 2007 presidential elections, as she was Marathi *Manoos*. Pawar can bring together different parties against Congress," he had said. "Pawar has all the abilities to become PM, but he has not been exploiting these," Joshi had said.

Advocate files complaint against Anna

■PTI
INDORE

A complaint was filed in a local court on Friday against social activist Anna Hazare and his team for allegedly "cheating the people in the name of launching an agitation" for a strong Lokpal Bill.

The complaint was filed by advocate Inderjeet Singh Bhatia against Anna and his team in the court of Judicial Magistrate first Class (JMFC) Suman Shrivastava. The court will hear the complaint on August 14, Bhatia told reporters.

He alleged that Anna and his team have misled people to prepare a ground for launching a political party and abruptly ended the agitation without taking into confidence lakhs of people who extended support to them.

He also said the team collected huge amount of money and did not give its details. Bhatia has also blamed Ramdev for deviating Anna's agitation.

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The man who invented himself

Sports do not build character. They reveal it

—John Wooden
(1910—)



Leading lights

The theme of London Olympics is 'inspiring a generation'. It was a motley group of people who lit the fire of self-rule in the heart of the Indians. Leaders are necessary to inspire, and India may well boast of new ones who could inspire a couple of generations to shake off their sloth and get moving. Leading the table is none other than Mary Kom, hailing from the geographic and socio-economic margins of this country. While billboards across England have been crying out 'Magnificent Mary' saluting the face of Indian women's boxing, inspiring others to take up the sport, she herself has done enough to make her their idol for the person she is. Never cribbing, never looking for alibis, she has lived her life in the most uncomplicated manner creating opportunities where others have seen hurdles. Mangte Mary Kom had raised hopes for greater glory, so when she settled for a bronze at the Excel Centre on Wednesday, there was a tinge of disappointment. She regretted not living up to the nation's expectations of winning a gold medal. Nevertheless, she created history, by making it to the podium for women's boxing — a sport that made its debut at the London Olympics.

A new set of sporting leaders could help India shake off its sloth and become competitive

As only Mary could do, she conceded that she had made technical errors during her bout with Nicola Adams and that she was unlucky not to have won. The government has decided to give her everything that she may have ever wanted behind the closed doors in her modest government flat. But Mary will continue to ignite flames of passion to excel with her tireless dedication, as would Subedar Vijay Kumar. An army man to the core, Kumar fought it out at the 25 metre rapid fire pistol event. When all hope was lost, he had held on to his post and his flag and took his contingent to glory. The burst of emotion thereafter was only normal when he said he would quit the armed forces for being continuously denied promotion. Vijay is the classic example of the underdog winner. He played second fiddle to his more illustrious team mates while they were busy giving quotable quotes. Vijay's simple philosophy was that one should continue to perform and people will recognize the effort. He has won 110 national and 45 international medals. Now the Olympic medal has made the world sit up and take notice. The army man is amused by it all, and is glad that he has not been reduced to a public relations professional from a sports person, busy building his brand.

Last but not the least in the line is Saina Nehwal. Immediately after her bronze-winning performance she told the media that she was thinking of Rio. Only a competitor to the core would speak this way. Her popularity was evident when she took on the Chinese in the fight for bronze. She was cheered on by almost everyone except the Chinese for Saina was the only one in the women's badminton event who could take on the domination of China.

'Kapusinski' has long been one of Poland's few internationally recognised names, comparable to 'Miosz' or 'Polanski'. His vivid literary reporting of the uses and misuses of power, in the books *The Emperor*, *The Soccer War* and *Shah of Shahs*, was widely read in the 1980s and beyond, partly because of the author's unique position (a star reporter emerging from the darkness of communist Poland, then in the midst of martial law after a failed workers revolt) but mainly for its unusual style — personal, meticulous, literary, digressive. His wasn't the typical way of writing journalism and, similarly, Artur Domoslawski's book is not a conventional biography. Both the author and his 'hero', friend and mentor stand out from what was acceptable during the cold war, and today.

The book caused much controversy when it was published in Poland two years ago (with the title *Kapusinski - Non-Fiction*). For foreign commentators, the main interest was in discovering how its subject had embroidered the truth in service to style or politics — the fabrications involved his meetings with Che Guevara, Patrice Lumumba, Idi Amin and Salvador Allende. (*The Guardian* ran numerous pieces in his defence, including by Neal Ascherson and Timothy Garton Ash.) In Poland, the issues were different. Kapuscinski's widow tried to stop the book's publication because of its unembellished descriptions of the writer's private life (in particular, his extramarital affairs). But more important than these revelations was Domoslawski's confirmation of the reporter's close connection with various aspects of the communist order, including the intelligence services; his belief in socialist ideology; and his uneasy adaptation to post-1989 realities. In engaging with all this, Domoslawski has produced a rare and subtle portrait of the People's Republic of Poland.

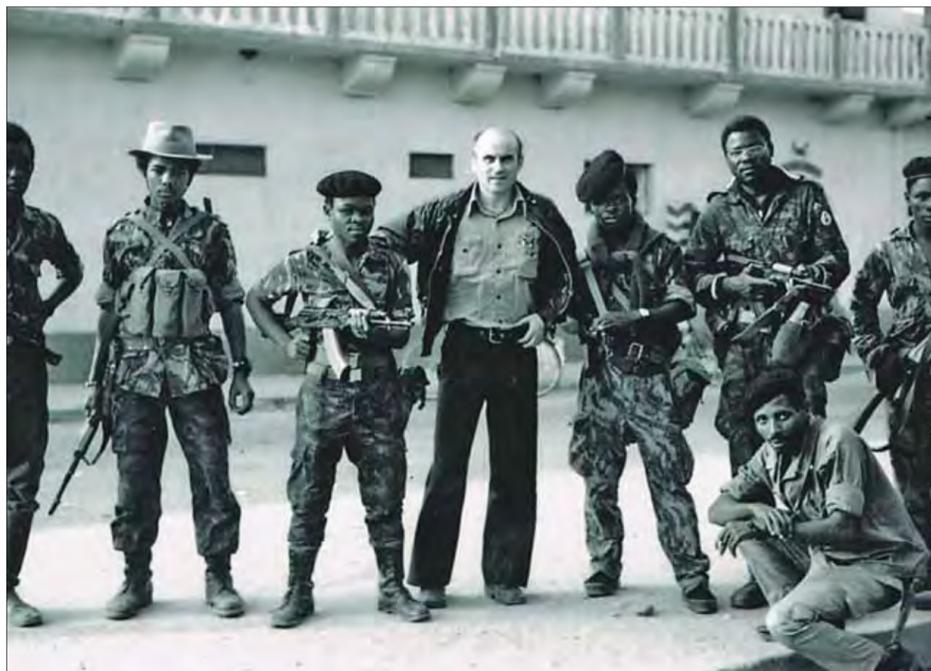
Politics in Poland is still largely determined by the past, and after 1989 there have been only two acceptable ways of looking at the post-war era. One is to regard the communist regime as illegit-

AGNES PYZIK

A new biography examines the controversial life of Poland's most famous journalist, Ryszard Kapuscinski

imate, but something after which we can draw a 'thick line' between the past and the present. The other considers the system simply as criminal and those who worked within it as traitors — traitors who should be tried. Kapuscinski was himself accused of being an agent shortly before his death in 2007; Domoslawski gives details of his espionage, in particular the notorious case of him spying on the academic and reporter Maria Sten in Mexico. But the biographer also goes beyond this binary approach to the past, dwelling on and paying tribute to his subject as a lifelong opponent of imperialism. Crucially, while the Polish oppositionist media fervently supported the Iraq war, Kapuscinski was a rare figure of the post-communist intelligentsia publicly to oppose the war on terror.

At the time Kapuscinski started to gain fame abroad for his reportage, the cold war had entered a new, dangerous stage. He dropped his party card, supported the Solidarity movement, and pre-empting his American editors, removed potentially inflammatory passages in *Shah of Shahs* about the role of the CIA in overthrowing the Mossadegh regime. Yet there were proper limits to his flexibility, and Domoslawski includes much evidence of his hero's dedication and sacrifice. Plenty of questions have been asked about the 'real cost' of his free travel around the world, but Kapuscinski didn't gain much when compared with his journalistic colleagues. Friends re-



Kapuscinski with Angolan troops in 1975 (top); the journalist had trouble coming to grips with a post-communist USSR



Luc Delahaye

call him wearing rags and sleeping in his car. Without doubt, it was political passion and humanism that made him such a profound critic of colonialism in Africa and an enthusiast for the Cuban revolution. And this gave him an insight, unusual in Poland, into the negative role of the US in supporting dictatorships. His reportage from Latin America could have been written yesterday. Yet nothing is simple: did Kapuscinski realise his friends in the Polish

politburo were involved in beating students and in anti-semitic witch-hunts in 1968? After all, his net of connections allowed him to write, and aroused suspicion from persecuted friends.

The constant speculation about the level of Kapuscinski's engagement with the regime means that this biography reads at times like a John Le Carré novel. The question of identity, of image, of truth, of confabulation, shifts constantly and gains new

meanings, turning the book into a quest for Kapuscinski's personality. Who was he? Not even his family or close friends are really able to answer.

He was born in the 1930s in Pinsk, a Jewish town that suffered all possible atrocities during World War II. Although his own life was not in danger, he witnessed the murder of the town's Jews, invasion by the Russians, then the Nazis, then the Russians again — it becomes plausible that everything he did subsequently was inspired by these events. He was from a poor family, and for people like him communist Poland created chances, which he took. Domoslawski quotes a friend: "Rysiek produced great work. However, in order to do it, he had to create himself, his own image... He put a great deal of work into it — it was hard for him, but he passed that exam with flying colours. The image of a fearless war reporter. He reckoned without this legend no one would listen to a writer from faraway Poland." That would explain also why he repeatedly claimed his father was near-

ly killed with 20,000 Polish officers in Katyn in 1940.

When the moment came for coming to terms with the crumbling Soviet empire, he missed his chance. For Domoslawski, *Imperium* (1993), about Kapuscinski's travels to the USSR, is a book written in denial, in which the author — who could have told us the most gripping story of his own engagement and disappointment — disappears. Kapuscinski reacts with his most significant act of self-censorship, afraid to present himself in the new Poland as an ex-communist, and choosing instead to present himself as a victim. In a way, the system left no option other than to be both victim and beneficiary — in post-communist Poland there was little space for nuance. The earlier reporter wrote a complex version of history; the fated Kapuscinski of the new Poland was unable to do so. But Domoslawski's book brings back the authentic voice of the reporter and hero, and if only for that, it is a truly great achievement.

—The Guardian

Sinewy impressions on the wood in Thiruvakkarai

MANJISHTHA BHATTACHARYYA

We did not know about the park before reaching Pondicherry. It was on our way to Gingee Fort from Pondicherry that my maternal grandfather called us up, and on learning that we were en route Tindivanam, suggested that we check out the place. He had visited the park two decades ago and had forgotten the name of the place but had not forgotten the petrified beauty that he had beheld then. Since we had rented a car for the whole day, a short detour didn't seem that much trouble, and thanks to internet connectivity on our phones, we could easily find out what this place that my Dadu was so fascinated with, even after twenty years, was called.

We faced some difficulty in conveying to the driver of our car where we wanted to go, after visiting Gingee Fort (which is a breathtakingly piece of historic architecture, magnificently adorning the hills of Gingee). None of us knew how to communicate 'fossilized wood' to our driver in Hindi. He didn't speak English, we couldn't speak Tamil. Finally, after a lot of wild hand gestures, pointing at rocks and trees simultaneously, he caught on to the word 'Thiruvakkarai', which is the name of the place where this Fossil Woods Park is located. He nodded vigorously and started with enthusiasm for the village of Thiruvakkarai. At a crossroad, we had to stop for directions and our driver, Mr. Shankar, parroting the name of the park to a traffic sergeant on duty, managed to get exact directions to the place. Thus, our car proceeded through courtyards of village houses and temples, between barren and arable lands to this place preserved in time.

When our car stopped in front of a wire-fenced compound with two white pillars displaying a tin board with the name of the park painted in white, I was a little disap-



pointed. It was past three in the afternoon and I felt feverish with a splitting headache. And being naturally nettlesome, I was peeved. I had expected a well-structured, sanitised building housing the fossils. I most certainly hadn't expected ruins in the wilderness. This goes to show how artificial my life and tastes have become.

The first step inside the park didn't much change my opinion. The fact that the tin board explaining the significance of the place was worn out and looked a relic in itself, didn't help the situation. Patches of paint had peeled and fallen off the board, making reading extremely difficult. What I deciphered

painstakingly (my headache making the pain worse) is that fossils of gymnosperms and angiosperms, around 20 million years old, had been unearthed in this place, first by Pierre Sonnerat (a French naturalist) in the 18th century, and subsequently by the Geological Survey of India. The trunks of the trees are thought to have been transported by water from distant places and petrified there upon deposition. The fossils are the same age as the rocks that are strewn all over the place and are part of the 'Cuddalore series'. So far, taxonomists have been able to identify some modern families of plants (including Guttiferae, Leguminosae and

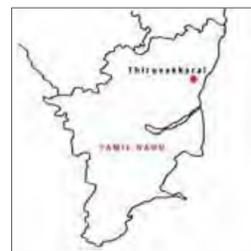
Euphorbiaceae) petrified into stone, suggesting that these modern angiosperms perhaps were already formed 20 million years ago. Gymnosperms (Mesembrioxylon schmidianum) mostly predominated at that time as is evident in majority of the fossils.

The compound was taken care of by an old man (in keeping with the theme of the park, you could say), who looked amazed at having visitors. The reason became apparent when we went to sign the log-book on our way out. Three other visitors had been there that day, before we went to visit. Two groups in a single day! But there were few, very few others, who had

visited in the preceding months. Time travel is not a very 'happening' activity these days, it seems.

There is a paved walkway for visitors climbing the mounds strewn with fossil wood. The walkway winds through thorny bushes and shrubs occasionally littered with plastic bottles and gutka pouches. But, the place being little known to tourists, mercifully, the amount of litter was low.

Being a Zoology Major I had studied Botany sparingly, only for the exams. I cannot tell this tree from that — a shame actually, given that I am a student of Natural Sciences. But my ignorance shocked me when I couldn't, at first, locate the



fossil woods.

All I could see were huge chunks of red coloured rocks with prominent striations scattered around the compound and up the mound along the walk way. The rocks looked dusty, but their colour was very rich with shades of brown, black, purple and grey. Slanting sunrays through the leaves of the trees shone brilliantly on the surface of some of these rocks (I learned later that it was due to the silica that had replaced the inner organic tissues of the tree trunks), stinging my already aching eyes. I must have looked dumb, standing there, searching, while my companions had long moved along the walkway exploring history.

Did I expect a tree turned to stone in all its canopied glory? Perhaps I did. I should have remembered that delicate leaves and soft-tissues are usually the first to be lost during transit before nature casts the Petrificus Totalus spell on them. Nevertheless, what I beheld did not disappoint me, although it was different from what I had imagined.

I love mythological stories. Almost every ancient culture has a story that tells of living beings transformed into stone, usually by a curse. Hindus have the lore of Ahalya turned to stone by the curse of her husband (although, if it were to happen today, her husband would have faced the ire of Women's Commission for false suspicions and accusation without proof), while the Greeks have the legend of Medusa turning to stone

everybody who beheld her. Although the information board at the gate told a different local legend, the fossil woods lying all around me, made me think of Ahalya and of Medusa's victims; once living, breathing, metabolising beings, lying petrified, undead.

The board at the gate tells of the local belief that these wood rocks are the bones of the *rakshasas* slain on the spot by the Lord Vishnu. The red colour of the rocks and the sinewy striations perhaps help such imagination.

Some of the fossil rocks, those not covered in dust, show such fine marks on their surface, you would think you could peel off the bark, albeit with a chisel and a hammer. I tried counting rings on the cross sections, but since I am no expert at that, frankly, I could not. And the way some of the rocks sparkled in the afternoon sun, I am sure, with a little more time, these slain demon bones will yield the world's most precious stones.

I learnt that there were more than 200 such fossil woods there in the park, but visitors are restricted to only those near the walkway. That is sufficient enough to delight anybody with a taste for the past.

While we were signing the log book, the caretaker of the park expressed his surprise on noting that we had come all the way from a different state to visit the place. He informed us that only some locals and the occasional Geological Survey of India employees form the main visitors there. A small tip made him gush about how the government is negligent about the park and how it could have been made into a star tourist attraction. He was right.

Looking back over the mounds, on the relics of prehistoric life, I caught sight of the grand banyan that had been shading us as we rested moments earlier. It looked down on the fossils, as if wondering, if it were next. It had a long way to go still, unless we humans intervene.



shop

Whether it is retail therapy or just window shopping, the internet has made life a lot easier for shopaholics. The virtual world is walking hand in hand with the reality and serving as the perfect medium to shop without a sweat. Every other brand is at your door step in just a single a click, writes Farah Khatoon, who has devised a brand new way of admiring products online.

ONLINE shopping sites have opened a new gateway for window shopping which is no less exciting. Shopping has taken an altogether different meaning with the advent of technology. And with technology I am definitely referring to the new age shopping experience which happens with just a click. One has a whole shopping mall in the palm of their hand. Want to buy a bag from Baggit? Click it and get it. Shoes from Catwalk? Order it and its there at your doorstep. Pay online or avail the cash on delivery option. Yes shopping has become that easy with big brands from all over the world just a click away on the online shopping sites like *Jabong.com*, *Ebay.com*, *Snapdeal.com* and several others. And the best deals are cracked online too with offers galore.

But with this change in the shopping experience one more thing has received a subtle modification. And it is the concept of the favourite pass time for many - 'Window Shopping'. With the opening of big shopping malls in the city, the phenomenon of window shopping descended. People would wander amidst the spa-

rious corners of a shopping mall, admiring all the things on display. A mannequin donning those gorgeous clothes, made you drool and invited you without any difficulty several times in the store. And your excitement would just compel you to oblige the dummy smirking from inside the glass wall. So you get inside, not losing sight of the dummy for a second and approach the sales person, or discreetly check its prize with anticipating heart and if not buying it right away, you would end up adding it on your wish list. You would dream of it everyday and resolve to pick that product asap. Remember the last time you went window shopping with your friend and checked out things liberally, often just for the sake of timepass? You can faintly remember one or two occasion or may be none? Well blame it on technology which facilitates convenience. It definitely makes our life easier and replaces one habit with another; let's not get into the quality of the habit here. But the fact is that virtual world has become more appealing and comfortable. And this virtual world has a strong link with the real world. Agrees Sunita Menon, a

working professional. "Shopping has definitely become very convenient and window shopping, all the more. Now I can check out the new arrivals on a particular shopping sites without physically being at the store at any given time of the day. The store is open 24x7 for us," said Menon who believes online shopping is spreading like a viral. Online window shopping has some more advantage. Firstly, it liberates you of the menace called sales boy/ girl. So while you are looking at the product online you don't have to worry about being watched or followed by a sales boy/girl. You can check out the full details of the product, a hundred times if you want, without any hesitation. And if you like it transfer it to your cart and order it any time you want. There is one more advantage to it, points out Menon. "One very interesting thing about virtual window shopping is that you can show the product to your friends or family sitting in the comfort of your room. So now at 3 in the morning I can show my sister the bags that I will be buying without physically taking her to the store. While in actual window shopping, unless the shop is open, you can't

share your product with anybody," said Menon who is an online shopping buff. It even highlights that online window shopping is not just a solitary affair as one might think. It does inflict the same amount of excitement and fun as real window shopping with friends does. Ask Preeti Gupta, a student of fashion designing and she will tell you how online window shopping has become a kind of game for her and her friends. "I have a huge group of friends. And online window shopping serves great purpose for us all. It is a good resource to flip through the designs of different brands and take inspiration from them. So every night we open these sites, share and discuss the designs and patterns of the dresses that are on display. Apart from just browsing scores of clothes we take inspiration from it too. And yes online window shopping definitely saves time, because checking out malls everyday is not feasible physically," said Gupta who accepts that she is just into online window shopping and not real online shopping. It's a phenomenon that is catching amongst men too. Men too are not far from checking out stuff

online. "You get to compare products easily. So if I want to buy something I would check the same product on different sites and then grab the lucrative one. It's easier to window shop sitting in front of the window screen of your computer. Virtual window shopping is the call of the day," said Amit Lakhani, who likes checking out products online. Ankit Jain the co-owner of *sareez.com* corroborates. "Not everybody visits our site to buy things. We have around ten thousand visitors checking out our products online, but the actual customer is just around 20 per cent of our actual visitor," informs Ankit who further adds that online shopping in itself is a new phenomenon and therefore everybody wants to check it

out. Window shopping in reality or virtually, it pleases a shopaholic. So just open any of the online shopping sites and ne benevolent to your eyes.

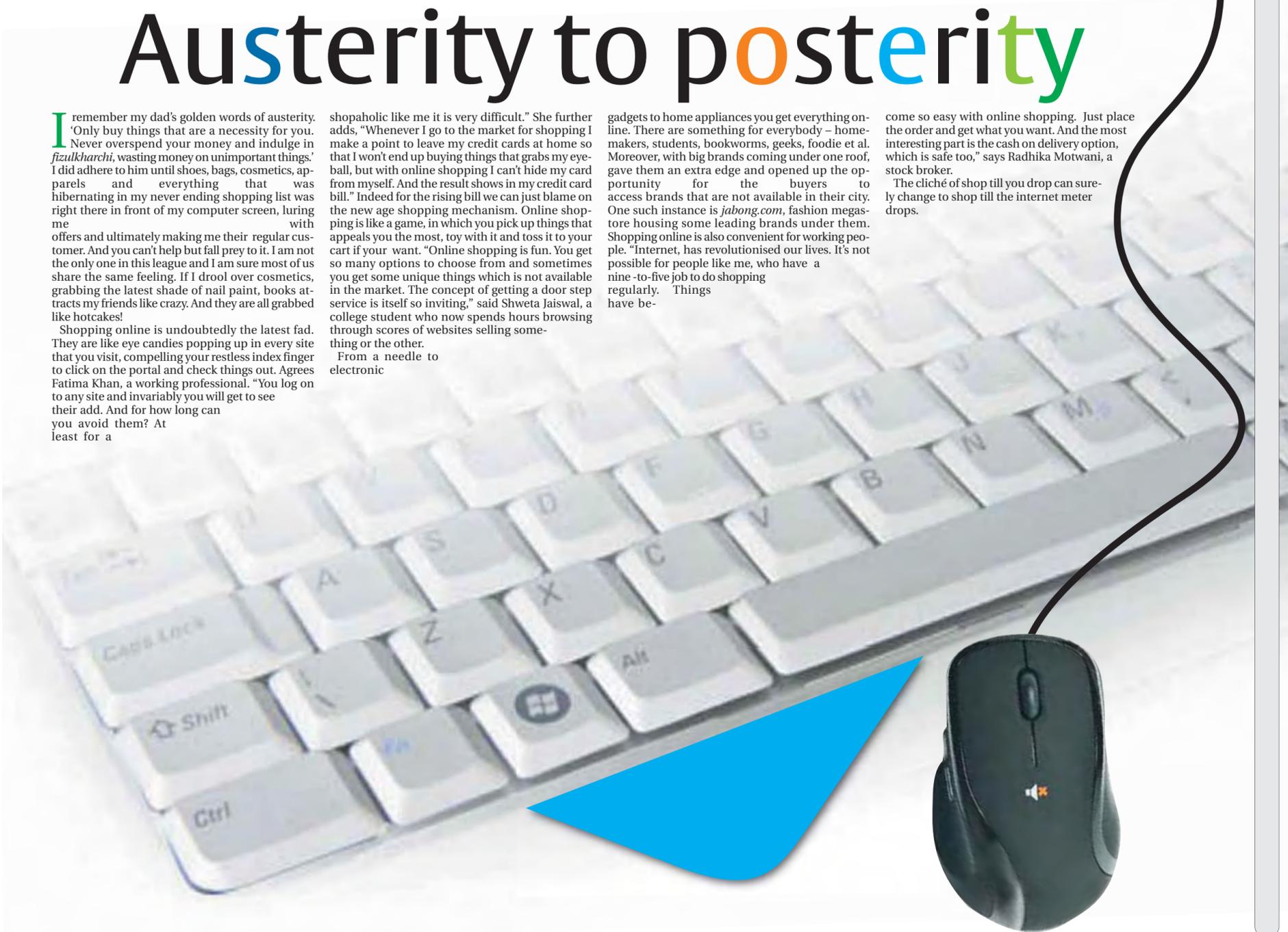
Austerity to posterity

Iremember my dad's golden words of austerity. 'Only buy things that are a necessity for you. Never overspend your money and indulge in *fizulkharchi*, wasting money on unimportant things.' I did adhere to him until shoes, bags, cosmetics, apparels and everything that was hibernating in my never ending shopping list was right there in front of my computer screen, luring me with offers and ultimately making me their regular customer. And you can't help but fall prey to it. I am not the only one in this league and I am sure most of us share the same feeling. If I drool over cosmetics, grabbing the latest shade of nail paint, books attracts my friends like crazy. And they are all grabbed like hotcakes! Shopping online is undoubtedly the latest fad. They are like eye candies popping up in every site that you visit, compelling your restless index finger to click on the portal and check things out. Agrees Fatima Khan, a working professional. "You log on to any site and invariably you will get to see their add. And for how long can you avoid them? At least for a

shopaholic like me it is very difficult." She further adds, "Whenever I go to the market for shopping I make a point to leave my credit cards at home so that I won't end up buying things that grabs my eyeball, but with online shopping I can't hide my card from myself. And the result shows in my credit card bill." Indeed for the rising bill we can just blame on the new age shopping mechanism. Online shopping is like a game, in which you pick up things that appeals you the most, toy with it and toss it to your cart if your want. "Online shopping is fun. You get so many options to choose from and sometimes you get some unique things which is not available in the market. The concept of getting a door step service is itself so inviting," said Shweta Jaiswal, a college student who now spends hours browsing through scores of websites selling something or the other. From a needle to electronic

gadgets to home appliances you get everything online. There are something for everybody - homemakers, students, bookworms, geeks, foodie et al. Moreover, with big brands coming under one roof, gave them an extra edge and opened up the opportunity for the buyers to access brands that are not available in their city. One such instance is *jabong.com*, fashion megastore housing some leading brands under them. Shopping online is also convenient for working people. "Internet, has revolutionised our lives. It's not possible for people like me, who have a nine-to-five job to do shopping regularly. Things have be-

come so easy with online shopping. Just place the order and get what you want. And the most interesting part is the cash on delivery option, which is safe too," says Radhika Motwani, a stock broker. The cliché of shop till you drop can surely change to shop till the internet meter drops.



WORLD WINDOW



Madonna performs during her MDNA tour at St Petersburg's Sports and Concert Complex late on Thursday. The Queen of Pop delivered a fiery speech about supporting gay rights, during her concert, reported *Aceshowbiz*.

US warns Hezbollah may strike Europe

Washington: The United States fears the Iranian-backed Lebanese militant group Hezbollah may be planning imminent attacks in Europe and around the world, a senior security official in Washington said on Friday. Earlier in the day, the US treasury imposed a new round of economic sanctions against Hezbollah for providing support to Syrian President Bashar Al Assad's government. —Agencies

10 killed, 27 injured in China dam burst

Beijing: Ten people were killed and 27 injured in a dam burst in China due to heavy rains caused by typhoon Haiqui which affected lakhs of people and toppled over 7,000 houses. Dikes of Shenjiakeng Reservoir, a rainwater pooling dam in Zhoushan City, east China's Zhejiang Province collapsed on Friday morning flooding the nearby areas. The Zhejiang provincial authorities have urged an all-out effort searching for the missing. —PTI

Six killed in Iraq attacks

Baghdad: Bombings and a shooting against Iraqi security forces, a Shiite mosque and a local official killed six people and wounded dozens of others on Friday, security and medical officials said. Meanwhile, on the outskirts of the main northern city of Mosul, a suicide car bomb near a Shiite mosque killed two people and wounded 40 others, police First Lieutenant Salim Metta and Dr Salam Bahnam from Mosul General Hospital said. —AFP

200 kg benzene leaks into China river

Beijing: About 200 kg of crude liquid benzene leaked into a river in central China's Hunan Province, sparking pollution concerns among the public. The leak occurred when a valve on a storage tank belonging to Xingkesheng Chemical Co Ltd failed due to metal fatigue, authorities in the city of Chenzhou said. Emergency treatment measures are being undertaken. —PTI

Brangelina to marry this weekend?

London: Hollywood star couple Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have sparked speculation that they are planning to marry secretly this weekend amid preparations for a huge party at their French home. Pitt's parents Jane and Bill and top jeweller Robert Procop, who made Angelina's engagement ring, are at the residence. The event is said to be for Pitt's parents' 50th wedding anniversary but locals say there is a real buzz there, reported *Sun online*. —PTI

Rebels plan push to regain Aleppo

REUTERS SYRIA

Rebels fighting Syrian President Bashar Al Assad's forces in Aleppo promised a counter-attack on Friday after losing ground under heavy bombardment, and residents fled in cars crammed with belongings during a lull in fighting.

The rebels were pushed back from the Salaheddin district on Thursday by troops seeking to re-establish control over Syria's largest city and its economic hub - a crucial arena in a struggle that the United Nations said would yield no winner.

Journalists saw residents streaming out of Aleppo, seizing on a calm spell to pack vehicles with mattresses, fridges and toys. At least two air force planes flew overhead.

Britain to give £5m aid to rebels

London: Britain is establishing official contacts for the first time with the Free Syrian Army and more than tripling its humanitarian and other non-lethal aid to opposition and human rights groups. The government has argued that the Syrian population could not wait indefinitely for a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

The £5m in new aid will go to recipients inside Syria rather than the exile groups that the UK has funded until now. That shift of emphasis coupled with the dispatch this week of Jon Wilks, the UK's special envoy to the Syrian opposition, to Istanbul to make direct contacts with FSA representatives reflects a loss of patience with the diaspora-led Syrian National Council. Meanwhile, The US on Friday imposed sanctions on the Syrian state-run oil company for conducting business with Iran's energy sector, in a bid to cut off revenues to the Iranian and Syrian regimes. —Agencies

Random shooting echoed from inside Salaheddine, a former rebel stronghold that controls access to Aleppo from the south, and an unmanned drone aircraft buzzed directly overhead.

S Korea's Lee stirs up islands dispute



Lee Myung-Bak (C) visits remote islands disputed with Japan, known as Dokdo in Korea and Takeshima in Japan, on Friday

AFP SEOUL

South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak paid a surprise visit today to islands at the centre of a decades-long territorial dispute with Japan, which recalled its ambassador from Seoul in protest. Lee was making the first-ever visit by a South Korean president to the rocky volcanic outcrops in the Sea of

Japan (East Sea), roughly midway between South Korea and its former colonial ruler Japan.

Disregarding Tokyo's warnings that the visit would strain already prickly relations, Lee toured the main island and shook hands with coastguards as a South Korean flag fluttered in the breeze. "Dokdo is our territory. We must keep it under close guard," reports quoted him as saying.

Japan warns of El Nino formation, India worried

REUTERS TOKYO

An El Nino weather pattern is underway and will last until winter, Japan's weather agency said on Friday in the strongest statement yet by a national meteorological body adding to fears about global food supplies hit by drought and soaring prices.

Corn prices have surged more than 60 percent in the past two months as the United States reels from the worst drought in 56 years, while global soy supplies are also tight after drought in South America.

Adding to worries, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation said on Thursday the world was closer to a repeat of a 2008 food crisis because of a spike in food costs.

Latest data suggested the El Nino phenomenon had emerged, the Japan Meteorological Agency said, referring to conditions in the equatorial Pacific.

In India, El Nino will likely mean a drop in rainfall from September after an already erratic monsoon

"The chances are high that the El Nino phenomenon will be maintained until the winter," the agency said in a statement.

The big unknown is how intense and how long the developing El Nino will be. An intense El Nino can cause widespread drought in Australia, parts of Africa, Southeast Asia and India, but also bring rains to other parts of the globe.

While it can boost corn and soy crops in South America, wheat harvests can be devastated in Australia. Coffee, cocoa, rice and sugar output in Southeast Asia can also be hit.

In India, one of the world's

largest food producers and consumers, with a population of 1.2 billion, El Nino will likely mean a drop in rainfall from September after an already erratic monsoon.

Lower than average rains have threatened cereal and lentils production, although rainfall has picked up in the past week, weather officials say. El Nino typically causes drier weather over much of the country during the northern hemisphere summer, forecasters say.

"El Nino is likely to reduce rainfall during the last month of the monsoon season," said D S Pai, lead forecaster of the Indian weather office, referring to September. That could cut winter crop production.

Three years ago, an El Nino slowed development of monsoon rains, sparking a rally in sugar prices to 30-year highs as India, the world's second biggest producer, harvested a poor cane crop.

In China, little impact was expected.

Kailai confesses to killing Briton

REUTERS HONGKONG

The Chinese woman accused of murdering British businessman Neil Heywood admitted guilt and blamed a mental breakdown for the events that brought her to trial and toppled her once-powerful politician husband, Bo Xilai, state media said on Friday. The first extended public comments on the case from Bo's wife, Gu Kailai, appeared in a Xinhua news agency account which said she and a household aide, Zhang Xiaojun, had "confessed to intentional homicide" in poisoning Heywood in November.

"I will accept and calmly face any sentence and I also expect a fair and just court decision," Gu told her trial on Thursday, according to the Xinhua account, which could not be independently verified.

But the state media account of Gu's testimony also repeated her argument that she turned on Heywood, a long-time family friend who had helped her son Bo Guagua with his schooling in England, only after she decided he was a threat to her son. "During those days last November, I suffered a mental breakdown after learning that my son was in jeopardy," Gu said.

The latest official account from the scandal came on the same day that four Chinese policemen admitted to attempting to shield Gu from suspicion of the murder of Heywood, an official said, in another damaging development for the ex-politburo member.

The official's statement, given after an 11-hour hearing barred to non-official media, formally establishes for the first time that there was an attempted cover-up of the Heywood's murder

Cut Off



A girl looks out from a restaurant as she stands in floodwaters in the township of Apalit on the outskirts of Manila on Friday. The number of people killed in floods that submerged most of the Philippine capital Manila and parts of surrounding provinces this week has risen to 60, the government said on Friday

Mars MISSION

Plate tectonics 'discovered' on Mars

PTI LOS ANGELES

The phenomenon of plate tectonics, previously thought to exist only on Earth also occurs beneath the surface of Mars, a scientist has claimed. A researcher from the University of California - Los Angeles found that the geological phenomenon, which involves the movement of huge crustal plates beneath a planet's surface, also exists on the red planet.



This NASA image shows the first 360-degree panorama in colour of the Gale Crater landing site taken by NASA's Curiosity rover

"Mars is at a primitive stage of plate tectonics. It gives us a glimpse of how the early Earth may have looked and may help us understand how plate tectonics began on Earth," said An Yin, a UCLA professor of Earth and space sciences.

Yin made the discovery during his analysis of satellite images from a NASA spacecraft known as Time History of Events and Macroscale Interactions during Substorms (THEMIS) and from the High Resolution Imaging Science Ex-

periment (HIRISE) camera on NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter. He analysed about 100 satellite images — approximately a dozen were revealing of plate tectonics. Yin has conducted geologic research in the Himalayas and Tibet, where two of the Earth's seven major plates divide. "When I studied the satellite images from Mars, many of the features looked very much like fault systems I have seen in the Himalayas and Tibet, and in California as well, including the geomorphology," Yin said in a statement. The study was published in the journal *Lithosphere*.

'Rover will prove life was found 30 yrs ago'

London: The findings of NASA's Curiosity rover on Mars will prove that life was discovered on the Red planet 30 years ago, an American scientist has claimed. Gilbert Levin, who led the "labelled release" experiment on Nasa's 1976 Viking mission to Mars, is hoping that Curiosity will find evidence proving his claim to have found carbon-based organic molecules on the planet. The findings could reinstate his refuted theory on discovery of life on Mars, the *New Scientist* reported. —PTI

Pak allows 250 Hindus to cross into India

PTI ISLAMABAD

A group of some 250 Pakistani Hindus were on Friday allowed to cross over to India for a pilgrimage after being detained at the Wagah land border crossing due to a controversy over reports that they planned to migrate to the neighbouring country.

The Hindus protested at the Wagah border crossing after they were detained for almost seven hours. Immigration authorities finally allowed the Hindus to cross the frontier at about 2.30 pm.

"We were given the go-ahead from the Interior Minister to allow about 250 Hindus to travel to India. They all

have valid travel documents," a senior official of the Federal Investigation Agency in Lahore said.

Meanwhile, President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday took serious note of reports of a "sense of insecurity" among Hindu families in Pakistan's Sindh province and directed authorities to allay the minority community's grievances. The president asked the authorities in Sindh to assess the situation and to submit a report to him, presidential spokesman Farhatullah Babar said. The president also constituted a three-member committee of parliamentarians to visit different parts of Sindh to express solidarity with Hindus.

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13.00: Movie 16.30: Prothoma 17.30: Sadhok Bamakhypa 18.30: Roggere 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	7.00: Everybody Loves Raymond 8.30: Ringer 10.30: Excused 13.00: Australia's Next Top Model 17.00: America's Got Talent 19.00: Sex & the City 20.00: I Love Style 21.00: Ringer 22.00: Sex & the City	6.30: Glory to God 7.00: Teleshopping 7.25: Ek Nazar 7.55: Jhalak 8.00: Teleshopping 9.00: Afsar Bitya 12.00: Punar Vivaah: Zindagi Milegi Dobara 16.00: Movie 21.00: Dance India Dance L'il Masters (Season 2) 22.30: Fear Files
SONY AATH	WB	SONY TV
7.30: Reshmi Murder Case 9.30: Songs Program 12.00: Apsara 14.30: Aarzo Khonje & Abhishapto Jiban 16.30: Chakranta 19.00: Banga-R Simana Perie 21.00: Protobader phal 22.00: Raktonodir Dhara	8.15: Friends (Season 10) 8.45: Batman Begins 11.45: The Dark Knight 14.45: Executive Decision 17.25: American Ninja 19.20: Madagascar 21.00: Flushed Away 22.40: Kung Fu Panda	8.00: Kahani Comedy Circus Ki 9.00: Koi... Mil Gaya 12.30: Bade Achhe Lagte Hain 17.00: C.I.D 18.00: Crime Patrol: Dastak (Season 4) 19.30: Adaalat 20.30: Indian Idol (Season 6) 22.00: C.I.D 23.00: Crime Patrol: Dastak (Season 4)
ZEE BANGLA	AXN	COLORS
14.30: Saat Paake Bandha 15.00: Keya Patar Nouko 17.00: Ranna Ghar 17.30: Didi No. 1 Season 4 18.30: Agni Pariksha 19.00: Rashi 19.30: Keya Patar Nouko 20.00: Kanakanjali 20.30: Sati 21.00: Saat Paake Bandha 21.30: Banglar Sera Paribar 23.00: Sati 23.30: Rashi	6.00: Criss Angel Mindfreak (Season 3) 9.30: Criss Angel Mindfreak (Season 3) 10.00: Live to Dance 11.00: Top 20 Countdown 12.00: Breaking The Magician's Code: Magic's Biggest Secrets Finally Revealed 15.00: Supernatural 18.00: Live to Dance 19.00: Ripley's Believe It or Not! (Season 1) 20.00: Justified (Season 2) 22.00: Event Horizon	5.00: Isckon 5.30: Kairee: Rishita Khatta Meetha 6.30: Telebrands 7.00: Narayan Sewa Sansthan Trust 7.30: Home Shop 18 10.30: Jhalak Dikhla Jaa (Season 5) 12.00: Zindagi Ki Haqeeqat Se Amna Saamna (Season 2) 21.00: Jhalak Dikhla Jaa (Season 5)
AKASH BANGLA	FOX CRIME	FILMY
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	10.30: CSI: Miami (Season 6) 13.30: Hustle (Season 3) 15.30: The News Stories That Shocked The World 17.00: Cops (Season 22) 18.30: Psych (Season 5) 20.30: Law & Order Best	11.30: Kahani Ek Chor Ki 15.00: Phir Kab Milogi 18.00: Bas Ek Pal 21.30: Bandit Queen

▼ Watch *Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life* at 21.00 on HBO



▲ Watch *Golmaal Returns* at 13.00 on Star Plus

NEWS	SPORT	KIDS SPECIAL
CNN-IBN	ESPN	▼ Watch <i>Ben 10: Alien Force</i> at 22.00 on Cartoon Network
8.00: IBN Morning 10.30: Now Showing 13.00: Good Afternoon India 14.30: Now Showing 16.30: Overdrive 17.00: IBN News 18.00: Good Evening India 18.30: CNN-IBN Special 20.00: Music Maestros 22.00: The Week That Wasn't 23.30: India Positive	4.30: London 2012 Daily Highlights 7.00: Sportscenter Espresso 7.30: London 2012 Olympic Games H/Is : Day 14 8.30: Sportscenter Espresso 9.00: London 2012 Daily Highlights 11.00: London 2012 Daily Highlights 11.00: London 2012 Olympic Games H/Is : Day 14 12.30: London 2012 Olympic Games : Day 15	BEN 10 ALIEN FORCE 7.00: Roll No. 21 8.00: Bas Karo Henry 12.00: Ben 10: Destroy All Aliens 13.00: Ghatokach 15.00: Oggy and the Cockroaches 18.00: Return of Hanuman 21.00: Beyblade Metal Masters 21.30: Thundercats 22.00: Ben 10: Alien Force 23.00: Johnny Test
NDTV INDIA	NEO SPORTS	CARTOON NETWORK
8.00: India 20-20 9.30: Cinema India 10.30: Special 11.30: Documentary 12.30: Special 14.00: India 20-20 15.30: Zaika India Ka 17.30: Cell Guru 19.30: Khel India 20.00: Muqabla 22.00: Issi Ka Naam Zindagi 23.30: Raftaar	5.00: Bundesliga : Borussia Dortmund vs. Bayern Munich 7.30: Bundesliga : VfB Stuttgart vs. Werder Bremen 10.00: Serie A Rivals 10.30: The Greatest Matches Ever Played 13.00: Mobil 1's The Grid 13.30: Flyingfisher Winning Post 14.00: World Series Hockey 2012 : Mumbai Marines vs. Bhopal Badshahs 16.30: The Greatest Matches Ever Played 17.00: Chilli Factor 18.00: World Series Hockey 2012 : Sher-E-Punjab vs. Karnataka Lions 20.00: Dial S for Sports 21.00: Bundesliga : VfB Stuttgart vs. Werder Bremen	ANIMAX 6.00: Inuyasha the Final Act 8.30: Beelzebub 11.00: Cardfight!! Vanguard 11.30: Inuyasha the Final Act 14.00: Animax Musix 14.30: Inuyasha the Final Act 19.30: Shakugan No Shana II 20.00: Inuyasha the Final Act 23.00: Animax Musix 23.30: Cardfight!! Vanguard
NDTV PROFIT	STAR CRICKET	CBBEBIES
14.00: All About Ads 14.30: Cell Guru 15.00: We Mean Business 16.00: The Property Show 17.00: Profit this Week 18.00: Just Books 18.30: Save our Tigers 19.00: No Biz like Showbiz 19.30: Gadget Guru 20.00: The Property Debate 21.00: Breaking News 21.30: Power of One	12.30: Boys to Men : ICC U-19 Cwc 2012 13.50: ICC World T20 2010 Express H/Is : Group Stage: South Africa vs. India 14.30: India Tour of Australia 2011/12 H/Is : T20: Match 2 15.00: Sri Lanka Tour of Australia 2010 H/Is : T20 16.00: Sri Lanka Premier League : Nagenahira Nagas vs. Ruhuna Royals 19.00: ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2012 H/Is : Australia vs. England	13.20: Nina and the Neurons: Brilliant Bodies (Season 6) 13.35: Mr Bloom's Nursery 13.55: Kerwhizz (Season 2) 14.20: Big and Small (Season 3) : Friends in a Fog 14.45: ZingZillas ZingBop (Season 1) 15.30: In the Night Garden (Season 1) : Hurry Up Tombliboos! 16.00: Waybuloo 17.35: Mr Bloom's Nursery 18.50: The Large Family : Sebastian's Cousin Sarah 20.20: Baby Jake 20.40: Little Human Planet (Season 1)
BBC WORLD NEWS	TEN SPORTS	HUNGAMA TV
10.00: Our World: Miami Justice 11.30: BBC World News London Live 12.45: Sport Today 13.00: Collaboration Culture 14.00: Mishal Husain Meets 14.30: BBC World News London Live 15.00: Mixed Britannia 16.00: Newnight 20.00: Dateline London 21.00: Worlds Of English	9.30: India Tour of Sri Lanka 2012 H/Is : 3rd ODI 21.00: Basketballography 22.30: WWE: Superstars	8.00: Gon the Stone Age Boy 10.00: Shinchan 13.00: Gon the Stone Age Boy 15.30: Shinchan 19.30: Lucky Man 21.30: Doraemon 22.30: Lucky Man
IBN 7		
18.00: 2 Ghante 18.30: Clean Bowled 19.00: Speed News 20.00: Mudda 21.00: Danke Ki Chot Par 21.30: Teekhi Baat: Prabhu Ke Saath		

Movies In Town

English

- The Bourne Legacy : Fame South City 11:30am, 6:10pm, 10:45pm
- Step up Revolution 3D: Fame South City 4:05 pm
- Step up Revolution 2D: Fame Hiland Park 9:40 am
- Ice Age - Continental Drift 3D: Fame South City 9:35am, 2:10pm, 8:50pm
- The Dark Knight Rises: Fame South City 9:50am, 1:00pm, 3:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Hindi

- Gangs of Wasseypur II : Fame South City 9:00am(G), 10:30am, 12:10pm, 1:35pm, 3:10pm(G), 4:40pm, 6:25pm, 7:45pm, 9:20pm(G), 10:50pm
- Kya Super Cool Hain Hum: Fame South City 11:40 am
- Bol Bachchan: Fame South City 4:10 pm
- Cocktail: Fame South City 12:50 pm
- Krishna Aur Kans 3D: Inox Swabhumi 3.00 pm

Bengali

- Mukthodhara: Fame South City 4.50 pm
- Hemlock Society: Fame Hiland Park 1.15 pm

Helpline

Hospital/Nursing Home

- Amri(Dhakuria): 24612526/2626
- Amri (Saltlake): 2357710
- Amri Clinic (Southern Avenue): 24644594/95/4948
- Anandalok: 23592931
- Apollo Genealgies: 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
- 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: 22444940
- Haemophilia Society: 24163739
- Bhoruka Blood Bank: 22339619/8092

Ambulance

- Amri: 65500000/23202147
- 23202122
- Apollo Genealgies

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: 25525955
- 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 Centre: 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: 23385758
- Howrah Lions Eye Bank: 26602015
- Susrut Eye Hospital: 23580201
- Anandalok Netralaya: 23592931

Disha(Prova) Eye Bank: 25933737

Medical College: 22413853

Electricity

- CEC Fault Reporting Center: Central/South 1912, North 23500928, 22807777
- North Suburban: 25537581, Howrah 26669161/62, Serampore: 26524585, West Suburban: 23591896
- WBSEB Emergency: 23591896

Railways

- Howrah Station (Old Complex): 1310/1331/1332, 26387412, /35422581, /35422581
- (New Complex): 26382217
- Sealdah: 23503535/3537
- Reservation Enquiry: 138
- Recorded Information: 1331/1332

Passport Office

- 2554893, 2554762, 2254084

Airlines

- International Air India: 22822356/6012/9831
- 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: 22470718, 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

Air Sahara: 22822786/8969/9075

Airport Enquiry: International: 25118787, Domestic: 25118787

Hearse Services

Hindu Satkar 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

Burrabazar: 22687554, 22683802

Posta: 22595606, 5536

Jorashankar: 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 CHANNEL	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC	ANIMAL PLANET
8.00: Swords (Season 2) 9.00: Gold Rush (Season 2) : Gold At Last 10.00: Destroyed in Seconds 10.30: Swamp Brothers 11.00: Man Woman Wild 12.00: Bering Sea Gold : Paydirt 14.00: Stan Lee's Superhumans 17.00: Man Vs. Wild (Season 6) 18.00: Life in Cold Blood : Armoured Giants 19.00: Squeamish 22.00: Bering Sea Gold : One Bad Deal	7.00: I Didn't Know That (Season 1) 7.30: Mad Labs 8.00: World's Weirdest : Bizarre Battles 10.00: India : The Elephant Kingdom 12.00: The World Heritage Special : Florence Unlocked 14.00: Caught in the Act (Season 4) 16.00: Breakout : The Texas Seven 18.00: Prehistoric Park 21.00: Deadliest Predators : Cheetah 23.00: Taboo : Secret Lives	8.00: Animal Planet Safari Tales From The Wild : Caribou and Wolves - The Endless Dance 11.00: Hunters : Eye of the Serpent 12.00: Caught in the Moment : Monterey Bay 13.00: Yeh Mera India : Monsoon Forests 18.30: The Web of Life : Puffins, Cliff Top Clowns 19.00: Raw Nature : Dragons and Rhinos and Bears, Oh My! 21.00: River Monsters : European Maneater

▼ Watch *Prehistoric Park* at 18.00 on National Geographic

Movies on TV

STAR GOLD

- 6:00: Shaadi No. 1, 8:55: Ghayal, 11:50: Veer, 15:20: Bhagam Bhag, 18:35: Main Balwan, 21:00: Vidhwanshak: The Destroyer, 23:50: Star Box Office SET MAX
- 6:00: Sardar, 9:15: Sambha, 12:15: Hancock, 14:40: Aarakshan, 18:15: Good Boy, Bad Boy, 21:00: Main Hoon Khatarnak, 23:45: Kaalia
- ZEE CINEMA
- 7:15AM: Andaz Apna Apna, 10:55: Viewers Choice : Fool N Final (u) / Deweana Huye Paagal (u/a) / Aawara Paagal Deewana (v/ua), 14:15: Desi Boyz, 17:10: Ram Lakhan, 21:00: Hum Aapke Hain Kaun...!
- SONY PIX
- 15:00: Sinbad: Legend of The Seven Seas, 16:35: Once Upon a Time in China, 18:50: 1408, 21:00: Bean, 23:00: The Forbidden Kingdom

HBO

- 10:50: The Mask, 13:00: Bridesmaids, 15:30: Fast Five, 18:15: The Holiday, 21:00: Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life, 23:30: Setup

The Bengal Post

The Knowledge Hub, DN-23, Salt Lake City, Sector - V, Kolkata - 700 091. Ph:4015 7406-10, Fax: 4015 7425

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Jaguar to unveil F-Type at Paris Motor Show in Sept

Tatas-owned Jaguar Land Rover's new two-seater sports car F-Type will make a global debut in production form at the Paris Motor Show next month. —BP



Rains play havoc with sugar, global prices up 12pc in July

Global sugar prices rose 12 per cent in July over June because of delayed monsoon in India, poor precipitation in Australia and untimely rains in Brazil. —PTI

SHORT TAKES



Tata Group chairman Ratan Tata sought support of Tata Motors' shareholders for Cyrus Mistry, who will succeed him to head the \$100-billion conglomerate in December.

Usha sells stake in Honda Siel

New Delhi: Shriram group firm Usha International, has exited its joint venture with Honda Motor by selling its entire 3.16 per cent to the Japanese partner for ₹180 crore. —PTI

Sun Pharma net up 59pc at ₹795 cr

New Delhi: Sun Pharma, posted an increase of 58.79 per cent in consolidated net profit at ₹795.55 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, 2012 (₹501 crore). —PTI

'ICVL focus must be coking coal'

New Delhi: A panel has recommended that the focus of International Coal Ventures (ICVL), a consortium of five state-run firms for acquiring coal mines abroad, should be restricted to coking coal. —PTI

GMR Infra posts ₹94-cr net loss

Bangalore: GMR Infrastructure reported a consolidated net loss of ₹94 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2012, mainly on account of losses. —PTI

PFC awards consulting deal

New Delhi: PFC Consulting, a subsidiary of Power Finance Corp, has awarded consultancy project for the 4,000 MW Deoghar UMPP to Tata Consulting. —PTI

HCL Infosystems bags UIDAI deal

New Delhi: HCL Infosystems, has bagged a contract from the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to implement and manage central ID repository. —PTI

Apollo Hospitals Q1 net up 36 pc

New Delhi: Apollo Hospitals Enterprises, reported a 36.02 per cent rise in net profit to ₹69.74 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2012 (₹51.27 crore). —PTI

NMDC nod on Amplus soon

New Delhi: NMDC board is expected to give nod next week to acquiring 26 per cent stake in Brazilian iron ore company Amplus for around \$10-15 million. —PTI

Manesar decision on Monday: MSI

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India will take a decision on Monday on reopening of its violence-hit Manesar plant where the company had declared a lock-out on July 21. —PTI

SBI Q1 net jumps 137pc

Bad loans amounting to ₹20,324 cr poses a challenge to country's largest commercial bank

■ PTI MUMBAI

State Bank of India on Friday posted a 137 per cent jump in net profit at ₹3,752 crore for the June quarter, though bad loans rising to ₹20,324 crore remains a cause of concern.

Though Pratip Chaudhuri, chairman, SBI, asserted that earnings have stabilised and said this is the "new normal" for the country's largest bank, the rise in non-performing assets sparked concerns in the stock market where SBI shares closed down 4.26 per cent at ₹1,887.95 apiece.

"While we used to have a profit ranging from ₹2,000-2,500 crore per quarter, it has increased to more than ₹3,500 crore in this quarter. As our earnings have stabilised, this



Pratip Chaudhuri, chairman, SBI

profit level has become the new normal for us," Chaudhuri told reporters announcing the quarterly results at the bank headquarters here.

The bank had reported a net profit of ₹1,583 crore in the

same period last fiscal. He also said April-June quarter profits were the second highest quarterly earnings among all companies, after Reliance Industries.

Total income of the bank in-

creased 16.9 per cent to ₹32,415 crore in the June quarter compared to ₹27,732 crore a year ago. The bank's net non-performing assets (NPAs) rose to 2.22 per cent of total loan book, against 1.61 per cent a year ago. Similarly, gross NPA rose to close to 5 per cent from 3.5 per cent a year earlier. In value terms, the net NPAs rose to ₹20,324 crore (2.22 per cent of loans) during the June quarter, from ₹12,435 crore (1.61 per cent).

The bank's net interest income (NII) rose a healthy 14.7 per cent to ₹11,119 crore during this period. "While we were able to give adequate provisions, our NII growth was fairly robust. Also, operational expenses were contained," Chaudhuri said.

SBI is hopeful of meeting the overall loan growth of 16-

18 per cent despite a dip in corporate lending as retail loan will make up for the shortfall.

"We will meet the loan growth of 16-18 per cent this fiscal, though I am not sure about corporate loan target due to the poor investment...but I hope that retail loan book, especially auto and retail, will make up for the corporate slowdown," said he.

He said he sees the deposit growth at 17-19 per cent during the fiscal.

Shares down five per cent: Shares of SBI plunged about five per cent on to ₹1,882 on the BSE. At the NSE, the scrip plunged 4.71 per cent to ₹1,876. The stock was the biggest loser on the Sensex, which was trading flat in afternoon.

RIL sells stake in Yemen block to Indonesia co

■ PTI NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries has sold its 25 per cent stake in an oil block in Yemen to Indonesia's Medco Energi for about \$90 million, the firm's second overseas stake sale in one month. RIL's Dubai-based subsidiary, Reliance Exploration & Production DMCC, last month signed agreements to sell 25 per cent interest in producing Block 9 in Yemen to Medco Energi, industry sources said.

The stake sale follows the billionaire Mukesh Ambani-run firm exiting from two oil blocks in Kurdistan region of Iraq on July 19.

RIL had, in 2001, won Yemen's Block 9 along with Hood Energy and Calvalley Petroleum Inc. RIL and Hood Energy held 25 per cent stake each while Calvalley had the remaining 50 per cent.

Sources said RIL's sale agreement with Medco will be effective from January 1.

While the agreement is for a 25 per cent interest, Medco will effectively have a 21.25 per cent participating interest in the block because, under a regulation in Yemen, the contractor of a production-sharing agreement has to accommodate a working interest for the country, which is represented by the Yemen Oil and Gas Company, which will hold a 15 per cent stake.

Accordingly, the operator, Calvalley Petroleum, will have 42.5 per cent interest and, Hood Oil, 21.25 per cent stake.

Block 9 covers 2,234 square kilometres in the Sayun-



Masila basin in Yemen's Hadramaut province, about 350-km north-east of the Yemeni capital, Sana. It is estimated to hold proven plus probable reserves of 58.6 million barrels of oil.

RIL will get another \$5 million if the block produces 10,000 barrels of oil per day.

The block currently produces between 6,000 bpd and 6,500 bpd. A 20-year construction contract was granted over the block by the Yemeni government in 2005 which the joint venture can apply to have extended for a further five years after 2025.

After the sale, RIL is left with interest in block 34 and 37 in eastern Yemen where it is investing \$66 million with its partner Hood.

RIL had, last month, sold its 80 per cent interest in Rovi and Sarta onland blocks in northern Iraq to US oil behemoth Chevron Corp for a reported \$200 million.

The exits are part of RIL's overseas asset restructuring wherein it is cutting exposure in exploration blocks to focus on producing properties.

After the exit from Kurdistan and Yemen, RIL is now left with a portfolio of 10 overseas oil and gas assets, including two each in Peru, Yemen, Oman and Colombia.

4 ADAG cos likely to raise funds

■ PTI NEW DELHI

Anil Ambani-led Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group, also known as the Reliance Group, plans to seek shareholders' nod to raise funds, estimated at about ₹15,000 crore at current valuations, through equity dilution of up to 25 per cent in four of its companies.

The companies include Reliance Communications, Reliance Power, Reliance Infrastructure and Reliance Capital and the shareholders' approval to enabling provisions for raising funds from institutional investors will be sought at the annual general meetings of these firms next month.

All four companies will hold their AGMs on September 4, where shareholders' nod will be sought on these matters, among other issues, but approvals have been taken for such enabling provisions in the past as well without any actual equity dilution having

taken place.

When contacted, a Reliance Group spokesperson said these are only enabling resolutions and there are no concrete plans underway at any of the four companies.

"As clarified in the explanatory statement attached to the notice, these are merely enabling resolutions taken as per usual practice at our AGMs every year, in the interests of maintaining financial flexibility. There are currently no plans by any of our group companies, namely, RCap, RCOM, RInfra or RPower to make any fresh issue of capital," the spokesperson said.

Individually, RCOM said in its AGM notice to shareholders that it will seek their approval for authorising the board to issue equity shares, convertible debentures or other such securities, to qualified institutional buyers of up to 25 per cent stake in the company.

Other three firms, R-Power, R-Infra and Reliance Capital, will also seek approval

of their shareholders for similar resolutions, they said in their respective AGM notices. As per the current market valuations of the four companies, equity issuance of up to 25 per cent stake in each of them could fetch close to ₹15,000 crore.

The four firms command a cumulative market value of about ₹60,000 crore. The combined cash position of these firms at consolidated level more than halved to nearly ₹4,000 crore at the end of the last fiscal 2011-12, from over ₹8,300 crore a year ago.

Another group company, Reliance MediaWorks, recently said its board has approved raising funds up to ₹600 crore by way of rights issue of its equity shares to its shareholders.

Besides, it has also signed a term sheet with a global private equity fund, which will acquire "a substantial minority stake in Reliance MediaWorks' Film and Media Services division for an investment of ₹605 crore."

Tata Motors to take on overseas CV biggies

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Tata Motors plans to take on international commercial vehicle manufacturers like Merc, Volvo and Navistar by launching new vehicles in this segment, said Ratan Tata, chairman, on Friday.

Addressing the 67th annual general meeting of the company for the last time, Tata said: "Tata Motors is introducing a very competitive range of commercial vehicles which can compete admirably with international commercial vehicle makers like Merc, Volvo, Navistar."

In the recently-concluded April-June quarter, the medium and heavy commercial vehicles industry in India witnessed a decline in demand due to a weak macro-economic performance, dull outlook, low freight availability and excise duty increases in March 2012. The industry also witnessed competitive pricing pressures, company officials had said after the first quarter earnings a day earlier. In 2011-12, the company held a market share of 56.2 per cent in the commercial vehicles segment.

Tata Motors, the fourth-largest commercial vehicle maker and the 21st largest passenger car maker in the world, is also planning to manufacture the small high performance JLR engine in India, he said. Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) has approved the new small high performance engine development plant, he said. On a cautionary note amid the overall economic slowdown, Tata said, "The company will have to single mindedly retain and protect its market position across all segments. Failure to do so will see us slipping."

Booster Dose



(L to R) Pavan Poddar, Ficci executive committee member, M V Tanksale, CMD, Central Bank of India, and Shanta Ghosh, Ficci executive committee member, in Kolkata on Friday

'Brands must magically connect with people'

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

In order to survive and move ahead of competition, products and services should "magically connect" with people and create some experience, said R Gopalakrishnan, director, Tata Sons.

Citing an example of how Starbucks can connect itself with people, Gopalakrishnan, said: "Starbucks is not only a cup of coffee but the experience matters. It is an excellent example that innovation is also about turning activity into an extraordinary experience.

"Products depend on functionality and, services, on emotion and experience,"



said Gopalakrishnan, while speaking at the C K Prahalad Memorial Lecture 2012 on "Innovation Culture: Myths, Reality Ideas", organised by Aspen Institute of India, in Kolkata, on Thursday evening.

Late C K Prahalad, a management guru, teacher, thinker and visionary, held the belief that innovation should focus on those at the bottom of the pyramid.

Further saying that innova-

tion should aim to be magnetic, he said: "We at Tata Group give utmost importance to innovation. While most other large companies tell their employees what to do and chart out certain rules, we, at Tata Group, do totally the opposite. We tell them what are the things that should not be done and the rest is left to them, which gives birth to innovation."

Gopalakrishnan said that the original innovators were often forgotten as only the winners were remembered.

Supplementing the ideas of connecting, he said the top management should connect with employees at every level as engagement is an important factor.

Go to open fast food chain Kebab Express from September

Rossell to foray into F&B space

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

Rossell India, on Friday, said it is foraying into the hospitality business with the opening of its fast-food chain from September. The company recently disinvested in Lemon Tree Hotels to focus on its F&B business.

"We have disinvested in Lemon Tree because we wanted to focus on the food and beverage segment. We will open three outlets of our north-Indian fast food chain, Kebab Express, in Delhi in September and thereafter, will work on a pan-India presence," H M Gupta, executive chairman, Rossell India, told reporters after the company's 18th annual general meeting in Kolkata.

The Kolkata-based company was a minority partner in three Lemon Tree Hotels. It has sold and transferred its entire shareholding in April against



(L) Rossell India executive chairman H M Gupta with managing director C S Bedi in Kolkata on Friday.

₹13.59 crore.

The company recently floated a joint venture company, CAE Rossell India, to provide synthetic training solutions to the Indian defence market. While Rossell has 74 per cent stake in the company, its partner, CAE Interna-

tional Holdings of Canada, the remaining 26 per cent. "We signed the agreement in August last year but only 2-3 months back had all approvals in place," Gupta said.

Rossell produces around five million kg of tea from its six estates in Assam with exports at nearly a million kg. It is mulling opportunities to buy more gardens in Assam and Africa.

"We are interested in buying gardens overseas, particularly in Africa and Indonesia," said C S Bedi, managing director. The company posted a net profit of ₹12.99 crore for the April-June quarter compared to ₹2.9 crore during the year-ago period. He mentioned this year the average price of Rossell Tea is ruling at ₹32 per kg higher than last year's ₹172 per kg. However, with the current weather condition, the company is expected to produce about 4.6 million kg of tea this year.

AT A GLANCE

Market Snapshot

Index	Open	High	Low	Close	%Chg
BSE-100	5301.99	5164.45	5283.51	5307.57	-6.01 -0.11
BSE-200	2145.00	2107.47	2137.56	2147.3	-1.75 -0.08
BSE-500	6701.97	6716.53	6678.70	6701.11	-6.39 -0.10
BSE AUTO	9430.24	9430.24	9371.12	9366.91	-115.93 -1.22
BSE BANKX	11971.61	11990.02	11790.08	11889.48	-102.14 -0.85
BSE-CD	6373.62	6373.62	6248.74	6248.74	-106.86 -1.68
BSE-FMCG	5189.63	5236.15	5189.63	5226.6	36.01 0.69
BSE-HC	7401.62	7336.33	7272.58	7291.81	-15.85 -0.22
BSE-IT	5702.21	5554.66	5460.34	5543.73	72.97 1.33
BSE MID-CA	6097.65	6116.53	6076.29	6099.61	1.49 0.02
BSE METALS	10482.65	10585.27	10445.71	10529.96	9.21 0.09
BSE OIL & GAS	8270.98	8365.25	8261.22	8309.64	22.23 0.27
BSE-PSU	7132.32	7156.48	7069.97	7093.93	-59.99 -0.84
BSE SMALL-CAP	6572.47	6595.45	6544.74	6548.77	-18.86 -0.29
SENSEX	11736.62	11759.61	11747.13	11757.74	-3.13 -0.02
BSE-TECK	3156.02	3196.71	3153.76	3188.66	35.56 1.13
CNX 100	5183.65	5200.3	5167.65	5191.85	-4.15 -0.08
CNX MIDCAP	7247.05	7256.45	7209.55	7235.65	-7.75 -0.11
S&P CNX 500	4181.95	4192.4	4169.05	4186.95	-3.2 -0.08
BANK NIFTY	10427.35	10449.25	10275.05	10358.95	-86.95 -0.83
S&P CNX NIFTY	5308.2	5330.1	5294.1	5320.4	-2.55 -0.05

Domestic Markets

- * The Key BSE Sensex ended down 0.02% at 11,757.74 points.
- * The broader S&P CNX Nifty fell 0.05% to 5,200.40 points.
- * SBI dropped 4.1%, despite a second-straight surge in quarterly net profit, after a bigger-than-expected rise in bad loans raised fear about non performing assets.

Global Markets

- * U.S. stocks resumed lower on Friday tracking a far weaker-than-expected rate of growth in Chinese exports, but the S&P 500 was still on track to post its fifth straight week of gains.
- * Asian bourses ended mixed with Hong Kong, China and Japan ending lower. However South Korea, Singapore, Indian and Taiwan, Thailand and Indonesia.

Listings are in this order: Company, Open, High, Low, Close, % Change. The last column gives dividend on Tuesday, Yield on Wednesday, P/E ratio on Thursday, Face Value on Friday and EPS on Saturday. BSE prices in regular style, while NSE prices are italicized.

BSE GROUP A/NSE

Company	NSE	BSE	%Chg	52-wk H/L	EPS
ABB	71.25	71.25	2.23	915541 81	
Abbot(t)	1353.8	1353.8	0.37	180173 65	
ADP	1342.05	1342.05	0.22	143190 53	
Aditya Birla Brn	77.5	77.5	0.41	511768 152	
Aditya Birla Ind	78.85	78.85	3.43	1028710 78	
Aditya Birla Sol	22.9	22.9	0.04	32020 47	
Alkoid	16.1	16.1	0.62	2315 43	
Alstom Projects	37.45	37.45	0.02	5720 14	
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Global Economic Data Watch

Country	NSE	BSE	%Chg	52-wk H/L	EPS
USA	2275.35	2257.85	0.44	2389160 57.3	
Parantrav	38.45	38.45	1.58	8292 12	
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Market Outlook

* Market outlook remains cautious on the part of some policy reforms and cut in the interest rates in near futures. However negative domestic cues weak global trend could weigh on sentiments.

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SHORT TAKES



Saina Nehwal at an aerobics class in Hyderabad on Friday.

Kolkata the best place to win

Kolkata: A recent survey conducted among top 50 sports personalities of India has picked Kolkata as the best city when a team or an individual wins. The study included the likes of Dilip Vengsarkar, Dharmraj Pillay, Anjum Chopra, Ashwini Ponappa et al and worked with the mission of generating crowd support as "One India, One Voice, One Cheer".

Bowlers have no strength: Ganguly

Kolkata: Coming down heavily on the current crop of Indian pacers, Sourav Ganguly on Friday said that they lacked the "attitude" and "strength" to bowl fast. "Our bowlers have no strength. When Munaf, Zaheer arrived they had a lot of pace but gradually they dropped down," Ganguly said.

East Bengal write letter to IFA

Kolkata: East Bengal have written a letter to the Indian Football Association that they will be holding an executive committee meeting of the club on Tuesday to take a decision on the Tolgay Ozbey issue. East Bengal had been requested by the IFA to return Tolgay's "token" and take a decision by Friday. But, East Bengal could not hold the meeting due to unavoidable circumstances. East Bengal had challenged Tolgay's move to Mohun Bagan.

Bagan get past Southern Samity

Kolkata: Mohun Bagan beat Southern Samity 3-1 in a practice match on Friday. PK Anil Kumar scored a brace for the green and maroons while Manish Bhargav scored the other.

Advani advances to Round II

Kolkata: Pankaj Advani beat Britain's Sean O'Sullivan in his opening game of the UK Players Tour Championship-2 in Gloucester, prevailing over young Sean O'Sullivan 4-2, in the main draw of the Championships.

—Our Correspondent



Imran Tahir 'shocked'

South Africa's Imran Tahir, is "shocked" at his performance against England and is wondering how he has bowled as many as 17 no balls during the first two Test matches. "I've never been a bowler who bowls so many no-balls and I'm shocked," he said



Nadal out of Cincinnati Masters

World No. 3 Rafael Nadal has withdrawn from next week's Cincinnati Masters with a nagging knee injury that prevented him defending his Olympic title at the London Games, tournament organisers said on Thursday

Laxman retained for Tests

PTI
MUMBAI

Veteran batsman VVS Laxman retained his place in the Indian Test squad for the two-match series against New Zealand, starting August 23 in Hyderabad despite his poor show in the last eight Tests in England and Australia.

Sachin Tendulkar will be back in action after his two-month break, having skipped the limited overs series in Sri Lanka recently, while young batsman Cheteshwar Pujara has predictably got the nod as replacement for the retired Rahul Dravid in the longer version.

Pacer Ishant Sharma, who has recuperated from a successful ankle surgery, is also back in the 15-member squad along with Suresh Raina — the reserve middle-order batsman. This was the last meeting of the current selection committee headed by Krishnamachari Srikkanth which

would be replaced at the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)'s next annual general meeting (AGM) in September.

There were a lot of speculations in the past few days regarding Laxman's future, especially as the first Test was being played at his hometown in Hyderabad. However, the 37-year-old's selection means that the talks of retirement have been put to rest for the time being. But at the same time, the pressure to perform will be immense on the stylish Hyderabad batsman as Raina will be itching to get a chance on the sub-continental pitches.

The surprise pick certainly is leg-spinner Piyush Chawla, who last played for India in the 2011 World Cup and since then has been confined to the sidelines. He didn't set the domestic stage on fire with only 23 wickets in seven Ranji Trophy matches for Uttar Pradesh last season. His poor strike rate of 72 plus (12 overs for a wicket) also raises questions about

whether this performance warrants a place in the squad.

Chawla's selection indicated the paucity of spin options as suitable replacement for Anil Kumble, who had manfully led the Indian attack for nearly two decades before retiring in 2008. Srikkanth, however, was in no mood to answer any queries from the waiting media on Chawla's selection.

Chawla's competitors included Amit Mishra, who has serious fitness issues having bowled lesser and lesser for his state side Haryana. The other spinner in fray was Rahul Sharma, who travelled with the team for entire last season only to find himself left in the lurch without getting proper opportunities.

The squad
Mahendra Singh Dhoni (c), Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Sachin Tendulkar, VVS Laxman, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli, Ravichandran Ashwin, Zaheer Khan, Pragyan Ojha, Umesh Yadav, Ajinkya Rahane, Piyush Chawla, Ishant Sharma, Suresh Raina.



VVS Laxman

Indian colts start campaign v West Indies

PTI
TOWNSVILLE

India will take on the West Indies on Sunday in their first game of the ICC Under-19 World Cup which will start on Saturday with three-time champion Australia beginning their title defence against England here.

India have done exceptionally well in the events, winning the 2000 and 2008 editions besides reaching the final in 2006.

India captain Unmukt Chand said his side was fully prepared for the event.

"The team wears a settled look. We have played three tournaments over the past few months — a quadrangular series in India, another in Australia, and then the Asia Cup in Malaysia. We won the first two tournaments, and were joint winners in the third," he said.

"The boys are used to playing with each other, and confidence levels are very high. We also have an excellent support staff. We are looking forward to the World Cup, and hope to emulate our predecessors of 2000 and 2008.

"We are bound to face challenges, with so many quality teams in the fray. However, what might work in our favour is that we have played in Australia, as recently as April 2012. It should not take us long to acclimatise and adjust to the conditions in Australia," he added.

Though West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite picked Australia as his favourite, he believed his side was equally capable of winning.

Impressive Move for Independence Cup

OUR RACING CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The 1,400m Independence Cup is the feature event in a seven race card framed for Saturday. In all seven runners are in the fray and spotting the winner looks to be a difficult task. As jockey Trevor will be busy at Pune, Bharath Singh has brought PS Chouhan to his runners. Thus the chance of Impressive Move appears to be rosy.

Selections:
2.15 pm: PINEVALLEY 1, Melody Belle 2, Annie Hall 3. 2.45 pm: HURRICANE ANDREW 1, Amazing Speed 2, Tasveer 3. 3.15 pm: IMPRESSIVE MOVE 1, Star Empire 2, Kuan Yin 3. 3.45 pm: ELUSIVE THOUGHT 1, Kayadhu 2, Bayberry 3. 4.15 pm: BEETHOVEN 1, Short Radius 2, Silencio 3. 4.45 pm: RAZNANDAN 1, Silver Fox 2, Caravaggio 3. 5.15 pm: CATCHPHRASE 1, Silken Dancer 2, Super Hero 3.
Day's best: Hurricane Andrew

Murray pulls out of Toronto Masters

REUTERS
TORONTO/MONTRER

Not even Novak Djokovic's attempt at drying off centre court could salvage play at the rain-hit Toronto Masters on Thursday as singles play was washed out, while Andy Murray became the latest big name to withdraw.

Top seed Djokovic, the defending champion and world No.2, was among those set to play on Thursday but his last 16 match against American Sam Querrey was wiped out along with the other seven singles matches on the schedule.

The rain was the latest setback for a tournament that has been hit by withdrawals from a number of players, including world No.1 Roger Federer and No.3 Rafa Nadal.

Murray, fresh from his emotional Olympic triumph on Sunday, not so surprisingly pulled out of the



Andy Murray

tournament with a knee injury a day after calling a medical timeout during which he received about five minutes of treatment. "I decided the best thing was to rest it and try and make sure I can let my body kind of adjust to the surface normally," Murray told reporters. Meanwhile, Agnieszka Radwan-

ska's hope of claiming the world's top ranking ahead of the US Open remains alive after she survived a testing first match in the Montreal Cup on Thursday.

Radwanska, who was stretched all the way by German Mona Barthel on a day of upsets, came from a break down in the final set to win 4-6 6-3 7-6 (5).

Sania Mirza and her American partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands registered a straight-set victory over Julia Goerges of Germany and Czech Republic's Kveta Peschke 7-6(1), 6-3 to enter the second round of the Rogers Cup here.

Meanwhile, fifth seeds, Leander Paes and his Austrian partner Jürgen Melzer received a walk-over win over Milos Raonic and Viktor Troicki in the second round, to set up a quarter-final clash against third seeded duo of Mariusz Fyrstenberg and Marcin Matkowski.

CHASING GLORY



LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



INTANDEM

Great Britain cyclist and double gold medal winner Laura Trott (left) and London Mayor Boris Johnson pose as they take part in a photocall in London on Friday to launch an annual cycling event which will include a 100-mile "Marathon" bike ride.

Japan's 'carnations' win hearts in defeat

REUTERS
TOKYO

Japanese football fans began their Friday bleary-eyed, many having shed tears but most philosophical, after the world champions were beaten 2-1 by USA in the women's Olympic football final in London.

As hundreds of supporters wearing Japan football shirts, faces still painted in national red and white, rolled out of bars around 6 am local time, an impromptu party broke out on Tokyo's iconic Shibuya "scramble" crossroads.

"Gold, silver — it doesn't matter. Japan were the best team," 32-year-old chef Ken-suke Arai said as revellers danced in front of police and early commuters.

Japan's "Nadeshiko" team, named after a frilly pink carnation, embodied the iron-willed spirit of a nation battling to recover from disaster as they won last year's World Cup.

Having shocked the mighty US on penalties in the Frankfurt final, they were unlucky

not to topple their powerful opponents again in Thursday's Olympic showdown. Twice rattling the crossbar and also having a strong penalty claimed waved away, Japan were even described by US coach Pia Sundhage as the better team. Japan's media, yet to reach print but crackling online, praised their pint-sized warriors for their heart.

"Stand tall, silver medalists!" blazed the Nikkan Sports newspaper, while the Sankei Sports ran the headline "Fierce Fight", referring to Japan's refusal to accept defeat. Tears of joy shed for their astonishing World Cup win in July last year were tinged with sadness as Japan confronted the aftermath of the deadly tsunami and a raging nuclear crisis. There was no fairytale repeat, but Japan's players took defeat on the chin as the Americans claimed a third successive Olympic title. "We wanted the gold, but no regrets," said Japan's world player of the year Homare Sawa before the Olympic medal ceremony, repeated on morning television

shows.

Japanese fans, many setting off for work after a quick shower and change of clothes, refused to blame the referee or make excuses, and had nothing but praise for their beaten heroines.

"You can't help but love them," 21-year-old student Yuria Sato, who had almost screamed herself hoarse. "They never give up. I was crying after the game but just so proud." Succinctly summing up the mood of the Japan players, the Mainichi newspaper said: "Every ounce spent: Tears and smiles." Japan's petite musketeers, at an average height of 1.62m standing seven cm shorter than the muscular Americans, at least look set to fly home in style. Japanese officials were accused of discrimination before the Games for allowing the men's team to fly in business class while the women had to make do with premium economy.

"It was a fantastic game," said coach Norio Sasaki after what could be his last game in charge.

Pele hoping for historic Brazil win

IAN S
LONDON

Football legend Pele is hoping Brazil will achieve a prize that has eluded him — an Olympic gold medal.

Pele, who played in three World Cup-winning teams for Brazil, said he would be among those cheering loudest when Brazil meet Mexico in the final at Wembley Stadium on Saturday.

"People say Brazil doesn't have a gold medal in the Olympics. I started to play at 17 years of age in the World Cup and I became a professional. At that time professionals could not play (in Olympics)," Pele was quoted as saying on Thursday.

"I hope that now we can finally win an Olympic gold medal. I want to go back to Brazil with the only medal we never got." Brazilian sensation Neymar, who was singled out for special praise by the 71-year-old, said on Thursday the team wanted to win for the man who is regarded as football's greatest player.

MEDALS TALLY

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	USA	39	25	26	90
2	China	37	25	19	81
3	Great Britain	25	15	16	56
4	Russia	14	21	24	59
5	South Korea	12	07	06	25
6	Germany	10	17	11	38
7	France	08	09	12	29
8	Hungary	08	04	03	15
9	Australia	07	14	10	31
10	Italy	07	06	07	20
50	India	00	01	03	04

*Updated till midnight



DREAM TEAM



REUTERS
LONDON

USA women's basketball team has the records, the Dream Team has the fame but it is the women's football team that has the hearts of American sports fans and another Olympic gold medal.

There is little warm and fuzzy about the Americans, who play the beautiful game with more beastly aggression than flair but there is no denying their appeal at home and abroad as a Games record crowd for a women's football game of over

80,000 streamed into Wembley Stadium on Thursday to watch the US cap a perfect Olympic run with a 2-1 win over Japan.

American women basketballers, unbeaten in Olympic play since 1992, will go for a fifth straight gold medal on Saturday while the USA men and their all-star NBA lineup are widely expected to bring down the curtain on the London Games with a successful defence of their title on Sunday. But it is only the scrappy football team that will return home to a hero's welcome with a victory tour of matches across USA.

"We don't realise now but I feel like we're writing history," said US midfielder Carli Lloyd, who had both American goals. "The 1999 team did a phenomenal job kind of turning the game around and I think now we're doing that. USA were both hosts and winners of the women's World Cup in 1999 and the team's success drew huge crowds to the games including more than 90,000 for the final at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.

"It's a different game now. There are so many good teams; the style of play is different," Lloyd said. USA

have claimed four-of-five gold medals since women's football joined the Olympic program in 1996 but have hardly had their own way on an increasingly competitive international stage.

A year ago at the World Cup final in Germany, it was Japan leaving with the trophy beating the US on penalties, setting up Thursday's classic rematch between reigning world and Olympic champions. Success did not come easily in London, the Americans reaching the final with a rough-and-tumble extra-time win over Canada.



Megan Rapinoe (right) and Lauren Cheney celebrate their gold medal at Wembley Stadium on Thursday.



RINGSIDE VIEW

Mary Kom to be awarded ₹50 lakh

Impfal: Manipur government would award ₹50 lakh to Mary Kom who got a bronze medal in the London Olympics. The decision to give ₹50 lakh and two acre land to Kom was taken at a cabinet meeting presided over by chief minister O Ibobi Singh here on Thursday evening, an official spokesman told reporters after the cabinet meeting last night. Kom would also be promoted to the rank of Additional Superintendent of Police in state police department after her arrival here in the next few days.

Rogge bowled over by crowd

London: International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Jacques Rogge gave a glowing assessment of the London Olympics on Thursday, saying the huge crowd at the event were the cornerstone of its success. Rogge told a group of journalists that large crowds which had thronged the Games — an estimated 6.9 million spectators — had exceeded expectations.

No more 'Olympic tourists' for Austria

Vienna: Austria will no longer support "Olympic tourists", the country's sports minister has said, promising a major shake-up of state support for competitors after the country failed to win a summer Olympic Games medal for the first time in half a century. Legislation to be crafted this year would ensure aid focused on popular Olympic sports rather than continuing a "watering can" approach that sprinkled money across athletic spectrum, Norbert Darabos told the *Kurier* newspaper.

Games failed to fulfill trade hopes

London: Retailers and hospitality firms have enjoyed the biggest uptick in trade during the London Olympics but the Games have failed to fulfill general business expectations, according to a survey published on Friday.

Great Britain take bronze

London: Great Britain, inspired by skipper Kate Walsh who broke her jaw just a week ago, beat New Zealand 3-1 on Friday to earn an Olympic bronze medal, something they last achieved 20 years ago in Barcelona. It did, however, take a long time to break down the well-ordered and fiercely motivated Kiwis who were as close to a women's Olympic hockey medal as they have ever been and already certain of their best finish.

Fathers' ashes on track

Sydney: An Australian woman has admitted taking the ashes of her late father — an Olympic silver medalist — trackside to the London Games and scattering them over the triple jump run-up. Robyn Glynn told *Sydney* radio that her father George Avery, who died in 2006, had wanted to attend the London Olympics because it was where he won second place in the triple jump, then known as the hop, step and jump, in 1948.

Rudisha smashes world record

Semenya runs her best time this year

■ AFP LONDON

David Rudisha of Kenya won the men's 800m Olympic title on Thursday in a stunning world record of 1min 40.91sec.

The 23-year-old world champion pulled five metres clear of Nijel Amos of Botswana after taking control of the race from an early stage on a warm night in Olympic Stadium in east London. He charged down the home straight as the capacity crowd rose to their feet and crossed the line in a time which shaved a tenth of a second off the world record he set two years ago.

Amos timed 1:41.73 — a world junior record for the 18-year-old — to win Botswana's first ever Olympic medal in athletics while another Kenyan Timothy Kitum took the bronze in a personal best of 1:42.53.

It was the first world record in an 800m Olympic final since Cuba's Alberto Juantorena set the mark in the 1976 final.

Rudisha revealed he had visited Olympic Stadium earlier this year and was shown around by the London Games chief organiser Sebastian Coe, whose world record in the event set in 1981 lasted for 16 years.

"Lord Coe is a very good friend of mine and I was here in February and he took me round the stadium and I said I would come here and run to make him proud," said Rudisha.

"To come here and break the world record is something unbelievable. I was well-prepared this year and I had no doubt about winning. But I was waiting for perfect conditions to break the world record because I knew this

year I was in the shape to run 1.40. "But today (Thursday) the weather was beautiful so I decided just to go for it."

When asked whether he was the greatest 800m runner in history, he said: "Yeah, I'm still running so I believe I'm going to main-

tain for a couple of years. I want to become a legend in 800."

He said he would attempt to break the world again this year "I get good weather".

Rudisha's victory maintained a family tradition — his father won Olympic silver in the

4x400m relay in 1968 in Mexico.

Coe said the race was one of the greatest ever to have graced an Olympic Games. "That was simply an unbelievable performance," said Coe, who never won an 800m Olympic gold, though he did win two 1500m titles.

"David Rudisha showed supreme physical and mental confidence to run like that in an Olympic final," Coe added.

"Instead of just doing enough to win the race he wanted to do something extraordinary and go for the world record as well.

"Rudisha's run will go down in history as one of the greatest Olympic victories. I feel privileged to have witnessed it in London." In what was probably overall the fastest two-lap race of all time, seven of the eight finalists set personal bests — Andrew Osagie's last-place time of 1:43.77 would have been good enough for gold in the 2008 Olympic final.

Rudisha, who had set the previous mark of 1:41.01 in the Italian town of Rieti two years ago, set the pace from the start with Abubaker Kaki of Sudan and Mohammed Aman of Ethiopia in close pursuit.

However, heading down the back stretch he kicked once and had Kaki and Aman struggling to stay in the hunt and another kick at the 300 metres mark had them fighting for the minor medals.

Amos surged into second going into the straight and fought gamely to reel in the Kenyan but in the end settled for his historic silver. "I'm really happy about it," said Amos.

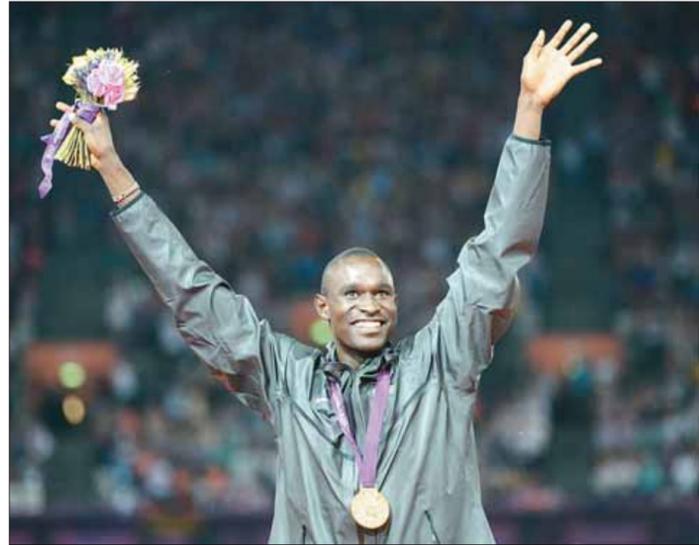
On breaking the world junior record, he said: "It was my motivation to run against Rudisha so I pushed very hard."

■ AFP LONDON

South African Caster Semenya fired out a broadside at Kenya's defending Olympic champion Pamela Jelimo with a season's best of 1min 57.67sec in the semi-finals of the women's 800m on Friday.

The 21-year-old Semenya had to sit out track and field for almost a year after her stunning world victory in Berlin in 2009 after undergoing gender tests, but came back to win silver in the Daegu worlds. In her semi here, Semenya sat in fifth at the bell but kicked with 250m to go to finish ahead of Russian Elena Arzhakova. Janeth Jepkosegi, the silver medalist in the Beijing Games who won bronze in Daegu, was third but went through as one of the two faster finishers outside the two automatic spots from each of the three semi-finals.

Jepkosegi will be joined in Saturday's final by Jelimo, who won her heat in 1:59.42 ahead of Ekaterina Poistogova.



David Lekuta Rudisha on the podium after winning the men's 800m final in London on Thursday.

India's desperate effort not to finish as wooden spooners

■ ELORA SEN LONDON

When India got back their right to play in the Olympics this year, having missed Beijing, hopes and aspirations had been on the rise. The young team, led by Bharat Chhetri, had shown signs of promise. But once in London, entering the Olympic stage, the inexperience showed and they fumbled through their group, losing not only the matches but also a lot of pride.

In a repeat of the 2006 World Cup scenario, India will take on South Africa in a 11-12 place classification match at the Riverbank Arena here on Saturday, and their lone aim would be not to finish last.

Six years ago in Monchengladbach, Germany, India scraped past South Africa 1-0 to finish 11th. On Saturday, they would like to repeat that performance to notch up

at least one victory at the London Olympics.

For a country who have eight gold medals in hockey under their belt, it is really time for the powers that be to pull up their socks, stop bickering among themselves to stay at the helm of power and think about the sport.

India lost all five group matches here and have failed to log even one point.

The South Africans had done well to hold eventual semi-finalists Britain to a 2-2 draw after suffering a 0-6 defeat to Australia, but lost their remaining four games, to finish last in their group.

In their most recent meetings, India had beaten South Africa 7-4 in the league and 4-2 in the semi-finals of the Champions Challenge tournament in Johannesburg last December.

India got a three-day break after

the group league battering and it remains to be seen whether they have been able to regroup. With really no pressure of any expectation anymore, one can only hope that they will be able to stay clear of the last position.

Having failed to qualify for the Beijing Olympics, India had lost out to playing in the top level of world hockey for the past four years, and that had cost the team dear.

Absence from the elite list hurt Indian hockey like never before and this was obvious in the manner in which the team played here. The Indians never looked like they belonged to the big league and appeared unsettled at best of times, letting in soft goals and unable to score themselves.

Coach Michael Nobbs had earlier termed the performance here as "unacceptable".

Leaping forward to Rio

■ ELORA SEN LONDON

With London 2012 nearing its end, the focus is now gradually shifting to the next Olympics — the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Games. The country that loves to party is dressing up its most important city. "A City Leaps Forward" is Rio's punch line, just as "Inspiring a Generation" is London's.

To showcase the spirit of all-embracing Brazil, during the closing ceremony on Sunday, the best of Brazilian stars will perform during the handing over of the Olympic flag.

Daniela Thomas, art director of Brazil's show for Sunday night, said: "Our country has a very clichéd image. The image is not wrong, but it is just the tip of the iceberg. We want to show how embracing Brazilian culture can be and also the passion."

The stars of the show will include Renato Sorriso (a municipal cleaner who is the face of carnival dancing in Brazil), Bnegao (one of Brazil's top rappers), top model Alessandra Ambrosia and diva singer Marisa Monte.

Rio is able to keep the construction deadlines till now, and according to official reports all construction should be over by 2015. The country has also

adopted a legacy program and the improvement that the city will see will be there for the future generations to enjoy.

Also, education through sports is going to be a major legacy program of the Rio Games. Plans are already afoot to ensure that there will be no empty seats in the stadiums, Leonardo Gryner, CEO of the Rio Organising Committee, said.

"We have learnt from London. They have done a great job here as the Games progressed. But we hope we will get packed stadiums from Day 1"

He added: "Brazilians love to party. So hopefully the Olympic spirit will not be contained in pockets but will spread over the whole of Rio."

London has come under criticism that the city centre has really stayed rather insulated from the Olympics.

Corruption-charges are hanging over former Fifa boss Joao Havelange, but his name is associated with the Olympics — one of the venues will be the stadium named after him. Gryner said: "We are proud of his contribution to international sports.

He is being punished for what he did, but that is beyond sports."

Pele too will be an integral part of the Rio Games, Gryner said.

STICKWORK

Pargat Singh



History beckons Germany but the Dutch will be tough

Defending Olympic champions Germany gave an exhibition of their steely nerves coupled with brilliant strategy to stop the Australians' winning spree with a 4-2 semi-final victory that gave Maximilian Muller's team a chance of becoming only the third team in Olympic Games history to clinch two successive men's hockey gold medals.

After India's six-time winning sequence from 1928 to 1956, only the Netherlands have won two successive gold medals in men's hockey by climbing the victory podium at Atlanta (1996) and Sydney (2000).

But to achieve that on Saturday, the clinical Germany need to overcome a massive challenge in the form of a dazzling Netherlands, who announced their intentions in no uncertain terms by giving Great Britain a 9-2 hammering.

Netherlands' victory margin has got the record keepers busy in trying to find the instances of such results in the past. Big scores are now the order, but a seven-goal victory even in this era of fast-paced hockey is a rarity, especially in the semi-finals.

Germany were expected to run into World Cup holders Australia in the title encounter, but for a hiccup suffered by Germans in the pool outing against the Netherlands that had the two top-ranked teams clashing in the semi-finals.

But the rematch between Germany and the Netherlands has the making of a fascinating contest. It will be a treat for hockey lovers. It required an outstanding performance to stop the title winning sequence of the Australians since Charlesworth took over as their coach. Winners of the World Cup, the Commonwealth Games and three successive Champions Trophies under Ric Charlesworth, the



German players salute the crowd after defeating Australia in the first semi-final match at The Riverbank Arena in London on Thursday.

robust Australians can't be faulted for believing that the Olympic title was theirs for the taking. After all, they were the No. 1 team in the world.

Germany have fielded quite a different side from the one that won the gold medal at the Beijing Olympics in 2008. As is coach Markus Weise's habit, he tends to play down their chances. But Germany can never go into the tournament without tons of expectations from hockey watchers. Such is the structure and strength of their domestic competitions that young players, capable of taking on the world will always be ready whenever a vacancy arises in the national squad.

The Germans, under Maximilian Mueller will be eager to settle a score with the Netherlands. The dramatic transformation of the Dutch, from their opening outing against India to the rampaging outfit that humiliated hosts Great Britain in the semi-finals, has given the German thinktank something to think about.

Dutch veteran Teun de Nooijer already has two Olympic gold medals and a silver in his collection, which he wants to decorate further with another glittering one

from London 2012. The turnaround and growing confidence of the Dutch has altered the scenario since they opened the campaign against India.

The Netherlands only managed to beat the tentative Indian team 3-2, but look at the way the fortunes of these two teams have shaped since then.

The Dutch have burst into the final and are now seeking the gold medal, while India is hoping to win at least one match in these Olympics to avoid the bottom spot in the competition.

Indian hockey's memories of London include the first gold medal for independent India in the 1948 Olympic Games, and then the dejection of the last-place finish from among 12 nations in the 1986 World Cup. It takes a lot of effort to regroup from the sort of debacle this Indian team has experienced.

There are problems that have been exposed, but it is a challenge for the team to come out and produce a better show against South Africa so that India does not finish at the bottom of the table on their return to the Olympic Games after failing to qualify for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. — PTI

THE CONQUEROR



■ REUTERS LONDON

Olympic decathlon champion Ashton Eaton lived up to the title of the world's greatest athlete with a dominant 198-point victory on Thursday although the exhausted gold medalist said he felt anything but. The two-day 10-discipline epic truly encapsulates the Olympic motto of "faster, higher, stronger" yet Eaton wanted improvement.

"For me to consider myself the world's greatest athlete I'd have to really amaze myself in every single event," Eaton told reporters. Decathlon incorporates sprints, jumps, throws and, finally, a 1,500m slog that invariably leaves a trail of shattered athletes lying on the track before they pick themselves up for a traditional group lap of honour to celebrate



Ashton Eaton celebrates after winning gold in men's decathlon in London on Thursday.

the fact they made it to the end in one piece.

Eaton, who set a world record of 9,039 points in June, won gold with 8,869, 24 short of the Olympic record. His Herculean efforts impressed Usain Bolt, who declared himself a legend after retaining his 100 and 200 titles from Beijing. "I'm a great athlete but to do 10 events, especially the 1,500m, I gotta give it to him," said Bolt whose every move in the stadium received a rock star reception from the adoring crowd.

In contrast, the graft of the decathletes went virtually unnoticed at times as they fought for attention against the more glamorous events even though they were the first on the track and the last to leave.

"I got more sleep than I did in Daegu (at the world championships), six hours, so not bad," Eaton said of his night after the first day of competition.

"You have to come through the mixed zone (to talk to the media), then we go in and try to eat. There's physio — you have to cool down of course because it's 400,— and then travel back to the village is not five minutes, it's 15-20.

"Eat, ice bath and then by the time you're in bed, you've got to get up early to warm up," he told reporters. Their final event on Wednesday, the 400, was at 2030 local time and the decathletes were back for the 110 hurdles less than 12 hours later with spectators still flooding in through the entrances.

In a technical discipline that often thwarts the specialists, hurdles clattered to the floor in each of the heats. Eaton hit the eighth barrier and grimaced as he desperately lunged to the line, 0.02sec behind world champion Trey Hardee who shouted with joy at a personal best time.



Bolt does strike twice

■ ELORA SEN
LONDON

"People can stop talking now. I am a legend," was the bold declaration that Usain Bolt made here on Thursday night. And that arrogance sits well on the Jamaican. He did hold off calling himself a legend after his sensational 100m win. But after wrapping up the sprint double the lightning pose seems to look even more impressive.

For Bolt has created history. He has won the 100 and 200 m in back-to-back Olympics — a feat that no man has ever done before. As he almost cruised to the finish line with the floodlit Olympic Stadium here exploding in applause he put his finger to his lips. Was that a sign to silence his critics and doubters? Perhaps.

Because the "legend" had set this goal for himself before the London Games, saying he would become a track legend if he is able to defend the double here.

As if sensing that the world record was not really within his grasp this time, he eased up a little. The race was his to be won just past the midway mark. And though Yohan Blake, his compatriot and challenger tried his best, there was really no overtaking Bolt. He finished with 19.32s on the clock ahead of Blake (19.44s) and Warren Weir (19.84). The 1-2-3 for Jamaica also stamped his mark as a leader who has actually told Blake that his timing for glory is wrong.

Blake is a great athlete. But the next two

years are mine," he said. Can he repeat his performance in Rio de Janeiro? "That's still four years away and I will be 30. It looks like a tough ask, but this is my time. Rio may belong to Blake," he added.

Grabbing a camera from a photographer near the finish line — after he did a stunt push up routine — Bolt clicked away to the delight of the crowd. For once, the star was taking photographs of his fans. "It's great fun. I love doing this and it makes for some memorable moments," he said.

"There wasn't a doubt that I will win the 200 after I won the 100m. I was really confident. There wasn't a problem.

Loads of people were talking, but they can stop talking now. I am a legend," he declared. "I reached my goal. Now I am just going to sit down and make

another one. I have done something that no one else has done before. I am the greatest. I am going to take it easy and relax for the rest of the season."

Bolt and Blake are both supposed to take part in the 4x100m relay and are hopeful of taking that gold home too.

Blake, touted as his toughest challenger here, said after winning the silver: "Bolt is the god of track and field. To do the back-to-back double, he got me back from the (2012) trials (at which Blake beat Bolt). He is a legend. It is his year. It will be my time soon — next year at the world championships in Moscow.

Bolt added: "After the trials where Yohan beat me, there were a lot of people doubting me. But that is good because you know who are your true friends and who is going to support you."

As a track legend, Bolt would love to be compared with the great Jesse Owens. "Without a doubt it would be Owens. He's a great athlete. For me it's wonderful to show the world that I'm the best."

Asked whether the Jamaican sprint team is drug-free, he said: "Without a doubt, we train hard. Especially my teammates, we see each other work each day. We work hard, we throw up every day. We get injuries, we have ice baths. We are trying our best to show the world that we are clean."

I have no respect for Carl Lewis, says Usain

■ ELORA SEN
LONDON

Usain Bolt, in his own words, is carrying on the work of legendary singer Bob Marley. "We are just trying to make Jamaica the best country in the world," he said, after putting doubters and critics at bay with a back-to-back Olympic sprint double victory. The four gold medals — two in Beijing and two here — have cemented his place as one of the greatest track athletes of all times.

But the "greatest-ever sprinter" Usain Bolt said he had lost all respect for Carl Lewis, the man whose on-track exploits he has surpassed with his unique Olympic double-double but who still leads the way in self-regard.

American Lewis is the only other man to win two Olympic 100m gold medals, the second coming in 1988 when he was promoted from second place after the disqualification of Ben Johnson.

He won the 200m in 1984 but managed only silver four years later. He did, however, have a remarkable run of success in the long jump, winning that event in four successive Games for a tally of nine gold medals in all.

In the wake of Bolt's triple-gold record success in Beijing, Lewis was quick to point the finger of suspicion at him and Jamaica in general. "I think there are some issues," he said at the time.

"Countries like Jamaica do not have a random (drugs testing) program, so they can go months without being tested. I'm not saying anyone is on anything, but everyone needs to be on a level playing field.

"I'm not saying they've done anything for certain. I don't know. But how dare anybody feel that there shouldn't be scrutiny, especially in our sport?"

He has continued to fire broadsides ever since but Bolt, now with his sprinting record unquestionably superior, hit back.

"I'm going to say something controversial right now, Carl Lewis — I have no respect for him," Bolt said, having cited 1936 quadruple champion Jesse Owens as a man he held in the highest regard.

"The things he (Lewis) says about the track athletes, it's really downgrading for another athlete to be saying something like that about other athletes.

"I think he is just looking for attention really because nobody re-

ally talks much about him. It was really sad for me when I heard the other day what he was saying, it was upsetting. So, for me, I've lost all respect for him, all respect.

Lewis tested positive three times for a stimulant before the 1988 Games but had the results overturned by American officials. Coming into London, there were doubts regarding Bolt's form and fitness, and he put that to rest by winning both the 100 and 200 m. The timings might not have been his best, but the medals came and with them the glory.

Asked about his status in the world of sport, he said: "For me I can't say if I have the status of Muhammad Ali or Michael Jordan. I've really set myself high in the track. A lot of people might say 'he's as good as Jordan'. He was the best at his sport, I'm the best in my sport.

"I set a goal for myself for years to become a legend; you can't really explain what that means. It's not going to hit you until you sit down and think about it. Those are the things that will bring tears to your eyes. I know that when I sit down and think about the struggles that I've been through over the seasons, it will be emotional."



Usain Bolt celebrates after winning the 200m final in London on Thursday. — AFP

India draw a blank as grapplers Amit, Narsingh crash out

■ OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LONDON

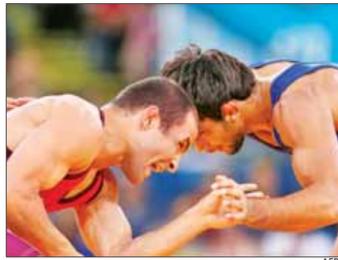
India's hopes of increasing their meagre medal tally on Day 14 at the Olympic Games went up in smoke when grapplers Amit Kumar Dahiya and Narsingh Pancham Yadav crashed out of the wrestling competition at the ExCel Arena here on Friday.

Between the two matmen, Amit put up the better show when he won a bout to enter the quarter-finals and lost the next two, including a repechage, to make his exit from the 55kg weight category.

Amit carved out a convincing 3-1 victory over his much stronger and taller Iranian rival Rahimi Hassan Sabzali, the reigning Asian champion, in their pre-quarter final fight and then was defeated by an identical score by Georgia's Vladimir Khinchegashvili later in the contest for a place in the semi-finals.

The Georgian went on to win his next bout against Japanese rival Shinichi Yumoto to enter the finals, thus giving a lifeline to Amit to fight his way to the bronze through repechage.

But the 19-year-old Indian could not get past his next hurdle, Radoslav Marinov Velikov of Bulgaria, in the second repechage round and made his exit while the winner went on to clash with Yumoto for the bronze



Radoslav Marinov Velikov (left) and Amit Kumar during the repechage in London on Friday.

medal. Narsingh, on the other hand, was outclassed by his much superior Canadian rival Matthew Judah Gentry and lost his opener 1-3. He then made his exit when the Canadian lost in the next round.

The exit of Amit and Narsingh has left only Beijing Games bronze medallist Sushil Kumar and Yogeshwar Dutt remaining in the fray on the mat.

On Thursday, lone woman wrestler Geeta Phogat had made her exit by losing two successive bouts in the 55kg class.

LONDON EYE Elora Sen

Retrieved in translation

Usain Bolt and Yohan Blake talking to you in Jamaican Patois, or a Chinese gold medal winner trying to get her way across the city — the Olympics is a cauldron of world languages. With more than 10,500 athletes and a huge number of officials, not to mention thousands of fans from 204 countries of the world, it is needless to say that it is like a potpourri and can be rather confusing if one has to be able to understand all the languages and dialects being spoken here.

But to the rescue is a team of 70 professionals and hundreds of volunteers. They are the interpretation team working for the LOCOG and helping all who are involved with the London Games. From press conferences, to

chats with the medal winning athletes, to making communication simpler between a Korean official trying to make his problems be understood by a very British medical team — they are everywhere.

While English and French are the official languages of the International Olympic Council, there are interpreters here who are conversant with even the most obscure of languages, so that, if needed, no one is left in the lurch.

Michel Wolteche, Deputy Chief of Interpretation, is from Canada and this is the 13th Olympics (including Winter Games) he is associated with. "I used to be with the government of Canada and they allowed me to work during the Olympics in Mon-

tréal. After that I have become part of this since my retirement from government service.

We normally recruit professionals from all over the world. Many have become a part of the Olympic team. The ones who have worked at the Olympics before know the scale of the event and what is expected of them."

He added: "About one-third of the team here is from London and the rest are from Europe. There is a huge demand for Korean, Japanese and German interpreters."

Indian languages don't really figure much. One reason perhaps is that most Indians are familiar with English and interpretation services here are mostly given for actual need rather than mak-

ing a statement about a country's prestige.

The interpreters handle all major Press conferences of the IOC, the LOCOG and all National Associations. The Chef de Missions can also ask for their services and they are present during the ceremony when medal winners talk to reporters.

"We don't just land up during the ceremony. If we are assigned to a venue, we are there since the start of the event so that we are familiar with every detail," said Susan Hilton, who is working here for the Language Services International. A professional interpreter, this is her first Olympics and the Londoner is enjoying it to the hilt. "It is very exciting and challenging," she said.

Her colleague, Anne Miles,

also a first timer, is also relishing the Olympic experience.

"You never know your schedule beforehand. We are normally briefed at around 8 pm for the following day, but it can change anytime. Specially, if there is an unexpected medal winner who needs an interpreter, then the one who knows the language has to scramble to the venue. And it is not very easy to get from one venue to the other. But we are enjoying every minute of the action. It's great to be able to be inside the stadiums and be a part of history," she said.

Sports brings the world together, but it surely needs a little help to get across the language barriers. In London, it is in good hands.

১৩ আগস্ট-এর বিশেষ আকর্ষণ
টার্গেট মাধ্যমিক ২০১৩
বিষয়- ভৌত বিজ্ঞান

মাধ্যমিকের বিশেষ প্রস্তুতি
জীবন বিজ্ঞান
আগস্ট ২০১২
লিখছেন বিশিষ্ট শিক্ষক

সকালবেলা
প্রতি সোমবার
সকালবেলায় সঙ্গে
বিনামূল্যে

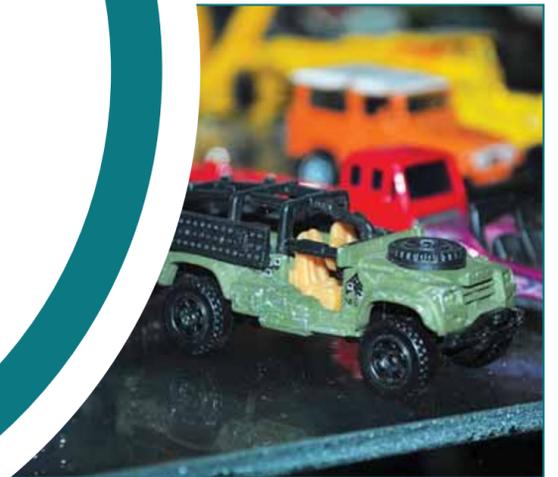


weekender

Pics: Soumyabrata Gupta



Little PLAY Things



He has hundreds of miniature cars in his enviable collection. Pratap Chowdhury talks about pursuing a rare hobby

Soumyabrata Gupta



For Pratap Chowdhury, what began as a hobby soon turned into a passion. The man who originally belongs to the Malihati Zamindar family (a village in West Midnapore), collecting miniature cars was his initiation into the world of automobile restoration. He has 550 tiny cars sealed in a glass case for future generations to see. His collection not only includes antique, vintage and classic cars, but also trucks, trains and various military vehicles.

The connoisseur of automobiles says that he was initiated into the world of automobile mechanics by his maternal uncle. However, for Pratap Chowdhury, the love for cars was perhaps always there in his blood. He recounts, "My grandfather was the *zamindar* of Malihati during the early 1900s. When the car was invented, he had a plan to purchase one for himself as well." Chowdhury goes on to say that in spite of wanting to procure a car, his grandfather realised that the roads of Midnapore were so bad that the cars which were available in Kolkata were not sturdy enough to ply on them. Thus in early 1906, he went all the way to England to get himself a proper car. "Sadly he did not like the 'fragile' cars that were being made over there," says Chowdhury, adding, "Undeterred, he moved on to Germany in his search for the perfect car. There he came upon the Stoewer and brought it back to the small town of Malihati. In fact, the car was customised to his needs and is the only one in the world till date." Chowdhury is quick to add that the Stoewer, which he has restored himself, is in perfect working conditions.

But the desire to restore came only after Chowdhury had satiated his craving for the miniature vehicles. After passing out from school and enrolling in a North Kolkata college, Chowdhury realised that buying a proper car with his meagre pocket-money was next to impossible. He thus started collecting miniature scale models of motorcars. For Chowdhury, who believes that the earliest toy car he had bought must have been an American model, he started his hobby by buying the Matchbox cars produced by Lesney Corporation.

Reminiscing about the journey, Chowdhury says, "During the 1980s, Matchbox stopped production in England, but later on, the company was purchased by a Chinese corporation in Macau. But those secondary batches were not as

accurate as the earlier ones. Then later in 1980, a Japanese company called Tomica started producing matchbox sized vehicular toys as well. However, even Tomica stopped production and then cheap Chinese products inundated the market." The hobbyist, however, rues the fact that the cheap Chinese models were nowhere near as accurate as the Matchbox varieties.

As a young boy, unlike the tides of the time, Chowdhury was never discouraged from pursuing his somewhat unusual hobby. He says, "I got full support from my family. I believe they understood early on that this was something which I really liked." He goes on to add, "By the time I was four or five years old, I used to hide beneath a car when my mother brought me milk to drink. I hated milk and would find solace under the car since my mother could not stoop down to pull me out." Chowdhury believes that those were the days which probably got him interested in automobiles. "Lying under the car I used to gaze at its mechanisms in rapt attention, while all the while staying out of my mother's reach and the dreaded glass of milk," he adds with a twinkle in his eye.

However, as an adult, his parents never gave him a surplus of money to turn his hobby into a habit. "The amount of money I got, which I would mostly spend on my hobby was never enough to buy more than one car a month. But, that accentuated my love for cars," he says.

The oldest car in Pratap Chowdhury's collection, as he proudly proclaims are miniature models from the early 1920s and the 1930s. But he is not unaware of the fact that perhaps collecting these toy cars has become a dying hobby. Chowdhury, for whom collecting cars was a gateway to bigger toys, exclaims, "These days, people are collecting miniature cars, but it's a small number. Toy shops are not stocking them since they have become so expensive. That is the reason, the market has fallen. If the prices don't go down, this hobby will encounter a sad demise."

Ask him if he intends to keep on collecting cars and he adds with a laugh that he does, but only the bigger varieties. He says, "Collecting the matchbox cars was kind of like a stepping stone. I have since then moved on to bigger toys!" The hobbyist who has long since drifted to the original bigger toys, that is, cars and their restoration sometimes in 2006 owns six jeeps and 16 other automobiles including three vintage cars. He recently bought a petrol engine Mercedes, which he claims simply flies on the highway.



Mixed Bag

Fortune Teller



ARIES

Today will be the beginning of something energetic and boisterous. Not much can hold you back. You will be eager, dynamic, quick and competitive. When it comes to getting the ball rolling, you will be the best. Organising everything from work to parties is on the cards.



TAURUS

Don't be surprised if you leap out of bed with a spark of inspiration that wasn't there last night. Let your dreams linger a bit before you face the world. This flash of genius is likely to strike quickly and unexpectedly. So keep an eye out for it but don't consider it to be something that you can plan or force into happening. It would also be wise to limit your intake of alcohol today.



GEMINI

Family is important to you today. Friendship with siblings is likely to develop and time spent together will be cherished. Meeting responsibilities of the family can pose a challenge at times but you are most likely to come through. Deciding between practicality and pleasure can be a tough thing today. Generating new ideas and problem-solving are areas in which you will shine.



CANCER

Your competitive side will need constant stimulation and challenges today. You can also be nervous and self-centered at times because you will be insecure about what you are truly capable of. Be careful to maintain self-control and use your energy to encourage greater possibilities for yourself and others.



LEO

Today you can be strategic and competitive to the point of seeming manipulative. Be wary of letting malicious people into your life, and put your energy into positive interactions with those who truly deserve your attention. Allow others to speak and be open to their ideas. Interpersonal and intuitive skills will be sharp.



VRIGO

You can appear a bit jaded and ruthless to others but that is because you see things as they are and thus tend to be cynical. You dislike being judged, and if you are under scrutiny your self-esteem takes a blow. This is because you are an expert and can give solid advice to others. Although serious about life, you know how to find the humour in most situations.

You can expect to have a good head on your shoulders and discern the cold hard facts from dramatised emotions. You will love to work with your hands and also have intimate conversations. You might want to win others over, and this can result in internalisation of your feelings.



LIBRA



SCORPIO



SAGITTARIUS



CAPRICORN



AQUARIUS



PISCES

You will learn as well as you can teach by retaining your childlike curiosity. You will believe in higher powers and will be intrigued by religious or spiritual ideologies. Neat and orderly, beware of going overboard to keep everything protected, clean and organised - you will be quite a cleanliness freak today.

Your urge to improve your quality of life and health will be admirable. Use this added motivation to soar. Another way to make you feel more expansive is by letting go of anything to which you have clung too tightly. Hold on to those things you cherish most. The cosmos will encourage you to make a new start by reorganizing your kitchen.

This is a day to get moving! Lots of physical activity is recommended. This could be playing sports, taking a long walk or going to the gym. You can have a lot of fun if you bring friends along. You might consider giving away something that was once very important to you. Do your best to remain calm.

Meditation, dreams, or visions could bring amazing insights your way. Keep a journal of these revelations, because you might remember the gist but forget the details. They could be useful later when you pass your ideas on to others. So meditate and concentrate.

You can be aggressive, dominating and selfish. You will be one of the first people to initiate new projects, make changes or take a stand today. You can best use your skills through cooperative, altruistic efforts like charity work, family bonding and team building. You will also have outstanding protective instincts.

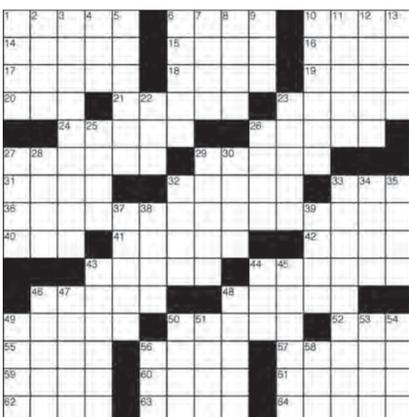
Archie



Rugrats



Daily Crossword



Across

- Speaks hoarsely
- Lasting impression
- Tennyson offering
- Try extra hard
- Vatican figure
- Feast with poi
- Bauxite giant
- Hera's son
- Debate side
- "The," to Wolfgang
- Hardware items
- Come to mind
- Liszt opus
- Win every game
- Hit the showers
- Water conduits
- La Scala highlight
- Rocky projection
- Scare word
- Is indecisive (4 wds.)
- Over there
- Pool shot
- Lemony
- High-rise unit
- Nightclubs
- Cheap magazines
- Sri --
- Big Bird colleague
- Swallows hastily
- Grey Cup sports org.
- Ming thing
- Zhivago's love
- Banquet host
- Jeannie portrayer
- Pacific island
- Bedsprings
- Variety
- "Mack the Knife" singer
- Saws and such

Down

- Pore over
- Auto shaft
- Saliva, for one
- Pd. performer
- Museum piece
- Room
- Fishing float
- Zoo denizens
- Lo_ graphics
- Nearly wins
- Scale unit
- Dig in (2 wds.)
- Naturalist
- John _
- Supplement
- Held title to
- Soften up
- Constellation, in astrology
- Treat gently
- Woody's son
- Ditto (2 wds.)
- Rodin sculpture
- Parliament member
- "The
- Decameron" author
- Jumble
- Bookie's figures
- Free play
- _ Christian
- Andersen
- Woody's son
- Regular
- customer
- Skip stones
- Bug
- Madrid art
- gallery
- Auto-racing family
- Pack animal
- Festive nights
- It had three parts
- Europe-Asia range
- Took a spill
- Minus
- Not sm. or med.
- Meadow plain

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

REBA PANDA CAFE
YARN CLEAR OLEO
EVEN TIARA NODE
SEWED REFUGES
ARIEA DAITA
NOBLE GAS TAMPA
OWE SORES SILO
HELEN NIXIE MTB
TETION PEDI CABS
FUEL DEER
ROOSTER EIGHT
DOOR TRADE MAUI
APPT LONER PILL
MESH EYING SLATT



Sudoku



Editor's Pick

Food



Hilsa Feast

Waterside Cafe presents a hilsa festival specially created by Chef Partha Roy highlighting his grandmother's recipes

Venue: Waterside Cafe, Hyatt Regency
Time: 11am - 11 pm

Rajasthani Delights



Khanasutra, The Chrome Hotel presents a *marwari* food festival which includes an assortment of novel appetising *Marwari* delicacies like *Jodhpuri Mirchi Wada*, *Papad Magori Ki Subzi* and *Daal ki Pooi*

Venue: Khanasutra, The Chrome Hotel, 226 A.J.C Bose Road
Time: 1.30 pm onwards

Snack Fiesta



Celebrate the fragrance of the monsoon showers with Monsoon Buzz which includes snacks like scrumptious vegetarian *pakora*

Venue: Zodiac, 24 hour Coffee Shop at Fortune Select Loudon, 21 B Loudon Street, Kolkata
Time: 3.30 pm - 6.30 pm

Royal Treat

Dig into royal Thai spread and treat your taste buds to delicacies like *Grathong Thong*, *Tung Tong* and *Goong Sarong*

Venue: Benjarong, South City Mall
Time: All day

Art

Water Colour Works

Smita Bajoria presents the work of 22 artists from Bengal curated by artist Sunil Das. The exhibition will have works of Eleena Banik, Samir Aich and others

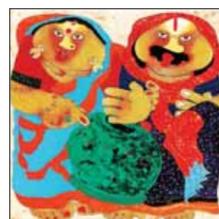
Venue: Ganges Art Gallery, 33 Jatin Das Road, Kolkata-29
Time: 11 am-7 pm

Group Show

Artists like Rashmi Bagchi Sarkar, Sumito Basak, Shivananda Basavanthappa, Rini Dhumal, Anirban Ghosh and Anirban Mukherjee among others are showing their collection

Venue: Cima Art Gallery
Time: 2pm-7 pm

Monsoon Vibes



A medley of artwork from celebrated artists like Aditya Basak, Ashoke Mullick, Samir Aich, Shuvaprassana and others will be on display. The exhibition is being held to celebrate the flavour of the rains

Venue: Gallery Exposure
Time: 4-8 pm

Miscellany

Buy and Buy



Big Bazaar presents '6 Days *Maha Bachat*' on the occasion of Independence Day with an exciting array of attractive offers and discounts

Venue: Big Bazaar, Food Bazaar and FBB outlets
Time: All day

Filament

Screening of a selection of experimental films and videos by four filmmakers — Ashish Avikunthak, Nilanjan Bhattacharya, Ranu Ghosh and Ruchir Joshi

Venue: Experimenter, Hindustan Park
Time: 11 am - 6.30pm

Nightlife

Turning 18



On the occasion of Someplace Else's 18th anniversary celebrations, the American Center in association with Tantra Live and Jim Beats present an evening of soulful blues with Shillong based band Soulmate

Venue: Tantra
Time: 8 pm - 10 pm

Open Space

Pics: Debolina Dubois



The Venus Victorious of France

Visual artist Debolina Dubois draws an image of Paris shorn of stereotypes. The city comes alive as a beautiful woman who needs to be romanced

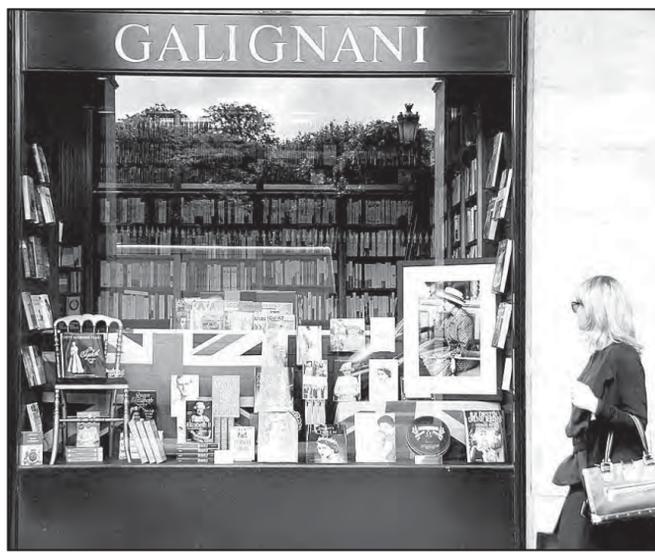
As a child I had heard stories about a spectacular tower built as the entrance arch for the "Exposition Universelle" — the World Fair marking the centennial celebration of the French Revolution. I was even shown a picture of it in an encyclopaedia, causing me to constantly ponder upon it while gazing at the telephone towers in Calcutta. I often asked my father whether all those telephone towers were known by the same name, La tour Eiffel.

The tower that was inaugurated on March 31, 1889 had something in common with me. My birthday is March 31 as well. Consequently, as a child I developed a sudden fascination towards the city that held this beauty. Paris.

Today I live in Basel, Switzerland, a perfect home for those who commute in Europe by train or for those who love to boast that Roger Federer is from their city. Basel is just three hours away by train, from the city of my childhood fascination. Situated on the river Seine, in north of France, in the heart of Île-de-France, Paris has an estimated popula-

tion of 2,234,105 and a metropolitan population of 12,161,542. Hence, it is one of the most populated metropolitan areas in Europe. Until the 19th Century, Paris had remained the largest city in the Western world. It hosts the headquarters of many international organisations such as UNESCO, the OECD, the International Chamber of Commerce or the European Space Agency. Paris is considered one of the greenest and most habitable cities in Europe.

As a student of Art and Design in Paris, I visit the city on a regular basis. I have been to every monument, every street, every shop and every tourist destination that Paris can offer. I have eaten at the Ritz, Kong, Train Bleu, La Terrasse du 7eme and even at the Kabap corner Restaurant Rosa. I have planned to party at Oberkampf, and had evening drinks with total strangers who became friends at Bastille. I have discussed attending Swing Dancing by the riverside or simply sulking at Shakespeare & Co. The evolution from a tourist to a Parisian is a slow but gradual process. As you walk that line,



devoid of the macho superficiality? Paris today is like the marble Venus who has nothing to do with thoughts. Paris today is for herds of tourists who visit the monuments and queue to climb the lifts of the Eiffel Tower. Paris is treated like a city with no purpose but to please and entertain mankind, a role imposed on her.

Yet Paris today, like Venus Victorious, appears to speak loud — "I am beauty, complete and alone. I speak only through the spirit of him who looks at me. In my absolute simplicity all thought defeats itself since it loses its limits. All thoughts sink together in me, confused, indistinct, identical, like the ripples on rivers as they enter the sea. For him who reflects me, I am the deeper character he assigns me". Paris, the city that has found her arms again and again in the dark nights of time. How to understand this city that holds her place "in the middle of the human race — only to bend on the devoted world that comes to pay her its passionate homage..."? For those who take time to reflect on her, Paris is the deeper character — her heart and soul is neither Place de la



you start seeing the city differently. You start seeing Paris for who she truly is. "What is a model, after all, if not a woman who keeps her mouth shut so the artist may see her better with his mind's eye?" What is Paris, after all, if not a city of splendour for tourists to explore and exploit? You see, the misfortune that has befallen Paris is the lack of thoughts. When was the last time a tourist actually walked around Paris like a true lover,

Concorde, La tour Eiffel nor Les Champs-Élysées.

The soul of Paris is in its people. The veins of Paris are the streets. The heart of Paris is l'amour and the brain of Paris remains with the thinkers. Paris is a woman. She is more lively than the man-made image of a woman being a possession ready to be exploited. Paris is, perhaps more than, the Venus Victorious of France.



INBOX



WEEKENDER TEAM

The Bengal Post, Kolkata

To Our Readers,

Most of us have forgotten the joys of having toys. Our lead story this week is about Pratap Chowdhury, a connoisseur of cars, who talks about his beloved miniature automobile collection which numbers well over five hundred and why it has become a dying hobby. As monsoons have made their presence felt in the city, read how you can turn your boring terrace into the Garden of Eden with a bit of luck and a few easy steps. Also, do not miss visual artist Debolina Dubois's portrayal of beautiful Paris, the city she compares to a *belle* waiting to be pursued amorously.



Readers mail



More mail



Deepak Nath | Dalhousie

The article on Shekhawati and the way it has been underestimated by the tourism fraternity touched my heart. In my view, the government of Rajasthan should start promoting it well.



Hitesh Nandy | Ballygunge

I have been looking for a makeover for my home but could not decide on what to use for it. The last edition of *Weekender* gave me some awesome ideas. Thank you!



Amreen Kausar | Durgapur

Burqa has gone through a marvellous revolution over the last few years. It is no longer a boring attire. It is gradually creating a new style statement.



Anjali Dutta | Keshtopur

I loved *Gangs of Wasseyapur 2*. It is rightly said that GOW will go down in history for the grand performances of the actors and the thrilling plot. Hats off to Anurag Kashyap and the entire team!



Star Trek

Model Anando Ghosh



Getting beachy in Goa!

There is no better place to be than Goa. If I have to describe the place in a word, I would call it paradise. The food, locales, environment and cozy feel of the place are gripping. There is an old world charm to it with its ancient houses and churches. Goa is a treasure trove. On the one hand, it has great architecture to attract you and on the other, it is a great place to party. Just like Quentin Tarantino films, the secluded churches of north Goa can make anyone feel romantic. I go there with my group of friends and we have a wonderful time when we visit the place. Once we stayed in tents. You also get these wonderful cottages, which make you feel one with nature.

I have stayed in places like Mapusa and Panjim but the beaches in north Goa are the best. I can spend days on end at Fatrade and Palolem Beach. The water is crystal clear and the beach is packed with foreigners. But the good thing is that unlike south Goa, the beaches in the north are not so frequented, which gives you some privacy.

I'm a person who loves to try out local delicacies and Goa has a lot to offer. Pork vindaloo with feni rice is my favourite. There are also the feni and port wines to try but the local drinks are equally good. We also tried the shrimps and lobsters apart from the sea fish varieties. Another time, we stayed at a place called Club Cabana. It is situated in the hills overlooking the sea - didn't I say it is a paradise on earth? Another attraction is the Bom Jesus Basilica.

If I like to be near the sea, mountains too hold special attraction for me. I have been to places like Kathmandu, Gangtok and Darjeeling, where the cloud cover looks pristine. The beauty of snow at these places is awesome. But I must tell you I never plan any of my trips. Whenever I have done so, it has come out a cropper. So now trips are mostly on impulse.

—As told to Ashok Chatterjee



In Full BLOOM

As the monsoon showers paint the city green, it's the perfect time to flex your fingers and turn your terrace into a lush garden



Blessed are those who have the luxury of a sprawling terrace. Living in urban quarters where the issue of space crunch haunts one and all, a terrace allows you the quickest getaway to the prospect of enjoying fresh air and privacy. Perhaps this is the reason why those who can afford it and have the necessary imaginative prowess are turning their terraces into an abode of greenery.

This is a smart move for various reasons. First, it allows you to indulge your aesthetic sensibilities. Secondly, it helps you to create an organic living space. Thirdly, it becomes an area where you can entertain your family and friends without the need to step

out. Lastly, it gives you the reason to develop a hobby that gives something back to the environment. Thus, it's a therapeutic activity that soothes your nerves and calms your mind.

However, what thwarts most people from progressing with the idea of cultivating a terrace garden is the amount of work and dedication required to design and maintain it. That, fortunately, should no

longer be a cause for worry. Anticipating the demand and practical utility of terrace gardens, quite a few interior designers and companies are now providing such services. With their initial help, you can set up a beautiful garden and then take over the reins yourself. All you need is an interest in plants and flowers and the eagerness to learn.

If you are unsure about how to embark on this project, we will give you some tips that will help you to focus your mind. And if you have already decided to go ahead, our suggestions will further encourage you. So, here we go:

- Before starting, it is important to till the land, weed it and get rid of pests. Make sure that your roof has the strength and durability to handle the weight of the garden. You should have an efficient drainage system in place. Finally, make sure that there is no possibility of water leaks.
- Select the kind of plants you desire to use in your terrace garden. Fibre rooted plants have an advantage over tap rooted plants as tap rooted plants may grow into the structure and create trouble for the building.
- Next, you need to select the type of soil for the foundation of your garden. Select a type which does not exert too much of pressure on the building. Soil rite and peat moss are the ideal options but they might be a little expensive for some people. If that is the case, then mix it with garden earth and manure. This will be equally helpful.
- After that, you need to see that the drainage system is laid down efficiently. Waterproof your terrace by laying down burnt bricks and not just brown bricks because the latter would gradually turn into mud and would collapse the drainage system. Alternatively, you could place corrugated sheets that need to be placed at a distance of three inches so that the water flows smoothly into the drain. On top of the bricks, lay a net lawn in order to prevent the soil from getting inside the bricks.
- Once the setting is ready, you can plant trees and flowers in your terrace garden. You may choose flowering or non flowering plants. If there is limited sunlight, non-flowering plants such as croton,

cane bamboo, drycena, defenbacia, chlorophytum, physcus, money plants and some varieties of cactus would be ideal. You can also go for bonsai plants as they look good and occupy less space.

What you can grow:

You can grow commonly used vegetables on your terrace, including leafy vegetables such as *datta*, *keerat*, coriander, fenugreek, Indian spinach and lettuce; gourds like pumpkin, ash gourd, ridge gourd, bitter gourd, bottle gourd, cucumber, little gourd, sponge gourd, snake gourd, watermelon and muskmelon; root vegetables such as radish, carrot, beetroot, onion, garlic, ginger and mango ginger and other vegetables such as cabbage, cauliflower, capsicum, chillies, tomato, ladies finger and brinjal. Similarly, you can grow a variety of fruit plants in big pots including mango, orange, pomegranate, musambi, custard apple, banana and guava.

Beautification:

Create variations of texture, shape, colour selection and plant height. Since the entire garden is visible as a whole, your garden will be viewed as a composition. Cooler colours will make the garden appear larger. You can compensate for the limited colour palette with a variety of textures. The textural contrast will help blend the plant material and allow the garden to flow. Every plant or feature will need to serve a purpose. Plants should offer at least two seasons of interest. Place a small tree, vine or flowering shrub, planted in a large container in a corner. Then place around it a variety of smaller plants in pots and containers to create a multi-tiered effect. One method to create an illusion of depth, is to keep plants with darker foliage (greens or purples) in the background and place plants with multi-coloured variegated leaves or brightly coloured flowers in the foreground. Vines grown in a large container and trained to cover walls or a trellis, will allow you to cover large areas of your garden and still maximise space in smaller gardens or patios. In addition, small, self-contained fountains, waterfalls or ponds placed against walls or in corners, can become a focal point or point of interest from which to build out further.

—Compiled by Supreeta Singh

Launch pad



Choose your favourite flavour with the new KFC Dips Bucket - Sweet Chili, Tangy Salsa, Spicy Mayo and Oriental. Priced at ₹249 including taxes, the Dips Bucket is the ultimate snack for friends.

Sweet, sour and spicy treat

Health boost



MonaVie has unveiled its new RVL protein powder. Targeted at weight conscious people, RVL comes packed with all the right nutrients and helps control obesity. It comes in a convenient powder form in an attractive tin that can be mixed with milk or water.



Cookie Man has launched no-added-sugar cookies in four lip-smacking flavours - Chocolate, Cinnamon, Coffee and Short Bread. The no-added-sugar cookies are priced at ₹ 230 for 240 gms and ₹360 for 360 gms.

Sugar-free sensation

Righteous vision



Titan launched a wide new range of stylish and trendy frames and lenses for the value conscious customer. Price: Starts from ₹995.



Videocon Mobile Phones has introduced a new range of top-of-the-line touch phones in stylish designs with audio and video features. The range offers consumers Dual SIM connectivity options and entertainment options like Audio and Video Player, FM Radio and Movie Juke Box applications. Price: ₹2099 onwards.

Juke box, reloaded

Tolly Telly

Screen Saver

Look who's back



The *Paglu* duo of Dev and Koel are back with the much awaited movie of the year *Paglu 2*. The film also stars Tota Roychoudhury, Rimjhim Mitra and Rajatava Dutta among others. The film has been shot extensively in Kolkata, Hyderabad, Dubai, Italy and Switzerland. *Paglu 2* is presented by Nispal Singh and produced by Surinder Films. The movie has been directed by Sujit Mondal. The foot tapping music has been scored by Jeet Gannguli.



Beware of what lies beneath!

A world of darkness, replete with innumerable murders, woman trafficking, sex workers and a sense of mystery, this tale of blood and gore will star debut actors, Arka and Brishti. The music for *Sabdhana* has been composed by Soumen Das while it is being scripted and directed by Subham Das. The film is a tale which will not only question the morality of human beings in today's society, it will also show the ever present conflict between good and evil.

On the Sets

Pics: Debabrota Biswas

No stopping them!

Ritabhari and Sagar were caught shooting for a romantic sequence at Nalban Food Court recently. The actors are playing lovebirds in director Subrata Lahiri's film *Prem Unlimited*. Between shoots, Ritabhari took short breaks and enjoyed the beautiful breezy weather. The film revolves around two youngsters who fall for each other but face opposition from their families.



'I was almost kidnapped'

Actor Shankar Chakraborty gets up, close and personal with Tanushree Mukherjee

Journey as an actor: I have always liked acting. When I was in Class V, I replaced someone in a role for a neighbourhood theatre production. My performance was appreciated and from then on, I started acting for various *para* theatre groups, especially in productions that were put on for Durga Puja. Soon I joined Indian People's Theatre Association and started performing in more plays. Then I joined Rabindra Bharati to study Drama and eventually joined Utpal Dutt's theatre group, People's Little Theatre. We took several productions of ours abroad. By then I knew that my real passion in life was acting and I am very glad that I could combine my passion and profession.

First taste of celebrity: After the film *Bibaha Abhijaan* released, I was returning home by a local train. There was a group of young guys in the compartment. I was almost kidnapped by them as they wanted me to say some dialogues from the film. The kind of adulation they showered on me was something out of a dream.

Whom do you idolise and why: In a lot of ways, Utpal Dutt is my guru. He is one of the greatest actors of our time and I learnt a lot by working with him. Apart from that, I am a big fan of actors like Nasiruddin Shah, Uttam Kumar and Anjan Dutta. I also like Tom Hanks and Robert De Niro.

Unforgettable moment with a fan: Well, there is this guy from Bardhaman who calls me pretty often. He has apparently seen everything that I have ever acted in. He has even created a fan club for me. He has been inviting me to interact with fans who are part of the club. I have been meaning to do so but haven't managed it so far because of time constraints.

Hobbies: I like singing. I also like travelling to mountains. In fact, my wife and daughter also enjoy travelling to the mountains. And of course, since I am a foodie, I love eating. I used to be quite a voracious reader when I was younger. But these days, since I have to read and memorise so many dialogues, I get a little tired when it comes to reading other things.

One person you would like to meet: It would be Julia Roberts. I really liked her in the film *Sleeping with the Enemy*. I want to tell her that I would like to act in a film with her.

Success is: For me success is all about hard work, devotion and honesty. I think one can be considered successful when one works hard at whatever one does and accomplishes things by the sheer dint of devotion and honesty.

Lessons learnt: Well, the industry has changed a lot since I first started acting many years ago. Many of the big actors are not around anymore. Of course there are a few stalwarts still and their attitude towards their profession is something one can learn a lot from. But at the same time, there are some pretty arrogant youngsters too who start throwing their weight around before they have even fully grasped what their deliverables are. One needs to learn from both the good and the bad things that come one's way.

If you could change one thing: Mine is the ideal rags to riches story. Although I can afford a very comfortable lifestyle now, there were times when I would have to worry about how to get my next meal. So I would probably want to make a completely fresh start if I could. I don't know if I would still want to be an actor. But I would definitely take care to ensure that I complete my formal education.

Upcoming projects: There is Sayan's film titled *Odbhoot* coming up. There is Babrubahan's *50-up Friendship Association* which goes on the floors soon and of course there is Anjan Dutta's *Ganesh Talkies* for which we'll start shooting in December.



Mumbai Wrap



Anushka Sharma
Actress Anushka Sharma looked pretty in a blue short dress teamed with silver canvas shoes as she posed for shutterbugs at a promotional event for Nivea.



Kunal Kohli



Roop Kumar Rathod



Prasoon Joshi



Leslie Lewis



Ila Arun and Anup Jalota
The third season of the GiMa Awards 2012 kickstarted with a star-studded press conference. The Who's Who of the music industry including Anup Jalota, Ila Arun, Leslie Lewis, Prasoon Joshi and Roop Kumar Rathod attended the event. Filmmaker Kunal Kohli was also seen at the do.

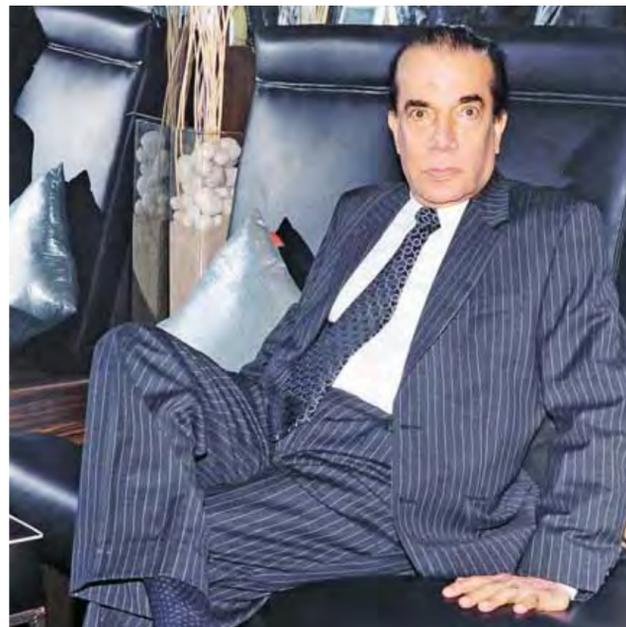


Sophie Choudry

Sonam Kapoor



Imran Khan



Nari Hira



Rohit Roy



Rajneesh Duggal

The launch party of the third anniversary edition of *Starweek* saw the presence of a host of B-town celebrities. Actors Imran Khan and Sonam Kapoor who feature on the cover page, attended the event alongwith Sophie Choudry, Rohit Roy and Rajneesh Duggal. Speaking at the event Sonam waxed eloquent on the 'different' films she is working on. She participated in street theatre during her recent 10-day trip to Delhi, which is helping her prepare for her next films. She also claimed that one of the current projects she is working on, is the third film where she's wearing no makeup!

The Woods

Review



Legacy gone all wrong!

Soumyabrata Gupta

Film: *The Bourne Legacy*
Director: Tony Gilroy
Cast: Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz, Edward Norton, Louis Ozawa Changchien, Albert Finney
Rating: Average

The problem with legacies, as we have all seen, is that they let you down. The fourth installment in the Bourne series, a spin off tale, to be more accurate, takes off from where the original hero, rogue agent Jason Bourne had left. The film is prolonged, has too many characters of negligible importance and lacks the punch which had worked for the earlier films in the series. But mostly, one sorely tends to miss Matt Damon in this stand-alone project by director Tony Gilroy.

The Bourne series has always been known for not subjecting

itself to computer generated gizmos and unnecessary over-the-top technological advancements. In this sense, *The Bourne Legacy* too remains true in its portrayal of the hard hitting action sequences that set apart the series created by Robert Ludlum. However, it still lacks the overall effect which had turned the adventures of a rogue field agent into an almost cult status.

The film begins following the aftermath of the exposure of Operation Blackbriar. The CIA decides to shut operation, including killing their field agents who were involved with the black ops. And caught in the whole 'larger scheme of things' is field agent Number Five, aka Aaron Cross (Jeremy Renner), an agent of Operation Outcome, an advanced behavioral procedure which is bereft of the fallacies of Treadstone (the operation Bourne was a part of). An

agent, who has not gone rogue, and yet is being hunted, thus forms the whole pivotal point around which the story revolves.

Jeremy Renner as Aaron Cross is good. This actor, who has made a somewhat late entry into the world of glitz, glamour and limelight, plays the role of an agent seeking a way out from his dilemma, with conviction. Though one might compare him to Matt Damon from the original series, it is best remembered that his character is completely different, with its own shades. As such, he does justice to what he has been given to do.

Rachel Weisz as the scientist who helps our hero into achieving a 'sort of' freedom (we all know that in Bourne series, something has to go wrong) is convincing enough. It is sad to see an actor of Edward Norton's calibre being under utilised. He has little scope to show his prowess as one of the leading

actors of Hollywood. In fact most of the other characters are sketchy and haphazard as well.

The film's major setback, however, is the lack of a good script. The first part is excruciatingly long and tedious and while the action picks up in the second half, it ends before one realises its full implication. Moreover, no one expects a Bourne film to have overzealous close shots of hand holding and romantic undertones, an aspect which has been considerably delved into, in this film. For a change, the cinematography of the film is pretty good. While music has always played a substantial part in creating a mood for an action oriented film, James Newton Howard's compositions fall flat. One might defend the film claiming that it's original, but let's face it; there is no retribution for a loose plot, underdeveloped characters and lacklustre music.

Buzzing now...

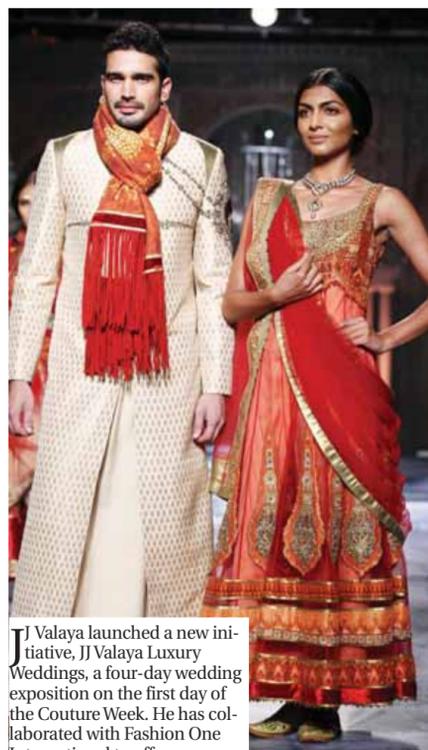
Pics: IBNS

Wedding Feast

The first day of the Couture Week held at The Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi saw three fashion designers charm viewers with their opulent collections



Sharmila Tagore walked as a showstopper for designer duo Ashima-Leena in a red saree teamed with a long jacket. "For me, walking the runway is fun. It is a feel good factor when you get the instant reaction from the audience," Sharmila said after the show. Starting with whites and creams, Ashima-Leena's collection titled 'Raag Rattan', comprised lehengas, saris and anarkalis giving an option to all those would-be brides. The show started with live performance by Sufi singer Zila Khan who rendered some beautiful tracks like *Khawaja mere khawaja, Naino ki mat suniyo* and *Yeh jo halka halka*. - IANS



JJ Valaya launched a new initiative, JJ Valaya Luxury Weddings, a four-day wedding exposition on the first day of the Couture Week. He has collaborated with Fashion One International to offer specialised services by companies like Ferns n Petals, The Entertainment Design Co, Tamarai Luxury Catering, The Badal-Raja Company and Gitanjali Jewellery.

After Tarun Tahiliani, Valaya is the second Indian designer to start an exposition of this nature. He has his reasons. "When you think of top Indian wedding designers, four or five popular names come to your mind, who have been handling the market for a while. So something like this becomes a natural extension for us. This is something which is second skin, since we deal with brides and grooms in family all the time. There has been a lot of enquiry to give creative direction to weddings. So we came upon with this idea," he said.

Valaya, who showcased his collection 'The Azark' at the opening day of the Delhi Couture Week aid the purpose behind JJ Valaya Luxury Weddings is to cater to India's big fat weddings. - IANS



Varun Bahl opened Couture Week with his Nouveau (new) collection. Transparency, hand embroidery techniques and hand crafted textures were key elements of his collection which comprised lehengas, sarees, achkans, shararas, Mughal farshis and anarkalis.