শারদীয়া স্মরনিকা ২০০৫

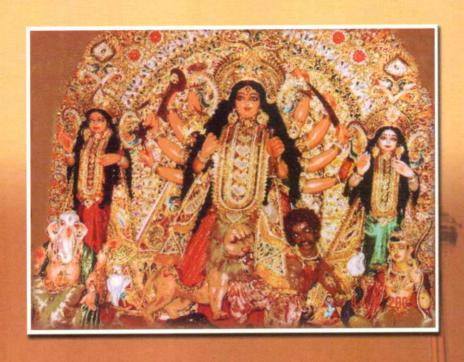


হং কং বাঙালী এসোসিয়েশন THE HONG KONG BENGALI ASSOCIATION

HONG KONG

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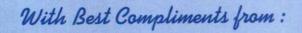


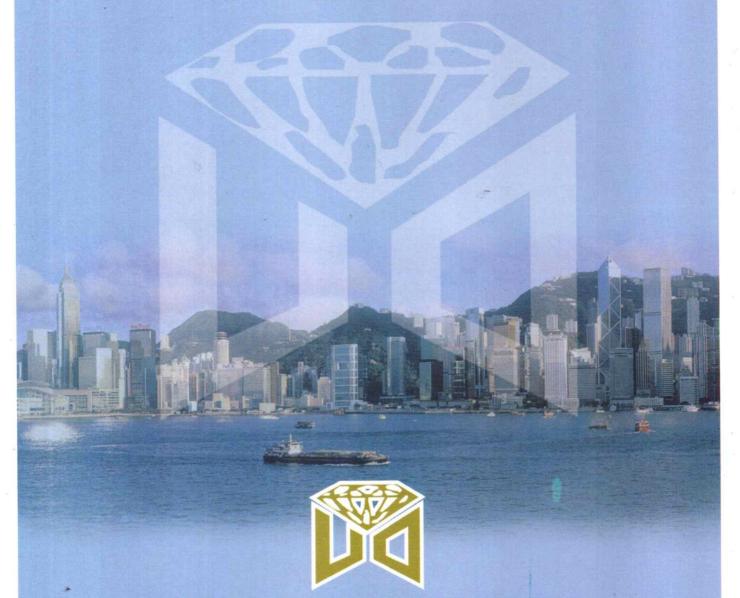


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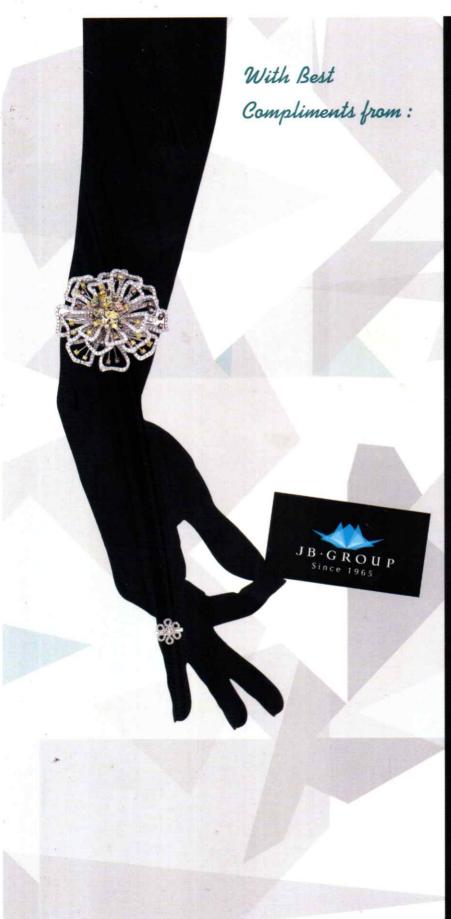


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।। শুভায় ভবতু।।

দুর্গাপূজা - ১৪১২ সাল Durga Puja - 2005

প্রিয় সুধীবৃন্দ,

হাল্কা শুভ্র মেঘে ঢাকা নীল আকাশ, সাদা কাশফুলের দোলা, শিশির সিক্ত সবুজ ঘাস ও শিউলি ফুলের গন্ধ আমাদের মনে করিয়ে দেয় - শরৎ এসে গেল । দেবী দুর্গার আগমনে ও অভ্যর্থনায় পৃথিবী নববধূর সাজে সেজে উঠেছে আবার ।

দুর্গা পূজার এই তিনটি দিনের জন্য সারা পৃথিবীর বাঙালীরা অধীর আগ্রহ ও উৎসাহের সাথে অপেক্ষা করে । বিশেষ করে প্রবাসী বাঙালীরা যারা দুর্গাপূজার পীঠস্থান -কোলকাতা থেকে এত দূরে - তাদের প্রতীক্ষা আরো সুদীর্ঘ বলে মনে হয় । দুর্গাপূজা আমাদের কাছে শুধুমাত্র একটি বাৎসরিক ধার্মিক অনুষ্ঠান নয়, এর মধ্যে আমরা খুঁজে পাই - জীবনের উৎস, সাংস্কৃতিক সূত্র, ঐতিহ্য ও প্রথার ভান্ডার ।

এই সময় আমরা পরস্পরের কাছে চলে আসি, পুরোনো সম্পর্কের পুনর্মিলন ঘটে, নতুন করে পথ চলার উৎসাহ পাই। আমাদের সত্তার পুন: জন্ম ঘটে। শুধু এই নয়, আমাদের আবার ভালবাসা, আন্তরিকতা ও সকলের সাথে মিলে মিশে চলার কথা মনে করিয়ে দেয় এই উৎসব।

আমি পরম আনন্দের সাথে সকলকে আমন্ত্রণ জানাই হংকং-এ সপ্তম বংসরের দুর্গাপৃজায় অংশ গ্রহণ করতে এবং এবারের পূজাকে আনন্দমুখর করে তুলতে - হাসিতে, আলোতে ও প্রীতি শুভেচ্ছায় ।

এবারের HKBA Committee-র তরফ থেকে আমি সকলকে ধন্যবাদ ও কৃতজ্ঞতা জানাই, যারা পূজার কাজকর্মে, সাজসজ্জায় ও ব্যবস্থাপনায় আমাদের স্বত:স্ফূর্তভাবে সাহায্য করেছেন ।

HKBA-এর তরফ থেকে Hindu Association যারা আমাদের প্রাঙ্গন ব্যবহারের সুযোগ ও সুবিধা দিয়েছেন - তাদের জানাই আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ।

HKBA-এর অসংখ্য শুভেচ্ছা, ভালবাসা, অভিনন্দন ও ধন্যবাদ সকল ব্যবসায়িক সম্প্রদায়কেও-যারা চাঁদা, সাহায্য ও স্পনসরশিপ দিয়ে এই পুজোকে সক্ষম করে তুলেছেন।

HKBA-এর তরফ থেকে সকল সদস্য ও তাদের পরিবার পরিজনদের এবং সমগ্র ভারতীয় সমাজকে জানাই প্রীতি ও শুভেচ্ছা । আশাকরি সকলে সুস্থ থাকুন, ভালো থাকুন এবং মঙ্গলময় হয়ে উঠুক আপনাদের জীবন ।

আসুন আমরা এক হয়ে, মায়ের আগমনে ও অভ্যর্থনায় - ভক্তিতে প্রীতিতে এবং আনন্দে মেতে উঠি। শুভেচ্ছা সহ,

আশীষ সেনগুপ্ত

Dear Friends.

The azure of the sky, wispy white clouds, snow white crown of "Kash" flowers, dew glistened grass and the fragrant waft of "Sheuli" flowers – all these usher the onset of autumn that grooms up herself to Goddess Durga.

Durga Puja – three days of festivity, every Bengali all over the world waits with unlimited zeal and expectancy. And particularly by us, who live so far from the real place of action – Kolkata, the wait is all the more longer. Durga Puja means more to us than just an annual religious festival. It is a celebration of life, of our culture, our popular customs and traditions. It is the time for coming together, re-union, rejuvenation, the re-birth of our spiritual selves; and last but not the least, the season to love, to share and to care.

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to celebrate Durga Puja 2005 in Hong Kong for 7^{th} consecutive year in a whole new way, and make the Puja come alive with love, light and laughter in the hearts of ours.

I, on behalf of HKBA Puja committee, would like to take this opportunity to thank every one for their help with this year's Durga Puja decorations as well as with Puja itself.

I would like to extend HKBA's heartfelt thanks to Hindu Association for offering their premises to hold our celebration. I am also thankful to various business organizations, HKBA members and other individuals, who whole heartedly have supported this celebration through donations, sponsorship and advertisements along with their blessings and best wishes.

On behalf of HKBA Puja Committee, I would like to wish all the HKBA members, their families and involved Indian communities be endowed with health, happiness, peace and prosperity. Let us come forward to celebrate this auspicious occasion with all devotions, love and gaiety.

With best wishes.

Ashis Sengupta

President

The Hong Kong Bengali Association

AND THE HONG KONG BENGALI ASSOCIATION

The Hong Kong Bengali Association Receipts and Payments Account for the period ended 28.2.05

	Amount			Amount	
Receipts	HKD	HKD -	Payments	HKD	HKD
Opening Balance of fund :			Durga Puja Expenses :		
Cash in hand	1413		Purohit including travel & purchases		
Cash at Bank	146943	148356	from Kolkata	6858	
			Decoration costs	2648	
			Prizes for advertisment collection	4650	
Membership Fees Collection for :			Hindu Association Donation/Langar	11000	
2004-05	3650	3650	Food catering expenses	23525	
			Misc. expenses during puja	13701	
			Printing of souvenir	9575	
Collection for Poila Baisakh function		9330	Bijoya Sammelani boat trip expenses	17790	
		10/6/5/0	Lakshmi Puja expenses	589	90336
Durga Puja Collections :			Saraswati Puja Expenses :		130-2-2-20
Members' Subscriptions	47803		Contribution to Hindu Temple	1000	
Advertisements	83500		Food catering expenses	4500	
Pranami, sponsorships & Donations	20329	151632	Decoration costs	796	
			Transportation, provisions, sweets and		
Collection for Tsunami Relief:		44300	other puja expenses	1425	7721
			Poila Baisakh function expenses		10110
			AGM Expenses		495
			Donation towards charitable activities:		
			Sarada Seva Sangha	15050	
			Ramakrishna Mission for Tsunami Relief	30000	
			Oxfam for Tsunami Relief	20000	65050
			Expenses for miscellaneous association activities :		
			Musical Evening at Science Museum	23384	
			Peshkar's function at Wei Hing Theatre	34482	57866
			Purchase of Assets for HKBA:		
			Tabla	704	
			Covered cabinet for Durga Pratima	2200	2904
			Bank balance remaining in hand:		122786
Total		357268	Total		357268

The Hong Kong Bengali Association Balance Sheet as at 28.02.2005

	Amount			Amount	
Liabilities	HKD	HKD	Assets	HKD	HKD
Members' Fund :			Life Membership of Hindu		
Opening Balance	39822		Temple		6000
Add:			Hi Fi System (JVC)	2910	
Membership fees collected for 2004-05	3650	43472	Tabla	704	
The second secon	V		Cabinet for Durga Pratima	2200	5814
General Fund:			Cash At Bank		122786
Opening balance	117444				
Surplus from Durga Puja during year	61296				
Sub-total	178740				
Less:					
Tranfer from General Fund for:					
Donation to Sarada Seva Sangha	15050				
Donation towards Tsunami Relief	5700				
Net Deficit on Poila Baisakh function	780				
Saraswati Puja expenses	7721				
AGM expenses	495				
Full sponsorship of two mucical programmes	57866				
Sub-total	87612	91128			
Total		134600	Total		134600

Sd/-Dr Subid Ranjan Das 28.02.05 Sd/-Sipanta Saha 28.02.05

Audit Report

We have checked and verified the Receipts and Payment Acounts for the period 02.02.04 to 28.02.20005 (Pre-AGM) and the related Balance Sheet as at 28.02.2005 together with the detailed supporting documents / statements attached to and forming part of these accounts. Based on our checking and information obtained, we certify that the said accounts is true and fair in all respects.

Sd/-Pradip Putatunda 28.02.05 Sd/-Sanjib Sarkar 28.02.05

AUDITION THE HONG KONG BENGALI ASSOCIATION

The Durga Puja 2005 Schedule

(as per Bengali almanac : times quoted here are approximate only)

Venue: Hindu Temple, Happy Valley, Hong Kong

Sasthi

9th October (Sunday)

Sasthi Puja (Starts 9.30 am to 10.30 pm)

Saptami

10th October (Monday)

Saptami Puja (Starts 10:00 am to 10.30 am) Followed by Anjali and Prasad distribution

Condition Anati (7.20 ---)

Sandhya Arati: (7.30 pm)

Ashtami

11th October (Tuesday)

Maha Ashtami Puja (Starts 8 am to 8.30 am)

followed by Anjali and Prasad distribution

Sandhi Puja (Starts at 11.00 am and ends at 11.59 am) Sandhya Arati (Starts at 7.45 pm) followed by

Dhunochi Nach

Sandhi Puja

Sandhi Puja (Starts at 11.00 am and ends at 11.59 am)

Nabami &

Dashami

12th October (Wed. day)

Maha Nabami Puja (Starts 10.00 am to 10.30 am)

followed by Anjali and Prasad distribution

Dashami Puja starts at 2.00 pm.

Bijoya Dasami / Protima Bisarjan (7.00 to 7.30 pm)

Sindur Khela

Priest

Sri Sakti Prasad Mukherjee

Lunch for HKBA members will be at : Temple at 12.30 to 1.30 pm on 9th (Sasthi) / 10th (Saptami) / 11th (Asthami) / 12th (Nabami)

Dinner for HKBA Members will be at:

Temple at 9.30 to 10.30 pm on 9th (Sasthi) - Snacks & Sweets / 10th (Saptami) / 11th (Asthami)

NABAMI & DASHAMI EVENING: SNACKS AND SWEETS (12th October)

Sree Sree Laxmi Puja will be on 16th October, Sunday, at 7.00 pm at the Temple Premises

Bijoya Sammelani

Date and Venue to be announced During Puja

Souvenir Cover Design and Pandal Decoration

Nandini Sengupta

2005-2006 Working Committee Members are:

President

Ashis Kumar Sengupta

Vice President

Sipanta Saha

General Secretary

Ambar Mitra

Treasurer

Arinjoy Dhar

Working Committee Members

Sharmistha Chaudhuri

Sanjib Sarkar Mahua Ganguly Tapas Ghosh Rajiv Nath

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http://members.tripod.com/hongkongbengali/home.htm

AUDITION THE HONG KONG BENGALI ASSOCIATION

HINDUISM: THE BASIC TENETS

Persians designated people residing on the eastern side of River Sindhu as Hindu. Later the term was applied to mean the religion of Hinduism. Hindi Dharma, with a history of 8000 years, is not restricted to religion and spiritual ideals, but covers the secular aspects of life too. It is a conglomerate of philosophy, religion and ethics. It has no single founding father and is based on Truth realised by sages at different ages. Its beginning cannot be traced, it is eternal, it has evolved over thousands of years strengthened by investigations and open debates. It is not a fixed religion based on the spiritual realisation and faith preached by any particular saviour who is regarded as a direct representative of God. It does not talk of a Creator God residing in Heaven. It says that God can be realised in this life through practice.

Philosophically, Hindus do not believe in creation of the universe by a Creator God out of nothing. The universe is a "manifestation" or "projection" out of the Infinite Absolute Reality (Brahman or God). Like birth, life and death of the microcosm (individuals), the universe (macrocosm) is also manifested or projected (Sristhi), maintained (Sthiti) and dissolved (Proloy) with God as the substratum or source of the cycle. This phenomenal world, as projected, in which we live, is set upon the framework of Time-Space-Causation, which is the product of Maya, the natural creative power of God. Being a manifestation of God, the universe, all its life forms and all its knowledge (secular or spiritual) are considered divine and holy. The central theme of Hinduism states that God is the Inner Self (Atman) of man and of all entities in the universe, and that all entities are interconnected and interdependent. God does not sit isolated above the clouds in Heaven. Hinduism preaches the potential divinity of man. The Atman in man is a reflection of the pure consciousness of the Paramatman (God) at the level of intelligence of human beings. The human mind and senses remain externalised, and owing to the veil of Maya man wrongly identifies himself with the body. The Atman inside remains veiled to the man, till he takes positive steps in spiritual pursuits to realise his divine nature.

The Law of Karma (Cause and Effect) applies to all embodied Jivas. Simply said, this law means, "As you sow, so you reap". The universal law does not permit events to be haphazard, accidental or miraculous. They are all guided by the cause and effect relationship. Human beings often fail to realise the effects and blame fate or destiny. Effect becomes the cause in the next chain. Unwittingly, human beings fall prey to this law when they are not able to control their nature. The human soul transmigrates from life to life and progresses towards perfection in a series of re-births. Perfection implies "moksha" - the realisation of the divine nature within himself and attaining spiritual freedom from re-births. Transmigration carries with it the positive and negative Samskaras earned through action and thought in previous lives as well as in the current one. Man is free to act and shape his own destiny. In the long run the man will control nature, external and internal, and realise his own divine nature, whether he is a Hindu, a non-Hindu, or even an atheist. Here lies the universal appeal of Hinduism, for redemption is not exclusive to the domain of the Hindus. Religion helps you take the fast track to perfection, the freedom of the soul, which is indeed the goal of human life and not of seeking worldly or physical pleasures or even of seeking Heaven. This is achieved by divine grace when man transcends intelligence and moves beyond the framework of time-space-causation in the phenomenal world (Heaven is within the framework).

THE HONG KONG BENGALI ASSOCIATION

Realisation of God is achieved in this life, says Hinduism, and not after death as other religions state. They believe in eternal heaven or hell based upon the results of this one life on earth, however short the period may be. Hinduism appeals to the inner spiritual man and not the outer social man as in other religions. Hence Hinduism believes in inner transformation of man rather than adding to numbers through external conversion. Hindus have never fought to convert. The core of spiritual practice is detaching the mind from the worldly affairs and attaching it to God. Work is done as a service to God rather than for personal gains. This is not a one-off activity but a way of life consummated through regular practice. The four yogas preach communion with God. The spiritual aspirant, depending upon his natural inclination, will practise each of these, or a combination. Karma Yoga (path of work) is mainly practised by householders involved in action and it preaches unselfish and dedicated work by offering the fruits of the work to God and elimination of the sense of ego. The Bhakti Yoga (path of bhakti) is for the devotee who loves and worships the Lord and renders devoted service to all beings. Raja Yoga (path of meditation) helps to control the mind and meditate on God. The intellectual, practising Gnana Yoga (path of knowledge), reaches moksha by realising God in all of creation and by making a rational discrimination between the Real and Unreal.

Scriptural sanctity is placed in the Vedas, which also contain the rational and scientific Vedanta philosophy. The 3 foundational texts of the Vedanta philosophy are the Upanishads, Brahma Sutra and Bhagavad Gita. God is the infinite reality, without form, sex and is Omniscient, Omnipotent and Omnipresent. The devotional and personal fervour is missing, to many, in the impersonal aspect of God. Specially consecrated images of any adored form of the Lord are used in ritualistic worship, after invoking His divine presence in them. This worship through images is often condemned as idolatry, without realising that the images are mere symbols of God and He is worshipped through them. In contrast, images of Mary, Christ, Buddha and the tombs (Dargas) of saints and prophets are not "idolatry", they believe.

The four objectives of man are Dharma (ethics, morality and religious merit in social context), Artha (acquiring wealth and honour based on precepts of Dharma), Kama (fulfilment of legitimate physical, mental, intellectual desires on basis of Dharma and using Artha) and Moksha (spiritual freedom). The first three lead to social prosperity and heaven, whereas the last is the trans-social spiritual value that is the ultimate goal of man and society. The conceptual purpose is to take man through society to transcend it. The path of religious practice is uneven and tough during the formative years - one has to fight against the deeply ingrained adverse samskaras. Start walking the mile, and the distance will become shorter – Sri Ramakrishna Advised.

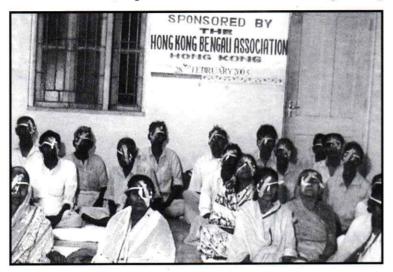
Sanjiv Sengupta

(Acknowledgement: Swami Mukhyananda's: Hinduism: The Eternal Dharma)

"""" THE HONG KONG BENGALI ASSOCIATION

LIFTING THE VEIL OF DARKNESS

As the Hong Kong Bengali Association enters its seventh year of existence, it can look back with considerable pride and satisfaction on its growing standing as a cultural, social and



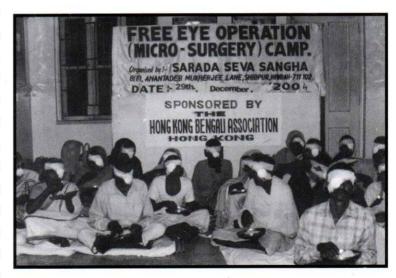
religious organization catering to the Bengali speaking community from the Indian subcontinent resident in this bustling city. Of the Association's many activities, the one that perhaps deserves the greatest mention is its commitment, since its inception, to support institutions of charity that endeavour to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate.

For the past several years the Hong Kong Bengali Association has been supporting an organization named the Sarada Seva Sangha based in Shibpur at Howrah in West Bengal. This small organization, which draws its strength and inspiration from the teachings of Swami Vivekanada and Ma Sarada, is run by a group of ladies who are completely dedicated to the spirit of service to mankind and united in their desire to instil hope where there is none, to arm the less fortunate with knowledge and practical skills, and thus give them the ultimate gift of independence and self-respect.

The HKBA, taking a keen interest in the activities of the Sangha, has now become one of its constant partners in their service towards the deprived and the under-privileged. One

of the main areas of focus for the Sangha has been on fighting blindness in the aging population.

The HKBA, which has earlier assisted with the construction and expansion of the building from where the Sangha operates, The Shiv Mandir, requested that its donation for the year 2004 be used for the Sangha's blindness eradication project. From the sum donated, the Sangha was able to organize three separate



eye camps from December '04 to March '05, in the process restoring eyesight to a total of one hundred and fifty patients. These patients, the poorest of the poor from Murshidabad district, were initially screened at eye clinics set up in the vicinity of the patients' homes.

RANNA - GHAR

Mango Kulfi Ingredients

To serve

1 ripe but firm mango

4 passion fruit

1 tbsp cornflour

600ml evaporated milk



175g caster sugar

1 mango

1 pinch cardamom powder

150ml single cream

METHOD

- Mix the cornflour with one tablespoon of cold water and set to one side.
- Quickly bring the evaporated milk to the boil in a non-stick saucepan. Add the cornflour mixture and simmer for 2 minutes until it is the consistency of pouring custard. Stir in the sugar until dissolved, then transfer to a bowl and leave to go cold.
- Peel the mango and slice the flesh away from the stone. Place in a food processor and blend to a smooth purée.
- Stir the mango purée, ground cardamom and cream into the custard, and then press the mixture through a sieve into a clean bowl.
- Now you can either churn the mixture in an ice-cream maker or pour it into a plastic container, cover with a lid and freeze until firm but not rock solid. This will take about two hours.

Papdi Chaat For Papdi

salt to taste

salt to taste

oil to deep fry

1 cup plain flour

2 tsp. oil or ghee

For chilli pakodi

15 green chillies

1 tsp. lemon juice

1/2 cup gram flour

pinch sodabicarb

Oil for deep frying

Other ingredients

1 tbsp. green chutney

crushed cumin powder

2 tbsp. beaten fresh curd

1 boiled potato chopped

1 onion finely chopped

1/2 tsp. chaat masala

salt to taste

1 tbsp. fine sev

1/4 cup tamarind chutney

1/2 tsp. hot oil

1/4 tsp. ajwain seeds

- If using the latter method, after the two hours, transfer the ice-cream to a food processor and blend until smooth, then freeze for another hour. Repeat this process twice more, and then spoon it into six tall, freezer proof moulds clean, small yoghurt pots are ideal. Freeze for at least 8 hours, or until firm.
- 6. To serve, peel the second mango and slice the flesh away from the stone. Halve the passion fruit and scoop out the pulp with a teaspoon. Cut the mango flesh into small, neat pieces and mix with the passion-fruit pulp.
- Remove the kulfi containers from the freezer, and leave them at room temperature for five minutes, then turn them out onto serving plates. Spoon some of the mango and passion fruit salsa alongside and serve straight away.

Sharmistha Chaudhuri

Mrs. Dipali Putatunda

For Papdi

- 1. Mix flour, ajwain, salt and oil. Rub together.
- 2. Use some water and knead into soft dough.
- 3. Roll into large thin rounds. Prick all over with fork or knife.
- 4. Place on a clean cloth. Repeat for all dough.
- 5. Heat oil, Take one round at a time.
- 6. Cut out small rounds from it with a cutter or small katori.
- 7. Each round should be about 1 inch in diameter.
- 8. Fry them in hot oil to a light golden brown.
- 9. Drain, keep aside. Cool, store till required for use.

For chilli pakodi

- 1. Slit chillies, deseed and rub with salt and lemon juice.
- 2. Keep aside for 5 minutes, wash under tap and towel dry.
- 3. Make medium thick batter of flour, salt and little water.
- 4. Add hot oil to batter and mix.
- 5. Deep each chilli in it, and deep fry in hot oil till golden.
- 6. Drain keep aside.

To serve

- 1. Mix the two chutneys together.
- 2. Dip each papdi and pakodi in chutney mixture.
- Spread papdis and pakodis in a large plate.
- 4. Sprinkle chopped potato all over.
- 5. Drizzle beaten curd over them.
- 6. Sprinkle salt, cumin and chaat masala all over.
- 7. Garnish with chopped onion, coriander and sev.
- Serve immediately.
- 9. Alternatively, make in individual bowls as required.

Making time: 1 hour collectively(papdi, chutneys and pakodis can be made in advance at convenience)

Makes: 3 servings

Shelflife: Papdi (2 weeks in an airtight container)Pakodi best fresh or few hours ahead.Final preparațion best immediate

1 tsp. coriander leaves finely chopped

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Dry Aloo Chat

2 potatoes scrubbed & boiled

1 small cauliflower

1 tsp. coriander finely chopped

5-7 mint leaves finely chopped

1 tiny green chilli finely chopped

1/2 tsp. chaat masalasalt to taste

1/2 tsp. lemon juice

2 tbsp. oil

- 1. Do not peel potatoes.
- 2. Cool and chop into chunks.
- 3. Clean and break cauliflower in medium sized florets.
- 4. Dip in boiling hot water for 5 minutes.
- 5. Drain and keep aside.
- 6. Heat oil in a heavy pan.
- 7. Fry chunks of potato and cauliflower some at a time.
- 8. Fry to a crisp golden brown.
- 9. Drain and keep on kitchen paper to soak excess oil.
- 10. Take all ingredients in a large bowl.
- 11. Add fried piece of potato and cauliflower.
- 12. Toss with a fork till pieces are well coated with seasoning.
- 13. Serve immediately.

Making time: 20 minutes.

Makes: 2 servings bowl

Karahi Mushroom

200 gm of mushroom

3 large onions

2 large tomatoes

6-8 clves of garlic

1 tbsp oil

1 tsp coriander powder

salt to taste

For garnish

Coriander leaves chopped

1/2 tsp red chilli powder

a pinch of turmeric

1/2 tsp garam masala

Cut mushrooms into 2 and boil for 4-5 minutes.

Chop tomatoes and onions into small pieces.

Heat oil, fry onion still they are light brown

Add tomatoes and other masalas.

Cook till well blended

Put mushroom and 1/2 cup of water

Let it simmer for 10 minutes

Sprinkle garam masala.

Garnish with some coriander leaves and serve hot!

Lau Mansho

Gourd 1

onion - cut into pieces

tomatao - 1

oil to fry

soya sauce - 1 tbl spn

aji na moto - 1/2 tsp

corn flower - 1 tsp

Cut the gourd in cubes.

boil the mutton and put it in the pressure cooker for 3 minutes

Put oil in big saucepan or karai and fry the onions til they are golden brown put the gourd in saucepan and keep it until the gaurd becomes tender.

Put tomato and mutton cubes and cook for a while.

put corn flower mix with water and soya sauce with green chilli serve hot with hot rice!

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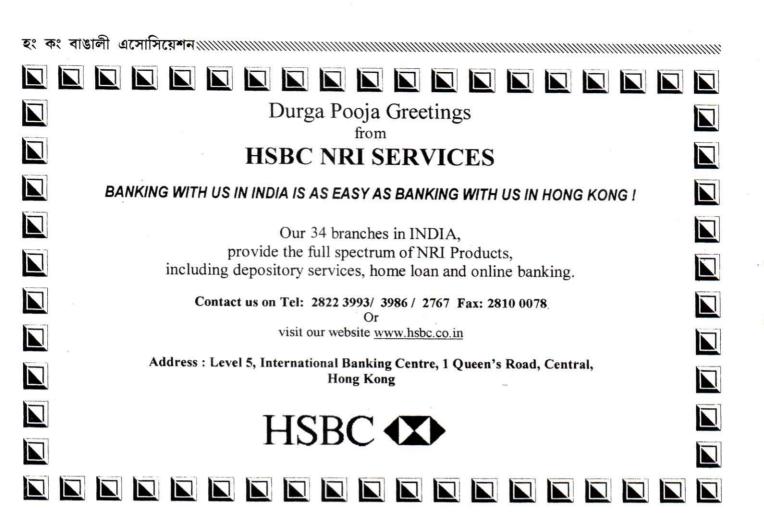


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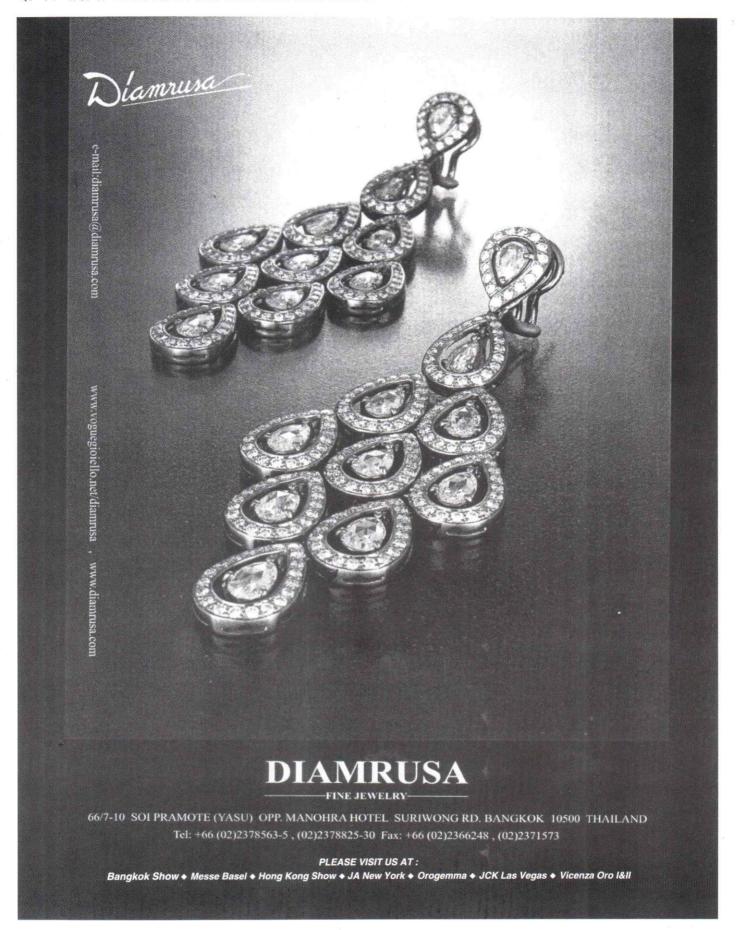
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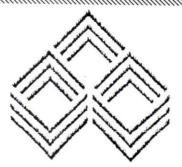
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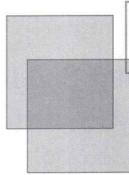
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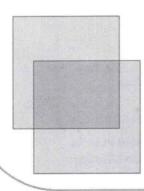
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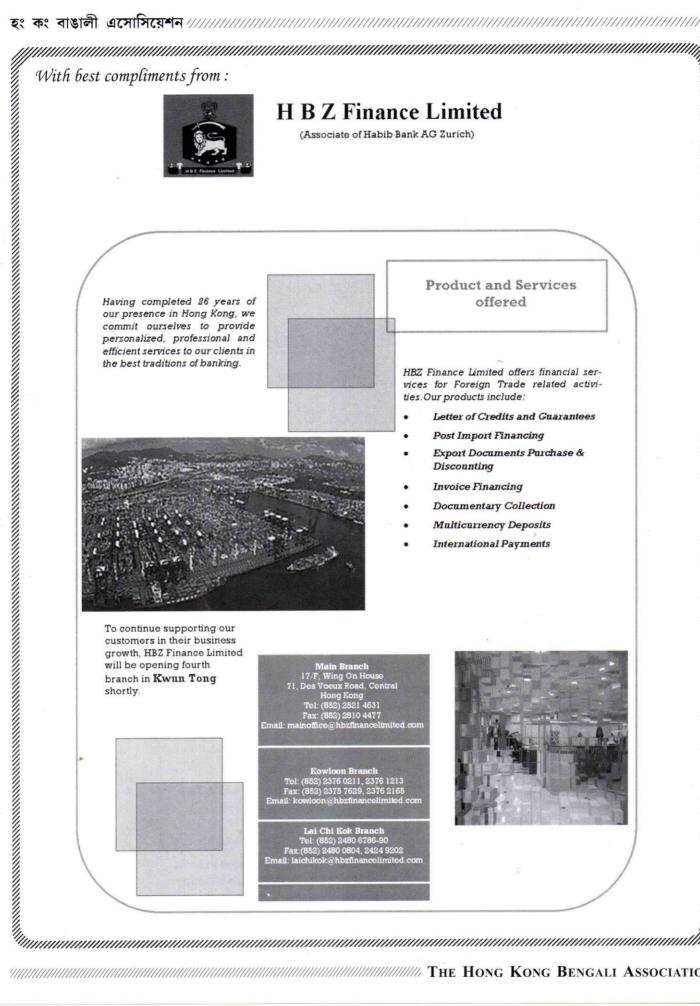
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The picninc earlier this year had plenty on offer for everyone, with cricket, cards, hikes and most importantly, food forming the menu. Perhaps Greg Chappell should focus his attention here to spot some talent for the coming World Cup! Pradip Putatunda, as usual, was as stubborn as Boycott in his defeence. With breakfast, brunch and lunch almost running into each other, it was no wonder that little Raja promptly fell asleep while fielding under the tree.









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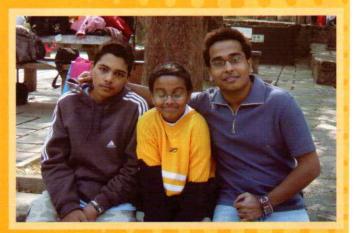


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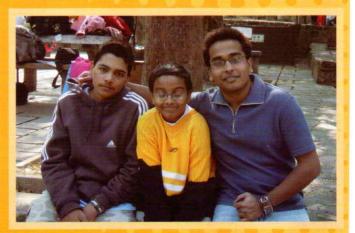


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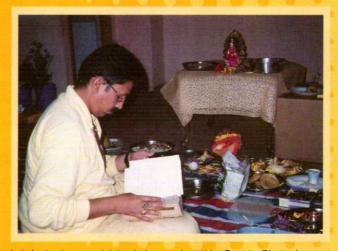




The amity of Dashami evening after sindoor khela



Asthami night's cultural programme opened with a children's fancy dress show, followed by a musical and dance bonanza anchored by our guest artiste. Jairam



Lakshmi puja, a week later, being conducted by Gautam Bhattacharya.





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MEMORABLE EVENTS 2005









A well-prepared Nilanjan, our local priest for the occasion, fresh from a crash course in theology, leads the Saraswati Puja prayers. Mothers make use of this occasion to invoke the blessings of Ma Saraswati on their little ones through the ceremony of *Haathey Khori*.





January 2005 saw the *Peshkar* group from Kolkata, led by Subhen Chatterjee, renowned *tabla* artiste and a pioneer of Fusion music in India, give a electrifying performance at Hong Kong's Wei Hing Theatre that appealed to all age groups. While Raghav Chatterjee enthralled with his gifted voice, Deb Sankar Roy charmed the audience with his violin, and Subhas Mondal demonstrated his mastery of the keyboard.



For the second year running, the HKBA celebrated the *Nobo Borsho* function in the form of a *mela* at the India Club. The colourful stalls, the large variety of snacks and the games kept everyone entertained and the organisers busy, although here they seem rather relaxed!

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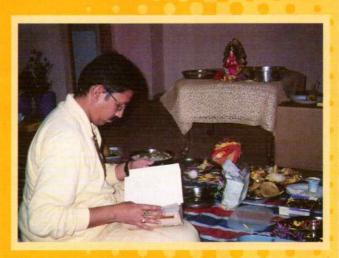
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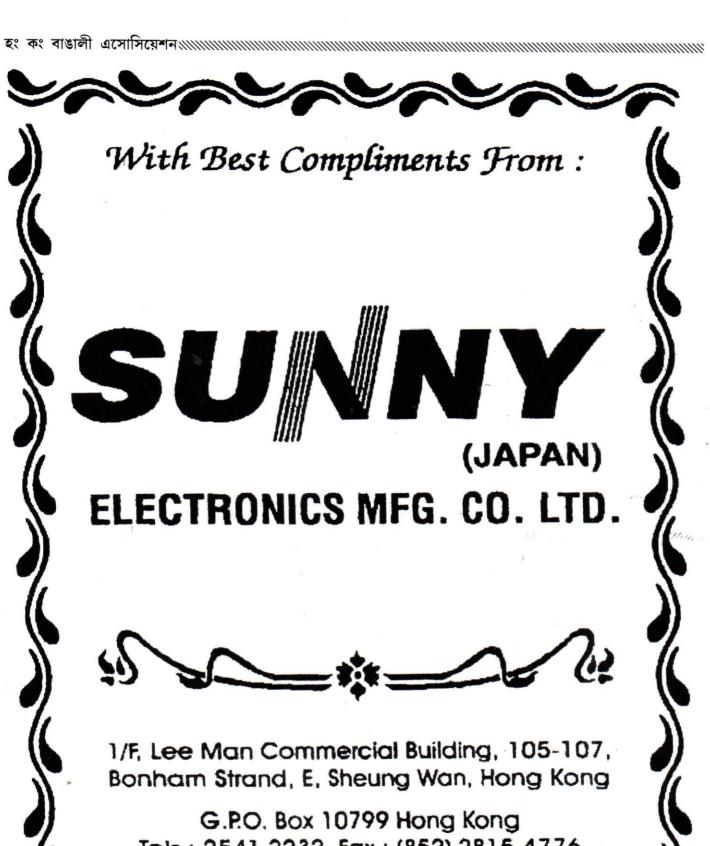
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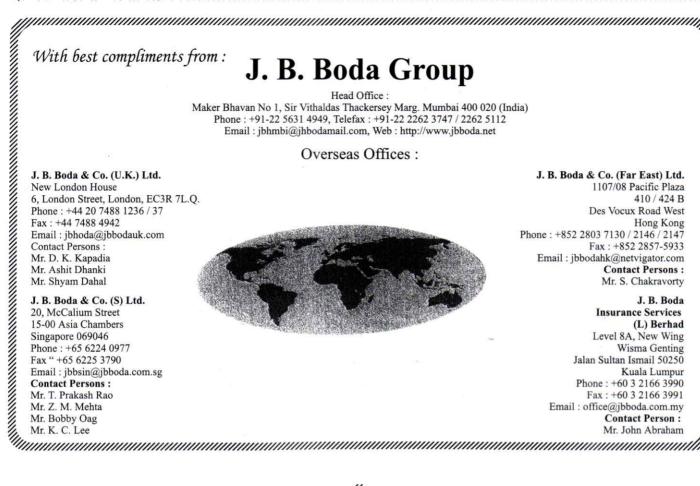
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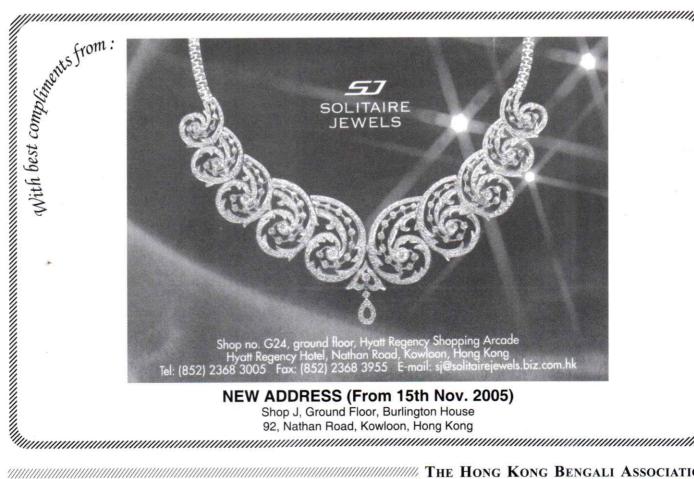
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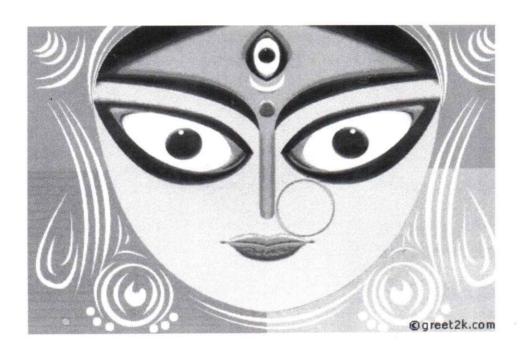
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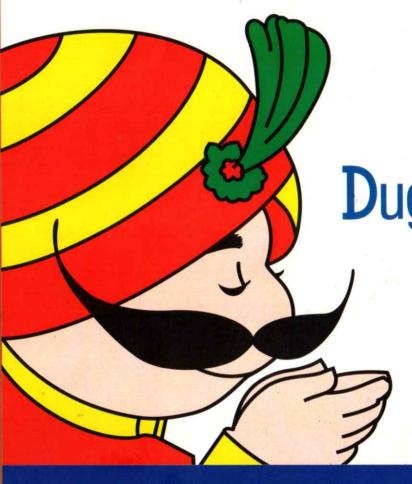
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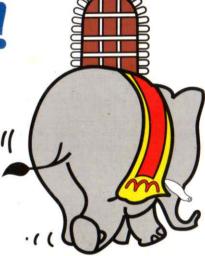
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