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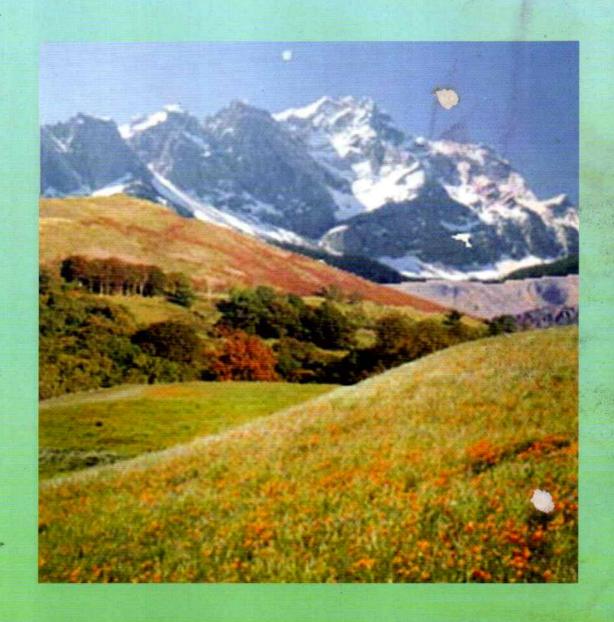
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Dear friends.

With a sense of humility and honour I welcome you all on this auspicious occasion of Durga Puja 2009. Let us all seek blessings from Maa Durga for the good and wellbeing of not only our own near and dear ones, but also for the entire humanity.

I take this opportunity to review what we have achieved as a community in the bygone year and also the areas where we need to do more.

We had guite a few remarkable achievements on the cultural front. Our dear Neil (Chaudhuri) had the honour of being invited to sing at the Fourth Banga Sammelan in Alberta, Canada, where he shared the stage with other luminaries of Bengali music such as Arati Mukherji and Runa Laila. Back at home in Hong Kong Ms. Sohini Paul (Sree) and her mother, Mrs. Abanti Paul (Bunti) won the Bollywood Quiz competition organized by the Indian Arts Circle. Ms. Samridhi Nandi (Urmi) was featured in a music program aired by Zee TV. These achievements by our members make us all very proud. Congratulations to all of them.

Children from our community did really well in their respective examinations. Shagnik Das (Ribhu) stood third in his Master's Degree (Maths) in the whole of Cambridge. He also received the Player of the Year award (Fitzwilliam College) for his performance in inter college cricket tournament. Shurabhi Das (Kriti) has moved to NYU to study Economics and Psychology, Tisa Saha to Dublin to study Medicine and Ananya Banerjee (Prabir and Rita's daughter) to USA for her undergraduate studies. Samya Sengupta (Raja) has moved to London to study at UCL and Ishan Mitra to USA to study at Purdue University. We congratulate them all for their success. We hope the children will cherish the memories of Durga Puja in Hong Kong for many more years to come. In this context I suggest the parents to encourage their children to register their email addresses in our distribution list so that they continue to maintain a link with the community where they grew up. This will give them a root.

Speaking of the children moving on in their lives, my son, Arunavo very recently got married to Purnima in the US.

As we celebrate the festivities of Durga Puja, we must not forget the plight of the less fortunate ones of our society. I am very proud that HKBA maintains a tradition of contributing a significant part of our funds to Po Leung Kuk in Hong Kong and Sarada Seva Sangha in Kolkata. I would encourage our members to take active roles in community services in Hong Kong. 😤

Needless to say organizing all these activities requires funds. Only a small part of it comes from the annual subscription. The major portion comes from the sponsorships in the Puja souvenir and individual donations from members. I thank these members and the sponsors for their support and generosity. I urge other members to come forward with donations.

Organizing the Durga Puja was made possible with the help and support of various fellow Indians and Chinese friends. I would particularly wish to thank the District Facilities Management Committee of the Yau Tsim Mong District Council. especially the Chairman, Mr. Chan Siu Tong, member, Mr Benny Yeung, the District Officer (Yau Tsim Mong), Mrs. Vicki Kwok, and the officials of the Home Affairs Department of the Hong Kong Government for their appreciation of the importance of this festival and making the facilities of Henry G Leong Community Centre available to us for this purpose. I would also like to express my heart-felt gratitudes to all our patrons, sponsors, friends, well wishers, business organizations and all other Indian Associations for their support and help. We express our sincere thanks to the Indian Consul General, Mr. L.D. Ralte who has always extended his support and encouragement to our Association. My sincere thanks to the HKBA Executive Committee members and their spouses for their dedication and hard work - especially the spouses, who support their other halves from behind-the-screens but whose contributions go unnoticed. Finally, I thank the HKBA members who have volunteered to help and guide the Executive Committee in various stages of preparation.

Looking forward, I foresee a vibrant Bengali community thriving in Hong Kong. I am confident that our community members and their children will achieve even greater heights in the months and years to come and we will contribute even more towards the prosperity and growth of Hong Kong as a whole.

Hope you will enjoy the few days of festivity of this annual event of the Bengali Community.

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes to you and your loved ones.

Debasis Roy Mahapatra President, HKBA

হংকং বেঙ্গলী এসোসিয়েশন

(MO)

Special Acknowledgements

The Hong Kong Bengali Association wishes to express its heart-felt thanks to all friends, supporters, sponsors and well-wishers for the help they have rendered to the cause of our Association. For this year's Durga Puja, we especially acknowledge the contributions of the following:

Mrs. Maitrayee Banerjee

Mrs. Prabuddha Dasgupta

Ms. P. Suganthi

Mr. Raymond Ho

Mr. Kanwaljeet Singh Dhillon

Mr. Sohan Goenka

Souvenir cover design

Rohini Sengupta (Richa)

Idol & mandap decoration

Balaram Paul

Craftsman

Arabinda Ghosh

Souvenir Design

Lui Man Yin , Mandy

HKBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2009 - 2010

President

Vice President

General Secretary

Treasurer

Committee Members

Debasis Roy Mahapatra

Sipanta Saha

Maumita Manna

Bhaskar Sengupta

Balaram Saha

Chanchal Kumar Chan

Samar Das

Sharmistha Chaudhury

Sudipta Paul



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দুৰ্গা পূজা ১৪১৬



Venue:

Multipurpose Hall, Henry G Leong Community Center 60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon.

Sasthi	Thursday, 24th September	 Puja starts from 6:30p.m. Prasad distribution Morning Puja 09:30-12:00 Pushpanjali 11:00-11:30 Prasad distribution Evening Púja 17:30-18:30 Prasad distribution 18:30-19:00 Cultural program 19:00-20:30 			
Saptami	Friday, 25th September				
Asthami	Saturday, 26th September	- Morning Puja 09:30-12:00 - Pushpanjali 11:00-11:30 - Prasad distribution - Sandhi Puja 14:30-15:30 - Evening Puja 18:00-19:00 - Prasad distribution 19:00-19:30 - Cultural program 19:30-20:30			
Navami Sunday, 27th September		 Morning Puja 09:30-12:00 Pushpanjali 11:00-11:30 Prasad distribution Evening Puja 17:30-18:30 Prasad distribution 18:30-19:00 Dhunuchi naach 19:00-19:30 Cultural program 19:30-20:30 			
Dashami Monday, 28th September		 Morning Puja 09:30-12:00 Pushpanjali 11:00-11:30 Prasad distribution Sindur Khela 17:00-18:00 Cleaning and packing 18:00-20:00 			
Lakshmi Puja	Saturday, 3rd October	- Puja 18:30-20:30			

Priest: Shri Sakti Prasad Mukherjee of Kolkata

Traveling Direction to HLCC:

Yau Ma Tei MTR exit C, turn right, walk along the Nathan Road, turn right again at the Public Square Street, the HLCC is ahead at the intersection of Public Square Street and Shanghai Street



THE HONG KONG BENGALI ASSOCIATION
(Registered under the Societies Ordinance: Ref; (2) in CP/LIG/SO/19/21460 dated 31.12.1998)

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 28 FEBRUARY, 2009,

Receipts	HKD	Amount HKD	Payments	HKD	Amount HKD
Opening Balance of fund:			Durga Puja Expenses:		
Cash in hand	500	9	Cost of Pratima	18,430	
Cheques in hand	2,000	- 0	Purohit including travel & puja purchase	14,929	
Cash at Bank as at March 15, 2008.	190,363	192,863	Decoration costs	5,163	
		8	Food catering expenses	56,000	
and the second s		- 8	Fruits, sweets, provisions, gifts and all	150000000000000000000000000000000000000	
Membership Fees Collection:		9	miscellaneous expenses	24,115	
During the year		7,350	Printing of souvenir	18,000	
			Bijoya Sammelani lunch	17,830	
-000 to 100 at 1		to was in	Bijoya musical programme expenses	57,583	
Collection for Poila Baisakh function		8,130	Lakshmi Puja expenses	1,350	213,400
Durga Puja Collections:		8	Saraswati Puja Expenses		20,540
Members' Subscriptions	71,600	5		1 1	
Pranami and donations from members and	Dawgerry	1	Lauren and agreement and a second	1 1	900000
others	58,569		Poila Baisakh function expenses	1 1	11,277
Advertisements collected by year end	150,200	280,369	Repair expenses at Henry G Leong	1 1	
		2	Community Centre	1 1	2.916
					-,
		9	Bank charges paid		20
Collection from members in respect of		100	-	1	
Donation for Sichuan Earthquake		18,452	20		
			Donation towards charitable activities:		
			Sarada Seva Sangha	22,000	
		3	For Sichuan Earthquake	30,000	
			Po Leung Kuk	5,000	57,000
			Bank balance as on 28 February, 2009.		202,011
		507,164			507,164

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2009

Liabilities	HKD	Amount HKD	Assets	HKD	Amount HKD
Members' Fund: Opening Balance as on March 16, 2008 Add: Membership fees collected during 2008-09	62,922 7,350	70,272	Cash and Bank balances; Bank balance		202,011
2 2 2		10,212			
General Fund; Opening Balance as on March 16, 2008 Add;	138,025				
Surplus from Durga Puja during year receivables from advertisements at year end	70,369		Advertisement receivables at year end		3,400
-			Advertisement receivables at year end		3,400
Sub-total	208,394				
Less from General Fund for: Net Deficit on Polla Baisakh function	3,147				
Expenses for Sartaswati Puja	20,540				
AGM 2009 expenses accrued	11,700		199		1
Bank charges	20				
Donations during the year to:					
Sarada Seva Sangha Balance supported from General Fund against	22,000				
donation for Sichuan Earthquake	11,548				1
Po Leung Kuk	5,000				
Write-off of the following assets:					
Life membership fees for Hindu Temple	6,000				1
Hi -Fi System	3,500		99		
Tabla	704				1
Kongo	796				1
Sub-total	84,955	400 400			
General Fund Balance as on March 15,2008		123,439			
AGM 2009 expenses accrued		11,700			
		205,411			205,411

(Subid Ranjan Das)

(Monidipa Das)

(Sipanta Kumar Saha)

Audit Report for 2008-09

We have checked and verified the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period March 16, 2008 to February 28, 2009 and the related Balance Sheet as at February 28, 2009 together with the detailed supporting documents / statements attached to and forming part of these accounts. Based on our checking and on the information and explanations obtained, we certify that the said accounts are true and fair in all respects.

SD/-(Ambar Mitra)

SD/-(Dipankar Chatterjee)

Dated: 7th March 2009

Dated: 7th March 2009.



Mango as a fruit is quite uniquely placed, especially in India, where it enjoys an exalted status as the "king of fruits". Come summer every year, and there is a veritable frenzy about tucking into as many mangoes as possible in those three or four months when the fruit ripens. There are so many ways that the fruit is consumed. The ripe variety is, of course, most often eaten as a fruit per se, cut into three slices or into several smaller pieces if there are more people to feed than the number of mangoes at hand, or just sucked after making a small nick in the mango's skin. And then, of course, it is had with milk, with payesh, with ice-cream, or even with yoghurt (as mango lassi), and as mango juice. Even the unripe variety is not spared; there are a myriad ways of enjoying those too: as a drink (aam panna) to cool you down in the midst of a hot summer day, as chutney at the end of your meal, in pickled form as aamer achar, or even as a dried fruit when you have nothing else to occupy yourself with.

There is, though, something rather peculiar about this fruit in this land of ours, so succinctly characterized by Pandif Nehru's expression, "Unity in Diversity". True enough, there is a huge diversity in the varieties of mangoes, but really very little unity of opinion as to which one is the best. In fact, it would not be an exaggeration to say that this particular fruit, seldom weighing in excess of 250-300gm, evinces amongst the billion Indians, a kind of parochialism that neither sports, arts, literature, music, nor even politics can quite rival. With more than several hundred varieties that grow all over India, depending on their region of origin, they get naturally segregated along geographical boundaries. Thus whereas in the northern parts of the country, the Varanasi Langra, Dussehri and Chausa quite easily qualify as the pride of the nation and considered the most divine mangoes on the face of the earth (ably supported by Sarauli and Safeda), such a suggestion only generates scorn amongst our brethren from the east. They would, any day, be prepared to swear by their Himsagar, Malda, Gulabkhas, Kishen Bhog and their own home-grown variety of Langra, not to forget the redoubtable Fazli. They would stand there and scoff at anyone daring to hold any other opinion. Not to be outdone in this strangely competitive world of mangoes, the southerners would, at the very least, be smug, if not downright arrogant, while defending their claims about the Neelum, Banganpalli, Pairi, Himayuddin or the Mulgoa being the very best of the best, and that other varieties, whether from the east, north or west barely qualify as mangoes when compared to these gems from the south. Turn westwards and all the Mumbaiwallahs with their brothers from the adjoining regions would be laughing their heads off, and saying, "Are you guys serious? Haven't you ever heard of the Alphonso? And can't you understand why the Alphonso is the most widely exported variety in India? And, hey, have you heard about our Kesar, Rajapuri and Mankurad?"

Do you begin to get my point? After all it is just a fruit, so why this vehemence? Just eat it, enjoy it and be done with it, I say. No, somehow, tha's not enough. "Ours is the best and all others must acknowledge it to be so". Why this attitude, I ask?

As most of you know, I am a Delhiite by birth, and, therefore, in this absolutely smashing Bengali Association of ours, considered somewhat of a Martian. So one day while chatting with Balaram Paul, whom I look upon as my younger brother (he keeps advancing his year of birth, so the age gap between us keeps increasing), I just happened to mention the remarkable qualities of the Chausa, not just my favourite mango, but according to me, quite sacrosanct amongst the genus of Mangifera indica. I had just started to wax eloquent on the many qualities of this lovely variety when all of a sudden I noticed a marked change in Balaram's expression. To say he looked murderous would not be too far from the truth, and had there not been this brotherly feeling between us (he too reciprocates my feelings, you see), I suspect he would have brought my life to a premature end that evening. Instead, all he could do was let out a rather obnoxious grunt, packed with contempt, disdain and derision, and to make sure that I didn't miss his point, asked me politely (if you can imagine Balaram being polite) to "shut up". Not one to give up so easily, I tried to emphasize on the Chausa's flavour, its heavenly aroma and its divine sweetness, when not able to take it any longer, Balaram shouted," Subid da, if you have to, you can call me by any four-letter word that you can think of. Within limits, I would not mind if you were to even say unparliamentary things about my family, but on no account must you ever even begin to suggest that the useless Chausa is remotely comparable to the Himsagar. Please, Subid da, enough is enough."

"But Balaram, have you ever tasted the Chausa?" I asked, somewhat taken aback by his reaction.

"No, I haven't. Nor do I have to," retorted Balaram, his nose flaring with anger.

"But then, how on earth can you start to compare..." I tried to reason.

"I said I don't need to. There is no mango on earth that can ever be its equal. And that's that," bellowed my younger brother with an air of finality.

Now you see what I mean. Absolutely weird behaviour! The man has never tasted Chausa and yet he thinks he is qualified to be a judge in this matter.

Quite, bizarre, I say. Of course, I haven't ever tasted the Himsagar either. After all, "I don't need to".

Subid Das



Few health tips for women

Dr. Nishesh Poddar

Women, unfortunately can have:

- Breast Cancer
- Uterine Cancer
- Cervical Cancer Overian Cancer (Fallopian Tube & Vaginal Cancer are rare)

WOMEN'S HEALTH...

If you are married, do get your Pap Smear done every year. Remember, Cervical Cancer is 100% preventable provided you get yearly check up.

OVARIAN CANCER IS NOT SILENT ANY MORE...

YOU CAN TAKE ACTION FROM ITS HAPPENING.....GET CHECKED

PREVENTION IS BETTER & CHEAPER THAN CURE

Mothers,

TAKE CARE OF YOUR DAUGHTERS

VACCINES against Cervical Cancer is available. Consult your doctor to prevent its happening!

SBE

Self Breast Examination can detect breast lump at its earliest. See your doctor, learn how to do it and be counselled.

"We come nearest to the great when we are great in humility." - Rabindra Nath Tagore

With Best Wishes From

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> Ph: 2722 0641, 2722 0642 E-mail: admin@centiway.com.hk



Ek chhoti si love story.

Kaushik Neogy

Her name was Puti. Not actually Puti but it is to be enounced with a Nasal Tone after P (भूँछ). I first saw Puti in one of the Puja pandals in our neighborhood where a candle lighting contest was shaping up on a dusky Maha Saptami evening. She lit all the candles, looked up in the crowd gathered inside the pandal. Our eyes met and I smiled as if I waited for her accomplishment with an athirst eye. A sense of delectation shivered down my spine. Both my legs locked and anchored with titillating sensation under the rib cage, I affirmed— "Yes She is the one". Just into the collage enamored with romanticism of little magazine and poetry of Sunil Ganguly, Joy Goswami I tried to figure out where she will aptly fit in.

She was of dark complexion, thin and doe-eyed with long well oiled hair enlaced in two separate chords extending up to her bosom. She was not the Bengali teenage girl that you meet always. But who cares? It is the age when people dream, dreams of unusual happening and always equate them with the famous love stories which existed for centuries. I was no exception. Pubescence may create lots of unreasonable thinking but it also rouses the poet inside you. A realization knocks that a future 'Rabindranath' is in the making.

We were both single and ready to mingle, after the initial deliberation and careful unhurriedness during the days of Durja Puja. Later I read a statistics that most of the seed of the love marriages in Bengali community are sown in either during Durja Puja or during the marriage receptions in the winter months. Most of these Durja Puja affairs end up during 'Bhai Phonta' days on insistence of the gir's parents. However our affairs were never destined to end up in 'Bhai Phonta'. Our love affair blossomed.

In school she was known as 'Krishnokoli'. Her father's literary sense needs to be truly appreciated t' at she was appositely named by her complexion. For me the most important thing was that she fits my imagination of Joy Goswami's poetry, even though at times I was haunted by all Bengali mothers' usual maxim that "daughter- in-law has to be fairish". It was the age of defiance. At ease I ignored my mum's desire for a daughter-in-law with a fair complexion.

One has to be a careful listener to understand Puti's lingo. Bus stand was always pronounced by her 'Bus Istand' likewise Station as 'Tesan'. Once she asked me if I can do 'Berek' dance. It took some time to figure out that it was 'Break dance'. I was stupid enough to try to correct her 'Istupid' accents.

Puti liked to watch Bengali movies. On the course of discussion I learnt that she liked all the 'Posenjit's movies. I thanked my grandfather that he did not use any stressed syllables while choosing my name otherwise Puti would surely cleave it up.

Puti's fondness to Bengali movies soon landed us up in a nearby movie hall called 'Tara Cinema' to watch a 'Posenjit's newly released movie. I never realized that how popular 'Posenjit' could be with common masses. It was a huge queue from the ticket counter and lot more were roaming around. Puti approached one of the constables and with broad rummy smile "Pulish Kaku......." Pulish Kaku immediately obliged and got us two tickets.

It was fascinating to watch how captivated Puti was with 'Posenjit'. In the midst of the movie abruptly the show stopped to display a hand written caption in the screen asking to fold the legs as the water is likely to enter the movie hall due to the flooding tide at river Hooghly. I could not locate my recently bought 'Khadim' chappals. It drifted away with the ebbing tide. I looked at Puti and she was completely engrossed in the movie with both her chappals lying on her lap, looked around in amazement just to notice that all spectators are holding the chappals in their hands.

Barefooted walking back from the movie hall noticed that I was the only odd one out.

Seeking for some seclusion second time we ventured into nearby Shatabdi park. There were scores[M1] of trees and lots of love birds sitting under those trees used umbrella for concealment. More adventurous ones were sitting without any inhibitions. We did not have much to conceal and we chatted in Puti's favorite topic which ranged from Posenjit's next movie to her inglorious career projections.

As we engrossed ourselves in our lovey dovey discussion an unforeseen commotion suddenly interrupted our discourse. As I tried to figure out the reason for it, I felt a strong grip on my wrist. I turned around towards Puti. To my surprise she was nowhere to be seen. The strong grip of the Khaki worn police constable eventually rounded few of the duos in the park office including me. With Puti's obscurity I was the only one alone, rest were all in pairs. A tension built up among the duos for the apparent disclosure of their untimely visit in the park during college hours and of their undisclosed affairs. The couples pleaded to reduce the bribery amount with constable and eventually managed to leave the park hurriedly. I was in no mood either to avenge or to cave in as the constables had nothing to corner me. It seems the constable was also in the same mood.



"So what are you doing here?" - the constable asked wryly when everyone left.

"Just to enjoying the light breeze"- I answered.

"Why you do not have fan & electricity at home? Or you are here to save the electricity bill?"

I decided to hush up to his unreasonable question.

"So you are the roadside Romeo?"

"No I mean....."

"What is your name?"

To enshroud the identity I told the first fictitious name that came to my mind - "Nirban Roy".

"I see Father's name?"

The question was very much unexpected. I did not have the time to think. "Anirban Roy" - I said.

"Nice symphony - Nirban Roy's father Anirban Roy" - the constable quivered with a surreptitious and mocking smile. "Let us go to the Thana - few minutes of third degree and you will remember your father's name."

Third degree usually ensures that one forgets ones' father's name but he had an opposite view.

I tried to mellow down with the constable "Actually sir....."

"Ek-tually Du-tually you can do in Thana with Borosaheb" - the pan chewing constable retorted.

After a brief waiting on a wooden bench in the Thana I was called by the Officer-in-charge - a burly dark complexioned elderly man with a compassionate face which looked more like a school PT teacher than a police inspector. His voice was even more compassionate than his looks. Looking at my attire he asked me to sit in a dilapidated chair opposite him. After a deep sigh he calmly said 'So you are the one'. Presuming it to be the last chance to defend, I decided to tell the truth and slowly narrated the story in its complete entirety. Slowly he picked up his spectacle cover and with a desolate look asked me the name of the girl. On citation of Puti's name a smacking noise splayed me off the chair. A warm feeling in the mouth with a salty gustatory sensation and agonizing pain in the molar section indicated blood in my mouth. Before I could fend off another blow ended me on the floor. Yes the constable was right... the alleged third degree dawned on me a realization why Puti had addressed the constables at Tara Cinema as 'Pulish Kaku' and managed to get the ticket at ease.....a girl whose father heads the constabulary, indeed needs to address his fellow workers as 'kaku'.

It was toilsome for Puti's father to accept that his daughter was roaming around with a roadside Romeo. Slowly I retreated back. Fortunately Puti's father was generous enough to let me go with a formal warning that I would not be seen with her daughter ever. I strolled back to my home like a defeated soldier thanking my star that my father was not called in the Thana.

Twice I went out with Puti. Once I came back barefooted and on next occasion I was bared of selfesteem.

I never saw Puti again. However in my heart of hearts our love stayed put. To draw an analogy I always compared our love with a painful sore with a hard pus-filled core. It slowly developed, bloomed, pained, erupted and dried up. But the black spot on the skin in the form of remnant always remained and reminded the days which have been treaded in the walks of life

Destined as it was, I am now married to another police officer's daughter. But I am careful now. Once bitten twice shy. Surveillance should precede saltation.

I always sit at least few feet away from my father-in law.

After all SAFETY COMES FIRST!

I can't help it. My molar still aches!



The Spirit of Durga Puja

By Gargi Guha

A host of pregnant clouds Blushing, billowy, serene... Mellowed in all their fullness placidly lie panting into a stretched out crisp blue linen of a vast autumnal sky. A blotch of September sun like a not-so forgotten coffee stain And...a heady hang in the air ...a sweet restlessness again.

A batch of swaying kaash... ...they swerve gently in the wind to a rhythm that they alone know like laughing children grown wise in their own foolish vibes.



And far far away, beats of the dhaak rent the air...that's redolent and brimming brimming...flowing...spilling... with the fragrance of unbridled joy The smell of laughter softly filling where the haze of dhunuchi and incense if ever have left any emptiness. Again, the rustle of creaseless silk like young memories that stay forever new The mindless fervour of happy children ...their gay abandon well permitted On these four days in the year.

The rhythm and lilt of "mantras" rising up from the ground like wafting smoke Crimson pathways snaking through Deep dark tresses...night's caresses And divinity...undisturbed looks on... with three celestial eyes.



Best wishes for Durga Puja and Shubho Bijoya Ghosh and Liu Family



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হকেরকম মনমাতানো আহার,
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পূজা মানেই শাউলি সুবাস ভাসে
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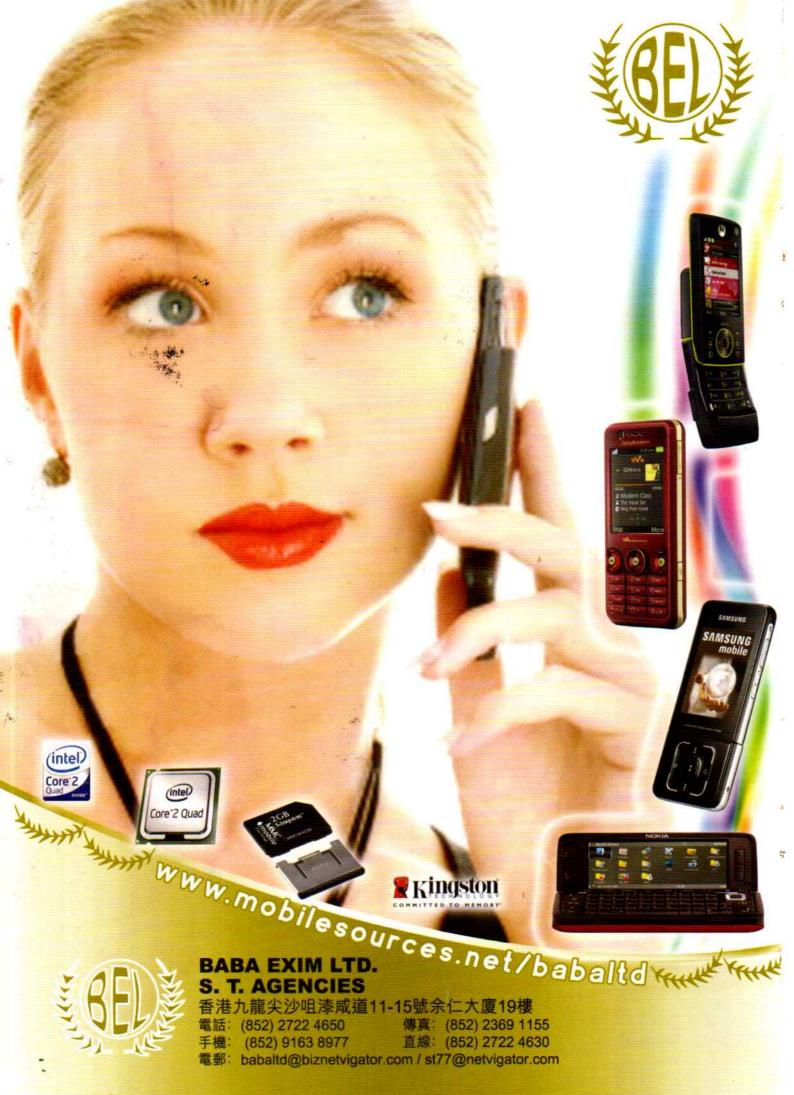
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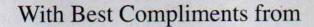
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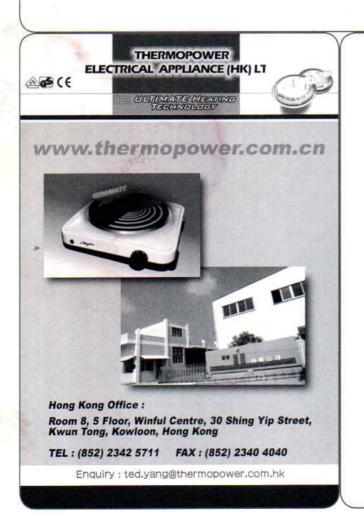


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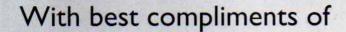


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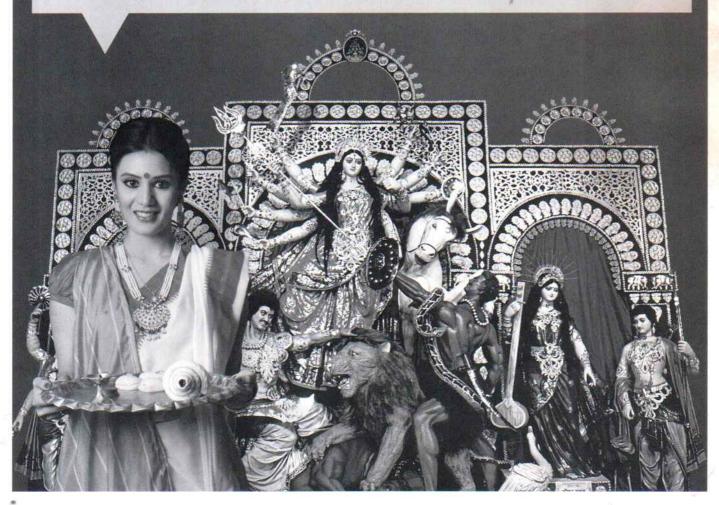
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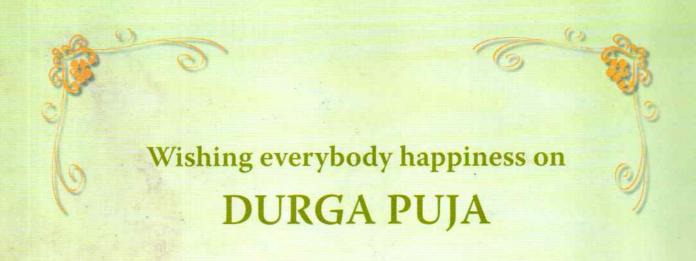
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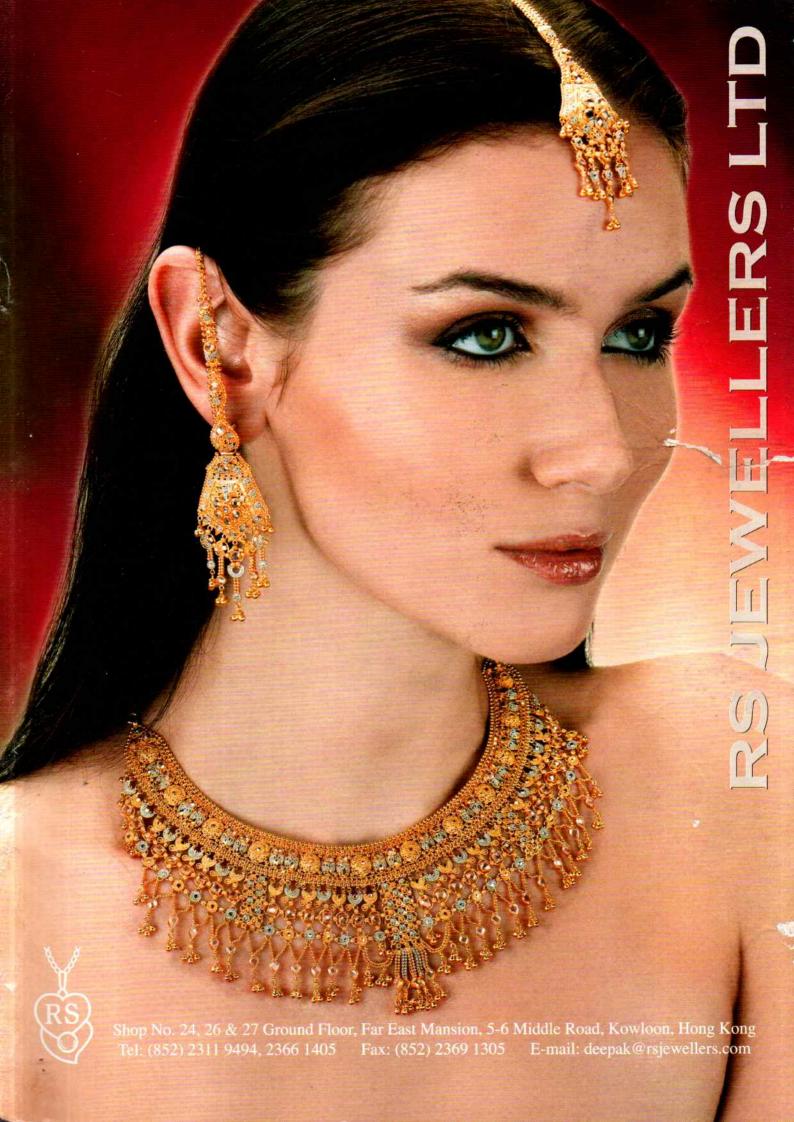
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