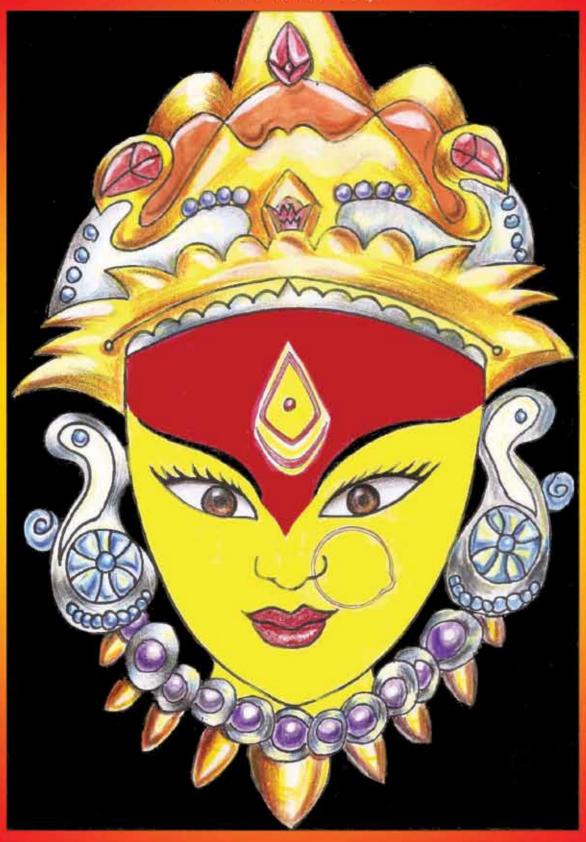
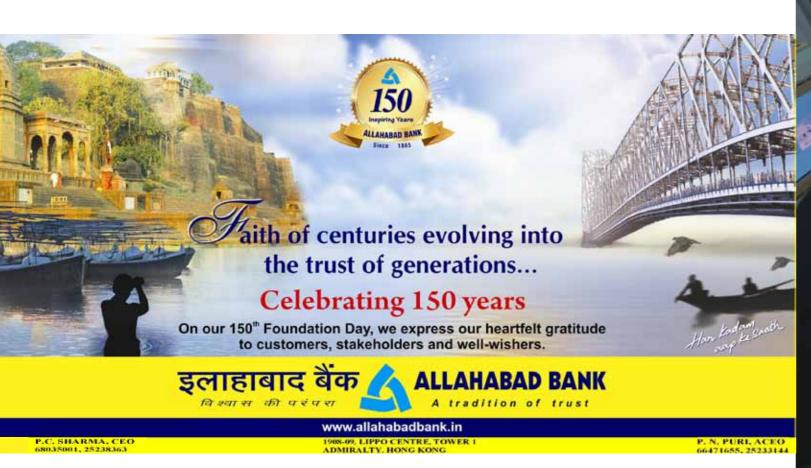
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Hong Kong Bengali Association durga puja 2014



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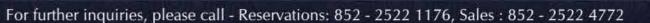
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Happy Durga Puja

May the Goddess of fortune bless you with health, prosperity and more, this festive season.

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Tel.: +(852) 2424 2389, 2524 2389, 3152 3314

Fax: +(852) 2524 2223

E-mail: hongkongbranch@unionbankofindia.com





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Editorial.....

Dear Friends.

With profound respect I welcome you all to this year's Maha Durgatsov, celebrated by the Hong Kong Bengali Association. Around the popularly celebrated Chinese Mid-Autumn festival a wisp of festivity is first felt. From then before we get to breathe from our daily routine the Navaratri begins, marking a start of our festive season. The weather progressively improves from scorching heat to a moderate climate creating an enjoyable atmosphere.

This year, the Hong Kong Bengali Association is conducting the 16th edition of this immensely popular festival. Over a period the Durga Puja has appealed to a wider section of the society hence with every passing year we see a greater participation from a varied Indian, Nepalese and local Chinese community.

The enthusiasm from Members for performing cultural programs to contributing article/artwork in the souvenir is heartwarming. HKBA is proud to have varied talents in the community who have made exceptional contribution in preserving our tradition and culture in a foreign land. This year too HKBA will be presenting cultural program in the evenings during the Puja. I extend my profound thanks to the participants for their time and effort in putting up the show.

Organizing the Durga Puja has been possible only with the help and support of many who have tirelessly worked in putting small pieces of details together to make the event a grand success. I take this opportunity to thank the District Facilities Management committee of Yau Tsim Mong District and officials of the Home Affairs Department belonging to the Hong Kong SAR Government for their kind cooperation in making available the facilities of Henry G.Leong Community Centre to HKBA for the Puja. I also extend my deep appreciation and thanks to all our patrons, sponsors, friends, well-wishers and other Associations for their continued patronage and support. I sincerely thank the HKBA Executive Committee members, for their dedication and hard work. Finally I thank the HKBA members who have volunteered to help and guide us on all occasions.

May the blessings of Ma Durga be on us at all times.

Bijoya Greetings & best wishes

Somdev Chatterjee President







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 persons:

> District Facilities Management Committee-Yau Tsim Mong Staff Members of Henry G Leong Community Center Well wishers from Indian and Local Chinese Community Mr. Raymond Ho Mr. Sohan Goenka Mr. Vinod Dhariwal Ms. LIU Suk-Wa, Connie Mr. Kanwaljeet Singh Dhillon

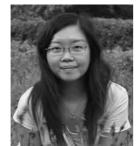
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HKBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2013 - 2015



President Somdev Chatterjee +852 3481 7179 reachsomdev@gmail.com



Vice President Anindita Bhattacharya



General Secretary Sanhita Ghosh (Polly)



Treasurer Swapan Kumar Datta



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Committee Member Chanchal Chan



Committee Member Supratim Roy



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Cultural Sub-Committee Anindita Bhattacharya

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Contact HKBA Web Site

mailhkba@gmail.com www.hkbaonline.com

Hong Kong Bengali Association Durga Puja 2014 Hong Kong Bengali Association Durga Puja 2014





Durga Puja 2014 Program Schedule

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

Sasthi	Monday, 29th September	- Puja starts from 6:30 PM - Prasad distribution
Sasthi	Tuesday, 30th September	- Puja starts from 6:30 PM
	raceaa), sour expresses.	- Prasad distribution
Saptami	Wednesday, 1st October	- Morning Puja 10:00 – 12:00
oup turn	Treamesday, 1st detose.	- Pushpanjali 11:00-11:30
		- Prasad distribution
		- Evening Puja 18:00 – 19:00
		- Prasad distribution 19:00-19:30
		- Cultural program 19:30-20:30*
Astami	Thursday, 2nd October	- Morning Puja 10:00 – 12:00
Astailli	mursday, 2nd October	0 ,
		- Pushpanjali 11:00-11:30
		- Prasad distribution
		- Sandhi Puja 18:00-19:00
		- Prasad distribution 19:00-19:30
		- Cultural program 19:30-20:00*
Nabomi	Friday, 3rd October	- Morning Puja 10:00 – 12:00
		- Pushpanjali 11:00-11:30
		- Prasad distribution
		- Evening Puja 18:00 – 19:00
		- Prasad distribution 19:00-19:30
		- Cultural program 19:30-20:30*
Dashami	Friday, 3rd October	- Puja 14:00 – 16:00
		- Dadhi Karma
		- Prasad distribution
		- Sindur Khela 18:00-20:00
Bijoya Sammelani	Saturday, 22nd November	- 6PM onward

Priest: Shri Sakti Prasad Mukherjee of Kolkata



Traveling Direction to HLCC:

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

The Night Circus



By Debasmita Bhattacharya

The vibrantly coloured tent stood majestically on the barren field and exited townspeople rushed in at twilight, eager to watch the performances of the mysterious travelling circus that had appeared the previous night. A steady hum of voices filled the tent as the spectators chattered impatiently amongst themselves, pondering when the show would begin. Suddenly, a blindingly bright spotlight shone on the centre of the slightly elevated wooden stage and a hush fell over the boisterous audience instantly, the air heavy with anticipation. Sharp footsteps were heard approaching the stage, the wooden floorboards creaking in protest with every step, and a lanky figure appeared, cloaked in a satin-soft cape that swept the bottom of his silver-tipped leather boots. He was dressed in black from head to toe and his dark, twinkling eyes seemed to hold secrets and suggest that he knew something that his audience did not. He glanced at the curious spectators for a moment before purposefully reaching into his cape and producing, seemingly out of thin air, three curved, fine-tipped daggers.

The silver blades glinted menacingly under the harsh light as the cloaked man grasped them delicately around their ebony-black handles. The audience unconsciously leaned forward in their rickety seats, wondering what they were about to witness. As soon as he was certain that all eyes were on him, he deftly tied a silky blindfold over his eyes with one hand and tossed the daggers up into the air with the other. The daggers spun elegantly, tips pointing down, as they moved in perfect arcs over the man's head and the audience watched with bated breath, aware that the most minute of mistakes could result in catastrophe. The performer continued his extraordinary juggling act, his dexterous finger a blur, as the daggers soared above him in a steady tempo, hardly seeming to touch his hands. A sudden intake of breath was heard in the audience as three more knives were added to the ensemble.

The spectators were utterly spellbound as the astounding performance, all eyes wide and jaws slack. Some gasped audibly as more and more of the shining knives were added to the ring of daggers gliding through the air yet not a single person dared to utter a word for fear of breaking the concentration of the talented juggler. The children, especially, seemed to be completely entranced by the magical act.

The man did not falter, even as the spectators expressed their wonder and delight in soft 'ooohs' and 'aaahs', but continued juggling the dangerous looking daggers without missing a beat. He could not afford to make mistakes. Instead, he threw more glistening knives into the ring with a flourish and wielded the instrument meticulously. Confidence oozed from his every pore as he skillfully handled twenty knives at once. The defined muscles in his forearms began to strain and the slightest hint of beads of sweat appeared on his forehead.

He abruptly released all the daggers from his grasp, effectively breaking the spectators' deep, almost hypnotic, trance. They all glanced at each other, bewildered, before turning back to the stage, only to find that it was empty, save for the twenty daggers lying there haphazardly, some of their fine tips sinking into the wooden floorboards. A few voiced their confusion, frowns adorning their lined foreheads, while others waited patiently, intrigued and eager to discover what other marvels the starry night would bring.

Hong Kong Bengali Association Durga Puja 2014 Hong Kong Bengali Association Durga Puja 2014



By Sreya Chakrabarti

Reminiscence

Awakening

Nature's sorrows:

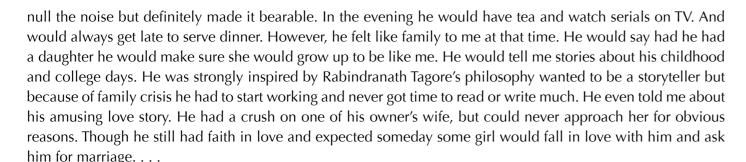


By Sourashis Bhowmick

Millennia ago, when smoke didn't cover the land When animals and trees lived, all for one and one for all When trees lived great, healthy and tall When nature could stand majestic and grand Now, we can hardly breathe the air Trees, tall or short, are painfully rare The world is ruined, and is going to hell And nature shall fall, right where we dwell Man, the cause is nature's creation. God can't save us from a life this bland Even if he spends 40 days flooding the land Nature's own creation is its destruction But I have hope, a change may be happening Nature may find its awakening

It was a boring function. There was too much loud music making people screech around to be heard while the kids howled away. The function was arranged in an open garden during the peak of summer. Accompanied with the scorching heat there was flashy shamianas and super spicy food. I was searching for some company to survive the event when I noticed Ria waving at me in the midst of the crowd. I was meeting her after a long time, she was not a close friend but I liked her. She has always been very helpful. I remember when I had to shift to Kolkata for a three months project she had arranged a stay for me. Glad to see her; I walked up to her. And in a moment we started chatting and laughing away. I spent the entire day gossiping with her and some other college friends. Dint realize how time passed away and the day came to an end. On my way back I suddenly realized something I was meaning to ask Ria for some time, I went back to her car and asked "by the way, how is Mrinalda? ", for a moment she looked confused, I had to remind her of him. "The helper in your Kolkata's house?" she replied "Last I heard he was suffering from cancer, maybe he passed away. Not sure. I'll ask mom and let you know!"

That night I was awake for hours, whenever I would try to close my eyes I could see Mrinalda's face. He looked so disheartened the night I left. He requested me again and again to stay till Durga puja but I refused owing to my work load and lack of interest. I still remember the first time I met him, he reminded me of the caricatures in the Bengali poem books which my granny used to read out to me. He was short, had a funny spherical nose and a huge belly, he was mostly bald with a few bunches of mane scattered around. The man had two major motives in his life. One was to eat good Bengali food and the other was to gossip about all the neighbors. Dada had a very interesting routine. He would wake up early in the morning make tea for himself and me and would go to the market. There he would meet up with some of his friends and together they would go to have some greasy snack in the local sweet shop where all of them gossiped about the people in the locality, cricket and maybe a little politics. He would return two hours later giving an exaggerated explanation as to how crowded the market was and how much he had to bargain to buy vegetables and fruits. His bargaining exaggeration was hilarious. He would start of by saying the female shopkeeper charged an exorbitant price way higher than market's standard, every customer requested her to reduce the rate but she would give them cold glares but when dada smiled and asked her the same she would immediately drop the price for him. Dada knew very well I would not believe even a word in the entire tale but he would still tell me with a grin and I would listen to it with pretentious amusement. Then he would sing and oil himself in the courtyard and take bath under the hand pump which was an embarrassing visual for me. Then he would cook lunch and both of us would have lunch it together. He would give me a detailed update of everything happening in the locality. In house 13A Mr. Das's son is dating Mr. Roy's daughter from 14C. Mrs. Mukherjee's extra marital affair. The fights residents would have while choreographing show for puja, etc. The list was never ending. But, I would enjoy having meals with him. I enjoyed having him around except for the time he would take his afternoon nap. He would lay a mat in the hallway and lie down on it and snored away. His snoring would echo in the entire house. It was scary and noisy at the same time. And during rainy season it would get louder than usual, I felt I had entered some haunted house .To avoid going deaf I ordered online a pair of ear plugs to wear while he slept. It would not



I woke up the next day determined to get in touch with Mrinalda. No one had any clue where he was. He had long back left his job. I had no idea whether he was dead or alive but I felt the urge to meet him. He had told me about his house which was somewhere in the outskirts of the city. I probably had the address saved in my diary. I searched out for it, called my boss for a leave. Packed my bag and left for the airport. It was Durga Puja, Mrinalda's favorite moment in the whole year. I got nostalgic thinking how badly he wanted me to stay till puja. He told me to extend my stay for just another week but I felt all these to be a waste of time. He kept saying we will roam around see all the pandals in the city have free khichdi in the pandals. He gifted me a Saree, it was white in color with red border, the traditional Bengali Saree. He wanted me to wear it on Dashami. I should have listened to him!! However, coincidently I come to meet dada at the same time.

The morning was cloudy and dull indicating rain in the latter part of the day. I felt strange in the entire journey. It had been ten years since my last visit. I never contacted dada all these while. I was not sure where he lived neither was I sure whether he was alive. And on top of that I left all my work just to visit him. What if he did not recognize me? It was a bizarre feeling.

The entire city was decorated like a carnival. With bright colored Pandals, beautiful light decorations and heavy drum beats. Maybe it would sound dramatic to anyone hearing this; but during Durga puja the entire city felt like a bride. Everything feels beautiful and vibrant. Everyone puts in their best effort to look nice in their new attires. While I was feeling the aesthetic beauty of the occasion the driver drove me into a slum. I got down and asked people for Dada. After a lot of searching I finally found dada's house.

It was the corner most house, it looked isolated and sad even in the crowded street. And also it was the only house which had no lighting or decoration on it. I knocked the door to realize it was open .I entered the house. For a moment I felt like I entered some prison. The interior of the house looked worse than what could be imagined from outside. There was a rotten smell of garbage; One dim light bulb hanging somewhere in the room. There was a bed with a coughing man lying in it. I walked up to him and tears rolled out of my eyes.

Dada was alive but I wish he wasn't. He looked so much in pain. His entire body had shrunk. His teeth had fallen out. He looked a ghost image of the jovial fun loving man I remembered. He dint recognize me at first but after staring at my face for a while I noticed the familiar smile popping up on his sulked face. I poured him a glass of water and asked him about his health. He spoke out with a lot of pain. Apparently, when he was suffering from cancer Ria's family covered his medical expense and he recovered eventually. But the therapy had eaten away all his health. His brother's son looks after him by visiting him once a week and they have arranged for some food delivery service for him. So he gets two meals a day served. The irony of his life is when he was unwell he prayed to Ma Durga to cure him as he wanted to live and once he got cured he doesn't want to live anymore. I wanted to take him out and show him a few pandals but he was least interested. I even tried to tempt him with the idea of free khichdi served in the Pandals. But he refused. Somehow after a lot of convincing he agreed to visit the puja in his locality. I arranged for a wheelchair and took him out. He dint seem to enjoy much of the

noise and people on the road. However, when we entered the Pandal he insisted on spending the rest of the day looking at the goddess. He looked peaceful and content that night when I took him home. As I put him in the bed he seemed like he wanted to say a lot of things but was too overwhelmed to speak anything.

The next day was called Dashami, the last day of puja. In the myths it is said that this day Ma Durga cleans the land from all the evil and leaves. It is believed that on this day if you pray anything to the goddess the wish gets fulfilled. That day I wore the red Saree once gifted to me by dada. I entered a temple for the first time and prayed for dada. I dint know what to ask for him so just wished that whatever he wants does get fulfilled. I collected some prashad and went to his house. I saw him sleeping very peacefully. It took me awhile to realize he slept forever.

Hong Kong Bengali Association 10 Durga Puja 2014 Hong Kong Bengali Association 11 Durga Puja 2014

*

Fair & Lovely Twice Daily



By Kaushik Neogy

Cataract Chaos: My septuagenarian grandfather deferred the cataract surgery sometime before I was born ashe wanted see his first grandchild and not be in bandaged eyes at the time of my arrival. When he first saw methrough his heavily clouded cataract eye lenses he found his second generation descendant to be a lighterskinned one. Nine months being in the amniotic fluid in my mothers womb probably failed his heavily cataracteyes. His elation at his fair skinned grandchild was immediately trumpeted in our neighborhood which earned asmirk among our neighbor. He was forced into go for cataract surgery by his worthy sons soon. I could never becalled a lighter skinned in the strictest color sense of Indian acceptance standard. Nevertheless at least for once that septuagenarian man was elated to find me to be a light skinned one. Being brought up in a coal mining beltwhere the majority of the persons complexion was either unnoticeable being smeared in coal dust or of darkskinned local santhali community; my complexion was not of any consequence to anyone and I assimilatedcomfortably there in childhood days.

To Sir with Love: For a better schooling my parents decided to send me to a residential school. Schooling ina vernacular medium in the initial days, my English continued to remain hapless in every sense. I never had thelucidity with the subject as I had over my maternal language and envied few of the class mates who hadunquestionable fluency with their vocabulary and writing skills. Though had a natural impulse to contend withthem but as it happens, nature arms every man with some faculty which enables them to do certain feats easilywhich remain impossible to others. No matter how good was the effort, I would falter. In our ninth grade we had aprose "In the grip of prejudice". It was an extract from E.R.Braithwaites eponymous novel "To Sir with love". Ablack teachers journey in Britain during Second World War. Our English teacher Mr.Das Biswas with his dramaticdelivery made it so enthralling that I got the book from library and read with my heart and mind in a psychological state of pride and optimism. Surprisingly somehow connected myself with Braithwaite and spilled my entirefeeling in the annual exam paper in the ninth grade & scored enviably in English, for the only time. The hurdlesof impossibility were crossed on wings of my complexion. I thanked Braithwaite and my complexion. But it earnedme an affectionate nickname OKalu among my friend. It was no bullying just an ardent reciprocation from myclose childhood buddies on my accomplishment.

Fair & Lovely, Twice Daily: Unarguably in most romantic poem of Bengali literature Banalata Sen, Poet Jibonanando Das guardedly avoided the complexion of Banalata Sen though he was very descriptive with her hair, face and eyes. Probably Jibonanda was aware of our obsession with light skin and carefully avoided it. When I first met Puti () she exactly fitted the description of Banalata Sen. Dusky skinned, her hair the ancient darkness of Vidisha, face a sculpture from Sravasthi, her eyebrows arched like the soaring wings of a bird. How we met and what happened to our platonic affair is another story for some other day. In those teenage years, obsession for the fairer skin touched her too. Back then, she just wanted to be light-skinned because the message was that a lighter skin would be more impressive and turned to only available Unilever fairness cream Fair & Lovely. It was immediate recourse to her belief. Fair & lovely, twice daily that was her ticket to "Intimate whitening wash". In next 20 years an obsession similar to her would swell India's whitening cream business to 638 million US dollar, reportedly consuming 233 tons of skin-whitening products. Our affair contributed to that booming business to some extent.

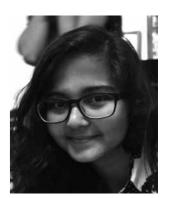
Modern Physics: Panchanan babu was a fabulous physics teacher. My innate interest in physics was acquired from his passion with the subject. He used to live in the virtual world of physics and preferred to explain every aspects of his life in the language of physics. Students would at times have fun of his physics addiction. Nonetheless he commanded the subject with veritable authority. One morning as I walked into the physics department, noticed a very brooding Panachanan babu sitting quietly at his desk. Questioningly as I looked at him he sadly mentioned that he had a cow which has died last night and does not know now how to get good quality milk for his two young daughters henceforth. Then abruptly he put forward his request of finding him another cow similar to the one he had? I was never prepared for such grossly unconventional request and tried to dodge it differently saying "Sir, Why to have a cow when you can get milk from the market?" He had a pitiful smile on his lips and said "You guys are never serious about learning physics. You do not try to see it in the light of physics. The cow I had was jet black in color with not a single white spot in the body. You know well that black reflects the UV rays. A large concentration of melanin in the skin protects the cow against ultraviolet light. Carotenoids and photo pigments both indirectly act as photo-protective pigments, as they quench oxygen freeradicals. Thus the milk we got was free from any UV rays pollutants." I stood up soundlessly and speechlessly and glided across the hallway through the door in the open B looked at the scorching sun and shouted at it "I am impregnable. Look at my melanin content... I am inviolable indeed" I have no qualms of being dark skinned now.

Oh Captain! My Captain: My first job was as a sailor. As trainee stepping on board of one of the largest moving objects in the world had been an exhilarating moment. Columbus, Vasco da Gama, Bartholomew to ST Coleridges Rime of Ancient mariner all gave me goose bumps. As life went on, I became the part of that "as idle as a painted ship / upon a painted ocean." Dressing in all white with shinning epaulettes, white pea-cap and equally shinning white buskin shoes with white stockings made me part of that much coveted group who would navigate the world. But the euphoria had a slight satirical touch when the captain looking at my all white uniform, jestingly told that "This is the closest you can get to white". But I was matured enough by then to laugh out loud at other peoples sense of humor. But I do not laugh anymore to his sense of humor. My captain did not know that his obsession for white, invisibly multiplied the white blood cells deep inside him. With abnormal increase of WBC, he succumbed to Leukemia, a form of blood cancer shortly after he was discharged from his duties on board that ship.

Middle Indian: I was on a transatlantic flight with a South American co passenger. As the plane took off we got into usual conversation to kill the boredom of the long flight. She had a faint idea of Indian subcontinent and mostly by hearsay. As the discussion took turn in different set of inquisitive information she said that she heard, in India people from one half is light skinned and from the other half is dark skinned. Is this true? Before I could blurt out an explanation she looked at me coyly and said I think you are from Middle India. I heard of Red Indian, North Indian, South Indian but never a Middle Indian. What a clear distinction of Indian by their skin color! Yes I am a Middle Indian.

Blackberry: A friend of mine had an interesting anecdote to share about a manager in his former company. Blackberry had just started their operation and they were all fascinated to flaunt e-mail monitoring while on the move with their new blackberry. Their dark complexioned manager had a bad temper with regular whimsical outburst in the office towards subordinates. Fascination with blackberry, quickly earned his nick name OBlackberry in identity of his skin color and the employees would communicate in the code language to gauge the mood of the manager "How is the blackberry doing B did it crash? Or has it hanged or are you getting regular e-mail." On certain occasion when the manager is inaccessible on phone people would say "blackberry on poor signal". If he goes on leave then all would know that OBlackberry has gone to service center. Blackberry had a trusted lieutenant and he was nicknamed as OHolster. My friend was fortunate enough to change from blackberry to

Bolo Durga Maa Ki...Jai!!!



By Sanjana Ganguly

After a long year's wait, it is finally that time of year again. Time to rejoice, to let go, to unite as one, and pray for a healthy and prosperous future. Time to thank Goddess Durga for all that she has given us, and time to pray that may her blessings be with us all the way through. After a hectic year – be it at work, or at school/university with exams and stress, each of us bring new stories, new tales to tell. With this occasion we come together to pray, to sing, to dance and to enjoy.

While the rituals entail 10 days of fast, feast and worship, the last 5-6 days are celebrated with great pomp and splendor all around India – and especially in Bengal. HKBA commemorates this wide-scale celebration by hosting its own Durga Puja and giving us all a place to unite and celebrate.

The week begins with Mahalaya – the day of invocation - the day that marks Maa Durga's descent upon earth to destroy the evil ruler Mahishasura. As legend has it, Goddess Durga came to earth to kill the demon king, because his death was destined at the hands of a woman. Thus, Mahalaya is essentially celebrated to commemorate women's empowerment, and their roles in society – as opposed to their stereotypical depictions of being naive housewives.

From this day it begins with the sound of conch shells ringing, loud music being played on the 'Dhaaks' and the chanting of hymns, prayers and pushpanjalis. This is the first day of the Durga Puja celebration here in Hong Kong. The excitement begins.

The following day, is the day of Mahashashti – which means the sixth day. On this day, Maa Durga is accessorized with the various different weapons she has been given by other Gods to fight the demonic buffalo king – Mahishasura. According to Indian mythology, when Mahishasura came to know that Maa Durga was the end of him, he had pleaded that he too be worshipped along with her, and Goddess Durga agreed. That is why Mahishasura can be found under Maa Durga's feet in the beautiful idols we worship.

Like so, each day of Durga Puja (Panchami, Shashti, Shaptami, Ashtami, Navami & Dashami) has its own cultural significance. We celebrate these by performing (and watching) forms of art which signify our culture and tradition, such as singing, dancing, playing instruments and so on... The days begin with Anjali, and early morning preparations for the day's celebration. People come from far, and near to seek blessings for a prosperous year and to thank Maa Durga for all that she has bestowed upon them. The evenings are filled with cultural performances followed by series of photo-taking sessions with everyone dressed in beautiful, bright ethnic wear.

This occasion does not only make a good gathering, it also helps us connect to our roots, and celebrate our identities on the foreign land we call 'home'. It really is a wonderful opportunity to dress up for several fun-filled evenings with singing, dancing and of course, chatting. Our Durga Pujas never fail to make us chant "Aaschhe bocchor aabar hobe!!!" with hopes of reliving the same light-hearted, fun times of reverence with our close-knit family known as HKBA

Iphone later in every sense by switching jobs. Inquisitively I would be curious to know how innovative my subordinates are with my nickname.

Freedom at Midnight: I was glued to Dominque LA Pierres freedom at midnight. He keeps the reader at tenterhook with his writing style. On the demarcation on the borders of India & Pakistan he stated that "Sir Cyril Radcliffe was the chairman of the two boundary committees set up with the passing of the Indian Independence Act. He was faced with the daunting task of drawing the borders for the new nations of Pakistan and India, a way that would leave as many Hindus and Sikhs in India and Muslims in Pakistan as possible. On one side it was Punjab mostly inhabited by tall fair skinned valiant Punjabis and other side Bengal inhabited by short dark Bengalis." A very clear form of demarcation by Mr.LA Pierre on physical appearance and skin color. I wanted to spurt out a protest that as per London based Oprospect magazine survey "the world's most important thinker 2014" has included three Bengalis B Amartya sen, Kaushik Basu and Partha Dasgupata. Are they short, dark? Oops! They are middle Indian Bengalese.

Be unfair, be Beautiful: Indias obsession with the fair skin continues. So do millions chase that unachievable, impossibility dream. I wish that fairness assurance cream could turn the black money to white and change the lives of the thousands of downtrodden Indian & we leave a better India for the generation to come. While many renowned celebrities are promoting fairness creams, acclaimed actress Nandita Das has lent her support to a campaign "Be unfair, be beautiful" that celebrates being dark. Nandita has lent her star power and support to the Dark is Beautiful movement, an awareness campaign that seeks to draw attention to the unjust effects of skin color bias and celebrates the beauty and diversity of all skin to her campaign.

"Heil Nandita here I join another unfair middle IndianJJ.."

Fifa World Cup 2014 From My View



By Atindrya Ghosh (Abhro)

Fifa World Cup 2014 was very exciting for me since it was the first time for me to be able to understand the game well, and the value of winning the World Cup. I was voting for Argentina as Messi, Higuain and Di Maria are my all time favourites. Besides them, I also supported Neymar and Ronaldo. The host country and favourites for this year's championship Brazil came fourth. Unfortunately Neymar their star player broke his backbone in the match against Columbia, hence the team moral was pretty shaken. Germany and Argentina were in the finals. It was an extremely tough match, with Germany winning at the end. The only winning goal for Germany was scored by Mario Gotze, substitute for his team replacing Miroslav Klose in the eighty ninth minute of the game. But I am still happy that Argentina could reach the finals and also because Messi won the Golden Ball Award! The matches I watched were Argentina versus Belgium, Brazil versus Columbia and Argentina versus Germany. In my perspective, the countries from Asia didn't play very well this year. The teams which played very well this year were namely from Europe and South America. Before the tournament started, I made bets with my friends about who would win the matches. Unfortunately none of the teams I supported, won. When I heard that Spain had lost, I was shocked! It is because Spain had one of the best teams this year and was also the champions of Fifa World Cup 2010. Spain came seventh in this World Cup. I was hoping that Brazil and Argentina would get into the finals but unfortunately Brazil had been ousted.

Every night at eight O clock I would watch the highlights of the matches. That created my interest in the football teams from other countries. Sometimes I would go to my friends' houses and talk about the matches. After I watched the matches, I critically evaluated each of them. In many cases, I thought the beginning should have been faster so that there would be a higher chance of scoring more goals. I figured out that most of my friends from school watched the final match outside of Hong Kong since summer holidays had already begun. I watched the final match in Hong Kong and took some pictures of me wearing my favourite Messi jersey. Even at school we would watch replay of football matches during breaks. This made us so excited that we would start screaming and shouting!

All football players have one thing in common; they practice the techniques and skills for long hours so as to become stronger and agile. It helps them to become better. One of my friends from Germany told me that even though Germany won, he still voted for Argentina. This made me happy, since even people from Germany voted for my favourite team. This shows that Argentina's team is quite popular. After the world Cup I learnt that concentration, dedication and hard work goes a long way in making dreams come true.

After watching the great players from this year Fifa World Cup I got the motivation from them to prepare myself as a future soccer player. I will always pray to God to give me the strength, so that I can work hard and acquire necessary techniques and skills to become a footballer, who can not only participate for his country as a soccer player but also make his country proud.

The Stolen Diamond and the Detective



By SHOHAM DE

One morning, a detective named Dan Brown was going to solve a stolen diamond case. He had been especially hired because he had excellent eyesight and a very sharp brain. That is what made him the best detective in town. Dan's client, Mr. James Robinson, said to him that the previous day he had bought an expensive diamond from a local handicraft shop. Mr. Robinson's hobby was art. He also said that the shop's name was 'Jack's Art & Craft'.

The next day, detective Dan went to the handicraft shop and asked the shopkeeper casually, "Did anyone called James Robinson buy an expensive diamond from your shop yesterday?" "Yes, and he also said he was a collector of them", said the shopkeeper. Suddenly Dan's eyes fell on a diamond. Its price tag said \$20,000! Dan just said goodbye and left.

When he reached Mr. Robinson's house, he asked him to draw a picture of the stolen diamond. James, his talent and hobby being art, handed Dan an accurate sketch. It was identical to the one Dan had seen at the shop. Dan gave James some money and told him to buy an emerald from the same handicraft shop. That night, Dan hosed the path from the handicraft shop to Mr. Robinson's house.

The next day, there were footprints in the mud Dan had made. Dan went to the shop and saw the emerald back in its original place. "You are a thief!" said Dan to the shopkeeper. "You sell, but you steal back your own products!" The shopkeeper was sent to jail that very day. Mr. Robinson got back his diamond and happily gifted the emerald to Dan. Since that day, Dan earned the nickname Double Detector Dan Brown (DDDB).

Convincing my parents to get a rabbit



Persephone and Hades



By Samriddhi Nandi

Chasing butterflies to the rhythm of Orpheus, paving her way through the field of orchids, Approaching the forbidden palace of wisdom, passing the distant noises of ingenuous murmur Walking Persephone, seeking solace Exiled from Olympus, disowned by Demeter, The pomegranates, destructive, much like The fatal kiss upon her lips he would bestow Piercing eyes, shining like emerald, Androgynous features, with a face so bold On the prowl, ready to strike, there he was, perched upon the ledge, moving in for the kill.

One day when my dad and I were walking to the MTR station, I saw an ad about the pet adoption day. On the ad, it wrote that we can adopt cats, rabbits and reptiles. Well, I think that cats don't get along well with it's surroundings, and reptiles freak me out. So rabbits are the best choice, they're cute and friendly. I showed the ad to my dad, but he thought that I was just joking. But, I didn't give up cause I want to convince him to get me a rabbit. I asked my mom, she didn't agree with the idea at all. I even told them that I will play less on my phone and laptop, but they still didn't agree.

Then I remembered my old pet experience. I had a fish 5 years ago. During the Lantern festival every year we visit to Mei Foo park. Hundreds of people will come and there are few shops that sale fun stuff. After playing and catching some fishes at a small fun shop, I brought my colorful fish home. Unfortunately it only survived for one day cause we didn't feed it enough. However my parents told me that it was my extra care, touching the fish every hour, checking if it's taking it's food over enthusiastically caused it's death. But I'm much more responsible now. This also reminded me about my uncle's pet experience when he was young. He brought a puppy home, he convinced my grandparents by telling them that when the puppy grows up he will protect the village from intruders. They agreed to let him keep it. My uncle skipped school and didn't eat properly just to look after the puppy. Then one day, my uncle saw my grandma taking away the puppy, he asked her why she was taking it away, she said that they discovered the puppy was a female puppy and not a male that are normally used to guard the houses. She didn't want to keep it anymore. At last my uncle sadly let the puppy go.

I have been trying all means to convince my parents but nothing really cracked. Finally one day when my dad was shaving, I asked him what I could do to adopt the rabbit; he angrily said that if I can write a passage for the Hong Kong Bengali Association magazine, then we can adopt a rabbit. I worked really hard on this passage. So hopefully next time you come to my house, you can see a rabbit happily jumping and running across the house.

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By Ayush Neogy

The Universe

At the very top layer

Making the planets unite
But not always very fair
Big cold and always so bright
BOOM! Suddenly stars ignite
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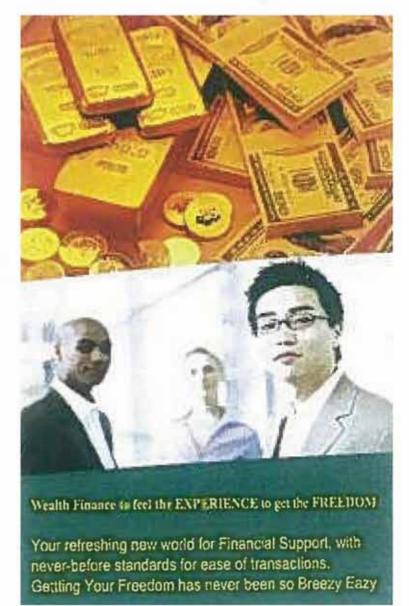
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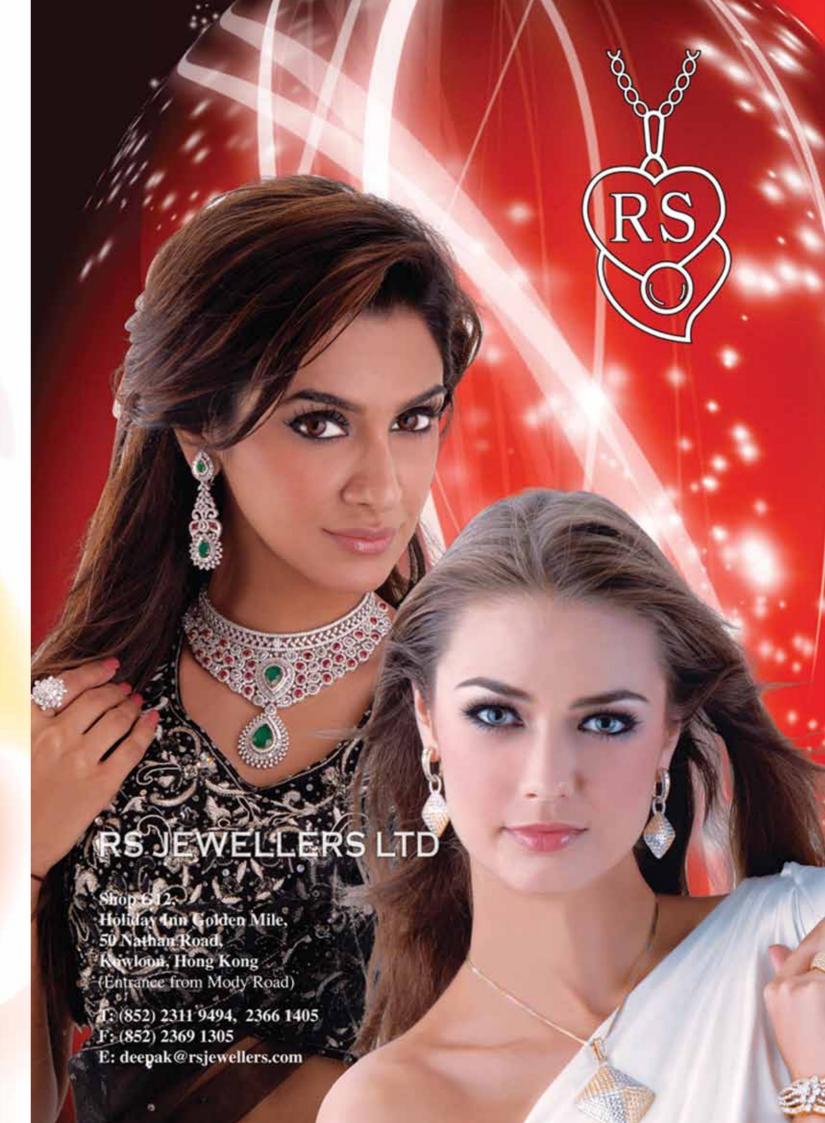


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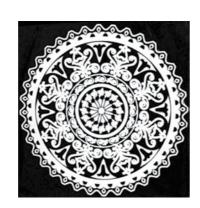
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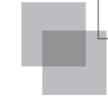
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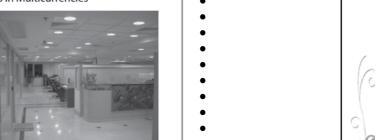
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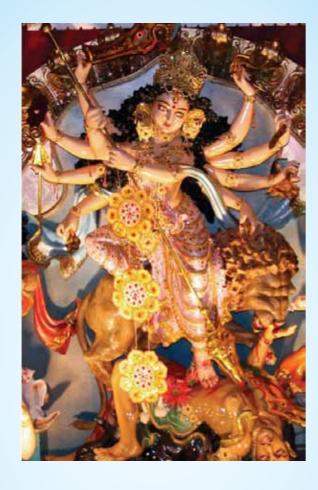
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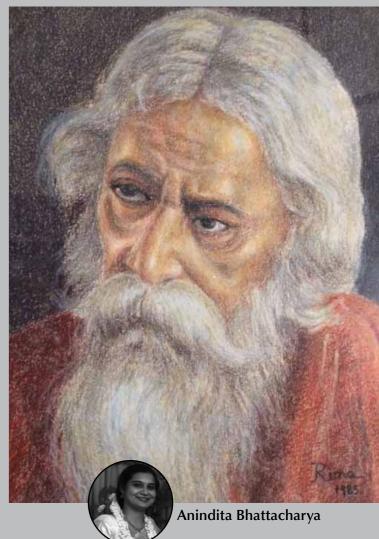
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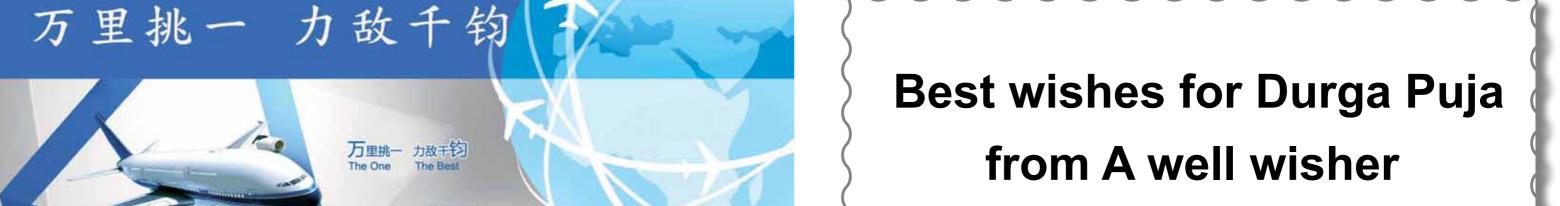
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Hong Kong Bengali Association 70 Durga Puja 2014 Hong Kong Bengali Association 71 Durga Puja 2014





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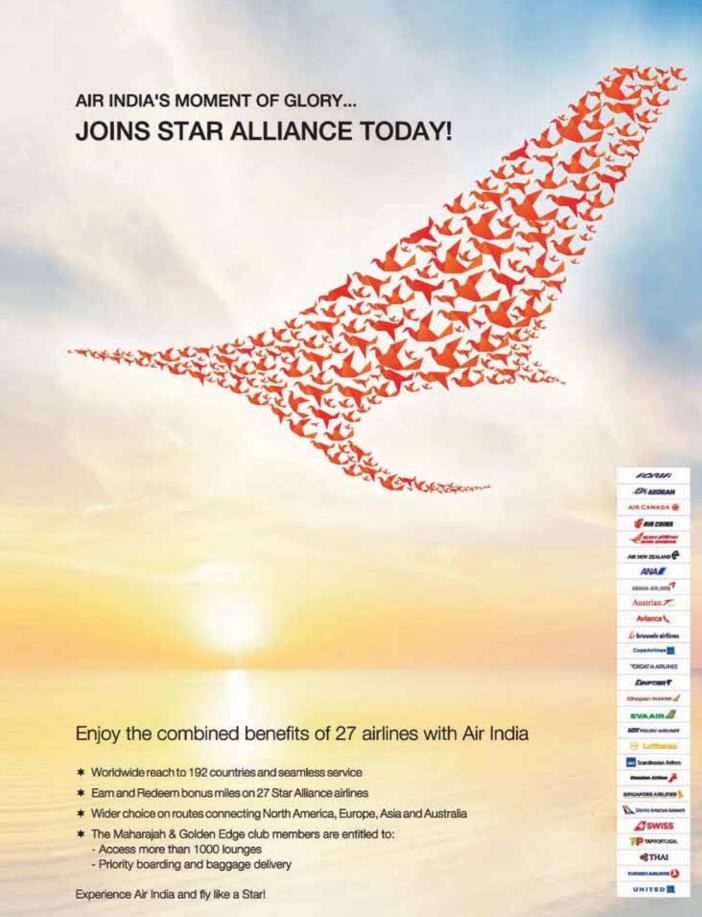
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