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MAX: 30° C MIN: 23° C
RH: 90% RAINFALL: NIL
SUNSET TODAY 6.06 PM
SUNRISE : TOMORROW 6.36
MOONRISE : TODAY 7.06 AM
MOONSET : TOMORROW 7.06 PM

Vicaruddin to attend meet on Palestine



HYDERABAD: Syed Vicaruddin, Editor-in-Chief, 'The Rahanuma-e-Deccan' daily here and Chairman of Indo-Arab League, will be attending an international conference on 'Palestine' convened by the Government of Qatar at Doha from February 27.

The two-day conference will be inaugurated by Palestine President Mahamoud Abbas and Secretary General of Arab League, Dr Nabil Elaraby, and a release from Indo Arab League Hyderabad said here today.

The release said top Leaders of Arab world and other Islamic countries will be participating in the conference. Mr Vicaruddin would also be meeting top leaders including Mr Mahamoud Abbas, the release added.

Bank heists solved, 5 robbers killed in pre-dawn encounter

CHENNAI: Five people, four from Bihar and one from West Bengal, who were involved in the two bank heists at Perungudi and Keelkattalai, were shot dead in a Pre-dawn encounter with the police, at Velachery area in the city in the wee hours of today.

This was the first major encounter in Tamil Nadu in which five people were killed.

Addressing a crowded press conference about 12 hours after the encounter which took place around 0130 hrs, Chennai City Police Commissioner J K Tripathy said police were forced to open fire in self-defence and to protect the lives of innocent people in the thickly populated area as the gang fired indiscriminately at the police party.

In the resultant encounter, two policemen were injured and all the five gang members killed. The deceased were identified as Vinod Kumar, Vinay Prasad, Abhay Kumar, and Harish Kumar from Bihar and Chandri Khare from West Bengal.



He said Voter Identity Cards of the accused besides a driving licence, seven pistols and two revolvers with some magazines and ammunition, a bag containing Rs 14 lakh cash, cell phones and SIM cards were seized from the spot.

Mr Tripathy said it was clearly established that these gang members were involved in the two bank robberies in the city.

In the first heist, a four-member gang robbed Rs 20 lakh from the Perungudi Branch of Bank of Baroda on January 23 and in the second instance, a five-member gang looted Rs 14 Lakh from Keelkattalai Branch of IOB on February 20, both at gun point.

"We have shown the photographs of the gang members to the bank staff and the witnesses and they have established that these persons were involved in the bank robberies," Mr Tripathy said, adding, "we are sure that these people were involved in both the bank robberies."

The gang members, who had taken the house on a



monthly rent of Rs 5,000 in December by paying an advance of Rs 20,000, were planning to vacate the house and leave the city today.

Among those killed was the person whose photograph from CCTV footage was released by the police yesterday for his involvement in the bank robberies.

Mr Tripathy said "we have examined more than 400 hours of CCTV footages taken from various banks before zeroing in on the accused whose photos were released yesterday."

Continue p-3

Delhi Airport Metro to begin international check-in

NEW DELHI: International fliers can now board Delhi's showcase Airport Metro Express 'baggage-less' from today when the much talked about check-in facility for flights abroad at its stations will kick off.

Coinciding with the first anniversary of its operation, the Reliance Infrastructure-led consortium will make this facility available at its New Delhi and Shivaji stadium stations from February 23.

While national carrier Air India will begin check-in of passengers' baggage from Thursday, private carriers Jet and Kingfisher will follow suit. The facility will allow fliers to check-in their

baggage before boarding the Airport Metro Express to reach the new swanky Terminal-3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport. They will be given the boarding pass at the station itself.

The luggage will then be transferred to the train, which has a dedicated space, and directly boarded to the respective aircraft through a conveyor. "Passengers have to check-in minimum two and half hours prior to their flight time. Fliers can check-in and collect their boarding passes maximum eight hours prior to their flight time," a Reliance Infra spokesman said.

Check-in facility for do-



mestic fliers has been in operation for the past few months on the Airport Metro and the launching of check-in for international fliers has been long overdue. The 23-km high-speed corridor that allows passengers to reach Airport from Connaught

Place in flat 18 minutes currently has a rider ship of 20,000 commuters.

The 6 hours early check-in facility will give commuters enough time to explore the retail outlets that Reliance Metro is coming up with, the spokesperson said.

Italian Dy Foreign Minister satisfied with facilities for marines

KOCHI: Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Steffan de Mistura today expressed satisfaction over the arrangements being provided by the government for the two Italian Marines who were under the Kerala Police custody in connection with the killings of two Indian fishermen off Alappuzha Coast on February 15 last.



Italian Marines, who were lodged at the CISF Guest

House here, he said the arrangements provided by the government to the two Italian Naval Guards were quite satisfactory.

Extending full cooperation to the police for their investigation into the incident, the Italian Minister, however, reiterated their earlier stand that the incident took place on international waters.

Mr Steffan also expressed

deep sorrow over the incident and the killing of two innocent fishermen.

The Italian Minister, who is in the city in connection with the shooting incident and the subsequent arrest of the two Italian Naval guards, visited Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy at Kottayam last night and held discussion with him on the issue.

PIL on NCTC in Madras High Court

CHENNAI: A PIL filed in Madras High Court has assailed the proposed National Counter Terrorism Centre and charged that instead of concentrating on modernisation of security forces, the Centre was empowering itself with "stone-age authority derived from obsolete and repealed enactments".

When the PIL petition filed by city lawyer S Vijayalakshmi came up for hearing on Wednesday, a Division Bench comprising justices Elipe Dharma Rao

and N Kirubakaran declined to pass any interim order and told the court registry to post the matter before the First Bench headed by Chief Justice M Y Egbal.

Attacking the National Counter Terrorism Centre (Organisation, Functions, Powers and Duties) Order, 2012, the petitioner claimed that the proposed centre had no cadre of its own, and instead proposed to borrow its strength from existing entities, which were bound to continue their allegiance

and loyalties to their parent force.

The petitioner's counsel said the Centre had not consulted state governments, many of whom had voiced their opposition to the proposal.

The Centre was trying to create it through an "undated executive order," whereas the Bill introduced in Parliament itself did not have the details the executive order had, he alleged and urged the court to stay operation of the impugned order.

Two more judges for Madurai HC

MUDURAI: The Madurai bench of Madras High Court will get two more judges next month to take its strength to 14, according to Chief Justice of Madras High Court M Yusuf Egbal.

Participating at a hurriedly convened meeting of the Bench and Bar here yesterday, he told them he was unable to depute more judges for want of bungalows in

the court complex.

Only 12 court halls and 12 bungalows for judges were built when the Bench was inaugurated in July 2004. Since 2007, the court has been repeatedly requesting the government for funds to construct more court buildings and bungalows. A proposal was also sent to build additional chambers for lawyers. Four rooms in

the administrative block were converted into court halls. For want of bungalows, some judges had to stay in the VIP guest house.

Lawyers present at the meet said the CJ had assured them he would consider their other grievances with regard to recommending the names of lawyers practicing in the Bench for elevation to the post of judges.

SC blames Ramdev, cops for Ramlila crackdown

NEW DELHI: In a significant development, the Supreme Court today held Baba Ramdev and Delhi Police guilty of negligence in connection with the midnight crackdown on yoga guru's followers at the Ramlila Maidan on June 4-5 last year during his anti-corruption agitation.

The apex court, while stressing that the authorities could have avoided the violent incident, said that both Baba Ramdev and the police acted in an irresponsible manner. "There was abuse of power by the Delhi Police and there was violation of fundamental rights of people," the apex court bench of Justices BS Chauhan and Swatanter Kumar said.

"The incident shows might of the state which strikes at the foundation of democracy. It is a glaring example of trust deficit between people governing and people being governed," the bench said. The Supreme Court also directed the Delhi government and the Delhi Police Commissioner to register a case



against officers who caused injury, and those who used lathicharge and tear gas in the crackdown.

The court further asked the authorities to give a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the family members of Rajbala, the woman who died due to the injury suffered in the police crackdown. Besides, the court also ordered a compensation of Rs 50,000 for those who sustained serious injuries and Rs 35,000 for those with minor injuries during the incident. Importantly, the apex court asked the yoga guru to share 25% of the total compensation to be given to the victims.

Meanwhile, the family

members of Rajbala have refused to take any compensation from the yoga guru's trust, saying that he was not responsible for the unfortunate incident. The apex court had taken suo motu cognisance of media reports purportedly showing brutality of police action against the sleeping followers of Ramdev, including women and children.

Ramdev had alleged the police action was carried out on the instructions of their political masters and demanded action against all people who had directed the mid-night crackdown. Ramdev was agitating along with his followers against corruption and demanding that the UPA government must make sincere efforts to bring back black money illegally parked in secret foreign bank accounts by tax evaders.

Delhi Police, however, claimed Ramdev had instigated his followers to indulge in violence, forcing the police to act at that time of the night.

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Kerala to go ahead with legal action

Kerala state government would go ahead with legal action taken against the two armed guards of the Italian ship for killing two Kerala fishermen on the high seas.
- Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy

Rupee opens weaker by 6 paise against US Dollar

MUMBAI: The Rupee weakened by six paise to 49.28 against the US Dollar in the opening session today following rising demand for the greenback by exporters, dealers at the Interbank Foreign Exchange said.

A minor fluctuation was witnessed in the domestic unit, as it registered intra day high and low at 49.30 and 49.26 per USD respectively.

Weak opening in share market and Dollars gain against other world currencies put the Rupee down, dealers said.

Railway announces new trains

CHENNAI: The Southern Railway on Thursday announced augmentation of trains and introduction of new trains.

A Railway release here said T No 11013/11014 lokmanya tilak coimbatore - lokmanya tilak expresses will be augmented with one Ac 3-tier coach with effect from Thursday ex Lokmanya tilak and February 25 ex Coimbatore.

Santragachi-Mangalore - Santragachi vivek weekly super fast express will be introduced ex Mangalore with effect from February 25 and ex Santragachi with



effect from March one.

T No 22851 Santragachi-Mangalore weekly vivek super fast express will leave Santragachi at 1605 hrs on Thursdays and arrive Mangalore central at 0945 hrs on Saturdays.

T No 22852 Mangalore-

Santragachi weekly vivek super fast express will leave Mangalore central at 2245 hrs on Saturdays and arrive Santragachi at 1750 hrs on Mondays. Advance reservation for the above trains will commence tomorrow, the release said.

Howrah - Mysore - Howrah weekly super fast expresses: Regularservice ex Howrah with effect from February 24 and ex Mysore with effect from February 27. T No 22817 Howrah - Mysore weekly super fast express will leave Howrah at 1610 hrs on Fridays and arrive Mysore at 0500 hrs on Sundays.

T No 22818 Mysore weekly vivek super fast express will leave Mysore at 0030 hrs on Mondays and arrive Howrah at 1450 hrs on Tuesdays.

Advance reservation for the above trains is open, it said.

CII holds meet on TPM

PUDUCHERRY: The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Puducherry on Wednesday organised a programme on 'how to improve business competitiveness through Total Productive Method (TPM) approach.

Speaking on the occasion, K S Shetty, Vice-Chairman, CII Puducherry Council said that TPM originated in Japan in 1971 as a method for improving machine availability through better

utilization of maintenance and production resources.

TPM, being a Japanese concept, is followed by most of the manufacturing industries.

He spoke about the YY Analysis, Energy Pillar, and Energy Conservation, Prevent Breakdowns, Saving Energy, Root cause to prevent losses.

One way to think of TPM is 'deterioration prevention': deterioration is what hap-

pens naturally to anything that is not 'taken care of'. For this reason many people refer to TPM as 'total productive manufacturing' or 'total process management'.

TPM is a proactive approach that essentially aims to identify issues as soon as possible and plan to prevent any issues before occurrence. One motto is 'zero error, zero work-related accident, and zero loss', he added.

Sensex down by 58.52 pts

MUMBAI: The benchmark Index of the Bombay Stock Exchange slipped further today by 58.52 points to 18,086.73 on selling pressure from local operators along with weak global cues. The Nifty of National Stock Exchange (NSE) eased by 19.50 points to 5485.85. The Sensex recorded intra day high and low at 18,209.56 and 18,075.61 points respectively. The Nifty recorded the day's high and low at 5519.55 and 5481.55 points respectively.

Barring Oil and Gas and FMCG stocks, all others were opened in red.

Realty was down by nearly four per cent followed by Metal, Capital Goods and Auto by one per cent each.

Sterlite Industries tumbled by 4.75 per cent. DLF, L & T, Hero Moto Corp, Tata Power and Jindal Steel kept the market under pressure for the second day today.

The losers were Sterlite Industries by 4.75 per cent to Rs 114.20, DLF by 3.27 per cent to Rs 231, Bharti Airtel by 2.12 per cent to

Rs 340, L & T by 1.82 per cent to Rs 1396, Hero Moto Corp by 1.77 per cent to Rs 729.55, Tata Power by 1.53 per cent to Rs 109.40, Jindal Steel by 1.35 per cent to Rs 604.25 and ICICI Bank by 1.08 per cent to Rs 946.80.

The gainers were SBI by 1.60 per cent to Rs 2293.90, Hind Unilever by 0.95 per cent to Rs 382, Reliance by 0.94 per cent to Rs 841.05 and ITC by 0.41 per cent to Rs 209.10.

Crisil's milestone in ratings

CHENNAI: Crisil announced its 25,000th rating of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) here.

The milestone rating certificate for the 25,000th SME rating was presented to Pure Enviro Engineering Private Limited MD K Ramasubramanian by Crisil, SME ratings director Sachin Nigam at a media conference. In his address, Nigam said the 25,000th rating achievement demonstrated the impact of the collaborative approach adopted by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), and Crisil. "SMEs play a criti-

cal role in the Indian economy and Crisil is proud to be a facilitator in the sector's promising prospects through SME Ratings", he added. Nigam also released the findings of its recent study on rating trends in SMEs in India. The study revealed that SMEs with higher ratings 'SE 2B' and above had a larger concentration in South India comprising the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh as compared to any other region in the country.

The study, conducted on 8,500 SMEs which have obtained ratings from Crisil in 2011, showed that 49 per cent enterprises obtained high ratings of 'SE 2B and

above' in south India, as compared to 40 per cent SMEs across India.

Nigam said South India offers SMEs favourable operating conditions, proximity to large manufacturers, availability of a strong supply chain and superior infrastructure facilities. This has allowed SMEs in these states to maintain relatively strong business and financial risk profiles.

Yogesh Dixit, Head, SME Ratings, Crisil, who was also present, said, 'the key driver that propels the growth of SMEs in South India is the stronger financial risk profile as can be seen from robust operating margins and low gearing of these companies.' "These SMEs have also benefited from the strong relations they have with large manufacturers", he added.

Govts ignoring homeopathy: senior homeopath

BANGALORE: The Central and State Governments need to do a lot more than mere recognition provided to enable the homeopathy system of Medicine to flourish and grow on an encouraging rate, a senior homeopath said.

Talking to media, Dr Mukesh Batra, Chairman of Dr Batra's Positive Health Clinic, said Homeopathy is the second largest system of medicine to be practised in India, next to Allopathy, but its coverage is woefully small and research and development is virtually nil. It is restricted mostly to the urban areas.

He lamented that the country lacked the necessary political will to give prominence to Indian systems of medicine which could play more than a complementary role.

It is ironic that the country which produces the largest number of homeopathy doctors in a year does not provide the necessary impetus for its growth and even the Government and ESI hospitals have no separate sections to give patients their choice of treatment, Dr Batra lamented, stating that Homeopathy is recognised in the National Health Scheme in England and in France homeopathy is as popular as allopathy.

Reeling under statistics relating to Homeopathy, he said currently Homeopathy is Rs 2,788 crore businesses in In-

dia and growing at about 20 to 25 per cent. By 2017 it is expected to touch around Rs 6,000 crore.

The country has the largest number of homeopathy doctors of 5,00,000 with each year, 20,000 new homeopathy doctors being turned out by 185 colleges besides 35 institutions which offer post graduate courses.

The country also has around 11,000 homeopathy hospitals. Compared to this France has a business of Rs 26,000 crore in homeopathy. Homeopathy is practiced in as many as 80 countries.

Dr Batra said, Homeopathy as a preventive medicine is also neglected and it can offer medical help to poor and down-trodden at relatively low cost when compared to the modern medical system.

As an instance he quoted Andhra Pradesh Government which has ten years ago mass circulated Beladonna homeopathy pills to prevent spread of gastroenteritis. Homeopathy offered healthcare options at relatively low cost and this need to be spread in rural areas, he urged.

He said, the government should also promote public-private partnership initiatives to enable homeopathy get the necessary boost within the country and each government hospital should have at least some beds reserved for homeopathy patients.

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'Health festival 2012'

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0630	KANNABIRAN KADHAIYAMUDHAM-Srimad Bhagavatham
0645	AAZHWARGALUM AMUDHA THAMIZHUM
0715	KAALAI THENDRAL-Breakfast Show-Yoga / Meditation
0730	NAM VIRUNDHINAR
0800	SEIDHIGAL
0815	PENNE UNAKKAAGA- Sponsored Programme
0825	MANAKKAVALAI MAATRAL ELIDHU - Prog on Stress M.ment
0830	ENDRUM INIMAI
0900	AZHAGU KALAI : Beauty Tips
0930	ARIVIYAL PUDHIR- Scientific Facts
1000	SEIDHIGAL
1005	TELE-SHOPPING- Sponsored Programme
1030	KAANBOM KARPOM Model Question Paper for-Std - XII Biology (Part: 1) Presented by: S. Adhiappan
1100	TELE SHOPPING- Sponsored Programme
1115	TELEONE TELE-SHOPPING- Sponsored Programme
1130	KONJAM KAVIDHAI KONJAM THENEER
1200	SEIDHIGAL
1210	HELLO UNGALUDAN- Phone-in Live : Legal Issues

PODHIGAI

1300	AADAIGALIL ACHCHUKKALAI- Sponsored Programme
1330	SUVAI ARUSUVAI - Spon. Prog.
1400	TELEBRANDS - Spon. Prog.
1430	SEIDHIGAL
1440	SIRIPPU VEDIGAL

DD - 1 & PODHIGAI

1500	KURALIN KURAL
1505	SNEGITHAMAE - Serial: Ep. 28
1530	NEEDOOZH VAAZHGA- Science Prog.: Ep. 7
1600	THENEER NERAM: Recipe
1630	SIRUVAR POONGA
1700	SEIDHIGAL
1705	SIRUVAR NERAM (Pro. from DDK, Madurai)
1730	KAANBOM KARPOM-Model Question Paper for Std - XII ECNOMICS (Part: 2) Presented by: P G MANORAMA
1800	PON VILAIYUM BHOOMI
1830	KANNABIRAN KADHAIYAMUDHAM-Srimad Bhagavatham Discour
1845	VANIGA THAGAVALLAL- Business Information
1900	SEIDHIGAL
1905	NAM VIRUNDHINAR
1930	BHOOMIYIN KADHAI- Kahani Dharti Hi
2015	SEIDHIGAL
2045	SIRIPPU VEDIGAL
2100	NEEDITHTHA VAAZHVIKKU THEVAIKKETRA NUGARVU-Spon:Pr
2105	CHIDAMBARAM NATYANJALI
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What the need for NCTC
NCTC should not be operationalised unless state governments were consulted. I told to the PM that NCTC disturbed the country's federal structure and I asked what the need for a Central anti-terror agency was now.
— Mamma Banerjee.

Metro- Crime & Politics

Inds file papers for Sankarankovil

CHENNAI: Three Independents have filed papers as the filing of nominations for the March 18 bypoll to Sankarankovil (Reserve) Assembly Constituency began on Wednesday.
Tamil Nadu CEO Praveen Kumar, in a release here, said on the first day of nominations, three independents filed their papers.
Those who filed their papers were Dr K Padmarajan, who used to file nominations for every election, P N Sri Ramachandran and S Arumugam.

HM releases book on anti-naxal operations



HYDERABAD: Union Home Minister P.Chidambaram has released a book compiled by AP Police on anti naxal operations at New Delhi on Wednesday.
Andhra Pradesh state Director General of Police V Dinesh Reddy presented a book prepared by AP Police about 'Ambushes Booby Traps for Communication, compiled for the Anti Naxal Operations to Union Home Minister, according to a release here.

In an informal meet, Union Home Minister released the book for the Anti Naxal Operations which is useful for central police as well as state police.

The copies of the book were also given to all Director Generals and Police Chiefs who were attending meeting at New Delhi, the release added.

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HC notice to TN Assembly Secy on Vijayakanth's plea

CHENNAI: Madras High Court on Wednesday ordered issuance of notice to Tamil Nadu Assembly Secretary on a petition filed by Actor-Politician and Leader of the Opposition Vijayakanth, challenging his ten-day suspension from the House for his alleged unruly behaviour.
The State Assembly had suspended Vijayakanth on February two for ten days after he angrily gesticulated against a ruling party member and made some 'abusive' remarks when the House was debating the



motion of thanks to the Governor for his address.
Vijayakanth, who had served three days of suspension, would not be able to attend the session for seven more days when the Assembly meets for the budget session, likely to be convened after the March 18 Sankarankovil Assembly

Bye-election.
As the date for the budget session was not announced and his suspension in vogue, the DMDK founder said could not serve the people of his constituency as a Legislator, and sought a direction to declare as unconstitutional, the suspension order.
Vijayakanth, who cited Speaker D Jayakumar and Assembly secretary as respondents, sought a stay of the suspension order.
When the case came up for hearing before Justice Rajeswaran, Senior Advocate P S Raman, appearing

for the Actor-Politician, said the Assembly has withdrawn the rights and privileges extended to him as Leader of the Opposition.
As he was unable to discharge his duties and serve the people of Rishivandiyam, from where he got elected, the suspension order went against the Representation of the People's Act, he argued.
After admitting the petition, the judge ordered issuance of notice to the Assembly Secretary, directing him to file his counter by March two.

Bank heists solved..... Continue p-1

on a complaint from Deputy Commissioner of Police (Adyar) Sudhakar, who led the team, a FIR was registered and a probe by the Judicial Magistrate ordered into the encounter.
"As per the rules, the FIR was sent to the Magistrate for a detailed inquiry. Further probe into it would also be conducted by the State Crime Branch-CID Police on the orders of the State DGP," Mr Tripathy said. He said Police Inspectors Ravi and Christian Jayasil, suffered bullet wounds to the left bicep and the left upper waist when police returned fire in self-defence in a bid to save the lives of innocent public.

The injured policemen and gang members were taken to Government Royapettah Hospital (GRH). While the policemen were admitted for treatment, the gang members were declared dead at GRH and their bodies were taken to Government General Hospital for post mortem. Mr Tripathy repeatedly said that police team had gone there only to verify the information received by them and not with the intention of any encounter.
Giving a blow-by-blow account of the encounter, Mr Tripathy said acting on information from a man from the neighbourhood that the person, whose photograph was released by the police yesterday, was staying in a ground floor apartment along with four others, a 14-member team headed by Mr Sudhakar went to the spot to verify the information at around 0100 hrs.
"When the police knocked at the doors of the apartment at Vandikaran Street in Velachery Area, the gang members resisted by opening fire," he said. As the curious onlookers started rushing out of the house on hearing the gun shots, the police warned the gang to stop firing and asked them to surrender. "After the police knocked at the doors, they resisted from inside and started attacking through the windows.
"Since it is a highly congested and thickly populated area, we cautioned them to stop firing as it might cause injury or death of innocent people and asked them to

surrender," the commissioner said.
Mr Tripathy repeatedly said that police team had gone there only to verify the information received by them and not with the intention of any encounter.
Giving a blow-by-blow account of the encounter, Mr Tripathy said acting on information from a man from the neighborhood that the person, whose photograph was released by the police yesterday, was staying in a ground floor apartment along with four others, a 14-member team headed by Sudhakar went to the spot to verify the information at around 0100 hrs.
"When the police knocked at the doors of the apartment at Vandikaran Street in Velachery Area, the gang members resisted by opening fire," he said. As the curious onlookers started rushing out of the house on hearing the gun shots, the police warned the gang to stop firing and asked them to surrender.
"After the police knocked at the doors, they resisted from inside and started attacking through the win-

dows. "Since it is a highly congested and thickly populated area, we cautioned them to stop firing as it might cause injury or death of innocent public, police broke the door and entered the house and were forced to return the fire, killing the gang members, he added. Denying the police had stated that one of the gang members was a former engineering student of the SRM University, the commissioner said the identity of the deceased was being confirmed based on the address in the seized voter ID cards. "Further investigation to ascertain their background, whether they are involved in any other such robberies in Tamil Nadu or other states and whether there were more accomplices is on," he added.

Probe into 'Porngate' begins
BANGALORE: Amid boycott by Opposition Congress and Janata Dal (Secular), the Karnataka Assembly House committee, setup to probe the porn scandal involving three Former Ministers, began its probe. While the four members of the ruling BJP were present, the two representatives from Congress and another from JD(S), nominated to the panel by

Passenger detained, Rs 3 cr diamonds seized

CHENNAI: Air Customs officials on Wednesday seized nearly 750 gm of precious diamonds, valued at Rs three crore in the international market from a passenger who arrived here from Dubai via Hyderabad by an Air India flight and detained him. Airport sources said Customs officials checked the suitcase of Arvin Lalwani (38), a native of Surat in Gujarat and found precious diamonds hidden in it.
Customs officials suspected it was smuggled from Dubai.
However, on interrogation, he said he was a domestic

passenger and boarded the flight only at Hyderabad and showed the boarding pass. He said he was involved in wholesale diamond business and went to Hyderabad to sell a portion of the diamonds.
He said he came to Chennai to sell the remaining diamonds to the traders here and had boarded the flight at Hyderabad.
He did not have documents to substantiate his claim.
Customs officials ascertained that Arvind, in fact, had boarded the flight only at Hyderabad. Since he was a domestic passenger and Customs officials did not

have powers to arrest him, he was handed over to the Income Tax Department officials for further questioning.
As Arvind could not disclose the source of the diamonds, the extent to which he had sold them in Hyderabad and the prospective traders in Chennai to whom he was planning to sell them, he was detained and taken to the IT headquarters for extensive interrogation.
The IT officials also alerted their counterpart's in Gujarat to secure details of the business dealings of Arvind and whether he had been filing regular IT returns.

Statements on fishermen killings contradictory to facts: Bishop

KOCHI: Newly-appointed Cardinal Mar George Alancherry on Wednesday said certain statements on killing of the two Indian fishermen by Italian Marines from an Italian Oil Tanker was 'contradictory to the facts.'
Stating the media reports appearing in an Italian News Agency 'Fides' was absolutely wrong, Cardinal Alancherry, in a statement here, said the news agency Fides withdraw the report and tendered their apology in this regard.



Stating truth and justice should always be safe guarded, the Cardinal said what he had stated was the tragic incident of killing of two innocent fishermen should be taken up with due seriousness with necessary

legal steps in this regard.
"At the same time, I had stated that the issue should be solved amicably through dialogue and should never go for frictions by the people and the nations," he said in the statement.
Reiterating he had never tried for mediation or approached any Ministers on the issue, he said he had sincerely shared the deep sorrow of the families of those who were killed in the incident and accepted the emotions of the people in this country, it added.

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Speaker K G Bopaiah, did not turn up. Panel Chairman Srishailappa Bidarur told reporters that the next meeting of the committee was scheduled for February 29. "I appeal to the members of the committee from the Congress and the JD(S) to participate in the proceedings and offer their views," he said. Bopaiah has asked the committee to submit the

report by March 13.
The committee is probing the alleged viewing of porn MMS on a mobile phone by Laxman Savadi, C C Patil and Krishna Palemar, during the Assembly Session on February seven.
The three BJP leaders had since quit as Ministers after the incident. The y had furnished their replies to the Speaker.

India objects to extension of Indian children's visa by Norway

NEW DELHI: India has taken objection to the Norwegian authorities seeking to extend the Residence Permits of the two young Indian children who have been put in foster care by the Municipal Child Care Services in Stavanger.
The children were separated from their parent on the ground that the latter were not able to take proper care of them. After a protracted diplomatic process, the authorities had agreed to hand over the children to their uncle who had travelled from

Kolkata to Norway for the purpose.
Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Syed Akbaruddin said the Government on getting the report of residence permit extension immediately conveyed its serious concerns regarding the manner in which this was done to the Norwegian Foreign Office, in Oslo as well as in New Delhi.
"It was pointed out that the children are neither orphans nor Stateless persons, and enjoy the protection of the Indian State and any re-

quest for extension of Residence Permit on their behalf should emanate from either the parents or the Indian State," he said
The Norwegian Government was urged once again to expedite the process of return of the young children to India in view of the humanitarian dimension of the issue.
It was underlined that India has strong legislative and institutional mechanism to protect the interests of children after their return to India, he said.

Police encounter photos



(Above) Media persons watching inside the house where encounter took place (Below left) Bodies of the five persons who killed in police encounter, (Right) Blood flood inside the house. - Stalin

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Precious Photos



Former Indian Prime minister Rajiv Gandhi and Congress president Sonia Gandhi enjoying the ice cream taste in the Delhi Street...

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It was 'Tough' sacking great Ricky Ponting but this decision made as a panel says Michael Clarke

Australian captain Michael Clarke has said he was partly responsible for the sacking of former skipper Ricky Ponting from the one-day squad. I'm 100 per cent part of the selection panel - that's part now of the captain's job," he wrote in a New Ltd column. "We've made this decision as a panel." It is tough not having the great Ricky Ponting out there playing ODI for us but that's the decision we've made."

Basket ball legend Michael Jordan sues Chinese sports wear firm over name use



Former National Basketball Association star Michael Jordan watches the Texas Rangers play the New York Yankees in Game 4 of baseball's American League.

Basketball legend Michael Jordan has filed a lawsuit in China against a Chinese sportswear company, accusing the firm of unauthorised use of his name. The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame recipient and former Chicago Bulls star said on Thursday that Qiaodan Sports, a company located in the southern Fujian province had built its business around his Chinese name and jersey number without his permission. "It is deeply disappointing to see a company build a business off my Chinese name without my permission, use the number 23 and even at-

tempt to use the names of my children," Jordan said in a statement. "This complaint is not about money. It's about principle and protecting my name," he added. Jordan is known as Qiaodan in basketball-mad China that has produced its own basketball superstar in Yao Ming. The moniker was registered by Qiaodan Sports, the statement said. It did not specify what compensation Jordan was seeking from the company. A Qiaodan Sports spokesman said he had not received details of the case from the company's legal

department, and thus could not comment on it. Over the past few years, it has become the Olympic partner of Mongolia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. And in 2010, it became the official partner of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA). Jordan filed the case on Tuesday in a Chinese court. NBA breakout star Jeremy Lin may face similar issues in China further down the road as a woman in the eastern province of Jiangsu has already registered his name, in Chinese characters, as a trademark, the Shanghai Daily newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Lin himself is applying for a trademark in the United States to the term "Linsanity", which is widely used to describe his meteoric rise to fame, according to the United States Patent and Trademark Office website. Apple Inc is similarly facing legal tangles in China. On Wednesday, a Shanghai court began hearing a case brought by Chinese technology firm Proview Technology (Shenzhen) against Apple for its use of the name iPad. Proview claims it owns the iPad trademark in China, while Apple says the trademark was bought from the firm years ago.

'Aravan' historic look like film to release on March



Tamil movie 'Aravan' the historic look like film is set to release on March 2nd... Director N.Lingusamy's Thirupathi brothers releases the film in Chennai city theatres and it is to release jointly with Amma creations to other places of Tamilnadu. - Aadi and Dhansika leads in - kumarsrinivas

UAE Tamil Sangam's Shuttlecock Tournament 2012



DUBAI : UAE Tamil Sangam conducted shuttlecock tournament recently in Dubai for Children, men and women. Valentine's Day

celebrations also held with fun games and joy, prizes were given to the winners by the chief guest, and people from various places of UAE

participated in the event. I am sure this is an unbelievable great achievement for our UAE Tamil sangam, we thank all our mates for

making this event a grand success, says its president Ramesh Viswanathan and his team.

Salman Khan is Cuba's tourism ambassador!



MUMBAI: Tourism seems to be the new fascination for Bollywood celebs. After Amitabh Bachchan and Aamir Khan, the new star to join the band wagon is Salman Khan.

While Big B and Aamir are busy promoting Indian tourism, Salman has gone global by endorsing an international destination. According to reports, Salman Khan recently shot an ad to promote Cuba. He did a cameo for a Cuban tourism commercial.

Salman, who was in Havana, Cuba shooting for his film 'Ek Tha Tiger', was on sets when one of the local film directors approached Khan to do a cameo in his video for the local tourism board.

Apparently, the director approached Salman as he felt that his global appeal would be a great asset for the project. Salu spontaneously agreed to feature in the commercial.

VIBGYOR International Film Festival starts

THRISSUR: VIBGYOR International Film Festival began here on Wednesday at K T Mohammed Memorial regional Theatre. The six-day-long festival was

inaugurated by dancer and activist Mallika Sarabhai. Inaugurating the festival, Ms Sarabhai said the artists should have an important role to act to make a good

and a prosperous world a reality. As many as 95 short films and 19 documentaries from different countries will be exhibited. Fourteen films portraying the social issues,

5 on atomic energy related issues, 23 films on life and culture in Kerala, 23 regarding children and 3 from neighboring Bangladesh would be shown.

Tirupati zoo to develop into a world class one

HYDERABAD: Andhra Pradesh Forest and Environment Minister S Vijaya Rama Raju today told the State Assembly that the government was taking all necessary steps to develop Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park into a world class one.

He said during question hour that the government was very keen on protection of animals in the zoos and they not taken any funds from Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) for developing Tirupati Zoo.

The government was also taking steps to provide better tourism facilities at zoo parks located at Hyderabad, Tirupati and Visakhapat-



nam he said adding that any employee found indulging in corrupt practices while dealing with animals in the zoo would be suspended or

dismissed. While referring to exchange of animals, the Minister said 11 new animals procured from outside have

already joined in Nehru Zoological Park in Hyderabad and a pair of Cheetahs would be added to the Zoo shortly.

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