

6 WEST BENGAL

Gujarat Police reunites runaway boy from Asansol with his mother

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
VADODRA, JULY 9

AN eight-year-old boy, who had run away from his home in West Bengal after his mother allegedly scolded him, was reunited with his family on Wednesday at a town near Vadodra by a Gujarat Police team.

Sachin Sunil Chauhan, a student of Class II, had run away from his home at a village near Vardhman town of Asansol district about 10 days back, Bardoli police inspector S M Sagar said over phone on Thursday.

"Sachin was scolded by his widowed mother Radha on June 29 after he lost a Rs 500 note which she had given him to buy some items from the market," Sagar said.

An irked Sachin, who had some money in his pocket that time, left home and came to Asansol railway station. He boarded an Ahmedabad-bound train and landed in Surat city. However, his trouble grew in Surat as he could converse only in his native language Bengali. The scared boy then got into a state transport (ST) bus and asked the conductor to give him

a ticket to Asansol.

The bus conductor failed to understand his language and asked him to get down at the ST depot in Bardoli town, about 160 km from Vadodra.

The boy begged there as he had no money, said Sagar.

"We spotted him begging and brought him to the police station. Gitaben Mangalbhai, a woman assistant sub-inspector working as child welfare officer, started looking after him," he said. "We took help from several Bengali people staying in Surat to get details about the boy's family and his native village," the police officer added.

The Bengalis contacted their friends and family members staying in Kolkata, Vardhman town and Asansol and managed to approach his mother. Some of these people went to the village and informed her about her missing son being found in Gujarat's Bardoli town, he said.

They brought Radha to Bardoli where the minor boy was reunited with her yesterday after due verification of her identification documents, Sagar said.

"I am really happy to have found him. I can breathe now," a teary-eyed Radha said as she hugged her son.

CM set to launch skill development project for sex workers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA, JULY 9

TO rehabilitate trafficked women and sex workers willing to leave the profession, the state government will start a livelihood programme for them which will be launched by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at one of the state-run women homes later this month.

Under the project christened 'Muktir Alo' (Light of Freedom), the first batch of 50 trafficked women will get training in vocational skills like spice grinding and block printing.

"We have identified this first batch of girls from various homes for women run by us. Gradually even women who are in the sex trade will be able to join this programme if they are willing to leave their profession," state Women Welfare minister Shashi Panja said.

During the course of a nine-month-long training, they would get free stay and food at the women's home besides a monthly stipend of Rs 2,500.

"The idea is to train them and give them skills so that they can start a new life. There are many sex workers who want to leave this profession and start a dignified life. We will provide them that opportunity," Panja said.

After getting trained, the in-

mates would be provided with a start-up capital of Rs 25,000 if they want to start a small business on their own or through a self-help group.

The state-funded scheme for rehabilitation of commercial sex workers and victims of trafficking has a budget of Rs 88 lakh in the first year after which around Rs 66 lakh would be spent in the subsequent years, department officials said.

Another part of the scheme is related to old and retired sex workers who are living a life of penury.

"We have got a plot in Rajarhat where 100 such old and ailing sex workers would be rehabilitated. All their basic needs like food, medicines, etc would be taken care of by us," the minister said.

According to estimates by Durbur Mahila Samanwaya Committee which works for the rights of sex workers, there are around 4,000 old sex workers who now work as babysitters, maids, cooks or die a silent death in various brothels of the state.

The government also has a plan for the minor children of sex workers who suffer from stigma when they enter mainstream society.

"A residential school would be set up at the plot where such children will be given food and education free of cost so that they can build their future," Panja said.



Passengers try to board a local train as rain lashes Kolkata on Thursday. *PTI*

1 killed in brawl at hotel bar in Kolkata

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JULY 9

ONE pedestrian was shot dead and two others injured in a brawl between employees of a hotel bar and some unidentified persons when the latter refused to pay at the bar in Haridevpur area in south Kolkata.

During the clash which took place on Wednesday night, at least 35 rounds were fired on the street. Rahul Majumdar, who was passing by the area, was caught unawares and got shot in the crossfire. Apart from him, two other locals and an auto-rickshaw driver, too, sustained minor injuries in the clash.

"The gang was carrying weapons, including firearms and bombs, and fired around 30 to 35 rounds and hurled bombs. During the firing, three locals were hit and taken to the M R Bangur Hospital where one was



The bar in Haridevpur on Thursday. (Inset) Rahul Majumdar, who was killed in the shootout. *Express*

declared dead on arrival. The other two were released after primary treatment," a police officer said.

The incident took place when a group of seven people

refused to pay the bill for their food and drinks at the hotel bar in Haridevpur. The hotel staff refused to let the youths go, following which both the groups entered into rounds of arguments



and brawls. Later, the youths called their associates over cell-phones, who arrived in good numbers at the spot and it turned into a free-for-all fight. The bar authorities, too, called the police to sort out the matter but the cops were outnumbered by the associates.

Sources said the miscreants later fled on motorcycles while firing at random. The locals chased them and managed to get hold of one of the gang members, who was arrested. Later, the hotel owners lodged a complaint against unidentified per-

GSI Team To Visit Mirik

A Geological Survey of India (GSI) team will be visiting Mirik where most of the deaths were reported in the multiple landslides that shook the Darjeeling Hills on July 1. The GSI experts team will study the vulnerable zones of Mirik, officials said.

Barasat court stays warrant against TMC MP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA, JULY 9

THE Barasat district court on Thursday granted a 10-day stay on an arrest warrant issued against Trinamool Congress MP Prasun Banerjee by a lower court for allegedly slapping a police constable.

District Judge Amitava Chatterjee, while grant-

ing the stay on the warrant, directed that the matter will come up for hearing on July 20.

Banerjee had challenged the legality of the arrest warrant issued on July 3 by Bidhannagar Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate A K Ghosh, directing the police to take him into custody and produce him before the court by July 17.

The Howrah MP's counsel, Rajdeep Banerjee, submitted that he was not an absconder and had complied with the notice for appearance sent by the police. The hearing in the matter was concluded on Wednesday and the order was reserved.

Banerjee was booked under sections 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions) and 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) of the IPC. The warrant was issued by the court as the Howrah MP had failed to turn up before it on a number of occasions despite notice being served on him.

In January, the Bidhannagar police had booked Banerjee for allegedly slapping an on-duty traffic constable. The constable had allegedly stopped his car for taking a wrong turn on the busy Lake Town-VIP Road crossing. Banerjee had denied that he had slapped the constable.

KMC presents deficit Budget of Rs 168 cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA, JULY 9

MAYOR Sovan Chatterjee on Thursday presented a Rs 168-crore deficit Budget of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) for the year 2015-16.

While tabling the Budget, the mayor said while the projected expenditure was Rs 2,904.54 crore, the income stood at Rs 2,736.54 crore.

Elaborating the reasons for the deficit, the mayor said a revenue loss of around Rs 90 to Rs 100 crore was due to a ban on the regularisation of illegal buildings in Kolkata. A Bill has already been passed in the Assembly seeking to regularise such buildings, he added.

Another reason for the revenue loss was the restriction imposed by the defence authorities on construction of highrises within 500 m of defence buildings. "This will lead to a revenue loss of another Rs 100 crore," said Chatterjee.

Plans are on the anvil to pres-



Mayor Sovan Chatterjee in Kolkata on Thursday. *PTI*

ent a zero-deficit Budget for which the different departments have been asked to increase income, he added.

To check the depletion of water table and prevent arsenic contamination, the KMC is working on projects that will ensure surface water supply and put an end to underground water supply like big diameter tube wells.

You have right to point out our mistakes: Mamata to Ashok Ghosh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA, JULY 9

IN A warm sign of goodwill between political foes, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday told veteran Left leader Ashok Ghosh that he had the "right" to point out her mistakes while the latter described the Trinamool Congress chief as being just like his "younger sister".

During a visit to the office of All India Forward Bloc — which is a partner of Left Front — to wish Ghosh on his birthday last week, Mamata also said that politics does not mean misusing power but working for the masses.

"Give us advise. If you see that any mistake is being committed by us anywhere, I give you the right to point it out," she said after greeting 94-year-old Ghosh with flowers and sweets and wishing him a healthy life.

Mamata added: "I am here for a courtesy visit as I couldn't come to wish him on his birthday earlier this month. I had de-

cided that once I am back in Kolkata, I will come and visit him. I had spoken to him on his birthday."

Heaping praises on Ghosh, Mamata said in his presence: "Ashokda belongs to the genre of political leaders who have dedicated their lives to the masses. Leaders like him are examples. Rather than leading luxurious lives, they have taken pains and suffered hardships to work for the masses."

The Chief Minister said she shares the lifestyle of various Left leaders who believed in simple living and working for the masses.

She also added: "Politics doesn't mean misusing power, but working for the masses and living up to commitments. Politics means what you say on Day 1, you should follow that on Day 100 also."

Ghosh, on his part, said: "We all want to follow the ideology of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in our work. Mamata Banerjee, too, follows that ideology. She is just like my younger sister."



Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with veteran Forward Bloc leader Ashok Ghosh in Kolkata on Thursday. *Subham Dutta*

JOINT VENTURE OF IIT-KHARAGPUR AND IPCR IN KOLKATA

New visual device could make stethoscopes thing of the past

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA, JULY 9

THE old stethoscope could soon be replaced by a smarter device developed by researchers from IIT-Kharagpur and Institute of Pulmocare and Research (IPCR) in Kolkata, which converts sound into images to make it easier for doctors to diagnose lung diseases.

Developed by researchers of both the institutes, the core technology has been patented after

successful field trials.

"The lung sound analyser is non-invasive and very easy to use. It converts signals into images, which makes detection of a disease easier and in-depth. Detection is much more precise," IIT-Kharagpur Director Partha Pratim Chakrabarti told media-persons in Kolkata on Thursday.

Pulmonologist P S Bhattacharyya, who developed the device along with IIT electronic engineer Goutam Saha, said they have so far identified a digital signature of interstitial lung disease and once they come



The device can detect lung diseases. *Subham Dutta*

up with digital signatures of six or seven other diseases, it could be introduced in the market. The device will have special relevance in rural areas where health infrastructure was inadequate,

he added.

"Even a lay person will be able to use it and then transmit the image using a smartphone. The doctor sitting at a remote location will then interpret the disease after seeing the image," the pulmonologist said, adding that the product was now at a very basic stage and may find application in newer areas gradually.

Saha said the embedded system could be produced at a cheap cost to ensure its mass utilisation. The invention was recently featured in medical journal Respiriology.

No interference from MHRD: IIT-Kharagpur director

Kolkata: IIT-Kharagpur Director Partha Pratim Chakrabarti on Thursday said there was "no" interference from the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) with the autonomy of the higher education institute. "There is no interference. We are getting what we want," Chakrabarti told medipersons in Kolkata when asked about the MHRD

interference. When asked about budget cuts, he said they have discussed it with the Ministry and were hopeful of getting more grants. In May, IIT-Madras had derecognised a students' group following a complaint that it was critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The incident had triggered protests from political parties who claimed it was due to the MHRD interference. *PTI*

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