

Hindu Hostel students call for citizens' convention tomorrow



SABYASACHI BANDOOPADHYAY

KOLKATA, OCT 8 /- Students of Presidency University who have been on an indefinite hunger strike demanding accommodation in the under construction Hindu Hostel have called a citizens' convention tomorrow at the hostel to highlight their issues. Distinguished alumni of the university including Gyanpith award-winning poet Shanku Ghosh, author Nabaneeta Dev Sen, have been invited to attend the convention, according to Anit Vaidya, one of the agitating students.

As many as 60 students of the university who are boarders of Hindu Hostel have been on hunger strike which has entered 7th day today. "We have been undergoing this trauma for quite some time now and we have decided to take this step and we hope it will help draw the

attention of people concerned," Vaidya told the Echo of India.

Regarding the PWD's assurance that two blocks of the hostel would be ready by November 15, Vaidya said it was all a vague assurance. "They said the blocks would be ready but they did not say they would be ready for accommodation," Vaidya further said.

Hindu Hostel, had been shut down for repairs on July 29, 2015 and 50 boarders were shifted to a rented accommodation at New Town. Since they found it hard for commuting between the hostel and the university and faced other problems they demanded that the new hostel be ready soon for accommodation.

"They have made the corridors raised, potential of their temporary hostel and had even forced the authorities to shift the convocation from the campus to Nandan.

Science research institute's effort to bring industry and academia closer

DEBANJAN MUJHERJEE

KOLKATA, OCT 8 /- S N Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata organised a seminar recently where academicians and industry people shared their views and scope at large about things they are working on and issues that are needed to be addressed. Titled 'Industry-Academia Meet', the seminar was inaugurated by Samit Ray, director of the institute. Prof Sirshendu De from IIT Kharagpur, through a powerpoint presentation, highlighted the utility of its water filter that is powered by Laterite-based Arsenic

Removal technology, an invention of the institute. Prof De said the technology has been transferred to Mandal Precession of West Bengal and Vas Eros Pvt Ltd of Ranchi and already 48 filters powered by the IIT's technology have been installed in West Bengal and 16 in Assam. Partha Pratim Dasmahapatra, CEO of EZERX Health Tech Private Ltd, a start-up demonstrated a product of his company, which can detect various diseases simply by sending a light through the conjunctiva of a patient, making medical treatment easier. Dr Asim Mallick from Nil Ratan Siksha Samiti College Hospital shared his

views on how industry can come forward to help reduce the mortality rate of children below the age of five years.

Professor Shiv Prat Singh of IIT Kharagpur spoke at large about his research work, which has resulted in invention of an alloy which can make steel, used for making body parts of aircrafts and cars stronger. Dr Hanumanth Purushottam from National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) put emphasis on registration of Intellectual Property to safeguard technology from getting copied by others and commercialisation of technologies.



Prof Shiv Prat Singh (L), Samit Ray, Director of S N Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (M) and Dr Soumen Mondal (R) lighting the inaugural lamp

Bengal celebrates all festivals with equal enthusiasm: CM

KOLKATA, OCT 8 /- Calling upon people to maintain religious harmony, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said Monday the state celebrates festivals of all communities with equal enthusiasm.

The CM, after inaugurating the centenary celebrations of 'Baghbar Sarbojoni Durgotsav' (community pujas) in north

Kolkata, said "the spirit of togetherness and amity" was the strength of people in Bengal.

"We love and respect all religions. Some of us are Hindus, some Christians, some Muslims and Sikhs. We may follow our own religious scriptures but we have respect for other scriptures too. We participate in festivals of all communities

with enthusiasm. This togetherness is our strength," she said.

Talking about Baghbar puja, the CM said she was happy to see that the organizers have stuck to their tradition of worshipping 'ekchala sabei' Durga idol (the goddess and her four children mounted on a single frame). Earlier in the day,

Banerjee had wished people on Twitter on the occasion of Mahalaya by quoting a few lines of 'Mahishasuramardini' recital.

Mahalaya marks the beginning of Devi-Paksha and the end of Pitri-Paksha (the shradh or the mourning period). It heralds the beginning of 10-day Durga Puja festival.



S K Rai Boxing academy was inaugurated on Monday evening at Upper Bagdogra by Olympian boxer Sahadev Kumar Rai.

Puja guide & kids' identity cards released by Malda Club



EOI PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENT

MALDA, OCT 8 /- Century old Malda Club in tradition to last 18 years published the Puja guide and identity cards for kids for upcoming Durga Puja today. Superintendent of police Arnab Ghosh, who is also the ex-officio vice president of the club, Nihar Ghosh, chairman of English Bazaar civic body and ex-officio executive member of the club, former minister Krishnendu Choudhury a senior official of Indian Oil Corporation Soumya Ranjan Mallick, Subhendu Choudhury, general secretary of district sports association also graced the programme today. "Durga Puja in Malda is second to Kolkata in my experience. Such a big

religious festival requires proper management by police administration and other organisations. The puja guide and the identity cards are quite instrumental for the management," Arnab Ghosh said. Nihar Ghosh said that Malda Club had always played a commendable role towards social service. "Club authorities have released the puja guide and identity cards for children for last 19 years. We would extend necessary cooperation to club authority from the end of civic body," he said. Former minister Choudhury also appreciated the initiative of Malda Club. Anjan Pal, secretary of Malda Club said that they would run a water distribution camp jointly with Rotary Club of Malda Central during four days of Durga Puja.

At 2 deg Celsius warming, Kolkata could see deadly heatwaves: IPCC report

NEW DELHI, OCT 8 /- India could witness deadly heatwaves if the planet's temperature goes up by two degrees Celsius, according to a report released Monday by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC has come out with a special report on global warming that said limiting it to 1.5 degrees Celsius will require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society. The report has predicted that India and other countries with large populations dependent on agriculture and fishery will be highly impacted due to greater sea level rise, higher frequency of droughts and floods, and heatwaves, environmental think-tank CSE said. "The impact of 1.5 degrees Celsius warming is greater than what was anticipated earlier while the impacts at two degrees Celsius are 'catastrophic' for the poor and for developing nations such as India, the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) said. Greenpeace

GDPs of developing economies such as India. "India's long coastline is already dealing with the effects of sea level rise, which will increase if we fail to keep temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius," Nandikesh Sivalingam, campaign manager, Greenpeace India, said. The IPCC report said, "At 1.5 C, twice as many mega cities as present such as Lagos in Nigeria and Shanghai in China are likely to become heat stressed, potentially exposing more than 350 million more people to deadly heat stress by 2050."

"At +2 C warming, Karachi (Pakistan) and Kolkata (India) could expect annual conditions equivalent to their deadly 2015 heatwaves (medium confidence)," the report said. Ninety-one authors and review editors from 40 countries prepared the IPCC report in response to an invitation from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) when it adopted the Paris Agreement in 2015.

The report said regionally differentiated multi-sector risks are already apparent at 1.5 degrees Celsius warming, being more prevalent (where) vulnerable people live, predominantly in South Asia - mostly Pakistan, India, and China, but these spread to sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and East Asia as temperature rises, with the world's poorest disproportionately impacted by two

degrees Celsius.

The report said although warming is projected to be the highest in the Northern Hemisphere under 1.5 C or 2 C of global warming, regions in the tropics and Southern Hemisphere subtropics that are projected to experience the largest impacts on economic growth. "Statistically significant reductions in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita growth are projected across much of the African continent, southeast Asia, India, Brazil and Mexico," the report said.

Coastal flooding by the sea is likely to cost thousands on billions of USD annually, with damage costs under constant protection 0.3-5.0 per cent of global GDP in 2100, it said. Risks are projected to be highest in south and south-east Asia, assuming there is no upgrade to present protection levels, for all temperatures of climate warming.

"Countries where at least 50 million people exposed to SLR (sea level rise), include China, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, United States and Vietnam," it said.

The report said recent projections of the potential impacts of climate change on malaria globally and for Asia, Africa, and South America confirm that weather and climate are among the drivers of the geographic range, intensity of transmission, and seasonality of malaria, and that the relationships are not necessarily linear, resulting in complex patterns of

changes in risk with additional warming.

"Projections suggest the burden of malaria could increase with climate change because of a greater geographic range of the anophel vector, longer season, and increase in the number of people at risk, with larger burdens with greater amounts of warming, with regionally variable patterns," it said.

"Aedes (the mosquito vector for the dengue fever, chikungunya, yellow fever, and Zika virus) - projections of the geographic distribution of Aedes Aegypti and Ae. Albopictus (principal vectors) or of the prevalence of dengue fever generally conclude there will be an increase in the number of mosquitoes and a larger geographic range at 2 C than at 1.5 C and beyond than at present, and suggest more individuals at risk of dengue fever, with regional differences," the report stated.

The surface of three ocean basins have warmed over the period 1950 2016 (by 0.11 C, 0.07 C, and 0.05 C per decade for the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific ocean, respectively with the greatest changes occurring at the highest latitudes, it said.

The IPCC report was timed to feed into the Buenos Aires climate summit in Katowice, Poland, where world leaders will be under pressure to ramp up national carbon-cutting pledges which - even if fulfilled - would yield a 3C world.

Actions of governing body of Malda St Xavier's school under scanner: Civic body chief holds meeting



EOI PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENT

MALDA, OCT 8 /- Aggrieved guardians of the St Xavier's school, the first of its kind in the district met English Bazaar MLA and chairman of the civic body Nihar Ghosh today seeking his intervention to resolve the crises of the institution endan-

gering the fate of innocent students. Outgoing secretary of the school governing body Debapriya Saha was asked to attend the meeting held at the conference room of English Bazaar municipality. Ghosh said that the basic concern of the guardians was that the students of class IX, X, XI & XII are yet to get registered by the ICSE board.

made into any educational institution be it a school or a college. So our only motto is to help guardians form the new governing body by themselves," Ghosh said. Many guardians blamed the governing body that is allegedly being run without any norms. It has been also alleged violating all rules and regulations the questionable governing body tried to appoint principal. But that did not yield any result as the entire process was allegedly against the law of the state and the central government. Taking into consideration the grievances of the guardians, Nihar Ghosh said that another meeting would be held on Tuesday to find solutions to the crises. Saha, outgoing secretary of the governing body, validity of which was challenged said, "Appointment process of principal has been cancelled. We would take up anew. It is hoped that the problems would be resolved soon."

Two drown while offering prayers

KOLKATA, OCT 8 /- Two persons drowned in the Hooghly River on Monday while offering prayers on the occasion of Mahalaya, a police officer said.

While one of them lost balance and drowned near a ghat in Uttarpara, the other person was swept away by river currents at Seoraphuli, he said. Their bodies have been recovered by divers and handed over to the family members, he added.

Devotees were seen thronging river ghats across the city and its surrounding areas since morning to offer homage to their departed ancestors (tarpan) on the occasion.

The state administration has deployed River Traffic Police personnel and Disaster Management Group officials in large numbers along the ghats for security reasons. Mahalaya marks the beginning of Devi-Paksha and the end of the Pitri-Paksha (the shradh or the mourning period). It heralds the beginning of Durga Puja festival. (PTI)



An artist giving the final touches on a Durga idol - Arjiti Ganguly

Rain, squally weather may hit spirit ahead of Durga Puja

KOLKATA, OCT 8 /- which will start from October 16. Under the influence of a depression over the eastcentral Bay of Bengal, squally weather along with rough to very rough seas is likely to prevail along and off West Bengal and Odisha coast, the IMD forecast said. Heavy to very heavy rain is likely to occur particularly from Wednesday to Friday in

districts such as North and South 24 Parganas, Howrah, Burdwan, East and West Midnapore, Nadia and Murshidabad. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the deep sea from Tuesday (October 9) to Friday (October 12). Those who are in deep seas are also advised to return to coast by tonight, the IMD said. (PTI)