

In Brief

MPMFPPF launching: Kalam

Bhopal, Nov 15 (UNI) Lauding the endeavour of the Madhya Pradesh Minor Forest Produce Federation (MPMFPPF) for launching Eklavya Shiksha Vikas Yojna here, former President A P J Abdul Kalam today said the country needed such energy and enthusiasm for an all round development.

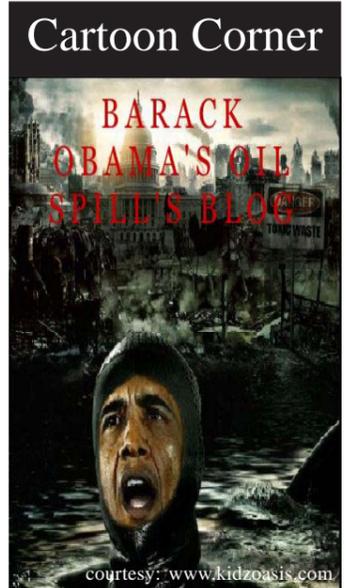
Dr Kalam also praised MPMFPPF Chairman Vishwas Sarang for taking initiative to launch the scheme and dubbed him as a good orator.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan termed the scheme as unique and hoped the scheme would be a success in the state.

5 killed, 4 injured in Haveri

Bangalore, Nov 15 (UNI) Five people, including two women, were killed on the spot and four others injured when a lorry ran over them at Halageri Cross in Haveri District of Karnataka today.

According to reports reaching Police Headquarters here, the victims were waiting for bus when the accident took place. All the injured were shifted to government hospital.



K'taka to have special Commandos: R. Ashok

Mysore, Nov 15 (UNI) Karnataka will soon constitute a special commandos to face any challenges from anti-social elements, Home Minister R Ashok said today.

Speaking to newsmen here, he said the special commando force with 300 members was given special training to handle all kinds of situation, including terrorist and naxal activities, besides communal clashes. People with special skills have been selected to the force, trained under the National Security Force and Central Reserve Forces.

He said a retired top Army official had been taken on contract basis for three years to oversee the entire force, he added.

Referring to naxal activities in the state, he said the department had taken necessary steps to prevent naxal activities. "We are taking all possible steps and keeping a strict vigil on naxal movements. The government's main aim is to curb all activities including



the naxal and terrorist activities," he said.

He said it was decided to increase intelligence system in the naxal-infested areas besides mounting strict vigil. The government was also planning bring in a change in the life of naxals who had surrendered before the police with complete rehabilitation to bring them into the mainstream. If these measures fail then the police would take its own course of action against any kind of naxal movement

in the state, he warned.

Mr Ashok, who was here to lay the foundation stone for the Rs 3 crore new administrative building of the Karnataka police

academy (KPA) here, said KPA would emerge the number one training centre in the country with the provision of additional infrastructure. The government also released Rs 2 crore for purchase of special equipment for KPA to train the police personnel.

He said impressed by the facilities and training methods at the Academy, the Centre had recommended police officers from neighbouring countries including Maldives and

Bhutan, besides some states within the country to undergo basic training at the Centre here.

He said the government was also planning to increase the number of quarters for lower class police personnel, particularly the police constables and other state members. It was also his aim to make department as 'people friendly' he added. Mr Ashok, who is also Transport Minister, said that the proposed users tax for state highways in the state has been kept pending.

However, he opposed the national highways proposed move to collect toll tax on international airport road in Bangalore.

HC warns Lad and Sons

Bangalore, Nov 15 (UNI) The Karnataka High Court today pulled up V S Lad and Sons against encroachment of forest land for mining purpose.

When a petition appealing against the lower court verdict in favour of the Forest Department filed by the V S Lad and Sons came up, the two member bench of Chief Justice J S Khehar and Justice D S Patil, warned the company against encroaching the forest land.

The company possessed 91 acre of land but had indulged in mining activities in other 15 acres of land belonging to Forest Department. The department had questioned the illegal act in the lower court and it upheld the objection.

The High Court bench had asked Chief Conservator of Forest to investigate and submit a report. Based on the report, the bench dismissed the petition with a warning to V S Lad and Sons to not to indulge in encroachment of land.

No move to arrest Jayamala: Kerala Police

Bangalore, Nov 15 (UNI) Kerala Police today informed the Karnataka High Court that they have no plans to arrest yesteryear Kannada actress Jayamala in connection with a charge sheet filed against her for allegedly violating the Sabarimala Temple rules.

Based on an assurance to this effect, Justice N Anand ordered closure of the petition, filed by Jayamala for transition bail as closed.

The Kerala police had expressed their intention to name Jayamala, as one of the accused in their charge sheet relating to the alleged violation of the temple rules by the actress several years ago.

Jayamala had entered Sabarimala Temple along with her actor-husband, Prabhakar, in 1986 and had even touched the idol of Lord Ayyappa, vio-



lating the temple ban against the visit of girls aged between 10 and 50 to the shrine.

The Kerala Police reply comes in the wake of Karnataka High Court's notice to Criminal Investigation Department of Kottayam in Kerala on transit bail application by Jayamala.

In her petition, Jayamala had stated that she had availed of the services of a Kerala-based astrologer named Unnikrishnan in April 2000 for

performing certain rituals at her home.

"While talking to him, I told him what had happened during my visit to Sabarimala with my husband. After going back, he claimed that he had learnt through a religious procedure of divine inquiry (Devaprashnam) that a young woman had touched the idol of Lord Ayyappa idol, which requires conducting of detailed purification ritual. He had unnecessarily given publicity to this experience of mine, by claiming to have discovered it by using his mystic powers, just to get some popularity." She said the charge sheet was being filed after ten years since she had narrated the incident to the astrologer, which was illegal. While stating that she had not received any communication from the Kerala police, she said she was seeking transit bail on the basis of media reports.

Myanmar fears Suu Kyi's re-arrest

YANGON, Nov 15 (Reuters) The release of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi is still being celebrated in Myanmar but fears about her safety or re-arrest are running high among her adoring supporters.

The Nobel laureate and daughter of the country's independence hero was released on Saturday after seven years in detention but many are concerned her freedom could be short-lived if the country's oppressive army rulers decide to wield their power. "I'm very worried about her security," said Soe Myint, a taxi driver in Myanmar's biggest city, Yangon.

"If something happens to her, they will be responsible for this," he added, referring to the army regime that has ruled the former British colony for 48 years.

In a country where distrust of the military runs deep, her supporters would have every reason to be concerned.

Suu Kyi's motorcade was attacked in May 2003 by pro-junta thugs in the town of Depayin while on a countryside tour. She was placed back under house arrest, which the regime called "protective custody". Suu Kyi has spent 15 of the past 21 years in some form of detention because of her fight against military dictatorship in Myanmar and there is little

doubt the junta sees her as the biggest threat to its power.

"The Depayin incident is still haunting us," said Hla Thein, a retired teacher. "To be honest, I doubt we can expect any meaningful changes following her release but we are all worried about her." Suu Kyi has



courtesy: boingboing.net

twice been freed and twice re-arrested since she was first placed in detention in July 1989 for "endangering the state".

TRUMPED UP CHARGES In May last year, Suu Kyi was weeks away from the expiry of a term of house arrest when American intruder John Yettaw swam to her lakeside home saying God had sent him to warn her terrorists would try to assassinate her.

She allowed the intruder to stay for two nights and as a

result was given an 18-month extension to her term for breaking a law protecting the state against "subversive elements".

Critics said the charges were trumped up to sideline her from politics. Some of her supporters fear something similar could happen again.

"To my great relief, another John Yettaw did not show up before she was released," added taxi driver Soe Myint. "I thought the military would create some reason to extend her house arrest." Suu Kyi was greeted by thousands of her supporters when she was released on Saturday and she appears not to have lost her charisma and mesmerising influence on the people. Although she will play no official political role following a November 7 election boycotted by her party and won convincingly by a pro-military party, few think she will fade from the spotlight.

Her supporters expect her to push for reforms and freedoms but know there are limits to how much she can do in a country tightly controlled by the military and governed by a new constitution critics say was designed to keep Suu Kyi at bay. They are just happy to see her free.

"I don't think we can expect anything out of her release since it does not depend on her alone. I'm just happy to see her free," said Khin May, a retired bank clerk.

"I will be very glad if nothing happens to her. I hope she doesn't get arrested again.

CM challenges opposition

Bangalore, Nov 15 (UNI) Stung severely by allegations of land scam, Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa today openly challenged the Opposition parties in the a state to agree for a judicial inquiry into land denotifications and land grab issues pertaining to the last ten years.

Taking a strong exception to the Congress and the Janata Dal (S) charges in this regard he told newsmen here they had been indulging in mud slugging right from the beginning of BJP assuming power in the state to "pull down the government and tarnish the image of My family." "I am ready for an inquiry by a retired Supreme Court judge into denotification and allotment of land to kith and kins and family members that had taken place sine last 10 years and let the people decide whether I have acted illegally," he challenged.

Declining to step down on the lines of Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashokrao Chavan,

who relinquished the office for alleged involvement in A k a s h housing issue, Mr Yeddyurappa said that "there is no need for me to resign". "Mr Chavan's involvement is entirely different. I have followed what my predecessors had done and if it has to end let it be discussed on the floor of the House and rules drawn" he added.

Stating that he will be in power as long as BJP high command wants and party legislators support, Mr Yeddyurappa said that "Congress has to sit in the opposition for another 20 years that is the foundation I am putting.



courtesy: askmeany.com

Ponting wants to reclaim Ashes

Melbourne, Nov 16 (UNI) Despite Mitchell Johnson's indifferent form since returning from the tour of India, skipper Ricky Ponting is adamant that the left-ampaceman will be key to their chances of reclaiming the Ashes. Johnson was named in an enlarged 17-man squad for the first Test at the Gabba on November 25.

Australia's bowling department is giving the most cause for concern but Ponting is confident that the seamer will regain his best form in the Test series against arch-

rival England.

"I am not concerned about Mitchell's form at all, we know what we're going to get with Mitchell, he's always been a wicket-taking striking sort of bowler, and that's the way we need to use him during the Ashes series," Ponting said.

"He's never been one that I have expected to run in and bowl line and length all day, that's not what Mitchell does. I am not that concerned about him. I am sure he's looking forward to next week as well," he added.



courtesy: cricketnews.com

IFFI inauguration by Chopra

Panaji, Nov 15 (UNI) Eminent filmmaker Yash Chopra will inaugurate the opening ceremony of the 41st International Film Festival of India (IFFI) on November 22 at the Kala Academy here.

IFFI director S M Khan told reporters that a record number of 450 film entries

for the ten-day festival had been received and a final list was chalked out by a preview committee of 20 eminent persons from the industry.

About 72 to 80 films in the world cinema category will be screened during the festival, he said.

Mr Khan said leading film

personalities will be felicitated during the opening and closing ceremonies for the first time.

M a n o j Srivastava, Chief Executive officer of Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG), said IFFI has partnered with the Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) to create shopping and food festivals, to be held between November 22 and December 2, at Panaji and Margao in south Goa.

In an attempt to replicate the Dubai shopping festival model for the event, extensive discounts will be offered at over 200 retail establishments and restaurants.



courtesy: c2clive.com

Photo Pick of the day

By: Naa. Naveena Kumara

