



## 150 Afghan schoolgirls poisoned in anti-education attack



KUNDUZ ( Afghanistan): About 150 Afghan schoolgirls were poisoned on Tuesday after drinking contaminated water at a high school in the country's north, officials said, blaming it on conservative radicals opposed to female education. Since the 2001 toppling of the Taliban, which banned education for women and girls, females have returned to schools, especially in Kabul. But periodic attacks still occur against girls, teachers and their school buildings, usually in the more conservative south and east of the country, from where the Taliban insurgency draws most support. "We are 100 percent sure that the water

they drank inside their classes was poisoned. This is either the work of those who are against girls' education or irresponsible armed individuals," said Jan Mohammad Nabizada, a spokesman for education department in northern Takhar province. Some of the 150 girls, who suffered from headaches and vomit-

ing, were in critical condition, while others were able to go home after treatment in hospital, the officials said. They said they knew the water had been poisoned because a larger tank used to fill the affected water jugs was not contaminated. "This is not a natural illness. It's an intentional act to poison schoolgirls," said

Haffizullah Safi, head of Takhar's public health department. None of the officials blamed any particular group for the attack, fearing retribution from anyone named. The Afghan government said last year that the Taliban, which has been trying to adopt a more moderate face to advance exploratory peace talks, had dropped its opposition to female education. But the insurgency has never stated that explicitly and in the past acid has been thrown in the faces of women and girls by hardline Islamists while walking to school. Education for women was outlawed by the Taliban government from 1996-2001 as un-Islamic.



## Tantrik sent to 7 years in jail for raping woman



NEW DELHI: Bhawani Baba, a 'tantrik' claiming to have spiritual powers, has been sentenced to seven years imprisonment by a Delhi court for raping a 28-year-old widow by "hypnotising" her on pretext of solving her problems. Jai Narain, 41,

an occultist who was popularly known as Bhawani Baba, had raped the woman in May 2009 by locking her inside a jhuggi after making her smell some substance during a "ritual", the court concluded in its judgement. "From evidence, prosecution has been able

to prove cogently and firmly all links leading to unerring conclusion that on May 3, 2009 at about 3.00 PM accused Jai Narain, at a jhuggi in Delhi, wrongfully confined the prosecutrix by closing the jhuggi from inside and after hypnotising her committed rape upon her without her consent and also threatened to kill her and her son, if the incident is disclosed to anyone," said Additional Sessions Judge Mahesh Chander Gupta. The victim and her minor child had told the court that a "ceremony" was being performed by Narain for which the child was sent out of the jhuggi and she was made to smell something for being hypnotized. The court was also informed that police had recovered several

articles from Narain's home which included female undergarments, 13 photographs of women, 'panjas' (paws), beak and mouths of birds and a digital player. The court sentenced Narain to seven years rigorous imprisonment and criminal intimidation each. It, however, said all sentences will run concurrently and also slapped a total fine of Rs 5,000 on him. Narain, who remained in judicial custody since his arrest on May 5, 2009, had denied all charges during trial but after conviction he sought lenient punishment contending that he is a poor person, a first time convict and "victim of circumstances".

## Warren Buffett diagnosed with prostate cancer, 'not' life-threatening



NEW YORK: Legendary investor Warren Buffett said he has been diagnosed with prostate cancer, but asserted that his condition is not "remotely" life-threatening and he feels "great" with "100 per cent" energy level. In a letter to his shareholders, the

Berkshire Hathaway chief said he has been diagnosed with "Stage I prostate cancer" on Wednesday and will begin a two-month treatment of daily radiation in July. "The good news is that I have been told by my doctors that my condition is not

remotely life-threatening or even debilitating in any meaningful way," the 81-year-old investor and philanthropist, said. Buffett said he has had several medical tests, including a CAT scan, bone scan and an MRI. The tests have shown no incidence of cancer elsewhere in his body. The radiation treatment, which will begin in mid-July, would restrict his travel during that period, but will not change his daily routine. "I feel great - as if I were in my normal excellent health - and my energy level is 100 per cent," he said. The cancer was detected after a medical condition prompted a biopsy, he added in the letter.

Buffett said he will inform his shareholders immediately should his health situation change, adding, "Eventually, of course, it will; but I believe that day is a long way off." He had, for the first time, in February said in his annual letter to Berkshire shareholders that he had chosen a successor. Buffett, however, had not named the candidate. Indian-origin Ajit Jain, head of the company's reinsurance operations, is said to be one of the leading candidates to succeed him. Berkshire shares rose 1.4 per cent yesterday but were down 1.8 per cent in post-market trading.

## IndiGo withdraws and Jet Airways limits inventory from makemytrip.com

MUMBAI: IndiGo on Monday withdrew and Jet Airways limited its inventory on major travel portal makemytrip.com. Jet Airways blamed 'commercial reasons' for the move, but IndiGo issued a statement saying the move was prompted by 'arbitrary display of fares and opaque pricing'. Jet and IndiGo were not part of the 'opaque fare' schemes the portal offered. The schemes were stopped late in March after the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) cited them as a violation of rules. In a statement issued on Tuesday, IndiGo said, "IndiGo has withdrawn all content from Make My Trip. The arbitrary display of fares and



'opaque pricing' is anti-consumer and in violation of DGCA norms and directives. We have raised this issue on several occasions, but, unfortunately, there has been no resolution. We were therefore, left with no choice. IndiGo can't be seen supporting a blatant violation of the law and something that is apparently anti-consumer." A Jet Airways spokesperson said the airline had not pulled out

its inventory from the portal but 'limited the inventory available to them for sale'. Officials familiar with the issue said many carriers felt that the portal was favouring a cash-strapped private carrier in its schemes. "The ailing carrier's fares appear right on top with most other airlines placed way below," an official said. While all other carriers had participated in the 'opaque fare' scheme,

only Jet Airways and IndiGo had kept away from it. Director general, DGCA, E K Bharat Bhushan said that no 'opaque fare' are on offer now. "We had checked it out four days ago and found that 'opaque fares' were not offered by any portal. No airline is part of it," Bhushan said. Keyur Joshi, COO of makemytrip.com, did not respond to repeated calls made by TOI, the sources revealed.

## To Commemorate the Centenary Year of Indian Cinema, NYIFF Announces Its 2012 Line-up of Award-winning Films

(New York, NY) Get your tickets now! NYIFF, the longest-running, most prestigious Indian film festival in the country, announces its 2012 line-up of films, including the opening night film, centerpiece film, and sidebar festival.

Opening Night Film – Bedabrata Pain's CHITTAGONG: Set in the turbulence of the 1930s British India, Chittagong is a true story of a 14-year-old boy, Jhunku, and of his journey to find where he belongs. For the first time in Indian history, the British army is defeated by a rag-tag army of schoolboys and their teacher, Masterda. Called a traitor by his peers, and let down by a man he trusts, Jhunku impulsively joins the movement. As his




world is turned upside down, Jhunku is forced to confront his self-doubts. As the leaders of the movement are progressively caught or killed, Jhunku battles against seemingly insurmountable odds to win a victory of his own. The film is a brilliant, poignant action-drama, made more so by the fact that it is true. Cast: Manoj Bajpai, Barry John and Delzad Hiwale. Centerpiece Film – Tribute to the Late Great Dev Anand through HUM DONO RANGEEN: Hum Dono Rangeen was restored and colorized using

Legend Film's proprietary colorization process. The process has consistently been lauded as the highest quality color conversion technology in the world and has been used extensively on Hollywood feature films over the past 10 years. Hum Dono Rangeen was one of the latest colorization projects using the technology and it is considered light years ahead of Muga e Azam in the quality of its color, artistry and overall design. The colorization of Hum Dono Rangeen was executed by Jagan Mohan at Goldstone Technologies,


a technology licensee of Legend Films under the collaborative eye of Legend Films engineers and technicians. It lives as the finest example of Bollywood colorization that exists today. idebar Festival – Shyam Benegal Retrospective followed by a post-screening discussion with director: Mamoo (1994), Sardari Begum (1996), and Zubeidaa (2001) - the first such programming of Benegal's trilogy based on scripts by renowned critic, journalist, and filmmaker Khalid Mohamed. (Contd. on page 7)

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