



Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd.

O F I N D I A

**EVEN A TERRORIST
CAUGHT ON CAMERA
NEEDS A FAIR TRIAL**

SPECIAL REPORT

**PAKISTANI WOMEN MARRIED
TO INDIANS FIND BARELY
DISGUISED MISTRUST**

ALL THAT MATTERS

**POST 26/11, PEOPLE
CHOOSE FAMILY TIME
OVER NIGHTS OUT**

TIMESLIFE!

BANGALORE

DECEMBER 21, 2008 | METRO | PAGES 46 | INCLUDING 8 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES, TIMESLIFE! AND TIMES CLASSIFIEDS | TIMESOFINDIA.COM | EPAPER.TIMESOFINDIA.COM

PRICE RS. 5

SNAPSHOTS



OPEN FOR BUSINESS: The Trident reopened on Saturday for a premiere view before the grand opening on Sunday after the terrorist siege of November 26. Hotel authorities, however, said they would not entertain any Pakistani national in the establishment. Trident president Rattan Keswani said the decision was in keeping with the government directive | P 10

PM tells scientists to do more

PM Manmohan Singh on Saturday said India should not remain a 'back office' to provide R&D solutions to the world and asked scientists to do more to keep pace with China and Japan who have 'scored over' it in taking scientific and technological advances to the people. Singh also called for greater application of technology in beefing up internal security.

NAL to produce aviation aircraft: The NAL, Bangalore, has entered into a collaboration with Mahindra and Mahindra to produce general aviation aircraft. This is the first public-private JV in aircraft design in India. | P11

Cryogenic engine passes test: ISRO successfully conducted the Flight Acceptance Hot Test of the Indigenous Cryogenic Engine at the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre's at Mahendragiri on December 18. | P11

Now, a temple for Dhoni: Indian skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni will soon have a temple dedicated to him, with a 33-year-old diethard fan laying the foundation in Ranchi on Saturday. The sanctum will have a lifesize statue of the cricketer, his fan, Jitendra Singh said. | P 10

RBI to introduce Rs 10 coins: The Reserve Bank on Saturday said it could introduce Rs 10 coin after two years. "RBI will introduce Rs 10 coin in the market, but it will take at least two years," J B Borhara, regional manager (UP and Uttarakhand) RBI, said adding that there are no immediate plans to introduce such a coin.

US lawmakers want RIL aid stopped: Eight American lawmakers have demanded that the Export-Import Bank of the US immediately suspend all financial assistance to Reliance Industries Ltd until it agrees to stop selling gasoline to Iran.

More support for Iraqi shoe-thrower: Malaysia's foreign minister has praised the Iraqi journalist who tossed his shoes at US president George W Bush, saying it was the "best show of retaliation" for the US invasion of Iraq.

Nanavati panel gets extension: Gujarat government has given a year's extension to Justice Nanavati and Justice Mehta Commission probing 2002 Godhra and post-Godhra communal riots, state government officials said on Saturday. The committee sought the extension for filing the second part of its report.

Obama to unveil 'bold' stimulus plan: President-elect Barack Obama has pledged to unveil a 'bold' stimulus plan to help the ailing US economy once he assumes office on January 20, but refrained from divulging the final cost estimates for the package.

Jammu-Srinagar NH closed: The 300-km Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, the only surface link between Kashmir and the rest of the country, was closed for vehicular traffic on Saturday due to a landslide at Panthal.

indiatimes.com Poll
Yesterday's Result: Are Pak rulers helpless against the country's armed forces?
Yes 88% No 11% Can't say 1%
Today's Poll: Do you support the Trident's move to close its doors on Pak nationals?
Vote on indiatimes.com or SMS 'Poll' to 58888

WEATHER
Max: 27.5° C, Min: 15.6° C
Rainfall: Nil
Humidity: 44%
Sunset (Sunday): 5:59 pm
Sunrise (Monday): 6:37 am
Moonrise (Sunday): 01:21 pm
Moonset (Sunday): 01:19 pm
Forecast: Partly cloudy. Rain likely. Minimum temperature will be around 16° C.
Visit epaper.timesofindia.com

England may get slice of next IPL edition

English Cricket Board Eyes Revenue From Twenty20, But Kick-off And Finals Likely To Stay With India

Indranil Basu | TNN

New Delhi: The IPL Twenty20 extravaganza may well unfold this time also at Lord's. The tournament, which had a smashing debut earlier this year, is expected to be split with five weeks of action in India and three weeks in the UK where it is expected to draw in sub-continental diaspora as well as a following of English fans.

The IPL proposal has been discussed with the English board which has evinced keen interest in the possibility of staging a part

of the competition that was won last time by Jaipur Royals under Aussie spin wizard Shane Warne. The competition is scheduled for April-May and the player auction for the second season will be held in February next year.

The IPL governing body is expected to consider the proposal for two venues when it meets on January 3 and even though detailed scheduling and a revenue model need to be finalised, the scheme is expected to go through. It's likely that the tournament will kick off in India and then move to the UK



for three weeks before it returns to India for the final matches.

"IPL will become more of an international event and other cricket boards are also likely to be supportive. Indian interests will be safeguarded in the revenue model and the game will benefit overall," said well-placed sources.

What organisers have to look at is whether the scheduling clashes with major fixtures in England or India. The eight-week IPL window is any way inked into India's cricket calendar and any hitches are expected to be re-

solved with technical teams already carrying out a survey of facilities in England. Given that IPL drew in top talent from across the cricketing world, adding an England leg will make the event even more high profile.

English cricketers missed out in the first edition of the game as their board held them to domestic commitments. With IPL's impressive revenues being shared and the event being played in at home, the English board could reconsider its objections. If the tournament is shared between In-

dia and the UK, it would also dilute the criticism that India was using its financial clout to set the tournament to its interests.

"We have to see the domestic season in England, but as of now, ECB is keen to work it out. That is why we are going to discuss about IPL matches in England," an official added.

Another important factor that has made the English board more amenable to the IPL offer is that other Twenty20 tournaments have simply not been able to emulate the Indian competition's success.

THE WALL STANDS TALL AGAIN

RAHUL DRVID, ON HIS COMEBACK

I'm happy to regain my lost form. I've worked hard for six months. I've worked to increase my concentration level and watched the recordings of my previous games to find out the shortcomings in my batting

Rahul Dravid, ON HIS COMEBACK

► Full report, P 21

HIGHS AND LOWS IN CAREER		
TESTS	130	
RUNS	10,373	
AVERAGE	52.12	
100s	26	
WHEN GOING GOT TOUGH (2006-08)		
TESTS	26	
RUNS	1,427	
AVERAGE	32.43	
100s	3	

For those still in doubt, Rahul Dravid's authoritative 136, decorated with 19 fours, was a fitting answer. Former skipper teamed up with Gautam Gambhir (179) to help India reach 453 at stumps on the second day of the second Test against England at Mohali on Saturday

Dravid, who has had a rough patch especially after he relinquished captaincy, saw his Test average slump to 32.43 in the past two calendar years. As critics sharpened their knives, Dravid discovered the moment of redemption — a moment that not only silenced his critics but also commanded India to a formidable total in the Mohali Test.

Military option may be back on the table

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Keeping the military option alive and kicking in face of Pakistan doublespeak on the crackdown on terror, a top-level meeting was held on Saturday evening to review the security situation in the region and the state of defence preparedness of the armed forces.

It was a clear signal to Pakistan that it could not renege from its commitment to take concrete action against terror emanating from its soil soon after India, under persuasion from the West, indicated it would not prefer to use force. Though there was no official word on the meeting, attended by Mukherjee, defence minister A K Antony, the three Service chiefs — General Deepak Kapoor, Admiral Suresh Mehta and Air Chief Marshal F H Major — among others, sources confirmed that all options were discussed, with an audit of pros and cons of each possible scenario.

"The option of cross-border surgical strikes has not been abandoned. The armed forces, on their part, are maintaining high alert to meet any eventuality, as they have been directed," said a source.

Saturday's meeting came in the backdrop of Pakistan trying to deflect the focus from terrorism, with its frequent flip-flops on action against Jamaat-ud-Dawa or even the lone surviving terrorist behind the 26/11 strikes, Ajmal Amir Kasab. Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari said on

Thursday there was no "real evidence" that the Mumbai attackers came from his country. Apart from other evidence, this claim has even been contested by former Pakistan premier Nawaz Sharif, who held that he had personally checked that Kasab belonged to Faridkot village in Pakistan's Punjab.

Global intelligence service provider Stratfor also declared in its latest report that "Indian military operations against targets in Pakistan have, in fact, been prepared and await the signal to go forward". The forces are keeping their powder dry "to carry out strikes" if the political leadership "so desires at any point in time".

IAF sources reiterated that it would not take more than three to four hours for IAF fighter jets to carry out strikes against terror camps and other targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir with laser-guided 'smart' bombs. The Army also does not have to mobilise on a large, visible manner as was done during Operation Parakram after the December 2001 terror attack on Parliament, practicing as it has, its "cold start" strategy for rapid and multiple thrusts into enemy territory at short notice.

With the growing feeling that Pakistan is reverting to its old ways, the military option for India has come right back to the table.

- All options open, says Pranab, P 9
- Coastal security to be enhanced, P 9
- Not enough steps from Pak: Rice, P 13



Pranab Mukherjee

If a country cannot keep assurances, then it obliges us to consider all options that exist to protect our people

Wary Goa bans beach bashes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Panaji: Lakhs of people who throng Goa's beach shacks on New Year's eve will have to look for some other place to party. In a blow to the state's terror-hit tourism sector, already crushed by peak-season cancellations and dropping numbers, the government on Saturday banned all "open beach parties" during New Year festivities.

However, the ban, in force from December 23 to January 5, will not affect indoor parties in hotels and clubs. Traditional celebrations like midnight masses and the dances that follow will continue unhindered, said home minister Ravi Naik. He said no special restrictions are planned for Christmas night or for New Year's eve apart from those on the beach belt. Institutions can organize dances and parties in enclosures if their entrances and exits are properly secured, said CM Digambar Kamat.

The peak business period of shacks lasts about three months, but their highest revenue is generated on December 31. This season has already been slack for them with about 70% drop in business because of the global meltdown as well as the Mumbai terror strikes.

They were expecting business to pick up from December 23, but now that too seems unlikely.

► Police were firm on ban, P 10

SBI to give home loans for as low as 9 per cent

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Come the new year, home loans are all set to get cheaper, but you'll also have to settle for lower interest income on your bank deposits. State Bank of India on Saturday announced cuts in prime lending rates by 0.75 percentage point and deposit rates by up to one percentage point effective January 1, 2009.

The cut in PLR means that it won't just be new customers who'll get lower home loan rates. Existing customers who have borrowed under the

MORE IN YOUR POCKET			
EMI falls on 20-year loan			
	Old EMI	New EMI	Decline
Rs 30 lakh	29,450	27,964	5.00%
Rs 50 lakh	53,321	50,761	4.80%
Rs 1 crore	1,08,371	1,03,219	4.75%

Interest rates vary as per amount

floating rate scheme will also see a dip in their EMIs.

After the rate cuts, SBI home loans of up to Rs 30 lakh, for tenures between 15 and 25 years, will be available at 9.5%, loans of Rs 30 lakh to Rs 75 lakh at 10.75% and those above

Rs 75 lakh at 11%. For 5-year home loans up to Rs 30 lakh, the rate will come down to 9%, lower than even the concessional rate of 9.25% offered by public sector banks.

► More rate cuts likely, P 10

Damage to undersea cables hits Net access

Radhika Oberoi | TNN

New Delhi: Blank calls, jarring voice traffic and a slow Internet connection due to the breakdown of three submarine cables have slowed down business in India and 13 other countries. The cables — Sea Me We 4 (SMW 4), Sea Me We 3 (SMW 3) and FLAG EA — run under the sea between Europe and Middle East.

Rajesh Chharia, president, Internet Service Providers Association of India, says: "The cables are expected to be down till the end of the month. One of the two maintenance boats in the Mediterranean, the Raymond Croze, a France Telecom marine cable ship, will reach the location on December 21."

According to a France Telecom report, while Maldives is 100% down, there has been an 82% disruption in India. Other countries affected include Saudi Arabia, Egypt, UAE, Malaysia, Pakistan, Qatar and Zambia. SMW 4 and SMW 3 and FLAG are owned by companies including Bharti Airtel and Reliance Globalcom.

Bangalore learns to tackle terror

Leena Muddir | TNN

Bangalore: "Grenade!" shouted Frank, and the bunch of techies, a restaurateur and a homemaker jumped to the ground for cover and rolled over, shielding their bodies away from the impending blast.

Thankfully, it was a mock drill and the grenade was only a tennis ball during a session on anti-terror training and hostage takeover survival skills introduced in city last week.

These Bangaloreans learning the techniques of Krav Maga, an Israeli military form of self-defence, in Richmond Town, prepare to cope with real crises. "As civilians, we cannot get into a hand-to-hand combat with armed terrorists. The least we can do is learn to survive with presence of mind, and use some formal training to save our skin," says Frank, instructor and in-charge of the Bangalore chapter, International Krav Maga Federation.

"For example, if you are in a restaurant and an armed terrorist walks in and starts shooting randomly, your chances of survival are more if you throw yourself to the ground and roll away from the centre of the incident, instead of running and exposing your body to the gunman," he says.

The hostage-takeover survival module teaches you how to avoid confrontation with the captor if you are taken hostage, and how to behave and, yes, even talk to them. "If I'm ever in such a situation, I know how

FIGHTING BACK



- First introduced in New Delhi five years ago, Krav Maga teaches self-defence skills against armed street attacks and muggings, home assaults, car thefts and attacks
- It was introduced in Bangalore last year and over 75 citizens have enrolled for the course
- Anti-terror training capsule, designed by New Delhi-based Vicky Kapoor, director and chief instructor of International Krav Maga Federation, India, is the first of its kind in India

to come out of it because my reflexes are faster, my level of alertness is higher and the techniques I've learnt are practical," says Ashish Puri, product manager, Cisco Systems.

Omer Basith, a restaurateur, believes in being prepared. But Frank cautions, "But better leave the real fighting to the experts!" This group has its own mascot, a crow. They call him 'Crow Maga'.

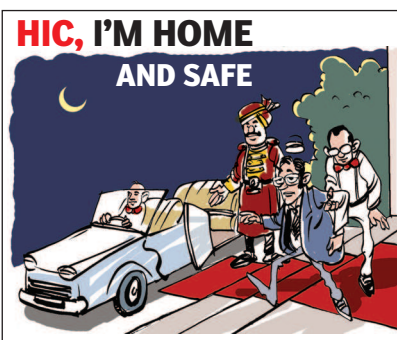
Don't drink and drive, hire a chauffeur

Anshul Dhamija | TNN

Bangalore: Feeling depressed you can't get your spirits high at night? Well, Bangalore's luxury hotels have found a heady concoction to take you to a new high. As the harsh police vigil for drunken driving has kept many at home, luxury hotels are offering the services of their chauffeurs as well as providing rooms at 50% discount, all for your safety.

Reason: hotels have seen a 35-40% slump in liquor sales, with some recording 80% plunge.

Vivanta, Whitefield Bangalore — the new luxury hotel from the Taj stable — has designed a new brand experience for all those who want to let their hair down. For just Rs 400 to Rs 500, the hotel will get you home, courtesy their staff chauffeur.



- Party into the night, gulp down that 'one for the road', and yet be assured of a safe drive home
- Pay Rs 500, let the hotel chauffeur drive you home in comfort; or stay back in room for the night
- Occupancy and liquor sales hit a new low; star hotels hit upon new ideas to keep cash registers ringing

four. The price is inclusive of the transport fee, which the chauffeur would need to get back to the hotel.

For those who have deep pockets, the hotel car drops you home at double the price. Compare this with the price at which you risk your life or the hefty sum (at least Rs 2,000)

you would have to pay to the cops to avoid being charged for drunken driving.

Other hotels like Ista offer you a bed-and-breakfast package at a discount ranging from 30%-50%. At present, the hotel is offering a room night at Rs 6,000, a whopping

50% less than the cost of a regular room night.

Stay-over option comes with a caveat. "Only regular guests and people with identification are allowed," said a general manager of a leading star property in the city, citing the high security alert.

Hotels like The Taj West End are trying to woo the domestic audience by offering a one-night-two-day package over the weekend at just Rs 8,000 for a couple. The package includes spa therapies, candlelight evenings, dinner and a personalized breakfast in bed.

"Not many Bangaloreans have experienced the services of the iconic hotels like the Leela or the Taj West End. With room occupancy falling to a low of 20%, hotels are looking at newer avenues to boost sales," an analyst said.