



Post Election Plays

Mahmood Ahmadi Nejad won in the presidential election of Iran amid allegations of irregularities. His main rival Mir-Hossein Mousavi rejected the results and staged mass rallies and street protests in Tehran. Clashes broke out in almost everywhere in Iran.

Ahmadi Nejad strongly opposed allegations of any electoral fraud. Iran's supreme leader Ayatolla Ali Khameni supported the president. For reducing the tension Khameni ordered an investigation into the electoral fraud. He appointed the Guardian Council to probe the irregularities. But the council endorsed the landslide victory of the president. In these circumstances Khameni reinforced Iran's decision not to hold fresh elections.

The Government alleged the protests as the results of foreign influence. Iran ascertains it has been chalked out by western countries especially Britain. Though Britain rejected the allegations; Iran arrested eight employees in Tehran for flaming unrest.

Thus the lowering relation between Iran and European countries became worse in the post electoral incidents.

- Ravi



The Ultimate Entertainment

The Moon walker walked hurriedly away, alone. Michael Jackson, the 50-year-old

“King of Pop“ thrilled the world with his amazing performance for four decades. He lived and loved with the public

According to the Guinness book of world records, he was the most successful entertainer of all time. He sensationalised the world with smashes like “Thriller”, “Billie Jeans”, “Beats It”, “Off the wall” etc. He sold more than 750 millions albums. Beyond all ground breaking Dance moves, eccentric voices and whitened face he was an extraordinary singer. The creativity, vocal techniques, musical compositions deserve deep care and caution.

Although he was acquitted from the charges of child molestation, it left a black mark on his public image. Failed plastic surgeries, rare skin diseases disturbed his sparkling personality. But no scandal can prevent the mob from rushing for a million tickets weeks before his “This is it“ series of concert at O2 Arena London. He will be remembered forever.



Connecting to the past

The recent archeological excavations at Pattanam that brought to light the ancient port of Muziris so much part of the history of Kerala's trading with the world's far away underlines the fact that the State had always welcomed people from all culture with open arms.

While this is evidence of its prominence in spice trade, it also points to the fact that Kerala was a maritime power. This is one part of history where little has been studied or written about. We hear very little about the conquests that Kerala has made in the outside world. The skills of shipbuilding that the people of the State are evident in the Urus, that are built even now in Beypore. If they were adept sailors from time immemorial, why is it that we

Eclipse Revisits

Coincidence occurs even in cosmic calendar. When the United Nations has proclaimed 2009 the International Year of Astronomy to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Galileo's use of a telescope to study the skies, and Kepler's publication of "Astronomia Nova" in the 17th century, the cosmos will present a grand spectacle for the sky gazers across the world as a rare astronomical event – a series of triple eclipses, commences from July 7.

India will view 21st century's longest solar eclipse on July 22 which will provide a life time opportunity to scientists and sky gazers to study this grand spectacle of nature. The total solar eclipse this year will be the last

for this generation, as the next would happen 80 years later.

The total eclipse is expected to last 6 minutes and 44 seconds, making it the longest eclipse till 2132.

The behaviour of birds and animals during the total eclipse will be videographed for documentation. The Indian Air Force will join the scientific community in carrying out tests and filming the solar eclipse on July 22 this

year by flying a fighter jet and a transport aircraft that day.

A total solar eclipse occurs when the moon is close to Earth and moves directly between the sun and the Earth. The Earth swings into the cone of shadow cast by the moon.

To avoid damage to the retina, approved eye protection is necessary when viewing a solar eclipse. The next solar eclipse will occur on Jan 15, 2010.

- hari



as a people have failed to build upon such skills?

A small city state like Singapore is known for the great ships it builds. European countries are known for the beauty of their cities, their art galleries, their castles and other historical buildings. Why is that this state, one of the most beautiful with a long coastline, undulating hills and mountains and blessed with a green

canopy through out the year has failed to capitalise on its historical legacy? Don't we have great forts, palaces, hill resorts and works of great artists like Raja Ravi Varma?

Why do we fail to protect our legacy and refurbish it to attract visitors, both domestic and foreign?

Have we forgotten our legacy as a good host to all foreign cultures? Where else

but in Fort Kochi in the world can you find a melting bowl of cultures? If you point out New York let me remind you this coming together and coexistence of cultures in Fort Kochi happened hundreds of years ago.

We should strive to impart to the young generation the value of history, the need to protect our heritage monuments, our cuisine, our folk arts and culture and the secular atmosphere, which is deteriorating day by day, so that they can capitalise upon it and build a great future.

The excavations at Pattanam would bring to light many wonders and throw up a big question of how well to preserve what nature had hid in its belly and preserved for so long. Now that it is exposed to the vagaries of humans, the archeologists should well remember that they should take care to protect it in situ rather than destroy it by giving it a coat of white wash.

Kavita Martin