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CM FOR LIST OF MINISTERS' ASSETS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

At a meeting with investors in October 2011, Mamata Banerjee had asked the audience not to pay bribes for set-ting up business units in the state. "Please don't give bribes. Please do inform us if there's any demand for bribes. Your identity will be kept secret and the police will take appropri-ate action," the chief minister had said while launching the website of the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation.

Interestingly, it was in June last year that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had asked for details of assets of Union

'This step will help us maintain transparency in the Maa-Mati-Manush government. We're giving our asset details to the prime minister and our state ministers are giving theirs to the chief minister," said Sisir Adhikary, Union minister of state for rural development.

'Paranormal' activity on Nagerbazar flyover alarms locals

KOLKATA: Bengali literature and films are full of ghosts – those that live in marshlands, on tall trees, in old houses, in crema-toriums, those that eat fish, eat human flesh, cruel ones and and serious ones.

Now comes a flyover ghost, a totally novel apparition, the fear of which has been stalking numerous residents of Nagerbazar, one of the most crowded areas of Kolkata, after a young biker was killed on a place in May within a month of chief minister Mamata Banerjee

Rumours of a ghost – actually a male figure stopping cars and bikes on the flyover at late hours of the night – have spread like wild fire over the past few days in the area with people even shutting window panes in the neighbourhood despite the sultry weather to keep the spir-

Sreetama Bose a government employee who stays near Mrinalini Cinema Hall at one end of the flyover said: "I have heard about the strange things

happening on the flyover from my relatives and friends. I am really scared. I have started avoiding the bridge even dur-

ing day time."
"I don't believe in ghosts and would request everyone not to believe in such rumours. I, too, have heard about the rumour but right now I'm at Nagerbazar and absolutely no one is scared or concerned about it," Sujit Bose, vice-chairman of Bidhan Nagar municipality, said.

Prabir Chatterjee, inspectorin-charge of Dum Dum police station, rubbished the story. "It's nothing but a rumour being spread and the media should

A visit to Nagerbazar indicates the rumour is more omnipresent than the appari-tion. Locals complain of water and stones being thrown at their homes from the flyover which runs very close to houses on either side.

And if there are reports of ghosts, can ghost busters be far behind? One of the founding members of the Paranormal Research Society of India (PRSI), Somen Kotal, told HT they have already been tipped off by worried citizens of

Nagerbazar. "Recently we received a mail

that a woman who saw the acci-dent in which a biker died is witnessing strange things. She had given drinking water and bandages to the locals so that they could give to the victim when he was writhing in pain. Now she often sees shadows moving in that particular zone," Kotal added.

Reports have also poured in from other local residents about the shadows. They also claimed that some strangers try to stop their vehicles asking for lifts. But after a few seconds none can be seen.
"We would like to go there

to investigate with infrared thermometers, motion detectors and special sound recorders. But we need permission from the police, or the local councillor, as these experiments need to be conducted between midnight and 3 am when paranormal activities are believed to heighten," said Shantanu Sen, another PRSI

member.
"Not all such strange incidents are paranormal. Often criminals try to scare local residents so that they avoid a par-ticular area, thereby helping criminal activity," Kotal also

Rumours of a ghost stopping cars and bikes on the flyover have spread like wild fire

People are so frightened that they are keeping windows shut depsite the sultry weather Locals have complained of

water and stones being thrown at their homes from the flyover Locals have also said some vehicles asking for lifts. But

Cost cutting



Chief secretary Samar Ghosh, PWD secretary Ajit Ranjan Bardhan, and home secretary Basudeb Banerjee on board on an air-conditioned Volvo at Milan Mela on Wednesday. Principal secretaries of 18 departments will tour 5 districts in a bus rather than hired cars and follow chief minister Mamata Banerjee's convoy. The bureaucrats will return to the city on Friday.

Rival Trinamool student unions clash at city college

KOLKATA: A day after state education minister Bratya Basu asked members of Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad to stop violence on college campuses, a clash broke out between two groups of TMCP on Wednesday at North City College, forcing the authorities to shut down the institute for

three days.
According to TMCP members in the college, the groups clashed over control of a student union. Police said some students

gathered near the college in the afternoon and started an argument over 'hijacking' students from their groups. The brawl followed the heated argument, and police had to intervene to disperse the students. However, no injuries and arrests were reported.
"What we suspect is that

both the groups have hired outsiders to take part in the clash. It was pre planned, it seems, a police officer said.

Following the clash state education minister has called up

IGNORING BRATYA

 Bratva Basu on Tuesday warned Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad members from resorting to violence on campus

After Trinamool came to power in May 2010, a rash of clashed have been reported. TMCP supporters have been held responsible for most such

The principal of Surendranath
College has recently lodged a
complaint with chief minister
Mamata Banerjee blaming
TMCP for clashes

police commissioner Pachnanda urging him to take stern steps against the accused.

This is not the first time that such a clash has broken out in the college. Recently the college witnessed at least three such clashes in the past five months over the same issue.

"Education minister Bratya Basu is a former lecturer of our college. We have requested him to intervene in the matter," said a professor on condition of anonymity. Trinamool Congress was observing the foundation of Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad. Bratya Basu warned members not resort to violence on college campuses.
"Violence on campus is not

a solution. It will only defame the image of Trinamool Congress and Mamata Banerjee. Please do not resort to violence on college campuses and stop others from doing so," Basu told TMCP supporters on Tuesday.

After Trinamool Congr.

came to power in May 2010, several clashes on college cam-puses of Kolkata and the state have been reported. The TMCP supporters have been held responsible for most such clashes.

The principal of Surendranath College has recently lodged a complaint with chief minister Mamata bers for the ruckus in the college asking her to intervene immediately. The college was also shut down for three days when the admission procedure

Mamata favours holding rural polls early next year

Arindam Sarkar

KOLKATA: Chief minister Mamata Banerjee is thinking of holding three-tier panchayat polls in Bengal in early 2013. She believes holding the rural polls in December 2012 will not give the Trinamool Congress any political advantage.

The term of the three-tier

bodies would expire in May 2013. And even if rural polls are held early, the panchayat bodies elected in 2008 would continue to function till the termination of their full term.

The government file asking the state Election Commission to prepare for the panchayat elections in the state is still lying in the CM secretariat and is waiting for Banerjee's

"Mamata Banerjee knows holding the panchayat polls in December 2012 would not give us any political advantage," said state panchayat minister Subrata Mukherjee.

Confident of a comfortable victory in the rural polls, Banerjee said corruption in the panchayats, non-performance

Kolkata...

A TODAY
A passibility of thundery activity. A few drops may fall in pockets of the city. The day will be sultry. High 37°C (+01°C), Low 27°C (+01°C). Max R.H. 92% TODAY

SATURDAY
Sultriness is likely to continue during the day.
The sky will be partly cloudy. Mainly dry weather expected over the metropolis. High 34°C Low 27°C.

SUNDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

SATURDAY

BUSINESS

of the rural bodies in the last 34 years, misuse of central funds for rural development and the promise that homestead and farmlands would not be acquired forcibly from the farmers for setting up of industries and Special Economic Zones (SEZ) would be Trinamool would be electoral issues.

Banerjee alleged that under the Left Front government there has been huge embezzlement of development and misuse of rural funds.

She said state finance min-

ister Amit Mitra has done 24

special audits and has discov financial ered the discrepancies. "Land predators, the CPI(M) and the Congress, cannot claim to be the champions of farmers. Where were they, when I was on a 26-day hunger strike

for the Singur farmers in 2006," asked an agitated Banerjee. For Banerjee, the ensuing panchayat polls are crucial. Though the Left Front has been routed in 2011 Assembly polls, the CPI(M)-led Front controls 14 out of 18 zilla parishads in the state, the Congress and the Trinamool hold two each.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST

...And the rest of India

"Central funds for rural devel opment come directly to pan-chayats. So unless one controls the rural bodies, one cannot pursue one's own model of developmet in the villages," said Mukherjee.

After a rout in the 2006 Assembly polls, it was Banerjee's pro-farmer movement in Singur and Nandigram and political agitations against forcible acquisition of more than 80,000 acres of farmlands in the state by the Left Front government to set up industries and SEZ catapulted her to the limelight.

"Our government will only acquire land for government projects such as constructing projects such as constructing roads, laying railway lines and water pipes and building hos-pitals," said Banerjee. Trinamool's land policy in the state will be conveyed to

the UPA-II government at the Centre.
Banerjee, who appointed rail-

wavs minister Mukul Roy as Leader of the Trinamool Congress Parliamentary Party, will oppose the UPA's Land Acquisition Bill both inside Parliament and in Cabinet meetings.

Annual Control of the Control of Control

COURT NOD (OLKATA: Any new Puja in

NEW PUJAS

MUST SEEK HIGH

Kolkata would require a high court order to get adequate permission to hold one from different government agencies

"As per Calcutta high court order we cannot allow any new pujas in the city. Anybody seek ing one would require to move court," Jawed Shamim, joint commissioner of police (head quarters), told reporters after a meeting at the civic head arrangements. quarters

Echoing Shamim, mayor Sovan Chatterjee too assert-ed that it would not be possible to allow fresh pujas in Kolkata. However, Chatterjee wants to ensure that all existing puja committees are enlist ed with the government agencies. "At present we have 2,060 pujas enlisted with us, but I want all pujas to get enlisted. City should not hold any puja without government per-mission," the city mayor said

According to senior civic officials, KMC already handed over 3,000 blank forms to the Kolkata Police, which would reach city's all police stations. Different puja committees have to collect the form from

local police stations and seek permission from fire services.

Only after finding out that the land for puja is of KMC, civic authorities would issue the required permission or else refer to the other government agencies like KMDA.

agencies like KMDA.

Chatterjee had also drawn
a deadline for repairing roads
prior to Puja. "I have asked the
PWD secretary and my roads
and engineering department to complete the road repair ing work by September 30. I have also asked solid waste management department to work harder to keep the city clean specially on the festive days," mayor told reporters.

Even the Railway Vikas Nigam Limited, construction agency for Joka-BBD Bag metro rail, had been asked to coop erate during the festive days to keep the traffic moving in Behala.

HC raps judge for acquitting husband in dowry death

KOLKATA: The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday rapped a Sealdah trial judge for acquitting a husband and his parents in a "dowry death" case by holding on the basis of "false" evidence that the wife was a mental patient and had committed suicide.

Quashing the acquittal, justices GC Gupta and Indira Banerjee held Binod Shaw and his parents guilty of murder ing Santra (23), a mother of 2year-old male child, after her parents refused to give a jeep in dowry within four years of

her marriage.

Awarding the life imprison ment to Shaws, the judges said: "Considering the gravity of the offence and the cruelty with which the deceased was put to death, the highest punishment should be awarded for ends of justice. They cannot have any claim for leniency on the ground of the child whose mother was done to death so cruelly. His maternal grandparents are there to look after him."

The judges came down heav ily on the trial judge for rely-ing on the "fake" doctor's pre-scriptions and medicines cash memos to prove that Santra was a mental patient and prone to commit suicide.

"The trial judge acted arbitrarily by relying on false medical documents and did not apply his judicial mind. It is strange that it did not occur to **JUSTICES GC GUPTA &**

INDIRA BANERJEE HELD THE HUSBAND AND HIS PARENTS GUILTY OF **MURDERING SANTRA** FOR MORE DOWRY

him that no one purchases medicines without a cash memo or that hospitalisation of a patient is always backed by documen-tary evidence," the judges said Rejecting the medical doc-

uments, the judges said: "The prescriptions did not depict the mental or physical condition of the victim. These prescriptions had been fabricated in the year 2005, which is why the regis tration number is KOL230602/05 whereas the victim died in 2004." Rapping the trial judge for ignoring autopsy report, the judges said: "The autopsy surgeon did not depose that it was a case of suicide. He deposed that the death was caused due to asphyxia, which could very well have been homicidal."

The case dates back to February 27, 2004, when Santra's body was recovered from a pond near her matrimonial home. The police started a case on the complaint of Santra's father, alleging continuous torture on his daughter by Binod and her parents due to failure his part to give them a jeep promised at the time of her marriage in 2000.

appealed to high court.

Attacking the acquittal, the additional PP Siladitya Sanyal had said: "The trial judge ignored the relevant evidence; scrutiny into the evidence.

HCSTAYS NETAL KILLING

The high court staved the trial of Netai killings case before the CBI court at Bichar Bhavan. Justice Dipankar Datta

started in Nadia, East Mednapore and West

The trial began at 3rd fast track, Sealdah, which had on February 28, 2006, acquitted Shaws by holding that Santra had committed suicide. The trial judge accepted the medical documents to prove that Santra was a mental patient and prone to commit suicide. Challenging this, the state

disbelieved the witnesses on trivial or no ground and demonstrated utter lack of judicial

passed the interim stay on trial till September 7 on a petition filed by an accused Abani Bhusan Singha, challenging the validity of the state notification dated August 17, 2011 ordering transfer of all the cases of CBI

Mednapore and West Midnapore to CBI court. It was alleged that the state had ordered only transfer of the cases started under the Prevention of Corruption Act and not under the Indian Penal Code. Countering this, the CBI advocate said that the Netai case was transferred to Kolkata under the order of the

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