

ner that reminds you of the other, should be cracking with intensity, reeking with passion. But the duo generates as much heat as py-

Mick LaSalle of San Francisco Chronicle says, "The Bollywood film 'Kites' is being released in two versions.

bed, her naked legs in the air like a Ravi Shankar sitar. That at least was feast for the eyes.

thought to Jyoti Banu, dynastic succession unlike mother Indira who openly declared Sanjay her heir in the mid-1970s.

Which model will Rahul follow? His father's or his grandmother's? Interestingly, great-grandfather Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was no admirer of dynastic politics either even though he allowed himself to be convinced to appoint daughter Indira Congress president in 1959 when she was 41. It was an act out of character with Nehru's principled belief in meritocracy. It was only after Pandit Nehru's sudden death in May 1964,

dard to the top echelons of the party, including the post of president which his mother Sonia has held for 12 consecutive years - a record in the Congress's 125-year history. (Even Jawaharlal Nehru was party president for a total of only eight years, four of them consecutively, from 1951 to 1954.)

If Rahul has his father's sense of noblesse oblige, and he probably does - this is a situation that should make him feel uncomfortable. Does he have the political will to do something about it? At the moment, perhaps not.

Facebook the social networking giant with close to 500 million members finds itself facing the wrath of many of its users as well as privacy advocates, who accuse it of passing on too much personal information to advertisers. The current spat over Facebook has led to a renewed debate about privacy in the internet era. Facebook defended itself on the basis of advertising practices followed across the web. The site this year posted more banner ads than any other. It has continuously altered its stance on privacy and only last month had decided to make each user's profile information public by default. Its privacy policies are also difficult to understand. It appears that to manage privacy on the site, one has to manage 50 settings with more than 170 options. The dilemma in protecting privacy is that because sites like Facebook are free, they can make money mostly by passing on personal information to advertisers. Now that the utility of social networking sites such as Facebook has been proved, further evolution could lead to the emergence of sites where one pays a premium for the protection of one's privacy. Besides, user resistance and the wrath of regulators could force Facebook itself to change.

# The emperor has no clothes

Siddharth Saxena,

So, who wants to watch a buck-naked Maradona tearing through the streets of Buenos Aires? This July, keep your kids indoors and once inside, clamp the child lock on the internet, for this could make for one traumatic viewing, a sight with far-reaching ramifications for the popularity of the sport even in this part of the world. As if having you know, Beckham unfurled in his Armani underwear from the Selfridges ramparts was not enough, imagine having a crazed, greying, hopelessly out-of-shape former footballer, forever rabble-rouser streak in nothing but his famed bling, turn watches and misguided attitude, across the commercial district of the Argentine capital.

Maybe if his Kournikova-lookalike girlfriend decided to go along, then perhaps the Maradona promise of streaking if Argentina won the World Cup wouldn't look so bad, but that's not the point. While one suspects, most of what he said may have been lost in translation - actually, just syntax here and intonation there, because what else did he say? - and the western media careful to pick up just this crucial slip of the tongue, the vow of this World Cup has been made. Typical Maradona. Even before the first ball's been kicked, he's caught the referee's eye, and it's done nothing to deflect the focus away from his squad.

The World Cup is here, obvious choices from his squad missing (personally, apart from Riquelme, one would have liked to see Luis 'Lucho' Gonzales in the Argentine midfield; there's a certain Jack Sparrow quality about the guy and his game) and the coach comes up with this. Maybe it was pure relief

at discovering his fourth-choice striker actually coming good, and so, suitably chuffed, he even thought nothing of hijacking the credit for Diego Milito's resurgence (Wonder how the Special One would react to the Touched One on this?).

The moment this made the news, Kaka rolled his eyes, and looked heavenward and sought coach Dunga's approval, who stopped glowing for a minute to nod sagely, and returned to squint serious-faced, peering into Brazil's World Cup future. Drogba continued to fly, arms flailing as if nudged by an umbrella in the underground during rush hour, while the sneer on Cristiano Ronaldo's face grew larger. In the best players' clubhouse ahead of the South African showpiece, you could almost hear it stretch as if our Portuguese pretty boy was telling Lionel Messi, "Hombre, taking one's kit off and making a run is the stuff of us footballers, not paddy managers. Haven't you seen me after my goals at Real Madrid?"

But before he could shyly remind anyone listening that he was himself too busy scoring goals by the truckloads for Barcelona to watch Gel Boy do his shirt-off at Real, Messi was cowering, diving for cover - typically in his self-effacing way, blushing even - at the declaration of Maradona's naked ambition. What a strange, twisted legacy the current best player in the world has to live down.

Sample this tiny admission of torment by the quietly Troubled One. "At first, it was strange to have him as our coach. The truth is he was a little imposing. But afterwards, we started getting used to him..." Messi said recently, careful to add that it

was normal now, since Maradona has been their coach for a while now.

What do you do when your coach, who the world tells you was you, before you came on to the scene, turns out to be the complete antithesis of what you are shaping up to be? Would you really want to win the World Cup, to see him streak, or worse, see him backtrack on his much-public vow? Or should you win it for yourself, and in the process, cruelly kill off any contact with a contentious connect.

The problem with Messi, or the many Maradona heirs before him - Latorre, Ortega, Saviola, D'Alessandro and Lavezzi - is that they need to be their own men, move out of the Maradona shadow. Maybe the burden got so great for Riquelme that he stepped aside. And to think,

the forever unsettled player found his wings once he found his home with Boca Juniors, Maradona's backyard.

Argentina need to move out of the Maradona shadow, and to do that they need to win the World Cup. Funny irony is they can't do it without him. What a happy curse he is proving.

What's strange is that after the initial sniggers that his run naked back home promise invited, no one - expect this blog, it seems - seem to remember it. Is the World Cup losing its magic for madness, or has the world stopped considering Maradona as anything but serious?

That must be such a terrifying thought, no? No magic at the World Cup and no madness with Maradona. Kick-off is scheduled for June 11. Enjoy.

## India needs to guard against Chinese whispers

Arati Jerath,

Ho hum! Here we go again, jumping through hoops because of some inscrutable Chinese mumblings on India's quest for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. Frankly, I couldn't understand why our officials were so rah-rah after President Pratibha Patil did the rounds in Beijing, where she is currently on a state visit.

Foreign secretary Nirupama Rao spoke glowingly of "forward movement" and "positive development". She exclaimed, "They are listening very carefully to what we are saying and there is increased aware-

ness of India's legitimate concerns."

Are the Chinese so dense that it needed a visit by a figurehead president for the penny to drop? Surely they've been listening ever since we started canvassing for a seat at the UN high table over a decade ago.

Maybe it's time we listened more carefully to what the Chinese are saying so that we get it right. So what did they actually say? Going by Rao's own briefing, the Chinese simply assured us that they were "ready to discuss" this complex issue.

## Dr Padmaja light for many

Hyderabad, May 29 (PNB) A lady with a pearly smile and warm heart, whose homeliness would please heavenly aboard. The titles of 'Beauty Queen' or 'Brainy Queen' would compete for aptness. Apart making a mark in literary world, academically she has 5 Post Graduate Degrees, Gold Medalist and First Ranker in Astrology and Vaastu. In a very short span of time she has been able to capture the hearts of city people with her prudence in predicting the future.

Her perseverance made her a star, this celebrity name is none other than Dr Edupuganti Padmaja Rani. This queen has also has a Honorary Doctorate to her credit. Interamerican University of Humanistic Studies (Florida, USA) has awarded Honorary 'Doctor of Philosophy' for her work in the field of Astrology.

The research articles written by her were based on spiritual thoughts of distinguished personalities in the field. A record maker from India in being the first lady to obtain a recognition from this university. Professionally, Dr Edupuganti Padmaja Rani is a Principal of B.Ed College. This multi-talented personality also proved her excellence in Astrology prediction. Given the exact date & time of birth, she would be able to give a snapshot of the person's future. She can be counted on behavioral changes in one a many people, to an extent of coun-



selling them away from suicide and put them in the right direction of life. Presently she started her own consultancy Padmamukhi Jyothi Vaastu Nilayamu" in Hyderabad through which she offers her consultancy services. She specializes in offering services by mixing Astrology and Vaastu as she believes Astrology is the eye and Vaastu is the vision for human lives. Accounting Dr. Edupuganti Padmaja Rani on writing skills her Astrological serials in Bhavishyavani, Maharshi Kalagnanam have created sensation among readers. Her articles won awards from recognized organization like ATA and Amrutha Kiran on the occasion of UGADI. She has won many prizes in literature - First prize in writing by Govt. of AP, Department of Culture, Hyderabad. Competitions conducted by Aradhana & Viswasahiti. Apart from all this she was also honoured with 'Koduri Leelavathi Smaraka' Award. About her family, she is the daughter of Vanm Durga

Jyotisha Choodamani' by Maharshi Kalagnanam, Vijayawada, Jyotisha Kalanidhi' & Seva Ratna' by Yuva Art Theatres, Hyderabad, Vidya Ratna Vishista ugadi Puraskaram by Sai Satya Surya Charitable Trust, Hyderabad, 'Wonder Lady' Ugadi Puraskaram by All the Best Arts Academy, Hyderabad, First Prize in Essay Writing conducted by Govt. of AP, Dept of Culture, Hyderabad, First Prize in Traditional Dress Competitions conducted by Govt. of AP, Dept. of Culture, Hyderabad, Sri Damodaram Sanjeeviah memorial prize for mini Hasya Katha by Viswasahiti Poti, 'Kulapathi Smaraka Puraskar Award' for best research oriented topic in Astrology, Jyotisha Viswa Vijay Award' & Sankata Mochana Charya by Astrological Research Project, Calcutta to name a few. In the generation where in completing one degree itself many students feel a tough job, she has obtained degrees in 1. B.Sc(MPC), Andhra University 2. B.Ed(Maths), Andhra University 3. B.Ed 3rd P V University (Telugu), Osmania University 4. Bachelor of Law (B.L), Andhra University 5. M.Sc(Maths), Andhra University 6. M.Ed(Maths), Andhra University 7. M.A (Telugu), Andhra University 8. M.A(Sanskrit), Kakatiya University 9. M.A(Jyotisham), Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University PG Diploma in English Bhavishyavani, Guntur, nearing