



Together again ~ 16

**WEATHER**  
 Mainly clear sky  
**Rainfall Nil**  
**Yesterday's readings**  
 Max temp up to 5.30 p.m. was 31.5 (-1)  
 Min temp up to 8.30 a.m. was 17.0 (-3)  
**Relative humidity** Max 82%; Min 26%  
**Relative humidity** at 8.30 a.m.: 57% (+10) and at 5.30 p.m.: 45% (-3)  
**Hooghly river tides at Garden Reach**  
 Mar 4: Low water 1.50 a.m., 1.40 m | Mar 4: High water 5.22 a.m., 4.56 m  
 Mar 4: Low water 1.57 p.m., 1.19 m | Mar 4: High water 5.55 p.m., 4.49 m  
**Moon rises today at 12.00 a.m.; sets at 10.24 a.m.**  
 Last quarter today  
 Sun sets today at 5.41 p.m.; rises tomorrow at 5.56 a.m.



# 'Faultily' designed flyover has a great fall

statesman news service

**KOLKATA, 3 MARCH:** Faulty design coupled with lack of maintenance, might have led to the collapse of the bridge off Ultaganga, said senior engineers of Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA).  
 Top engineers of KMDA, it is said, had allowed the design because of their allegiance to the party and to please the CPI-M bosses including the then Urban Development minister Ashok Bhattacharya and chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya.  
 Mr Ananda Ganguly was the chief engineer when the construction of the bridge began. He is now one of the consultants of the Housing and Infrastructure Development Corporation (Hidco). Mr Anup Ghosh who succeeded him became the director general of the traffic and transportation wing of the agency had superseded four engineers, including one who had a Masters degree in structural design because of his closeness to the political bosses. Mr Ghosh was the head when the Dum Dum underpass

developed problems within a week after it was inaugurated. Mr Biswajit Chowdhury was the supervising engineer when the construction began and later he was succeeded by Mr Ashis Sen.  
 The KMDA sources said that to please the then Urban Development minister, the then CEO, Mr Vivek Bharadwaj, had put pressure on the engineers to complete the bridge. The engineers did not raise their voice fearing punishment.  
 The construction was not allowed the stipulated settling time and was completed in haste. Because of the sharp turn, the bridge was a perennial problem from the engineering point of view but the engineers did not raise any objection when it was cleared by the KMDA. When the proposal to set up the bridge to avoid traffic congestion at Ultaganga was mooted local CPI-M leaders had said they would not allow removal of shanties and the odd design had to be executed.  
 The pampering of mediocrity by the erstwhile Left Front regime in KMDA had become disastrous. Two bridges built in the last leg of the Left Front regime have already developed trouble. The Dum

Dum underpass had developed trouble within a week after it was inaugurated by the chief minister last year. The bridge off Wipro in Salt Lake had to be closed last monsoon due to massive waterlogging at the Nicco Park end as there is no proper drainage system.  
 The bridge at Ultaganga had developed cracks near the Salt Lake end. The crack was repaired. After the Trinamul Congress government came to power it did not take the trouble of conducting a thorough inquiry and lax responsibility of the persons whose lack of supervision had created the crack. Instead the bridge was painted in blue and white, the favourite colours of chief minister Mamata Banerjee. The engineers suggested that an inquiry into the condition of the bridges built by the KMDA in the past five years should be immediately conducted to avoid major disaster in near future.  
 There is a project management unit of the KMDA that inspects Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) project and this unit also did not raise any question over the faulty design of the bridge.

# Slum-dwellers live in fear's shadow

statesman news service

**KOLKATA, 3 MARCH:** Hundreds of slum dwellers in the vicinity of the flyover off Ultaganga, a portion of which collapsed early this morning, are living in fear apprehending they may lose their lives any moment if the sections of the construction, close to their shanties, collapse.  
 A major disaster was averted as it was the portion of the flyover that was above the canal which collapsed. "If the portion which is just above the Sri Krishna Colony collapsed then it would have claimed at least 50 lives," said Mr Kamal Das a resident of the colony.  
 He said they cannot sleep at night due to the shaking that occurs when a heavy vehicle passes on the flyover and often accidents take place at the sharp turn on the flyover. "We heard engineers and some officials discussing that the portion of the flyover collapsed as some bolts



and bearings tore off. They were saying that bolts of bigger diameter should have been used in such constructions," he said, adding, the state government should do a thorough inspection of the flyover before opening it for further use. Three persons were killed in October 2012 when they fell from the flyover after their motorbike collided with the railing. Mr Rajeev Kumar, commissioner of the Bidhanagar Commissionerate said, the driver of the truck that fell into

the canal when the flyover collapsed told police that the vehicle did not collide with the railing of the flyover. The driver suddenly felt that the flyover is overturning.  
 Mr Sanjay Mohit, a 65-year-old resident of Sri Krishna Colony said: "It seems there is no value of common people's lives. The driver's statement proves that the flyover collapsed before any collision had taken place. Thus, the portion which is just above the shanties may collapse any time."  
 A senior police officer said the speed limit near the turn on the flyover is only 20 km per hour. Drivers pull vehicles at high speed on both Eastern Metropolitan Bypass and Kazi Nazrul Islam Sarani. "It is quite impossible for drivers to reduce the speed of their vehicles soon after getting on to the flyover. So, it is quite impossible for the police to avert accidents even after putting up signboards indicating speed limits," he said.

# Child's body found, neighbour suspected

statesman news service

**CHANDITALA 3 MARCH:** Police today found the body of a student at Dakshin Pancharaj under the jurisdiction of Chanditala police station. On 26 February, Subjit Halder, a Class VI student of Janai Training High School went out to play with his friends in the neighbourhood after coming back from coaching. He did not return home. A missing diary was lodged at the Chanditala PS by his father Gokul Halder.  
 Mr Gokul Halder said that he had been receiving messages on his mobile demanding ransom till yesterday. He said that the mobile belonged to Mr Uttam Biswas, his neighbour. He demanded a ransom of Rs 50,000.  
 Mr Biswas has been absconding since 27 February. The wife and a child of Mr Biswas were taken into safe custody by the Chanditala PS.  
 Today at noon when some children were playing in a ground adjacent to the house of Mr Biswas, they saw a hand jutting out of a thick bush.  
 Police, when informed, rushed to the spot and brought out the decomposed body of a child. Subhijit's parents identified it as his body.  
 The neighbours attacked the house of Mr Biswas. A police picket had been posted to prevent any untoward incident.  
 Mr Subhas Halder, the brother of Mr Gokul Halder, however, said that the latter had been operating as a middleman between Altatech, an industrial unit, and the villagers for their land sale, which might have earned him enemies and cost him his son.



**INDOMITABLE WILL -** More than 28 years after the Bhopal gas tragedy, children there are still born maimed. But this child has not lost his zest for life. Five survivors of the tragedy gathered at the Press Club to tell their tale. In Kolkata on Sunday. **dilip dutta**

**Goons rape minor**  
**DURGAPUR, 3 MARCH:** Four armed goons forced their way into a house and raped a minor girl in Katwa last night. The goons also beat up the house-owner and father of the girl and looted cash worth Rs 5000. One of the hoodlums caught hold of the house-owner's 15-year-old daughter and allegedly raped her in front of him.  
 "The others were on guard to prevent anyone from interfering," the victim's father told police. The local residents went to the police station demanding immediate arrest of the goons.  
 "The girl was taken to the Katwa SD Hospital for medical examination and a case has been filed against the culprits but the accused are at large," said Mr S M H Meera, SP, Burdwan today. He added: "The statement of the girl will be recorded judicially tomorrow."

**CPM party office set on fire**  
**BARRACKPORE, 3 MARCH:** The CPI-M party office of Barrackpore was allegedly set on fire by some local hoodlums today. Titagarh police said that the incident occurred at the office of the CPI-M's No 2 local committee of Sibitala in Barrackpore. Two fire engines were pressed to service.  
 Like on other days, yesterday, local CPI-M supporters came to the party office as usual and locked it out 10 p.m. after the day's work was done. Local residents said that at around 2 a.m. they noticed smoke billowing out of the office.  
 They immediately informed it to CPI-M supporters, who rushed to the office. Mr Ajoy Barman, the zonal leader said that they suspect that local goons was behind the fire.  
 In another incident, fire broke out in four shops of Gadamar in Amtanga. Three engines were sent to the spot to control the fire. Fire brigade authorities suspect that a short circuit in the inverter may have led to the fire.

# Decentralisation focus of Purulia workshop on PRIs

by spjs students

**PURULIA, 3 MARCH:** Understanding the policies of decentralisation for better implementation of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) was the topic of discussion at the workshop on 'Evaluation of the Curriculum prepared on Panchayati Raj Institutions', held at Bhandarpura - Chapda Gram Panchayat Hall in Purulia district, West Bengal, between 26 February and 1 March, 2013. Jointly organised by the Centre for Environmental and Socio-economic Regeneration (CESR) and the Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship and Technical Education (CREATE), Lucknow, and supported by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), New Delhi, the workshop saw local representatives of PRI interact with trainers, mainly local body leaders and civil society functionaries, for the effective functioning of local self-governance. The 73rd amendment to the Constitution of India has empowered the Panchayats to take decisions on local problems. However, awareness, knowledge and education are still below standard in rural India. In this context, the decision to design a curriculum to guide the trainers on effective implementation of PRI programmes and activities, was taken during the annual Joint Staff Development Programme (JSDP) in 2007, organised by KADYAN, Ramakrishna Mission and KAS at Darjeeling. The purpose was to include even people from the grass-root level to participate in the decision making processes affecting their daily lives. After nearly five years of meticulous



**(On the dais, from left to right) - Mr Swapan Mullick, SPJS, Mr A K Pati, CESR, Mr Tandon, CREATE, in Purulia.**

research, countless discussions and deliberations with partners, other NGOs and experts in the field, a training manual was finally scripted. The workshop in Purulia began with a brief introduction by Mr A K Pati, Chairman, CESR, and followed by a unique interactive session between the participants. The following sessions were based on the 15-module training curriculum designed by Vishva Vrak Kendra. Some of the modules discussed over the course of the workshop were on the 'evolution of PRI as a Constitutional entity', thoughts on Panchayati Raj by eminent leaders like MK Gandhi, B K Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru and others', 'democratic decentralisation', 'present status of decentralisation of power', 'social and gender justice' and 'local body finance'. Each of the sessions of the workshop was followed by a question and answer round where the feedback of the participants, divided among four groups, were collected and evaluated for future use. A series of pilot workshops has already been conducted by KAS and CREATE, on PRI Curriculum Implementation and Evaluation, in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, with West Bengal being the last stop. The collective evaluation and feedback from these workshops will be analysed and interpreted as to what extent have the workshops benefited the participants.

# Row over Sugata Marjit's name in WBSU prospectus

poulomi ghosh

**KOLKATA, 3 MARCH:** The prospectus of West Bengal State University (WBSU) claims that Professor Sugata Marjit, chairman of the West Bengal State Council of Higher Education is a member of the university council. According to university officials he was never a member of the university council but attended a few meetings of the council. University authorities have finally admitted, it was a printing mistake that resulted in his name being listed as a council member.  
 In the absence of the court and executive council which are supposed to oversee the functioning of the university, WBSU is being run by a university council with nominated members since it was set up in 2007. After the Trinamul Congress came to power, the older members of the council were replaced by new members. "But Professor Sugata Marjit was not there in the new list," said a teacher of the university.  
 Otherwise, as the chairman of the higher education council Professor Marjit is an ex-officio member of the court of all state vars-

ities, according to the new varsity Acts. Either he himself or his nominee can attend these meetings of the varsities.  
 But as WBSU does not have any statute yet, the new Act is not applicable to the university. "Though universities do not generally have any prospectus, but WBSU authorities have come up with one during the available courses. Prof. Marjit's name was mentioned there as a member of the university council. We were confused when his name was included in the list," said an official of the university.  
 Other members of the university council too are not sure whether Professor Marjit is a member of the university council. "As far as I know, he is a government nominee in the council," said another member.  
 Confirming that Professor Marjit is not a member of the university council, Vice-Chancellor Professor Koushik Gupta said: "He was invited in a few meetings to discuss on some specific agendas. It was a mistake to print his name as a member of the university council in the prospectus. I have already clarified this matter to our university teachers."

# VU yet to take action on former V-C's funds misappropriation case

biswabrata goswami

**MIDNAPORE, 2 MARCH:** The authorities of Vidyasagar University have failed to take any action against the former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Swapan Kumar Pramanick, accused of misappropriating Unassigned Grants Funds of the university.  
 In the last executive committee meeting held yesterday, the VU authorities discussed the matter but failed to take any decision. The UGC had asked the VU authorities on 22 July 2012 to refund Rs 60,976 misappropriated by Prof. Pramanick.  
 In a meeting held on 6 May 2004, Prof. Pramanick, then the chairman of UGC Unassigned Grants Committee, sanctioned his own travel grants amounting to over Rs 60,000 to attend an international congress in Sociology. This was against the guidelines as the VCs are supposed to apply directly to the secretary of the UGC under the Travel Grant Scheme for college teachers/VCs/Commission members. When contacted, Dr Ranajit Dhar, Registrar, VU said: "The matter was discussed by the EC members during the meeting. No concrete decision, however, was taken." A senior teacher of VU said on condition of anonymity: "If this process continues and VU authorities try to suppress the matter, different heads of the university will deliberately fund funds for their own purposes from different Grant Funds without ever refunding these funds to the varsity. When any one raises their voice, these teachers either try to influence the EC members or take shelter under the ruling party."  
 According to reports, Prof. Pramanick did not submit his round-trip air-tickets and boarding cards as proofs of his expenditure which is a must in every public institution. Interestingly, Prof. Jing Tian Kai, Director of Institute of Sociology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, in an e-mail to Prof. Pramanick on 11 November 2005, had invited him as the V-C to attend the Congress from 7 to 11 July 2004, although Prof Pramanick officially had taken charge as V-C on 1 December 2005.  
 The matter came to the fore when several RTI applications were filed by Mr Abhijit Guha, a teacher of the Department of Anthropology at Vidyasagar University in 2010. Based on the replies to his RTI queries, Mr Guha complained to Mr Bratya Basu, the State Higher Education Minister, on 1 August 2011 and also to the UGC, Chairman on 16 March 2012. Responding to Mr Guha's complaint, the deputy secretary of UGC, sent a letter dated 27 July 2012 to the Registrar, VU to refund the Rs 60,976 spent by Prof. Pramanick.

# Marwari Relief Society praised

KOLKATA, 3 MARCH: Governor Mr MK Narayanan today praised the Marwari Relief Society hospital for offering medical service to the economically-challenged people at an affordable price. While addressing a meeting celebrating the centenary of Marwari Relief hospital, at Kala Mandir this morning, Mr Narayanan said, the hospital was providing services without taking any financial support from either the Central or state government. There are generous donors who have kept the hall rolling for the past 100 years. He lauded those noble souls who had dreamt of setting up the hospital over a century ago and then translated their thoughts into action. **sbs**

**DEBITS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL NO. 1, KOLKATA**  
 9, Old Post Office Street, 8th Floor, Kolkata-700 011  
**SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 10(1) OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993**  
 O.A. No. 382 OF 2012  
**DRB BANK LIMITED (Applicant) vs. M/S. SUDARSHAN OIL MILL PVT. LTD. & ORS. (Defendant)**  
 To: 1. M/s. Sudarshan Oil Mill Private Limited, 3, Netaji Haldar Street, Posta Baran, P.S. Baranbazar, Kolkata-700 019.  
 2. 56, Saket Chandra Mally, Daluabhat, South 24-Parganas, Pin-743503  
 3. Sri. Subhojit Das, 84, Banel Road, Kolkata-700 019.  
**WHEREAS** the applicant (i) abovementioned has filed an application under Section 10(1) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 against you/their firm for recovery of Rs. 9,72,97,00.00 and other debts, you are hereby summoned to appear in person or by an authorized representative to be filed within 30 (thirty) days from the date of re-notification thereof and to show cause in writing why you should not be liable to pay or to be liable upon you as to why the debts payable for should not be granted.  
 Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, the 12th day of **ASSISTANT REGISTRAR** of December, 2012. **TRIBUNAL, KOLKATA**