

speedread

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NO PROTECTION: People have a hard time in Nikol in Ahmedabad as they are forced to wade through dirty chemicals that have filled the potholes on the road this monsoon

SHARJAH BOYS FIGHT BACK

Undeterred by Sunday's loss to Nirman High School, the Sharjah XI boys rallied to defeat St Xavier's, Loyola by 43 runs on Monday. Playing at the Motera 'A' ground, Sharjah scored 156/5 in their allotted 30 overs. Taveen Kapoor (43) and the in-form Manik Talwar (35) were the main architects of the visiting Sharjah teams' innings. In reply, the Loyola boys found it hard to score as the team could manage only 113/8 in their quota of overs.

VASA UPSET AT CAMBAY GOLF

It was super Sunday for Arun Borah at the second TAEGA Cambay Matchplay Knock Out Challenge '09 at Cambay. Borah upset Abhijit Vasa by two holes to advance in the tournament. In a thrilling encounter, Vasa faulted at the decisive holes to concede advantage to Borah. He scrambled a par then lost two consecutive holes and bowed out. Earlier, Vasa had hit the longest drive - 200 yards - of the day. Meanwhile, Adhyapak won by six holes against Urvin Parikh.

Team effort lifts Hiramani

DNA CORRESPONDENT

Propelled by some high-quality bowling and sensible batting, Hiramani School emerged on top against JL High School (JLHS) in the under-19 Diwan Ballubhai Cup final at the MG Science ground on Monday. At the end of the first day of the three-day encounter, Hiramani were 181/5 after bowling JLHS out for 147. JLHS's decision to bat first boomeranged as Naman Patel (3/23) and Alkesh Patel (3/33) operated in tandem. Sugam Shukla (27) gave his best, but JLHS collapsed for 147. In reply, Hiramani were

in trouble; but an unbeaten 52 by Tarang Chhatrola and Naman Shah's 41 ensured they had the upper hand. Hiramani scored 181/5—a lead of 34. Meanwhile, in the under-16 semifinals for the GLS Cup, Asia High School finished their first day against St Xavier's, Loyola on a high note, on Monday. Chintan Gajja (126) and Anmol Desai (105) slammed centuries as Asia aggregated 315/6 at the Loyola ground. The other semifinal between GLS and Vidyanagar School was interrupted by rain. When play was called off on the first day, GLS were 53/5. Vidyanagar's Ruchir Desai (2/5) and

Take a lead of 34 runs against Loyola, with five wickets in hand

MANCHESTER UTD TEAMS WIN

The Manchester United teams lived up standards to advance in the six-a-side football tournament at the St Xavier's college ground. The 'A' team drubbed Challengers 7-0, while the 'B' team gunned down Galactica Gunners 3-0 to progress in the tournament. Fatima FC, Real Madrid, Referee XI, YCSA 'B' and RBI Red were among the winners on Sunday.

NARGIS, JIGNESH TT CHAMPIONS

Nargis Malubhai claimed the women's title at the 3rd Open Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament at Modasa. Seeded fourth, she defeated sixth seed Himani Bhatt of Rajkot 11-9, 12-10, 11-4, 11-6. Meanwhile, top seed Jignesh Jaiswal from Bhavnagar captured the men's singles title, beating second seed Hardik Bhatt 11-9, 11-8, 10-12, 11-4, 11-8.

BJP APPOINTS NEW POLL IN-CHARGE FOR MAHARASHTRA

MUNDE, NOT MODI, to man Maha polls

KAPIL DAVE, GANDHINAGAR

The BJP seems to be on a warpath in trying to avenge for its ignominious defeat in the recent Lok Sabha polls. As a starter, the party, in a bid to clean its poor performance in Maharashtra, has appointed party MP Gopinath Munde as election in-charge of the state for the forthcoming state assembly elections.

The latest move caught BJP state president Purshottam Rupala by surprise

Munde, who represents Bheed in the Lok Sabha, served as deputy to Shiv Sena leader Manohar Joshi, when the latter was the chief minister of the state, has been selected after the removal of the party's star campaigner appointing Munde, replacing Modi, was made by BJP president, Rajnath Singh, at a party function in Mumbai. Modi was the party's election in-charge of Maharashtra during the general elections, which could get only nine of the 48 Lok Sabha seats in the state. Interestingly, BJP did not win a single seat in Mumbai. Interestingly, the party's state president Purshottam Rupala, said that he is unaware of the move, when DNA asked him about the development. "I don't have any infor-



WILL HE STILL FIND IT FUNNY? A file photo of chief minister Narendra Modi and Gopinath Munde sharing a few laughs

mation on the issue," the senior party leader said, even though the news spread like wild fire in the House during the ongoing session. Party sources said Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena had made a dent in the BJP and Shiv Sena's vote bank queering their pitch in several Lok Sabha seats. The BJP, however, maintained that its Lok Sabha performance in the state had nothing to do with Munde's appointment. "Modi was appointed for the Lok Sabha polls only and was divested of the charge when all poll-related committees were dissolved after the elections," said BJP spokesperson, Prakash Javadekar, in a statement. Modi was made the party's poll in-charge for Maharashtra along with Gujarat making him a key fig-

ure in the party's poll preparations in western India in the first week of February this year. The tiny state of Goa as well as the union territories of Daman Diu and Nagar Haveli have also been brought under him during the Lok Sabha polls. However, Modi failed almost in all the states to increase the party's performance then the 2004 results. Modi had made around 300 campaign tours nationwide, maximum of which was in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa. But, despite his all-out efforts, the party's performance did not improve. Party sources in the state however, claim that it's still unclear from Rajnath Singh's statement if Modi has also been removed from the charge of Goa and UTs.

PLEDGE AGAINST ALCOHOLISM

KALPIT BHACHECH.DNA



PROTEST: Women hold placards against liquor addiction and take pledge to launch a campaign to close down liquor dens in the city, while participating in a women's meeting at Gomtipur in Ahmedabad on Monday against liquor trade in the city.

GPSC selection process hits HC roadblock

The commission was to start the DySP & mamlatdar level interviews from July 20

AMIT ARORA, GANDHINAGAR

The Gujarat Public Service Commission (GPSC) has once more come under fire from various sides. Though it had planned to hold interviews for successful candidates of written test for posts like deputy superintendent of police (DySP) and mamlatdar from July 20, a petition filed in the high court against the scaling method used by the body, stalled the entire process. According to an official in the commission, the interviews will not be held till the Gujarat high court gives a decision on the petition, or asks the commission to go ahead with the interview process. "The interviews have been postponed indefinitely as it (hearing) could take from couple of weeks to months," the official

said. The writ was filed by some of the candidates, who alleged partiality in the scaling process from the beginning to give leverage to certain individuals. The selection body has already withdrawn an advertisement regarding the interview process from its website. What's more, GPSC has also come under fire for the way it had planned the interview process, which was to last more than three months. The commission had sought help from the government and asked it to post two secretary-level officers for the whole duration. According to sources, three more people were expected to be on the interview board. One of them is a retired deputy secretary from the general administration department of the state government and two retired GEB engineers. The severe censure of commission's attitude towards the whole process is also driven by the fact that these are high positions in the state police and administration, they being just a

level below the posts held by IAS and IPS officers. A number of these officials selected through this process later get promoted to Gujarat cadre of central services. A senior bureaucrat pointed out that Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) usually forms up to 20 boards to conduct interviews in regular manner. "Moreover, these boards have number of experts, including very senior retired bureaucrats and even psychoanalysts," he said, questioning, "With this type of a selection board, what is the quality of candidates that GPSC is aiming to select?" In addition, sources in the state government said the secretaries whose names were proposed to be part of interview panel have also expressed their displeasure about the way the entire process has been planned. Most of them opine that a 3-month long interview process for over 1,000 candidates divided in daily batches of 17 candidates each would have left them with little time to take care of their regular duties.

sticky pitch

'Indian student works hard, but isn't prepared for jobs'

Executive dir of Nanubhai Education Foundation, Katherine Biddle, shares her year-long experience as a teacher in Kadod High School in Bardoli

People would ask me often last year, "How do Indian students compare with American students?" eyeing me carefully as I wracked my brain to formulate an adequate answer. I was an English teacher at Kadod High School, sent by the Nanubhai Education Foundation whose mission is to improve English language and technical skills of students living in rural India so that they will have access to the growing Indian economy. To these questions, I would often reply as truthfully as I could: Indian students work harder, care more and are far more respectful of teachers and education than any American student I've ever encountered. "But what about intelligence and IQ?" the curious inquirer would push on. Here I would

brain matters be regurgitated on the exam. I discovered that this "writing instruction" persists not only in English subject, but in all language subjects—Gujarati and Hindi are the same. At junctures like these, I found myself questioning my colleagues in much the same way they questioned me: "But how will the students learn to write?" I'd ask, confused. The reply that I got inevitably sounded like this:

"But they will do well on the exam. And the exam is graded very harshly. Also how can we afford to teach them to write when there is so little time to cover the curriculum?" "How can you afford not to?" I would think to myself. I'd try to imagine what jobs these students, unable to write, would be fit for after they graduated. Journalism? No. Corporate Business? No. Research? No. Even IT requires the ability to write cohesively and fluidly as a soft skill that helps advance your career. How were we setting children up for success after exams and percentages would be long gone and they'd have to face the real world? How were we making the students employable? I also found that my students did not have much perspective on what they needed to be employable in the growing Indian job market. How could they when all they knew was that being first ranked in the exam, which prizes the ability to memorise over the ability to think critically or solve problems, was the most important thing? Understandably, percentages helped students distinguish themselves in applying in an overcrowded market—but what would help them keep that employment, advance their career and actually be good at the



In India, intelligence seems to be measured by ability to score well on the state-administered exams that the students must take

work they would be doing? Over the course of the year, I found myself questioning the structures that surrounded my students often—why did they copy their homework out of exam guides? Why did they copy drawings from handkerchiefs and notebook covers when I asked them to make something original? Why did the exam ask students to memorise poetry rather than to analyse it? Why were the teachers, who I enjoyed working with so much, not given more opportunities to attend conferences and seminars to become better? The answers to all of these questions were layer upon layer of cultural complexity of course; which is why, when people would ask me, "Who are smarter? Americans or Indians?"—I'd simply reply: "It's just different."

DELAYED RAIN IN STATE SKYROCKETS PRICES

Hot onion, potato prices kill taste buds

JITENDRA DAVE

Potato and onion prices have gone up steeply in last one month and there is very little chance of their coming down in near future. The spike in prices of these vegetables is due to poor supplies as a result of deficient monsoon, traders said. The delayed monsoon in southern states has affected potato sowing. Import of potato from South Indian states begins in the last week of July and by August it gets in full swing, said Gopal Patel, a cold storage owner in Anand. However, it is going to be delayed this year, leaving little chance that potato prices will come down in near future, said Patel. Soaring prices of potato and onion have disrupted budgets of homemakers of the city. Earlier, they used to mix potato in green vegetables to cut down expenses. However, with the retail price of potato touching Rs15 per kilogram, life has become difficult for homemakers. "Potato and onion prices have soared like any-



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rate of Rs16 per kg. With the onset of monsoon, supply of potato has increased which will keep the market stable for some time. However, it also depends on supplies from North and South India. Sowing in Gujarat has gone down by around 20-25% and same is the case in Agra, said Shital Patel, a potato merchant in APMC, Vasna. Moreover, late arrival of monsoon in Gujarat may have an adverse impact on supplies of green vegetables, pushing the consumption of potato and onion high. The intensity of rain will also have an impact on production; for example, if it rains with strong wind then it will harm the flowering process of green vegetables, resulting in poor yield, said Patel. Jigna Dave, a homemaker in Sabarmati area, said green vegetables are selling for Rs40-45 per kilogram, which makes life a bit difficult. "The higher prices of vegetables have almost doubled our budget for vegetables," she lamented.