

LOCAL NEWS

GOAN CARNIVAL IN MELBOURNE -

Melbourne Lord Mayor abdicates his throne for Goan King Momo

Melbourne, February 25: It was loads of fun when the Goans in Melbourne got together for the great Carnival-a-la-Goa. The first Goan Carnival Dinner Dance night aptly named the 'Red and Black Nite' was celebrated today at the Kingston City Hall with much fanfare. Intense prudence went into making the event an authentic Goan Carnival and a grand success. Organised by 'Melgoans', a Goan events promotion com-

Mr. John So had, for one day 'abdicated' his throne. Such was the significance of the occasion - and hence elation amongst the Melbourne Goans! King Momo's edict of fun was voiced over by Carolyne D'Sa.

The Cultural troupe led by Lidia Martins cut the cake of the day. Beginning with a presentation of the traditional 'Marcha de Fontainhas', their next presentation, Goan Dekhni was staged after intense public demand. The crowd was rapt, and the troupe was called back for a clap and a bow after each of their presentations.

This event was a showcase, an opportunity for Goans to show off their culture to the mainstream Australians, besides having a great time dancing away their blues to the dynamic tunes of the band,

an unbelievable and versatile spread catering to the guests with different palates. Notable among items on the menu was the good old Goan Sorpotel and Xacuti that made many a mouth water, and many a mind drift back to the days back in Goa. The buffet, laid out in a special room, "had an appetizing ambience" as described by Salus Correa, one of the organising members.

The organising group was overwhelmed with the crowd and special guest, Honourable Member for Kilsyth, Dymphna Beard. Few guests had even flown all the

Later the dance floor was packed with almost every guest, dancing to the tunes by the band, especially with the nostalgic tunes of Goan Konkani music.

In his small address, Mr Oscar Lobo, one of the organisers, stated that while it is important to maintain our culture, it is equally important to blend with the mainstream Australians. Mr. Lobo stated that, "it is not enough to say that Melbourne is a multicultural society, something has to be done to take the steps to blend ourselves with our fellow Australians and show our love and loyalty to Australia. We need to cement our bridges all the time".



His Highness King Momo arriving to the delight of his subjects

pany, it was a night, memories of which will reminisce in the minds of all those present.

The highlight of the evening was the traditional Goan 'King Momo' played by Johnny Fernandes, which sent the gathered diners into a realm of nostalgia and the younger generation into discerning, of the stories galore of the Goa of their parents.

As the arrival of King Momo was anticipated, the organizers requested all patrons to join in to welcome His Highness. A huge twin circle of eager and anxious patrons marched on to the floor overwhelmed in curiosity and excitement. And then His Highness descended on the floor - to please and bless his subjects, he went around meeting them on this 'auspicious' and festive occasion. A special announcement was made (in fun) that in view of His Highness having decided to arrive in Melbourne and attend the carnival in person, Lord Mayor

'AFTER DARK'.

Dinner was catered by 'Silver Platter', with



Due credit goes to the organisers for ensuring a fun-filled yet traditional and authentic Goan Carnival right here in Melbourne, with all guests leaving saturated with traditional Goan merriment.

way from Adelaide just to have a good time in the happy company of their Goan friends in Melbourne. Some new Goans in town "came out of the wood works" and joined in the festivities, noted Salus.

Mr Lobo informed Bharat Times that Melgoans would now be preparing for their next major event - celebration of the Annual 'World Goa Day' on the 1st of July 2006, at the same venue.

Deepa Mehta's 'Water' unshackles inner thoughts of a materialist mind

Melbourne, February 28: Dendy Films release 'Water', another controversial work of the infamously famous Indian born Canadian director Deepa Mehta, was previewed by a select audience on February 28 at 7pm @ Kino Cinema, 45 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Set against the epic backdrop of the River Ganges in 1938 Colonial India during Mahatma Gandhi's rise to power, this is the tale of an eight year old Hindu girl named Chuyia very cutely played by Sarala. Chuyia's life is suddenly changed, by the traditions of her religion, when she is widowed and sent to a home where Hindu widows must live in penitence.

She refuses to accept her fate however and her feisty presence begins to affect the lives of the other residents, including a young widow, who has fallen in love with a Gandhian idealist.

"Water" gained notoriety in 2000 after hard-line Hindu protesters burned its sets in India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh, saying the film distorted Indian culture. Mehta, an Indian-born Canadian citizen, received death threats and had to abandon the production. "It had started becoming more about doing the film at any cost, which is not healthy for the film, so I said 'stop'," she said. "The film is absolutely not anti-Hindu ... the script was read and

passed by the very government that protested, so you wonder about that."

Deepa filmed 'Water' in Sri Lanka.

For lovers of meaningful cinema, it is a definite viewing. 'Water' forces your inner thoughts out of slumber and leaves you compelled to think how to untangle the complexities of our culture. Although too many sub-plots, the main victim/protagonist of the movie 'Chuyia', grows on you as you continue thinking of the times India went through before the spread of education and times of Raja Ram Mohan Roy... Rating: ****

Release date: April 13

INTERPAC BUSINESS & MIGRATION SOLUTIONS
 Specialising in Skilled Migration & Business Visas

Immigration Assistance

- General Skilled Migration
- Family strain visas
- Business & Investment Visas
- Business visit and related visas
- Change status (TR to PR)
- Employment related visas
- Refugee and protection applications
- MRT, RRT Reviews & Appeal

Student Services

- University and School enrolments
- Change of education provider
- Student visas and extension
- Change status (TR to PR)
- Professional advices on education
- Career development and migration
- Member of family unit visas
- Guardian visas, etc.

Matters handled by experienced staff, consultant & Migration Agent (member of MIA, LIV)

Professional Services Assist you to achieve!

Call for an appointment now!!
Free initial Advisory Service*

Melbourne : 108/370 St Kilda Road, Melbourne, Vic 3004
T (03) 9599 8388 F (03) 9599 8188

Sydney : Level 2, 630 George Street, Sydney, NSW 2000

Business hours : Mon-Fri 9.30am-6pm Sat 10am-4pm

Website : www.interpac.com.au

(New Zealand and Canada Migration Services provided) *Conditions apply