

Pope's Volkswagen on eBay

San Francisco: Forget biodiesel. This 1999 metallic gray Volkswagen Golf might run on a higher power: For the second time in two years, eBay is hosting an auction for a car said to be Pope Benedict XVI's old hatchback. Bids had surpassed \$2,00,000 by Friday. The auction was scheduled to close on Saturday morning. —AP

First onscreen Bond dies

Los Angeles: Barry Nelson, an MGM contract player during the 1940s who later had a prolific theatre career and was the first actor to play James Bond on screen, has died. He was 89. Nelson died on April 7 while traveling in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, his wife, Nansi Nelson, said. Nelson played Bond in a one-hour TV adaptation of *Casino Royale* in 1954. —AP

Sex in school on camera



Principal Leroy Coleman and teacher Janet Lofton in a school office —AP

Chicago: A principal and a teacher at a suburban Chicago elementary school quit amid allegations they were caught on video having sex in the principal's office, authorities say. In keeping with Cook County's reputation for bare knuckle politics, the scandal broke after copies of the sex tape were mailed anonymously to parents this week, just days before a contested school board election. —AP

CEO pays \$52mn for fraud

New York: Sanjay Kumar, the former CEO of Computer Associates, who is scheduled to begin serving a 12-year prison term this month, is liable to pay \$800 million under a restitution agreement cleared by a US judge. However, he will actually pay about \$52 million over the next two years, the majority of his and his family's assets. —PTI

Car bombs kill 56 in Iraq

Baghdad: A car bomb blasted through a busy bus station near one of Iraq's holiest shrines on Saturday, killing at least 56 people, police and hospital officials said. Separately, a suicide car bomb killed 10 people on a major bridge in downtown Baghdad — the second attack on a span over the Tigris river this week, police said. —AP

SEE THE GROWTH...

Goltkar Saurabh

IX : 75.00%
SSC : 89.73%

Join Chate Classes, Work hard with their 'Ideal Working Pattern' and give the satisfaction to your parents by showing tremendous growth in your percentage.

Chate Helpline : 24104722
65811095/96

beyond **borders**

Garry Kasparov detained in Moscow

Police detained Russian opposition leader Garry Kasparov, the former world chess champion, as he gathered for a forbidden anti-Kremlin demonstration in Moscow. About 200 Kasparov supporters gathered outside the police station where he was being held, shouting "freedom for political prisoners."



Pak colonel throws medals at Musharraf

Colonel Afridi (Retd) returned his medals to protest the sacking of Pakistan's Chief Justice

Amir Mir. Islamabad

A retired colonel of the Pakistan army, who had surrendered his service medals and the title of colonel as a mark of protest against the General Pervez Musharraf's attempt to undermine the sovereign-

ty and independence of judiciary, is being harassed by the Inter Services Intelligence either to take back his decision within a week or face the consequences.

While protesting in an anti-Musharraf rally on April 4 in Islamabad, Col (retd) Anwar Khan Afridi literally hurled six medals he had won during his long service from 1970 to 1998, including those he had won for showing bravery during the 1971 war with India, towards the Presidency.

Afridi says that the ISI was hounding him and his family to re-

tract his decision before the next hearing of the presidential reference against the apex court chief justice on April 18.

He said after their failure to 'persuade' him, the operatives of the intelligence agency had gone to his native village to pressurise his parents, who now fear for their life.

Afridi said that he won't budge from his stance come what may. "I am a true soldier of Pakistan Army unlike Musharraf and would continue my struggle till the reinstatement of the chief justice and the removal of Musharraf from power,"

I am a true soldier of Pakistan Army unlike Musharraf and would continue my struggle till the reinstatement of the chief justice and the removal of Musharraf from power."

—Anwar Khan Afridi

he added. Anwar Afridi, who has four kids, and a wife, has already announced returning his army pen-

sion of two plots of land and \$313 a month.

The target of his angry gesture is his own commander-in-chief, General Musharraf, who faces the most serious challenge to his eight-year rule, following his March 9 decision to suspend the chief justice of Supreme Court on flimsy charges of misconduct.

Anwar Afridi got his right hand fractured on April 7 in Lahore while taking part in an anti-Musharraf lawyers convention which was attacked by the Punjab police.

New York playwright tells an Iraq-centric Orwellian story

Rajiv Joseph weaves his play around a true story about a tiger from the Sunderbans becoming a casualty in the Iraq war

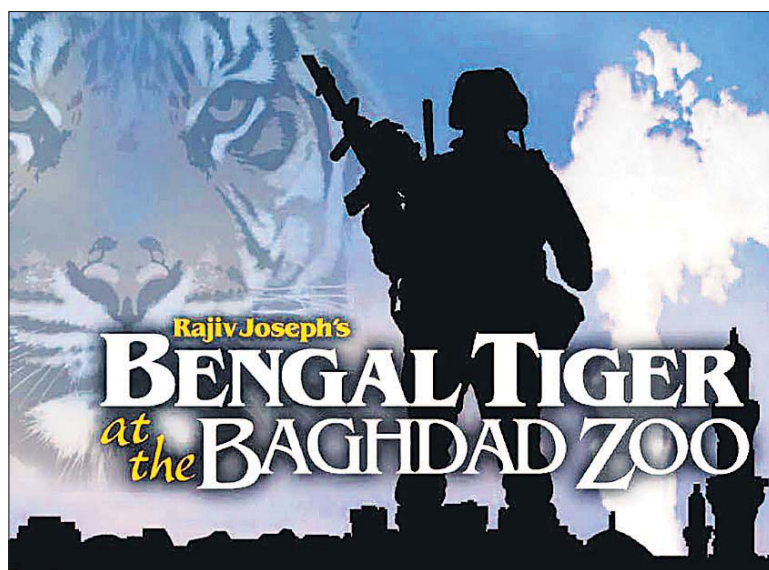
Uttara Choudhury. New York

Well-known Indian American playwright Rajiv Joseph's darkly-comic *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* resists the temptation to moralise about either the Iraqis or the Americans. Instead, it captures the "shock and awe" campaign and the mess that ensued in Baghdad as they unfolded through the eyes of a ratty, old Bengal tiger caged in the bombed out Baghdad zoo.

Joseph wrote *Bengal Tiger* as a 10-minute play back in 2003. Three years later, when he got a fellowship with the Lark Development Company, he stitched new scenes together to expand it into a two-hour drama. The off-Broadway play presented by the Indo-American Arts Council opens this week.

Joseph told *DNA* he was moved to write *Bengal Tiger* which takes his audience into a Kafkaesque Iraq following two American soldiers, a talking tiger and an Iraqi translator after he read a news item.

"An *Associated Press* story reported how American bombs had blown apart the Baghdad Zoo in 2003. The animals escaped — the lions literally ran through the streets during a blazing gun battle and were shot and killed by US Marines," said Joseph. "An American soldier stationed



A poster of the *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*

inside the zoo to guard it felt sorry for a hungry caged Bengal tiger and tried to feed it. The tiger bit off his hand. The other soldier promptly shot and killed the tiger. That was the end of the article. I read this absurd story and was really touched and haunted by it," added the 32-year-old playwright, who teaches writing at New York University.

"I felt sorry for the Bengal tiger — he was very far from where he was supposed to be. I sort of imagined the tiger as a character who couldn't believe his luck!

He had been kidnapped, shipped out of his home in the Sunderbans and put into a cell in Baghdad; then he ended up being a casualty in the Iraq war."

Joseph's protagonist, the tiger speaks to the audience with all the vitriol of a scrappy old man. "He talks about how much his life sucks," said Joseph.

"At one point, the tiger talks about cruelty and how years ago, when he was living in the Sunderbans, he killed two children. He ate them and caused misery to the parents. But he insists it wasn't cruel, it was lunch. Yet, now children are being killed in Baghdad for no reason half as good as lunch."

Joseph feels his magic realist work will not touch a raw nerve with American families who have lost loved ones in Iraq.

"There is always a danger of people being offended. But the play is not



War creates so many absurd and tragic situations for everyone. I felt sorry for the Bengal tiger."

—Rajiv Joseph

critical of American soldiers so much as it is critical of the situation. The soldiers, the tiger and the Iraqi all find themselves confused and afraid in the chaos." Joseph's previous play *Huck & Holden* about an Indian engineer who comes to study in the US and falls in love with an African-American, played to packed houses in New York and Los Angeles.

"*Huck and Holden* was a romantic comedy. This is a drama with darker comic elements. The similarities between the two come down to the tension that arises from a culture clash," said Joseph, whose Kerala-born father migrated to the US in the '60s to study. He married an American woman.

"I am mixed race and have two sides to my family — a very American side and a very Indian side. Growing up, it was interesting negotiating between the two and realising the huge differences. And yet, I feel comfortable with both sides. My parents come from two different worlds and yet they have had a happy marriage," said Joseph.

Wolfowitz affair has subplot

David E Sanger. Washington

When President Bush appointed Paul D Wolfowitz as the president of the World Bank two years ago, the White House had to put down an insurrection among European nations that viewed the administration's best-known neo-conservative as a symbol of American unilateralism and arrogance.

For a while, Wolfowitz seemed to defuse those fears, even taking on the Bush administration over how best to aid the poorest nations of Africa. But now it is clear that the chorus of calls in recent days for Wolfowitz's ouster is only partially about his involvement in setting up a comfortable job, with a big pay raise, for a bank officer who is Wolfowitz's companion.



At its core, the fight about whether Wolfowitz should stay on at the bank is about US President George Bush and his tumultuous relationship with the rest of the world

At its core, the fight about whether Wolfowitz should stay on at the bank is a debate about Bush and his tumultuous relationship with the rest of the world, particularly the bank, the UN, and the IAEA, which have viewed themselves — at various moments since the invasion of Iraq in 2003 — as being at war with the Bush White House and its agenda.

As finance ministers gathered in Washington on Friday for the bank's weekend meeting, Wolfowitz worked behind the scenes, seeking support for keeping his job.

But there were few endorsements of his leadership beyond those offered by the Bush administration.

In foreign capitals, and among the bank's staff, it has been noted that Wolfowitz's passion for fighting corruption, which he has said saps economic life from the world's poorest nations, seemed to evaporate when it came to reviewing lending to Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan, three countries that the US considers strategically vital.

It was also noted that Wolfowitz relied most heavily not on experts in international development, but on a pair of aides who served with him at the Pentagon.

Such decisions have contributed to what Nancy Birdsall, the president of the Centre for Global Development, a group that monitors aid to the world's poorest nations, described as "real doubts about Wolfowitz's judgment."

Foreign officials on the bank's board say they came to regard Wolfowitz's approach as mirroring the Bush administration's missteps.

Wolfowitz came to the bank with heavy political baggage. Over time, Wolfowitz created an impression that at key moments he was putting US foreign policy interests first, most notably when he suspended a programme in Uzbekistan after the country denied landing rights to US military aircraft, and directed huge amounts of aid to the countries he once recruited to sign on to Washington's counter-terrorism agenda. —NWT

Prince William breaks up with girlfriend

Paul Majendie. London

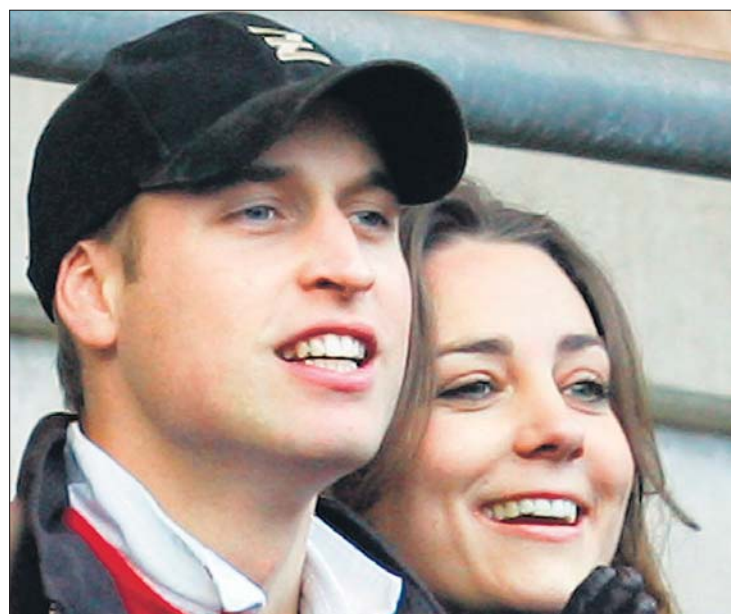
Britain's Prince William has broken up with his long-time girlfriend Kate Middleton after a romance conducted under the full glare of the media spotlight.

The Sun newspaper broke the surprise news on Saturday and friends of the second in line to the throne confirmed that the tabloid story was correct. An official spokesman for William, eldest son of the late Princess Diana, said, "We do not discuss his private life."

Middleton, the eldest child of middle-class entrepreneurs who had won plaudits for her fashionable dress sense and poise, was widely tipped to be Britain's next Queen. She was pursued everywhere by paparazzi photographers — as Diana was. *The Sun* said that the couple, who met while studying at St Andrews University in Scotland, had reached "an amicable agreement" to end their relationship.

The young couple — he is 24 and she is 25 — were seen hugging and kissing during a skiing holiday in Switzerland only last month. William is currently pursuing his career as an army officer. His younger brother, Prince Harry, also graduated from Sandhurst military academy and is due to join frontline troops in Iraq next month.

The Sun said their relationship had been strained since William graduated from Sandhurst last December at a ceremony attended by Middleton. A close friend of the couple told the paper, "As far as Kate is concerned, William simply hasn't been paying her enough attention. She is stuck in London while he is living in an officer's mess. Kate feels hugely frustrated that their relationship just seems



Media hurt it? Prince William with Kate Middleton in London —AP



In November 2006, a proposed souvenir wedding plate featuring Prince William and Kate Middleton was designed by high street retailer Woolworths.

to be going backwards at a rate of knots."

As students, William and Kate shared a house. From there, romance blossomed. She is widely recognised as being the one who persuaded the prince to stay on and complete his studies. Royalty-obsessed tabloids were always convinced she would one day be Queen Kate. The royal family had very much accepted her in the inner circle of what they call "The Firm."

Judy Wade, royal correspondent for *Hello Magazine*, said, "I am totally shocked. We were all convinced they were going to get married. She and William had so much more in common than Charles and Diana ever did." "Maybe she realised the awful burden she would have been under. It's a life sentence marrying a royal." —Reuters

There's a better way to order the latest gadgets

Gadgetise

After hrs. DNA Pg. 31 Every Sunday