

Bangalore Hosts International Tennis

MARY ERCILIA GAYEN.

KARNATKA government in collaboration with the Karpediem Entertainment Private Limited, is gearing up to make the Sony Ericsson International Women Tennis Association (WTA) a grand success. Media manager for Karpediem and the event organiser for the tour, Ms. Bhavana Sunil said that the event has been organised to endorse the popular sport of tennis and simultaneously promote Bangalore's lifestyle.

Matches will be held at the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA) stadium, at Cubbon Park where the courts have been painted green and indigo to match the official colour of the associate sponsor, Sony Ericsson. While taking a tour of the stadium along with the reporter, Bhavana said that the government had helped in revamping the entire stadium for the tour.

Seating arrangements have been made to accommodate approximately 40,000 people.



Bangalore tennis courts go, Green and Indigo : Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association Stadium getting ready for WTA —TWO Photo

New additions to the seating arrangements are the corporate boxes. Bhavana also mentioned that booking a box would cost the corporate Rs. One lakh for the entire week.

"A lot of other activities besides tennis will be conducted at the market square, that is being set up at the backyard of the stadium," Bhavana added. She added that

the stalls at the square will have lifestyle and handicraft items where visitors can shop.

Karpediem has also organised an event called 'Kids Clinic', where children will be allowed to interact with the players. According to Bhavana, players will also give the children tips and techniques to play tennis.

Another major attraction will be a charity auction where the dress worn by Serena Williams at the recent Australian Open will be auctioned. Bhavana added that Sania Mirza will also be present to auction autographed racquets and other WTA donated items. "The money raised from this auction will go to an NGO called 'Dream a Dream' that works against child labour," Bhavana added.

Security arrangements are also strong with Karnataka state police and a private security agency working together. "This tour is also reflective of Bangalore and we are working with the government to make it a successful event," Bhavana added.

Art exhibition turn into Art classes

A.DEBANISH SINGH

YOUNG artists of the present generation are found to have a serious skill degeneration since they have been taught to paint for the market instead of valuing the craft, say artists in "9 Expressions", an art exhibition hosted by the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath art gallery in the city. Nine artists from Kolkata, New Delhi, Mumbai and other cities have collaborated to display their work in the exhibition from 5th to 10th February.

According to the artists, most of the visitors are students from fine arts colleges in the city looking for guidance on the subject. "At least seventeen students have approached me since morning for advice on how to succeed in this calling," said Sanjoy Majumdar, a Kolkata based artist who had displayed many exhibitions for the High Commission of India in London and Dhaka. He said students complain that their professors in college do not teach them how

to sketch even basic elements such as the human body. "All I can say is, fine arts colleges should teach students the 'grammar of art' and not just how to put oil on canvas. Art is like writing. You can learn the craft but the art should come from within you since nobody can teach that," he said.

Ramachandra S. Kharatmal, a veteran artist from Pune, who has won many prestigious awards, including one from The Art Society of India, said that students usually take a year or a decade to learn how to use strokes properly on their canvas. "The lesser the stroke, the better the painting; it's not a hard rule. But everybody from the yesteryear's Vincent van Gogh, to the present day artist M.F. Hussain have used very few strokes in their paintings. Hussain can draw an elephant in one stroke, but ask any amateur artists to do the same and they will take at least 50 strokes," he said. According to him, students in most Art colleges are only taught to mix colours and

paint still-life objects, but they are not asked to manipulate strokes to arrive at different scenes that depict emotions.

A student from the Drishthi School of Fine Arts in Kolkata, Vinay Sen, said he came with his friends to study the work of artist, Sanjoy Majumdar, who is also from the same city. "I find it intriguing when I saw some Bangalore students asking the artists to teach them to paint. These youngsters were willing to pay any amount of money for tuition in painting," he said.

Apart from art students coming to solve their problem, the artists' main worry is the ongoing agitation against the Cauvery water



Kolkata based artist Sanjoy Majumdar with his paintings. —TWO Photo

dispute. "Less than three weeks ago, some exhibitions in the city were hit hard due to riots. Now the Cauvery protestors might jeopardise our exhibition. We have invested a lot of money," said S. Pawar, another artist.

Roses are red Prices are high

YUPANGNELA

THE Rose, the official flower of valentine's day, is a costly commodity on February 14th. Come Valentine's day and flower vendors are the happiest lot around.

Bharath Natarajan, owner of the Nata Flora in Richmond Town said, "During Valentine's day we make a huge profit by selling roses as people don't care about the price. We sell a rose for 20-25 rupees,

though on a regular day it would cost 2-5 rupees in the whole-sale market."

Simon Subba, working at Pushpam Florist on Brigade road said, "On other days we sell for 10 rupees per rose, but on Valentine's Day we charge minimum of 15 rupees."

He said that they also provide home delivery services and the cost varies according to the timings, if the order is made in the morning we charge Rs. 70 and in the afternoon we charge Rs. 50.

The students said that they buy flowers from the florist opposite and that he takes full advantage of the occasion.

He said that business was good on last valentines day

Secki Jose a student of St Joseph's said, "Though the price of the roses go high on Valentine's Day, people still go for it as roses are traditionally considered to be the ideal gift for the occasion". "But that does not stop anybody from buying them, nobody wants to be left behind," said Reshma, another student. Prema, a flower stall owner in Shantinagar said, "During Valentine's Day I sell a rose for 25-40 rupees as the demand for roses are high and people just pay whatever amount is quoted."

Ranga Swamy, a flower stall owner, in Koramangala 6th block said that they do not have too many buyers on other days, so to make up for it we quote high prices on this day.



Flowers on sale at a stall in Koramangala — TWO Photo

Love makes the market go round

RAMYA GANESH

WITH Valentine's Day just a few away, love and romance are very much in the air. As everyone looks for special gifts for their valentine, the market is brimming with offers.

"Sandalwood scented stamps were released on 13th December 2006, all over India," a General Post Office(GPO) official said. This is the first time the GPO has introduced fragrant rose and sandalwood stamps, and around 40 to 50 stamps are sold everyday, which is quite a good business, the official added. The philatelists also rejoice the introduction of new stamps, as these would sum up to their collection, said Francis Correa, an ardent stamp collector.

According to the official, each scented stamp costs Rs.40 and the fragrance will last for almost a year. "Usually, the celebration starts prior to Valentine's Day as people start buying gifts and cards for their dear ones, a week earlier," said Mr. Kamal, manager of an Archies gallery in Brigade Road. Even though e-cards and e-gifts have become the easiest way to greet loved ones in today's world, people still religiously follow the tradition of buying cards and gifts from the galleries, he added.

"Celebration without music is incomplete," said Sanjay, a regular customer of Music World, Brigade Road. In spite of the gloomy atmosphere prevalent in the city

because of the ongoing tensions, music lovers still throng the music stalls, which add up to profits during this love season, he added.

Paris Bijoux, Singapore based company at Bangalore Central, has come up with special offers exclusively for Valentine's Day said Navin, team leader of the company.



Fragrant rose stamps issued by GPO — TWO Photo