

Naveen stands by party

Bhubaneswar (KCN): At the time of crisis, Governing BJD President Naveen Patnaik stood solidly behind the party Lawmakers and leaders and asked them not to lose hope as people still have faith on him and his party.

Mr. Patnaik said this while addressing the BJD Legislature party meeting hours before beginning of the Budget session of the Odisha Legislative Assembly here.

This was his first interaction with party MLAs after the panchayat elections where BJD performance was not fully satisfactory for the Chief Minister.

"You should not be disheartened by the reverse. I advise you to take this signal seriously as a wake-up call and get reconnected to the people and workers at the grassroots level," Mr. Patnaik, said.

Naveen's statement has come as a major solace for the ruling party leaders as many of them were fearing axe immediately as BJP could win some of the Zilla Parishad seats in the BJD's strong hold areas including coastal belt.

According to the trends available so far for the Panchayat polls, BJD might lose about 200 Zilla Parishad seats, while the opposition BJP could secure about 300 Zilla Parishad zones. Polling was held for 848 ZP seats.

BJD had secured 654 ZP seats in the 2012 Panchayat elections, while the BJP had just 36 seats.

"Make sure that all Government welfare and development activities/programs reach the people properly, effectively and efficiently," Mr. Patnaik said.

The BJD President, however, said his party has returned as the Number One party in the state after the polls.

"Opposition parties are way behind the BJD. So the un-

derlying message is, seriously introspected,"



people do not want a change. They want you to perform even better in the areas where you have not met their expectations," Mr. Patnaik said.

Humility and simplicity are required in thought and action when dealing with people, he said adding "I hope you will never let down the belief and faith that the people of Odisha have in us."

Claiming that the trends indicate most of the Sarpanch, Panchayat Samiti and Ward Member candidates who had faith in BJD have won in large numbers, Mr. Patnaik said he was satisfied over the performance in some districts.

"But, I am seriously concerned at the poor performance of the party in certain districts in the Panchayat polls. I am not very happy with some MLAs who could not perform well. There may be certain specific reasons for their failure, which needs to be se-

he said.

He also congratulated the leaders and the party workers, who had put in relentless efforts to achieve success in other districts. Accusing Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh of misleading people by giving false information on Mahanadi water issue, Mr. Patnaik said the fight for Mahanadi waters is beyond political and electoral interest and it would continue.

Plus 1L CR Budget
The Odisha Council of Ministers today approved the draft Budget for 2017-18 to the tune of Rs 1 lakh crore.

The Council of Ministers' meet was presided over by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Sources said this year's Budget is likely to lay emphasis on agriculture, health and education when it is presented in the House by Finance Minister Pradip Amat on February 28.

As the State Government will have to

implement the recommendations of 7th Pay Commission, it will have to fall back upon heavy market borrowing, said sources adding that the burden on State Exchequer for this would be nearly Rs. 9,000 Crore. Notably, while the size of the Annual Budget in 2015-16 was over Rs. 84,000 crore, it was Rs. 94,000 crore for 2016-17.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had directed for completion of ongoing projects within stipulated time to avoid any cost overrun and benefit the people.

Finance Minister Pradip Kumar Amat held discussion with former Finance Ministers, economists, social experts, investors and industrialists.

State Government has also received suggestions and inputs from advocacy groups, civil societies, common citizens and other stake holders through WhatsApp, Telegrams and Internet in the structured format displayed on the web platform of the Finance Department.

Priorities are believed to be more on investments in social and physical infrastructure like education, health and roads and irrigation, sources say.

With the presentation of Union Budget on February 1, all Secretaries have taken inputs as to how much the State will be expecting from the Union Government and accordingly their spending plan has been formulated, said the sources. With the adverse effect of demonetization on collection of both Tax and Non Tax Revenue and slow down of economy, the State Government is expected to depend more on market borrowings, feel officials.

Maha Shivaratri 2017: Date, Importance and Significance of Shivratri

New Delhi (KCN): Maha Shivaratri is the most important festival for millions of devotees of Lord Shiva. The festival has been accorded a lot of significance in Hindu mythology. It is said that the sins of a devotee who observes the day with utmost sincerity and devotion is washed away and he attains moksha.

Maha Shivaratri, which literally means the 'The Great Night of Shiva' is celebrated in the dark fortnight or Krishna Paksha on the 13th day or the 14th night of Phalgun or Maagha month (that is February or March as per the English calendar). Devotees worship and offer sacrifices to Shivalingam as part of their prayers to the god.

According to popular mythology, during Samudra Manthan, or when the gods and the demons churned the great ocean to obtain nectar out of it to become immortal, a pot of

poison emerged out of the great waters first. The poison was so powerful that nobody even touched it.

and Parvati got married.

On this day, devotees fast rigorously and chant

well-being of their husbands and offsprings. Worshippers carry a pot full of the holy water to offer at



But Shiva agreed to get rid of the poison by consuming it. He carefully held the poison in his throat, which turned blue due to its effect. On Maha Shivaratri, devotees show their gratitude to the god for thus having saved the world.

According to another legend, this is the day when Shiva performed Tandava or the dance of creation, preservation and destruction. This is also believed to be the night when Shiva

shlokas and hymns praising the god to find absolution of sins. They traditionally offer milk, water, bel leaves (three leaves stalked in one) and fruits to the Shivalingam. Worshippers begin the day by a dip in the holy river of Ganga. They pray for redemption and yearn to attain moksha. Unmarried women devotees on this day pray to Parvati goddess for a good husband and married women pray for the

the temples. Some also offer cow milk on the Shivalingam. "Shankerji ki Jai" and "Mahadevji ki Jai" are chanted continuously in the temples.

Worshippers also holy ash on their forehead just like Shiva and wear Rudraksha garlands. Rudraksha tree is believed to have originated from the tears of Shiva. While many devotees observe rigorous fasting on this day, they eat fruits, sabudana kheer, ramdana and kattu halwa.



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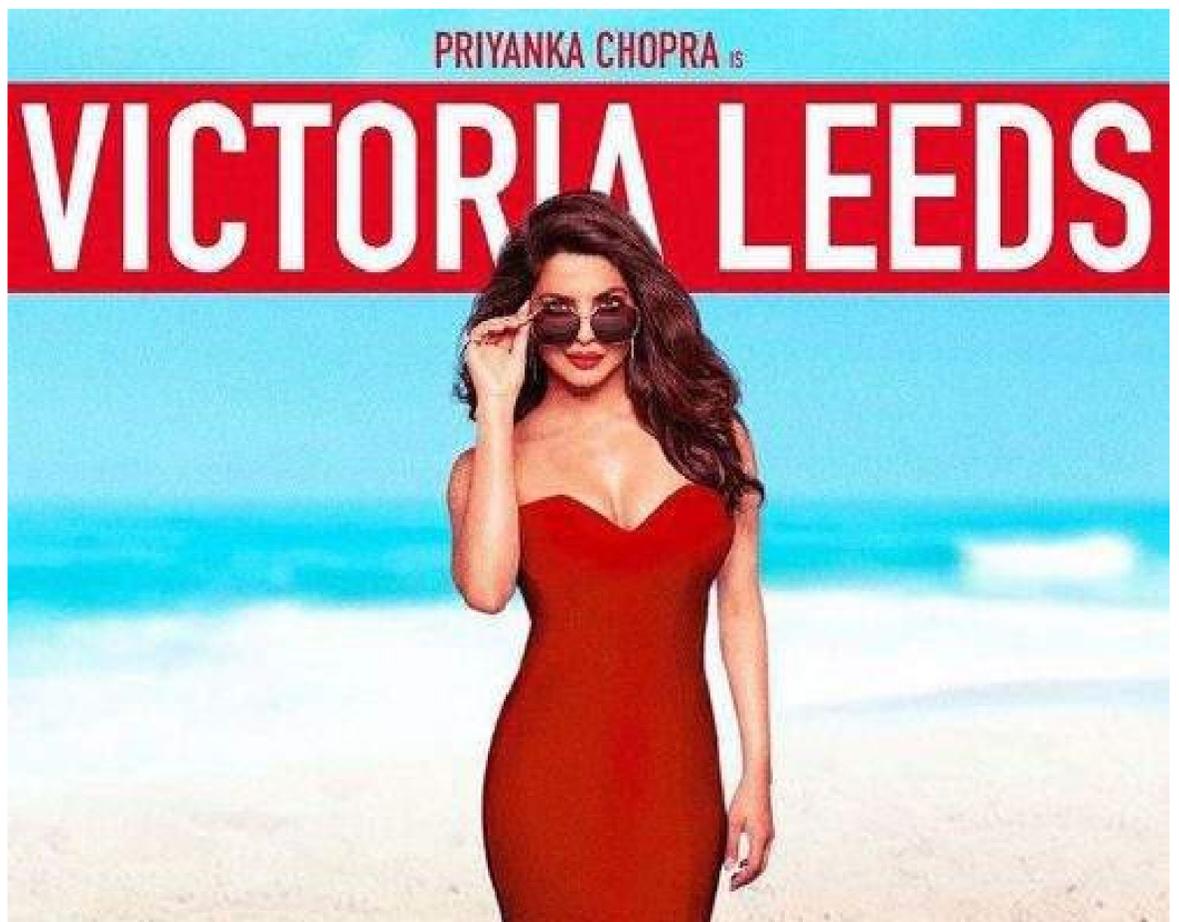
Priyanka Chopra stuns as Victoria Leeds in new Baywatch poster

NEW DELHI(K-CN): The one actress who believes being bad can be "so good" is none other than Bollywood's Desi girl Priyanka Chopra.

The global star, who is all set for her Hollywood debut, recently shared a scintillating poster from 'Baywatch' saying, "Being bad can be so good. Coming soon."

Donning a red off-shoulder dress, Priyanka looks hot as Victoria Leeds in the new poster.

The Seth Gordon-directorial is based on the television series of the same name and stars Dwayne Johnson, Zac Efron, Alexandra Daddario, Kelly Rohrbach, Jon Bass, Ilfenesh Hadera, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, David Hasselhoff and Pamela Anderson.



'Phillauri' gives first wedding song of 2017

NEW DELHI(K-CN): Here's a brand new Punjabi track to be added to your playlist which is also a perfect wedding number.

'Phillauri's second track, titled 'Whats Up', is a wedding song that sees how preparations for Suraj and Mehreen's wedding are on in full



swing while Anushka Sharma, who plays a ghost, continues to haunt the groom.

The video also shows us the love story between Anushka and Diljit from the old era.

The number is sung by Mika Singh and Jasleen Royal, and the lyrics are

penned by Aditya Sharma.

The 'Sultan' star shared the song on Twitter with the caption, "Hey WhatsUp? Here's the bride with the 1st wedding song this season #WhatsUp @TSeries @OfficialCSFilms @foxstarhindi."

Rangoon movie celeb review: Kangana Ranaut, Shahid Kapoor film tagged brilliant, Bollywood gives thumbs up

A passionate and lyrical romance, superb performances and heart-wrenching drama — these are just a few of the re-

Vishal Bhardwaj and his cast held special previews for Bollywood stars. And it seems, Bollywood liked what it saw.

enchanting era woven together by love that you can die for #Vishalbhardwaj is simply #Hollywood #Rangoon???? Ac-

#SaifAliKhan #KanganaRanaut." He further wrote, "Nawab Malik, U were outstanding! Perfect justice to D

Weds Manu and Raanjhanaa, took to Twitter to share his views about the film. He posted, "You can only describe #

Ready For Women Who Speak Their Mind

Kangana Ranaut: Bollywood Not Ready For Women Who Speak Their Mind

He further posted, "Loved Julia portrayed by #kangana. @vshahidkapoor is 1 of d most fearless actors we have.#Saif sir it's so easy 2 fall in luv wid u.#Rangoon."

Lyricist Prasoon Joshi tweeted, "Another Intense n layered performance#KanganaRanaut #Rangoon #Vishalbhardwaj intricate wrk@shahidkapoor shines bright# SaifAliKhan effort- less."

Apurva Asrani also tweeted after watching the film. He wrote, "The master of mise en scene abandons the Bard for a Bardwaj original. #Rangoon has a smokin hot Shahid, a reborn Saif & a brilliant Kangana."



views that Kangana Ranaut, Shahid Kapoor and Saif Ali Khan - starrer Rangoon is getting from Bollywood celebs. The film is all set to hit the screens on February 24 but

Actor Randee Hooda, who got to see the film at the special screening, expressed his views about the film and the ace director. He posted, "Go on a lyrical trip to a bygone

tor Suniel Shetty wrote on Twitter, "Another masterpiece by #VishalBhardwaj Power packed performances & magical cinematography! Cinema at its best!

character! Loved meeting Mira, such a sweetheart. God bless U both @shahidkapoor #Rangoon."

Director Aanand L Rai, who has given us films like Tanu

Rangoon with one word, Passion. Complex characters dealt in a very passionate way, # Vishalbhardwaj forte."

WATCH Kangana Ranaut: Bollywood Not



Maha Shivaratri, which literally means the 'The Great Night of Shiva', is celebrated in the dark fortnight or Krishna Paksha on the 13th day or the 14th night of Phalgun or Maagha month.

India to be self-sufficient in silk production in 3-4 years: Official

HYDERABAD(KCN): With an annual growth rate of 19 per cent, India is expected to be self-sufficient in silk production by 2020, Central Silk Board (CSB) Chairman K M Hanumantharayappa has said.

"Our output is 28,000 MTs (metric tonne) to 30,000 MTs at present. Our production is growing year to year. We are aiming to stop imports from China and produce that much in three-four years," Hanumantharayappa told PTI here.

China produces 80 per cent of global silk output, while India's share is 13 per cent, he said. The production in other countries account for the remaining 7 per cent.

However, there is a 19 per cent growth in production and the aim is to produce around 34,000 MTs to make the country self-sufficient, he said. "We have come closer. If we can continue this momentum, we can do it in the next three-four years," he said.

Silk imports have

come down to 3500 MTs now from about 6,500 MTs, he said. China produces only mulberry, but India produces other varieties, including Tasar and Muga, he said.

The CSB, a statutory body established in 1948 by an Act of Parliament, functions under the control of Union Ministry of Textiles. Its mandated activities include, research and development, maintenance of silkworm production seed production network, leadership role in commercial silkworm seed produc-

tion and standardising quality parameters in various production.

The CSB chairman said the Board is offering a number of services like technological support to farmers, subsidies on machines and free training to the farmers. The State governments can pitch in to increase silk production by supporting farmers through monetary benefits and through other means, he said, adding that the Board would also help the cause.

GST adoption could raise India's GDP growth to over 8 per cent: IMF

WASHINGTON(KCN): The adoption of the GST could help raise India's medium-term GDP growth to over eight per cent and create a single national market for enhancing the efficiency of the movement of goods and services, the IMF said today.

At the same time, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) also expressed concerns over the implementation of the Goods and Service Tax (GST).

"Although some uncertainties remain around the design and pace of implementation of the GST, its adoption is poised to help raise India's medium-term GDP growth to above 8 per cent as it will create a single national market and enhance the efficiency of intra-Indian movement of goods and services," the IMF said in its annual country report on India.

The IMF said larger than expected gains from the GST and further structural reforms could lead to significantly stronger growth, while a sus-

tained period of continued low global energy prices would

greater output gains and reduce the tax burden across sec-

cant improvement over the current indirect tax system. Tax reform priorities going forward include continuing the phased reduction of the corporate income tax rate from 30 to 25 per cent over four years, coupled with a simultaneous reduction in tax deductions," it said.

The GST replaces a plethora of cascading center, state, interstate and local taxes with a single, nationwide, value-added tax on goods and services.

IMF said the destination-based GST will create, for the first time, a single Indian market, and will greatly enhance India as an investment destination.

By subsuming most of the existing indirect taxes, such as excise, sales and services levies, the indirect tax structure of the country will become less complex and the cost of doing business will decline.

The Indian government expects to roll out GST by July 1 after it could not meet the April 1, 2016, target.

also be beneficial to India.

Noting that India's tax revenue-to-GDP ratio (at around 17 and a half per cent) remains considerably below than its emerging market peers, the IMF said the implementation of a robust GST should be a key priority given its growth-enhancing effects. "The GST should have minimal exemptions, uniform cross-state rates, and as few tax rate tiers as possible," it said.

Key production inputs, such as energy and real estate, should be kept within the tax base to enable

tors, the IMF said.

Rationalisation of the structure of direct taxes toward a lower corporate income tax rate with smaller and streamlined deductions and exemptions should continue, it said.

Efforts to improve tax administration should be stepped up as the scope for revenue gains is large. According to the IMF report, Indian authorities were confident that the outstanding issues related to GST implementation could be settled promptly.

"The GST would provide for a signifi-



Bangladesh bars opposition newspaper editor from flying abroad

Dhaka(KCN): A prominent Bangladeshi opposition newspaper editor, on bail for charges of plotting to kill the Prime Minister's son, has been stopped from flying abroad despite having court clearance to travel, his aide said today. Shafik Rehman, a British citizen, was scheduled to fly to London to see his ailing wife Taley Rehman there but the immigration police turned him away from the airport today, a personal aide to the 81-year-old editor told reporters. Rehman was freed on bail in September last year on a Supreme Court order, five months after he was arrested on charges of involvement in the plot to kill Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeb Wazed Joy who lives in the US.

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prevented him from flying abroad as they



PM Modi Takes Jibe At Akhilesh Yadav, Says 'Donkeys Are Loyal'

His aide Sajib Onasis said authorities returned Rehman's British passport last week after the high court granted him permission to visit abroad to see his wife but the immigration police said they were not advised about the clearance yet.

An immigration police officer, however, said the officials

required time to verify the court papers produced by Rehman and "once the procedure is done he will be able to catch the next flight immediately".

Rehman is an adviser and speech writer of former prime minister and Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader chief Khaleda Zia and now edits a Bengali monthly tabloid magazine called Mouchake Dhill.

He was formerly

the editor of Jaijaidin, a popular Bengali-language newspaper, and rose to prominence in the 1980s as a vocal critic of former military ruler Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

He was arrested in April, 2016 after a US court convicted an expatriate BNP leader's son, along with two other Americans for bribing a former FBI agent to get confidential information on Joy with the intent to 'scare,' 'kidnap' and 'hurt' him.

Police said during interrogation Rehman had admitted he held several meetings with those convicts and handed them over the "confidential FBI documents".

But Rehman's wife at that time claimed he had collected those documents as an 'investigative journalist' to write a report.

Taxman to scrutinise loan deposits over Rs 20,000

NEW DELHI(KCN): The Income Tax department may initiate penal action and impose an equivalent penalty in select cases of loan amount deposits of Rs 20,000 or more as part of the 'Operation Clean Money' to check stash post demonetisation.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the policy-making body of the I-Tax department, yesterday issued specific instructions to the Assessing Officers (AOs) to undertake step-by-step verification of about 18 lakh people that it sent messages to, as part of

the exercise.

"In case, the transaction being loan received/repaid in cash above the permissible threshold comes to notice, the AO may consider initiation of penal proceedings under the relevant provisions separately," the instructions said quoting Sections 269SS and 269T of the I-T Act that define these instances.

A senior official, however, clarified that ascertaining if a deposit made or received, post demonetisation on November 8 last year, qualifies to be a loan transaction under

these sections will only be established after following due procedures of contacting the taxpayer and receiving details on the instance over the online medium.

"Only such cases where it is established that the amount deposited in a bank account is a case of loan received/repaid under the relevant sections will be dealt separately. Such transactions will be determined after proper due diligence so that any instance of tax evasion is checked and the taxpayer is not harassed," the official said.

Sensex rises 103 points; Reliance Industries Limited leads rally

MUMBAI(KCN): Markets ended higher for the fifth straight day, with the Sensex rising over 103 points

ance Jio announcing data tariff plans. The Sensex opened higher at 28,822.40 and stayed in the

higher at 28,864.71.

This is its highest closing since September 8 last year when it ended at 29,045.28.



to end at an over five-month high of 28,864.71. RIL soared to about eight-year highs following its telecom unit Reli-

positive terrain throughout the session to hit a high of 28,963.52. It finally ended 103.12 points, or 0.36 per cent

The 50-share NSE Nifty ended at 8,926.90, up 19.05 points or 0.21 per cent, after moving between 8,960.75 and 8,905.25.

Rasna eyes Rs 250-cr revenue from snack category
Mumbai(KCN): Fruit juice concentrate maker Rasna today said it is eyeing a revenue of Rs 250 crore in the next three years from the snack category.

"We are looking at 5 per cent market share of a Rs 5,000 crore market that is growing at 15-16 per cent in the next three years. We are looking at Rs 250 crore from this category in the next three years," Rasna Chairman and Managing Director Piruz Khambatta told reporters here.

Rasna, which has presence in the sweet snack category with its brand Vitos, is also planning to launch to introduce ethnic snacks and western snacks.

"One big market which exists, where India's strength is the nutraceutical market. We can use some of those nutraceuticals to fortify our food. I would be wanting to acquire companies who have knowledge in these products. There is a lot of action in this space in India and abroad," he said.

Rasna, which enjoys an 85 per cent market share in the Rs 1000 crore powdered drink space, has earmarked a marketing budget of Rs 22-25 crore for its summer campaign (January to July), with 10 per cent allocated for digital marketing.

Pathan brothers open their second Cricket Academy in Raipur

RAIPUR (KCN): Former India players Yusuf and Irfan Pathan brothers have a plan of launching academies in six different cities with an eye on increasing it to 20 by the end of 2017. "It's time to give something back to the game which has given us a lot. There is no dearth of talent in India and all you need is to give them proper training," CAP director Yusuf Pathan, who inaugurated the new academy, said at the launch. The CAP has two modules --



Pathan opened the second branch of their 'Cricket Academy of Pathans' (CAP) in Raipur today. The Pathan

need is to give them proper training," CAP director Yusuf Pathan, who inaugurated the new academy, said at the

Coaching the coaches and coaching the kids. Yusuf currently plays IPL for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) while Irfan went unsold at the recently held IPL auctions.

Coaching the coaches and coaching the kids. Yusuf currently plays IPL for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) while Irfan went unsold at the recently held IPL auctions.



Team India

Valencia stun Real Madrid, score two goals within first ten minutes

MADRID (KCN): wide open as Valencia beat leaders Real Madrid and three points ahead of Sevilla match in the opening ten minutes, ten bad



ing eight minutes from Simone Zaza and Fabian Orellana blew the La Liga title race

Madrid 2-1. The defeat yesterday leaves Madrid just a single point clear of

and now enjoy just one game in hand over their title rivals. "We lost this

minutes where we let two goals in," Real coach Zinedine Zidane told Spanish

Adam Zampa spins Australia to victory to avoid Sri Lankan series sweep

ADELAIDE (KCN): Leg-spinner Adam Zampa claimed three wickets to bowl Australia to victory and avoid a Twenty20 series wipeout against Sri Lanka in Adelaide 188 runs to win. But the Sri Lankans could not reproduce another of their blazing late innings comebacks where they won the first two T20 games the vital wicket of man of the series Asela Gunaratne, leg before wicket for four in the 10th over and the tourists were unable to arouse another of their sensational in Australia. Skipper Finch was dropped by Munaweera before he had scored on the fifth ball of the Australian innings and went on to cash in



on Wednesday.

Man-of-the-match Zampa, who was left out of the previous match as the Sri Lankans won to clinch the three-match series, captured three for 25 at a crucial stage as Australia went on to win by 41 runs.

"It is always nice to bowl the middle overs and it is very easy when you have a start like that," Zampa said.

"Sri Lanka have very fearless players, sometimes it can be tough to bowl at them."

Openers Aaron Finch and Michael Klinger hit half-centuries as the Australians, with their leading stars in India for this week's Test series, set Sri Lanka

off the last ball.

"I thought we played some fantastic cricket tonight. A complete performance like this makes the last match even more heart-breaking," skipper Finch said.

"When you have Klinger at the other end, he lets you play your shots. We have been guilty of not converting starts. Today we had two fifties and Dunk and Head chipping in."

Sri Lanka's chase was given early impetus by Dilshan Munaweera, who smacked 37 from 25 balls, but from 41 without loss in the fourth over the tourists lost traction and slid to 76 for four in the 10th over.

Zampa claimed

finishes to beat Australia's total.

Gunaratne slammed a pulse-racing 84 to power Sri Lanka to a last-ball victory against Australia on Sunday after clubbing 52 off 37 balls in the opening win in Melbourne.

"Beating Australia in home conditions is a tough thing to do. The guys did a good job," skipper Upul Tharanga said.

"The innings Asela Gunaratne played in Geelong was amazing."

James Faulkner also took three wickets with his clever changes of pace to maintain Australia's advantage.

It was Sri Lanka's first defeat in six T20 internationals

with 53 off 32 balls with three sixes and five fours.

Klinger proved the mainstay of the innings with 62 from 43 deliveries with six fours and a six.

The opening pair put on 79 runs for the first wicket.

Ben Dunk (28 from 21 balls) and Travis Head (30 from 16) contributed useful knocks to get to 179 for two before a late flurry of wickets cost Australia a chance to top a 200 total.

Sri Lanka claimed four wickets for eight off the final 11 deliveries with Lasith Malinga taking two for 35 and Chamara Kapugedera taking three catches in the deep.

Pacquiao in negotiations with Amir Khan for next bout

JOHANNESBURG (KCN): Filipino boxing legend Manny Pacquiao has confirmed that he is in negotiations to face Pakistan-born British fighter Amir Khan, following weeks of conflicting reports about his next bout.

Taking to his official Twitter account, the 38-year-old said, "My team and I are in negotiations with Amir Khan for our next fight. Further announcements coming soon."

The boxer-turned politician's comments came in the wake of the various speculations surrounding who he would be facing next and where the fight would be held.

Earlier this week, a business adviser of Pacquiao had also said that the fighter's next

opponent would "most likely" to be Khan in Dubai, but other aides refused to comment on the same.

With the announcement, Australian boxer Jeff Horn's hopes of a dream fight against Pacquiao in April are also dashed, Sport24 reported. Pacquiao, who boasted an enviable record of 58 wins in his 66 professional fights, originally called curtains on his illustrious career last year after beating Timothy Bradley by unanimous decision in April before being elected to the Philippines senate a month later. However, he made a successful comeback against Jessie Vargas in Las Vegas in November last year, saying he still felt like a youngster.