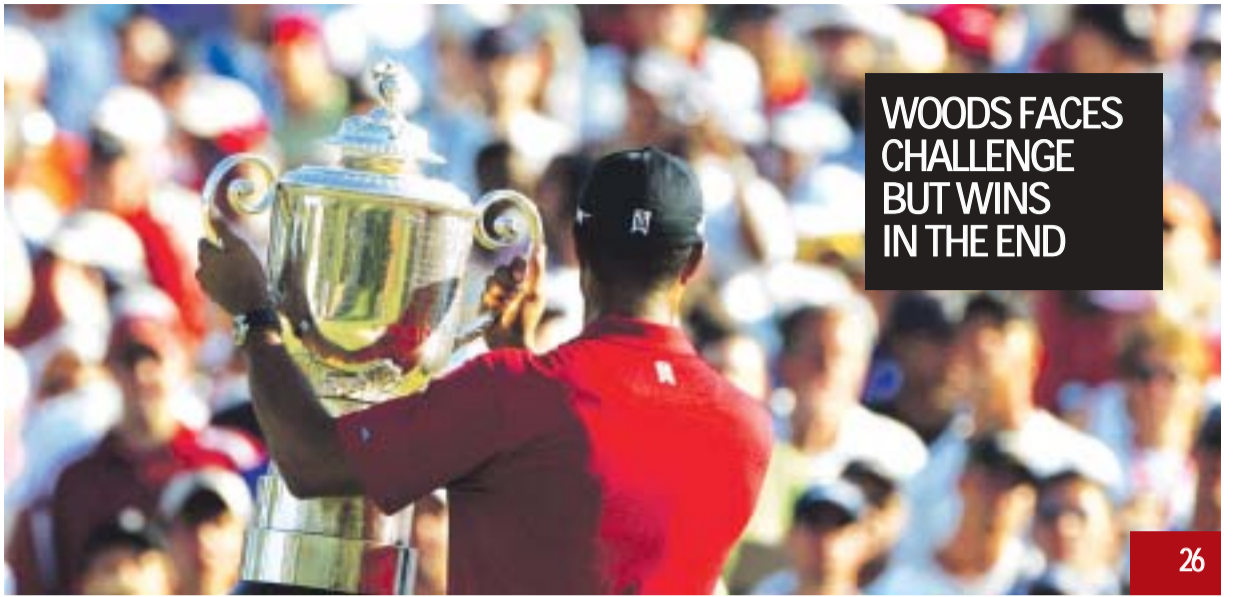


NASA WEIGHS REPAIR TO SHUTTLE, EXTENDS MISSION BY 3 DAYS **10**

IRAQ PM CALLS SUMMIT TO SAVE UNITY GOVT **10**

DJOKOVIC STUNS FEDERER TO TAKE MONTREAL MASTERS **26**



WOODS FACES CHALLENGE BUT WINS IN THE END

26

**MALOUDA ON THE MARK**

EPL  
27 & 28



**ONLY 12, THEY'RE GROOMED FOR SEX ASIAN MEN TARGET WHITE GIRLS IN UK**

WORLD • PAGE 6

**HOLLYWOOD GOES BOLLYWOOD US STUDIOS JOIN IN THE FUN IN INDIA**

PLUS • PAGE 20

## WHEN BOTH HANDS WORK TOGETHER ...

TAN HUI LENG  
huileng@mediacorp.com.sg

IT IS winning the battle against HIV. The Australian state of New South Wales has seen the number of HIV cases reported each year generally dropping over the past decade. And now Singapore knows why, after its first study trip of this kind.

Close cooperation is needed between the Government and non-governmental organisations (NGO), Dr Balaji Sadasivan, Senior Minister of State (Foreign Affairs and Information, Communications and the Arts), told TODAY after a trip to Sydney last month.

Easier said than done, though.

A tricky balance needs to be struck when reaching out to the group that is a particularly significant contributor to HIV statistics in developed countries such as Australia and Singapore: Men who have sex with men (MSMs).

Relating the "invaluable" lessons learnt in Sydney, Dr Balaji said: "The health authorities supported the NGOs in the community, and in return the NGOs were sensitive to the conservative majority.

"This cooperation between NGOs and the health authorities – reach out to the MSMs, but at the same time, don't upset the conservative majority – is the key to their success."

**THIS COOPERATION BETWEEN NGOs AND THE HEALTH AUTHORITIES IS THE KEY TO THEIR SUCCESS.**

Dr Balaji Sadasivan on why New South Wales has seen fewer cases of HIV reported over the last decade

**NO ROOM FOR MORALITY IN AIDS CONVERSATION**  
NEWS COMMENT • PAGE 2

In Singapore, where the numbers are going up "relentlessly", 26 per cent of the record 357 new HIV cases reported last year were contracted through homosexual sex. Reducing these numbers will require the Government and NGOs working with MSMs to get over some bumps together at a national level.

According to Mr Stuart Koe, CEO of gay media company Fridae.com, "the left hand is not talking to the right hand" yet.

"The Ministry of Health (MOH) wants to do health prevention through safe sex, but the Media Development Authority says that anything gay is not allowed," he said. "It's a conundrum we're in."

For example, targeted messages that can reach the gay community through gay magazines are not feasible because such publications are not allowed. Currently, safe sex messages are displayed in premises like gay bars and saunas, which have limited reach.

According to Mr Bryan Choong, the MSM HIV coordinator for Oogachaga, a support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals, NGOs and the Government also need to get past Section 377A of the Penal Code.

He said, "I think there is a lot of trust building that is needed between MSM-related NGOs and the Government in Singapore. As long as there is no decriminalising, that trust will be eroded."

Mr Choong thinks the number of MSM HIV cases are under-reported, and cited a 60 per cent infection rate as more believable.

Here, the under-reporting stems from late HIV notifications, that is, patients who delay seeking treatment here until required.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

KOH MUI FONG

# Weekday Special

Offer valid from 13 – 17 Aug 2007.  
Limited to 5pcs per customer. While stocks last.



Regular Price: \$9.90/ea

**\$3.90 /ea**

**ROSKILDE rug**  
85% cotton, 15% polyester.  
Turquoise or white. W70xL130cm.

©Inter IKEA Systems B.V. 2007