



WEEKENDER

Three top fashion designers showcased wedding finery on the first day of Couture Week in New Delhi **Page 8**



SPORT

Lightning strikes twice as Usain Bolt rewrites history on his way to 200m gold with a timing of 19.32 **Page 16**

NATION

On the second day of his fast, Ramdev asks PM to show political will to get back black money **Page 7**



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VOICE OF THE EAST

Holy Feast



Chief minister Mamata Banerjee at an iftar party in Park Circus Maidan on Friday

Rahul Chattopadhyay

SHORT TAKES

Plate tectonics on Mars discovered

Los Angeles: The phenomenon of plate tectonics, previously thought to exist only on Earth also occurs beneath the surface of Mars, a scientist has claimed. A University of California - Los Angeles researcher found that the geological phenomenon, which involves the movement of crustal plates beneath a planet's surface, also exists on Mars. —P10

SBI posts 137 pc jump in Q1 profit

Mumbai: State Bank of India on Friday posted a 137 per cent jump in net profit at ₹3,752 crore for the June quarter, though bad loans rising to ₹20,324 crore remains a cause of concern. The rise in non-performing assets sparked concerns in the stock market. —P12

Fresh raid at Kanda's residence

Sirsa: Delhi Police carried out fresh raids at the residence of absconding former Haryana minister Gopal Kanda, who is wanted in air hostess Geetika Sharma's suicide case. —P7

Business

Indices

Sensex: 3.13 ▼

Nifty: 2.6 ▼

Bullion

Gold/10gm ₹30,160 Silver/1kg ₹53,150

Top Gainers

Technocrat - 19.96% | SHREE TULSI - 12.47%

Dollar 54.91
Pound 85.46
Euro 67.15

Weather

Overcast

High: 32.2°C

Low: 26.3°C

Rainfall: 6.8mm

Forecast

High: 32°C

Low: 26°C



T-storms

Health dept steps up efforts to contain dengue spread in city

■ OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

With a dengue outbreak affecting 11 people in the city, most of them from Salt Lake, the state health department is working with the Bidhanagar sub-divisional hospital, Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) and the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine (CSTM) to control the disease. While several people have been admitted to city hospitals and nursing homes during the past one week with

dengue symptoms, government officials see a delayed monsoon as the primary reason for spread of the disease. The authorities have so far identified dengue in 11 people, including six admitted to the Bidhanagar sub-divisional hospital, one to the Bellahata ID hospital and another to the CSTM, authorities said. Three others who have also tested positive for dengue are yet to be hospitalised, officials said. "Hospitals and nursing homes have been

asked to adhere to World Health Organisation guidelines and follow the diagnostic and treatment protocol," a senior official said. Atin Ghosh, member, mayor-in-council in charge of health at the KMC, said that reports of the spread of the disease have been received from four KMC wards, mainly from Kasba and Anandapur, where civic personnel are taking steps to spray medicated oils. He said that the KMC had also asked the CSTM to formulate a treatment protocol.

The KMC has already held a high-level meeting with health officials, the CSTM and the National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, besides representatives of 25 nursing homes and private hospitals to review the situation. State health minister Chandrima Bhattacharya told reporters all private hospitals and nursing homes had been asked to regularly report dengue cases to her department.

Mumbai lawyer died resisting rape: Cops

■ PTI
MUMBAI

Most missing links in Pallavi Purkayastha's murder have been accounted for. Blinded by lust, Sajjad Ahmed Mughal, 22, a watchman at the housing complex where the 25-year-old Mumbai lawyer lived, tried to rape her and stabbed her to death when she resisted, police said on Friday. Pallavi, daughter of IAS officer Atanu Purkayastha, a joint secretary in the agriculture ministry, was found lying in a pool of blood in her 16th-floor apartment at the upscale Himalayan Heights in Wadala on Thursday morning. It was her live-in partner Avik Sengupta who found her. Sajjad, a native of Uri in

Jammu's Baramulla district, had opened Pallavi's flat with stolen keys, tried to force himself on her, and stabbed her to death when she offered resistance, joint commissioner of police (crime) Himanshu Roy said. "It is the perversion of the highest order, heinous kind of perversion which deserves nothing but death sentence," Roy said. Giving details of the incident, he said, Pallavi, who worked as a legal advisor with filmmaker Farhan Akhtar's firm Excel Entertainment Pvt. Ltd, returned to her rented flat at 11 pm on Wednesday night. Finding that there was no electricity, she texted Avik, her senior at Indian Law School at Pune, who lived with her. Avik advised her to call an electrician, who came

after switching off the high-volt appliances, as advised by the electrician to avoid tripping. Roy said Sajjad had told his interrogators that he had "manipulated" the electric meter of the flat located on the ground floor which led to a second power cut. After entering Pallavi's flat, Sajjad sneaked into her bedroom and tried to force himself on her. A scuffle ensued and Pallavi, a former national-level swimming champion, put up stiff resistance. Sajjad then stabbed her and fled the scene after concealing the murder weapon, a knife, under a shoe rack on the third floor. He jumped over the fence to escape being noticed by fellow watchmen but was caught by police near Mumbai Central Railway station before he could board a train to Jammu and Kashmir, Roy said. He said when Avik returned to the flat around 5 am, he saw the door ajar and a badly wounded Pallavi lying in a pool of blood. Avik tried to revive her but failed. Calling the murder a "pre-meditated kind of an act", Roy said, "apparently Sajjad had been planning it for some time". Asked if Pallavi had made desperate attempts to call her neighbours by pressing the door bell but only without success, Roy said the blood stains on the bell could have come from Avik, who had tried to revive Pallavi and then woke the neighbours up. "But she indeed came out as there was blood outside the flat," Roy said.



Pallavi Purkayastha

UP minister to officials: Steal a little, work hard

■ RAJIV RANJAN JHA
LUCKNOW

PWD minister Shivpal Singh Yadav, uncle of chief minister Akhilesh Yadav, candidly told officials that they could steal a little bit of public money if they worked hard but they should not become "dacoits".

He also draws the line at snitches. Just how the media got wind of what he said at a closed-door meeting is a matter of investigation, he said, claiming he had been quoted out of context.

Clearly, in his book, reporting what he said behind closed doors was a crime, calling for an investigation. As he pointed out, the media was not allowed at the meeting.

The minister reportedly gave officials the licence to steal at a meeting in his home district of Eta on Thursday.

Chairing a meeting of the district programme committee, he said, "Maine to usi din PWD walo se khule aam keh diya tha agar mehnat karoge to thodi bahut chori kar sakte ho, dakaiti nahi daloge (I have already told PWD people openly that if you work hard, you can steal a little, but don't behave like dacoits). "Agar mehnat karoge, jee la-gaoge, agar inhe meetha paani de doge to chori kar sakte ho (If you work hard, if you give them water, then you can steal)," he added. Once the news got out, all

hell broke loose. The BJP and other opposition leaders were predictably outraged and lashed out at the minister for giving corruption official sanction.

Realising his faux pass, the minister went into a damage control exercise and, on his arrival in Lucknow on Friday, called a select group of newsmen and said he had been quoted "out of context".

Shivpal, a senior cabinet minister in the Akhilesh Yadav government, was hard pressed to explain his remarks and said it was a closed-door meeting with PWD officials in which the media was not allowed.

According to him, what has been reported in the press is out of context. "I had stated that the erstwhile government had indulged in large-scale corruption, cheating and stealing which, I said, should be stopped," the minister said, adding that the Samajwadi Party had come to power vowing to end corruption.

When reporters persisted with questions on his controversial remarks, Shivpal said, "I have taken back those words. So, why are you raking it up? I have always co-operated with the press. I don't know why the media is targeting me."

Calling Shivpal's statement "unfortunate", UP Congress Committee president Rita Bahuguna Joshi sought a clarification from him.

chew on THIS

Junk food can lower kids' IQ: Study



■ ANI
LONDON

Breastfed kids are more likely to succeed in primary school than those who are brought up on fizzy drinks. A healthy diet makes children smarter, suggests a new study, and the sooner they get it, the better. The food children have when they are six months to two years old can affect their IQ level. Little girls may be made of sugar and spice and all things nice, according to a nursery rhyme, but those are precisely the stuff to avoid - the sugar and spice, that is, not the girls. It was found that eating too much chocolate before the age of two can hamper children's IQ by the time they are eight, reported the Daily Mail. The study conducted by the University of Adelaide found that by the age of eight, the "junk food" tots had IQs up to two points lower than kids on a healthy diet. Dr Lisa Smithers and her team studied the link between the eating habits of

children at six months, 15 months and two years, and their IQ at eight years of age. They compared the diets and IQs of 7,000 children. "Diet supplies the nutrients needed for the development of brain tissues in the first two years of life, and the aim of this study was to look at what impact diet would have on children's IQs," said Dr Smithers. "We found that children who were breastfed at six months and had a healthy diet regularly including foods such as legumes, cheese, fruit

and vegetables at 15 and 24 months, had an IQ up to two points higher by age eight," she said. "Those children who had a diet regularly involving biscuits, chocolate, sweets, soft drinks and chips in the first two years of life had IQs up to two points lower by age eight." "We also found some negative impact on IQ from ready-prepared baby foods given at six months, but some positive associations when given at 24 months," she added.

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shop

Whether it is retail therapy or just window shopping, the internet has made life a lot easier for shopaholics. The virtual world is walking hand in hand with the reality and serving as the perfect medium to shop without a sweat. Every other brand is at your door step in just a single a click, writes Farah Khatoon, who has devised a brand new way of admiring products online.

ONLINE shopping sites have opened a new gateway for window shopping which is no less exciting. Shopping has taken an altogether different meaning with the advent of technology. And with technology I am definitely referring to the new age shopping experience which happens with just a click. One has a whole shopping mall in the palm of their hand. Want to buy a bag from Baggit? Click it and get it. Shoes from Catwalk? Order it and its there at your doorstep. Pay online or avail the cash on delivery option. Yes shopping has become that easy with big brands from all over the world just a click away on the online shopping sites like *Jabong.com*, *Ebay.com*, *Snapdeal.com* and several others. And the best deals are cracked online too with offers galore.

But with this change in the shopping experience one more thing has received a subtle modification. And it is the concept of the favourite pass time for many - 'Window Shopping'. With the opening of big shopping malls in the city, the phenomenon of window shopping descended. People would wander amidst the spa-

rious corners of a shopping mall, admiring all the things on display. A mannequin donning those gorgeous clothes, made you drool and invited you without any difficulty several times in the store. And your excitement would just compel you to oblige the dummy smirking from inside the glass wall. So you get inside, not losing sight of the dummy for a second and approach the sales person, or discreetly check its prize with anticipating heart and if not buying it right away, you would end up adding it on your wish list. You would dream of it everyday and resolve to pick that product asap. Remember the last time you went window shopping with your friend and checked out things liberally, often just for the sake of timepass? You can faintly remember one or two occasion or may be none? Well blame it on technology which facilitates convenience. It definitely makes our life easier and replaces one habit with another; let's not get into the quality of the habit here. But the fact is that virtual world has become more appealing and comfortable. And this virtual world has a strong link with the real world. Agrees Sunita Menon, a

working professional. "Shopping has definitely become very convenient and window shopping, all the more. Now I can check out the new arrivals on a particular shopping sites without physically being at the store at any given time of the day. The store is open 24x7 for us," said Menon who believes online shopping is spreading like a viral. Online window shopping has some more advantage. Firstly, it liberates you of the menace called sales boy/ girl. So while you are looking at the product online you don't have to worry about being watched or followed by a sales boy/girl. You can check out the full details of the product, a hundred times if you want, without any hesitation. And if you like it transfer it to your cart and order it any time you want. There is one more advantage to it, points out Menon. "One very interesting thing about virtual window shopping is that you can show the product to your friends or family sitting in the comfort of your room. So now at 3 in the morning I can show my sister the bags that I will be buying without physically taking her to the store. While in actual window shopping, unless the shop is open, you can't

share your product with anybody," said Menon who is an online shopping buff. It even highlights that online window shopping is not just a solitary affair as one might think. It does inflict the same amount of excitement and fun as real window shopping with friends does. Ask Preeti Gupta, a student of fashion designing and she will tell you how online window shopping has become a kind of game for her and her friends. "I have a huge group of friends. And online window shopping serves great purpose for us all. It is a good resource to flip through the designs of different brands and take inspiration from them. So every night we open these sites, share and discuss the designs and patterns of the dresses that are on display. Apart from just browsing scores of clothes we take inspiration from it too. And yes online window shopping definitely saves time, because checking out malls everyday is not feasible physically," said Gupta who accepts that she is just into online window shopping and not real online shopping. It's a phenomenon that is catching amongst men too. Men too are not far from checking out stuff

online. "You get to compare products easily. So if I want to buy something I would check the same product on different sites and then grab the lucrative one. It's easier to window shop sitting in front of the window screen of your computer. Virtual window shopping is the call of the day," said Amit Lakhani, who likes checking out products online. Ankit Jain the co-owner of *sareez.com* corroborates. "Not everybody visits our site to buy things. We have around ten thousand visitors checking out our products online, but the actual customer is just around 20 per cent of our actual visitor," informs Ankit who further adds that online shopping in itself is a new phenomenon and therefore everybody wants to check it

out. Window shopping in reality or virtually, it pleases a shopaholic. So just open any of the online shopping sites and ne benevolent to your eyes.

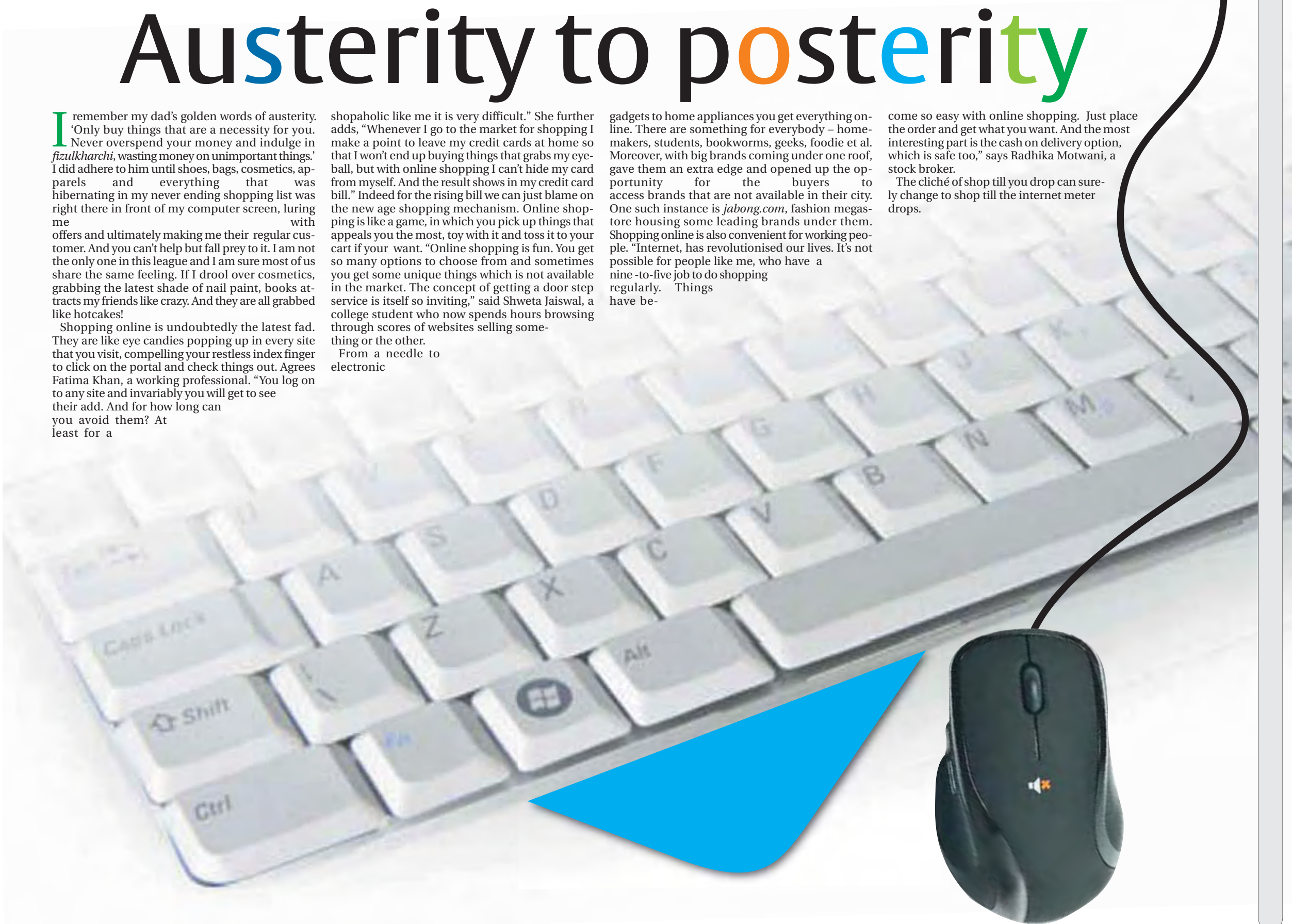
Austerity to posterity

Iremember my dad's golden words of austerity. 'Only buy things that are a necessity for you. Never overspend your money and indulge in *fizulkharchi*, wasting money on unimportant things.' I did adhere to him until shoes, bags, cosmetics, apparels and everything that was hibernating in my never ending shopping list was right there in front of my computer screen, luring me with offers and ultimately making me their regular customer. And you can't help but fall prey to it. I am not the only one in this league and I am sure most of us share the same feeling. If I drool over cosmetics, grabbing the latest shade of nail paint, books attracts my friends like crazy. And they are all grabbed like hotcakes!

Shopping online is undoubtedly the latest fad. They are like eye candies popping up in every site that you visit, compelling your restless index finger to click on the portal and check things out. Agrees Fatima Khan, a working professional. "You log on to any site and invariably you will get to see their add. And for how long can you avoid them? At least for a shopaholic like me it is very difficult." She further adds, "Whenever I go to the market for shopping I make a point to leave my credit cards at home so that I won't end up buying things that grabs my eyeball, but with online shopping I can't hide my card from myself. And the result shows in my credit card bill." Indeed for the rising bill we can just blame on the new age shopping mechanism. Online shopping is like a game, in which you pick up things that appeals you the most, toy with it and toss it to your cart if your want. "Online shopping is fun. You get so many options to choose from and sometimes you get some unique things which is not available in the market. The concept of getting a door step service is itself so inviting," said Shweta Jaiswal, a college student who now spends hours browsing through scores of websites selling something or the other.

From a needle to electronic gadgets to home appliances you get everything online. There are something for everybody - homemakers, students, bookworms, geeks, foodie et al. Moreover, with big brands coming under one roof, gave them an extra edge and opened up the opportunity for the buyers to access brands that are not available in their city. One such instance is *jabong.com*, fashion megastore housing some leading brands under them. Shopping online is also convenient for working people. "Internet, has revolutionised our lives. It's not possible for people like me, who have a nine-to-five job to do shopping regularly. Things have be-

come so easy with online shopping. Just place the order and get what you want. And the most interesting part is the cash on delivery option, which is safe too," says Radhika Motwani, a stock broker. The cliché of shop till you drop can surely change to shop till the internet meter drops.





Bolt does strike twice

■ ELORA SEN
LONDON

"People can stop talking now. I am a legend," was the bold declaration that Usain Bolt made here on Thursday night. And that arrogance sits well on the Jamaican. He did hold off calling himself a legend after his sensational 100m win. But after wrapping up the sprint double the lightning pose seems to look even more impressive.

For Bolt has created history. He has won the 100 and 200 m in back-to-back Olympics — a feat that no man has ever done before. As he almost cruised to the finish line with the floodlit Olympic Stadium here exploding in applause he put his finger to his lips. Was that a sign to silence his critics and doubters? Perhaps.

Because the "legend" had set this goal for himself before the London Games, saying he would become a track legend if he is able to defend the double here.

As if sensing that the world record was not really within his grasp this time, he eased up a little. The race was his to be won just past the midway mark. And though Yohan Blake, his compatriot and challenger tried his best, there was really no overtaking Bolt. He finished with 19.32s on the clock ahead of Blake (19.44s) and Warren Weir (19.84). The 1-2-3 for Jamaica also stamped his mark as a leader who has actually told Blake that his timing for glory is wrong.

Blake is a great athlete. But the next two

years are mine," he said. Can he repeat his performance in Rio de Janeiro? "That's still four years away and I will be 30. It looks like a tough ask, but this is my time. Rio may belong to Blake," he added.

Grabbing a camera from a photographer near the finish line — after he did a stunt push up routine — Bolt clicked away to the delight of the crowd. For once, the star was taking photographs of his fans. "It's great fun. I love doing this and it makes for some memorable moments," he said.

"There wasn't a doubt that I will win the 200 after I won the 100m. I was really confident. There wasn't a problem. Loads of people were talking, but they can stop talking now. I am a legend," he declared. "I reached my goal. Now I am just going to sit down and make

another one. I have done something that no one else has done before. I am the greatest. I am going to take it easy and relax for the rest of the season."

Bolt and Blake are both supposed to take part in the 4x100m relay and are hopeful of taking that gold home too.

Blake, touted as his toughest challenger here, said after winning the silver: "Bolt is the god of track and field. To do the back-to-back double, he got me back from the (2012) trials (at which Blake beat Bolt). He is a legend. It is his year. It will be my time soon — next year at the world championships in Moscow.

Bolt added: "After the trials where Yohan beat me, there were a lot of people doubting me. But that is good because you know who are your true friends and who is going to support you."

As a track legend, Bolt would love to be compared with the great Jesse Owens. "Without a doubt it would be Owens. He's a great athlete. For me it's wonderful to show the world that I'm the best."

Asked whether the Jamaican sprint team is drug-free, he said: "Without a doubt, we train hard. Especially my teammates, we see each other work each day. We work hard, we throw up every day. We get injuries, we have ice baths. We are trying our best to show the world that we are clean."

I have no respect for Carl Lewis, says Usain

■ ELORA SEN
LONDON

Usain Bolt, in his own words, is carrying on the work of legendary singer Bob Marley. "We are just trying to make Jamaica the best country in the world," he said, after putting doubters and critics at bay with a back-to-back Olympic sprint double victory. The four gold medals — two in Beijing and two here — have cemented his place as one of the greatest track athletes of all times.

But the "greatest-ever sprinter" Usain Bolt said he had lost all respect for Carl Lewis, the man whose on-track exploits he has surpassed with his unique Olympic double-double but who still leads the way in self-regard.

American Lewis is the only other man to win two Olympic 100m gold medals, the second coming in 1988 when he was promoted from second place after the disqualification of Ben Johnson.

He won the 200m in 1984 but managed only silver four years later. He did, however, have a remarkable run of success in the long jump, winning that event in four successive Games for a tally of nine gold medals in all.

In the wake of Bolt's triple-gold record success in Beijing, Lewis was quick to point the finger of suspicion at him and Jamaica in general. "I think there are some issues," he said at the time.

"Countries like Jamaica do not have a random (drugs testing) program, so they can go months without being tested. I'm not saying anyone is on anything, but everyone needs to be on a level playing field.

"I'm not saying they've done anything for certain. I don't know. But how dare anybody feel that there shouldn't be scrutiny, especially in our sport?"

He has continued to fire broadsides ever since but Bolt, now with his sprinting record unquestionably superior, hit back.

"I'm going to say something controversial right now, Carl Lewis — I have no respect for him," Bolt said, having cited 1936 quadruple champion Jesse Owens as a man he held in the highest regard.

"The things he (Lewis) says about the track athletes, it's really downgrading for another athlete to be saying something like that about other athletes.

"I think he is just looking for attention really because nobody re-

ally talks much about him. It was really sad for me when I heard the other day what he was saying, it was upsetting. So, for me, I've lost all respect for him, all respect.

Lewis tested positive three times for a stimulant before the 1988 Games but had the results overturned by American officials. Coming into London, there were doubts regarding Bolt's form and fitness, and he put that to rest by winning both the 100 and 200 m. The timings might not have been his best, but the medals came and with them the glory.

Asked about his status in the world of sport, he said: "For me I can't say if I have the status of Muhammad Ali or Michael Jordan. I've really set myself high in the track. A lot of people might say 'he's as good as Jordan'. He was the best at his sport, I'm the best in my sport.

"I set a goal for myself for years to become a legend; you can't really explain what that means. It's not going to hit you until you sit down and think about it. Those are the things that will bring tears to your eyes. I know that when I sit down and think about the struggles that I've been through over the seasons, it will be emotional."



Usain Bolt celebrates after winning the 200m final in London on Thursday. — AFP

India draw a blank as grapplers Amit, Narsingh crash out

■ OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LONDON

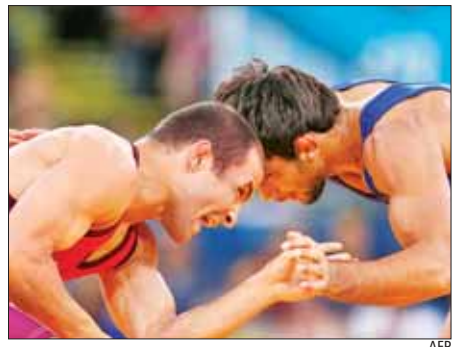
India's hopes of increasing their meagre medal tally on Day 14 at the Olympic Games went up in smoke when grapplers Amit Kumar Dahiya and Narsingh Pancham Yadav crashed out of the wrestling competition at the ExCel Arena here on Friday.

Between the two matmen, Amit put up the better show when he won a bout to enter the quarter-finals and lost the next two, including a repechage, to make his exit from the 55kg weight category.

Amit carved out a convincing 3-1 victory over his much stronger and taller Iranian rival Rahimi Hassan Sabzali, the reigning Asian champion, in their pre-quarter final fight and then was defeated by an identical score by Georgia's Vladimir Khinchegashvili later in the contest for a place in the semi-finals.

The Georgian went on to win his next bout against Japanese rival Shinichi Yumoto to enter the finals, thus giving a lifeline to Amit to fight his way to the bronze through repechage.

But the 19-year-old Indian could not get past his next hurdle, Radoslav Marinov Velikov of Bulgaria, in the second repechage round and made his exit while the winner went on to clash with Yumoto for the bronze



Radoslav Marinov Velikov (left) and Amit Kumar during the repechage in London on Friday.

medal. Narsingh, on the other hand, was outclassed by his much superior Canadian rival Matthew Judah Gentry and lost his opener 1-3. He then made his exit when the Canadian lost in the next round.

The exit of Amit and Narsingh has left only Beijing Games bronze medallist Sushil Kumar and Yogeshwar Dutt remaining in the fray on the mat.

On Thursday, lone woman wrestler Geeta Phogat had made her exit by losing two successive bouts in the 55kg class.

LONDON EYE

Elora Sen

Retrieved in translation

Usain Bolt and Yohan Blake talking to you in Jamaican Patois, or a Chinese gold medal winner trying to get her way across the city — the Olympics is a cauldron of world languages. With more than 10,500 athletes and a huge number of officials, not to mention thousands of fans from 204 countries of the world, it is needless to say that it is like a potpourri and can be rather confusing if one has to be able to understand all the languages and dialects being spoken here.

But to the rescue is a team of 70 professionals and hundreds of volunteers. They are the interpretation team working for the LOC and helping all who are involved with the London Games. From press conferences, to

chats with the medal-winning athletes, to making communication simpler between a Korean official trying to make his problems be understood by a very British medical team — they are everywhere.

While English and French are the official languages of the International Olympic Council, there are interpreters here who are conversant with even the most obscure of languages, so that, if needed, no one is left in the lurch.

Michel Wolteche, Deputy Chief of Interpretation, is from Canada and this is the 13th Olympics (including Winter Games) he is associated with. "I used to be with the government of Canada and they allowed me to work during the Olympics in Mon-

tréal. After that I have become part of this since my retirement from government service.

We normally recruit professionals from all over the world. Many have become a part of the Olympic team. The ones who have worked at the Olympics before know the scale of the event and what is expected of them."

He added: "About one-third of the team here is from London and the rest are from Europe. There is a huge demand for Korean, Japanese and German interpreters."

Indian languages don't really figure much. One reason perhaps is that most Indians are familiar with English and interpretation services here are mostly given for actual need rather than mak-

ing a statement about a country's prestige.

The interpreters handle all major Press conferences of the IOC, the LOC and all National Associations. The Chef de Missions can also ask for their services and they are present during the ceremony when medal winners talk to reporters.

"We don't just land up during the ceremony. If we are assigned to a venue, we are there since the start of the event so that we are familiar with every detail," said Susan Hilton, who is working here for the Language Services International. A professional interpreter, this is her first Olympics and the Londoner is enjoying it to the hilt. "It is very exciting and challenging," she said.

Her colleague, Anne Miles, also a first timer, is also relishing the Olympic experience.

"You never know your schedule beforehand. We are normally briefed at around 8 pm for the following day, but it can change anytime. Specially, if there is an unexpected medal winner who needs an interpreter, then the one who knows the language has to scramble to the venue. And it is not very easy to get from one venue to the other. But we are enjoying every minute of the action. It's great to be able to be inside the stadiums and be a part of history," she said.

Sports brings the world together, but it surely needs a little help to get across the language barriers. In London, it is in good hands.

১৩ আগস্ট-এর বিশেষ আকর্ষণ

টার্গেট মাস্ট্রিক ২০১৩

বিষয়- ভৌত বিজ্ঞান

মাধ্যমিকের বিশেষ প্রস্তুতি

জীবন বিজ্ঞান

আগস্ট ২০১২

লিখছেন বিশিষ্ট শিক্ষক

সকালবেলা

প্রয়াস

প্রতি সোমবার

সকালবেলায় সঙ্গে

বিনামূল্যে



weekender

Pics: Soumyabrata Gupta



Little PLAY Things



He has hundreds of miniature cars in his enviable collection. Pratap Chowdhury talks about pursuing a rare hobby

Soumyabrata Gupta



For Pratap Chowdhury, what began as a hobby soon turned into a passion. The man who originally belongs to the Malihati Zamindar family (a village in West Midnapore), collecting miniature cars was his initiation into the world of automobile restoration. He has 550 tiny cars sealed in a glass case for future generations to see. His collection not only includes antique, vintage and classic cars, but also trucks, trains and various military vehicles.

The connoisseur of automobiles says that he was initiated into the world of automobile mechanics by his maternal uncle. However, for Pratap Chowdhury, the love for cars was perhaps always there in his blood. He recounts, "My grandfather was the zamindar of Malihati during the early 1900s. When the car was invented, he had a plan to purchase one for himself as well." Chowdhury goes on to say that in spite of wanting to procure a car, his grandfather realised that the roads of Midnapore were so bad that the cars which were available in Kolkata were not sturdy enough to ply on them. Thus in early 1906, he went all the way to England to get himself a proper car. "Sadly he did not like the 'fragile' cars that were being made over there," says Chowdhury, adding, "Undeterred, he moved on to Germany in his search for the perfect car. There he came upon the Stoewer and brought it back to the small town of Malihati. In fact, the car was customised to his needs and is the only one in the world till date." Chowdhury is quick to add that the Stoewer, which he has restored himself, is in perfect working conditions.

But the desire to restore came only after Chowdhury had satiated his craving for the miniature vehicles. After passing out from school and enrolling in a North Kolkata college, Chowdhury realised that buying a proper car with his meagre pocket-money was next to impossible. He thus started collecting miniature scale models of motorcars. For Chowdhury, who believes that the earliest toy car he had bought must have been an American model, he started his hobby by buying the Matchbox cars produced by Lesney Corporation.

Reminiscing about the journey, Chowdhury says, "During the 1980s, Matchbox stopped production in England, but later on, the company was purchased by a Chinese corporation in Macau. But those secondary batches were not as

accurate as the earlier ones. Then later in 1980, a Japanese company called Tomica started producing matchbox sized vehicular toys as well. However, even Tomica stopped production and then cheap Chinese products inundated the market." The hobbyist, however, rues the fact that the cheap Chinese models were nowhere near as accurate as the Matchbox varieties.

As a young boy, unlike the tides of the time, Chowdhury was never discouraged from pursuing his somewhat unusual hobby. He says, "I got full support from my family. I believe they understood early on that this was something which I really liked." He goes on to add, "By the time I was four or five years old, I used to hide beneath a car when my mother brought me milk to drink. I hated milk and would find solace under the car since my mother could not stoop down to pull me out." Chowdhury believes that those were the days which probably got him interested in automobiles. "Lying under the car I used to gaze at its mechanisms in rapt attention, while all the while staying out of my mother's reach and the dreaded glass of milk," he adds with a twinkle in his eye.

However, as an adult, his parents never gave him a surplus of money to turn his hobby into a habit. "The amount of money I got, which I would mostly spend on my hobby was never enough to buy more than one car a month. But, that accentuated my love for cars," he says.

The oldest car in Pratap Chowdhury's collection, as he proudly proclaims are miniature models from the early 1920s and the 1930s. But he is not unaware of the fact that perhaps collecting these toy cars has become a dying hobby. Chowdhury, for whom collecting cars was a gateway to bigger toys, exclaims, "These days, people are collecting miniature cars, but it's a small number. Toy shops are not stocking them since they have become so expensive. That is the reason, the market has fallen. If the prices don't go down, this hobby will encounter a sad demise."

Ask him if he intends to keep on collecting cars and he adds with a laugh that he does, but only the bigger varieties. He says, "Collecting the matchbox cars was kind of like a stepping stone. I have since then moved on to bigger toys!" The hobbyist who has long since drifted to the original bigger toys, that is, cars and their restoration sometimes in 2006 owns six jeeps and 16 other automobiles including three vintage cars. He recently bought a petrol engine Mercedes, which he claims simply flies on the highway.



Mixed Bag

Fortune Teller



ARIES

Today will be the beginning of something energetic and boisterous. Not much can hold you back. You will be eager, dynamic, quick and competitive. When it comes to getting the ball rolling, you will be the best. Organising everything from work to parties is on the cards.



TAURUS

Don't be surprised if you leap out of bed with a spark of inspiration that wasn't there last night. Let your dreams linger a bit before you face the world. This flash of genius is likely to strike quickly and unexpectedly. So keep an eye out for it but don't consider it to be something that you can plan or force into happening. It would also be wise to limit your intake of alcohol today.



GEMINI

Family is important to you today. Friendship with siblings is likely to develop and time spent together will be cherished. Meeting responsibilities of the family can pose a challenge at times but you are most likely to come through. Deciding between practicality and pleasure can be a tough thing today. Generating new ideas and problem-solving are areas in which you will shine.



CANCER

Your competitive side will need constant stimulation and challenges today. You can also be nervous and self-centered at times because you will be insecure about what you are truly capable of. Be careful to maintain self-control and use your energy to encourage greater possibilities for yourself and others.



LEO

Today you can be strategic and competitive to the point of seeming manipulative. Be wary of letting malicious people into your life, and put your energy into positive interactions with those who truly deserve your attention. Allow others to speak and be open to their ideas. Interpersonal and intuitive skills will be sharp.



VRIGO

You can appear a bit jaded and ruthless to others but that is because you see things as they are and thus tend to be cynical. You dislike being judged, and if you are under scrutiny your self-esteem takes a blow. This is because you are an expert and can give solid advice to others. Although serious about life, you know how to find the humour in most situations.

You can expect to have a good head on your shoulders and discern the cold hard facts from dramatised emotions. You will love to work with your hands and also have intimate conversations. You might want to win others over, and this can result in internalisation of your feelings.



LIBRA



SCORPIO



SAGITTARIUS



CAPRICORN



AQUARIUS



PISCES

You will learn as well as you can teach by retaining your childlike curiosity. You will believe in higher powers and will be intrigued by religious or spiritual ideologies. Neat and orderly, beware of going overboard to keep everything protected, clean and organised - you will be quite a cleanliness freak today.

Your urge to improve your quality of life and health will be admirable. Use this added motivation to soar. Another way to make you feel more expansive is by letting go of anything to which you have clung too tightly. Hold on to those things you cherish most. The cosmos will encourage you to make a new start by reorganizing your kitchen.

This is a day to get moving! Lots of physical activity is recommended. This could be playing sports, taking a long walk or going to the gym. You can have a lot of fun if you bring friends along. You might consider giving away something that was once very important to you. Do your best to remain calm.

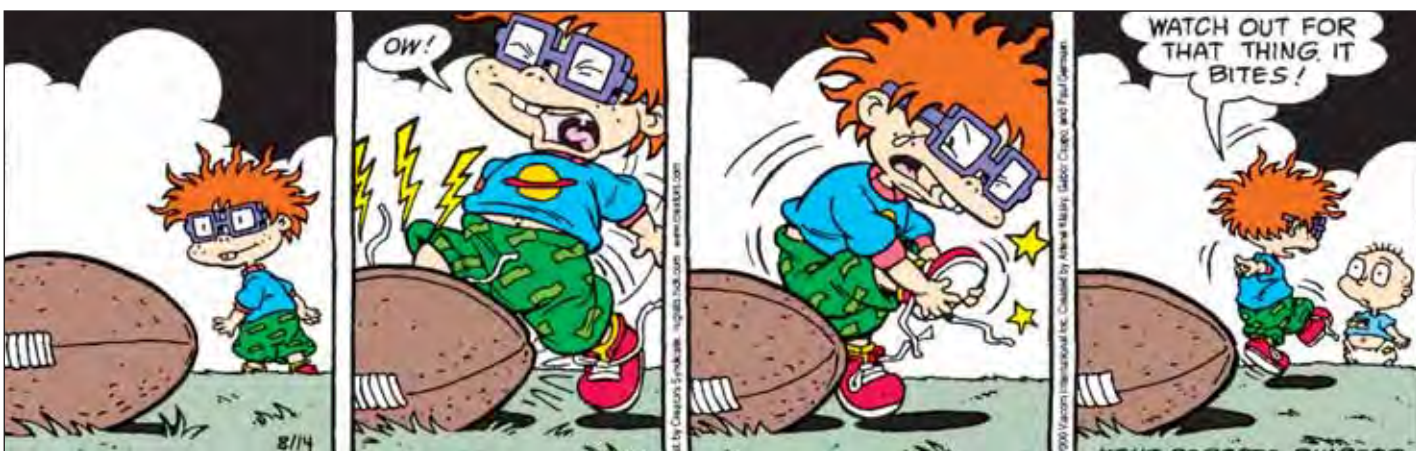
Meditation, dreams, or visions could bring amazing insights your way. Keep a journal of these revelations, because you might remember the gist but forget the details. They could be useful later when you pass your ideas on to others. So meditate and concentrate.

You can be aggressive, dominating and selfish. You will be one of the first people to initiate new projects, make changes or take a stand today. You can best use your skills through cooperative, altruistic efforts like charity work, family bonding and team building. You will also have outstanding protective instincts.

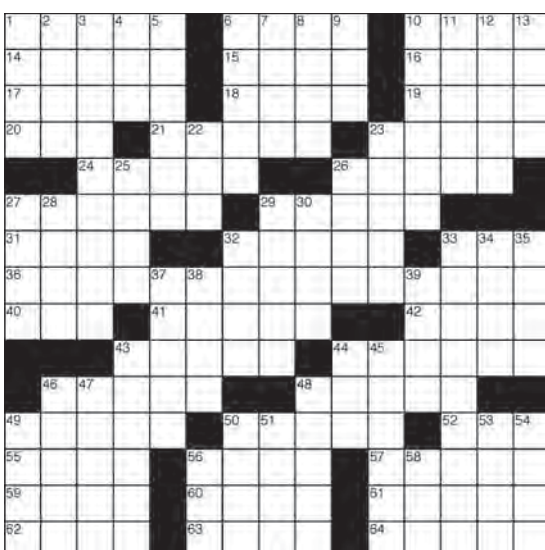
Archie



Rugrats



Daily Crossword



Across

- Speaks hoarsely
- Lasting impression
- Tennyson offering
- Try extra hard
- Vatican figure
- Feast with poi
- Bauxite giant
- Hera's son
- Debate side
- "The," to Wolfgang
- Hardware items
- Come to mind
- Liszt opus
- Win every game
- Hit the showers
- Water conduits
- La Scala highlight
- Rocky projection
- Scare word
- Is indecisive (4 wds.)

- Over there
- Pool shot
- Lemony
- High-rise unit
- Nightclubs
- Cheap magazines
- Sri --
- Big Bird colleague
- Swallows hastily
- Grey Cup sports org.
- Ming thing
- Zhivago's love
- Banquet host
- Jeannie portrayer
- Pacific island
- Bedsprings
- Variety
- "Mack the Knife" singer
- Saws and such

Down

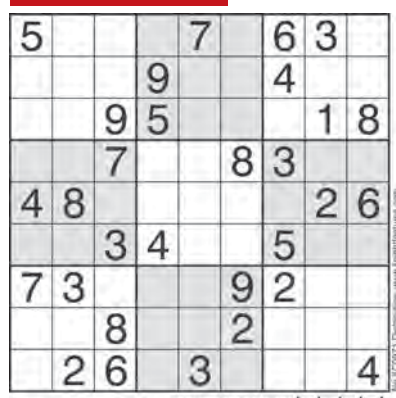
- Pore over
- Auto shaft
- Saliva, for one
- Pd. performer
- Museum piece
- Room
- Fishing float
- Zoo denizens
- Lo_ graphics
- Nearly wins
- Scale unit
- Dig in (2 wds.)
- Naturalist
- John __
- Supplement
- Held title to
- Soften up
- Constellation, in astrology
- Treat gently
- Woody's son
- Ditto (2 wds.)
- Rodin sculpture
- Parliament member
- "The
- Decameron" author
- Jumble
- Bookie's figures
- Free play
- __ Christian
- Andersen
- Woody's son
- Ditto (2 wds.)
- Regular
- Skip stones
- Bug
- Madrid art
- gallery
- Auto-racing family
- Pack animal
- Festive nights
- It had three parts
- Europe-Asia range
- Took a spill
- Minus
- Not sm. or med.
- Meadow plain

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

REBA PANDA CAFE
YARN CLEAR OLEO
EVEN TIARA NODE
SEWED REFUGES
ARIEA DAITA
NOBLE GAS TAMPA
OWE SORES SILO
HELEN NIXIE MTB
TETION PEDI CABS
FUELE DEDER
ROOSTER EIGHT
DOOR TRADE MAUI
APPT LONER PILL
MESH EYING SLATT



Sudoku



Editor's Pick

Food



Hilsa Feast

Waterside Cafe presents a hilsa festival specially created by Chef Partha Roy highlighting his grandmother's recipes

Venue: Waterside Cafe, Hyatt Regency
Time: 11am - 11 pm

Snack Fiesta



Celebrate the fragrance of the monsoon showers with Monsoon Buzz which includes snacks like scrumptious vegetarian pakora

Venue: Zodiac, 24 hour Coffee Shop at Fortune Select Loudon, 21 B Loudon Street, Kolkata
Time: 3.30 pm - 6.30 pm

Rajasthani Delights



Khanasutra, The Chrome Hotel presents a marwari food festival which includes an assortment of novel appetising Marwari delicacies like Jodhpuri Mirchi Wada, Papad Magori Ki Subzi and Daal ki Poori

Venue: Khanasutra, The Chrome Hotel, 226 A.J.C Bose Road
Time: 1.30 pm onwards

Royal Treat

Dig into royal Thai spread and treat your taste buds to delicacies like Grathong Thong, Tung Tong and Goong Sarong

Venue: Benjarong, South City Mall
Time: All day

Art

Water Colour Works

Smita Bajoria presents the work of 22 artists from Bengal curated by artist Sunil Das. The exhibition will have works of Eleena Banik, Samir Aich and others

Venue: Ganges Art Gallery, 33 Jatin Das Road, Kolkata-29
Time: 11 am-7 pm

Miscellany

Buy and Buy



Big Bazaar presents '6 Days Maha Bachat' on the occasion of Independence Day with an exciting array of attractive offers and discounts

Venue: Big Bazaar, Food Bazaar and FBB outlets
Time: All day

Group Show

Artists like Rashmi Bagchi Sarkar, Sumito Basak, Shivananda Basavanthappa, Rini Dhupal, Anirban Ghosh and Anirban Mukherjee among others are showing their collection

Venue: Cima Art Gallery
Time: 2pm-7 pm

Monsoon Vibes



A medley of artwork from celebrated artists like Aditya Basak, Ashoke Mullick, Samir Aich, Shuvaprassana and others will be on display. The exhibition is being held to celebrate the flavour of the rains

Venue: Gallery Exposure
Time: 4-8 pm

Filament

Screening of a selection of experimental films and videos by four filmmakers — Ashish Avikunthak, Nilanjan Bhattacharya, Ranu Ghosh and Ruchir Joshi

Venue: Experimenter, Hindustan Park
Time: 11 am - 6.30pm

Nightlife

Turning 18



On the occasion of Someplace Else's 18th anniversary celebrations, the American Center in association with Tantra Live and Jim Beats present an evening of soulful blues with Shillong based band Soulmate

Venue: Tantra
Time: 8 pm - 10 pm

Open Space

Pics: Debolina Dubois



The Venus Victorious of France

Visual artist Debolina Dubois draws an image of Paris shorn of stereotypes. The city comes alive as a beautiful woman who needs to be romanced

As a child I had heard stories about a spectacular tower built as the entrance arch for the "Exposition Universelle" — the World Fair marking the centennial celebration of the French Revolution. I was even shown a picture of it in an encyclopaedia, causing me to constantly ponder upon it while gazing at the telephone towers in Calcutta. I often asked my father whether all those telephone towers were known by the same name, La tour Eiffel.

The tower that was inaugurated on March 31, 1889 had something in common with me. My birthday is March 31 as well. Consequently, as a child I developed a sudden fascination towards the city that held this beauty. Paris.

Today I live in Basel, Switzerland, a perfect home for those who commute in Europe by train or for those who love to boast that Roger Federer is from their city. Basel is just three hours away by train, from the city of my childhood fascination. Situated on the river Seine, in north of France, in the heart of Île-de-France, Paris has an estimated popula-

tion of 2,234,105 and a metropolitan population of 12,161,542. Hence, it is one of the most populated metropolitan areas in Europe. Until the 19th Century, Paris had remained the largest city in the Western world. It hosts the headquarters of many international organisations such as UNESCO, the OECD, the International Chamber of Commerce or the European Space Agency. Paris is considered one of the greenest and most habitable cities in Europe.

As a student of Art and Design in Paris, I visit the city on a regular basis. I have been to every monument, every street, every shop and every tourist destination that Paris can offer. I have eaten at the Ritz, Kong, Train Bleu, La Terrasse du 7eme and even at the Kabap corner Restaurant Rosa. I have planned to party at Oberkampf, and had evening drinks with total strangers who became friends at Bastille. I have discussed attending Swing Dancing by the riverside or simply sulking at Shakespeare & Co. The evolution from a tourist to a Parisian is a slow but gradual process. As you walk that line,



devoid of the macho superficiality? Paris today is like the marble Venus who has nothing to do with thoughts. Paris today is for herds of tourists who visit the monuments and queue to climb the lifts of the Eiffel Tower. Paris is treated like a city with no purpose but to please and entertain mankind, a role imposed on her.

Yet Paris today, like Venus Victorious, appears to speak loud — "I am beauty, complete and alone. I speak only through the spirit of him who looks at me. In my absolute simplicity all thought defeats itself since it loses its limits. All thoughts sink together in me, confused, indistinct, identical, like the ripples on rivers as they enter the sea. For him who reflects me, I am the deeper character he assigns me". Paris, the city that has found her arms again and again in the dark nights of time. How to understand this city that holds her place "in the middle of the human race — only to bend on the devoted world that comes to pay her its passionate homage..."? For those who take time to reflect on her, Paris is the deeper character — her heart and soul is neither Place de la



you start seeing the city differently. You start seeing Paris for who she truly is. "What is a model, after all, if not a woman who keeps her mouth shut so the artist may see her better with his mind's eye?" What is Paris, after all, if not a city of splendour for tourists to explore and exploit? You see, the misfortune that has befallen Paris is the lack of thoughts. When was the last time a tourist actually walked around Paris like a true lover,

Concorde, La tour Eiffel nor Les Champs-Élysées.

The soul of Paris is in its people. The veins of Paris are the streets. The heart of Paris is l'amour and the brain of Paris remains with the thinkers. Paris is a woman. She is more lively than the man-made image of a woman being a possession ready to be exploited. Paris is, perhaps more than, the Venus Victorious of France.



Send mail to response@thebengalpost.com

INBOX



WEEKENDER TEAM

The Bengal Post, Kolkata

To Our Readers,

Most of us have forgotten the joys of having toys. Our lead story this week is about Pratap Chowdhury, a connoisseur of cars, who talks about his beloved miniature automobile collection which numbers well over five hundred and why it has become a dying hobby. As monsoons have made their presence felt in the city, read how you can turn your boring terrace into the Garden of Eden with a bit of luck and a few easy steps. Also, do not miss visual artist Debolina Dubois's portrayal of beautiful Paris, the city she compares to a *belle* waiting to be pursued amorously.



Readers mail



More mail



Deepak Nath | Dalhousie

The article on Shekhawati and the way it has been underestimated by the tourism fraternity touched my heart. In my view, the government of Rajasthan should start promoting it well.



Hitesh Nandy | Ballygunge

I have been looking for a makeover for my home but could not decide on what to use for it. The last edition of *Weekender* gave me some awesome ideas. Thank you!



Amreen Kausar | Durgapur

Burqa has gone through a marvellous revolution over the last few years. It is no longer a boring attire. It is gradually creating a new style statement.



Anjali Dutta | Keshtopur

I loved *Gangs of Wasseypur 2*. It is rightly said that GOW will go down in history for the grand performances of the actors and the thrilling plot. Hats off to Anurag Kashyap and the entire team!



Star Trek

Model Anando Ghosh



Getting beachy in Goa!

There is no better place to be than Goa. If I have to describe the place in a word, I would call it paradise. The food, locales, environment and cozy feel of the place are gripping. There is an old world charm to it with its ancient houses and churches. Goa is a treasure trove. On the one hand, it has great architecture to attract you and on the other, it is a great place to party. Just like Quentin Tarantino films, the secluded churches of north Goa can make anyone feel romantic. I go there with my group of friends and we have a wonderful time when we visit the place. Once we stayed in tents. You also get these wonderful cottages, which make you feel one with nature.

I have stayed in places like Mapusa and Panjim but the beaches in north Goa are the best. I can spend days on end at Fatrade and Palolem Beach. The water is crystal clear and the beach is packed with foreigners. But the good thing is that unlike south Goa, the beaches in the north are not so frequented, which gives you some privacy.

I'm a person who loves to try out local delicacies and Goa has a lot to offer. Pork vindaloo with feni rice is my favourite. There are also the feni and port wines to try but the local drinks are equally good. We also tried the shrimps and lobsters apart from the sea fish varieties. Another time, we stayed at a place called Club Cabana. It is situated in the hills overlooking the sea - didn't I say it is a paradise on earth? Another attraction is the Bom Jesus Basilica.

If I like to be near the sea, mountains too hold special attraction for me. I have been to places like Kathmandu, Gangtok and Darjeeling, where the cloud cover looks pristine. The beauty of snow at these places is awesome. But I must tell you I never plan any of my trips. Whenever I have done so, it has come out a cropper. So now trips are mostly on impulse.

—As told to Ashok Chatterjee



In Full BLOOM

As the monsoon showers paint the city green, it's the perfect time to flex your fingers and turn your terrace into a lush garden



Blessed are those who have the luxury of a sprawling terrace. Living in urban quarters where the issue of space crunch haunts one and all, a terrace allows you the quickest getaway to the prospect of enjoying fresh air and privacy. Perhaps this is the reason why those who can afford it and have the necessary imaginative prowess are turning their terraces into an abode of greenery.

This is a smart move for various reasons. First, it allows you to indulge your aesthetic sensibilities. Secondly, it helps you to create an organic living space. Thirdly, it becomes an area where you can entertain your family and friends without the need to step

out. Lastly, it gives you the reason to develop a hobby that gives something back to the environment. Thus, it's a therapeutic activity that soothes your nerves and calms your mind.

However, what thwarts most people from progressing with the idea of cultivating a terrace garden is the amount of work and dedication required to design and maintain it. That, fortunately, should no

longer be a cause for worry. Anticipating the demand and practical utility of terrace gardens, quite a few interior designers and companies are now providing such services. With their initial help, you can set up a beautiful garden and then take over the reins yourself. All you need is an interest in plants and flowers and the eagerness to learn.

If you are unsure about how to embark on this project, we will give you some tips that will help you to focus your mind. And if you have already decided to go ahead, our suggestions will further encourage you. So, here we go:

- Before starting, it is important to till the land, weed it and get rid of pests. Make sure that your roof has the strength and durability to handle the weight of the garden. You should have an efficient drainage system in place. Finally, make sure that there is no possibility of water leaks.
- Select the kind of plants you desire to use in your terrace garden. Fibre rooted plants have an advantage over tap rooted plants as tap rooted plants may grow into the structure and create trouble for the building.
- Next, you need to select the type of soil for the foundation of your garden. Select a type which does not exert too much of pressure on the building. Soil rite and peat moss are the ideal options but they might be a little expensive for some people. If that is the case, then mix it with garden earth and manure. This will be equally helpful.
- After that, you need to see that the drainage system is laid down efficiently. Waterproof your terrace by laying down burnt bricks and not just brown bricks because the latter would gradually turn into mud and would collapse the drainage system. Alternatively, you could place corrugated sheets that need to be placed at a distance of three inches so that the water flows smoothly into the drain. On top of the bricks, lay a net lawn in order to prevent the soil from getting inside the bricks.
- Once the setting is ready, you can plant trees and flowers in your terrace garden. You may choose flowering or non flowering plants. If there is limited sunlight, non-flowering plants such as croton,

cane bamboo, drycena, defenbacia, chlorophytum, physcus, money plants and some varieties of cactus would be ideal. You can also go for bonsai plants as they look good and occupy less space.

What you can grow:

You can grow commonly used vegetables on your terrace, including leafy vegetables such as *datta*, *keerat*, coriander, fenugreek, Indian spinach and lettuce; gourds like pumpkin, ash gourd, ridge gourd, bitter gourd, bottle gourd, cucumber, little gourd, sponge gourd, snake gourd, watermelon and muskmelon; root vegetables such as radish, carrot, beetroot, onion, garlic, ginger and mango ginger and other vegetables such as cabbage, cauliflower, capsicum, chillies, tomato, ladies finger and brinjal. Similarly, you can grow a variety of fruit plants in big pots including mango, orange, pomegranate, musambi, custard apple, banana and guava.

Beautification:

Create variations of texture, shape, colour selection and plant height. Since the entire garden is visible as a whole, your garden will be viewed as a composition. Cooler colours will make the garden appear larger. You can compensate for the limited colour palette with a variety of textures. The textural contrast will help blend the plant material and allow the garden to flow. Every plant or feature will need to serve a purpose. Plants should offer at least two seasons of interest. Place a small tree, vine or flowering shrub, planted in a large container in a corner. Then place around it a variety of smaller plants in pots and containers to create a multi-tiered effect. One method to create an illusion of depth, is to keep plants with darker foliage (greens or purples) in the background and place plants with multi-coloured variegated leaves or brightly coloured flowers in the foreground. Vines grown in a large container and trained to cover walls or a trellis, will allow you to cover large areas of your garden and still maximise space in smaller gardens or patios. In addition, small, self-contained fountains, waterfalls or ponds placed against walls or in corners, can become a focal point or point of interest from which to build out further.

—Compiled by Supreeta Singh

Launch pad



Choose your favourite flavour with the new KFC Dips Bucket - Sweet Chili, Tangy Salsa, Spicy Mayo and Oriental. Priced at ₹249 including taxes, the Dips Bucket is the ultimate snack for friends.

Sweet, sour and spicy treat

Health boost



MonaVie has unveiled its new RVL protein powder. Targeted at weight conscious people, RVL comes packed with all the right nutrients and helps control obesity. It comes in a convenient powder form in an attractive tin that can be mixed with milk or water.



Cookie Man has launched no-added-sugar cookies in four lip-smacking flavours - Chocolate, Cinnamon, Coffee and Short Bread. The no-added-sugar cookies are priced at ₹ 230 for 240 gms and ₹360 for 360 gms.

Sugar-free sensation

Righteous vision



Titan launched a wide new range of stylish and trendy frames and lenses for the value conscious customer. Price: Starts from ₹995.



Videocon Mobile Phones has introduced a new range of top-of-the-line touch phones in stylish designs with audio and video features. The range offers consumers Dual SIM connectivity options and entertainment options like Audio and Video Player, FM Radio and Movie Juke Box applications. Price: ₹2099 onwards.

Juke box, reloaded

Tolly Telly

Screen Saver

Look who's back



The *Paglu* duo of Dev and Koel are back with the much awaited movie of the year *Paglu 2*. The film also stars Tota Roychoudhury, Rimjhim Mitra and Rajatava Dutta among others. The film has been shot extensively in Kolkata, Hyderabad, Dubai, Italy and Switzerland. *Paglu 2* is presented by Nispal Singh and produced by Surinder Films. The movie has been directed by Sujit Mondal. The foot tapping music has been scored by Jeet Gannguli.



Beware of what lies beneath!

A world of darkness, replete with innumerable murders, woman trafficking, sex workers and a sense of mystery, this tale of blood and gore will star debut actors, Arka and Brishti. The music for *Sabধান* has been composed by Soumen Das while it is being scripted and directed by Subham Das. The film is a tale which will not only question the morality of human beings in today's society, it will also show the ever present conflict between good and evil.

On the Sets

Pics: Debabrota Biswas

No stopping them!

Ritabhari and Sagar were caught shooting for a romantic sequence at Nalban Food Court recently. The actors are playing lovebirds in director Subrata Lahiri's film *Prem Unlimited*. Between shoots, Ritabhari took short breaks and enjoyed the beautiful breezy weather. The film revolves around two youngsters who fall for each other but face opposition from their families.



'I was almost kidnapped'

Actor Shankar Chakraborty gets up, close and personal with Tanushree Mukherjee

Journey as an actor: I have always liked acting. When I was in Class V, I replaced someone in a role for a neighbourhood theatre production. My performance was appreciated and from then on, I started acting for various *para* theatre groups, especially in productions that were put on for Durga Puja. Soon I joined Indian People's Theatre Association and started performing in more plays. Then I joined Rabindra Bharati to study Drama and eventually joined Utpal Dutt's theatre group, People's Little Theatre. We took several productions of ours abroad. By then I knew that my real passion in life was acting and I am very glad that I could combine my passion and profession.

First taste of celebrity: After the film *Bibaha Abhijaan* released, I was returning home by a local train. There was a group of young guys in the compartment. I was almost kidnapped by them as they wanted me to say some dialogues from the film. The kind of adulation they showered on me was something out of a dream.

Whom do you idolise and why: In a lot of ways, Utpal Dutt is my guru. He is one of the greatest actors of our time and I learnt a lot by working with him. Apart from that, I am a big fan of actors like Nasiruddin Shah, Uttam Kumar and Anjan Dutta. I also like Tom Hanks and Robert De Niro.

Unforgettable moment with a fan: Well, there is this guy from Bardhaman who calls me pretty often. He has apparently seen everything that I have ever acted in. He has even created a fan club for me. He has been inviting me to interact with fans who are part of the club. I have been meaning to do so but haven't managed it so far because of time constraints.

Hobbies: I like singing. I also like travelling to mountains. In fact, my wife and daughter also enjoy travelling to the mountains. And of course, since I am a foodie, I love eating. I used to be quite a voracious reader when I was younger. But these days, since I have to read and memorise so many dialogues, I get a little tired when it comes to reading other things.

One person you would like to meet: It would be Julia Roberts. I really liked her in the film *Sleeping with the Enemy*. I want to tell her that I would like to act in a film with her.

Success is: For me success is all about hard work, devotion and honesty. I think one can be considered successful when one works hard at whatever one does and accomplishes things by the sheer dint of devotion and honesty.

Lessons learnt: Well, the industry has changed a lot since I first started acting many years ago. Many of the big actors are not around anymore. Of course there are a few stalwarts still and their attitude towards their profession is something one can learn a lot from. But at the same time, there are some pretty arrogant youngsters too who start throwing their weight around before they have even fully grasped what their deliverables are. One needs to learn from both the good and the bad things that come one's way.

If you could change one thing: Mine is the ideal rags to riches story. Although I can afford a very comfortable lifestyle now, there were times when I would have to worry about how to get my next meal. So I would probably want to make a completely fresh start if I could. I don't know if I would still want to be an actor. But I would definitely take care to ensure that I complete my formal education.

Upcoming projects: There is Sayan's film titled *Odbhoot* coming up. There is Babrubahan's *50-up Friendship Association* which goes on the floors soon and of course there is Anjan Dutta's *Ganesh Talkies* for which we'll start shooting in December.



Mumbai Wrap



Anushka Sharma
Actress Anushka Sharma looked pretty in a blue short dress teamed with silver canvas shoes as she posed for shutterbugs at a promotional event for Nivea.



Kunal Kohli



Roop Kumar Rathod



Prasoon Joshi



Leslie Lewis



Ila Arun and Anup Jalota
The third season of the GiMa Awards 2012 kickstarted with a star-studded press conference. The Who's Who of the music industry including Anup Jalota, Ila Arun, Leslie Lewis, Prasoon Joshi and Roop Kumar Rathod attended the event. Filmmaker Kunal Kohli was also seen at the do.

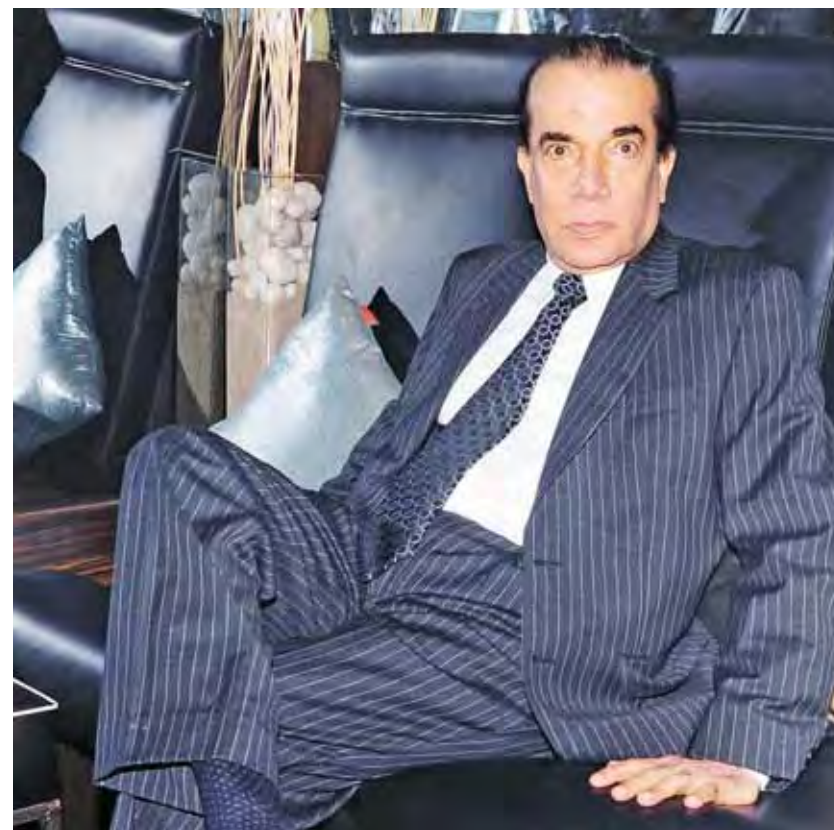


Sophie Choudry

Sonam Kapoor



Imran Khan



Nari Hira



Rohit Roy



Rajneesh Duggal

The launch party of the third anniversary edition of *Starweek* saw the presence of a host of B-town celebrities. Actors Imran Khan and Sonam Kapoor who feature on the cover page, attended the event alongwith Sophie Choudry, Rohit Roy and Rajneesh Duggal. Speaking at the event Sonam waxed eloquent on the 'different' films she is working on. She participated in street theatre during her recent 10-day trip to Delhi, which is helping her prepare for her next films. She also claimed that one of the current projects she is working on, is the third film where she's wearing no makeup!

The Woods

Review



Legacy gone all wrong!

Soumyabrata Gupta

Film: *The Bourne Legacy*
Director: Tony Gilroy
Cast: Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz, Edward Norton, Louis Ozawa Changchien, Albert Finney
Rating: Average

The problem with legacies, as we have all seen, is that they let you down. The fourth installment in the Bourne series, a spin off tale, to be more accurate, takes off from where the original hero, rogue agent Jason Bourne had left. The film is prolonged, has too many characters of negligible importance and lacks the punch which had worked for the earlier films in the series. But mostly, one sorely tends to miss Matt Damon in this stand-alone project by director Tony Gilroy.

The Bourne series has always been known for not subjecting

itself to computer generated gizmos and unnecessary over-the-top technological advancements. In this sense, *The Bourne Legacy* too remains true in its portrayal of the hard hitting action sequences that set apart the series created by Robert Ludlum. However, it still lacks the overall effect which had turned the adventures of a rogue field agent into an almost cult status.

The film begins following the aftermath of the exposure of Operation Blackbriar. The CIA decides to shut operation, including killing their field agents who were involved with the black ops. And caught in the whole 'larger scheme of things' is field agent Number Five, aka Aaron Cross (Jeremy Renner), an agent of Operation Outcome, an advanced behavioral procedure which is bereft of the fallacies of Treadstone (the operation Bourne was a part of). An

agent, who has not gone rogue, and yet is being hunted, thus forms the whole pivotal point around which the story revolves.

Jeremy Renner as Aaron Cross is good. This actor, who has made a somewhat late entry into the world of glitz, glamour and limelight, plays the role of an agent seeking a way out from his dilemma, with conviction. Though one might compare him to Matt Damon from the original series, it is best remembered that his character is completely different, with its own shades. As such, he does justice to what he has been given to do.

Rachel Weisz as the scientist who helps our hero into achieving a 'sort of' freedom (we all know that in Bourne series, something has to go wrong) is convincing enough. It is sad to see an actor of Edward Norton's calibre being under utilised. He has little scope to show his prowess as one of the leading actors of Hollywood. In fact most of the other characters are sketchy and haphazard as well. The film's major setback, however, is the lack of a good script. The first part is excruciatingly long and tedious and while the action picks up in the second half, it ends before one realises its full implication. Moreover, no one expects a Bourne film to have overzealous close shots of hand holding and romantic undertones, an aspect which has been considerably delved into, in this film. For a change, the cinematography of the film is pretty good. While music has always played a substantial part in creating a mood for an action oriented film, James Newton Howard's compositions fall flat. One might defend the film claiming that it's original, but let's face it; there is no retribution for a loose plot, underdeveloped characters and lacklustre music.

Buzzing now...

Pics: IBNS

Wedding Feast

The first day of the Couture Week held at The Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi saw three fashion designers charm viewers with their opulent collections



Sharmila Tagore walked as a showstopper for designer duo Ashima-Leena in a red saree teamed with a long jacket. "For me, walking the runway is fun. It is a feel good factor when you get the instant reaction from the audience," Sharmila said after the show. Starting with whites and creams, Ashima-Leena's collection titled 'Raag Rattan', comprised lehengas, saris and anarkalis giving an option to all those would-be brides. The show started with live performance by Sufi singer Zila Khan who rendered some beautiful tracks like *Khawaja mere khawaja, Naino ki mat suniyo* and *Yeh jo halka halka*. - IANS



JJ Valaya launched a new initiative, JJ Valaya Luxury Weddings, a four-day wedding exposition on the first day of the Couture Week. He has collaborated with Fashion One International to offer specialised services by companies like Ferns n Petals, The Entertainment Design Co, Tamarai Luxury Catering, The Badal-Raja Company and Gitanjali Jewellery.

After Tarun Tahiliani, Valaya is the second Indian designer to start an exposition of this nature. He has his reasons. "When you think of top Indian wedding designers, four or five popular names come to your mind, who have been handling the market for a while. So something like this becomes a natural extension for us. This is something which is second skin, since we deal with brides and grooms in family all the time. There has been a lot of enquiry to give creative direction to weddings. So we came upon with this idea," he said.

Valaya, who showcased his collection 'The Azark' at the opening day of the Delhi Couture Week aid the purpose behind JJ Valaya Luxury Weddings is to cater to India's big fat weddings. - IANS



Varun Bahl opened Couture Week with his Nouveau (new) collection. Transparency, hand embroidery techniques and hand crafted textures were key elements of his collection which comprised lehengas, sarees, achkans, shararas, Mughal farshis and anarkalis.