



GRAB YOUR SLICE OF NATURE P3

TANZANIAN TRAILS P4



BACK OFF!: Arjun Rampal

Actor Arjun Rampal had to return to Breach Candy Hospital yesterday after his earlier discharge because his back injury got aggravated

GROUNDNDED!

Soumyadipta Banerjee

Actor Arjun Rampal apparently believes in living dangerously. He had to be admitted to the Breach Candy hospital when he complained of severe back-ache earlier this week. After staying in the hospital for two days, Arjun ignored the doctor's advice, took a discharge on Friday, and performed on stage in Dhaka, Bangladesh, that night itself, where the injury aggravated.

"Arjun was being treated by his doctor, Farhad Tarporevala (partner of jewellery designer Queenie Singh) when he was admitted at Breach Candy hospital. There is a problem of a slip disc on his lower back. He didn't listen to the doctor and performed at a function in Dhaka. The doctors were forced to administer steroid injections and painkillers to let him go on stage for a few hours. But as things stand now, the back problem has got aggravated and he has been advised complete rest," says a source close to the actor.

Sources add that Arjun had signed a contract with a leading event management company to perform there along with actors Rani Mukerji and Shah Rukh Khan; he didn't want inconvenience the Bangladeshi organisers by opting out at the last minute.

When contacted, Arjun admitted that he was back at the hospital on Saturday and was undergoing treatment. "I sustained this injury while shooting for my film *Housefull*. I thought the problem would subside in a few days, but it only aggravated further. Farhad (his doctor) told me it's a slip disc. I'm getting treated as we speak and plan to be home in the evening. He has asked me to be out of action for at least two weeks. No gyming, no shooting, no back bending... I am only advised to walk around," says Arjun.

Arjun says that he doesn't regret his decision as the function in Dhaka saw a turn-out of 50,000 people. "I didn't tell Shah Rukh or Rani or anybody about this. They gave a fantastic performance. I am so happy that I was there. I couldn't have been on a hospital bed when my friends are performing on stage. I have promised Farhad that I am going to be on rest till he thinks I am fit," he adds.

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City's ELITE go gaga over Ferragamo fare

Devika Chaturvedi

The Salvatore Ferragamo brand is classic, sturdy and remains one of the top luxury brands today. And when this brand combines with pop art works, it provides a heady treat for city dwellers.

The art show by city-based Frangipani art gallery that is on today at L&P Hutheesing Visual Art Centre, is worth a look. We got to see a flock of people shopping for their brand that attempted to test the market in the city. Tushar Kundekar, operations manager from Salvatore Ferragamo was present at the exhibition along with Harshh Shah, MD, Frangipani Art Gallery.

Harshh Shah says, "This is a show that provides a unique opportunity for art lovers and, understanding their tastes, we try to bring the best for them. Similarly, I have tried to bring artists who have refined creativity and stand out from the rest."

He adds, "These paintings and sculptures are not ordinary and none of the artists are city-based. I choose the ones that impress me and are contemporary. Among my personal favourites is the painting of Maharaja Gaekwad of Baroda. And among others I find the paint-



Piyush Patel,DNA

(L) Harshh Shah, MD of Frangipani Art Gallery, and (R) Tushar Kundekar, operations manager with Ferragamo, at the art show being held in the city.

ings very youthful and vibrant." Shah also says that he personally likes to interact with the people who come to the art show.

The show was a hit with the customers who said that they always outsourced Ferragamo prod-

ucts but are glad to actually buy them here and also appreciated the works of art displayed at the venue. The men were equally happy to try the leather shoes and the wallets displayed, which catered to their tastes as well.

Abhay is an item, dude!

The 'thinking woman's sex symbol' has finally decided to do an item number

Soumyadipta Banerjee

Actor Abhay Deol, who has been shying away from mainstream cinema for a while has shocked everybody by agreeing to do an item number for an upcoming film which also stars Soha Ali Khan. In fact, according to sources it was Soha who made Abhay agree to do that item number, something he has never done before.

The latest Deol kid confirmed this development but didn't want to elaborate as he has been told that it is a surprise element in the film. "It was difficult convincing Abhay to do an item number. Abhay being the kind of a guy he is, decided to do it only after some of his conditions were met," says a source.

Sources say that Abhay agreed on condition that his sex appeal in the song is not too-in-your-face about it. He reportedly wanted to play 'the dude rather than a raunchy guy-on-the-loose'.

"In the song, Ajay is playing a typical dude who is the cynosure of all eyes in a nightclub. He has been dressed in a grey blazer with a white tee beneath. In the particular scene Soha enters the nightclub and can't help but notice a guy drinking alone at the bar. They exchange glances," the source adds.

What happens next is the item number, where Soha gets cosy with Abhay on the dance floor.

"It get hotter because Soha and Abhay start canoodling on the dance floor as they start a close dance together. It was a bit of some awkwardness because the dance that follows is very sensual but Soha and Abhay struck up some kind of chemistry while filming the scene," the source adds.

Soha also confirmed the development through a spokesperson saying that she enjoyed doing the scene with Abhay.

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CALL ME DUDE: Abhay Deol and (left) Soha Ali Khan

The Amdavadi artist's perfect hideout

City-based art patron comes up with creative den for city's artists

Devika Chaturvedi

Ever thought of what goes behind an artist's mind while creating an artwork? Siddheshwar Kanuga, an art patron has come up with a unique idea which aims at helping the creative mind. It would act as a spur to their imagination.

To cater to these artists' professional requirements, Kanuga has arranged a workplace where they can peacefully create pieces without it costing them a single penny. It is a bungalow located at Vikasgruh road in Paldi and will be inaugurated today by renowned painter Haku Shah and philanthropist Sonal Ambani.

The first four artists chosen to have a separate room each for carrying out their work are Ronak Sopariwala, Rakesh Patel, Jigna Gaudana and Roma Patel. After Hrs spoke to Sopariwala and he says, "Artists will have a contract with the owner where every six months he is entitled to avail of a painting or any creation made by the artist in return. He can renew



Piyush Patel,DNA

Artist Ronak Sopariwala at work

his contract every year on condition that the artist keeps practicing and creating art."

He adds, "We have seen that art scene in Ahmedabad is not a very happening one and this place will become a platform for those who otherwise do not have a workplace."

It is a professional studio that attempts to provide opportunity

for better understanding of contemporary art. The place gives artists the opportunity to see each other's work and also inspires them to think freely. It is open to customers who want to buy artifacts directly from the artist. The studio's endeavour is to create an atmosphere of art in the city, states Sopariwala.

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FELICITATING STALWARTS

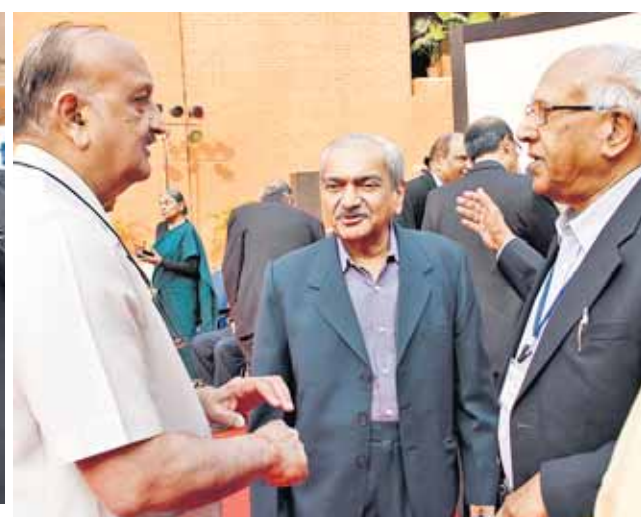
IIMA held their golden jubilee inaugural function and a felicitation ceremony at the institute's campus on Saturday evening. Chairman Vijaypat Singhania and director Samir Kumar Barua, besides hundreds of alumni, former professors and staffers got together at the Louis Kahn plaza. Mrinalini Sarabhai was the chief guest at the function. After Hrs brings you some glimpses...



Former IIMAites on the stage



IIMA director Samir Barua (R) with professor Atanu Ghosh



Former director Bakul Dholakia (C) and chairman (L) Vijaypat Singhania



Mrinaliniben Sarabhai with son Kartikeya Sarabhai

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