



@PritishNandy Wonderful. We cant stop rapes, crimes against women. But we want to open a bank for women. As if women cant use normal banks!

mumbai 001



THE PAGE THAT'S REWORKING ITS BUDGET



Tragic loss

It's a loss that has plunged the Bajaj clan into gloom. Rahul's Bajaj's wife Rupa succumbed to a prolonged heart ailment on Thursday in Germany following an unsuccessful surgery. Her body will be received at the Pune airport today. The passing away of the lady of the house has left more than a void in her immediate family. Rupa literally held family and fort together and was known for her unstinting work for the larger Bajaj family of employees and workers. More than 50 years ago, the young Rahul is said to have broken a Marwari family tradition when he decided to marry the tall, lovely, light-eyed Maharashtrian girl who was the daughter of an ICS officer. She soon joined him in the US to move into a small flat where he was studying at the Harvard Business School and it was here they made another momentous decision – to move to India and specifically the Akurdi factory colony, to be neighbors of the workers residing in the wooded premises. And since then it has been a long, long journey....



KEY-ED UP

No he hasn't started playing the piano, but tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain will be matching it note for note at a special performance today. The proceeds of the musical evening put together by Rahul Bose will help sponsor the education of underprivileged children from far flung areas of India. Rahul had been threatening to sing at the show as well, but his guests have pleaded with him to refrain.



Piano woman

Without a piano, I don't know how to stand... don't know what to do with my hands". Nine-time Grammy award-winning songstress Norah Jones' candid confession of utter helplessness without her instrument of choice by her side explains

her only prerequisite for her grand Indian debut – her beloved Upright Spinet Piano. For all her concerts worldwide, Jones performs only on this shorter sibling of a vertical piano. That's why soon after she finished her set at Singapore's Star Theatre on Wednesday, arrangements

were made to fly it down to Mumbai for her show at A Summer's Day festival, this Sunday evening at the Turf Club. By Sunday night, the piano would be ready to fly to Delhi and then Bangalore for her shows next week. Her music does keep her company.

Marriage on wheels

Keenan was better known as veteran restaurateur Henry Tham's son till he joined hands with brother Ryan to launch that throbbing suburban nightclub, Trilogy. We've learnt that it ran into some trouble and had to down shutters some months ago, but that's for another day. The newsy bit is that Keenan married his girlfriend Neha Bhatnagar on Wednesday night at a suburban hotel. We hear Neha is the long time stylist of Bollywood actor Imran Khan and clearly the filmy connection has rubbed off on her man — the dashing groom ditched the horse and arrived at the mandap on his Harley Davidson. What's next?



CORNERED

MORPARIA



All about Fry

Our fellow diarist at Mid Day wanted to know what Stephen Fry was doing in the country, and hazarded a guess based on the British actor's tweets. Allow us to enlighten you, ma'am. The wonderful Mr Fry is working on a BBC documentary about the lives of LGBT persons around the world. And while the British broadcasters are tight-lipped about all manner of details, we know that earlier this month Mr Fry visited Uganda, where a bill that proposes death penalty for homosexuality is being considered. In Mumbai — besides tweeting about kitty parties in restaurants and "kala dhal" — of course, Mr Fry interviewed a young woman merchandiser for a leading clothes retail outlet and proceeded to the Humsafar Trust office where he spoke with CEO Vivek Anand and HIV programmes Director Pallav Patankar. Fry is also expected to film performers at a speak-easy event on Sunday.



Tailpiece

With a several international celebs thirsting for a glimpse of the famed Kumbh Mela, it has also piqued the interest of our own celeb set. Why not, with the option of lodging in luxury Swiss tents charging 5-star rates while searching for a spiritual jacuzzi on the banks of the Ganga. Just why Tarun Tahiliani had to disguise himself as a sadhu for his two-day trip to Allahabad is unclear, but we hear he collected sufficient pictures for his research into the fall and drape of sanyasi robes. Others made business trips as well — Ekta Kapoor arrived to promote her film and Prabhu Deva proposed to dance a 'devotional number', riling up Kumbh Mela authorities enough to boot out Bollywood gimmickery altogether. Of late, an eclectic mix including writer Bandana Tewari, industrialist Yash Birla and fashion entrepreneur Cecilia Morelli Parikh have been arriving at this new pop-up destination for an experience so different from lit fests and beach trance. Nice.