

## Burradin bonanza

With temperature dipping below the 14-degree mark, that time of the year has come when colourful scarves,



stoles and winter accessories will make their way out of the cupboard and deck up people gearing up for the Christmas carnival. As a fitting tribute to the city's celebration of its cultural plurality, the Crafts Council of West Bengal has organized the Burradin-Christmas Craft Fair at Jamini Roy Art Gallery, Rabindranath Tagore Center, ICCR. The council seeks to revive, preserve and support declining indigenous knowledge, resources and skills with masterful weavers and artisans of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh, Kashmir and Bengal gathering under one roof.

## Touch of humanity

Ten blind students of Calcutta Blind School were gifted with story-telling CDs, customized by Mirinda — an NGO. The CDs, named as Gopopathar Asar, have 12 stories by 12 famous Bengali authors. "These books are not available in

Braille, so we have prepared this CD. With this, the students will get a taste of Bengali literature," Papia Roy, one of the members of the NGO, said. The CDs were handed over to students in a function where the stories were narrated and schoolkids performed. "We will donate more such CDs to old-age homes where people can hardly read. We are also thinking of distributing these CDs to other blind schools," another member Bidisha Roy said.

## Cancer awareness

The breast cancer unit of SSKM hospital recently tied up with stage actor Gautam Haldar's group Nay Natua to promote awareness about breast cancer during the play 'Othello'. "We chose handkerchief as a medium to spread awareness and everyone in the audience was handed over a handkerchief with a message that breast cancer is curable," said Diptendro Sarkar, in-charge of the SSKM unit. A handkerchief was the first gift that Desdemona received from 'Othello' and the oncologists of SSKM found that to be the most suitable for spreading awareness about the disease. "It has worked well and we received many calls asking more about the disease," Sarkar said.

## Quality kiosks

A self-help group comprising women from Thakdari village in Rajarhat on Saturday opened two food kiosks at the Rabi Aranya within the Eco Park in New Town. The group went through a one-week training programme conducted by the local block development officer of Ra-



Fashion designer Agnimitra Paul with Amway India MD and CEO William S Pinckney, other celebrities and blind participants at a fashion show in Kolkata

jarhat on how the food kiosks could be operated. The group was full of enthusiasm and excited at the prospect. The kiosks sold traditional home-made food.

## Fighting all odds

Actor Soumitra Chattopadhyay recently launched a toll-free help line number (180030001620) for speech and hearing impaired people at a programme organized by Bengal Speech & Hearing Aid. The help line will function daily in between 10am and 8pm. While observing International Day for People with Disability, internationally acclaimed swimmer Masadur Rahman and DJ Den were felicitated. Two sportsmen — Aparna Naskar and Farjana Khatun — were also awarded. Chattopadhyay handed over free-hearing aids to 10 hearing impaired peo-

ple. "There is a notion that hearing and speech disability appears with advancing age but 30% have this problem since childhood," said audiologist Somnath Mukherjee.



(Contributed by Subhro Niyogi, Prithvijit Mitra, Shounak Ghosal, Rohit Khanna, Debashis Konar and Suman Chakrabarti. Compiled by Avik Das. Pictures by Sudipto Das, Debobrata Shome)



TOI Kol Dec 16, 2013 P2

