CITY

Tea-stall owner in Naranpura attacks three men with a knife

An inebriated tea stall owner near Sakar 3, Naranpura, allegedly attacked three men with a knife over an argument. Naranpura police have registered a complaint against the accused Rajnikant alias Bholo alias Bakul Mehta, who fled after the incident. Mehta attacked Jignesh Mehta and Prakash Bhatt who had come to drink tea at his stall. When Nimesh Jadeja went to rescue them, the accused attacked him, too.

AhmedabadMirror | 2
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2013
www.ahmedabadmirror.com/city
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Honest auto driver returns cellphone

SHARAD KUMAR

Salim Usman Mohammed came all the way from Kubernagar to Thaltej to return the phone worth Rs 27K that an MBBS student left in his auto

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An autorickshaw driver showed exemplary behaviour by returning an expensive cellphone to its owner. Not only did 50-year-old Salim Usman Mohammed return the cellphone, he also travelled all the way from Kubernagar to Thaltej to deliver the phone safely to it owner, a first year MBBS student Heer Patel.

Heer, a student of Gujarat Cancer Society at Amdupura in Naroda, was returning home from college along with her two friends. She alighted near her residence in Samarth Bungalows, Thaltej. "I paid the auto driver and came home. It is only after I reached home that I realised that my phone was missing. I own a high-end cellphone which cost me around Rs 27,000. Also, all my study notes were on the phone," said Heer.

Frantic that her cellphone and all her notes were lost, Heer almost lost hope of ever getting her mobile phone back. "Lost cellphones are rarely returned to their owners. I wasn't very hopeful of getting it back. However, I made a call

> ◆ **Salimbhai came all the way from Kubernagar at 9 in the night to return my phone. I don't think there are many people out there who would do such a thing for a stranger**
>
> **HEER PATEL, MBBS STUDENT**

to my cellphone, just in case someone would answer it and I could request him to return it to me," Heer said.

Her father Dr Bhagirath Patel said, "We were all very upset. Heer was in shock. Apart from being an expensive handset, the phone had all her notes. She was very disturbed about losing the notes."

However, Heer was destined to get her phone back, thanks to the Good Samaritan rickshaw driver. She said, "The first two times, no one answered. But

the phone was ringing, so that was an encouraging sign. The third time, Salimbhai answered the phone. He told me that he had dropped me home and that I had left the cellphone in his autorickshaw. He assured me that he will return the phone to me as soon as possible. I wasn't convinced of his honesty but asked him to return the phone to me the next day at my college."

Heer added, "Five minutes after talking to me, Salimbhai called me again to tell me that he was coming over to return the cellphone. He came all the way from Kubernagar at 9 in the night to return my phone. I don't think there are many people out there who would do such a thing for a stranger."

Impressed by his honesty, Heer tried to reward Salim but he humbly turned down the monetary reward. After a lot of coaxing, he took a token Rs 100 from Heer.

Salim said, "It is my duty to ensure that my customers reach their destination safely. If a customer leaves behind any of their belongings, it is natural for me to return it to them as soon as possible. I don't think I have done something great. I was just helping my customer."

Heer, who promises to be careful in future, is thankful to Salim Usman Mohammed for returning her cellphone which had her study notes

NIDian shows music world how to SWITCH

NID student designs a unit that will hold drum sticks and can be attached to drum kits to facilitate switching of sticks while playing

PICS: MANISH MISTRY

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There's some good news for drummers in the city. A student of product design at an institute in the city has designed a modular holder for drumsticks which can be attached to the drum kit and will facilitate easier exchange of the percussion mallet.

"Each stick produces different beats when it touches the surface of the drums. At times, we need to exchange the sticks while performing. Having personally experienced trouble while playing, I realised the need for a holder that can be attached to a drum kit which will make exchange of sticks easier. So I designed SWITCH," said Pranay Kumar, a 20-year-old student of product design at National Institute of Design who has been playing drums since seven years now. "I spoke to drummers — professional and amateur — and consulted dealers and retail experts as part of research for my project. The conviction that there is market for such an exclusive product led to the invention of SWITCH," Kumar said.

"SWITCH is a unit without any moving parts which aims to solve problems with basic and simple hardware. The unit can be color coded to

Pranay Kumar (right) is convinced that there is a market for such an exclusive product. SWITCH will soon be sent for a user test

help identify different sticks. The main focus is easy accessibility so that the drummer does not waste time switching sticks," the 20-year-old said.

Kumar designed the wooden prototype over a period of six weeks; however, the final product will be made of

plastic. "The modular container has tail joints to attach it to one central unit and the units are sized to cater a variety of drumsticks. The finished product looks as if made from a single piece of wood but it is made by assembling 70 separate parts," he said.

Dr Subir Das, senior faculty of product design and Kumar's project guide said, "Currently, such units are not being produced in the Indian market. And imported products don't serve the purpose. SWITCH fulfills all requirements of drummers. However, it still

requires a bit of polishing."

SWITCH will soon be sent for a user test and will be modified based on the feedback. Since the product has scope for improvement since it does not fit all drum kits, Kumar is working on making it universally adaptable.