

CULTURAL FEAS

Spotlight

# Historic temples in shambles

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

SHREE Shree Anandamoyee Shiva mandir and Anandamoyee Kali mandir in Muktagacha upazila are two of the four temples which are some 200 years old. They were categorised as cultural heritage sites in 1993. Steps were taken to prevent further decay. The temples, built just outside the palaces of the Muktagacha zamindars, are a spiritual hub for devotees.

The four temples include a pair of temples -- Shree Shree Anandamoyee Shiva and Kali Mata mandir -- built together in the Kalibari area, three Shiva temples in the same compound, Hora Rameshar temple and a Shiva temple made of white stone, all on Maharaja road of Muktagacha.

The highly aesthetic Shiva and Kali temples were built in 1820 by Bimola Devi, mother of Maharaja Shashikanta Acharya Chowdhury. A large pond, enhancing the visual appeal of the temples, was dug for easy supply of water for the devotees. The temples are also known as Dhaksinashar Mandir and are believed to be the second of its kind in Asia, the other being in Kolkata, India. No other country in the sub-continent, other than Bangladesh and India, boasts of such twin temples.

All religious functions including Durga puja, marriages, rituals, sacrificial activities, especially on the occasion of Kali puja and Manosha puja and Annyaprashan are held at the temple premises.

Special puja is held on every full moon and new moon and on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh. Devotees from far and wide gather at the temple on various occasions seeking blessings from the god and goddess. Only the purohit (priest) can enter into the main room of the



The twin temples in Mymensingh

temple where the idols have been erected.

The temples are unique in design. Both temples are oblong in shape with little corridors on a high basement. A staircase connects the basement to the ground.

A local scheduled caste of Hindus in Muktagacha upazila still perform their two-day Kattiyani puja locally known as Shat puja in the Bengali month of Kartik. According to the local devotees, the idols of all pujas held in Muktagacha stay immersed

in the pond throughout the ages.

However, the current condition of the temples is pitiable. Cracks have appeared on the roofs of the temples and rain water trickles through the cracks, threatening the existence of the temples. Grass has grown wildly on the artistic tombs of the temples and no initiative has yet been taken by the authorities. Both the temples have tilted back a little, the temple sources said.

Abani Kumar Saha, who has been holding the secretary's post of the temple since 1971 told *The Daily Star* that they have done some renovation work on the temple including its boundary walls at a cost of Taka 98,000 collected from local devotees a few years ago. However, this is insufficient to preserve the temple from imminent decay, he says.

Though the Cultural Ministry took charge of the temples as important archaeological sites in 1993, no work was carried out except for putting up signs claiming that the properties belong to the Archaeology Department, according to sources.

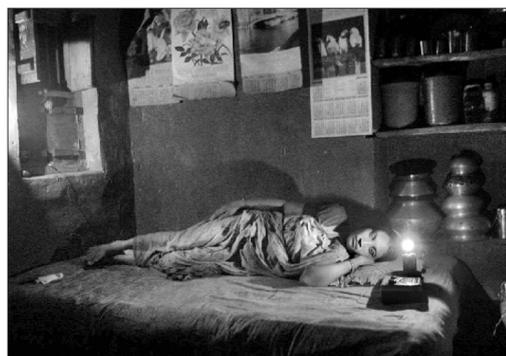
Admitting the present condition of the temples is critical, Mohammad Mosharrif Hossain, regional director of the Archaeological Department in Dhaka said that immediate steps should be taken to protect the temples. He also pointed out that a project to renovate the temples was submitted to the concerned authorities in January this year but it is yet to be cleared. However, on condition of anonymity, a source in the Archaeological Department asserted that high officials of the department lack the political will to protect the heritage site.

## Chobi Mela IV

# In a woman's world

Women, perhaps the greatest source of under-utilised power in the world, have made their mark in *Chobi Mela IV*, despite photography being still regarded as a predominantly male arena. Nine women photographers from the far corners of the world have brought forth their collection of images on 'Boundaries', and, to do so, I wonder how many boundaries of social stigma they have had to break. In a world where women are still eyed chauvinistically as the weaker and the more insecure sex, let me take you on an incredible journey through the challenges and aspirations of two of these comrades. So, sit tight and hold your breath....

Let us embark first on this expository journey with Czech photographer, Jiri Makovec, 29. Jiri does not hesitate to blatantly state, "I don't like to talk about myself," when accosted. She loves residing in a nutshell, apart from, probably, exploring the world with her camera. She majored in photography at the Film and Television School of the Academy of Performing Arts and also studied at the College of Graphic Arts, both in Prague. She



Photographs by Sucheta Das (above) and Jiri Makovec (below)

participated in exhibitions held in Milan, in Prague and in New York. Apart from working on advertisement campaigns, she has personally taken the initiative to work on Spanish villages and hates, as she mouths it, "wars, stupid, angry people and the corporate world." She says she has been

mainly inspired by her friend Jelena. Sucheta Das' austere images of arsenic affected villagers in the parts of West Bengal depict the severity of the epidemic. "Evil marks its territory either within or around anything or anyone that we designate as Good. Arsenic pollution has very close analogy to that boundary that surrounds the ill fated people in these regions," is the vision behind her work.

Born and brought up in Kolkata, Sucheta has won the Third Prize at the World Press Photography Contest 2006. A graduate of Kolkata University, Sucheta studied at the Photographic Association of Dumdum. Her own images portray the darker side of the East; ironically, she advocates the need for "...filling up the gap created by Western assumptions about the East... there are good sides to be covered."

by Rubaiya Sharin

The author is a student of Maple Leaf International School and a volunteer for Chobi Mela media



## Movie Watch

# 'Bindur Chhele' to be premiered on Channel i

### CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

World premier of the movie *Bindur Chhele*, an adaptation of the classic by Bengali literary genius, Sharat Chandra Chattopadhyay, will be aired on Channel i on November 24.

The film is presented by Banglalink and produced by Impress Telefilm Ltd. Directed by Mushfiqur Rahman Gulzar, the film features popular artistes Humayan Faridee, Diti, Moushumi, Ferdous and others.

The story centers around three characters: Annapurna, her son Amulyo and Bindubashini, a woman desperate to become a mother. Annapurna's husband Jacob goes through a lot of hardship to pay for his younger brother Madhob's education. Years later, Madhob becomes an eminent lawyer. Madhob's wife, Bindu, comes from an affluent family and is strikingly beautiful.

Bindu is childless and when she gets to take care of Amulyo, her



Ferdous and Moushumi in a scene from the film

yearning to experience motherhood finds some fulfillment. The sisters-in-law, Bindu and Annapurna, share a rather bitter-sweet relationship. Bindu respects Annapurna and the latter reciprocates by showering a lot of affection on her. But they have frequent rows between them over house-

hold chores. One day, they have a major disagreement over Amulyo's upbringing. The disagreement proves to be irreconcilable. As a result, the two families split. The after-effects of this disagreement reverberate between the two estranged families for a long time.

## Justin Timberlake working on new Duran-Duran album

AP, New York

Justin Timberlake is working on Duran Duran's new album, along with superproducer Timbaland, who created recent smash hits for both Timberlake and Nelly Furtado, the British band said.

"We've got some good stuff happening," said lead singer Simon LeBon. "We've done three tracks with Timbaland; we've collaborated in a writing and production manner on one of those tracks with Justin Timberlake. We've got a lot really hot producers who are interested in working with us at the moment."

Duran Duran, who had its biggest hits in the '80s with such songs as *Rio* and *The Reflex*, was in New York last Tuesday to perform at Cipriani's at a benefit for the AIDS research organisation AmFar. The night also featured an auction, led by Sharon Stone.

The performance was without one of its founding members: Guitarist Andy Taylor left the group late last month.

Bassist John Taylor said, "There were many strong differences of feeling within the band for some time now." However, he said, Tay-



Duran Duran

lor's departure has been "empowering, quite freeing" for Duran Duran.

"We've been playing over the last few weeks around Europe and in the States, and we're just putting it into the music," he said.

## Film review

# 'Stranger than Fiction': Strangely entertaining

Insurance investigators are a dime a dozen in the movies, but one can count the number of heroic IRS agents on the fingers of one hand.

*Stranger Than Fiction* features comedian Will Ferrell in his first ever serious role. His character, Harold Crick, an IRS agent finds his existence monotonous. When he looks in the mirror he sees a faceless bureaucrat staring back at him. Take away his briefcase, his raincoat and the apple he carries to work each day and there wouldn't be much left to talk about.

He's the last guy in the world one would expect to have a vivid imagination. So how to explain that very English, very female, very articulate voice in his head?

Harold's personnel manager refers him to a shrink (Linda Hunt), who gently concludes he's exhibiting classic signs of schizophrenia, but agrees that a consultation with a literary expert couldn't hurt. The expert, Professor Hilbert (Dustin Hoffman), humours him. If this voice really is Harold's narrator, as he believes, then the thing to do is figure out what manner of story he finds

himself in: a tragedy or a comedy.

Of course, Harold doesn't have much of a story yet, so Hilbert encourages him to romance his latest audit (Maggie Gyllenhaal) and hope for a happy ending. Unfortunately, blocked novelist Karen Eiffel (Emma Thompson) has already announced her character's imminent demise. And she's the voice, the one dictating all this.

Comparisons with Charlie Kaufman's meta-mind-trips *Adaptation* and *Being John Malkovich* are inevitable, but Kaufman didn't invent the idea that life was a great big cosmic joke, and *Stranger Than Fiction* has at least as much in common with *The Truman Show*. Just as Truman slowly wises up to the fact that everyone and everything around him is fabricated, Harold comes to the equally painful realisation that he's fictional. Or is he?

This is a more subdued, modulated performance from Ferrell and his shy underplaying draws out another blissfully wiggly performance from Dustin Hoffman -- an actor for whom life seems to have started all over again at 60 -- and

complements Maggie Gyllenhaal's spunky update on Jean Arthur's screwball heroines.

Source: CNN



Will Ferrell in *Stranger than Fiction*

## TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

### BTV

- 08:30 Open University
- 09:15 Satellite Broadcast
- 12:30 Maa O Shishur Kottha
- 01:00 Shukhi Poribar
- 01:30 Hijol Tomal
- 02:15 Sisimpur
- 02:40 Alor Shotodal
- 03:05 Cartoon
- 03:30 Cricket Shekha
- 04:00 Esho Computer Shikhi
- 04:30 Quiz Quiz
- 05:30 Cartoon
- 06:40 Shondha Maloti
- 07:00 Mati O Manush
- 08:35 Protidin Bangladesh
- 09:25 Drama
- 10:25 Teknaf Thekey Tetulia

### CHANNEL-i

- 09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh
- 09:45 Public Reaction
- 09:50 Tritiyomatra
- 11:05 Sports Time (Live)
- 12:30 Aj Dupurey O Citycell Tarokakothon
- 01:05 Ebing Cinema Gaan
- 01:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh
- 01:45 Public Reaction
- 02:40 Selected Drama
- 04:05 Amader Gaan
- 04:25 Sa Re Ga Ma
- 05:30 Alokti Bangladesh
- 07:50 Hallo Minister
- 09:35 Talk Show: Aloy

### Bhuban Bhora

- 10:00 Road to Sharjah
- 12:00 Grameenphone Aiker Shyangbadpotro

### ATN BANGLA

- 10:30 Anyodrishti
- 12:15 Cinema Cinema
- 01:30 Gaane Surey Tarunne
- 02:30 Musical Programme
- 03:10 Drama Serial: Bhalo Bashar Rang
- 04:20 Islamic Programme
- 05:10 Shobar Jonno
- 05:45 Islamic Programme
- 06:20 The Sword of Tipu Sultan
- 08:00 Drama Serial: Sharabela Pothochola
- 08:30 Drama Serial: Shukhla Lagiya
- 09:00 Drama Serial: Bohemian
- 09:30 Drama Serial: Tushar Rohosyo
- 10:40 Talk Show: Face to Face

### ntv

- 08:30 Aajker Shokal
- 09:30 Frankly Speaking
- 10:05 Colour
- 10:30 Gallery
- 11:00 Circus Lights
- 12:05 Saaj Ghor
- 12:30 Shiray Shonite
- 01:00 Mukhtangon
- 03:15 Drama: Rang Er Manush

## PICK OF THE DAY



Gaane Surey Tarunne On ATN Bangla at 1:30pm Musical Programme Host: Anuja Chando



Grey's Anatomy On Star World at 10:30pm Drama Cast: Sandra Oh, Patrick Dempsey, Ellen Pompeo

- 04:25 Joyitar Joyjatra
- 05:10 Din Dorpon/Itihasher Ei Diney
- 05:20 Apnar Jigyasha
- 06:20 Shubho Shondhya
- 06:50 Ki Kottha Tahar Sathey
- 08:25 Siddiqi Kabir's Recipe
- 09:10 Musical Programme: Kichhu Kottha Kichhu Gaan
- 09:50 Drama Serial: Amader Anadobari
- 11:25 Din Dorpon
- 11:25 Rtv Exclusive
- 09:30 Talk Show: Ei mon
- 10:30 Char Deyal

### SONY

- 09:30 Chartbusters Music
- 10:00 Music Mantra Music
- 10:30 Music Beats Music
- 11:00 Boogie Woogie Dance
- 12:00 Kaajjal - Sabkhi
- 12:30 Ek Ladki Anjaani Si Drama
- 01:00 Thodi Khushi Thode Gham Drama
- 01:30 Vaidehi Drama
- 02:00 Risshton Ki Dor Drama
- 02:30 Bigg Boss Reality Based
- 03:00 Maitnee - Aag Movie

### 07:00

- Music Mantra Music
- 07:30 Chartbusters Music
- 08:00 Thodi Khushi Thode Gham Drama
- 08:30 Kaajjal - Sabkhi
- 08:30 Ankhon Mein Basi Drama
- 09:00 Ek Ladki Anjaani Si Drama
- 09:30 Aisa Des Hai Mera Drama
- 10:00 Thodi Khushi Thode Gham Drama
- 10:30 Bigg Boss Reality Based
- 11:00 Vaidehi Drama
- 11:30 CID Thriller/ Horror

### STAR PLUS

- 09:30 Kunkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
- 10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
- 10:30 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
- 11:30 Okaram Apnaa Apnaa
- 12:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
- 12:30 Resham Dankh
- 01:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay
- 01:30 Kunkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
- 02:00 Bhabhi
- 02:30 Kesar
- 03:00 Saarthi
- 03:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
- 04:00 Kahiin To Hoga
- 04:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
- 05:00 Prithviraj Chauhan
- 05:30 Antarkish
- 06:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
- 06:30 Aladdin
- 07:00 Timon And Pumbaa
- 07:30 Sonpari
- 08:00 Karishma Ka Karishma
- 08:30 Antarkish
- 09:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay
- 09:30 Viraasat
- 10:00 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
- 10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
- 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
- 11:30 Kahiin To Hoga
- 12:00 Paraya Dhan

### HBO

- 09:45 The River Wild
- 12:00 he Secret of My Success
- 02:45 Around the Bend

### 04:00

- Ride or Die
- 05:45 A Simple Wish
- 07:30 Kull the Conqueror
- 09:30 The Perfect Man
- 11:30 Deadwood 17: Complications
- 12:45 The Interpreter
- 03:15 Beastmaster III: The Eye of Braxus

### STAR MOVIES

- 09:30 Diamonds Are Forever
- 11:30 Enemy Of The State
- 01:45 Commando
- 03:15 Dude, Where's My Car?
- 04:40 Opening Night
- 05:10 Goldfinger
- 07:00 Live And Let Die
- 09:05 Robots
- 10:45 Goldfinger

### STAR WORLD

- 09:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show
- 10:30 Commander In Chief
- 11:30 One Tree Hill
- 12:30 Ghost Whisperer
- 01:30 Knight Rider
- 02:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
- 03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 04:30 General Hospital
- 05:30 Desire: Table For Three
- 06:30 The Simpsons
- 07:00 Cheers
- 07:30 Friends
- 08:00 Seinfeld
- 09:30 Celebrity Daredevil!
- 10:30 Grey's Anatomy
- 11:30 Desire: Table For

### Three

- NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**
- 09:30 NG Investigates
- Terrorism
- 10:30 Untamed
- 11:30 Naked Science
- 12:30 Is It Real?
- 01:30 Crime Night
- 02:30 Untamed
- 03:00 Nat Geo Encores
- 03:30 NG Investigates
- Terrorism
- 04:30 Nat Geo Junior
- 07:30 Wild Giants of Denali
- 08:30 No Borders
- 10:30 NG Investigates
- Terrorism
- 11:30 Hunter Hunted S2

### DISCOVERY CHANNEL

- 09:30 Honey We're Killing The Kids
- 10:30 Bringing Home Baby
- 11:00 Runway Moms
- 11:30 Deadliest Catch
- 12:30 Body Basics
- 01:30 Attenborough Special
- 02:30 New Detectives
- 04:30 Wild Discovery
- 05:30 Science Frontiers
- 06:30 Junkyard Wars
- 08:30 Deadliest Catch
- 09:30 I Shouldn't Be Alive
- 10:30 One Step Beyond
- 11:00 How Do They Do It?
- 11:30 Perfect Disaster