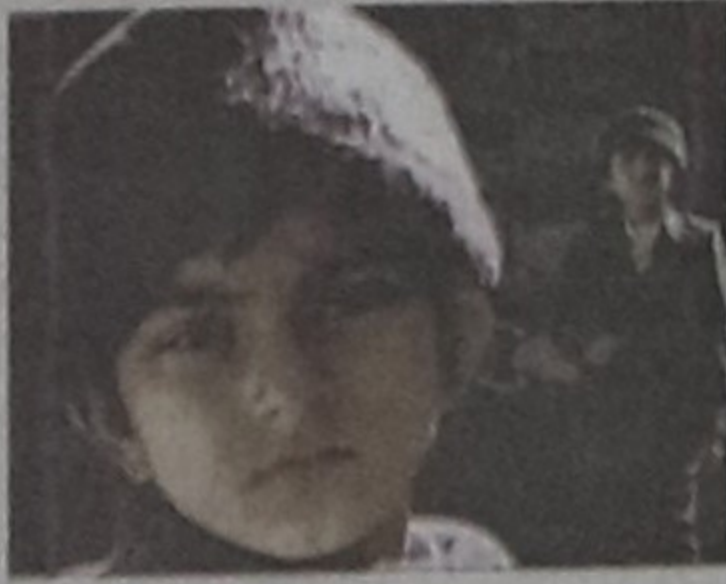


WHAT'S
ON THIS
WEEK

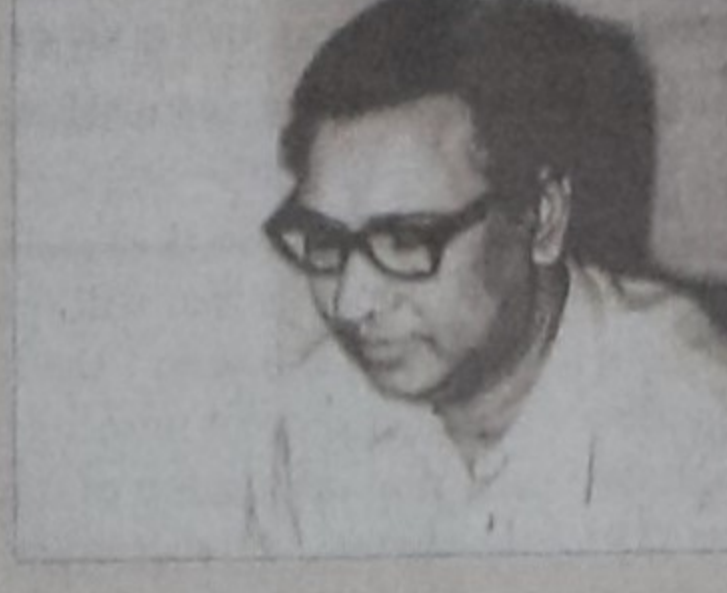
Film Screening

Films from Salyait Ray and Minral Sen
Venue: Alamgir Kabir Chalachitra Kendra, 62, Science Laboratory Road
Date: May 16-17
May 16
 11am Shonar Kella
 05pm Bhuvan Shom
 07pm Akaler Shandhaney



Film Screening

Film: Tajuddin Ahmed: An Unsung Hero
Director: Tanvir Mokammel
Venue: Bangladesh Film Centre, 162 (4th floor), Lake Circus, Kalabagan
Date: May 16, 17
Time: 3pm, 5pm, 7pm



Art Exhibition

Title: Symphony In Drawing
Artist: Ranjit Das
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H 26, R 3, Dhanmondi
Date: May 14-28
Time: 10am-1pm and 5pm-8pm

Photo and
Cartoon Exhibition

On the 60th anniversary of the occupation of Palestine
Title: Sixty Years of Illegitimate Occupation, Sixty Years of Sacred Resistance
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, R 15A (new), Dhanmondi, Date: May 14-18, Time: 3pm-8pm



A musical campaign for microcredit that paid off



The artiste duo

KARIM WAHEED

A scarf uncovers a smiling face
 That tells the story of a changing place
 She knows no greater wonder
 than what she's seen
 She bears a heart of secrets from
 where she's been...

The song *Hear Me Now* -- by Norwegian vocalist Milla Sunde and British musician Tom Bevan -- narrates the success story of Monica Rani, one of the many rural women who have turned their lives around with help from Grameen Bank.

Sunde and Bevan also shot a music video (in 2006) in Mirzapur, Gazipur and other areas in Bangladesh where Grameen Bank has made a significant impact. An album featuring the song and the music video was released in Norway

and around 25,000 copies of the album have been sold so far. Proceeds from the sales along with donations accumulated US\$ 500,000, which went to Grameen Healthcare Services.

Dr Muhammad Yunus, founder of Grameen Bank and chairman of Grameen Healthcare Services, inaugurated the Grameen GC Eye Hospital in Bogra recently. He also unveiled a plan of Grameen Healthcare Services Ltd to set up a medical college hospital and research institute of international standard in Bangladesh to upgrade the healthcare services for the poor.

According to Dr Yunus, the eye hospital started its activities on November 1, last year with an aim to perform cataract surgery on 10,000 patients every year.

Sunde and Bevan's contribution has made a difference; the duo attended the Grameen GC

Eye Hospital opening.

Talking to *The Daily Star*, the artistes shared how the song and music video happened and their future plans.

Sunde is from the coastal town of Alesund, Norway and Bevan from Warwick, England. They met at a music school in Liverpool, which was jointly established by Sir Paul McCartney. After partnering to write a song, the duo have been busy working together ever since. They formed a musical group called "The Green Children". Apart from music, the artistes also share a passion for humanitarianism and they were looking for an outlet, which came in the form of microcredit.

"I read about Dr Yunus and microcredit and I wanted to do something for these people who are turning their lives around. We visited Bangladesh in January 2006 and met Dr. Yunus. We

discussed how we, as musicians, can make contributions and Dr. Yunus discussed lack of proper healthcare for the poor in rural Bangladesh," said Sunde.

"After writing and composing the song, we came back in July 2006 to shoot the music video," Bevan said.

"The experience was interesting. The villagers were very hospitable and overly curious. The whole process was minimalist, as we wanted to keep the production cost low," he added.

The artiste duo formed 'The Green Children Foundation' in association with Vidar Jorgensen. Jorgensen, from Massachusetts, US, is a supporter of microfinance in general and various Grameen related projects in particular. The foundation was registered in US. All contributions to the Grameen Healthcare Services were to be made through the foundation.

Dr Yunus launched The Green Children album in Norway after receiving his Nobel Prize. According to the Sunde and Bevan, this was a great opportunity and it provided the album the best publicity it could get.

"We released the album independently and the marketing was more like a word of mouth thing, as we wanted to contribute the most we could from the sales. We'd also like to thank the Norwegian public for supporting the cause," Bevan said.

On the band's future plans, Sunde informed that they are set to release an "updated version" of the album in UK and US in September 2008; they signed a contract with the record label, Universal Music in October 2007. The duo hopes that this will work as a campaign for Grameen and microcredit and generate interest among a wider audience.



Bevan (2nd from left) and Sunde meet Monica Rani (right)

NEW PERSPECTIVE

Mostafa Monwar's adaptation of "Shubha"

AUREEN AHSAN

Renowned artist Mostafa Monwar is well known for his uncanny ability to create magic with colours and puppets. As a director, he has enthralled the audience with TV adaptations of Tagore's *Mukto Dhara*, *Dak Ghar*, *Rokto Karobi* and *Streer Potro*.

Monwar's latest venture is an adaptation of Tagore's work as well. The project is *Shubha*, which has been adapted into a film and TV play before. The talented Monwar talked to *The Daily Star* recently about his latest venture and his admiration for Rabindranath Tagore.

Shubha, short for *Shubhashini* (meaning "articulate"), is the story of a young girl. Contrary to her name, she is hearing and speech impaired. The story explores her

journey and her intimacy with nature. The artist attributes his choice of the story to its practicality.

"The story of *Shubha* is very contemporary. Even today, the voice of a woman is often muted by the stronghold of the male-dominated society. Be it acid violence, rape, murder or any other form of abuse, the cry for help is lost amidst the chaotic contemporary world. *Shubha* is a reflection of this aspect of social life," Mostafa Monwar explained.

Although the story has already been adapted for TV and big screen, Monwar intends to present it with a whole new outlook. "Earlier, people mostly tried to portray the love angle of the story. Quite a few times, there have been distortions of the plot as well. I want to highlight the underlying connotation of the story, so that the audience is able to grasp the

social message of this heart-rending tale," the artist informed.

A great admirer of Tagore, Mostafa Monwar likes to read the bard's novels, short stories and poems in his free time. He feels that Tagore had contributed immensely to Bengali literature and culture. As an artist and TV play director, he believes both mediums of art have a profound relationship with the nature. According to him, any society, which works in harmony with nature, will definitely head towards prosperity.

Mostafa Monwar plans to start shooting for the play within a month. Although the cast has not yet been finalised, he said, "I like casting new actors when it comes to adaptations of Tagore's works. It is easier for me to acquire the kind of performance I want from them."



Mostafa Monwar in his studio

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

“Earlier, people mostly tried to portray the love angle of the story. Quite a few times, there have been distortions of the plot as well. I want to highlight the underlying connotation of the story, so that the audience is able to grasp the social message of this heart-rending tale”

Aamir's latest potshots at Shahrukh



Aamir Khan

Aamir Khan is at it again. After taking potshots at Amitabh Bachchan and his film *Black* late last year, this year it's Shahrukh Khan who is Aamir's punching bag. Just a few months back when Aamir was asked at an event what would he like to ask Shahrukh, he replied tongue-in-cheek, "I

would like to ask Shahrukh, how it feels to be No. 2." While Shahrukh did take it in the right spirit, there sure seems to be some serious rivalry between these two superstars.

Now the latest comes in the form of Aamir's blog where he talks about "Shahrukh licking his feet and asking for his attention." And before the reader might think that Aamir has lost it, the actor quickly clarifies that he is referring to a dog named Shahrukh in his Panchgani home. How many dogs have a name like Shahrukh, one wonders?

In Aamir's own words, "Shah Rukh is licking my feet and I am feeding him biscuits every now and then..."

The actor continues, "Now, before you jump to any conclusion let me add that Shahrukh is the name of our dog. And before you jump to any further conclusion let me also add that I had nothing to do with naming him. In fact Shahrukh is the dog of the caretakers of our house. When I bought this house it came with the caretakers and their dog! Apparently Shahrukh (the actor) was shooting for a commercial in this house a few years ago, and that very day the caretakers bought a pup, and decided to name him Shahrukh. What are the chances of me buying a house, which comes with a dog called Shahrukh!!!"

"Some of my friends claim that I bought the house just because of the dog. I would have to be a serious fan of Shahrukh to want to do that."

"American Idol" finale: Battle of the Davids



David Archuleta

A baby-faced high school student likened to an old-fashioned crooner and a scruffy bartender who sings alternative rock will compete in next week's season finale of *American Idol*.

Guitar-playing rocker David Cook, 25, and 17-year-old piano balladeer David Archuleta beat out the final female contestant, Syesha Mercado, 21, after voting was revealed on Wednesday's broadcast of the most popular U.S. television show.

"After 56 million votes, America has decided that the two people going head-to-head in our finale next week are David Archuleta and ... David Cook," the show's host Ryan Seacrest said during the live broadcast, sending Mercado home.



David Cook

Throughout the seventh season, the two Davids have been favourites among the show's judges and pundits, while Mercado came close to elimination on several occasions.

More than once, judges suggested she was more likely to make it big singing on Broadway than as a pop star. Still, her performances impressed them increasingly in recent weeks until Tuesday, when they said she struggled.

Her rendition of Peggy Lee's *Fever* on Tuesday was dubbed by no nonsense *Idol* judge Simon Cowell as "a lame cabaret performance."

"I just want to say thank you" before singing on *Idol* for the last time -- performing the Alicia Keys hit *If I Ain't Got You*.

This year has seen the second straight season of declining ratings for the show, which airs on News Corp's Fox network.

Last week 21.8 million people watched Tuesday's episode, the lowest Tuesday audience in over five years, and 22.9 million people tuned in for Wednesday's vote, the worst Wednesday audience in three years, data from Nielsen Media Research showed. Last year the show routinely topped 30 million viewers.

But by some measures it could claim to be more popular than politics. During last year's season finale 74 million votes were cast -- 12 million more than the 62 million votes cast for President George W. Bush when he was re-elected in 2004.

Unlike in presidential elections, fans of *American Idol* are allowed to vote multiple times, and some do dozens of times.

American Idol pits singers against one another in a months-long competition that awards a recording contract to the winner. Past winners such as Kelly Clarkson and Carrie Underwood have gone on to music stardom.

Source: Reuters

New Arrival

Z a f r e e n

SHOPNODANA

স্বপ্নডানা

এখন পাওয়া যাচ্ছে আপনার কাছের মিডিকাল স্টোরে....

DIGITAL FACTORY

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