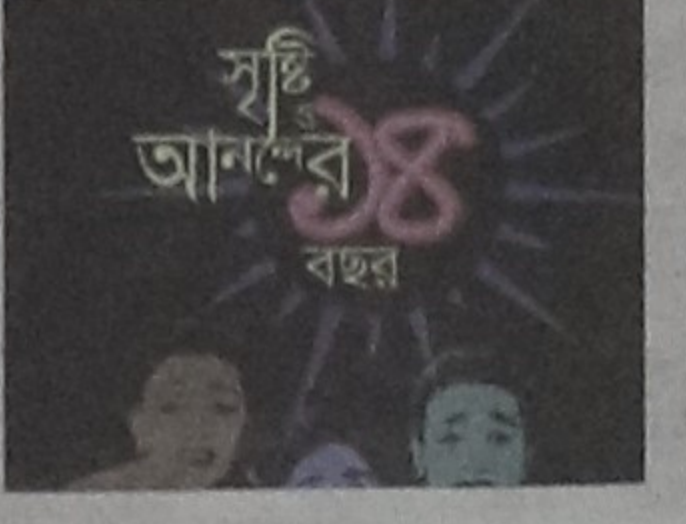


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Shamhilaan
 Organiser: Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Shamhilaan Parishad
 Venue: Shaikat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbag
 Date: March 20-22
 Time: 9:30 am onwards



National Pantomime Festival '09
 Organiser: Pantomime Movement
 Venue: Theatre Institute, Chittagong
 Date: March 20-22
 Time: 4pm everyday



Installation
 Title: Kagojar Chhayay
 Artists: Wakilur Rahman and Dhali Al Mamun
 Organiser: The Daily Prothom Alo
 Venue: Nalinkanto Bhattashah Gallery, National Museum
 Date: March 20-30



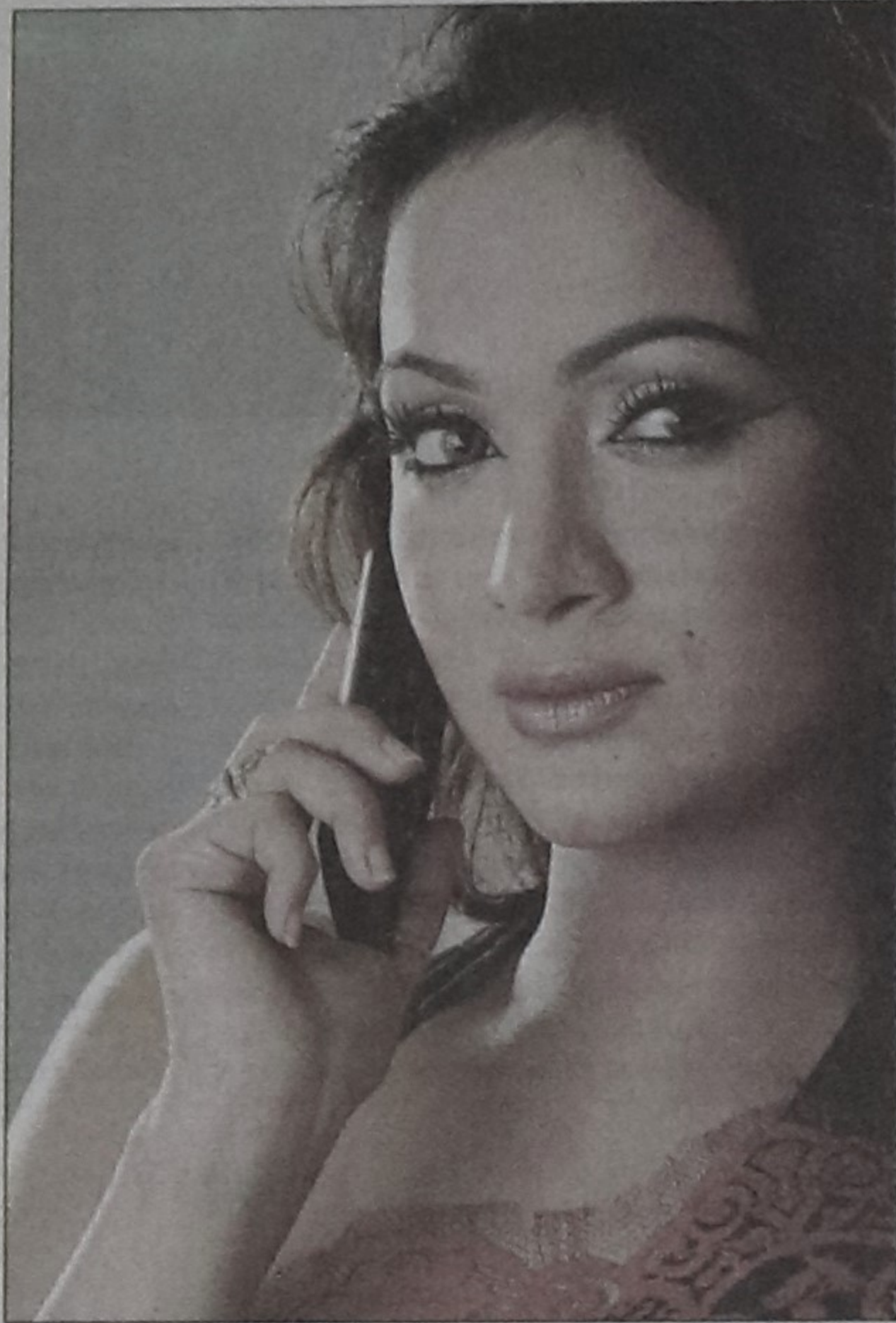
Francophone Film Festival
 Organiser: AFD, Zahir Raihan Film Society
 Venue: Auditorium, AFD, Rd 3 Dhanmondi
 Date: March 16-24
 Time: 5pm onwards
 Today: Asterix at the Olympic Games, Neutral, In Women's Love



Bindu: An ingénue with much potential

Cultural Correspondent

Starting her journey on the glamour-laden track to stardom through Lux-Channel i Superstar 2006 -- where she secured the first runners up position, Afsana Ara Bindu has won the hearts of many within a brief period. After making a breakthrough, as a model and an actress on both big and small screen, Bindu has decided to concentrate on the silver screen. The ingénue is poised to emerge as a professional actress in Dhallywood movies.



"Even when I was accidentally hit by one of the stuntmen, I continued shooting"

Bindu has signed on for the feature film "Peeriter Dokandari." However, this is not her first venture in films; her previous films being "Daruchini Dwip" (2007), and "Jaago," which is yet to be released. This vivacious, young actress recently divulged her ongoing projects and views with the Daily Star.

"I don't want to be termed a 'glamour queen' or be in a film for ornament

tal purposes. In the west and even in our neighbouring India, many women-centric films are being made. My role in the film "Peeriter Dokandari" seems satisfying to me. I play an urban girl in the film and I've been given ample opportunities to demonstrate my acting abilities," Bindu said.

Bindu even shot the fighting sequences for the film, which included flying kicks, summersault and more. "I didn't know that I'd have to shoot action scenes in the film. I had no previous experience regarding action scenes and I had to work hard. Armaan, the action director, was very supportive," said the actress. She got hurt during shooting one of these scenes, but nothing dampened the enthusiasm of this energetic, fun-loving girl.

"Even when I was accidentally hit by one of the stuntmen, I continued shooting. There were times when my hands and shoulder were sore. But I didn't

miss shooting. This film means a lot to me; it's an opportunity to prove my mettle. If the audience thinks I'm worthy, I'll devote myself completely to this media," Bindu said.

Surprisingly, this young actress didn't even know that she had been registered for the "Lux Channel i Superstar" competition. "Contrary to the situation where family members usually do not approve of a girl to work in the media, my mother registered me without letting me know. I never imagined I'd be working in the media but now that I'm here, I'm ready to give it my best shot," Bindu said determinedly.

Bindu is looking forward to the release of the film "Jaago." "I have a lot of expectations from this film. This is the first Bangladeshi film on football and this film has taught me a lot," says Bindu. However, she won't say goodbye to her modelling career or the small screen soon.

"Reflection": Breaking the silence

Documentary on MSM and transgender community

Cultural Correspondent

Organised by Bandhu Social Welfare Society (BSWS), a special screening of "Reflection" -- a documentary on MSM (men having sex with men) and transgender individuals exposed to the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS -- was held at the German Cultural Centre on March 17. Directed by Anisul Islam Hero, Chairperson of BSWS and also a noted dancer, the documentary has been produced with the support of UNAIDS Bangladesh. Socially stigmatised and isolated from the mainstream, these two communities are among the most marginalised ones -- extremely vulnerable to several sexually transmitted diseases.

Fritz Meijnder, deputy head of Mission, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, was the chief guest. Noted cultural personality Sara Zaker, director, Asiatic Centre and Tapan Saha from UNAIDS Bangladesh were special guests. Saleh Ahmed, CEO of BSWS, welcomed the audience. Anisul Rahman Hero briefly informed the audience about his film prior to the screening.

"Through my involvement with BSWS, an organisation which has been working since 1996 to improve the lives and health of the male sex workers and transgender community, I had an opportunity to get an

insight into their lifestyle. Because of their lifestyle, they are at extreme risk of contracting various STDs, especially HIV/AIDS.

What is more alarming is that most people of the MSM and transgender communities do not have minimum access to sexual healthcare. The documentary addresses these issues to ensure basic human rights for these people living on the fringes of society," noted Hero.

Tapan Saha said, "In a socio-cultural context where it is difficult to talk about sexuality in general, it is quite natural that we tend to ignore the very existence of the MSM community. But denying their existence will only worsen the situation. If we are to prevent further HIV infections, we should work together to break this silence."

As a dance artiste, Hero uses the medium to communicate to people on the issue. Along with his fellow dancers and students, Hero performs for the MSM and transgender communities to generate awareness. The documentary features glimpses of the lives, struggles and discrimination faced by these socially stigmatised people as well as BSWS's activities in this field.

Mustafiz Shahin is the creative director of this 25-minute documentary. Bappa Majumdar has done the music for the film.

Priyanka Chopra to receive the Nielsen Box Office Award

Twenty-five-year-old Indian cinema sensation and former Miss World, Priyanka Chopra will receive the Nielsen Box Office Award. The award, which is given for outstanding contribution to Asian cinema, will be presented to Priyanka by The Hollywood Reporter during the 3rd Annual Asian Film Awards on March 23.

The Asian Film Awards, which recognises professionals for outstanding achievements in the field of Asian cinema, will be held as part of the 33rd Hong Kong International Film Festival at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

"Priyanka Chopra has received numerous awards and accolades for her outstanding work since she began acting just a few years ago," said Eric Mika, publisher of the Hollywood Reporter and Vice President, Nielsen Media and Entertainment Group. "It is truly amazing to acknowledge the breadth of her success, and we are honoured to bestow the Nielsen Box Office Award on one who has done so incredibly much in so little time."

Priyanka made her acting debut in



Priyanka Chopra

the Hindi film industry, also known as 'Bollywood,' with the 2002 film "Andaaz" -- A role that immediately won over critics and earned her a "Best Female Debut" award (2003) from India's most respected film

awards, Filmfare. With no friends or mentors in the film industry, Priyanka, who is not afraid to experiment, followed her debut success with an unconventional part in "Aitraaz." The offbeat, negative role

garnered her widespread approval and won Chopra "Best Female Villain" at the 2004 Filmfare Awards.

In 2008, the young talent appeared in six back-to-back releases. Priyanka set screens ablaze with her performances in two of Bollywood's biggest hits of 2008, "Dostana" and "Fashion." Each of these films saw the actress in roles, which broke from traditional norms of Hindi cinema including her starring turn in "Fashion," which recently won her Filmfare's "Best Actress Award."

Priyanka is the second recipient to receive the Nielsen Box Office Award. She joins Andy Lau, who received the inaugural award at the 2007 ceremony. Now in its third year, the Asian Film Awards will be recorded in front of a live audience on March 23 and will be aired on Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) to 30 million people in over 30 countries, and on Star World to more than 79 million homes around the world.

Source: Nielsen

Finale of "Style Icon" on ATN Bangla tonight



Cultural Correspondent

The grand finale of recently ended beauty pageant "Style Icon '08" will be aired tonight at 8pm on ATN Bangla. The finale was held at Fantasy Kingdom on March 13 and was supposed to be aired live on ATN Bangla.

The much-coveted crown went to Sadya Afreen Pinki, from Khunla, a second year student of the Department of Theatre and Music,

University of Dhaka. Rezwana Chowdhury Jhinuk became first runner up and Maliha Mushtaq was crowned the second runner up.

At the programme, the audience were entertained by noted and upcoming artistes -- Fahmida Nabi, SI Tutul, Kaniz Shubarna, Milon Mahmud, Hassan, Rajib, Cynthia, Topu, Hridoy Khan and Dipto -- between the performances. Dance performances were staged by Eagle Dance Troupe and choreographed by Tanzin.

Chow Yun-Fat to star as Confucius

Hong Kong actor Chow Yun-Fat is to star as revered philosopher Confucius in a HKD \$22 million biopic backed by the Chinese government.

Best known for his gangster role as a flying kung fu master in "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," Chow will swap his trademark trench coat for scholarly robes in the movie.

The film will be a joint production between Beijing-based Dadi Cinema and the state-run China Film Group, a Dadi Cinema official told Associated Press.

Filming is due to begin in three weeks. A release date has yet to be announced.

The movie comes amid a surge in interest in the philosopher, who was practically outlawed during China's Cultural Revolution of the 1960s.

Mao Zedong and his followers criticised him, calling him feudal, old-fashioned and part of the bourgeois hierarchical

thinking of the past. Enforcers known as "red guards" descended on Confucius's family home, grave and a temple in his hometown of



Qufu, where they destroyed about 6,600 relics.

But as China's recent economic boom put stress on the country's Marxist ideologies, officials began to promote Confucian virtues as a way of addressing the gap between

the rich and poor. The philosopher lived in about 500BC, and served as an adviser during the Zhou Dynasty.

At a time when China was gripped with chaos and crime, he produced a moral system as a basis to run society, life and government. His teachings transformed the country, serving as a model for Chinese dynasties, and also had an influence in other parts of east Asia.

Later emperors glorified the philosopher, and helped construct a huge temple and mansion in his honour.

Chow Yun-Fat's biggest-profile hit in the international cinema circuit was Ang Lee's martial arts epic "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

He will next be seen in "Dragonball Evolution," a live-action adaptation of the successful anime series, which premieres in April.

Source: BBC

Amy Winehouse pleads not guilty to assault

On March 17, Amy Winehouse pleaded not guilty to assaulting a fan at a show last September. The singer, wearing her signature beehive, showed up slightly late to the court appearance, but her lawyer apologised for it.

When Winehouse arrived at the City of Westminster Magistrates' Court, she gave her name as Amy Jade Civil -- despite reports of her impending divorce from husband Blake Fielder-Civil. After pleading not guilty, she was released on unconditional bail and ordered to

attend a new hearing on July 23.

The charge stemmed from a September 26 incident, when Winehouse allegedly hit dancer Sherene Flash in the eye after the woman asked to take a picture with the Grammy-winning "Rehab" singer.

Last week, Winehouse cancelled her appearance at the Coachella festival in April due to her ongoing legal problems, which would make it difficult for Winehouse to obtain a U.S. visa.

Winehouse, who has struggled with drug prob-

lems and health issues, has reportedly written some songs for a follow-up to her Grammy-winning breakthrough 2006 "Back to Black" album, but no release date for her third album has been announced. Due to her personal struggles, Winehouse was forced to pull out of a scheduled 2007 U.S. tour. Last year, she faced a similar problem when she was prevented from attending the Grammy Awards.

Source: Internet

