

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Dhaka Int'l Film Festival**  
 Organiser: Rainbow Film Society  
 Venue: National Museum & Central Public Library premises  
 Date: January 14-22  
 Time: 10:30am onwards



**Theatre**  
 Play: Punarjanmo  
 Troupe: Prachyanato  
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
 Date: January 24  
 Time: 6:30pm



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Staring Women  
 Artist: Nazia Andaleeb Preema  
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi  
 Date: January 15-26  
 Time: 12pm-8pm



**Solo Drawing Exhibition**  
 Title: The Surge of Emotion  
 Artist: Shahabuddin  
 Venue: Saju Art Gallery, F/40-41, North Super Market, 2nd Circle, Gulshan  
 Date: January 4-19  
 Time: 10am-8pm



## Tête-à-tête

# Riaz and Tina: A perfect match on and off screen

NUSRAT JAHAN PRITOM

Riaz and Tina first worked together in the dance show "Goalini Binodon Bichitra". Subsequently they appeared as anchors on the musical talent hunt "Shah Cement Nirman Taroka". On screen they are a star couple, but what about off screen? The Daily Star explores the conjugal lives of the two.

Everyone knew Riaz as a "hero" of the big screen. So did Tina. Back then Tina was a model, anchor as well as a connoisseur of classical dance. Tina was the first to come across him at a restaurant. The first time Riaz saw Tina was three years back, at his friend's office in Dhanmondi where they were discussing an upcoming dance show ("Goalini Binodon Bichitra"). In Riaz's words, "There was this girl, really childish and carefree. And I noticed her in the crowd. Later, my friend told me that she would be dancing with me on the show."

After that the two met many times and spent hours talking over the phone. And over the years they gradually discovered the special connection between them.

On December 18, 2007 they tied the knot.

Although Riaz is a celebrated actor, most of his fans are unaware that he began his



**"There was this girl, really childish and carefree. And I noticed her in the crowd"**

career as a pilot. At the moment he is also an entrepreneur. Presently he is occupied with his business concern, which is promoting a new product. "Within a year, I hope to settle down in my

business. After that I am thinking about returning to my acting career. That may happen in late 2010, or early 2010. Let's wait and see," says Riaz.

Tina was more into hosting

shows since she was a child. In fact the first show she anchored was a cartoon show: "Mon Cherry Tom and Jerry". She has been modelling for around seven/eight years. She also teaches at BAFA in Uttara.

When she is not busy, Tina visits Riaz at work. "Those are times when I can put a stop to my monotonous office work. She would come and use the computer to play Farmville or something, and I would just pack everything and watch her," says Riaz.

How do you plan special days? "We don't plan ahead," Riaz says. "We love to go on vacations, attend parties, or movies; at times we just stay in, or go out to have ice-cream." In a lighter vein, he adds, "At dead of night, sometime around 3am, Tina suddenly felt like having ice-cream. Now what could be done as all the shops were closed? Well, we took the car and set out in search of ice-cream. Not one ice-cream shop was open in sight. Later we went to the airport. That was a relief since they had ice-cream at the airport. The problem was that we had to buy tickets to get in. One of the people recognised me and helped us get some ice-cream."

"These impulsive moments keep the relationship interesting," says a smiling Tina.

# Oscar race begins at Golden Globes



Martin Scorsese, center, pictured with Robert De Niro and Leonardo DiCaprio, was given the Cecil B. DeMille Award.



Sandra Bullock won the award for best actress in a drama for "The Blind Side."

A rain-drenched Hollywood paused in its efforts to raise money for Haitian earthquake victims on Sunday long enough to focus on the Golden Globes, perhaps the most frivolous of the high-profile stops on the entertainment industry's awards trail. The big winner was James Cameron's "Avatar", which came away with awards for best dramatic picture and best director.

As usual, the 67th annual Golden Globe Awards -- decided by the fewer than 90 members of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association -- spread the love around, with no one television series or film dominating. "The Hangover", about a Las Vegas bachelor's party gone terribly wrong, won best motion picture comedy or musical, while Sandra Bullock, receiving a boost heading into Oscar nominations, won for her acting in the sports drama "The Blind Side." "Glee", about a lovable group of teenage losers, won best TV comedy.

Several high-profile Oscar pictures were shut out or virtually ignored, including "Up in the Air," which led the nominations with six heading into the night. It won only for screenwriting -- a disappointment judging from the subsequent sour looks on the face of Jason Reitman, who directed the picture. Another awards darling, "The Hurt Locker," walked away empty handed, as did the musical "Nine."

Meryl Streep, competing against herself in the category of best comedy

or musical, won for playing an indomitable Julia Child in "Julie & Julia." Accepting the award, Streep struck a humble tone, saying that she has "played so many extraordinary women that I'm getting mistaken for one." She said she was conflicted about putting on her "happy movie self" in the face of darker events unfolding in the world.

Jeff Bridges took the award for best actor in a drama for his role as a washed-up country singer in "Crazy Heart," while Robert Downey Jr. won best actor in a comedy for "Sherlock Holmes."

The ceremony kicked off with Mo'Nique collecting the trophy for best supporting actress in a drama for her monster of a mother in the tough urban drama "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire." "I am in the midst of my dream," said Mo'Nique, considered a lock for the award going into the ceremony.

Best animated feature film went to Pixar's "Up," which also won for its score.

A sizable presence at the awards ceremony was James Cameron, the silver-haired filmmaker of "Avatar," a science fiction epic. Although his 3-D blockbuster, which neared \$500 million at the North American box office over the weekend, had just four nominations -- and none in the acting categories, as its impact owed more to its visual wizardry -- Cameron was a centre of attention in the ballroom, partly because his front-and-center table included

California's governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, whose acting career took off with his performance as a cyborg in Cameron's "Terminator" films.

Picking up his trophy for best director, Cameron struck a demure note. "Frankly, I thought Kathryn was going to get this," he said, referring to his ex-wife, Kathryn Bigelow, a directing nominee for "The Hurt Locker."

Days before the show, Hollywood's celebrities, not unaware of the contrast between its glitter and the suffering around the world, had begun pushing an effort to relieve Haitian earthquake victims with a telethon scheduled for broadcast on about a dozen networks on January 22.

About 15 million people watched the telecast last year, a big improvement from 2008, when the gala was replaced by a glorified news conference because of a writers' strike and only six million tuned in. But the audience for last year's show was still down sharply from 2007, when over 20 million watched.

Because the Globes are awarded while Academy Awards voters still have their nominating ballots in hand, they exert considerable gravitational pull over the Oscar process. The best picture Oscar has mirrored the association's choice for best drama or best comedy-musical in 15 of the last 22 years.

Source: The New York Times

# National 'pitha' festival from January 21

A CORRESPONDENT

The third 'Jatiyo Pitha Utshab' (National Rice Cake Festival) will start from January 21 at the Bangladesh Shilpakala

Academy (BSA) premises. Organised by Jatiyo Pitha Utshab Udjapan Committee, the weeklong festival will have over 30 stalls offering various kinds of traditional rice cakes that are made in this season [winter] across the country.

Everyday, the festival will be open from 3 to 10pm. The festival will also hold a competition as well, where six best entries will be awarded. Amongst the six, the jury will select three, while fair-goers will select the rest.

Apart from the 'pitha' exhibition, cultural programmes featuring music, dance, recitation and narratives will be held everyday at the venue.

At a press conference held yesterday at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity, the organisers talked about the festival. Presided over by theatre personality and convenor of the festival committee, Jhuna Chowdhury, the conference was moderated by member secretary Khandakar Shah Alam. Among others, theatre personalities Nasiruddin Yousuff, Ataur Rahman and vice president of Shammilita Shangkritik Jote Golam Kuddus spoke at the press conference.

The festival has been held since 2008 at the Coffee Shop premises inside BSA. Last year the festival was held for nine days.



# How telethons help: Haiti will be George Clooney's third

In response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti that has killed up to tens of thousands of people, George Clooney and MTV Networks are organising a megawatt line up of musicians, film and television stars for a global telethon looking to be successful in raising funds as previous disaster telethons have in the past.

"He's been on the phone for three days straight with almost no sleep," Clooney's rep told PEOPLE when he skipped the Critics' Choice Awards Friday in order to prepare for the Haiti telethon. "George knows how to do this well. It's his third one." The "Up in the Air" actor and humanitarian was involved in organising both the September 11 and the South Asia tsunami telethons.

With specific details still being worked out, the two-hour telethon, airing January 22, will be similar to past disaster events featuring musical performances and an all-star ensemble of Hollywood celebrities offering viewers the opportunity to pledge money.

Just how helpful are the celebrity telethons? Here's a look:

## South Asia Tsunami

Hollywood joined forces in an effort to collect money for the Red Cross after a tsunami ripped through South Asia immediately following a December 26, 2004, quake that devastated Indonesia, Thailand and other neighbouring countries.

NBC's "A Concert of Hope" telethon

aired on January 15, 2005 and featured performances by Madonna, John Mayer, Sheryl Crow, Christina Aguilera and others.

NBC carried the two-hour telethon and ran it on six other NBC Universal-owned channels. The concert was seen at least in part by some 19.5 million total viewers.

In addition to the musical acts on the show, Clooney, Brad Pitt, Johnny Depp, Leonardo DiCaprio and Halle Berry joined a team of celebrities who answered phones, taking pledges from viewers. The tsunami relief telethon raised \$18.3 million for the American Red Cross International Response Fund.

Source: CNN

# Indian hockey players get support from film stars

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

If you thought Bollywood superstars have a fascination for cricket, the most popular game in South Asia, think again.

When the Indian hockey players were locked recently in a standoff with the game's management over pay, there was an outpour of solidarity for the players from Bollywood celebrities like Shah Rukh Khan, Amitabh Bachchan, Aamir Khan and Salman Khan.

Not only that, the players have found support from across the border as Pakistani actress-singer Salma Agha said that she would croon across India to raise funds for them.

Shah Rukh, who played the role of hockey coach Kabir Khan in the 2007 super hit film "Chak de India" and had played the game in his college days, said in his Twitter that he was saddened by the current state of the sport in



Salma Agha has pledged support for the Indian hockey players.

India and rallied behind the players. Aamir too said that he has

extended full support to the hockey players demanding a better financial deal.

Amitabh Bachchan and Salman too had wanted the dispute between the players and the administrators of the game to end soon.

All the actors said Indian hockey players, paid much less compared to cricketers, deserve a better financial package.

The hockey players also found backing from Pakistani singer Salma Agha who visited them at their camp in the western Indian city of Pune and expressed her solidarity with them.

"I feel for the hockey players. I interacted with the players and have heard about their tough life. I will perform shows across the country to mobilise funds for them."

Flanked by the players at their camp, Agha showed her support also by singing her mega-popular number "Dil Ke Armaan Aansoon Mein Beh Gayen" from the film "Nikaah" [of the 1980s starring her and Raj Babbar]. Did her song echo the agony of the hockey players?