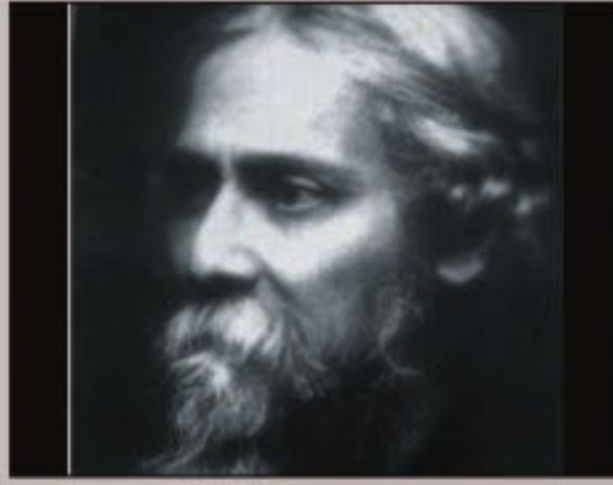


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Tagore's 150th Birth Anniversary
Organiser: Rabindra Academy
Venue: Natmondol, Dhaka University
Date: May 14
Time: 6pm



French Drama Festival

Organiser: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka and Natukay Theatre Group
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 15-21
Time: 5pm onward



Fatih Akin Retrospective

Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society
Venue: Auditorium, Goethe Institut, H-10, R-9 Dhanmondi
Date: May 16-17
Time: 3.30pm onwards



Memorial Programme

Organiser: Shawkat Osman Srity Sangshad
Venue: Liberation War Museum, Segun Bagicha
Date: May 14
Time: 5.30 pm



50th show of "Chhayanaut" in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 50th show of Nagarik Natya Sampraday's popular production "Chhayanaut" will be staged today at the Muslim Hall in Sylhet. The play will have two shows today. The first show (49th) will be at 4 pm and the second (50th) at 7 pm.

"Chhayanaut" is the 38th production of Nagarik. Written by the late Indian playwright-theatropian Utpal Dutta, the play is directed by Aly Zaker.

The play revolves around the 1950s' commercial film scenario in Kolkata. It zooms in on the ins and outs of the film industry, which has similarities with its Bangladeshi counterpart.

The cast includes Aly Zaker, Pantho Shariar, Rawnok Hasan, Tahmina Islam, Fokhruzzaman, Nazneen Naz, Nasirul Haque, AKAzad and Jhumu Majumdar.



Aly Zaker (right) and co-actors in a scene from the play.

Australia beckons Suborna

A CORRESPONDENT

Noted actress Suborna Mustafa has recently winged her way to Australia. Her husband, director Badrul Anam Saud is accompanying her. However, this has nothing to do with her shooting assignments. She is off to attend the wedding of her sister-in-law.

"This is an overdue vacation, which I hope to enjoy. Apart from joining in the wedding celebrations, we plan on sightseeing as well," said the actress. The vacation will spread over 15 days, she added.

On her return Suborna has a hectic schedule ahead with her ongoing serials. Her production house Sathkahon is presently producing "Shimanto", aired on Desh TV. Other than featuring in the main role for the serial, Suborna is also upbeat about the upcoming serial "Uposhonghar," in which she plays the central character. She will also be seen in a few one-hour TV plays, she says. TV play "Metro" in which she features as the protagonist is being aired on Desh TV from May 4.



63rd Cannes Film Festival

Should the French be angry about "Robin Hood"?



Russell Crowe and Cate Blanchett at the Cannes Film Festival on Wednesday. A scene from "Robin Hood".



Premiering Ridley Scott's "Robin Hood" at the Cannes Film Festival is a bit like premiering "Saving Private Ryan" at the Berlin Festival, or "Cocoon" on movie night at a nursing home -- a tough crowd.

In this revision of the myth, Robin's enemy isn't the Sheriff of Nottingham, or even, really, King John. It's the French (and the devious Englishman who aids them, played by Mark Strong). Sure, Robin speaks out against unjust taxation and the entitlement of the crown and all that, but in the end the guys he's shooting arrows at and killing? French people.

French audiences can't be too angry, though: "Robin Hood" and its stars, including Russell Crowe and Cate Blanchett (director Scott couldn't make it - doctor's orders as he recovers from surgery) are among the only representatives of traditional Hollywood spectacle at this 63rd Cannes Film Festival, dominated by non-English-language pictures. But

nonetheless, it's seems like bad manners.

"I think the English come off worse than the French!" quipped Blanchett at the press conference. Crowe added that the movie reminds French audiences that "Richard Lionheart, this grand English hero, was snuffed out by a crossbow bolt shot by a French cook, and that's why we're opening the Cannes Film Festival."

As traditionally portrayed, Robin is a hero the French could identify with. His belief in organised redistribution of wealth is something of a socialist fantasy, with "take from the rich and give to the poor" standing in for "from each according to his ability to each according to his need."

But the Robin Hood origin story told by Ridley Scott is more akin to a Tea Party fantasy, as has been suggested. Instead of leading the merry men against the Sheriff of Nottingham, living in what is in effect

an anarchist commune in the forest, Robin Hood passes himself off as noble and rallies the barons to force the overtaxing King John to draft a charter of personal liberties.

More attention was devoted to historical detail in Brian Helgeland's script than in other tellings. Visually, this works splendidly -- the costumes, sets, and lighting are marvellous, and the battle scenes are worth the money spent.

But for anyone interested in medieval studies, the historical-minded alterations of the myth are confusing. But, more important, the ballad of Robin Hood was never meant to be history. It was meant as an inspirational heroic parable. And that's what's missing here.

Source: Vanity Fair

Shreya Ghoshal to perform in Dhaka

Indian singer Shreya Ghoshal is to perform live in Dhaka. The concert is scheduled to be held on May 27 at the Bangabandhu International Convention Centre, according to a press release. Mirror Media & Productions Ltd is the organiser of the event.

While Ghoshal is best known for being a playback singer in Bollywood films, she also sings in Bengali, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu.

Her Bollywood playback singing career began with "Devdas", for which she received both the Filmfare Award for Best Female Playback Singer and the Filmfare RD Burman Award for New Music Talent. She also won a National Film Award for the song "Bairi Piya" (from "Devdas"). Since then, she has worked in over 140 films. She is only singer to get four Indian National Awards under the age of 26 in the Hindi film industry.

A share of the proceeds from the concert will be donated to the Prime Minister's relief fund, informed the organisers.



Harmony in action

Getting to know Shamogeet

JAMIL MAHMUD

Musical troupe Shamogeet started its journey in 2002 in Narayanganj. Amal Akash, former student of the Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University and friends formed the troupe. Though it initiated in Narayanganj, now the main activities of the troupe is centred in Dhaka. The troupe recently released its debut album "Haowa". Amal Akash and Arko, who did the music arrangement, talked to The Daily Star about the troupe's initiation, their debut album and their ideology.

Although Shamogeet is a musical troupe, it's involved with creative writing as well. The troupe publishes 'Onkar', a quarterly literary magazine. It also runs a children's organisation called 'Ganga Foring'.

Other members of the troupe are Musa Mukul, Bithi Ghosh, Rebeka Neela, Roksana Amin, Anik Alam Shuvo, Anjan and Biswajit Shohag.

About forming Shamogeet, Amal Akash said that the members share common socio-political views. Since its launch, Shamogeet has been

actively involved with several cultural movements. The troupe regularly performs in and outside Dhaka.

During a programme at Jahangirnagar University, they met Arko. After Arko and Anjan joined, the troupe started contemplating releasing an album, as the crew wanted to record their songs and share their musical ideologies with a

wider audience.

Arko said, "Before joining Shamogeet, I went over some of the group's songs. The lyrics deeply moved me, however, compositions were not that impressive. Anjan and I discussed the compositions with Amal bhai and we wanted to give them a fresh new sound. We've been planning this album since 2005."

Amal Akash composed and penned all nine songs on the album (produced under the banner of Bahirana Audio Visuals). The songs more or less narrate issues we all encounter every day. Amal said, "Songs on the album reflect familiar dilemmas regarding relationships. Songs such as 'Pother Poran', 'Ghum Bhangar Gaan', 'Ghurey Ghurey

Protidin' and 'Shokhi' are on inter-relationship crises."

"We don't want compromise on our ideology and perhaps, because of that, we had to face some hurdles when we wanted to release the album. Bahirana helped us a lot in this regard," said Arko.

Other songs on the album are "Haowa", "Roder Haat", "Othhocho Jarul Hashey", "Billboard" and "Jharnar Chhandey".

Amal informed that the troupe was initially inspired by the *gano sangeet* of Hemango Biswas and Salil Chowdhury. But in 2004, a programme in India changed their musical ideology. "We went to perform at an international event called Mumbai Resistance '04. At the show, we realised where we stand. The impressions from that show made a major impact on our stage performances," said Amal.

Most of the songs on the album are chorus, a trend that the troupe has maintained since its beginning.

"Chorus has a bigger significance to us; it denotes the harmony and understanding amongst the troupe," said Amal.



Shamogeet performs at the launch of their debut album "Haowa".

Helen Mirren meets her waxwork at Madame Tussauds

The likeness is so good that even sleuth DCI Jane Tennison would not know who is who.

Prime Suspect star Helen Mirren met her perfect match at Madame Tussauds on Wednesday. And the waxwork was so realistic that Helen's other half, Taylor Hackford, gave it a cheeky kiss.

Oscar-winner Helen, 64, later joked: "My husband wants to marry her. I'm much more argumentative than she is."

The £150,000 waxwork took 20 sculptors four months and was kitted-out in a stunning floor-length Asprey dress, which Dame Helen wore for the sitting before Christmas.

And the creation, in the A-list Party area of the London museum, clearly delighted Helen who said: "It's a great honour... like becoming a Dame."

Liz Edwards, from the museum said: "Dame Helen has frequently topped the visitor surveys of who the public want to see here."

Source: Internet

Keep your eyes on Channel I tonight at 11:30pm.