

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Theatre Festival 2010

Title: Srijonshil Tarunner Tatyapokash
Organiser: Department of Theatre, Dhaka University
Venue: Natmondol, DU
Date: August 11-18
Time: 7:30pm



Ethnic Jewellery Exhibition

Title: Aadi
Artist: Amman Rashid
Venue: Chondons, Rd 103, H 9, Gulshan-2
Date: August 20-21
Time: 10am-8pm



Film Screening

Film: "Angel-A"
Venue: Auditorium, Alliance Française De Dhaka, Dhanmondi
Date: August 20
Time: 6pm



Contemporary Norwegian Glass and Ceramics

Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, R-16, H-275F, Dhanmondi
Date: August 6-20
Time: 12pm-8pm



Those were the days

First person singular with Sharmili Ahmed

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

I was born on May 8, 1947, in my maternal village of Belur Chok in Murshidabad. I have a few memories of Rajshahi PN Girls High School, as it was my first school and I did my matriculation from there.

My paternal aunt held my hand when I first entered a classroom, while my father and uncle were waiting for me in the office. I felt no fear, as my mother had prepared me for my school days. According to her, school was a place to make friends, play and have tasty snacks. She even bought me a new dress, fed me sweets and put tasty snacks in my schoolbag on the first day of school.

I was very restless when I was little, with more male friends than female ones. Playing *hadudu*, *danguli* and marbles with the guys and stealing flowers with girls from the colony where we lived, were my favourite pastimes. Guavas were also on our list of things to steal. With the stolen flowers, we all would make garlands and put them on the classroom table. Seeing our efforts, our teacher always had a smile.

I was not an expert flower thief, as I was caught several times trying to steal roses and guavas. People always told of me to my mother, who would always say that no matter how small or large the prize was, stealing would remain stealing. While she was busy forbidding me to steal, I was busy forgetting her advice and preparing for my next adventure.

Hadudu and *Chhi Buri* were the most popular sports which we played in the school grounds. But the teachers would always tell us to stop disturbing the ongoing classes. So instead we would come indoors to start a new round of carom.

I was a movie fanatic when I was young. Watching films with friends at the Kolpona cinema hall, now named Utshob, was our favourite pastime. We watched Pakistani movies and never missed the chance to watch a movie starring Uttam-Suchitra. My family forbade me to do all these, as I was only a student of class nine, but to their dismay I would always drop my books at home just after school break, and run to the Kolpona hall. My grandma would joke about it and tell me to become a guard at the movie hall so that I could both earn a living and enjoy movies at the same time.

The biggest crisis of my childhood was during exams. The list of things-not-to-do during the



exam season included watching films, reading storybooks, listening to radio plays. But no restriction could stop me from turning down the volume to secretly listen to plays by Kolkata Radio.

Growing up in a joint family meant fun all around, with no scope for loneliness to creep in. Our uncles would buy us candies as we kids jumped all around the house.

I will never forget my visits to my maternal village in Murshidabad, where I used to go once every summer for two months. All my siblings would join my mother in the long journey, and the wait for summer to arrive would always seem like

eternity. We had to take a train from Rajshahi to Bahrapur, and then a car would take us all the way to Murshidabad. All my uncles and aunts would join us there, as the entire place turned into a large festival. All my cousins would run around the garden, collecting mangoes and playing games. Pithas were also made, which we ate all night. That joy was incomparable.

When we left Murshidabad, all our relatives would come forward to say parting words. They told us never to look back; but we always did and saw all of them crying, and broke into tears ourselves. I really wish to go back to those magical days.

Tagore death anniversary observed

"Dui Bihga Jomi" staged in Panchagarh

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, *Thakurgaon*

To mark the 69th death anniversary of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore a lyrical drama, "Dui Bihga Jomi" was staged on Tuesday evening at Panchagarh Government Auditorium in the town.

Deputy Commissioner Banamali Bhoumick adapted Tagore's famous poem "Dui Bihga Jomi" as a play, directed by Mizanur Rahman.

The cast included Prohalath Chandra Burman, Atom, Basher, Shahidul Islam, Nurul Huda, ATM Sarwar, Nurnabi, Rehena, Rana, Mitu, Dola, Shohag, Rabiul, Shantona, Rubina and Liza.

Rakhi Bhoumic and Mukul Akhter rendered songs. Shahidul Islam was the make-up artiste and Dhonesh, Brozen and Pores played the musical instruments.

Earlier a cultural programme was held at the same venue. The programme included Tagore songs, dances with music and recitation.

In the course of the programme a discussion was held, with Bhoumick in the chair.

The principal of Panchagarh Mokbuler Rahman College Professor Giasuddin attended as main discussant.

The speakers said Tagore enriched Bengali language and literature in the late 19th and early 20th centuries with his astounding talent.

Tagore, popularly known as Biswakobi, dominated the Bangla literary scene. Tagore contributed in all sectors in Bengali literature, including poetry, songs, novels and short stories.

He played a role as an educationist, social and religious reformer, which made him the most widely regarded literary figure in the subcontinent. Such functions help to promote the ideology and literary works of Rabindranath among the younger generation, they added.

District Shilpakala Academy and District Administration jointly organised the programmes.



A scene from the play.

PHOTO: STAR

Netting in gains

Aamir Khan's "Peepli Live"

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Style is the name of the game in almost everything Bollywood super star Aamir Khan does. And it wasn't different when he organised a special screening of "Peepli Live", the latest film produced by him, in Mumbai a few days ago.

The screening was followed by a dinner at Aamir's house where the highlight was the conversation in Bengali between Jaya and Aamir's wife Kiron Rao, says Jaya's 67-year-old inveterate husband Amitabh Bachchan in his blog.

Amitabh says Kiron, "speaks fluent Bengali, so Jaya and she had a ball--Aamir and me had the food."

The veteran actor liked "Peepli Live", a spoof on farmers' suicides in drought-hit villages of India, saying the film "is so real, so nostalgic and so superb" and was "impressed" by its debutant director Anushka Rizvi.

A galaxy of Bollywood stars

thronged the Bandra theatre, the venue of the screening, and the most talked about was the presence of another actor Khan--Salman--on the occasion.

Salman walked in with Sonakshi Sinha, his co-star in his latest Movie, "Dabangg". What made Salman's presence special is the fact that Aamir had skipped a recent do the former had hosted for his sister Alivira Agnihotri.

Aamir himself went up to the entrance of the theatre to receive Salman.

Another notable presence was that of India's cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar and his doctor-wife Anjali who are not usually seen in party circuit.

The tongues of Bollywood gossip-mongers were set wagging the moment actress Deepika Padukone stepped in for the screening along with young entrepreneur Siddharth Mallya, the latest most talked-about couple in Hindi film industry.

While Aamir, with his wife Kiron Rao, received the guests, the actor's ex-wife Reena Dutta also came to the



Aamir Khan

screening of the film along with her parents.

Among other stars present were Rani Mukherjee, Juhi Chawla, Kangna Ranaut, Omkar Das Manikpuri, the lead character of "Peepli Live", Atul Kulkarni and director Raju Hirani.

Another Bollywood filmmaker Karan Johar was effusive about the film. "Jus saw 'Peepli Live'.....an outstanding and alive slice of cinema, ironic, humorous, reflective and genius. Makes you think and rethink," says Johar in his blog.

The real good news--financially--for Aamir is that "Peepli Live", made at a cost of Rs 10 crore (including print and marketing) secured 90 to cent per cent advance booking in the first week of its release across 600 screens in India and 120 overseas (except Britain), according to Bollywood trade analysts.

The film's satellite rights were sold to Zee TV for an estimated Rs 10 crore and music rights to T-series company for Rs four crore.

Danny Boyle's "127 Hours" to close London film festival

Danny Boyle's "127 Hours" has been selected as the closing picture at this year's London film festival. Based on the ordeal of the American mountaineer Aron Ralston, "127 Hours" is Boyle's first film since "Slumdog Millionaire", which was first unveiled at the 2008 event. It was to prove an auspicious launch pad: "Slumdog Millionaire" went on to win eight Oscars and earn nearly \$380m at the global box office.

"I am honoured and delighted that '127 Hours' has been selected to close the BFI London film festival," Boyle said in a statement. [The LFF] played a vital role in the journey of 'Slumdog Millionaire' in 2008 and it's great to be bringing new work here and renewing a

happy partnership."

"127 Hours is based on Between a Rock and a Hard Place, Ralston's account of his ill-fated journey to Utah in April 2003. While climbing in the Blue John canyon in April 2003, his arm became trapped beneath a half-tonne boulder and the mountaineer survived for five days before cutting himself free with a blunt knife and a pair of pliers. Where Boyle's previous film was embraced as a jubilant, rags-to-riches drama, his latest looks set to provide more sobering fare. "It may not be pretty," Ralston said of his story. "But surviving is grit and determination in its highest form."

"Having closed the festival with Slumdog Millionaire in 2008, it is

unprecedented for us to choose a closing night film from the same director only two years later," admitted artistic director Sandra Hebron. "But 127 Hours was the obvious choice for us-- with film-making as bold and adventurous as its subject matter, it confirms Danny Boyle as one of the world's finest and most visionary directors."

The 54th BFI London film festival opens on 13 October with the world premiere of Never Let Me Go, starring Keira Knightley and Carey Mulligan. 127 Hours brings down the curtain on 28 October.

Source: Internet

Musical competition for children to begin

JASIM MAJUMDER, *Khagrachhari*

The first round of a musical competition for children (age 6 to 13 years), titled "Chhotoder Serakantha Pratijogita-2010" will begin at Ramgor Shilpakala Academy in Khagrachhari district from August 25.

Hill Star Musical Group, a leading cultural outfit of Khagrachhari, has organised the competition while UNDP-CHDF has financed the programme.

Kraneure Marma, president of Hill Star Musical Group, at a press briefing at its hill town office on Friday announced the schedule for the event.

Kraneure Marma said the initiative aims to select the best artistes from the grassroots level under eight upazilas in the district. As a part of the competition, the first round of the contest begins on August 25 from Ramgor upazila Shilpakala Academy while August 27 has been fixed to select Manikchhari upazila contestants, August 29 (Laxmichhari upazila), August 31 (Matiranga Upazila), September 2 (Mohalchhari upazila) contestants, September 4 (Panchhari

upazila), September 6 (Dighinala upazila) and September 8 (Sadar upazila).

A total of 80 contestants will be selected from all eight upazilas (the 10 best contestants will be chosen from each upazila) in the first round. The second round is scheduled to be held post Eid vacation in hill town

Khagrachhari.

Six senior artistes including Abul Kashem, Kajol Sarker, Jibon Roaza, Erina Chakma, Amalendu Majumder and Arun Sharma have been appointed as judges to select the first round of contestants.

More judges are to be selected for the second round.



At a press briefing, Kraneure Marma, president of Hill Star Musical Group, announced the schedule for the event.

PHOTO: STAR



A scene from the film "Peepli Live".