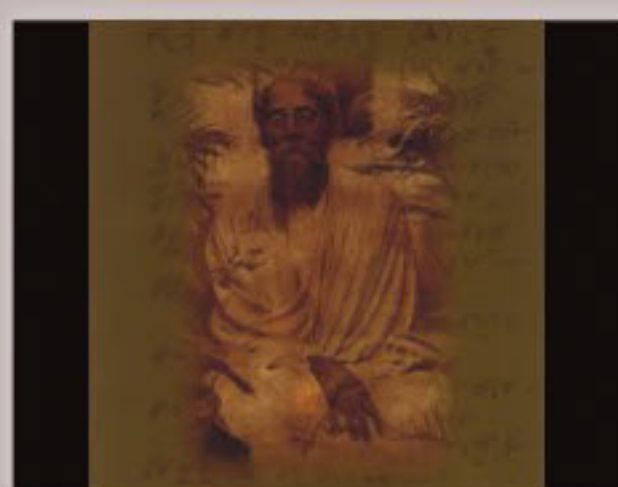
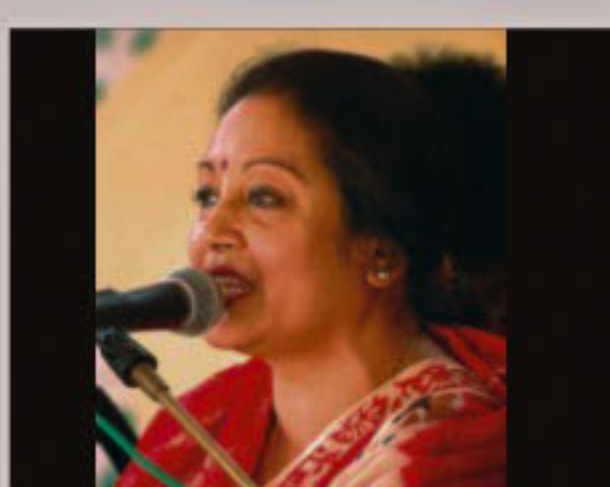


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Cultural Programme
Title: Shotoborshe Gitanjali
Organiser: Chhayanat
Venue: Chhayanat Bhaban, Dhanmondi
Date: September 24
Time: 7pm



Nazrul Sangeet Evening
Singer: Shaheen Samad
Venue: High Commission of India Cultural Centre, H 35, Rd 24, Gulshan 1
Date: September 24
Time: 7pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Nepotism
Artist: Srijon Chowdhury
Venue: La Galerie, H 7B, Rd 13, Gulshan
Date: September 24-October 8
Time: 12-8pm



Theatre
Play: Ebong Bidyasagar
Troupe: Aranyak Natyadal
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: September 23
Time: 7pm



Buzz

"Third Person Singular Number" to represent Bangladesh at the 83rd Oscars



"Third Person Singular Number" has been screened at several notable international film festivals and attained much acclaim for Farooki.

JAMIL MAHMUD

Mostafa Sarwar Farooki's much talked about film "Third Person Singular Number" has been selected as the Bangladeshi entry for the 83rd Academy Awards. It would compete in the Best Foreign Language Film segment. Films from around the globe, except the United States, would compete for the top prize in the segment.

The announcement was made at a press conference held at a hotel in Dhaka yesterday. Professor Abdus Selim, president of 83rd Oscars Bangladesh Committee, among others, was present at the conference.

This is the first time a film by Farooki is going to the Oscars. "I'm excited, naturally," said the filmmaker, who has earned international success.

"Third Person Singular Number" had its world premiere at the 14th Pusan International Film Festival, South Korea last October. The film was also screened at other notable international festivals, such as the International Film Festival

Rotterdam, Netherlands; 20th Afro-Asian-Latin Film Festival in Milan, Italy and Asia Pacific Screen Award 2010, Australia.

Asked what he expects from the Oscars, Farooki remained composed and said, "It would be irrational to make expectations from Oscars, as top filmmakers from across the globe will vie for the award."

The young filmmaker, however, is hopeful that the trend of sending quality films at major international events will continue.

Initially "Third Person Singular Number" was not submitted to the Bangladesh selection committee by the previous deadline, September 14. Khalid Mahmood Mithu's "Gohine Shobdo" and Khizir Hayat Khan's "Jaago" were the initial entries. Professor Abdus Selim said at the press conference that the committee extended the deadline to September 22. The producers of "Third Person Singular Number" submitted the film during the extended period.

When asked why his film, which has been lauded at home and abroad, was

not submitted in due time initially, Farooki said that the producer of the film holds the right to make the submission, not the director. "The producer or production house decides whether and when a film would take part in a competition or festival," Farooki said.

Impress Telefilm is the producer of the film. "Gohine Shobo", another entry, has also been produced by Impress.

Inspired by Syed Manzoorul Islam's novel, "Tin Parber Jibon O Kichhu Bastab Case Study", playwright Anisul Haque and Farooki jointly wrote the script for "Third Person Singular Number". Featuring interrelationships among a convict serving a life sentence, his wife and a singer, the film poses a question: can a woman, on her own, lead a dignified life in our society?

Tisha and Mosharraf Karim lead the cast, while other important roles were played by singer Topu, Abul Hayat and Rani Sarkar.

The 83rd Academy Awards will be held in February 2011. Last year, Golam Rabbani Biplob's "Bitter Bairey" represented Bangladesh at the Oscars.

Mumbai yogi wants to cure Lindsay, Paris

A yogi based in Mumbai has claimed that he can cure Lindsay Lohan, Paris Hilton, and other Hollywood celebrities from addiction and other health issues, including terminal illnesses, without any drugs or fees.

Vir Balahara, who is reverently known as "Virjee", is not your ordinary yogi. He retired as Director General of Income Tax of India. Atheist most of his earlier life, he found inner light when he was around 40 and started exploring it further. After about 23 years of self-exploration, he felt ready to take his mission and 'new awareness' globally to help the ailing and troubled.

Balahara has studied health issues of Hollywood celebrities and says that he can treat drug-alcohol-smoking addictions, emotional and physical breakdowns, weight and diet related problems, age-related complaints, etc; and can help them achieve their anti-ageing and fitness goals. He does not charge any fees for his treatment, as he believes in 'selfless action' advocated by ancient Sanskrit scripture



Lindsay Lohan (left) and Paris Hilton.

Bhagavad-Gita.

Virjee has thrown an open invitation to Lohan, Hilton and other Hollywood celebrities to visit him in Mumbai and promises that they will return to Hollywood healthy and vibrant. Although his technique is complex, but in simpler terms it seems to be based around pranayam (exercising control over the process of breathing). He feels that some hidden force is leading him by holding his hand. At 63, Balahara runs about 15 kilometres a day and calls it "meditation par excellence" and claims that he has more "strength, stamina, positivity and enthusiasm" now than he had when he was 40 when his inner journey began.

Why is he focusing on Hollywood celebrities? "Because they bring smile on the faces of people worldwide," he says, and he wants to bring smile back on their faces.

According to Balahara, death (barring accidental cases) does not come until we give up and ask for it.

Source: Internet

The Hungarian Connection

Photo-documentary exhibition on Tagore

KAVITA, New Delhi

"I have seen almost all the countries of the world but I saw nowhere such a beautiful harmony of the sky and the water than that I had the privilege to enjoy on the shore of Balatonfüred filling my soul with rapture."

--Rabindranath Tagore in a letter to Hungarian artist Elizabeth Brunner.

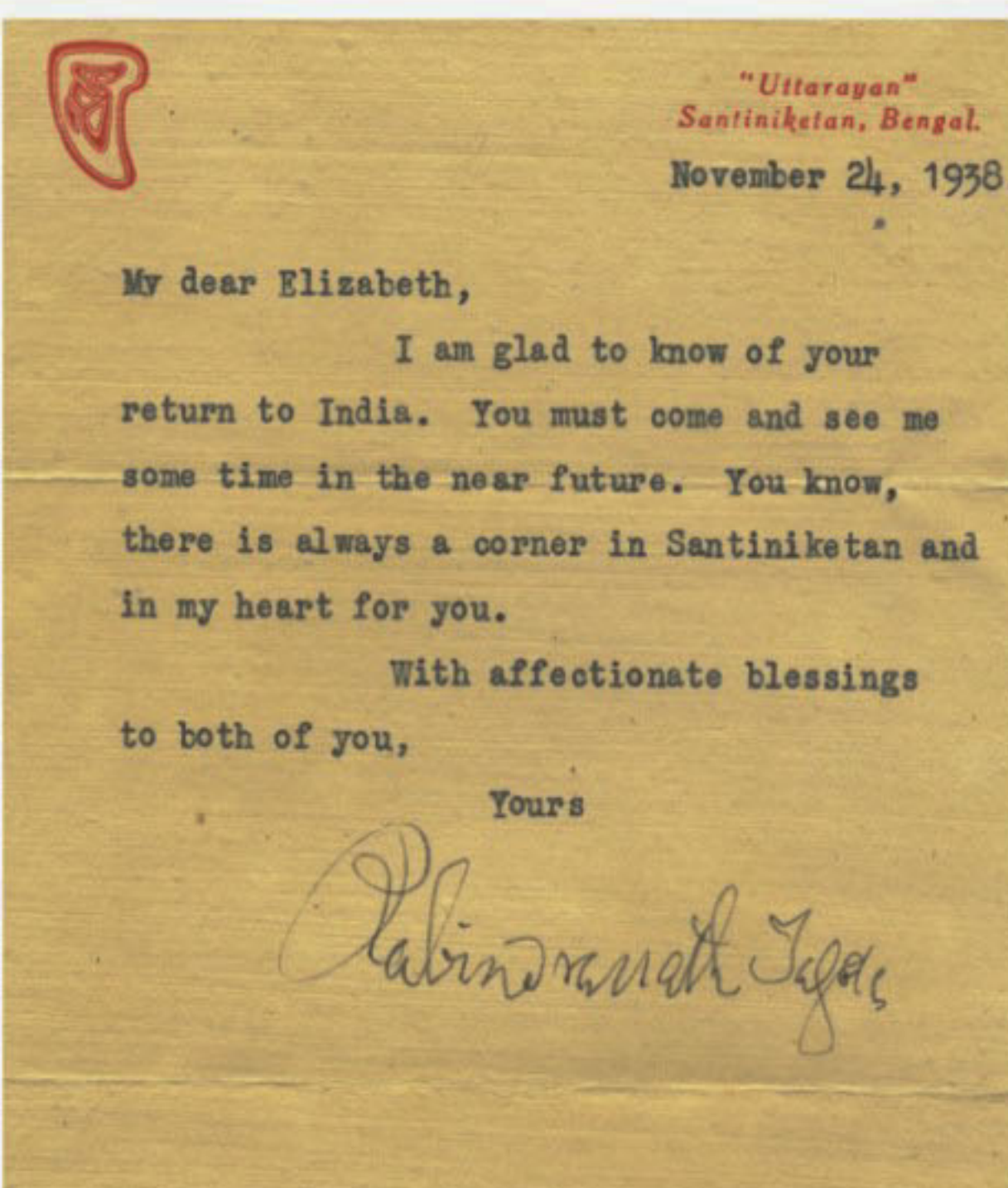
Hungary clearly cast its spell on Tagore as revealed in a fascinating photo-documentary exhibition of the Nobel laureate's letters to his Hungarian friends, photographs of him in the country and other memorabilia on display at the Hungarian Information and Cultural Centre in New Delhi.

The poet arrived from Vienna in Budapest on October 26, 1926. Invited for a poetry reading, the rigours of the intensive programme may have taken a toll on his health. Many of the photographs date back to his days at Balatonfüred where he had gone for treatment at the renowned cardiac hospital. Among the photographs in the Balatonfüred series are those of the poet next to the head physician at the sanatorium, of a Linden tree planted by him in the park on the banks of lake Balaton, which is still tended with affection by the people of Balatonfüred. A bust of Tagore presented by the Indian government stands under the tree. The area is a major tourist attraction. All important dignitaries from India visit Balatonfüred to pay their respects to Gurudev (Tagore) and plant saplings around the statue in the garden.

In reverse, Shantiniketan was a magnet for many Hungarian intellectuals of the time. Tagore invited Professor Gyula Germanus to teach in the newly established



Tagore (centre) in Balatonfüred, on his right are Nirmal Kumari and Prashanta Mahalanobis.



Tagore's letter to Elizabeth Brunner.

Department of Islamic Studies at the university. Germanus lived and gave classes there from 1929-1932. His wife Rozsa Hajnoczy chronicled their years in

Shantiniketan in her popular book, "Fire of Bengal". The book has run into several editions and, interestingly, the English translation was published in Dhaka.

Artists Elizabeth Saas Brunner and her daughter Elizabeth Brunner too came to Shantiniketan at Tagore's invitation.

"Tagore was a superstar in Hungary," says Dr. Imre Lazar, director and cultural counsellor of the Hungarian Information and Cultural Centre, in a lighter vein. "Tagore did not feel he was among strangers but kinsmen who understood him deeply. The feeling was mutual. The memory of Tagore has been kept alive in Hungary which explains why the Hungarians strongly remember the 150th birth anniversary of the poet."

The Hungarian interest in Tagore dates back to the first decades of the 20th century. After the poet received the Nobel Prize in 1913, his popularity rose to an all time high in the country. Over a passage of time practically all his works have been translated into Hungarian.

Tagore was a poet of the highest order and Hungary a country of poets and lovers of poetry. No wonder the twain did meet.



Tagore's portrait by Brunner.



Tagore bust and the Linden tree (behind) planted by the poet.



PHOTO: STAR
Welcoming Japanese tourists' visit to the northern part of the country, artistes of Amra Ka'jon Shilpi Goshthi, a cultural organisation of Bogra, performed group dances at the District Council Auditorium in Bogra on September 21.