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| <p>WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK</p> | <p>Solo Art Exhibition Title: Cosmic Unity & An Unfit Citizen Artist: Aminul Islam Soyel Venue: Kaya Galleri, H-20, R-16, Sector-4, Uttara Date: October 15-26 Time: 11am-8pm</p> | <p>Exhibition Paintings, Installations, Photography, Films, Literature and Architecture Title: Dhaka Safe and Sound Organiser: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh Venue: Goethe-Institut, Shilpangan Gallery and Dhaka Art Centre Date: October 18-30 Inauguration: 6pm</p> | <p>Group Art Exhibition Title: Life of a Vagabond Venue: Tivoli Art Gallery, DIT Market, Gulshan-2 Date: October 11-20 Time: 10am-8pm</p> | <p>Group Art Exhibition Title: Rooted Creativity-5 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi Date: October 15-26 Time: 12pm-8pm</p> |
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"Moner Manush" heads for Goa film fest

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India-Bangladesh joint production "Moner Manush", directed by Goutam Ghosh, is one of the four Bengali films selected for Indian Panorama section of the International Film Festival of India to be held in Goa next month.

This is the first international festival at which the film, which has a mixed cast drawn from India and Bangladesh, including Prosenjit and Raisul Islam Asad, will be screened before its commercial release.

Ghosh is very hopeful about the commercial success of "Moner Manush" based on the life of mystic poet Lalon Fakir, saying co-productions "makes market sense".

"Co-productions make market sense for sure. And an Indo-Bangla production more so. There are Bengalis or Bangla-speaking people living across the world. There is a world market for Bengali cinema," Ghosh said in a recent interview.

"I'm confident of it (the film) doing well because after a long time we have an Indo-Bangla film. We have a mixed cast and crew," he said.

A special screening of the film, which is expected to be released in December, was held in Dhaka on September 30 where Ghosh was pres-



Prosenjit as Lalon in the film.

ent. This is the second joint Indo-Bangla joint production directed by Ghosh since his "Padma Nadir Majhi" in mid-1990s also starring leading actors and actresses of the two countries including Utpal Dutta, Robi Ghosh, Rupa Ganguly, Raisul Islam Gere and Gulshan Akhter Champa.

Ghosh's next project will see him truly going global as he has approached Hollywood star Richard Gere to feature in it titled "Lala".

"Yes, we have approached Richard Gere and he has evinced keen interest in the project. But he has not signed. Our producers will come down to India later this month, then we will finalise everything," Ghosh said.



Monalisa's price for fame

First person singular

A CORRESPONDENT

I did my first modeling assignment for television in a 'Fair and Lovely' advertisement. Since then the hassles associated with fame followed me. Even when I went to buy ice-cream, people used to stare and say isn't that the girl from the 'Fair and Lovely' ad?"

Most troublesome was my appearance in the Lilly soap advertisement. Everyone used to call me Lilly after that. When I went to shop I was charged extra and had no other option but to buy products at a higher price. It still happens.

The thing that bothers me most is that I just can't go and sit at a roadside Fuchka and enjoy a snack. A mob appears out of nowhere. Roaming around in rickshaws is also impossible. Once I went to Gausia, but soon a crowd started

following me, forcing me to flee.

Even when I am flying somewhere, people come up to me and ask for my autograph. I think to myself that even mid-air is not hassle free; where should I go?

Being a celebrity changes one's personal life. I can't do whatever I want like a normal human being. At times like these I feel down and think the troubles of stardom are more than the benefits.

Another problem is people want to take snaps with me wherever I go. They just use their cell phones and some even have the audacity to not ask permission.

Overall the positive sides cancel out the trouble. Without fame I wouldn't have had so much love from people. This makes the hassles worth it.

Angelina Jolie responds to Bosnia film row

Angelina Jolie has asked critics to "hold judgement" on her directorial debut following reports that Bosnia's culture minister had revoked a permit enabling her to shoot in Sarajevo.

An association of female victims from the Bosnian war are objecting to the film over its alleged content.

It was reported that culture minister Gavrilko Grahovac withdrew the filming permit after meeting with the group.

Jolie's producers, however, said it was "a purely technical matter".

"We are obliged to reapply for the permit to shoot Angelina Jolie's directorial debut with the appropriate government offices in Sarajevo now that the final script is available," a statement from GK Films read.

"The stories about the film which have recently been circulated are incorrect."



Currently shooting in Hungary, the film reportedly tells of a Serbian man and Bosnian woman who fall in love during the 1992-1995 war.

Objections were raised after it was reported in Bosnia-Herzegovina that the love story would be between a Serbian rapist and his Muslim victim.

The Women Victims of War association reacted angrily to those reports, claiming the film would be guilty of "misleading history".

Without revealing specific details about the plot, Jolie asked people to "hold judgment until they have seen the film".

"Obviously any dramatic interpretation will always fail those who have had a real experience," the Oscar-winning actress wrote. "This is not a documentary."

"There are many twists in the plot that address the sensitive nature of the relationship between the main characters and that will be revealed once the film is released."

Jolie does not appear in the untitled film, which stars Bosnian actress Zana Marjanovic and veteran actor Rade Serbedzija.

Jolie, recently seen in action thriller Salt, has been photographed on the Budapest set of her film, as has her long-term partner Brad Pitt.

Traditional boat race held



RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabagnj

A traditional boat race was organised on the Mohananda river in Chapainawabagnj on Saturday afternoon.

The District Sports Association was the organiser of the event. The race kicked off at Khal Ghat point in Chapainawabagnj town. After meandering through several areas of the water body, the race ended at Birshreshtha Captain Mohiuddin

Jahangir Bridge in the town. Thousands of people, including children, gathered on the banks of the river to witness the competition. Enamul Haque, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources was present as the chief

guest. Among others, Abdul Odud, lawmaker of Chapainawabagnj-3 constituency; K M Ali Azam, Deputy Commissioner of Chapainawabagnj; convener of the boat race competition Additional Deputy Commis-

sioner Sarwar Jahan and secretary of the District Sports Association Toufiqul Alam Tofa were present on the occasion. Later, Enamul Haque distributed prizes among the winners and participants.

A breakthrough for the band Owned

MALEEHA KHAN

After years of ordinary gigs and fierce struggle to emerge in the mainstream media, underground band Owned has finally made a breakthrough and is coming up with a CD.

Owned was formed in the year 2007 with three members, Samee, Ratul and Andy Thomas Mendes. They initially performed at local events with the intention of being discovered.

As in most success stories, Owned had their share of hurdles to surmount. "Although we don't belong to the metal genre, we had to perform in metal concerts at first due to the lack of opportunities. We were a disappointment to the audience since we were at the wrong place at the wrong time with the wrong type of song," asserts drummer Samee.



Says vocalist Andy, "We didn't let this get in our way; instead it was a medium for better things and it even helped to motivate us."

"This one time, we had to perform at a concert in Uttara. It meant a lot to us back then, but none of us had any money on us, neither did we have a car. However, we reached the venue on time by splitting our travel mode, some of us by the local bus and the others by taking a ride with friends. But now all that hardship

seems to have paid off," reminisces bassist Ratul.

Why did you guys come up with the name Owned?

"Well, to be honest it was very random. Our bassist Ratul, who is a self proclaimed 'engineer' is very talented; he is also currently playing for another band called Breach. His catch phrase was 'owned', resulting in the name," says Andy laughingly.

What inspires the Owned band members?

"For me, it was my brother; he used to indulge in music and I used to admire his talent. Ever since then I never missed an opportunity whenever it came my way," says Andy.

Samee chips in, "I have always been into music; I listen to anything and everything. Shortly before the formation of our band, I used to and still do listen to Black; their success was my dream, and their work was my inspiration."

"For me it was what my brother wanted me to master. I had a dream of playing the guitar, and my brother helped make it possible," says Ratul.

"Guitars have always been my thing. I saw how good my brother was at it, and it inspired me to learn the best possible way," asserts Samee.

"I had to develop my calibre in playing instruments, so besides being a nerd, I focused on playing the guitar, which my friends inspired me to do," adds Mushfique.

Other than performing at concerts, Owned has plans to bring out two new albums, "Republic," and "Tribute". They are also currently working on some songs on their own, "Nei" and "Abaro", which they plan to perform solo at a concert sometime soon. They are very excited about the albums, and expect to get a thumbs up from their fans.