eral national and local cultural

ary 27], Md. Obaidul Kader,

be chief guest at the fair.

Kopotakho river area and

On the concluding day [Janu-

Minister of Communication, will

Madhu Mancho premises,

Sagordari village are wearing a

festive look on the occasion.

There are about 200 colourful

the mela along with a ferris

wheel for the amusement of

stalls with fascinating goods at

Md. Mir Rezaul Hossain, OC,

that tight security was in place at

the fair, while a mobile team and

Michael Madhusudan Dutta

gali sonnet and blank verse, was

RAB were making regular

rounds throughout the fair.

(1824-1873), a pioneer of Ben-

groundbreaking poet. His last

two works were "Hectorbadh"

ten in 1871] and "Mayakanan"

ally succumbed to illness and

Hospital on June 29, 1873.

[based on Homer's "Iliad"; writ-

[composed in 1873]. He eventu-

passed away in Calcutta General

a master playwright and a

Keshobpur Police Station, said

All programmes are in local

time. The Daily Star will not

RADIO

10:00 Raat Bhor Gaan

On BANGLAVISION



On ntv at 09:45pm Rahman Milon,



Ace Ventura: When Nature Binodoner Bishwa Music Station The Mask Drama Serial: Ohongka Paranormal Activity 2 Boishakhi TV Bangla Feature Film Shorashori Doctor

Drama Serial: Ecaruse Drama Serial: Pathorer

Ekushey-er Business

10:50 Reporters Dairy BANGLAVISION

07:50

Shokal Belar Roddu Bangla Feature File 11:25 Raat Biratey

08:00pm Asha Toki 06:00pm Mr. Dhaka 09:35pm Obogunthan

09:45pm Priyo

News (English) at 10:00am, 1:00 pm, 10:00 pm. News (English) at 6:00pm

News (English): 9:00 am,

11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm,

TALK SHOW

12:00am Zero Hour 11:45pm Shoja Kotha Maasranga Television

WHAT'S ON



Venue: Embassy of Italy, H-







Organiser: Jatiyo Pitha Utshab Udjapon Parishad Venue: Coffee House,



Title: Rejuvenation Artist: Rajaul Islam Lovelu Date: Jan 27-Feb 7 Time: 11am-7:30pm

National

Let the river flow One of the few veterans who played an unequivocal role in shaping the country's theatre scene, and also a freedom fighter, Aly

TDS: Tell us about your childhood

allow us to walk across it. A memoir featuri

Book Fair. I once walked all the way to

JAMIL MAHMUD

theatre.

The first generation of theatre activists

have immensely contributed to creat-

ing a platform for their successors,

thinks Nayla Tarannum Chowdhury,

ever, she is of the view that the pio-

neering personalities overlooked one

thing: they weren't much concerned

Nayla's initiation in theatre

is somewhat

about initiating professionalism in

those times will come out at the next Ekushey

Shilaidaha when I was in class seven or eight.

memories of rivers.

Aly Zaker:

SPICY

our elder brother to teach us how to swim, as he was a great swimmer. So bhaiya went Zaker has a bold presence on stage, and the down to waist-high water of a small lagoon and asked us to take a dip. But before I knew big and small screens. He is also a recognised writer and photo enthusiast. He it he threw me in deep water. I was struggling has several published books, with the to stay afloat and was sure that I would die. Suddenly I found ground beneath my feet upcoming book fair to bring more releases. and was relieved. Seeing me struggling in Zaker recently came to The Daily Star water, my frightened sister ran to our house (TDS) office and we picked up on his lifelong At that time, she didn't learn to swim, but I association with rivers.

I have another story about my elder brother. Like I said, he was a great swimm Zaker: I have many fond memories - a college champion in free style. One day involving rivers. The first of these would have probably on a Sunday, we were sitting idle, to be a journey from Khulna to Goalanda. We and our father reading a newspaper. had to make the trip as my father, an ADC of Someone came and told us that "Chhoto Khulna at the time, was transferred to Kushtia. I was only six years old when we Shaheb" [my elder brother] was seen floating away in the river. He added that "Chhoto took a trip covering three-days and three-Shaheb" is probably dead. My father nights on a steamer to reach our destination. It was a wonderful journey with the full moon immediately called the police. Kushtia was illuminating the sky and fresh ilish and ilish small town and word spread fast. Everyone came to our house to express their grief. My kebabs being cooked on board. I fell in love with the Gorai river after mother, younger sister, and my elder sister who is no more, were all crying their eyes out. reaching Kushtia. Gorai used to be a very powerful river back then, especially during My father just sat silently on the roof after the monsoon, but dried up during winter to hearing the news. Suddenly a police officer



our home. He added that bhaiya even ignored his offer to take a ride on a jeep. My father rushed to his room and came back with a belt. I knew what was to come and rushed to bhaiya to warn him of father's imminent wrath. Bhaiya just smiled and gave me a guava that he had with him, and continued walking towards home. I pleaded with him, but he didn't listen. By that time, father had come down from the roof. Our mother started shouting and urged him not to beat up my brother. When they came face to face, they started at each other for some time. My father unexpectedly broke into tear and hugged my brother. This is a very personal story. A river is not directly connected to the story, but the memories

definitely feature the river. We began to frequently visit our native home in Ratanpur village of Brahmanbaria, after father was transferred to Dhaka sometimes later. The village is very close to the Meghna river. Monsoon invariably mean flooding. A small river, which used to be a canal, flows beside the village. For some reason, the villagers named it Jamuna. Maybe when one cannot find an interesting name for a river, they start calling it "Jamuna". Anyway, father used to take us to Ratanpu during the months of Kartik-Agrahayan [late autumn). We used to board launches at Sadarghat. The launches lifted anchor in the

wee hours of the night and reached Ramkrishnapur, the closest ghaat to our village, in early morning. We had a family boat then, a tradition that I still continue TDS: Many of our rivers are dying. If you were given the task of putting an end to this

how would you save the rivers?

Zaker: I alone would not be able to do TDS: How would you gather support for

Zaker: First we have to identify who are responsible and why are they doing this to the rivers. People misuse rivers, creating a mess. Buriganga is a prime example. The polythene that has gathered on the riverbed

is unlikely to go away in a million years. Only the government can solve this. We, as citizens, could stop dumping polythene and

create awareness? Zaker: We should carry out campaigns. We have to go to the sites and interact with people to make them aware of the crisis.

TDS: What methods should be used to

TDS: What role can the media play? Zaker: The media can carry out campai on the woes caused by the pollution and filling up of rivers. When someone throws away rubbish or polythene, they think they are the only ones doing so. But 16 crore people are doing and thinking the same. This

mindlessness causes water-logging in the cities. My driver says that the government has nothing to do on this issue, as we ourselves are the culprits here. The administration has little to do when we indiscriminately dump polythene. If we don't change ourselves, the situation will not see a solution. Mass campaigns by the media can greatly help in creating awareness.

TDS: Can documentaries on this issue be shown at district level?

Zaker: That would be very helpful. It is my observation that every Bangladeshi village has one or two influential individuals who can change the fate of the entire village. These people should be on board if these issues are to be resolved. TDS: Why are rivers so important?

Zaker: Every civilisation had built itself around rivers. There will be no cities, if the

TDS: Buriganga has turned black from

Zaker: I know. Once the members of Nagorik troupe went on a picnic on Buriganga. When we were returning, I stepped into the water. I had to get medical treatment for two months for the infection that caused. This is the harsh reality of Buriganga. People somehow even bathe in its water.

Transcribed by Shah Alam Shazu.

Channel i Shera Nachiye to start soon

HOMAGE TO MADHUSUDAN

Weeklong Madhu Mela begins in Sagordari, Jessore

Chairman; Md. Akramudowla

president of Jessore Press Club

A.H.M. Mazharul Islam Montu

Muktijoddha Sangsad; Shibli

Sadik of Banglalink and Harun

Sammilitio Sangkritik Jote. Md.

Mostafizur Rahman, Deputy

Commissioner of Jessore, pre-

A cultural programme was

held at the same venue by sev-

Commander, Jessore

ur-Rashid, president of

sided over the inaugural

programme

A CORRESPONDENT

To encourage interest in dance among the younger generation, Channel i will organise a dance programme titled "Channel i Sher Nachiye 2012". The competitors

PONUEL S BOSE, back from Sagordari

The weeklong Madhu Mela-

2012, marking the 188th birth

anniversary of the pioneer of

Madhusudan Dutta (1824-1873),

mises in Sagordari village under

district on January 21. Organised

began at Madhu Mancho pre-

Keshobpur upazila of Jessore

by the district administration,

Banglalink and the Ministry of

The programme includes a

discussion, attended by eminent

artistes and renowned personal-

ities, on the great poet's life and

his works. The main attraction

for the public are jatra, circus

gaan, theatre and more every

The mela was inaugurated b

Advocate Promod Mankin, State

Minster for Cultural Affairs. Also

magic show, jari gaan, kobi

present at the inaugural

Information; H.M. Amir

Hossain, Keshobpur Upazila

programme as special guests

were Advocate Khan Tipu Sul-

tan, MP, Jessore-5; Hedayetullal

Al Mamun, secretary, Ministry of

the fair is sponsored by

Cultural Affairs.

Bengali sonnet, Michael

participate in the programme. The

Channel i held a press confernel's office in the city. Faridur Reza

Bipasha Basu: In love with love

Ltd; Shykh Seraj, director and chief jury consists of actors Razzaque of news of Channel i; actors Ferdous and Purnima. Razzaque, Ferdous and Purnima

between the ages of 16 and 30 will

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

John Abraham is over, but actress

and for her love is still the biggest

honest in a relationship.

Her eight-year relationship with actor

Bipasha Basu is far from disillusioned

priority in life and feels one should be

ence on January 23 at the chan-Sagar, managing director of Channel-i and Impress Telefilm

shared their views at the programme. The competition has been planned by Rumana Rashid Ishita and directed by Ibne Hasan

which she has been linked with

Dagubatti, Shahid Kapoor and Josh

Reportedly, when Bipasha was

dating John, she had insisted on

refused. John is now dating invest-

numerous co-stars like Rana

getting married but he had

Pitha Festival



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To uphold our traditions, Jatiya Pitha Utshab Udjapan Parishad has organised an eight-day National Pitha Festival. The festival began on January 20 at the Coffee House premises of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) in Dhaka. It will continue till January 27.

The festival was inaugurated by State Minister for Cultural Affairs, Advocate Promod Mankin Managing director of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation, M. Hamid, presided over the event. Liaquat Ali Lucky, director general of BSA; Golam Kuddus, vice president of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote; Jhuna Chowdury, general secretary of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation and cultural personalities -- Ali Reza, Shahidullah Faraizi, Ataur Rahman, among others, spoke on the occa-

The speakers highly emphasised on the festival as it has been playing a significant role in conserving our rich culture and popularising the rural tradition of pitha (rice cakes) among the urbanites. Through the event the organiser hopes to remind the city dwellers of our roots.

The organiser has been holding the festival since 2008. This year's festival features over 40 stalls offering various kinds of traditional pitha. About 170 kinds of pitha like 'patisapta', 'dim pitha', 'nakshi pitha', 'puli pitha', 'biscuit pitha', 'teler pitha' 'bhapha pitha', 'dudhpuli', 'pakon pitha', 'kuli pitha', 'tal pitha' and more are on display at the

Everyday the festival also features baul and folk songs, poetry recitation and dance performance. The festival will also hold a competition in which best five stalls will receive awards.



came and told my father that my brother had

been found. My father solemnly asked where

the body was. But the officer said that my

brother was alive and was walking towards

One day my younger sister and I nagged

"Professionalism should've been incorporated earlier"

-- Nayla Tarannum Chowdhury, actor, Nagarik Natyasampraday

different from others. She was a member of Kanthoshilan, a group of elocutionists, for many years. She got involved in theatre, as Kanthoshilan occasionally produced plays. "Putul Khela", a play based on Ibsen's "A Doll's everyone," says Nayla. House" and directed by Khaled Khan, actor of Nagarik Natyasampraday. How- saw her debut on the stage as an

She joined Nagarik in 2008. She got the opportunity to play major literary characters such as Nandini ("Rokto Karobi") and Nora ("Opekkhoman") She is also featured in the troupe's ongoing play "Kathalbagan". She thanks her mentors Ataur Rahman and Khaled Khan for their support.

Like most of the activists, Nayla too feels the need to do something apart from theatre for a living. She believes that if professional practices were fully incorporated in theatre, the performing art form would have been more successful. To achieve this everyone has to be involved, she says. "The situation has changed radically over the

years. The economic situa-

tion is not like the 1970s

Nayla (L) as Nandini in "Rokto Karobi".

think about their sources of income. Youngsters are leaving theatre for electronic media because of this simple reason. I feel helpless when I see that money is a crucial factor here, for

has been a great achievement, asserts Nayla. She feels that these characters reflect lives of real women in our society. "When I play Nora, I feel that I'm a woman who struggles to step out of the box. When I play Nandini, I feel that I'm a woman who will eradicate bigotry and darkness from the society,"

Nayla runs a boutique and many women work there. She says that if female theatre activists want to work, she would help them.

Donning major literary characters

she says.

Nayla considers both the Group Theatre Federation and Shilpakala

Academy to be active, but she wants more support from them. In case of the federation, she says that it can send Dhaka based troupes to other parts of the country on a regular basis. For Shilpakala Academy, she wants more cultural exchange programmes that or '80s. People have to can be educational.

REN'S FILM FESTIVAL



A scene from "The Little Adventures of Milos"

Young delegates share views with noted personalities

A CORRESPONDENT

The 5th International Children's Film Festival is drawing bigger turn out everyday. A significant number of children and adolescents are attending the festival. An orientation programme, featuring 128 child delegates, was held on Janu ary 22. Thirty-two of them are film makers, and the rest took part in ar essay competition that is a part of

Beside the delegates, students

from 12 different schools enjoyed films on the day. A lively conversa tion between child delegates and noted author Dr. Muhammad Zafa Iqbal took place at the Sufia Kamal ing the workshops. auditorium of National Museum. During the session, children seemed elated to have the opportu nity to talk to Dr. Iqbal. Later, a

delegates was held at the venue. Yesterday (January 23), a special package containing seven British films was unveiled at British Council auditorium in Dhaka. The films

special film screening for the child

are: "Wallace and Gromit", "Nanny McPhee", "The Little Adventures of Milos", "Shaun the Sheep", "Gnomeo and Juliet", "The Big Bang" and "The Secret of Moonacre".

Festival director Morshedul Islam and general secretary Munira Morshed, among others, were present at the ceremony. The event was coordinated by Matthew Knowles, head of programmes, British Council. Eeshita Azad, country coordina tor, Arts and Skills, British Council, was also present. Four workshops for young film-

makers are on at present Morshedul Islam, Catherine Masud and Mustafa Monwar are conduct-Star cricketer and former captain

of the National team, Shakib Al Hasan will be present today to exchange views with the children The event will take place at the Sufia Kamal auditorium of National Museum.

Film screenings will be held as

forthcoming film "Jodi Breakers"

on Friday night. According to the Bengali screen scorcher, one has to be honest in love. "When you love...just love with your heart. I feel one should be

DON'T KHOW

WHAT SEXUAL

HARASSMENT

IS, SIR

Henry

love from your heart."

and do everything for the one you

Her eight-year relationship with

by Mort Walker TRY RAISES



ment banker Priya Runchal and "I can teach the language of love has expressed a desire to tie the very well. For me, love is very important. The biggest priority in It was John who had spilled the beans about the break-up in a chat life is love...When you talk of love, show, which did not go down well it is not only about man-woman with Bipasha. love but love for family, friends. "What happens between two love for co-stars. As it is my priorpeople is supposed to stay ity... I can teach a few lessons on love," Bipasha told reporters in Mumbai at the music launch of her

truthful, honest to the one you love

Abraham ended last year, following

between the two when it's over. That's the dignity that I have grown up with and the respect I deserve. I don't need to be on a talk show to prove my goodness! My relationship with John Abraham is over for good for reasons known best to the both of us," she

Beetle Baily MAYBE YOU



by Don Tranchte

ate Night News (Bangla an English) 11:30 pm. (To be elecast on all Bangla

CHANNEL-i News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am ATN BANGLA NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am 01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm

09:45am Tritio Matra 10:10pm Golpo Shalpo Gaan 07:30pm Prime Issue

Discovery Channel Surviving Mumbai

11:30 The Science of Sex Appeal **BBC World**

DRAMA SERIAL 09:30pm Ghatak Baki Bhai 09:20pm Poush Phaguner Pala 08:15pm No Problem 09:05pm Boyra Paribar

> 08:15pm Sat Kahon Maasranga Television

NEWS BULLETIN

News (Bangla) at 7:30am. News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm

News (Bangla): 2:30 pm 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am

News (Bangla):7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm

12:30am Lead New CHANNEL i