

WHAT'S ON

Birth Centenary of Kamol Dasgupta
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 1-12
Time: 7pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Memories of Old Town
Venue: Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 1-12
Time: 12pm-8pm

Grand Group Art Exhibition
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, Gulshan-2
Date: April 7-May 8
Time: 10am-8pm

Tagore Dance Drama
Troupe: Pallabi Dance Centre
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 4

Group Art Exhibition
Organiser: Shako
Venue: Radia Centre, 57, Gulshan Avenue
Date: May 4-18
Time: 10pm-8pm

Photography Exhibition
Title: World Press Photo 12
Venue: Dink Gallery, H-58, R-15A(New), Dhanmondi
Date: April 26-May 18

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Abu Jafar ARBS
Venue: Institute of Art and Culture, R-1/A, H-2 Gulshan
Date: April 27-May 9
Time: 3-8pm

Closing Phase of 150th Tagore Birth Anniversary
Bangladesh-India joint celebration
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 6-7



Beginning his career with modeling, Sajal had to struggle hard at the start, but eventually he used his skills and talents to carve a niche in the media. He has now become one of the most sought-after actors. Apart from countless one-hour TV plays and tele-films, Sajal has also worked for the silver screen. His latest performance is in a movie based on Rabindranath Tagore's "Charulata".

Despite his demand, interestingly enough, he seems to be the only actor who has no serials being aired at the moment. Sajal recently came to the DS Cafe, where he shared his views with many of his fans.

Shelly, Dhaka: Why aren't you regular in TV serials? Sajal: To be honest with you, I feel more comfortable working for one-hour-plays and tele-films. This is the reason why I usually don't go for serials or mega-serials. I believe that there is no alternative to one-hour-dramas, for getting the best out of a story.

Mamun, Savar: Who are you comfortable working with? Sajal: I'm comfortable working with everyone. Whoever the director casts for the drama is good enough for me.

Tuli, Comilla: What are your future plans? Sajal: I want to do better. I want to act in those TV plays that will be favourites among the viewers, as well as give me fulfillment as an artiste. Rana, Rajshahi: Many of your contemporaries are getting married. When do you plan to tie the knot? Anyone special in mind?

SAJAL @ DS CAFE

Mukta, Dhaka: Why do people have a negative idea about people in the media? Sajal: Every sector has its positive and negative sides. But it's wrong to generalise that media related people are different. This is the first time I'm hearing of such an idea.

Runa, Mymensingh: Does your busy schedule allow you to watch movies? Sajal: Definitely "Black". It has a brilliant story. I've watched the movie several times.

Babli, Savar: You are seen performing more in plays set in the city. Don't rural dramas interest you? Sajal: It's true I have worked less in rural dramas. I have to work in plays that the directors cast me for. But I would like to work in rural dramas.

Keya, Dhaka: Are you involved in social work? Any hobby in particular? Sajal: I want to work for the destitute. I would love to do something for senior citizens who have nowhere to turn to. If I get a chance, I will be involved in social work. As for hobby, I love fishing.

Nuzhat, Dhaka: You were late in coming to the DS Cafe. Why aren't you more regular in serials? Sajal: Sorry for being late. I was stuck in traffic. I've already told someone before you that I prefer working in one-hour-dramas than serials.

Mostafiz, Dhaka: What is your work schedule like? Sajal: For today, I arrived in Dhaka on a 12 pm flight from Cox's Bazar. I went home for a while and then came to the DS Cafe. From here, I will go to the Merrill-Prothom Alo awards. It's a busy day for me. But I'm loving the phone conversations with you all.

Shweta, Khulna: I would like to meet you face-to-face. Sajal: If only you had come to The Daily Star office today, we could've met. Russell, Gazipur: How do you stay fit? Sajal: I go to gym regularly.

TRANSCRIBED BY SHAH ALAM SHAZU

TRIBUTE TO Shaheed Janani

Jahanara Imam's 83rd birth anniversary observed



Yesterday marked the 83rd birth anniversary of writer and social activist Jahanara Imam. She is most widely remembered for her efforts to bring those accused of committing crimes during the Liberation War to trial. She was known as "Shaheed Janani".

Imam was born to a progressive Muslim family in Murshidabad, West Bengal, India. After finishing her studies in 1945 at Carmichael College in Rangpur, Imam went to Lady Brabourne College of Calcutta University and in 1947 obtained her Bachelor's Degree. She was an activist even during her Lady Brabourne College days. After the partition of India, she joined her family in Mymensingh (East Pakistan) and started teaching at Bidyamoyee Govt. Girls High School.

Imam made a great contribution to Bengali literature. She was honoured and awarded several times. In 1988, she received an award from the Bangladesh Writers' Association. In 1991 in recognition of her literary works she received the Bangla Academy Award. In 1997 and 1998 she received (posthumously) Independence Award and Rokeya Award respectively. Imam died in Detroit, USA on June 26, 1994. She was buried in Dhaka.

After Bangladesh achieved independence, Imam started her literary career. During the time she also traveled extensively to Europe, USA and Canada. In

1986 she published her wartime diary "Ekattorer Dinguli". The publication of this book was a seminal event in Bangladesh. Her simple style of writing touched many hearts, particularly those of the families who had lost members during the war.

Imam was the first editor of the monthly women's magazine called Khawateen. It started publication in 1952 and she ran it successfully for several years. Her notable literary works include "Anyu Jiban" (1985), "Ekattorer Dinguli" (1986), "Jiban Mrityu" (1988), "Buker Bhitare Agun" (1990), "Nataker Abashan" (1990), "Dui Meru" (1990), "Cancer-er Shongey Boshobash" (1991) and "Probasher Dinlipi" (1992).

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COMPILED BY CORRESPONDENT

Tanvir Mokammel lectures and film screenings in India

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bangladeshi director Tanvir Mokammel is set to have a busy schedule in the Indian state of West Bengal this month with a series of his feature films lined up for screening when he is expected to talk on non-mainstream cinema in his country and the Liberation War.

On May 9, Mokammel will speak on the alternative film scenario of Bangladesh at Gour Bongo University in Malda, which will be followed by the screening of two of his films -- "Chitra Nodir Pare" and "Lal Shalu".

A large number of teachers and students are expected to attend the occasion.

Three days later, his film "Lalon" will be shown at Vidyasagar Milonayatan in Barasat, near Kolkata, followed by a discussion.

Kolkata's Gorky Sadan, a hub of intellectual activities, will hold the screening of Mokammel's mega-documentary on Bangladesh's Liberation War, titled "1971". Before the screening, the director will deliver a lecture on the Liberation War which is expected to be attended by a good number of Kolkata's elites and veterans who had contributed to the freedom movement of Bangladesh.

In June, Mokammel's other documentary "Japani Bodhu", chronicling the life of Hariprokha Basu Mallick, is proposed to be shown in Kolkata and his films have also been invited to the Bhopal Film Festival.



A scene from Tanvir Mokammel's "Lal Shalu".

Panorama of Bengal's Art Heritage

KAVITA, New Delhi

A three-day event "Panorama of Bengal's Art Heritage" was held in Delhi the other day. The festival was a mix of drama, dance, recitation, audio visual footage, songs and readings to bring the curtains down on the celebrations of Tagore's 150th birth anniversary.

Bijan Mukherjee, president of Impresario India, the organiser of the event, points out that the aim was to include art forms of Bengal, both traditional and Tagore, classical and modern to "highlight areas of what we were, what we have become and what the future promises to us."

Children got to enjoy a drama titled "Agadum Bagadum", followed by the dark and brooding "Bostomi", play based on Tagore's story. "Pratham Pujan-Shesh Pronam", a recitation programme came up the next day. "Rajendranandini", a choreography based on Tagore's "Chitrangada" was also slated for the second day.

The last day explored a seldom visited passage in Tagore's life his meeting with Mussolini amidst the growing influence of fascism in Italy. Through reading, songs, rare audio visual footage and dance, "Bashy Fera Danaar Shobdo" struck a poignant note, depicting as it did the anguish of Tagore as he came face to face with the fierce condemnation of the western press for the meeting and the subsequent barren period in the story of his creative genius.

A meeting with well known actors Avereer Chaudrey and Soumitra Basu, the protagonists of "Bostomi" (Devotee), gave insights into a not so widely known Tagore story. Well known Delhi actor Avereer says that the play was based on a true life encounter in Shilaidah (now Bangladesh) between Tagore and a beggar woman called Anandi. Through subsequent interactions between the narrator of the story who is a writer (probably Tagore himself), we come to learn that the anguished Anandi's life has followed a trajectory of personal loss, loneliness, worldly attraction, spiritualism and ultimately renunciation.

Avereer gave an impeccable performance in the role of Anandi, her facial expressions and body language conveying her character perfectly. "It was a very interesting and challenging role for me," says Avereer. "Bostomi" is in fact a collection of narrations rather than a play, says Basu, who has directed the narrative work and also plays the writer. "The strength of the production is that it is not dramatic, rather a narrative with theatrical elements that raise questions about life and marital relationships. It does not have a dramatic or definitive ending much like life."

"Rajendranandini", a choreography in Chhau and contemporary styles, was based on Tagore's renowned dance drama "Chitrangada". Explaining the use of Chhau masks, Arabinda Giri, who did the production design, says, "The masks were an embellishment to embody the dichotomy between the inner and outer forms."



Avereer gave an impeccable performance in the role of Anandi.

Filmmaker par excellence

92nd birth anniversary of Satyajit Ray

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Rich tributes were paid to legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray on what would have been his 92nd birthday on Wednesday in his hometown Kolkata.

The premier Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI) has decided to have their annual convocation each year on this day to coincide with the birthday of the versatile genius.

While delivering the convocation address, veteran director Adoor Gopalakrishnan said there is hardly any other filmmaker in India whose impact has been more powerful than that of Ray.

"He left us too early. Had he been here now, we would have had the opportunity to get greater words from him. His contribution to Indian cinema has been monumental," he said.

At the state-run multiplex Nandan, one of Ray's

favourite films "The Bicycle Thief" by Vittorio Di Sica was screened.

The Italian neo-realist film which tells the story of a poor man's struggle for survival, is known to have had a profound impact on Ray and his films including the iconic "Pather Panchal".

Nandan CEO Jadav Mondol told PTI that as a mark of homage to one of the greatest filmmakers of the world, another four of Ray's favourite foreign films will be screened in the next two days.

It was after watching several international films during a trip to London that Ray had switched from advertising to cinema.

Akira Kurosawa's "Rashomon", Fritz Lang's "Metropolis", Sergei Eisenstein's classic silent Russian film "Battleship Potemkin" and Carl Dreyer's "The Passion of Joan of Arc" will be shown to mark Ray's birthday.

These films were close to the heart of Ray,

according to author and film studies teacher Sanjoy Mukhopadhyay.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also paid homage to the director in the presence of Ray's son, filmmaker Sandip Ray and singer Anup Ghoshal.

Having directed a number of classics like the "Apu Trilogy", "Jalsaghar", "Sonar Kella", "Charulata", and "Shatranj Ke Khiladi", Ray remains India's first and only Oscar-winning director.

Film-maker Sandip Ray, who has tried to carry on the rich legacy of his father and made the "Feluda" series, said he would make a film on Professor Shonku.

The character of a fictional scientist was created by Ray for his books for children, but has not been filmed. The absent-minded scientist is a favourite among children.



A scene from Ray's "Apur Sansar".

LONDON 2012

Duran Duran to play Olympics gig

Duran Duran are to play a concert in London's Hyde Park to mark the start of the Olympic Games.

The gig will feature headline acts from all four nations of the UK, with Duran Duran representing England and Snow Patrol appearing for Northern Ireland.

Stereophonics will represent Wales and Paolo Nutini will play for Scotland.

The concert on 27 July will coincide with the Olympics opening ceremony, which will be broadcast on big screens in the park between performances.

"Performing to so many people on the most exciting day in sport for Great Britain will be one of the highlights of the last decade for us," said Duran Duran's Simon Le Bon.

"We have been invited to represent England for this Team GB show, and we couldn't be more proud. Seeing the torch being lit on the big

screens before hitting the stage in this iconic location will be a great experience... We simply can't wait."

Snow Patrol's Jonny Quinn said: "Living in London and everything, with all the excitement, it's certainly an honour to be part of it. I think it will be very special."

At the same time, Victoria Park in Tower Hamlets, east London will broadcast the opening ceremony free to the public on two giant screens.

During the games, highlights of the Olympics will also be shown at both parks.

Another concert marking the end of the Olympics will be held in Hyde Park on 12 August, headlined by Blur.

The "Best of British" line-up also features New Order and The Specials.

SOURCE: BBC



Duran Duran will represent musical talent from England at the concert.

Beetle Baily by Mort Walker



Henry by Don Tranchete



Table with TV channels and programs: ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 1, ETV, BANGLAVISION.

Table with radio stations: abc radio FM 89.2, 90.0, 90.6, 91.0, 91.6, 92.0, 92.4, 92.8, 93.2, 93.6, 94.0, 94.4, 94.8, 95.2, 95.6, 96.0, 96.4, 96.8, 97.2, 97.6, 98.0, 98.4, 98.8, 99.2, 99.6, 100.0, 100.4, 100.8, 101.2, 101.6, 102.0, 102.4, 102.8, 103.2, 103.6, 104.0, 104.4, 104.8, 105.2, 105.6, 106.0, 106.4, 106.8, 107.2, 107.6, 108.0, 108.4, 108.8, 109.2, 109.6, 110.0, 110.4, 110.8, 111.2, 111.6, 112.0, 112.4, 112.8, 113.2, 113.6, 114.0, 114.4, 114.8, 115.2, 115.6, 116.0, 116.4, 116.8, 117.2, 117.6, 118.0, 118.4, 118.8, 119.2, 119.6, 120.0, 120.4, 120.8, 121.2, 121.6, 122.0, 122.4, 122.8, 123.2, 123.6, 124.0, 124.4, 124.8, 125.2, 125.6, 126.0, 126.4, 126.8, 127.2, 127.6, 128.0, 128.4, 128.8, 129.2, 129.6, 130.0, 130.4, 130.8, 131.2, 131.6, 132.0, 132.4, 132.8, 133.2, 133.6, 134.0, 134.4, 134.8, 135.2, 135.6, 136.0, 136.4, 136.8, 137.2, 137.6, 138.0, 138.4, 138.8, 139.2, 139.6, 140.0, 140.4, 140.8, 141.2, 141.6, 142.0, 142.4, 142.8, 143.2, 143.6, 144.0, 144.4, 144.8, 145.2, 145.6, 146.0, 146.4, 146.8, 147.2, 147.6, 148.0, 148.4, 148.8, 149.2, 149.6, 150.0, 150.4, 150.8, 151.2, 151.6, 152.0, 152.4, 152.8, 153.2, 153.6, 154.0, 154.4, 154.8, 155.2, 155.6, 156.0, 156.4, 156.8, 157.2, 157.6, 158.0, 158.4, 158.8, 159.2, 159.6, 160.0, 160.4, 160.8, 161.2, 161.6, 162.0, 162.4, 162.8, 163.2, 163.6, 164.0, 164.4, 164.8, 165.2, 165.6, 166.0, 166.4, 166.8, 167.2, 167.6, 168.0, 168.4, 168.8, 169.2, 169.6, 170.0, 170.4, 170.8, 171.2, 171.6, 172.0, 172.4, 172.8, 173.2, 173.6, 174.0, 174.4, 174.8, 175.2, 175.6, 176.0, 176.4, 176.8, 177.2, 177.6, 178.0, 178.4, 178.8, 179.2, 179.6, 180.0, 180.4, 180.8, 181.2, 181.6, 182.0, 182.4, 182.8, 183.2, 183.6, 184.0, 184.4, 184.8, 185.2, 185.6, 186.0, 186.4, 186.8, 187.2, 187.6, 188.0, 188.4, 188.8, 189.2, 189.6, 190.0, 190.4, 190.8, 191.2, 191.6, 192.0, 192.4, 192.8, 193.2, 193.6, 194.0, 194.4, 194.8, 195.2, 195.6, 196.0, 196.4, 196.8, 197.2, 197.6, 198.0, 198.4, 198.8, 199.2, 199.6, 200.0, 200.4, 200.8, 201.2, 201.6, 202.0, 202.4, 202.8, 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