

IT'S TRUE!



In 1937, Alice Brady was unable to attend the Academy Awards ceremony to claim her prize for Best Supporting Actress for "In Old Chicago". A mysterious, unidentified man took to the stage to apparently accept the award, but instead stole it. The statuette was never recovered and the Academy later issued Brady with a replacement.

TV WATCH

Ityadi at Savar EPZ

A CORRESPONDENT

After being shot at different historical places including Nagar Bhaban, Lalbagh Kella, Shalban Bihar, Ahsan Manzil, Bardhaman House and Chittagong port, popular entertainment show "Ityadi" will be telecast from Savar EPZ, Dhaka. The show was shot in the presence of thousands of garments workers. The episode will be aired tonight on BTV at 9pm.

Apart from airing regular skits, several features on the relationship of owners and labourers at EPZ (Export Processing Zone) area, alternative pesticides, rare collections and a humanitarian report will be showcased in tonight's episode.

Attractions include a patriotic song recorded by the Savar EPZ workers and a thematic duc rendered by noted singers -- Syed Abdul Hadi and Subir Nandi.

Written, planned, directed and hosted by Hanif Sanket, "Ityadi" is produced by Fagun Audio Vision. Keya Cosmetics Limited is the sponsor of the programme.

Untimely demise of a creative titan

Rituparno Ghosh passes away

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Multiple national award-winning director Rituparno Ghosh, known for his deft exploration of human relationships with all its nuances and depth, passed away of a heart attack in his South Kolkata residence today.

The end for the 49-year-old filmmaker -- who had been suffering from problems relating to pancreas -- came in his sleep at his Anwar Shah residence in South Kolkata, doctors attending on him said.

After starting his career in advertising, Rituparno made his directorial debut with "Hirer Angti" -- a film for children -- in 1994 and went on to make 18 feature films spanning a career of nearly two decades, out of which 12 won national awards in different categories.

Three years ago, his Bangla film "Abohoman" starring Ishu Sengupta, Ananya Chatterjee, Dipankar Dey and Mamata Shankar won the national award for best feature film in Bangla, best actress for Ananya and best direction.

His feature film "Unishey April" -- starring Aparna Sen, Debosri Roy, Prasenjit and Dipankar Dey, had won the Best Feature film in 1995.

It was a very well-made film about the intricacies of relationships in a family between the daughter (played by Debosri) and her parents played by Aparna Sen and Dipankar Dey. Ghosh brought out human emotions and relationships through the interaction of the family members, as each of them went about their objects in life.

Ghosh's films delved in the depths of human relationships and emotions as he the characters interacted with each other through a range of events and circumstances in their lives. The two best examples are "Unishey April" and "Bariwali", starring Kiran Kher and Chiranjeeb. Ghosh made his first screen presence in



Intricacies of relationships were Rituparno's specialty: A scene from "Unishey April".

an Oriya language film "Katha Deithili Ma Ku", directed by Himanshu Parija and released in 2003.

Among Ghosh's other films are "Dahan" (1997), "Bariwali" and "Asukh" (1999), "Utsab" (2000), "Tidi" (2002), "Shubho Muhurat" and "Chokher Bali" (2003), "Antarmahal" (2004), "Dosar" (2006), "The Last Lear" (2007) "Sob Chorito Kalponik" (2008), "Abohoman", "Noukadubi" (2010) and

"Chitrangada" (2012).

He also directed two films in Hindi -- "Raincoat" and "Sunglass", and one in English -- "The Last Lear", starring Amitabh Bachchan -- among others.

Rituparno Ghosh also hosted two celebrity chat shows on TV, "Ebong Rituparno" and "Star Jalsha".

The director left unfinished his last work "Satyanweshi", the shooting of which was completed recently.

The sudden demise of Ghosh came as a shock to the film world in West Bengal, as leading filmmakers, actors and actresses thronged the house of Ghosh and paid their last respects to him.

Thespian Soumitra Chatterjee deeply mourned Ghosh's death, saying, "I cannot believe that Rituparno is no more. We have lost a very promising film director at a very early age."

Last conversation with Rituparno Ghosh

RAFI HOSSAIN

It was about two years ago that I made an appointment to meet Rituparno Ghosh in connection with The Daily Star's "Celebrating Life" project. The first attempt to establish contact with one of the greatest Bengali filmmakers of our time proved futile as I couldn't get an Indian visa in time.

He was clearly annoyed that I had missed the appointment. Later, despite repeated attempts to contact him, he didn't answer my calls. When I persisted, he messaged: "Call me when you come to Kolkata."

Later, when I went to Kolkata, I called him to set up a time for a meeting. On the phone, he quite clearly expressed his discontent with me, saying abruptly, "I will call you back."

Unfortunately, the long awaited call never came. I got the feeling that it was never going to happen. So, I got in touch with my trusted friend Debajoyti Mishra or "Debuda" as I call him fondly. When Debuda patiently heard of my dilemma, he said, "He is our Diva." Puzzled, I asked him what he meant. He assured me that I would learn why Rituparno was called a "Diva" when I met him.

Debuda had worked with Rituparno for several of the latter's films. So, a meeting was arranged. Debuda was not coming with me. I had to have a one on one with the genius I had longed to meet and pitch my ideas to him.

His house was almost surreal -- sophisticated and sparkling with every item carefully chosen. There was an "in your face" attitude about him

that many didn't like. Many passed snide remarks behind his back. But for me, he was a man who knew who he was, followed his heart and couldn't care less what others thought.

His talent and creativity made me choose my words carefully. Often I kept silent and just listened to him talking, not daring to argue or respond.

I pitched my ideas to him regarding making a film in Bangladesh, under the banner of "Celebrating Life". He had been to Bangladesh before and directed a few TVCs. He was interested to work with young, talented filmmakers of Bangladesh. He wanted enough creative space and time to work on such a project.

When I requested him to decide on a firm date when he could start working with us, he matter-of-factly said that he had been through many relationships and breakups. But at that time he was going through the roughest breakup of his life. He promised me that he would work with us as soon as he recovered. I suppose, he never recovered.

There are many aspects of his life that may cause some to raise their eyebrows. But he was a man who was upfront and lived life on his own terms. He was the kind of man about whom you could say, "What you see is what you get". On his untimely demise, I feel that Bengalis all over the world have lost a talented fellow Bengali who is irreplaceable. "Celebrating Life" has lost a chance to tap into his well acknowledged talents. We could've learned so much from him; he had so much more to give. I wish him a great afterlife.

The writer is Editor, Star Insight.



Remembering an art movement icon

TAKIR HOSSAIN

May 28 marked the 37th death anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin (1914-1976), the leading figure in the history of modern art movement in Bangladesh.

A well-known figure for his leadership qualities in organising artists and art movements, Abedin took the initiative to found the Government Institute of Arts and Crafts (now Faculty of Fine Arts) in 1948 on Dhaka University campus, of which he was the founding principal. This institute trained and nurtured an entire generation of artists whose works reflected the changing times. Qamrul Hassan, Safiuddin Ahmed, Shafiqul Amin, Anwarul Haq were contemporaries of Zainul Abedin. This was the generation that depicted the changing social reality in their art.

It is noteworthy that the first batch initiated of the Government College of Arts and Crafts in 1948 with the students of Aminul Islam, Hamidur Rahman, Abdur Rahman Bhuiyan, Abdul Kader, Mohammad Ismail, Alfazuddin Khandakar, Nurul Islam, Khaled Chowdhury, Shamsul Alam, Imdad Hossain, Julfikar Ali, Probash Sen, Loknath Dhor, Bazle Mousa and Ali Humayun.

During the 1950s, Dhaka was a quiet and green city. Painters frequently visited Buriganga river, Waiz Ghat and other attractive places to portray nature with the guidance of their teachers. Zainul Abedin especially stressed on drawing and he successfully instilled in them an interest in this genre of art. The students also portrayed political chaos, economic crises, city life, rural life, still life and

other themes. Some of them were greatly influenced by internationally acclaimed impressionist painters.

Born in Mymensingh, Abedin grew up in the serene landscape by the river Brahmaputra -- the river being a source of inspiration to the artist from an early childhood. In 1933, the artist enrolled at Calcutta Government Art School. Later he joined the faculty of the same institute after his graduation. He was an influential member of the Calcutta Group of progressive artists. A series of watercolours that Abedin did as his tribute to the Brahmaputra river earned him the Governor's Gold Medal in an all-India exhibition in 1938.

"Famine Sketches", a series of paintings Abedin made in 1943, addressed the death of food created by the British Raj. Bengal was affected the most by the famine. That series earned Abedin international acclaim. Drawn in Chinese ink and brush on cheap packing paper, the series is a compilation of haunting images of intolerable cruelty and the utter helplessness of the masses dying of hunger.

The iconic figure is also well-known for his landscapes, which mainly delve into scenic and panoramic beauty of rural Bengal. The works were mainly watercolours. He was involved in the Liberation War movement. He was in the forefront of the cultural movement to re-establish the Bengali identity.

In 1975, Zainul Abedin set up a folk museum at Sonargaon, and a permanent gallery in Mymensingh (Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala) to display some of his works. He became actively involved in a movement to preserve the cultural heritage of Bengal. Abedin died in 1976 in Dhaka.



Back to bachelor life

Pond's Age Miracle My Second Honeymoon, a signature campaign of Pond's about love and devotion between married couples is about to heat up this week as the final ten couples make their way to a romantic destination, the scenic Rangamati Resort in Gazipur, in the 2nd episode of the show.

Pond's Age Miracle My Second Honeymoon asked couples nationwide how they would make their second honeymoon unforgettable if they get a chance to spend it on a faraway exotic beach. The initial top 52 couples were selected based on their narration of a second honeymoon, from where 10 couples were shortlisted after interesting interview sessions with celebrity judges.

This week, the top 10 couples will receive a warm welcome at the Rangamati Resort in Gazipur. The couples will be greeted with scenic beauty and in a lush green atmosphere, where they will be separated for the first time since their bachelor life! And they will be sent back to their bachelor days.

The heart breaking separation of the couples will be followed by a grooming session where the couples will have to choose romantic topics in their own interest areas which they will later perform on TV to re-impress their partner. Fun, entertainment, celebrations and suspense awaits as the couples choose interesting topics to work on.

So how do the couples re-unite? Or do they not? What big surprise awaits these lovely couples?

Find out tonight at 9:45pm on Desh TV.

POND'S
age miracle

My 2nd Honeymoon
Come fall in love again

Want to turn back the clock?
10 lovely couples have been taken back to their bachelor life again. Find out how they deal with this sudden separation!

To watch the romantic episode, keep your eyes on Desh TV tonight at 9:45 pm
Watch the repeat telecast on Saturday at 12:15 pm

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London calling

14th Rainbow Film Festival

The 14th Rainbow Film Festival was launched on May 26 at Genesis Cinema in the heart of East London, Bangladesh High Commissioner Mijanul Quayes, inaugurated the festival, says a press release. Among others present were John Biggs, assembly member of Greater London Authority, Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman, Cllr Denise Jones and noted actress Jayasree Kabir.

This year's festival is dedicated to late Humayun Ahmed and Subash Dutt, who passed away last year. A minute's silence was observed before the programme began.

The film "Ghetu Putro Komola" directed by Humayun Ahmed was screened after the inauguration ceremony.

A large crowd, representing different communities from Tower Hamlets and other regions of London, are attending the festival.

Several Bangladeshi and Indian films are being screened at the festival. Among them are "Charulata", "Laltip" and "English Vinglish". Some of the films are being followed by Q & A sessions.

The festival will continue till June 2.

A scene from "Laltip".

Bangladeshi girl to play famous face Crusader Malala Yousufzai

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

A Bangladeshi student has been chosen to play the on-screen role of Malala Yousufzai who became a global symbol of the fight against the Taliban after being shot at and grievously wounded on October 9 last year, Indian newspaper "The Times of India" reported today.

Noted Indian filmmaker Amjad Khan, who was making a film on the 14-year-old Pakistani education activist Malala Yousufzai, has finally chosen Fatima Sheikh, a Dhaka-based girl based for the coveted role. The actor's identity had been kept a secret for the last 40 days when Khan did her screen test, the daily said.

Malala used the pseudonym 'Gul Maki' while writing her diary on Taliban days in Pakistan's Swat valley.

"There were two reasons for all this secrecy. One was that her parents were extremely reluctant to let her do this role, let alone expose her to the danger it involved and second was the work permit to shoot in India", The Times of India quoted Amjad as saying adding it was only ten days ago that Fatima got the work permit and the film was ready to roll.

The shoot of the proposed film will be held in India and Pakistan, Amjad said.

He said it took a lot of time to persuade the Bangladeshi girl's parents to let her do the role of Malala on screen. "Even now, the parents are insisting on not revealing the girl's face till the second schedule of the film's shoot is over."

Taliban gunmen had sprayed bullets on Malala when she was on her way back home in Swat valley on October 9 last year. Critically wounded, she was flown to the UK for treatment.

Amjad said he was also excited about getting permission to shoot the film in Islamabad and Karachi.

"It took me three months, and finally, the Pakistan government gave me the permission to shoot," said Amjad.

"I will be shooting what the Taliban activity is all about, how they train youngsters, all this is what I will shoot -- I will keep Fatima on the sets so that she gets accustomed to all of us. She is just a kid, actually, she is still studying, so I need to make her comfortable first," said Amjad.

Malala Yousufzai

ROCKING CONCERT

Rise of Chittagong Kaos

ENTRY BDT 500

WARFAZE NEMESIS TEERONDAZ CROWPHETZ

MAY 31, FRIDAY/GATE OPEN 3:00PM/SHOW 4:00PM
GYMNASIUM HALL, (IN A RIZIZ STADIUM CHITTAGONG)

The first edition of "Rise of Chittagong Kaos" concert is to be held in Chittagong on May 31, says a press release. The venue is Chittagong Gymnasium Hall. To the delight of music lovers, top bands like Warfaze, Nemesis, Tironnaz, Explore, Crowphetz and Oitijho will rock the audience.

Tariqul Sumon, managing director of Chittagong 360 degree Events and Communication that has conceived the event said, "Chittagong is the hub of Bangladeshi rock music. This event has been organised especially for Chittagong music lovers. To sustain the flow we are also planning to organise a series of concerts in different locations."