

WHAT'S ON

Nazrul Utshab 1421
Organiser: Chhayanaut
Venue: Main Auditorium,
Chhayanaut, Dhanmondi
Date: May 24-25
Time: 6:30pm



Group Mask Exhibition
Title: Mukh O Mukhosh 5
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara
Date: May 17-30
Time: 11am-8pm daily



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Trailing the Root: One Step Ahead
Venue: Dhaka Art Center, H-60, Rd-7a, Dhanmondi
Date: May 16-22
Time: 3-8pm everyday



National Sculpture Exhibition
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 11-20
Time: 11am-7pm & 3-8pm (on Friday)



Dance Competition
Organisers: Bangladesh Nitya Shilpi Sangstha & Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Divisional and District Shilpakala Academies
Date: May 18-22 & May 25-29
Time: 10am Onwards



NEWS bytes

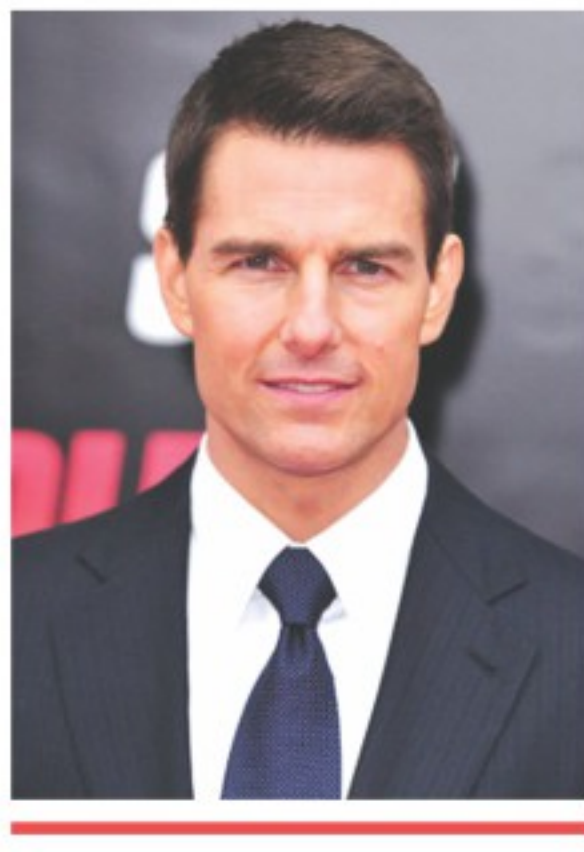
Curtains on "Two And A Half Men"

US TV network CBS entertainment president Nina Tassler this morning confirmed that the upcoming 12th season of veteran comedy "Two And A Half Men" will be its last. The network is planning a sendoff similar to that for "How I Met Your Mother" this season, with co-creator/executive producer Chuck Lorre promising a "season-long event". The series has defied odds, surviving the meltdown and subsequent firing of original star Charlie Sheen to go on for four more seasons with new leading man Ashton Kutcher. Asked whether Sheen could appear on the final season to resurrect his character Charlie Harper, CBS chairman Nina Tassler said, "Chuck Lorre has a lot of surprises in store, I'm not sure this is one of them."



IT'S TRUE!

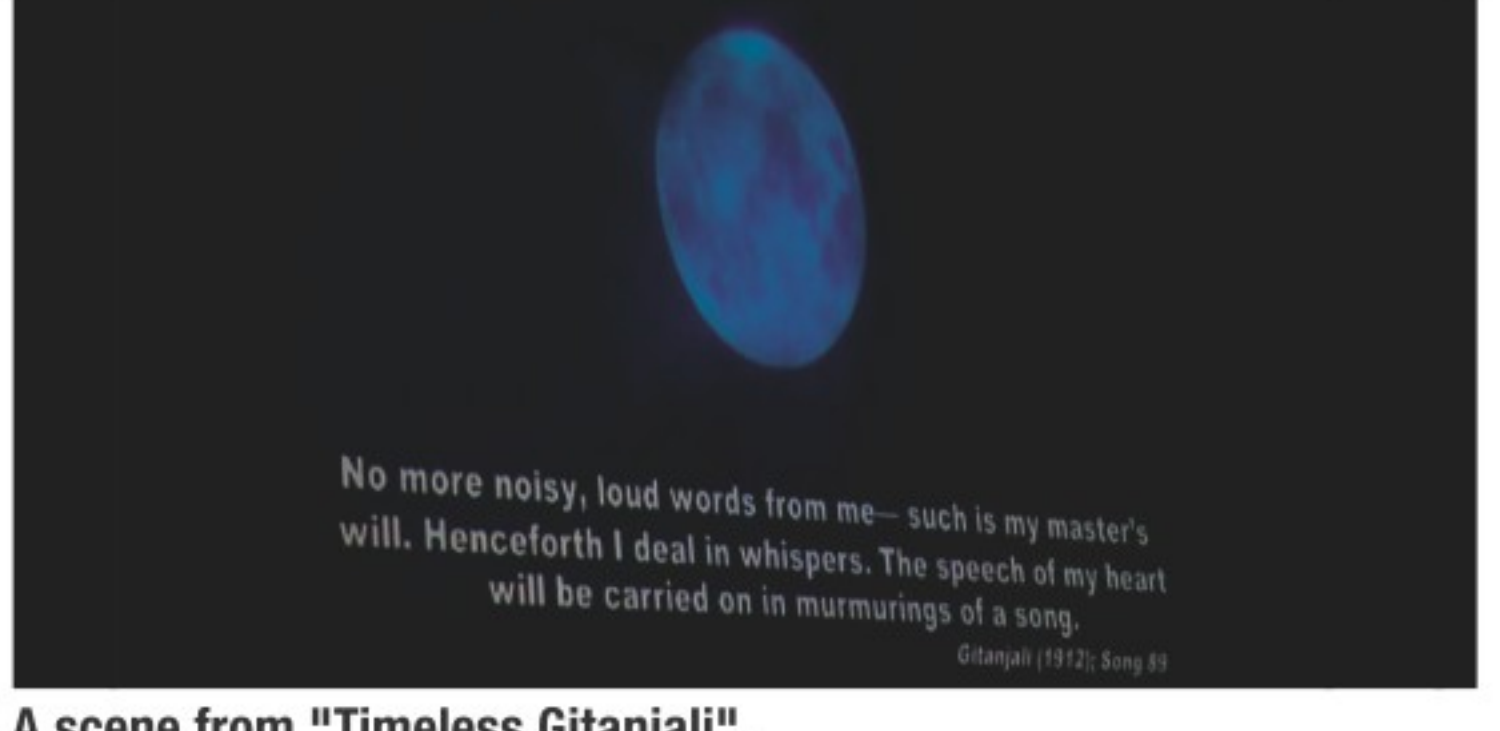
Tom Cruise didn't stay for the remainder of the 2002 Academy Awards after opening the ceremony, because it was his turn to look after his and ex-wife Nicole Kidman's children. He reportedly left the Kodak Theatre through a backdoor after opening proceedings, and dashed home to watch the rest of the event on TV with his kids Connor and Isabella.



Lyrical mysticism of "Gitanjali"
Chanchal Khan's documentary premiered



Chanchal Khan



A scene from "Timeless Gitanjali".



AH Mahmood Ali



Pankaj Sharan



Anneli Lindahl Kenny



Greg Wilcock



Nick Low

Minister, diplomats, educationists, cultural personalities and Tagore exponents and enthusiasts assembled together to watch the premiere of a documentary film titled "Timeless Gitanjali", directed by eminent Tagore singer and exponent Dr. Chanchal Khan at the National Museum auditorium on May 16. Hasina Ahmed Shoma was the creative director for the production, the first of its kind in Bangladesh. Foreign Affairs Minister AH Mahmood Ali, as chief guest, inaugurated the premiere. Indian High Commissioner Pankaj Sharan, Swedish ambassador Anneli Lindahl Kenny, Australian High Commissioner Greg Wilcock and the Acting British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Nick Low attended

the event as special guests and spoke on their respective countries' relevance to Gitanjali and the production of the documentary. Dr. Chanchal Khan also shared his experience and thanked all concerned who helped him in the endeavor. "Gitanjali is one of the most celebrated works of writing certainly in South Asia and perhaps in Asia at large. Paradoxically, it came to fame in Europe and won the Nobel Prize in 1913. In their citation, the Nobel Foundation praised the poet 'because of his profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful verse, by which, with consummate skill, he has made his poetic thought, expressed in his own English words, a part of the literature of the West.' The lyrical mysticism of Tagore's 'Gitanjali' as well as his other works continues to resonate and touch our hearts even today.

Tagore, of course, was much more than just a poet. I think he was a renaissance man," said Pankaj Sharan. Profusely rich in content and making, the documentary traces the history of "Gitanjali" from its original publication in 1910 to its translation into the English version in 1912 and thus recapitulates the events that shaped the journey towards winning the Nobel Prize and the way it still remains relevant today. Eminent Tagore researchers, artists, and academics including Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman, Dr. Hayat Mahmud, Professor Shamsuzzaman Khan, Dr. Karunamoy Goswami and Ranjan Bandopadhyay have been interviewed in the documentary. Shooting for the documentary was done in London, Kolkata, Shantiniketan and

Bangladesh over the last one year. Each of these places carries significant historical perspectives revolving around the Tagore masterpiece. The documentary also features songs and recitation from "Gitanjali". Noted Tagore singers lent their voices to the songs. The documentary zooms in on insightful learning, priceless information and educational purpose. The mystical lyrics of the masterpiece coupled with the artistic visual presentation, recitation and rendition has turned the documentary into a treasure trove. Dr. Chanchal Khan has written the script in English. He along with Dahlia Ahmed gave narration in the documentary. Shurolok Bangladesh organised the screening while India Bangladesh Foundation, High Commission of India in Dhaka sponsored the production.

Nirmol Modok
Dedicated to his art

AMINUL ISLAM, *Mymensingh*

Nirmol Modok is a dedicated painter and brilliant art teacher, highly esteemed by his disciples. He works from his home and prefers oils and water colours as his media. He is also keen on pencil sketches.

Born at village Charipara in Gafargoan of Mymensingh in 1942, the keen painter, established Madhu Mita Studio, a photography unit, in the town and ran it for seven years.

Later, he joined Mukul Niketan High School as an art teacher between 1988- 2010.

Modok was also an art teacher at Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Mymensingh unit for 17 years. "I cherish my teaching career because it gives me the opportunity to train new talents who will always remember me," said Modok.

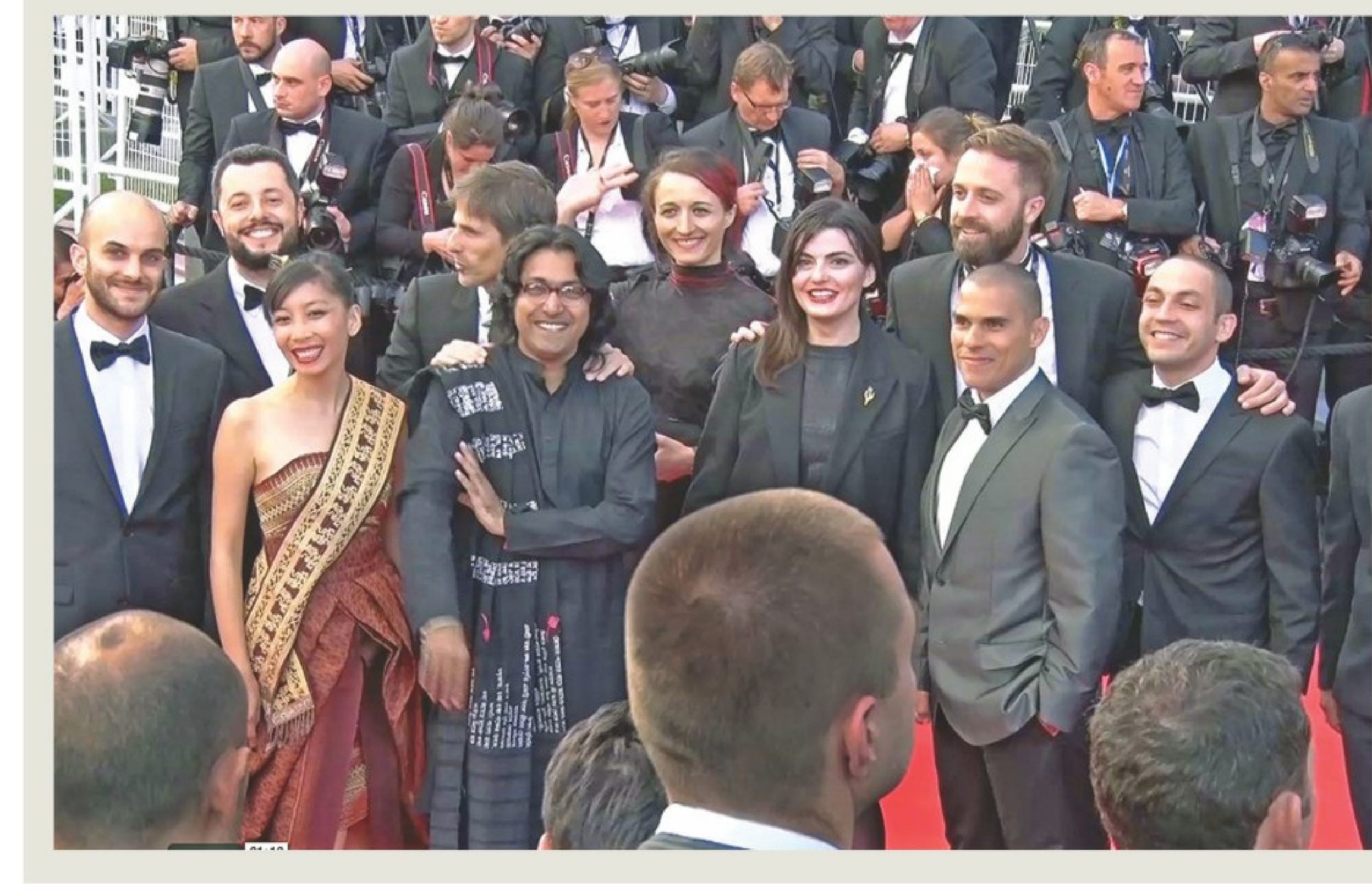
In his 40-year career as a painter and art teacher, Modok has inspired several talented students of whom 17 secured gold medals at the national level children's competition from 1988 to 2000, said Modok.

Modok developed a passion for painting at an early age. "One day when I was in class five, an inspector of schools visited our school. He came to our class and asked us to do a painting on a rural scene. To my delight I emerged first," said Modok with visible pride.

"I still remember my teachers from whom I took lessons in art: Rafiqun Nabi, Hashem Khan, Quayyum Chowdhury, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, and Abdur Razzaq, among others," he said. "Artist Abdus Shakur was one of my classmates who retired as dean of Fine Arts Faculty of Dhaka University," informed Modok who added that he is still a learner of art and intends to pursue it till his last days.

"While the fine arts are becoming increasingly popular, the same cannot be said for the level of dedication of both teachers and students to this creative form," said Modok.

Veteran commercial artiste Jugul Kishore Talukder is highly impressed by Modok's commitment to arts. In his words, "Nirmol's drawings are multi-dimensional and this quality is rare even among prominent artists. We need devoted art teachers like Nirmol to enrich our culture and heritage."



Kamar Ahmed Simon (front row, 3-L) at the Red Carpet of the Cannes, as part of this year's 'Les Cinemas du Monde' ("the cinemas of the world," in French), one of the sidebar platforms competing for festival-goers' attention. He is one of the 10 directors to have been selected for the programme, for the pitch of his film "Silence of the Seashell".

PHOTO COURTESY: KAMAR AHMED SIMON

CANNES DIARY
The day of the dragon

RAFI HOSSAIN and ZIA NAZMUL ISLAM, *write from Cannes*

It was a dragon that ruled the third day at Cannes Film Festival. Although screened as "Out of Competition", the animated film is voiced by some of the most popular names of world cinema: Cate Blanchett, Gerard Butler, Djimon Hounsou, Craig Ferguson, Jonah Hill and Kristen Wiig. As usual, after a vibrant press conference, the 3D animated film was screened at the Grand Théâtre Lumière. Animated features are taken seriously at all major film festivals now.

Director Atom Egoyan with his entire crew with likes of Ryan Reynolds, Scott Speedman and Rosario Dawson presented their intriguing film "Captives" at the press conference, which is being presented in Competition. The director talked about what led him to look at the consequences of a kidnapping. Ryan Reynolds talked about his research by reading an enormous number of articles after receiving the script.

We also managed to watch Turkish film "Winter Sleep", directed by Nuri Bilge Ceylan. It has been selected to compete for the Palme d'Or. The film is long and linear with very simple treatment. With long dialogues and conversations the movie takes slow ride. But the protagonist manages to catch our sympathy at the end and we realised it is a story of love, not just documenting the life of people.

At a special screening, we watched Russian documentary "Red Army". After a passionate speech from the filmmakers, the documentary took us to the time of Soviet Union during the height of the cold war. It tells the story of the nation's famed Red Army hockey team through the eyes of its captain Slava Fetisov. It is a very intelligent and political documentary but may not be very intriguing to the audience without love for Ice Hockey or political awareness.

We took a stroll beside the Riviera, where all the pavilions are located. It was surprising to find pavilions of countries that we couldn't imagine associating with films. Many country pavilions were set up to attract filmmakers to choose their country for shooting locations.

In the Indian pavilion, we met Kamal Haasan, who talked briefly with us and wished The Daily Star good luck. We also took extensive video of the day, which will be available once we return to Dhaka.

Editor of Star Showbiz Rafi Hossain, and sub-editor Zia Nazmul Islam are in the French Riviera City of Cannes for the 67th Cannes Film Festival, and will keep readers updated on this page, on events at the festival.



(L-R) Djimon Hounsou, America Ferrera, Kit Harington, Cate Blanchett, Jay Baruchel and director Dean DeBlois at the premiere of "How to Train Your Dragon 2".

Mixed results for film stars in Indian elections

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, *New Delhi*

The Indian film fraternity met with mixed fortunes in the national elections with BJP nominees Hema Malini, Kirron Kher and Paresh Rawal and Trinamool's Moon Moon Sen making their parliamentary debut, while some like Raj Babbar, Nagma, Gul Panag and Jaya Prada bit the dust.

Hema Malini, Bollywood's 'Dreamgirl' of yesteryears, made a dream debut, winning from Mathura constituency in Uttar Pradesh where a Narendra Modi wave swept the state. The actor, who has been a nominated member of Rajya Sabha, defeated incumbent Jayant Chaudhary of Rashtriya Lok Dal.

Veteran actor-politician Shatrughan Sinha of BJP won from Patna Sahib for the fourth time where regional actor Kunal Singh from Congress failed to give a challenge. Another celebrity and new entrant, Paresh Rawal, Bollywood's favourite character actor, won in Ahmedabad constituency in Gujarat state.

Hindi film actor Vinod Khanna of BJP made a comeback by winning against Pratap Singh Bajwa of Congress in Gurdaspur in Punjab state. Kirron Kher, wife of actor Anupam Kher, made an impressive debut as a BJP nominee in Chandigarh constituency



Hema Malini

where she defeated former Railway Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal of Congress by a margin of about 70 thousand votes.

Actress Gul Panag, who was also fighting her maiden election for upstart anti-graft outfit Aam Admi Party (AAP), finished third. AAP's Javed Jaffrey lost to BJP President Rajnath Singh from Lucknow constituency by a huge margin. TV star-turned-politician Smriti Irani of BJP gave a good fight to Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi in Amethi constituency in Uttar Pradesh state, but lost.

However, luck did not smile upon the celebrity contestants fighting from Congress, with Raj Babbar and Nagma losing in their respective constituencies.



Paresh Rawal

Bollywood director Prakash Jha, who has made a number of political films, lost the elections for the third time in his political career when he was defeated in West Champaran by BJP's Sanjay Jaiswal.

In West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress had fielded a number of Tollywood celebrities and most of them emerged winner. Satabdi Roy, an actress-turned-politician, defeated BJP's celebrity contestant Joy Banerjee in Birbhum while Moon Moon Sen, the daughter of late screen legend Suchitra Sen, won from Bankura. Former actress and Trinamool candidate Sandhya Roy defeated Prabodh Pandya of CPI (M) in Medinipur while actor Dev Adhikari, the current heartthrob of Bengali cinema and



Kirron Kher

also a Trinamool nominee, defeated CPI (M)'s Santosh Rana from Ghatal.

'Disco King' music director Bappi Lahiri, who was fighting his maiden election on a BJP ticket, failed to woo the voters in Srirampur but singer Babul Supriyo was lucky BJP star candidate to win from Asansol.

Actor-director Mahesh Manjrekar, who started his political innings with Maharashtra Navarinna Sena, failed to register a win in Mumbai North-West constituency where Bollywood's item girl Rakhi Sawant who contested as an Independent lost. Jaya Prada, former Samajwadi Party leader who joined Rashtriya Lok Dal, failed to register a win in Bijnaur in Uttar Pradesh state.