



NEWS bytes

Fat Greek Wedding sequel being written

The star and writer of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" has told her Twitter followers she is writing a sequel to the hit 2002 romantic comedy. Nia Vardalos wrote: "Now that I'm experiencing motherhood I feel ready to write this next chapter." The Oscar-nominated screenwriter also confirmed the "entire big fat family" has been invited to take part in the project.

Made on a budget of around \$5m, the surprise hit became one of the most profitable films of all time. The plot followed the loud Portokalos family, whose daughter Fatoula marries a non-Greek, played by John Corbett.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Vardalos has already written the script and Corbett, 53, has agreed to return in the sequel.

Source: BBC



IT'S TRUE!

In 1989, US actress Halle Berry moved to New York City to pursue her acting ambitions. During her early time there, she ran out of money and had to live briefly in a homeless shelter. From there, she became one of the highest-paid actresses of the 2000s, becoming the first (and so far, only) actress of African-American descent to have won an Oscar for a leading role -- for "Masters Ball" (2001).



PHOTO: RIDWAN ABDI RUPON

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The much-anticipated second studio album of folk-fusion band Joler Gaan is set for release tomorrow. Titled "Patalpurer Gaan", the album will consist of a total of 11 tracks, including an instrumental and a film soundtrack.

A host of programmes have been chalked out for the release. The album will be launched at a live studio concert at Channel i at 2:30pm tomorrow (June 1), immediately following which the album will be found at outlets of fashion houses Deshal and Jatra,

along with music stores. Apart from the CD, the album will also be launched online at the concert. Later at 11pm, the band will perform live at Radio Shadhin marking the release.

Joler Gaan has been actively doing music since 2006, and received vast popularity a few years ago among listeners of all ages and tastes, with their fresh, innovative sounds from custom-designed instruments, free-flowing lyrics and engaging, theatrical live performances. Their first album, "Otol Joler Gaan" was released last year and was received very well by the audience.

Some of the tracks in the album have

already gained popularity among the band's fans through live performances, like "Ghum Bhangania Gaan", "Baula Batash", "Ekaki Ashor" and "Andhar Raite", while some entirely new material is also being promised for it. Front-man Rahul Anand has written and composed most of the songs, with one of them, "Ar Nai Keu" is a Jibana Das poem.

Dedicated to all mothers, "Patalpurer Gaan" promises to be rich in the flavours that has made Joler Gaan one of the most-loved musical acts of the last few years, while keeping an element of surprise that has been equally important in the group's success.

A story of exploitation "Sagina Mahatu" staged

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

"Sagina Mahatu", a play based on the life of railway workers from the Himalayan region of British India, made its debut at Zila Shilpkala Academy auditorium recently.

This play has been adapted and directed by Shahadat Hossain Khan Hilu, secretary of Bahurupi Natya Sangstha.

The play was staged in 64 districts of the country under the patronage of Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy.

Local theatre groups Jhilik Natya Sangstha, Mukhshu Natya Goshthi, Chhayanan Sahitya Sangskritik Dal and Ensemble Theatre assisted the programme.

The play was adapted from "Sagina Mahatu", a short story written by Indian writer Gourkishore Ghosh, who depicted the struggles of the poor working class and their exploitation by their employers and authorities.

The director of the play said Sagina Mahatu, the protagonist of the play was one of the hundreds of railway workers who were exploited severely by their authorities for years. Mahatu raised his voice and protested against the repression unleashed upon them by their employers, and drew the other workers under the same umbrella. Politicians then stepped in to divide Mahatu from the workers.

The play was assisted by Manash Talukder, Mozammel Hossain, Krishna Talukder, Amol Basak and Saiful Islam.

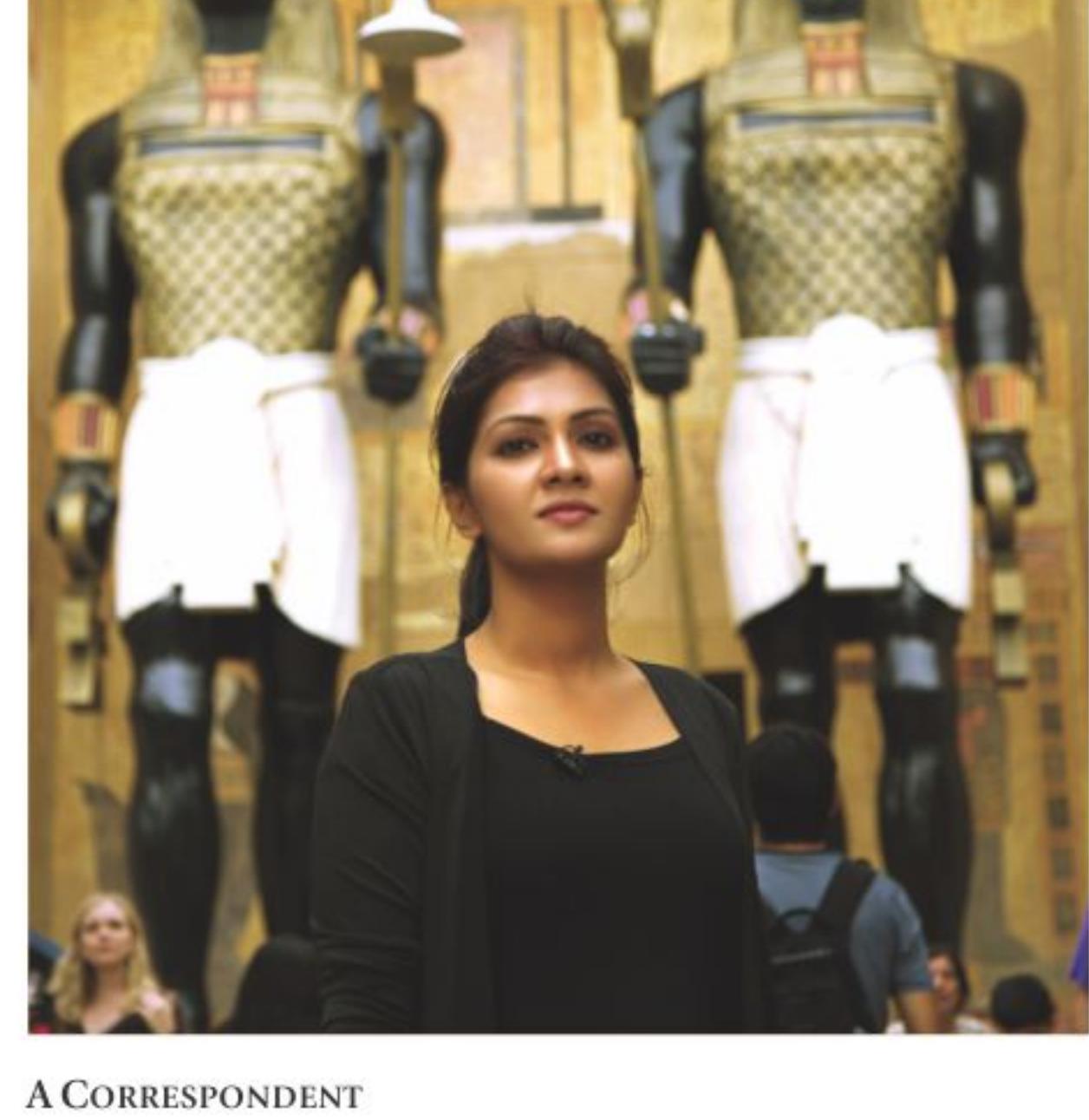
Earlier, a discussion was held where Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Mustakim Billah Faruqui was the chief guest. He said such initiatives by BSA will benefit theatre in the country, by spawning more talent.



PHOTO: STAR

TV WATCH

"Traveler's Story" on Channel 9



A CORRESPONDENT

Travel show "Traveler's Story" will air on Channel 9 tonight at 9:15pm. Hosted by Maria, the show travels on luxury cruise Superstar Virgo, traveling from Singapore to Thailand's Phuket and Malaysia's Langkawi. The unique cruising experience and activities, along with pristine places will be shown on the show. Viewers can also participate in quiz contests to win trips on the cruise. Shahriar Shakil has directed the programme.

Nazrul Jayanti observed in Bogra



PHOTO: STAR

Young dancers perform at the event.

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

Leading cultural organisation of Bogra, Amra Ka Jan Shilpi Gosthi, arranged a cultural programme and discussion on the birth anniversary of national poet Nazrul at Pouro High School of Bogra recently.

The discussants were noted athlete Jalilur Rahman and Professor Mahafuz Begum, among others.

The event was presided over by the president of the organisation Abdus Salam Polash and conducted by its secretary Abdul Mobin Jinnah.

A short play of Nazrul titled "Oi Jolke Chole Kar Jhiri" was staged alongside poetry recitation and dance.

FILM REVIEW

Maleficent: Sleeping Beauty re-imagined



For a reminder of how wonderful "Frozen" is, watch Maleficent. This summer blockbuster season, Disney has turned out a live-action reimagining of its own animated version of "Sleeping Beauty" (1959).

As recently as six months ago, this might have felt subversive, even significant, but after the enchanting adventures of Elsa and Anna (in "Frozen"), the fun on offer here feels relatively thawed.

It is still fun, though, which counts for something – largely because the game involves returning to a well-thumbed fairy tale and muddling the distinction between evil and good. Maleficent, played by Angelina Jolie, is the wicked fairy, down to the sleek black-and-purple gown and the hat like two raised scorpion-stings.

Here, though, her wickedness is limited to that famous fit of rage at Princess Aurora's christening – the flash of green fire, the spinning-wheel curse, reproduced from the 1959 cartoon version almost word-for-word – for which she spends much of this film trying to make amends.

First-time director Robert Stromberg was production designer on Tim Burton's "Alice in Wonderland" and Sam Raimi's "Oz the Great and Powerful", and if those films were visually sickly, here he really has his cake and sits in it. Every frame of "Maleficent" is abuzz with odd and not

always charming computer-generated beasts, and it takes a while for the eyes to adjust to the nuclear-grade sweetness.

One day, a young trespasser from the human realm appears: this is Stefan, who

breaks young Maleficent's heart and returns, some years later on royal orders, to ensure her fairy wings suffer the same fate. Stefan, played as an adult by Sharlto Copley, inherits the throne – and so it's

Source: Telegraph

his daughter that Maleficent, fuelled by vengeance, not jealousy, turns up to curse.

For the next 16 years, on and off, she watches Aurora, who's played as a young girl by Jolie's daughter Vivienne and as a teen by Elle Fanning, being raised by the three multi-coloured good fairies at their country cottage.

It's been four years since Jolie last appeared on screen, and you'd like to think she's having fun here, even though a smile, under the circumstances, seems physically impossible. Her mouth is ruby-bright and pursed as a rosebud, while her cheekbones look like something from the winners' enclosure at Aintree. Oscar-winning special make-up effects artist Rick Baker was in charge of the reshaping of the Jolie features, and his work is wildly more convincing than the digital enhancements used elsewhere.

When the time comes for Aurora to prick her finger and the curse to take effect, Maleficent has realised the error of her ways, and dashes to the castle, where a confrontation with King Stefan ensues. The action sequences are executed with rhythm and punch. Maleficent may be short on true enchantment, but until we find a superhero who can pull off a black silk cocktail gown in battle, she's very welcome.

Source: Telegraph