

NEWS

bytes



Tommy Ramone

passes away

Tommy Ramone, the last surviving founding member of seminal US punk band The Ramones, has died aged 62 in New York, the group has announced. The drummer passed away in hospice care on Friday following treatment for bile duct cancer, US media reported. Born in Hungary, Ramone immigrated to the US in the 1950s. He started The Ramones with three friends from a New York high-school in 1974. The band has been credited with the invention of punk rock. Tommy was the group's drummer from 1974 to 1978, and co-produced their first three albums.

Source: BBC

IT'S

TRUE!



Before joining Bollywood, Indian actress Juhi Chawla was the winner of Miss India title in 1984, and went on to win Best Costume Award for the Miss Universe contest in 1984. She is an accomplished dancer, and in an interview, mentioned having learned Kathak for three years and regretted giving it up as it could have helped her in her career as an actress. She is also been training in classical singing for six years.

“Badh”: The struggle of life

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy premiere new play

FAHMIM FERDOUS

As part of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy's (BSA) annual drive to produce new plays countrywide, the Theatre and Drama Department of the Dhaka unit of BSA premiered their production “Badh” at the National Theatre Hall on Friday. This year's theme for the campaign is literature-based plays, and “Badh” has been adapted from eminent writer Shawkat Osman's short story “Oi Badh'e”.

A brief inauguration programme was held prior to the staging, where Yeafesh Osman, State Minister for Science and Information Technology and also Shawkat Osman's son, attended as chief guest. Ramendu Majumdar, President of World ITI, was special guest while Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General, BSA presided over the programme. Also speaking there, director of the play Mohammad Bari explained his inspiration behind choosing this story, stating that he had read it as a teenager and it moved him greatly. Yeafesh Osman, in his address said he often wondered whether his father was a writer or a politician, because in all his writings he had a conscious effort to strike the society with his thoughts.

“Badh” is set in Niamatnagar, and is the story of two factions of the village, Uttarpara and Dakkhinpara, who have had conflicts between them for genera-



As peril strikes, the villagers must unite.

tions. A sudden tidal surge washes the village away and the villagers seek refuge on the embankment dam. As tensions keep rising between the villagers of the two sides, Salim Matbor, the elderly sage, tries to maintain peace. As the southern side of the embankment begins to give in, the residents of Dakkhinpara seek shelter at the north-

ern end and Salim Matbor takes them in, but the conflicts continue to rise. Meanwhile Fazal, one of the youth leaders of Uttarpara, has a new take on life following his wife's death, drowned in the tidal surge, and tries to convince his fellow villagers that life is bigger than such trivial conflicts and hatred. The tide continues to rise and

threaten to wash away the embankment, but the villagers then see a big number of ants clinging to each other, forming a ball and riding the waves for survival, and it teaches them the valuable lesson of unity in the face of danger.

The stage space was left rather empty, with the backdrop set nicely

PHOTO COURTESY: SAIFUL ISLAM

with clever use of lighting; the ambient sounds and the very rustic, rural music arrangements also enhanced the ambiance greatly. In terms of acting, the play fared very well; it was difficult to find a single weak link in the cast. Toufique Islam Imon as Salim Matbor, AK Azad Setu as Fazal, Ehsanur Rahman as Abbas, Kanta Zaman as Moyna and Shafiqul Islam as Mannu all kept the audience in their grip with natural, strong deliveries and body language. The direction, albeit a little 'loose' in places, had quite a few moments of brilliance. The dialogues were free-flowing and uninhibited, the humour was crude (which is appropriate for the rural setting) but the comic relief were aptly placed, while the transition of scenes that included two well-done flashbacks and a beautiful romantic sequence, were all worthy of praise. A brief injection of an unscrupulous government official and local administration (chairman) in the play also added a dimension.

The costumes, choreography and props were also designed and executed neatly, making it all in all a fairly successful production.

BSA Director General Liaquat Ali Lucky informed that the other Shilpakala Academy units are producing their dramas on literary works, and a festival of those plays will be held next month in Dhaka.

Braveheart of Bangladesh art world

Subir Chowdhury remembered

FAYZA HAQ

Those whom the gods love die young. This adage rang only too true when Subir Chowdhury, director of Bengal Gallery, passed away. Why did he depart so early, asked major artists Rafiqun Nabi, and Qayyum Chowdhury at the Bengal Gallery where the elite had been invited by Abul Khair, to hear eulogies on this man nonpareil.

In speeches in memory of Subir, one was only too aware of the vacuum caused by the demise of this promoter of the arts. The receptionists wore whitish salwar-kameez and saris, while the men from the organisation wore black in mourning. The invitations for the Iftar had been sent by Abul Khair. It was a serious moment for one and all.

Speaking extempore, Nabi said that he had accompanied Subir to Australia where the latter was hospitalised. “The doctors reported that Subir had a small tumour in his brain, and this was the second stage of cancer. The doctors, however, concurred that the ailment could be cured. Dr. Baber Ahad was among the doctors consulted in Melbourne. Subir was struck by the malady on the first week of April. All the artists and members of Bengal Foundation were concerned and failed to wear the usual welcoming smile when they met him.” They had gone from Canberra to Melbourne. Subir had insisted on remaining in Canberra, as he had a multiple entrée, Nabi said, “He loved us so much that he gave all he had to us.”

Qayyum Chowdhury wept each time Subir's



Nurul Islam Nahid speaks at the memorial event.

wife had given vent to her grief over the past two months, after hearing of her husband's deadly ailment. He too spoke from the heart, without any notes. He said that whatever he had painted for a long time was due to Subir's encouragement. Earlier, whatever had been achieved at Shilpakala Academy was due to this man of great integrity.

Qayyum had gone to different countries, and

different parts of Bangladesh with Subir -- who dedicated himself to promote artists and art. At Chuadanga, flower petals were strewn on the streets, when the artists had arrived, and this was Subir's suggestion, Qayyum said. A book on the 12 leading artists from Shilpakala was also due to Subir's painstaking efforts. He also knew how to persuade the government for grants to promote the artists. Qayyum said that he would never

forget this man of promise. He said he went to several places like Australia and Japan with Rafiqun Nabi, and it was this man who gave him the confidence in such a faraway place like Australia. But Qayyum could not travel, on reasons of his health and age. And when he had grumbled and complained over this, it was the last time that he saw this Braveheart of Bangladesh, who was accorded the full honours of a freedom fighter, in front of Shaheed Minar. It was he who made Bengal a viable gallery, he said.

Professor Anisuzzaman said that Subir had given his utmost to artists and the promotion of art. He said no one expected him to depart in this tragic way from earthly existence.

Ramendu Majumdar said that Subir had dedicated himself heart and soul to art. He was a tremendous and unequalled worker. He said he knew the unparalleled Subir from his Shilpakala days. When artists like Qayyum Chowdhury had problems, he would rush to the rescue.

Education minister Nurul Islam Nahid, writer Syed Shamsul Haque, Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, artist Syed Jahangir, Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh Giorgio Guglielmino, among others, paid tributes to Subir. They said that Bangladeshi artists would not be where they were without his guidance. He even brought foreign artists to Bangladesh to deliver lectures and hold workshops.

Shama Rahman, Aditi Mohsin and Bulbul Islam performed songs at the event, while a documentary on Subir Chowdhury was also screened.

Films to watch this July



Stills from “Lucy”, “The 100-year-old Man Who Climbed out of the Window and Disappeared” and “Magic in the Moonlight”.

Dawn of the Planet of the Apes
They're speaking in full sentences, firing machine guns and – according to the latest trailer – doing forward rolls. The apes have evolved, as has the motion capture, since 2011's relaunch of this primate-powered franchise. Director Matt Reeves takes over from Rupert Wyatt and Andy Serkis returns as the apes' leader Caesar for a story played out in a virus-ravaged San Francisco where human survivors include a warmongering character played by Gary Oldman.

Boyhood

Richard Linklater's epic coming-of-age tale has been likened to The Adventures of Tom Sawyer “for a new generation”, and called “an entrancing, one-of-a-kind act of dramatic storytelling: a beautiful stunt of a movie”. Shot over a period of 12 years with the same cast, it tells the story of a boy called Mason growing up in Texas. Starring Ellar Coltrane as Mason, with Patricia Arquette and Ethan Hawke as his parents, the movie avoids nostalgia for a direct look at the moments that make up adolescence.

Mood Indigo

This sci-fi romance from Michel Gondry, adapted from Boris Vian's cult 1947 novel “Froth on the Daydream”, has been praised for “combining refined style and raw emotion into one devastating, beautiful package”. It stars Audrey Tatou as Chloé, who embarks on a



whirlwind courtship with Colin (played by Romain Duris) only to fall ill with an unusual illness when a flower begins growing in her lungs.

Magic in the Moonlight

Woody Allen follows his Oscar-winning “Blue Jasmine” with a period romantic comedy set in the 1920s. Starring Colin Firth as a magician who travels to the South of France to debunk the work of a spiritualist played by Emma Stone, it marks a more upbeat mood. It'll also be a Gatsby-esque visual treat according to Variety, with “jazz, beautiful mansions and fashionable nightspots” featured prominently.

Lucy

After playing a self-aware OS (“Her”) and an alien predator (“Under the Skin”), Scarlett Johansson tries her hand at drugs mule-turned-pharmaceutically-enhanced superhero in the latest film from director Luc Besson. After accidentally ingesting a drug she is carrying, Johansson's character becomes a hyper-intelligent souped-up human in what could be classed as an “evolution thriller”. Besson has described the film as being “about pure intelligence.”

A Most Wanted Man

In one of his final films, the late Philip Seymour Hoffman plays another of his “inimitable sad-sack characters”, a German intelli-



gence operative tracking terrorist activity. Based on a 2008 novel by John le Carre, the film is directed by Anton Corbijn and is a brooding, slow-paced take on the spy genre.

The 100-year-old Man Who Climbed out of the Window and Disappeared

Based on the 2009 bestselling novel of the same name, this indie action comedy follows the travails of a centenarian (played by the 59-year-old Robert Gustafsson) who escapes from his nursing home and embarks on a meandering adventure in his slippers. Along the way, there are flashbacks to a life to rival “Forrest Gump”, as he dines with US President Harry S Truman and drinks vodka with Joseph Stalin, unwittingly influencing the key historical events of the 20th Century.

Life Itself

Pulitzer Prize-winning film critic Roger Ebert died in 2013 at the age of 70, after a long battle with cancer. Director Steve James followed the final few months of his life for a feature documentary based on Ebert's autobiography. “Life Itself” chronicles his battle with alcohol addiction, his influence on film-makers like Martin Scorsese and his love for his wife Chaz – it also casts an unblinking gaze on the disease that left Ebert unable to speak.

Source: BBC

Eid special drama on Maasranga Television

A CORRESPONDENT

A seven-episode TV play, titled “Tin Bekerer Kormoshala” will air on Maasranga Television during Eid. Written by Sagor Zahan and directed by Ratan Ripon, the play features Mosharraf Karim, AKM Hasan, Jenny, Faruk Ahmed and others.

The comedy revolves around three unemployed men, running after their dreams in the capital. Failing to find employment, the trio gets frustrated. Meanwhile, one of them brings a strange



girl to their home which leads to a humor-

Jafarullah Sharafat appointed

Radio Shadhin's Sports Ambassador



Choudhury Jafarullah Sharafat (C) flanked by the Radio Shadhin family.

A CORRESPONDENT

Choudhury Jafarullah Sharafat has been an undisputed voice of sports in Bangladesh. For over 30 years, he has lent his voice to cover the most important sporting events around the world, bearing witness to all the special moments of Bangladesh's sports history. Sharafat became a part of the Radio Shadhin 92.4FM, over the course of the FIFA World Cup 2014, providing his insights on the daily show “Football

Madness with Choudhury Jafarullah Sharafat”, and consequently, commenting live from the Radio Shadhin Studio from the quarterfinal stage. He commented live for the third-place decider between Brazil and Netherlands yesterday, and will do the same for tonight's final between Argentina and Germany.

On Friday, Radio Shadhin announced Sharafat as its sports brand ambassador, solidifying his partnership with the station. The signing and commemorating ceremony was held at the headquarters of Asiatic.