

NEWS bytes

Beyonce leads MTV Video Awards nods

Beyonce is in the running for eight prizes at the MTV Video Music Awards including video of the year, best female and best choreography. Her song "Drunk in Love", performed alongside husband Jay-Z, is up against rivals including Pharrell Williams' "Happy" for best video. Rappers Eminem and Iggy Azalea scooped seven nods apiece in key categories including best male and female.

Other shortlisters for video of the year include Miley Cyrus for "Wrecking Ball", Sia's hit "Chandelier" and "Fancy" by Iggy Azalea.

Michael Jackson's posthumous hit "Love Never



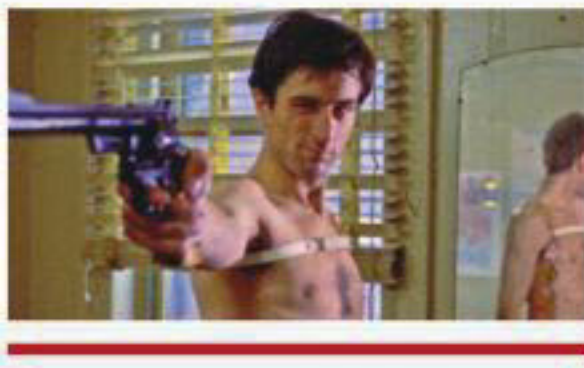
Felt So Good", performed with Justin Timberlake, is in the running for best choreography. The nominations also include categories such as best video with a social message and the best videos in rock and pop.

The awards ceremony takes place in Inglewood, California, on August 24. Musicians set to perform at the ceremony include Usher and Ariana Grande, with further acts due to be added to the bill.

Source: BBC

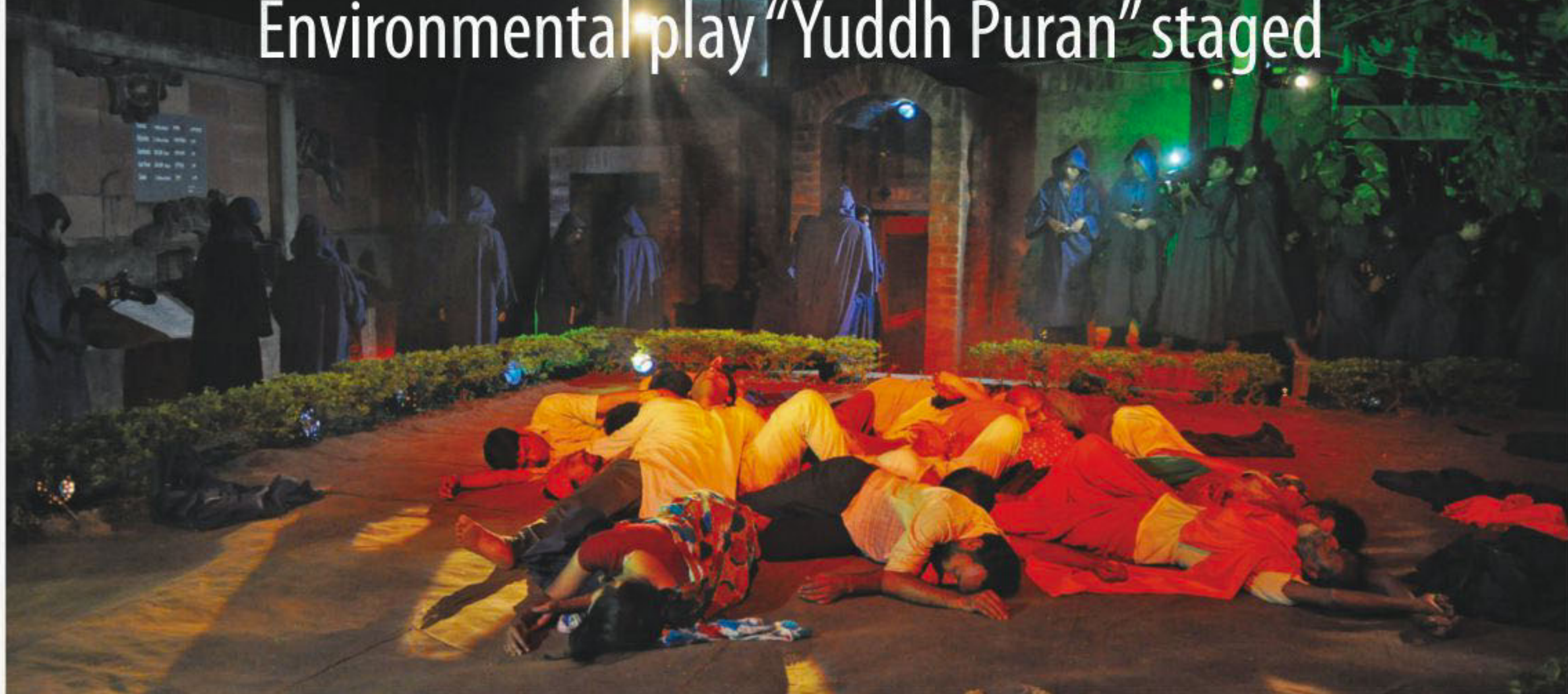
IT'S TRUE!

Paul Schrader wrote the all-time classic film "Taxi Driver" at the age of 26, when he was destitute and in a particular low of his life -- in five days. It is rumoured he had a loaded gun by his desk for "inspiration and motivation". The Martin Scorsese film starring Robert De Niro and Jodie Foster went on to win the Palme d'Or at the 1976 Cannes, got four Oscar nods and won three BAFTAs.



A WALK THROUGH A KILLING GROUND

Environmental play "Yuddh Puran" staged



SAURAV DEY

Theatre is an aesthetic expression of innate human creativity that revolves around human lives. The performing art imitates society on stage and conveys certain messages. Sometimes it is interactive enough to help the audience identify themselves with the characters and become a part of the action on the stage.

"Yuddh Puran", an environmental play (a form of theatre where the location imitates the setting of the theatrical story) is different from usual drama. The production of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) was staged on Saturday at the Experimental Theatre Hall.

Centering on the brutal genocide at Mirpur during the Liberation War, "Yuddh Puran"

depicted the sheer horror of that mass killing. It created a realistic ambience and transported the audience into that ambience to let them virtually experience the horrendous event. It also broke the boundaries between the characters and the audience bringing them on the same stage.

As the audience entered the stage barefoot and garbed in black-hooded robes, the characters -- portraying the martyrs -- welcomed them to the site, allegorically Mirpur Jollad Khana. Then they started telling their stories. One story was different from another, but their ending was the same. They told the audience how they were killed by the Pakistan army and their local collaborators. The bold, striking 20-minute-play rendered the audience speechless.

Anisul Haque Barun has crafted the script and directed the play, based on the stories supplied by the Liberation War Museum. BSA took the initiative in an attempt to recall the martyrs and spread their stories among the new generation.

About the play, the director said, "Theatre is also a form of communication and when it involves sound, gestures, sight and touch, it perfectly serves the purpose. I tried to involve all five senses of the audience so that they become a part of it."

The stage was designed to resemble the killing ground. There were no seating arrangements for the audience, as they walked around the stage. Actors of Shilpakala Academy Repertoire took part in the production.

Monica Jahan Bose: Stories and saris



Village women print with blocks on the saris.

FAYZA HAQ

Monica Jahan Bose aims at capturing attention for a cause. Bangladeshis have seen Bose's skill and motivational art earlier at the Alliance Francaise-- where she presented her symbolic work.

Her ongoing exhibition runs from July 19 - August 9, at the EMK Centre (Level 9- Midas Centre), No 5. Road 27 (old). The special guests on this occasion included Dr. Saleemul Huq, director International Centre for Climate Change and Development; art critic, Moinuddin Khaled, Dhaka City College; Enayetullah Khan, chairman Cosmos Group and Gallery; Rafiqul Islam, Liberation War

Museum (moderator).

Slogans tend to fade but Bose's call to action surely cannot fade. Since the mid-90s she has promoted in her trademark style the Language Movement. This is by making the women of the twice cyclone ravaged island of Katakhal, Patuakhali, appear as heroic. A definite feminist, she explores women's sexuality by painting the sari -- blouse attire -- symbolising women's oppression. She uses the Bangla script as an affirmation of universal literacy. She has worked at literacy and health projects of the women of Katakhal for 13 years. Using sari as an artistic material, she mingles political art with universal literacy.

Bose stands up for the rights of poor

women and their families, by working in this non-profit Bangladesh-American project her mother founded in 1984. She strives to create awareness of the spectre of climate change that causes cyclones and rising sea levels.

Bose has stood up for the rights of these impoverished women through photography. Her words are her direct experience of her ancestral village home. Bose's strong feelings arise from her close contact with the women and children of the community. These women also go for alternate planting of vegetables as salinity due to the cyclones has ruined the island's economy.

Bose's aim is to project her artwork collaboration with the 12 Patuakhali, Samhati women she has worked with. As a follow up, she wants to make a performance art with installation.

She uses blocks to signify the reading and writing ability, blocks she has made in the US, and which she helped to make on the island Patuakhali. A common thread binds Bose and the Katakhal women. These prints have been shared by people visiting the galleries of Washington and New York, as well as Bangladesh.

Bose has also collaborated with the Bangladesh born -US filmmaker, Nandita Ghosh, whom she met in the US. The women wore saris imprinted with 24 blocks. The saris being the heart of Bose's work are hung and draped. A strip of sari symbolises women's liberation and empowerment, made eye-catching by the loud basic colours used. The red, pink and white in the saris symbolise fertility. Her ambition is to have the audience empathise with the resilient, courageous women of Katakhal.

Fasns of Humayun pay respects in Netrakona

JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

The second death anniversary of renowned writer-filmmaker Humayun Ahmed was observed at his village Kutubpur under Kendua upazila in Netrakona on Saturday.

Socio- cultural organisations, including Shaheed Smriti Bidyapith, established by late Humayun Ahmed at Kutubpur, chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day.

A Quaran-khani was held in the school premises early morning. Later, a large number of students, teachers, guardians, locals and relatives placed floral wreaths at the writer's portrait.

A condolence procession was also brought out from the school premises.

A discussion was held in the school premises in the evening. Another condolence procession and discussion were held at Kendua upazila headquarters.



Six directors to direct TV plays for SA Multimedia

A CORRESPONDENT

Six directors are directing Eid special TV plays, produced by SA Multimedia. A press conference was held recently in this connection at the office of SA Multimedia, Gulshan, Dhaka.

Salahuddin Ahmed, managing director of SATV and SA Multimedia; Syed Salahuddin Zaki, CEO of SATV; Zinat Zerin Khan, programme chief of the channel;



Abdullah Al Hubaer Uchchhal, coordinator of SA Multimedia and five among the six directors -- Amitabh Reza, Animesh Aich, Sumon Anwar, Masud Hasan Ujjal and Wahid Anam were present at the press conference. The directors shared their perspectives on the project.

Thanking the directors, Salahuddin Ahmed said, "We always make programmes prioritising the spectators' tastes. I hope viewers will find our programmes more interesting."

The six TV plays -- "Surface" by Amitabh Reza, "Taar Baba Godfather" by Sumon Anwar, "Kunduley" by Animesh Aich, "Akhoy Companionir Jute" by Masud Hasan Ujjal, "Chhobir Moto Galpo" by Badrul Anam Soud and "Ondorey Alo" by Wahid Anam -- will air on SATV in the upcoming Eid-ul-fitr programme series.

Chhotokaku's birthday celebrated

"Late Korey Sylhet-e" begins from Chandraat

A CORRESPONDENT

Noted actor-director Afzal Hossain is popularly addressed as Chhotokaku (youngest uncle) as he directs and dons the main role in the TV series "Chhotokaku", adapted from children's litterateur Faridur Reza Sagar's popular eponymous detective series.

July 19 marked Hossain's birthday. To make the day memorable, "Chhotokaku Club" organised an exceptional celebration programme where they distributed T-shirts and sweets among underprivileged children at Channel i's office premises.

Faridur Reza Sagar, creator of the character Chhotokaku, film and cultural personality Nasiruddin Yousuff, poet Asad Chowdhury, noted Tagore singer Rezwana Chowdhury Bonnya, editor of Ananda Alo Rezanur Rahman and others handed out the Eid gifts.

"Chhotokaku" series went on air on Channel i during the last Eid-ul-fitr. Orsha and Simanta are among the other central cast of the TV series.

The story of this year's "Chhotokaku" series is "Late Korey Sylhet-e". The eight-episode series will go on air on Channel i everyday at 6:10pm starting from Chandraat (the eve of Eid-ul-fitr).



The guests with the children.



"Edge of Tomorrow" at Star Cineplex

Military sci-fi action for Dhaka audience

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eid-ul Fitr being the biggest celebration of the year in the country, the entertainment industry cashes in to give the audience ample choices of good TV programmes, music and movies to spend their holidays with friends and family. As part of its Eid roster, Star Cineplex at Bashundhara City has brought newly-released military science-fiction action film "Edge of Tomorrow" in 3D. The film premiered on June 17.

Doug Liman ("The Bourne Identity", "Mr. and Mrs. Smith") directed the film based on Japanese light novel "All You Need Is Kill" by Hiroshi Sakurazaka. Starring Tom Cruise, Emily Blunt, Bill Paxton and Brendan Gleeson, the film is about an alien invasion on Europe and

how a Public Affairs officer of US Army, Major William Cage is thrown into a battle in France as a result of some mix-up. He dies very soon on the mission, but discovers himself in a time-loop, waking up from sleep on the day prior to his assignment. He lives through the same battle every day, and eventually gets better at anticipating events and killing the alien 'mimics'. He meets Sergeant Rita Vrataski (Emily Blunt) in battle -- who had also suffered from the same loop before but lost it after a war accident. They figure out a way to kill the 'brain' of the alien, and through repeated attempts of Cage's 're-birth', get closer to achieving their goal.

The film's plot is rather unusual, and can easily throw off the audience at multiple junctures, but it's also somewhat the film's charm.

The war and action sequences are marvelous, kicking up an abundance of thrills with the minimum of gore. The sci-fi and futuristic elements, including the battle suits and the aliens, are also eye-catching, with the background scores (by Christophe Beck) impeccable to suit the tone of the film. An appropriate dosage of humour is also present, and the acting skills of the Hollywood veterans also pull their weight. The 3D effects are utilised to the fullest, making it a great experience at the cinema theatre.

Although "Edge of Tomorrow" may fall a little short to the booming franchise-appeal of "X-Men: Days of Future Past" and "Transformers: Age of Extinction", it can certainly be a good pick for adrenaline junkies looking for a fresh story and some edge-of-the-seat action.