

NEWS bytes

Silent film tops documentary poll

A 1929 silent film has been voted the greatest ever documentary in a poll of some 300 film-makers and critics. "Man with a Movie Camera", directed by Dziga Vertov was picked by more than 100 cineastes who took part in the inaugural Sight & Sound poll.



The magazine launched the survey after Vertov's film, shot in the cities of Odessa, Kiev and Kharkiv, placed eighth in their 2012 best film poll. The magazine called it a "teasingly surrealist" homage to city life.

The British Film Institute magazine conducts a poll every decade to find the best film. When the most recent poll was conducted in 2012, Alfred Hitchcock's "Vertigo" took the top spot.

But "Man With a Movie Camera" 'turned up out of the blue' in eighth place, prompting the decision to run a separate best documentary poll.

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!

A survey by online music streaming service Blinkbox found The Killers' song "Human" to have the weirdest lyrics. The line "Are we human or are we dancer?" was voted the top strangest lyrics, followed by "I am The



Walrus" from The Beatles, that says "I am the eggman, I am the eggman, I am the walrus, goo goo g'joob." Other notable names on the list include Michael Jackson, Lionel Ritchie, Carly Rae Jepsen, Black Eyed Peas, Duran Duran, Wham! Taylor Swift and Oasis.



SADYA AFREEN MALICK

July 27 marked the 83rd birth anniversary of legendary folk singer Abdul Alim. On the occasion, different socio-cultural organisations chalked out elaborate programmes. Members of Abdul Alim Foundation placed wreaths at the grave of the singer. Satellite TV channels aired programmes featuring life and works of the singer.

Abdul Alim (1931-1974) a brilliant folk singer possessed a melodious and gifted voice, which is yet to be surpassed by any other folk singer of our country.

He played an important role in popularising this genre of music. With such a life of achievement, it is unfortunate that his birth anniversary is observed uncereemoniously and he is now almost a forgotten chapter.

Alim migrated from Murshidabad (West Bengal) to Dhaka after partition (1947), and joined the Dhaka Radio Station as a staff artiste.

From a very young age Alim's musical

senses were honed from listening to gramophone records. By the age of 14, he had already recorded two songs for the company. While performing songs at the Alia Madrassa in Calcutta he gained immense popularity among connoisseurs of music.

In Dhaka, he took lessons from Ustad Mohammed Hossain Khosru for some time. During his career, he performed at a number of music conferences. At the All Pakistan music conference in Lahore, Alim was awarded five gold medals for his remarkable performances and contributions to music. He recorded songs for "Mukh O Mukhosh", the first film to be produced in the erstwhile East Pakistan. Subsequently, he continued to record songs at a prolific rate.

Folk songs are inherent treasures of the riverine Bangladeshi culture. The songs express hopes and frustrations of the young hearts and uphold the life and culture of different regions. Bhatiali songs, sung mainly in riverine regions of Mymensingh and the low lands of Sylhet, are meant to replicate the energy

and timelessness of the rivers that have been flowing from time immemorial.

People who have heard Alim's presentation of "Naiya rey nayer badaam tuila", "Duarey aishachey palki", "Premer mora jole dobe na", "Holudia pakhi shonar boron" and countless other songs will find it difficult to forget his artistic skills.

He recorded over 300 Gramophone records and sang playbacks in over 100 films. He won the National Award (1974) posthumously for playback in "Shujan Shokhi" directed by Khan Aftab Rahman.

With deep penetrating eyes, Alim was a man of simple habits. Popularity never drove him into illusory glamour.

Folk songs are so central to our culture that it seems a shame that the works of such artistes as Abdul Alim are not readily available to the listeners. Many countries put in rigorous work to preserve their national treasure of songs, either by reprinting, editing, re-making (with new artistes); in comparison we seem happy to exile our artistes to footnotes.

FRIENDSHIP DAY

The bond that holds the world together



Sheyuti Shahgufta

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Initiated in 1930 by a greeting card company, Friendship Day has become a global phenomenon today. Although the official day set by the UN General Assembly for International Friendship day is July 30, most people in this part of the world celebrate it on the first Sunday of August. And of course, friends and friendships have their own meaning to us all. The Daily Star spoke to five promising young artistes of the arts and entertainment fraternity, on what it means to them, the friends they make in their field of work, and friendship day itself.

Tawsif Mahbub, actor

Friends are like a door to happiness to me. When there's strife in my work life or my family life, I can go to my friends and I have no tension there. No rules, no pressure. That is the best thing about friendship.

It's said you can't make friends in the media; everybody is after their own interests. But I think I'm very lucky to have found a group of people that I'm



Tawsif Mahbub

genuinely good friends with. Like, when we're outside of work, we don't talk about work. We talk about totally random things, like friends should.

Friendship Day used to be a big event when we were in school and we'd have friendship bands and everything. But now, I don't think we need a particular day for it. Sunday is a work day, and everyone is busy, so you often don't get to make plans with friends for the day. But any day I go out with my friends is Friendship Day to me, so that's okay I think.

Rushnaf Wadud, musician

Friends are a different sort of family. When we're small, we're told family is everything; they will care for you and be at your side. But then you grow up and go to school ... I went to boarding school so my family was always very far away. My friends were my family. And when you make those kinds of friends, they stay with you for the rest of your life.

Like, the band that I'm in (Blunderware), most of us are childhood friends, who reconnected when we grew up. Also, there are other



Taaha Chowdhury

bands like Circus Police and Alternation with whom we're very tight. When two musicians are there jamming together, and their instrument is doing the talking, it's another kind of connection, different from just talking.

I know a lot of people say Friendship Day is just a business gimmick, but I say "Why not?" You take a day out to commemorate what's Important to you. We celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day, why not friendship?

Sheyuti Shahgufta, theatre activist

I think friendship is special because in friendship, there's no judging. There are certain things I cannot talk about with my family, certain things I cannot discuss with a romantic partner, but with a friend, there's no bar. Even if I'm wrong, my friends will not judge me, but try to understand my situation.

There's a sort of social barrier, however subtle, about boys and girls being 'friends' in most social situations.



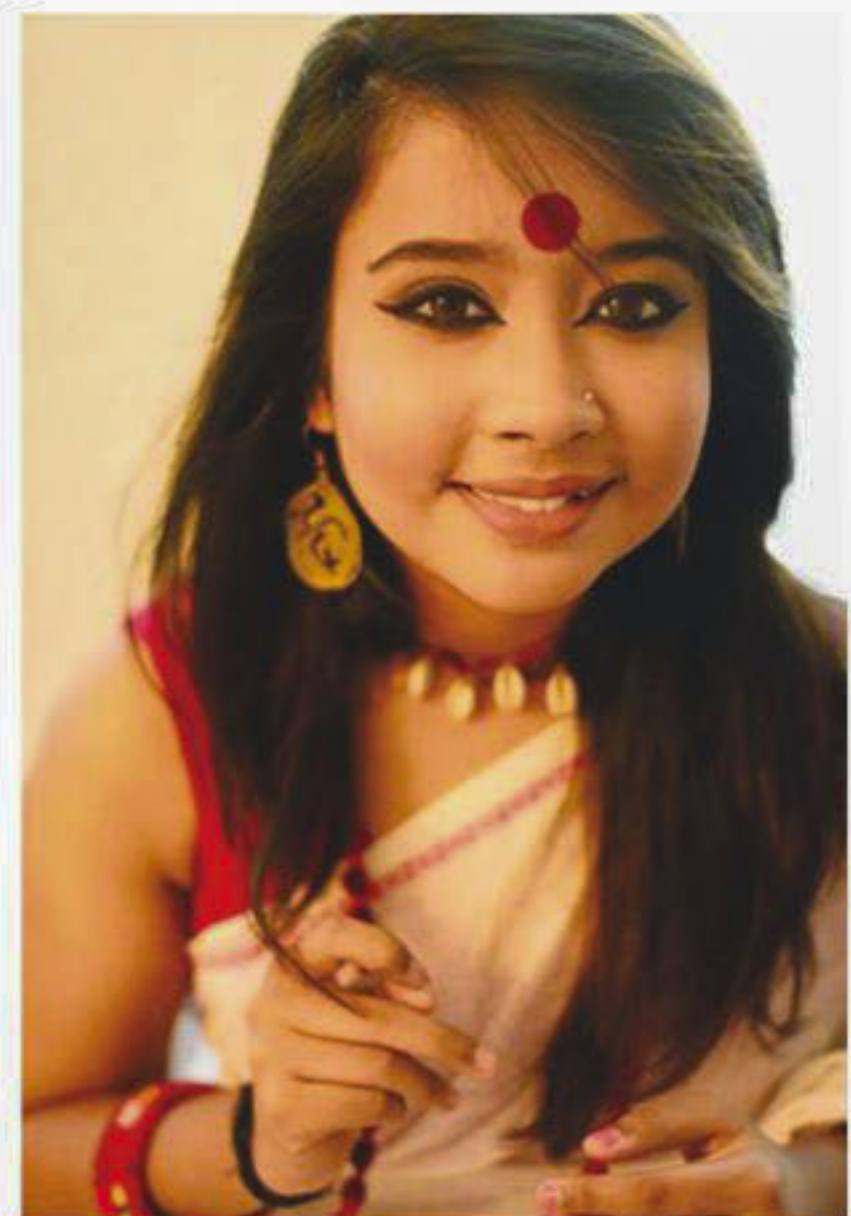
Rushnaf Wadud

However, in theatre, that barrier is not there. I think it has made it easier for me to make friends in the theatre arena and outside of it. Many people argue that friendship doesn't need a day to be celebrated. But for instance, my parents didn't need a particular day to celebrate the day I came to the world, they are thankful and happy about it every day. But still there's a day of the year set aside for it. I think it's important that we celebrate friendship, and Friendship Day is significant to me.

Taaha Chowdhury, TV host

Friends are my other world, where I can be equally comfortable and safe as I am in my family. But what's special about it is it's a place where I don't have to wear a mask, I don't have to pretend.

We meet and develop connections with people every time we go to work someplace new. It often happens that we don't see them after we finish that project, but sometimes the bonds we have, remains. There are people I worked with a long time ago, but they still call and check on me regularly, so



Lamia Saiyara Mela

that's a different kind of special. I don't think celebrating Friendship Day is very necessary. But it's a good occasion to recall the friends you've had, and maybe lost touch with, and even reconnect. For the friends we still have, a special day needs not be marked.

Lamia Saiyara Mela, dancer

Friendship gives us a space in our life where we're just ourselves, regardless of other factors. It helps us express who we really are.

I met and got to know different kinds of people, through dance. Not a lot of people from my educational background (English Medium) take up extra-curricular activities, so I found this new circle of people when I started. But since we see each other on a daily basis, there's a connection that develops. I've made some very good friends here. But at one point, they're also your colleagues, and the dynamics is a little different from your other friends.

I don't think friendship needs a specific day to celebrate, to be honest. I think it's kind of constricting.

Audio for "Aamra Korbo Joy" released



A CORRESPONDENT

The audio album for children's movie "Aamra Korbo Joy" was released recently at a restaurant in the capital. Director of the movie Ahsan Sarwar, chief assistant director Nadim Mahmud, music directors Bappa Mazumder and Shamim Alam Bullet and others attended the event.

The album contains five songs and three instrumentals, of which

Bappa Mazumder has composed music for two songs and all of the instrumentals. Ahsan Sadaf has lent his voice to one of the songs. Shameem Alam Bullet has composed the musical scores for two songs and lent his voice to one. The album is distributed by G-Series.

Produced by Blackshine Production House, "Aamra Korbo Joy" is the first horror film for children in Bangladesh.

Tarantino teases cinema release for "Kill Bill: The Whole Bloody Affair"

Quentin Tarantino has revealed that his original vision for "Kill Bill", subtitled "The Whole Bloody Affair", is on its way to cinemas in 2015.

Before bowing to studio pressure and splitting it in half, Tarantino had originally planned to release "Kill Bill" as one, ultra-long film, including a significantly extended version of the anime sequence from the first half.

"What's going on with that is originally back when 'Kill Bill' was

going to be one movie, I wrote an even longer anime sequence," says Tarantino. "I.G. [the Japanese Anime Studio] who did 'Ghost In The Shell' said we can't do that and finish it in time for your thing. And you can't have a thirty-minute piece in your movie."

"I said okay. It was my favourite part but it was the part you could drop. So we dropped it and then later when I.G. heard we were talking about doing 'Kill Bill: The Whole

Bloody Affair', they still had the script, so without even being commissioned, they just did it and paid for it themselves."

"It's really terrific," he continues. "Anyway, The Weinstein Company and myself were talking about actually coming out with it sometime, not before the year is out, but within the next year with limited theatrical engagement as well."

Source: TotalFilm



Houseful on Banglavisision

A CORRESPONDENT

Phono-live musical show "Houseful" will go on air on Banglavisision today at 1:30pm. The show will feature popular tracks from recent Bangla films. Film star Mahiya Mahi and

Imran will be present at the programme as guests. Audience can participate in the programme through live phone call and request their favourite songs.

The programme hosted by Nirob Khan, has been produced by Nahid Ahmed Biplab.