

NEWS
bytes

Lindsay Lohan makes stage debut

Lindsay Lohan has made her stage debut in the West End, although her performance did not go entirely smoothly. The Hollywood actress forgot her lines once during the second act of "Speed-the-Plow" and was helped by a prompt.

She plays the role of secretary Karen in David Mamet's Hollywood satire, a role that was originated by Madonna on Broadway in 1988.

One prominent critic described Lohan as being "out of her league". But the Guardian's Michael Billington described Lohan's performance as

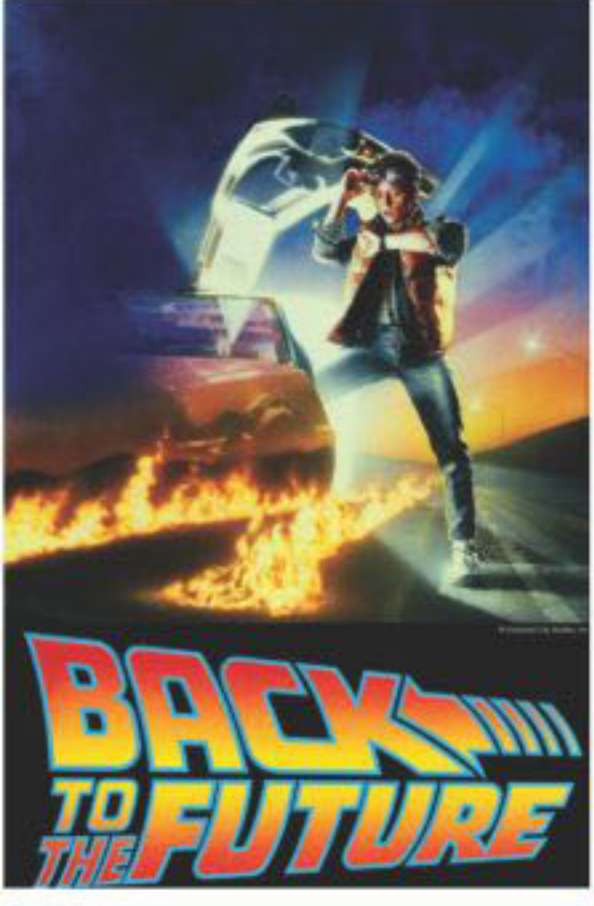


"perfectly creditable". Lohan, who made her name in films such as "The Parent Trap", "Freaky Friday" and "Mean Girls", will be performing in the play that runs at the Playhouse Theatre until November 29.

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!

Disney turned down the chance to make the film "Back to the Future" claiming the mother/son relationship was too risqué. The film was later taken up by Amblin Entertainment, who made a fortune through it. The 1985 film became the most successful film of the year and received great critical acclaim, along with major awards. It eventually made way for a trilogy -- the next two films coming in '89 and '90. The franchise also branched to an animated series, video games and even theme park rides.



Two Eid albums released

A CORRESPONDENT

Golpo Entertainment Ltd has released two audio albums ahead of Eid-ul-Azha -- Sami's second solo album "O Amar Tuntuni" and mixed "Neel Pori" released recently. Sajib Shahriar has penned all the songs of "O Amar Tuntuni". "Neel Pori" features Rony Chowdhury, Liza, Sabbir, B Zaman, Sultan, Shimul and Putul. The albums were launched marking Eid-ul-Azha at Golpo Entertainment's office recently.



Ferdous on a roll

Films released in Dhaka and Kolkata ahead of Eid

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Three-time National Film Award winner, Ferdous is one of the busiest and most talented actors of Dhallywood. Besides Bangladesh, he has won many hearts in India with his acting skills. Two of his films were recently released in Dhaka and Kolkata. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, he talked about the new movies and Eid plans.

Tell us about your movies that were recently released.

Ferdous: "Brihnnala" released in Dhaka while "Akarshan" released in Kolkata on the same weekend. As an artiste, it was a big moment for me. The government-funded

film "Brihnnala" is based on an unusual story. I watched it at a movie theatre. Meanwhile, "Akarshan", based on corporate life, had Rituparno as my co-artist.

How many films do you have right now?

Ferdous: "Mon Jane Na" and "Sunno Hriday" -- directed by Mushfiqur Rahman and film actress Moushumi respectively.

How will you spend Eid day?

Ferdous: Like every year, I hope to spend a restful Eid at home with my two daughters, mother, wife and other family members. Usually I watch special TV programmes that day.

What else is on your agenda for the day?

Ferdous: My close friends come over the day after Eid. We have great fun during the

Eid holidays.

Do you still get Eid salami?

Ferdous: I do, from a few elders like my mother and mother-in-law. Most of the time, however, I have to give salami to youngsters so I always keep new currency notes ready.

Who buys the sacrificial animal?

Ferdous: My younger brother Tausif enjoys doing this. Usually I refrain from visiting the cattle market. But I enjoy the tradition of distributing the meat among my friends and relatives. I have a bitter experience when I went to the market for a shoot. On our arrival, everyone started crowding around to get a glimpse of me. Finally, we had to cancel the shooting.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Maago Chinmoyee Roop Dhore Aaye... Sharadiya Durga Puja festivities in the capital



ZAHANGIR ALOM

Durgotsav (Festival of Devi Durga) or Sharadotsav is a universal festival that celebrates worship of the Hindu Goddess Durga. It refers to all the six days observed as Mahalaya, Shashthi, Maha Saptami, Maha Ashtami, Maha Nabami and Vijaya Dashami. Durga Puja festival marks the victory of Goddess Durga over the evil buffalo demon Mahishasura. Thus, Durga Puja festival epitomises the victory of good over evil.

This writer roamed around several puja mandaps (temple) including Banani, Kalabagan, Dhakeshwari National temple and Jagannath Hall in the capital this year on the day of Maha Ashtami puja (October 2). Amongst others, Pratima of Jagannath Hall of University of Dhaka charmed me the most. After entering into the Jagannath Hall, a glitzy festive look of Sharadotsav welcomed me. The light design was beautiful too. The aesthetic designs, decorative motifs and mature colours of the idols were fascinating. The background design was immensely artistic, thanks to the efforts by promising artist Amit Nandi.

The devotees poured in the temple to offer their worship to the Goddess Durga. They silently chanted the mantra:

"The goddess who is omnipresent as the personification of universal mother The goddess who is omnipresent as the embodiment of power

The goddess who is omnipresent as the symbol of peace

I bow to her, I bow to her, I bow to her"

The youths were in jubilant mood performing arati dance in front of the temple. The pulsating beats of dhak, coupled with recital of golden oldies on several flutes and clarinets continued till the dead of the night.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Music, dance, exuberance and fervour -- just being a part of Durga Puja is a special experience: Photos from Jagannath Hall and Kalabagan Puja mandaps.

What charmed me the most was the playing of timeless songs including devotional songs, Panchokobir Gaan and shyama sangeet records by Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty, Asha Bhonse, Sandhya Mukherjee, Shrikanta Acharya, Aditi Mohsin and other singers.

"No Hindi songs were played this year at the temple. We have thoughtfully made our arrangement for the year. We have also brought out a rich souvenir titled 'Sharad' where our honourable president, prime minister, vice chancellor sir, Hall Provost sir and several eminent professors wrote messages for it," said Dr. Malay Bala, convener of Jagannath Hall Sarbajanin Puja Utdjapan Committee.

The Nazrul Sangeet "Maago Chinmoyee Roop Dhore Aaye" was played several times during my stay at the temple. Our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam made valuable and rich contributions to Shyama Sangeet. He was thoroughly familiar with both Islamic and Hindu tradition and culture, and deeply cared about the harmony between Muslims and Hindus.

This song describes the heart-wrenching call of a devotee to the Holy Mother to come as a thoughtful being rather than a mere clay idol. It's because that we hardly care for the true spirit when we are so submerged in the idol worship that we never manage to come out of our miseries. Even though we immerse the clay idols after worship, there can be no immersion of this eternal bliss. Its light keeps our outer world as well as inner self enlightened perpetually and it can never be locked in the temples.

So the urge with plea is made to the Supreme Shakti to make us strong enough to accomplish daunting tasks and prepare our minds to sever the pomp and show in the name of worship.

Shyama Sangeet is a genre of Bengali devotional songs dedicated to the Hindu goddess Shyama or Kali which is a form of supreme universal mother-goddess Durga or parvati. It is also known as Shaktagiti or Durgastuti. Shyama Sangeet appeals to the common man because it is a musical representation of the relationship of eternal and sublime love and care between the mother and her child.

Meanwhile at the Kalabagan Puja mandap, a vibrant cultural programme was held on the same evening, featuring musical performances by Kiron Chandra Roy, Chandana Mazumder, Tapan Chowdhury, Monir Khan, Liza and Cornia, and dance pieces by Shokh and Sohel.

All the idols of Devi Durga, under the leadership of Mahanagar Puja Utdjapan Committee, will take part in the Bisharjan procession today at 4pm from the Dhakeshwari National temple on their way to the Buriganga River for Bisharjan. Following that the Hindu devotees will take shantilaj in the evening and look forward to Devi's bodhon for the next year.

TV WATCH

"Shudhu Tomari Jonno" on ATN Bangla



A CORRESPONDENT

Single-episode TV play "Shudhu Tomari Jonno" will air on ATN Bangla on the third day of Eid. Written by Ashish Roy, the play has been directed by Babul Ahmed.

Industrialist Sazzad Ahmed decides to build an old age home named Isabella Charitable Old Age home. This name ultimately leads the discovery of his lost love Isabella.

Babul Ahmed, Diti, Saju Khadem and Ahona are in the cast.

"Habildar Hatem" on Boishakhi Television



A CORRESPONDENT

Special single-episode TV play "Habildar Hatem" will air on Boishakhi TV on the third day of Eid at 5:50pm.

Directed by Sokal Ahmed and scripted by Litu Sakhawat, the story encircles honest police officer Hatem Ali. Hatem lives happily with his wife but his wife convinces him to take bribe.

The cast of the drama includes Mosharraf Karim, Aparna, Borda Mithu and others.

Tele-film "Prem o Protiingsha" on Maasranga



A CORRESPONDENT

Telefilm "Prem o Protiingsha" will air on Maasranga Television on the third day of Eid at 2:40pm. Written by Shibobroto Barman and directed by Debashish Ridra Sharma, the telefilm encircles the story of frustrated youth Toufique and a manipulative girl, Rupa. Toufique agrees to kill a man only because Rupa will accept his love proposal but as the story advances he realises that Rupa is using him. However Rupa finally comes to her and proves her unconditional love for Toufique.

Shotabdi Wadud, Azmeri Haq Badhon, Sajjad Reza, Raiza Rashid and others are in the cast.

"Pahare Jongole Joler Gaan" on Channel 24



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A unique travel show, to be aired this Eid on Channel 24, will bring out the natural beauty of Bangladesh in a musical way. Vastly popular urban folk-fusion band Joler Gaan will travel to five of the most picturesque places of the country -- Khagrachori, Banderban, Rangamati, Cox's Bazar and Saint Martin's island -- and tie together music and nature.

The five-episode programme will air everyday from Eid day at 9pm.