

NEWS bytes

Grohl joins superstars for Beach Boys remake

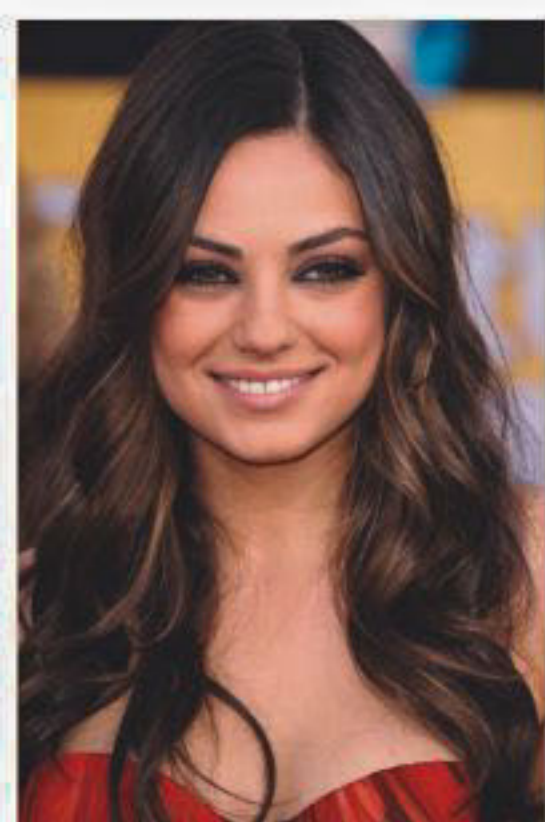
Dave Grohl has joined Brian Wilson and an all star list of artists on a new version of the Beach Boys' classic "God Only Knows". The updated version of the 1966 song is being used to launch BBC Music in England, which the company describes as "an ambitious wave of new programmes, innovative partnerships and ground-breaking music initiatives that amount to the BBC's strongest commitment to music in 30 years," according to the Guardian. Brian Wilson also recruited Sir Elton John, Pharrell Williams, Stevie



Wonder, Jake Bugg, Lorde, One Direction, Emeli Sandé, Chris Martin, Kylie Minogue, Sam Smith, Florence Welch, Chrissie Hynde, Brian May and many more on the track, which also features the Tees Valley Youth Choir and the BBC Concert Orchestra. The beautiful video for the song was shot in London's Alexandra Palace theater and features cameos from every artist involved in the song. The song has been released as a single with all proceeds going to BBC's 'Children in Need' charity.

IT'S TRUE!

In 1998, Ukrainian-born US actress and voice artiste Mila Kunis was cast as Jackie Burkhart in the Fox sitcom "That '70s Show". All who auditioned were required to be at least 18 years old; Kunis, who was 14 at the time, told the casting directors she would be 18 but did not say when. Though they eventually figured it out, the producers still thought Kunis was the best fit for the role. "That '70s Show" ran for eight seasons, and she won two consecutive Young Star Awards as Best Young Actress in a Comedy TV Series in 1999 and 2000 for her performances.



Mahaa Wagyawai Powe festival celebrated in Bandarban

DISTRICT CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban
The traditional Mahaa Wagyawai Powe festival of indigenous people was celebrated in Bandarban amidst festivity. Though the four-day festival began last Monday, the main festival was celebrated on Wednesday to welcome Probarana Purnima, the second largest festival in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, populated by a wide range of ethnic communities. However, the plain district Buddhists celebrated Probarana festival on Tuesday. Shuvo Probarana Purnima, the second largest festival of the Buddhist community, also known as Ashwini Purnima, marks the

conclusion of the three-month long seclusion of the monks inside their monasteries for self-edification and atonement of defilement. Later, the month long Kathin Chibar Dan is followed by Probarana festival, when devotees present monks with robes for the welfare of every being and entire mankind. In the course of the three-day celebrations, the indigenous Buddhists offered Pradeep (candle) Puja, organised traditional cultural programmes, performed rituals, a cake festival, took out chariots in the district town, and released colourful paper lanterns

(Fanush) in the evening. A number of tourists from home and abroad joined in with the indigenous devotees to enjoy the century-old festival. Different organisations of indigenous people arranged several programmes to celebrate Mahaa Wagyawai Powe festival across the district. Bandarban Utsab Udjapon Parishad President, Moung Ching Nue Marma said this year the Mahaa Wagyawai Powe (Probarana Purnima) festival was celebrated with the aim of creating social awareness on environment preservation and cleanliness of the district town.

PHOTO: STAR

Traditional boat race in Naogaon



RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj
A traditional boat race was organised on the Satra beel, a water body of Satra area of Mohadebpur upazila in Naogaon on Tuesday afternoon. Jubok Samity of Lawdanga village was the organiser of the event. Thousands of people gathered on the banks of the beel to witness the competition. A team from Harkosha village of Manda upazila in the district secured the first prize.

A prize giving ceremony was held on the banks of the beel. Local UP Chairman Abdus Sattar was present as the chief guest while Mahmudunnabi Ripon, president of Jubok Samity of Lawdanga village, presided over the prize giving ceremony. Jubok Samity of Lawdanga village arranges the boat race on the Satra beel in the village annually, to keep alive a rural tradition, said organisers. A daylong fair was also held on the banks of the Satra beel where around 100 stalls were set up.

PHOTO: STAR

Nouka Baich held on Sandhaya River

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
On the occasion of Laxmi Puja, the 154-year-old traditional Laxmi Puja Nauka Baich (boat race) was held on the river Sandhaya at Harta in Uzirpur upazila of Barisal district, to promote indigenous sports and rural traditional regional culture. The event was organised by Harta Bazaar Committee to celebrate the Puja on Tuesday afternoon, said Dr. Harendranath Roy, Harta UP chairman and president of the arrangement committee and ceremony. Thousands of people including senior officials of the upazila and district administration and local government representatives enjoyed the 2km race. Fifteen teams, including two teams

of women from the region, participated in the competition. The teams, led by Surendranath Bain emerged as the champion while the teams of Ranjit Bala and Nityananda Bala received prizes as first and second runners-up. All the 15 participating teams were awarded colour televisions. Even though most people who live on the Sandhaya face hardships throughout the year, the villagers set aside one day for their families to come together and celebrate a common culture, irrespective of their religions, said Dr. Haren Roy, local UP chairman and the president of the organisers. Songs and music played from the boats added to the ambience of the boat race.

TV WATCH



Chakra-Byuho on SATV

A CORRESPONDENT
Single episode TV play "Chakra-Byuho" will go on air on SATV today at 8:40pm. The thriller is scripted by Shafiqur Rahman Shantonu and directed by Hridi Haq. Litu Anam, Anisur Rahman Milon, Tanzika Amin, Sonia Hossain and others form the cast.

"Bheja Bheja Brishtite" on ntv

A CORRESPONDENT
Tele-film "Bheja Bheja Brishtite" will air on ntv today at 2:30pm. Written and directed by Saiful Islam Mannu, the tele-film moves around a group of youths. To escape the monotony of city life, they set out on a trip to a resort at the outskirts of the town. There they meet a girl who was singing for them at the resort. One of them falls for her. Ahsan Habib, Afrin Trin, Nahid, Jewel Neel and others are in the cast.



Eid enthusiasm Moushumi looks ahead

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Moushumi Hamid needs no introduction. A household name on the small screen, the TV plays featuring her are eagerly watched across the border in Kolkata as well. Lately she has made a foray into cinema.

In a recent conversation with The Daily star, the talented actress talked about her busy schedule and Eid plans.

What are you doing on celluloid?

Moushumi Hamid: I'm very busy shooting a number of films like "Jalaler Golpo", "Blackmail" and "Purno Doigho Prem Kahani-2". Besides, shooting for "Hudsoner Bonduk" wrapped up recently.

What is your ultimate professional dream?

Moushumi Hamid: I want to be an established film artiste. I believe that an artiste should be remembered through cinema, and if you have determination, you can do it.

What was your debut film?

Moushumi Hamid: "Na Manush", directed by Animesh Aich. It was also Animesh Aich's directorial debut but the shooting for the film is yet to be completed.

Which play earned you immense fame in Kolkata?

Moushumi Hamid: The drama serial "Roshni" where I played the title role. It was telecast by Channel 1 and ETV Bangla.

Of the characters you've portrayed on-screen, which is your favourite?

Moushumi Hamid: I have enjoyed almost all the characters I've played but my role in the movie "Jalaler Golpo" was very challenging. Here I played three characters: those of Kamini, a jatra artiste, Romoni, and a mother. I really enjoyed doing those roles.

Where did you celebrate Eid-ul-Azha?

Moushumi Hamid: I celebrated it with my parents in Satkhira. I can't imagine Eid outside my hometown. How do you spend the day? Moushumi Hamid: I enjoy a sound sleep. Also I share lunch with my friends at home, and then go out with them.

Have you ever been to the cattle market ahead of Eid?

Moushumi Hamid: After entering the showbiz world, I don't go there but in my childhood, I used to go shopping for cattle with my father. An interesting incident: once we were returning from the market with a bull. When we arrived home, the bull suddenly raced away. We stayed up all night looking for it.



Poet of Landscape

Gopal Ghose's arts on display at Bengal Shilpalaya

ZAHANGIR ALAM

English romantic poet Shelley famously wrote that "Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world". Those who have the vision to see the world independently and unremittably can create and claim such. Noted Indian artist Gopal Ghose, as a poet of landscape, was immensely sensuous from his childhood. In his own words, he mentions such nuances. He was a lively soul that spoke to the nature around him. He'd passionately respond to the plea of the reddened glow of a tender bud. His pointed sight and perspective never stopped him from seeing the unseen and know the unknown. Observing his son's passion for art, Gopal Ghose's father inspired him to roam around the realm of art.

There is great diversity in Ghose's drawings which cover diverse aspects of nature: trees, floral motifs, terrain, paddy fields, bamboo grooves and life on the riverside. His sense of experimentation, together with his skill in drawing and colour-

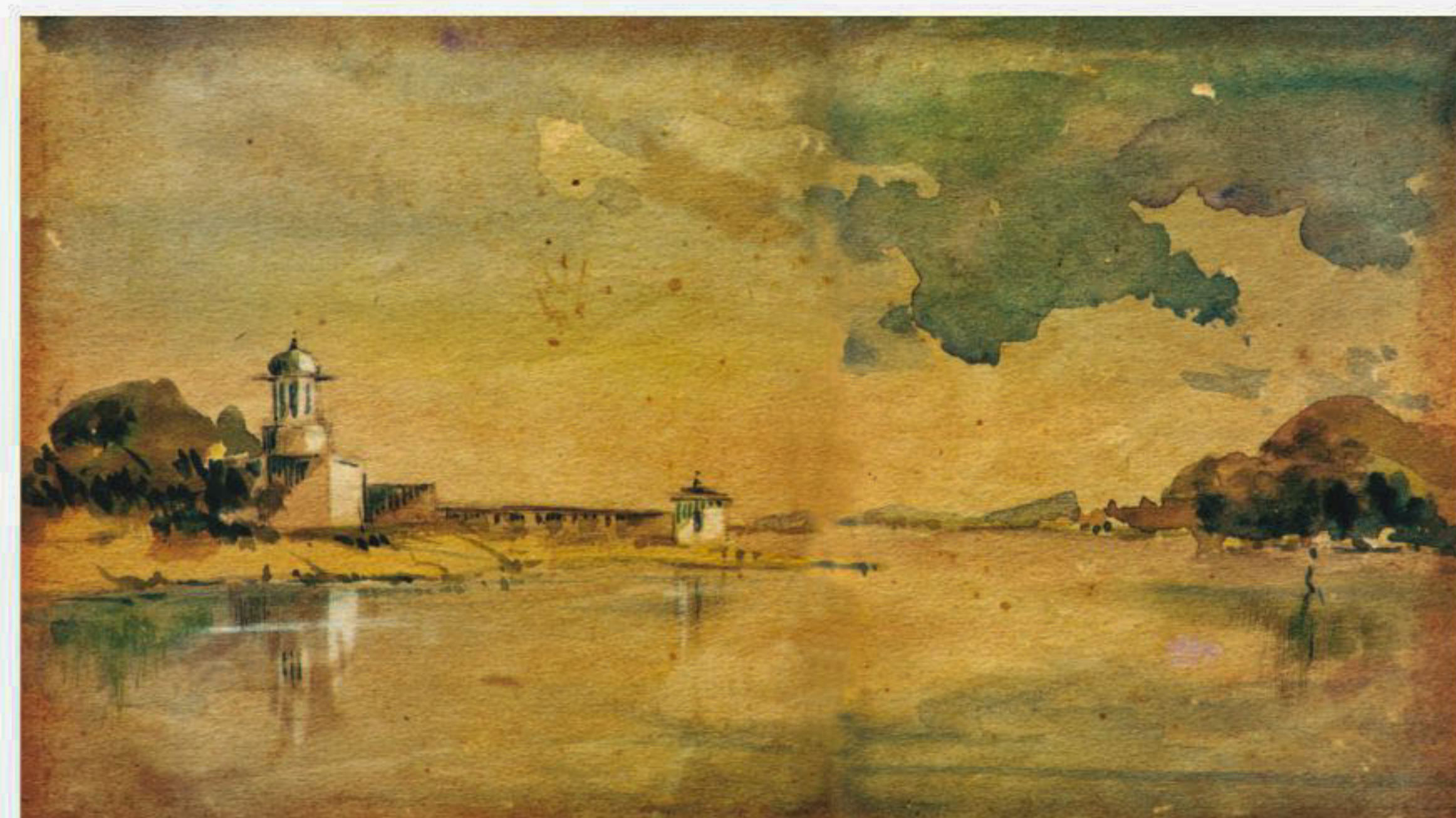
ing, produced masterpieces. Small in size, his paintings have a miniature quality, but they point towards the impressionistic. His palette favoured mellow hazy shades broken with patches with sharp colour. At a time when art was dissociating itself from beauty, Gopal Ghose's poetic paintings stood as a reminder of the pleasure and sensory delight that art is capable of evoking. Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in association with Akar Prakar Gallery of India has organised an exclusive exhibition at Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi to mark Gopal Ghose's birth centenary. The extensive version of the exhibition has previously been organised in National Gallery of Modern Art, Delhi; Mumbai and Kolkata.

Eminent artist Mustafa Monwar and renowned cultural personality Ramendu Majumdar inaugurated the 23-day long exhibition on September 26. Apart from the inaugurators, Luva Nahid Choudhury, DG, Bengal Foundation and Reena Lath, CEO of Akar Prakar, spoke at the opening. Bangladeshi art connoisseurs will have the opportunity to view the legend's 103

works from 12pm to 8pm till October 18.

Trained in the style of art known as the neo-Bengal school under the tutelage of oriental masters -- Shailendra Nath Dey, Abanindranath Tagore, Nandalal Bose and Devi Prasad Roy Chowdhury, Ghose was born in Kolkata in 1913. He became a legend in his lifetime for his ingenious handling of the quick and unpredictable medium of watercolour. To him goes the credit of raising its status in Indian art history, from a dabbler's medium to an artist's medium.

With a diploma in painting from the Government College of Arts and Crafts, Jaipur, Ghose trained in sculpture at the Government College of Arts in Madras. There he worked under renowned realistic painter and sculptor Devi Prasad Roy Chowdhury. Ghose was one of the founder members of the renowned Calcutta Group (1943). The Indian landscape fascinated him and he travelled extensively within the country on his bicycle. Among his contemporaries, he stood out both as a draughtsman and a skilled watercolourist. Ghose died in 1980.



Haider: Vishal Bhardwaj's answer to Hamlet

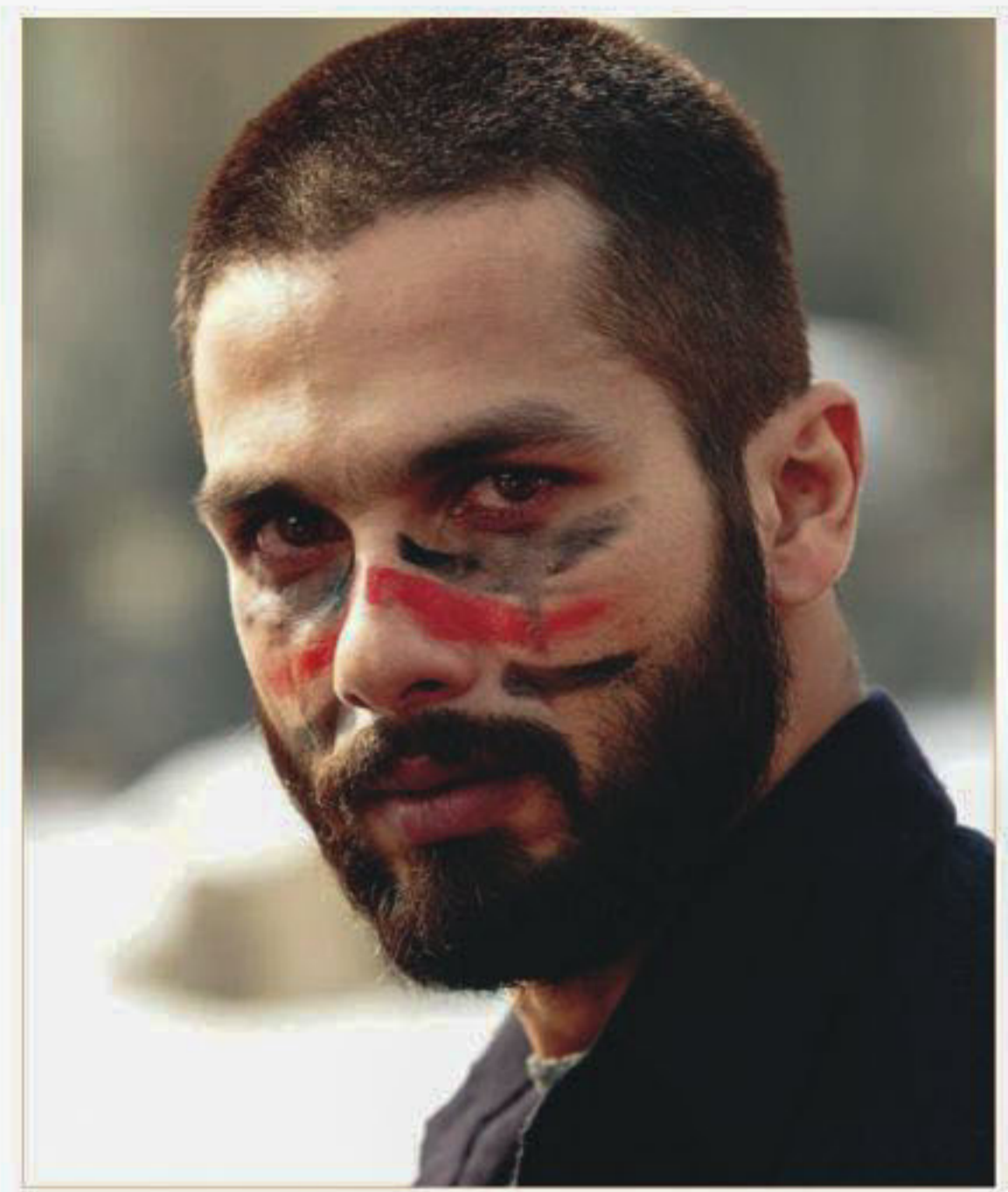
KAVITA, New Delhi

A run of films like "Ishq Vishk" and "Jab We Met" were chocolate boy Shahid Kapoor's only claim to fame -- until "Haider" came along. An adaptation of "Hamlet", Shakespeare's immortal play, "Haider" has Kapoor in the titular role. Here he casts aside his romantic persona to play the anguished Haider who loses his father in politically turbulent Kashmir and watches his mother marry his father's lawyer brother soon after.

Set in 1995 when militancy in Kashmir was at boiling point, "Haider" is in many ways a political film -- complete with the carefully planned strategies of militants, the excesses of the Indian army and the people of the beautiful valley caught somewhere in between. So Haider is always suspected as the son of a doctor who is marched away by the army for his political leanings. He must negotiate carefully to locate what exactly happened to his father, deal with his complicated relationship with his mother (Tabu) and contend with familial opposition to his love for a journalist (Shradha Kapoor).

"Haider" is the third film in Vishal Bhardwaj's Shakespearean trilogy "Maqbool" (based on "Macbeth") and "Omkaara" (the director's answer to "Othello"). Comparisons between Bhardwaj's first two tragedies are inevitable. For some "Haider" is a disappointment as its pace -- unlike the two earlier ones -- slackens sometimes. Also many fault its one-sided depiction of the Indian Army.

As some critics carp, the film seems to have received a warm reception from other critics, film lovers and film industry insiders. "Haider" is Tabu's best performance," tweeted Irfan Khan who plays a mysterious character in the film. Meanwhile, a media report reveals that actress Sriveidi and her daughter, who watched the film in a Mumbai multiplex headed straightaway to Tabu's house to give her their fulsome praise for her role as the complex mother in "Haider".



Meanwhile, according to BBC, Bhardwaj is facing some backlash over what many describe as his "unfair" portrayal of the armed forces, but he has defended the plot of his film. "I'm also an Indian, I'm also a patriot, I also love my nation. So I won't do anything which is anti-national. But what is anti-human, I will definitely comment on it," he said.

Indian Twitter users are divided over the film and the sentiment has been reflected in two rival hashtags: The hashtag #BoycottHaider has received big numbers of tweets. But others see "Haider" as a true expression of real cinema in India. The hashtag #HaiderTrueCinema has also attracted tens of thousands of tweets since Friday.

Natyakendra to stage "Dui Je Chhilo Ek Chakor" today

A CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Natyakendra is set to celebrate their 24-year journey by staging their acclaimed play "Dui Je Chhilo Ek Chakor". The troupe will stage the play at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy today and

tomorrow evening at 7pm. The play is an adaptation of Italian playwright Carlo Goldoni's Comedia dell'arte genre play "The Slave of Two Masters". Tarique Anam Khan has adapted and directed the play. Bringing up the cast are Sharif Hossain Imon, Lucy Tripti Gomes, Ariq Anam Khan and Yusuf Hasan Arko.



Juliette Binoche: The 'ethereal beauty' at 50

SYED MAQSUD JAMIL

Chicago Sun-Times film critic Roger Ebert added the quality "ethereal beauty" to French actress Juliette Binoche in his book. Her beauty remains undiminished at the age of 50. She was born in Paris, France on March 9, 1964 to Monique Yvette Stalens, a director, teacher and actress, and Jean-Marie Binoche, a sculptor, director, and actor.

Binoche is endowed with a look of innocence. Film critics however described her as a tortured soul with a prickly temperament. This is perhaps rooted in a childhood trauma caused by the separation of her parents. She was only two and a half years old at the time. Binoche and her sister Marion were sent to boarding school when she was only four. In the past she called this "traumatizing" but today she waives it off. Binoche in school-girlish candor observed she that has no anger; rather it has made her stronger!

Although it was not her first movie, Juliette Binoche drew attention with her performance in "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" (1988) directed by

Philip Kaufman. She was only 23 and her co-star was the phenomenally gifted Daniel Day-Lewis. The movie deals with a sexually active Czech doctor and a woman who believes in monogamy and the 1968 Czech Revolution begins.

Her next movie was "The Lovers on the Bridge" (1991), a love story directed by Leos Carax. The following one was an English language classic "Wuthering Heights" (1992). Renowned Louis Malle directed Binoche in the movie "Damage" (aka fatale 1992). "Damage" had the morally tantalising subject of a French parliamentarian passionately in love with his son's fiancée.

Outstanding Polish film director Krzysztof Kieslowski gave Binoche the milestone of her film career -- "Trois Couleurs: Bleu" (Three Colors: Blue 1993). It is a gem of a movie and La Binoche's performance is was absolutely superb! The colour blue is reflected in the brooding sadness of Julie de Courcy (Vignon) portrayed by Juliette Binoche. Her frozen visage, her sinking interest in life, her listless response towards human ties and

possessions after the tragic death of her composer husband and daughter looked so starkly real with Binoche. The discovery of her husband's long-standing extra-marital affair further exacerbated it. She won César and Venice Film Festival Awards for Best



Actress for "Trois Couleurs: Bleu". The following year in 1994, she took a sabbatical to have a baby boy -- Raphael, born out of her partnership with scuba diver André Halle. She had another child a daughter Hana in 1999. The father was her co-actor

Benoît Magimel. "The English Patient" (1996) directed by Anthony Minghella was the cinematic event of the year, winning nine Oscar Awards including Best Picture, Best Director and Best Supporting Actress for Binoche as Hana the nurse. The movie is set in Egypt's sandy stretches and Southern Italy during the closing stage of World War II, with flashbacks. It deals with the torrid extra-marital love affair of Count Almásy (Ralph Fiennes) an Englishman of Hungarian descent and a member of Royal Geographic Society, with Katherine Clifton (Kristin Scott), the wife of another expedition member. In a tragic rescue effort, he hands over British documents to the Germans and gets on a German warplane which crashes and he is badly burnt. The English Patient, as the Germans called him, was transferred to occupied Italy. There he is tenderly nursed by a Canadian nurse Hana (Juliette Binoche). The film built Binoche a friendship with Ralph Fiennes. "Chocolat" (2000), the next well-received film of Juliette Binoche was

directed by Lasse Hallström. It is the story of a young unwed mother Vianne Rocher with a six-year-old daughter Anouk who opens a chocolaterie at a small French town, steeped in prejudice and dominated by a conservative mayor, Vianne wins over the villagers with her delicacies and ultimately triumphs over prejudice. Tranquillite or tranquility returns to the town. Johnny Depp is also in the movie as Gypsy singer Roux.

Binoche's next notable movie is "Caché" ("Hidden") directed by Michael Haneke. Here, she is the wife Anna Laurent of TV literary review critic Georges Laurier (Daniel Auteuil). In a mystery drama, the family is terrorized by a series of surveillance videotapes of Georges and his family members that aggravates to a stage when they receive the drawing of a boy with blood coming out of his mouth. The family remains unnerved and finds Majid, an Algerian who was once raised in his family. The mystery ends with the macabre suicide of Majid.

The writer is a film buff.