

NEWS bytes

Taylor Swift becomes Billboard Woman of the Year



Taylor Swift has been named Billboard's Woman of the Year 2014, making her the first artist to receive the award twice. The award goes to the female artist who has shaped and inspired the music industry with her success, leadership and innovation over the last year. Previous winners include Pink, Beyonce and Katy Perry. Swift will receive the prize at the Billboard Women in Music award ceremony on 12 December in New York. Taylor Swift is a seven-time Grammy winner and the best-selling digital music artist of all time.

SOURCE: BBC

IT'S TRUE!



Leonardo DiCaprio was named after Leonardo DaVinci. Before he was born, DiCaprio's German mother felt her baby kick for the first time while she was standing in front of a portrait of Leonardo DaVinci at a gallery in Florence, Italy. According to Leo, his Italian father took this as a cosmic sign.

Festival for distributing Jibanananda-Prize

Discussants call for greater recognition of the poet

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

A day-long festival to mark the distribution of the Jibanananda-Prize in memory of Jibanananda Das, the "Poet of Ruposhi Bangla" was held on Friday in the ancestral city of the poet. The participants called for more study and research on the life and achievements of Das, while they also sought the preservation of places associated with the poet.

Literary personalities Imtiaz Shamim for prose and Khaled Hossain for poetic works were awarded Jibanananda Puroshkar 2014 at the festival.

The festival, divided into two sessions, was jointly organised by Right Foundation Bangladesh, Dhansiri Sahitya Soikat Jhalakathi and little magazine "Durba" of Gopalganj.

The inaugural session was held at Jibanananda-Angan, the ancestral home of the poet in Barisal city with floral tributes on his portrait, recitation and discussion on poetry.

The second session in the afternoon was held at Abdul Khalek Auditorium of the city presided over by poet Asad Chowdhury.

Noted literary personality Hassan Azizul Haque was the chief guest at the programmes.

Imtiaz Shamim (February 13, 1965) was awarded Jibanananda Purushkar 2014, for 22 books



As eminent writer Hassan Azizul Haque hands over the award at the prize giving ceremony, (R) poet Asad Chowdhury looks on.

PHOTO: STAR

including eight novels, six stories, four essays, four books for youngsters and other prose works such as literary criticism, poetry translations, dramas and essays considered to be a valuable contribution to the contemporary literature of Bangladesh.

Khaled Hossain was awarded Jibanananda Purshkar 2014 as author of 28 books including 11 poetic works, five essays, two stories and 10 rhymes and writings on the lives and works of contemporary literary personalities, philosophers along with five edited works.

The two literary personalities were awarded a crest and address of honour at the second session.

Besides unveiling of the cover of magazine 'Dhanshiri', a discussion, writer's meet, poetry recitation and discussion on poetry were the other attractions of the festival.

The discussants elaborated on the life, works and achievements of the awarded literary personalities, internal values and the impact of Das on Bengali language and literature.

The discussants said that Das, best known as the poet of "Ruposhi Bangla", was the greatest Bengali poet of all times and the creator of "Banalota Sen"-- an unparalleled character embodying the serene

beauty of Bengali woman.

Discussants and participants at the programme demanded state-recognition of the poet, implementation of the Dhanshiri River eco- park project and excavation of Dhanshiri River, establishing museum, memorials and sculptures of the poet in places connected with his life, works and memories. They also called for greater research on his life and achievements.

Born on February 17, 1899, Jibanananda Das, a teacher of English in Barisal and Kolkata, is arguably the most influential romantic poet of the post-Tagore era. He died in a road accident on

Karam festival in Naogaon

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

Karam Puja, a major festival of the Orai community of the northern districts, was celebrated with music and dance at the premises of Dewanpur Primary School of Dewanpur, a remote village under Hatur union of Mohadevpur upazila in Naogaon on Thursday.

A discussion, music and dance competitions were held with the participation of 23 cultural groups of indigenous people from different districts and upazilas who played their traditional instruments.

Dewanpur Adibasi Sangha arranged the programme with the financial support of Barendrabhumi Samaj Unnayan Sangstha-BSDO and Brac Integrated Development Programme.

Jogesh Orai, president of Dewanpur Adibasi Sangha, also



Members of the Orai community in colourful hues, dance at the festival.

ward member of Union Parishad, presided over the discussion.

Abdus Sattar Nannu, chairman of Mohadevpur Union Parishad was chief guest. Akbar Hossain, chairman of Hatur Union Parishad, Dinomoni Tigya, a ward

member of Potnitala Union Parishad, Ataur Rahman, programme coordinator of BSDO, Sugrib Sardar, an official of Brac and indigenous leader Amin Kujur were also present, among others.

Later, Abdus Sattar Nannu, chairman of Mohadevpur Union Parishad distributed prizes among the winners and troupe leaders.

Earlier, special dishes were prepared for guests and their kinfolk and served them after offering the food to their deities on Wednesday night. Later they fetched branches of the Karam tree from the nearest point in a colourful procession, while boys and girls sang and danced to the beats of drums.

An altar was built where branches of the Karam tree were planted. During the ritual, young indigenous men and women danced around the altar and the priest recited verses explaining the significance of the festival. Every year Dashomi Karam Puja is organised on the occasion of Durga Puja.

Tanvir Mokammel to inaugurate 12th Int'l Short Film Festival

A CORRESPONDENT

Director Tanvir Mokammel has been invited to inaugurate the 12th International Short Film Festival to be held in Kolkata from November 1-6.

The inauguration will take place on November 1 evening at the Goethe Institute auditorium.

Jointly organised by the Goethe Institute and film organisation Kolponirjhor, the 12th edition of the Kolkata festival will showcase 36 short films from 14 countries. Internationally-acclaimed Indian director Gautam Ghose is the chairman of the festival this year.

Nrityajog holds dance workshop

Nrityajog, the Bangladesh Chapter of World Dance Alliance – Asia Pacific, held a dance workshop from September 29-October 12, conducted by two dancers from Taiwan. While Kathryn Tan is conducting a workshop on 'Improvisation in Dance', Chia-Liang Lin is conducting 'Eastern Body Practices in Modern Dance' for 30 young dancers.

A workshop- based performance will be presented on October 12 Sunday at 6:30pm at the Auditorium of the Music and Dance Department of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The presentation is open to all, says a press release.

A dance performance by Chia-Liang Lin will be presented at the beginning of the above event. Lin used to perform for world renowned dance company Cloudgate.

The two dancers conducted a workshop in Sylhet on October 4-5, with the support of Sylhet- based dance group Nrityashoili. Twenty five young dancers partici-

TV WATCH



Sugar Free Chocolate Cake on Rtv

A CORRESPONDENT

Single-episode TV play "Sugar Free Chocolate Cake" will air on Rtv today at 7:20pm. Written by Naimul Karim, the TV play is directed by Shahid-Ud-Nabi.

The play's protagonist is Reaz who goes out to buy a birthday cake for his wife when he comes across a mysterious woman.

Real life couple Reaz and Tina form the cast of the play.

Traditional Jhapan Khela in Chuadanga



AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

A two-day annual traditional 'Jhapan Khela' (a sport with venomous snakes) ended in Chuadanga on Thursday with a message to build public awareness about snakes..

Snake charmer Pir Mohammad Piru at Monohorpur village in Jibonnagar upazila, under Chuadanga district organised the programme. Traditional folk and spiritual (dehotatyia) songs accompanied the event as night fell.

Piru, an octogenarian snake charmer, popularly known as Piru Shapurey has arranged the event for 10 years.

Lawmaker of Chuadanga-2 Ali Asgar Tagar inaugurated the well attended programme and also distributed prizes among the participants.

"People have an unreasonable fear of snakes. However, snakes never bite anyone without provocation," Piru said.

Awareness is very necessary to protect them, Piru said.

In his speeches, lawmaker Tagar urged snake charm-ers not to delude the masses while conveying his appreciation of the programme.

A large number of people from adjacent areas enjoyed the programme. This time, 21 snake charmers under six groups took part in the game among which the best four were awarded.

Writer Fazlul Haque wins Mahatma Gandhi Peace Award

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Fazlul Haque, writer and playwright, was honoured with the Mahatma Gandhi Peace Award for his creative contributions to the field of Bengali literature.

Mahtma Gandhi Research Council (MGRC) organised the programme at the conference lounge of National Press Club on October 2.

Chairman of Bangladesh Press Council Justice Momtaz Uddin Chowdhury was the chief guest.

Former Information Secretary Syed Margub Morshed; former-chairman of Jatiya Manabadhikar Commission Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury; head of news of mytv Mahmud Al Faysal; proprietor of Falguni Trade International Promath Barua; and writer Mahbub Lablu spoke on the occasion.

Golam Quader, chairman of MGRC delivered the welcome speech while its secretary NA Karim Bidhuth Chowdhury presided over.

Terming the award recipients "brilliant" in their commitment to society and the



Writer Fazlul Haque receives Mahatma Gandhi Peace Award from distinguished guests.

country, the speakers said that they should devote themselves to the secular ideals of Mahatma Gandhi.

No nation can gain prosperity without harmony among communities; we should work in a concerted way towards peace, the speakers added.

A total of 20 persons were honoured

with the award in different categories -- literature, social service, Liberation War and Peace.

Haque, also an assistant lecturer of Trishal Mohila Degree College has so far published eight novels--"Keu Kotha Rakheni", "Deho Kabya", "Manusher Mon", "Achena Apon", "Etikothar Porer

Traditional Nauka Baich 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 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 2 km race.

Fifteen teams, including two teams of women from the region, participated in the competition.

Among others, Talukdar Md. Yunus , local AL lawmaker and district AL secretary as chief guest, Sohrab Hossain, Upazila Nirbahi officer, Sudipta Sarkar, Assistant Commissioner of Police and circle in charge, M C Sarkar, general manager Palli Bidyut Samity, Nagendra Nath Haoladar, local AL leader, as special guests attended the event.

The teams led by Surendranath Bain from Kotalipara of Madaripur emerged as the champion while Ranjit Bala from Rajoir of Madaripur, Nityananda Bala from Kotalipara of Madaripur, received prizes as first, second and third place winners.

All the 15 participating teams were awarded colour televisions.

Even though most people who reside on the Sandhaya face hardships through-



out the year, the villagers assign this one day for their families to come together and celebrate their common culture, irrespective of community, said Dr. Haren Roy, local UP chairman and the president of

the organisers.

Songs and music played from the boats added to the colourful ambience of the boat race.

A virtual fair was also held in the area.