

NEWS bytes

Godzilla set to rampage through Tokyo after 60 years



The original “Godzilla” is set to rampage through Tokyo again in 2016 in what will be the creature’s first return to home turf in a decade.

Since the giant lizard first tore through Japan’s capital in 1954, there have been dozens of home-made follow-ups and a few efforts from Hollywood. But the King of Monsters has not been sighted on Japanese shores since 2004, leaving its legions of fans crying out for more fire-breathing destruction, the film studio Toho Co said.

“Receiving earnest requests from Godzilla fans for its revival, we will start production of a brand-new Godzilla, which will hit screens in 2016,” Toho said in a statement.

Toho released Gojira – a Japanese portmanteau of gorilla and kujira (whale) – directed by Ishiro Honda, in November 1954. The film was a mega-hit, drawing 9.6 million viewers in the days before television sets were commonplace in Japanese households.

Source: **The Guardian**



AN ILLUSTRIOUS JOURNEY

Theatre and Performance Studies Dept of DU marks 20th anniversary

SAURAV DEY

Theatre and Performance Studies Department of Dhaka University completed two decades of its journey this year. Beginning its journey in 1994, the department has come a long way to establish itself as place that promotes performing arts and nurture young creative minds.

To mark its eventful journey, the department arranged a 12-day theatre festival titled “Dhaka University 9th Central Annual Theatre Fest 2014” that opened on December 1 and saw its curtains fall yesterday evening at TSC auditorium. The festival saw the staging of 20 plays which denotes two decades of its journey into theatre.

The grand display of theatre featured both oriental and occidental plays, which have been directed by 20 young directors of the department. Plays of diverse genres and from different regions were staged at the festival. Popular pieces by Anton Chekhov, Eugene O’Neill, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Harold Pinter, August Strindberg, Monoj Mitra, Franca



Scenes from “The Revenge” (top) and “Ponchish Bochor Agey Ba Porey”.

Rame, Mark Twain, Munier Chowdhury, Syed Shamsul Haq and many other playwrights. Different plays catered to the audience of different tastes.

Throughout the festival, TSC wore a festive look with the footsteps of young theatre enthusiasts and audiences. Most of the audiences were students of different departments of DU.

Sudip Chakroborthy, Chairman of Theatre and Performance Studies Department said, “We are overwhelmed to see the response from audience. We sold tickets of around 2.5 lac taka. Apart from the students of our department, many students from other departments of the

university attended the festival and watched plays.”

About the journey of this department, Sudip, also an acclaimed theatre director, said, “We have many achievements of which we are proud. This department has set a new trend in theatre and inspired many youths to join theatre, many of whom are now doing well.”

The closing ceremony of the festival took place at the same venue yesterday at 6pm. The festival closed with the staging of Christopher Marlow’s “Doctor Faustus”. Doctor Faustus is a play that is much ahead of its time and can easily be connected to the present socio-political scenario of Bangladesh in this 21st century.

The practice of theatre has not yet flourished to its potential in Bangladesh, and outside the capital it is yet to take an organised shape. Fortunately, theatre is attracting young generation, and many youths are now leaning towards this performing art. Over the years, the department has played a significant role in inspiring new generations and enriched them with the knowledge about theatre and performing arts.

IT'S TRUE!



Jim Morrison appeared in two movies: “HWY: An American Pastoral” and “A Feast of Friends”, with the first one written, produced and co-directed by himself. The films were only shown in public a few times and have never been officially released. The Doors frontman penned many of his famous lyrics while he was trying to write poetry in his school. He was inspired by the writings of Friedrich Nietzsche, Norman Mailer and Arthur Rimbaud. Morrison even published a poetry book, and in 1970 he signed a contract with Elektra Records for a spoken word poetry album. His grave in Paris is the city’s fourth most popular tourist attraction after the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and the Louvre. His tombstone reads “Kata ton daimonaey toy”, Greek for “True to his own spirit”.

ZAHANGIR ALOM, writes from Kolkata

Kolkata’s Rabindra Sadan auditorium was vibrant with several solo and group dance performances on the fourth day (December 11) of Uday Shankar Dance Festival 2014.

An award-winning dancer of West Bengal State Music Academy, Shreya Bhattacharya set off the event with performing solo Kathak recital. Devlina Kumar’s solo Manipuri presentation followed.

An Odissi troupe, led by Kakoli Bose, lyrically performed dance pieces featuring graceful eye movements, fabulous corporal gestures and artistic expressions. Accomplished artiste Mrinalini Biswas captivated the packed audience with her solo Bharatnatyam recital.

Rabindranath Tagore, Swami Vivekananda and Uday Shankar are the three Bangalees who, in the twentieth century, made a mark with their creative faculties. In the *srijanshil* (creative) dance presentation directed by Bappa Chatterjee, Tagore’s sublime



songs got mingled with the choreography of Uday Shankar. Several artistes of Ethnic Dance Academy vibrantly performed a production titled “Universally Yours”. They danced to the numbers from Tagore’s Nobel-winning literary piece “Geetanjali”. The presentation seemingly took the audience to a state of bliss. Shabana Azmi and Somnath Chattapadhyay’s recitation, including embellished the dance display.

Under the direction of eminent guru Dr. Thankamuni Kutty, three artistes – Sanjukta Banerjee, Swarnadeepa and Nimmi of Kolkata

early dawn, pleading to remove all the obstacles on her journey of life. Swarnadeepa presented Poet Joydev’s Astapadi, depicting the celebration of Spring, a season of love. She portrayed all the imageries of the season. Nimmi also performed an Astapadi in Mohiniattam based on Joydev poetic beauty. The artiste enacted Radha’s romantic rivalry with other women whom Lord Krishna was in love with. Set on adi tala, the piece was woven with Ragas sMalikam, Mohanam, Kappi and Bihag. Later, the trio closed with a group dance presentation.

The artistes of Koothambalam Cultural Association stood out among all the performers of the day. They performed Bharatnatyam pieces -- kirtanaam and tillana in unique styles. The dancers evoked the multifarious qualities of Lord Rama through depicting kirtanaam which was originally choreographed by Guru Thankamuni Kutty. Directed by Abhoy Paul, their tillana presentation was immaculate as well. They stylishly balanced dance mudras while performing in a group.

Aamir hopes to work with SRK-Salman



Aamir Khan said a project starring Bollywood’s three Khans – Shah Rukh, Salman and himself, would be exciting and that he would be happy to do it. The trio recently appeared together on the same stage.

Asked about any plans to work with Salman and Shah Rukh in one film, Aamir said, “If ever a script, which appeals to three of us, comes up, I am sure we would be happy to do it.”

Aamir Khan, who is currently busy promoting his much awaited film “PK”, also said he has neither signed any new films nor is he going to do his TV show “Satyameva Jayate” next year. “I am currently reading scripts and deciding on what to do next. When I find a good script and which excites me, I will sign it,” he added.

Source: **Indian Express**

Agreement Signing between UDDIPAN & Fukoku Life Insurance Company



An agreement is signed between UDDIPAN and Fukoku Mutual Life Insurance Company on December 09, 2014 at UDDIPAN HQ. This agreement will help to explore avenues for UDDIPAN beneficiaries during and after the time of death and disaster.

UDDIPAN has been working in the field of development since 1984 with a variety of interventions in different parts of Bangladesh. Micro Insurance is one of the interventions that helps to bring a better future for the policy holders and their successors. As on June-2014, UDDIPAN is serving its beneficiaries through this program in 23 branch offices.

On behalf of UDDIPAN and Fukoku Mutual Life Insurance Company, the agreement is signed by Mr. Emranul Huq Chowdhury, ED, UDDIPAN and Mr. Naayuki Torii, Executive Officer & General Manager respectively.

Among others, senior staff members of UDDIPAN HQ and that of Fokoku Mutual Life Insurance Company are present in the signing ceremony.