

WHAT'S ON

Chobi Mela VIII
Organiser: Pathshala and Drik
Venue: Different locations in Dhaka
Date: Jan 23-Feb 5
Time: 10-8pm

Art Exhibition
Chronology
Artist: Kazi Rakib
Venue: Galeri Kazi
Date: Jan 17-30
Time: 11am-7:30pm

Solo Art Exhibition
In Motion
Artist: Bishwajit Goswami
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge
Date: Jan 17-24
Time: 12-8pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Jamal Ahmed
Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts,
AJ Heights, Chittagong Road,
Shorani, Uttara 9/10
Date: Jan 9-13
Time: 10am-8pm (Closed on Monday)

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Tarshita: Embroider the World
Artist: Nicola Strippoli Tarshita
Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dharmadadi
Date: Jan 16-30
Time: 12-8pm

8th International Children's Film Festival
Organiser: Bangladesh Children's Film Society
Venue: Central Public Library, BSM, BSA
Date: January 24-30, Time: 10-8pm

Made in Bangladesh
Organiser: Sadhana and Goethe Institut Dhaka
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: January 26
Time: 7pm



CHOBIMELA VIII

A WONDERLAND OF PHOTOGRAPHY

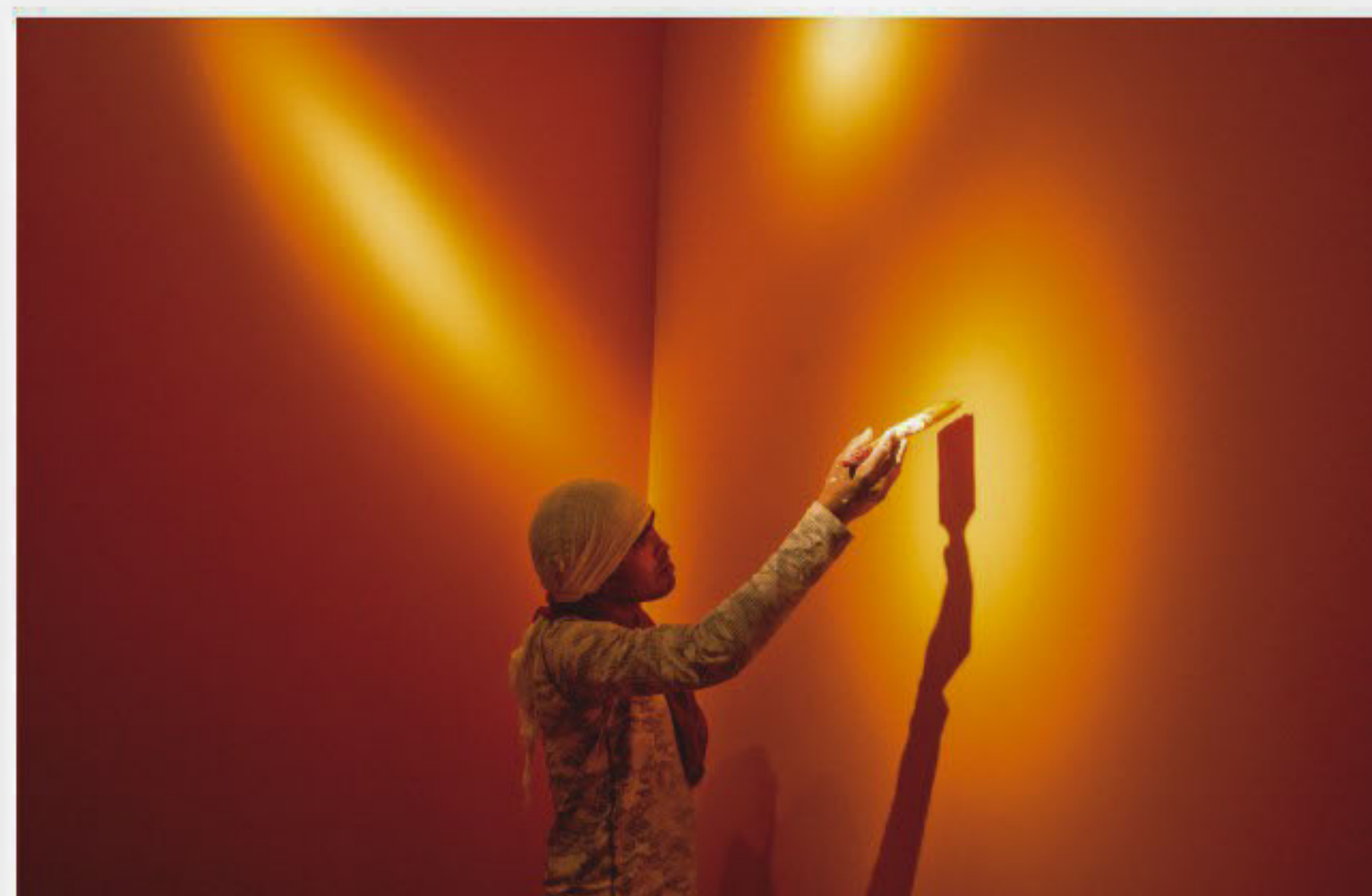
FAHMAM FERDOUS

Chobi Mela is here, and there is plenty to be excited about. Photographers, visual artists and enthusiasts alike have two weeks of overdrive to go into, discovering the cultural diversity and shifting global trends in photography, on the theme "Intimacy". With 31 participating artists from 22 countries, there's a great mix of authoritative figures, rising photographers and niche artists, working on subject matters very hard-hitting, amusing ones and self-reflective works. And then there are workshops, artist talks and lectures taking the audience beyond the camera.

While every individual will be driven by their own choice of artists and subjects, here are a few of the most exciting happenings to check out during the festival, as a glimpse of what to expect at large from it.

Renowned Canadian poet and folk musician Larry Towell has a compelling exhibition titled "The Mennonites", a group of Protestant religious sect, related to the Amish. The life of these often-misunderstood people comes to life with his poignant descriptions along with the photos. The display will be at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA).

Mahesh Shantaram, a wedding photographer from Bangalore, India -- offers "Matrimania", his "personal take on 21st century India seen through the prism of its wedding culture," which will be displayed at Old Dhaka's historic Beauty Boarding.



Shahidul Alam speaks at yesterday's pre-festival conference (top); final paintjob touches being given to exhibition galleries.

from the culture of Bollywood. It is at Drik Gallery.

Russian photographer Jana Romanova captures couples in the candidness of their morning beds, who are all expecting children. From the lifestyle of young couples in urban Russia to body languages of interpersonal dynamics make for an intriguing exhibit at BSA.

Anwar Hossain is considered a legend in photography and cinematography, and he is fittingly the recipient of this year's Lifetime Achievement Award. A retrospective of his works -- characterised by the energy within his frames, the spontaneity of his subjects and the fluidity within his compositions that inspired a generation of photographers, will be on at Alliance Francaise de Dhaka (AFD). He will also give an Artist Talk on January 30 at The Goethe-Institut (GI).

Other interesting Artist Talk speakers include Cristina Nunez, who has developed "The Self-Portrait Experience" -- at GI on January 25. Her exhibit "But Beautiful" will be on at Drik Gallery, while she will also conduct a workshop. Teun van der Heijden has one of the most-anticipated workshops on making a photo-book, but for all those who do not have the scope to attend that, he has a lecture on the same topic on January 26. And lastly, the Editor of New York Times' Lens Blog, James Estrin has a potentially absorbing lecture on "The Death of Photography" on January 29. Both the lectures are at GI.

The Nepal Picture Library presents "Retelling History", from an archive of photos started by a photo circle. Consisting photos from family albums, it looks to give a personal narrative of Nepal's history and life. It will be at the historic Northbrook Hall Library in Old Dhaka.

Noted US-based Iranian contemporary artist Shirin Neshat has a two-channel black and white audio-video piece called "Turbulent", in which she explores gender in Islamic culture and social custom in Iran through the practice of allowing male vocalists to perform in public while female vocalists were prohibited. The display is at BSA.

Young Belgian photographer Max Pinckers has a gripping exhibition with a flamboyant title. "Will They Sing Like Raindrops or Leave Me Thirsty" blends documentary, portrait and fine art to form surreal, nuanced images, visually inspired

PRIYANKA sings with Farhan in Dil Dhadakne Do

Priyanka Chopra, along with co-star Farhan Akhtar, is now lending her voice for a track in Zoya Akhtar's upcoming film "Dil Dhadakne Do".

Interestingly, Farhan recently said that he had urged Priyanka to start singing professionally almost a decade ago.

"During the shooting of Don 2, Priyanka told me that she wanted me to hear something, and then gave me the headphones. I said, 'Wow, who is this?', to which she replied that it was her voice," said Farhan.

I told her to sing professionally, which she finally did. After that, I urged her to perform live, and now, she's doing that too," Farhan added.

Source: Hindustan Times



Pristine melodies in focus Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar's birthday celebrated

ZAHANGIR ALAM

To celebrate the 60th birthday of Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar, an eminent classical vocal maestro of the sub-continent and the Principal of Bengal Parampara Sangetalay (BPS), Bengal Foundation arranged a classical music recital titled Mayar Madhuri at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh (KIB) Complex auditorium, Farmgate in Dhaka on January 20.

Accomplished vocalist Priyanka Gope set off the soiree performing a khayal based on Raga Maru Bihag. Priyanka's sargam taan, akar taan, bolbaat and pukar performances were fascinating. Itfekhar Alam Prodhon on tabla, Tinku Sheel on harmonium and Monira Islam Pappu on Tanpura accompanied her.

Pandit Uday Bhawalkar, a guru of BPS --

offered dhrupad sangeet at the event. Unlike traditional dhrupad rendition styles, Uday Bhawalkar sheds light on imagination. He is deft in using meend in three octaves, and his intrinsic touch of melody in jod alap and bol alap are rare. Pt. Bhawalkar performed Raga Bhoop (quite similar to Raga Bhoopali and Raga Deshkar) at the soiree. Pratap Awad on pakhawaj accompanied the singer.

Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar performed a khayal set on Raga Jogkauns (intermingling of Raga Chandrakouns and Raga Jog). Pandit Suresh Talwalkar, another guru of BPS accompanied the maestro on tabla.

Clarity in sur (melody), which is pristine and precise, coupled with an introduction to a raga through showcasing authentic ragadi has become Pt. Kashalkar's signature. The maestro

fascinated the packed audience with the charming touch of the musical notes -- shudh gandhar and shudh nishad. On his birthday, Pt. Kashalkar himself distributed mellifluous gifts among the audience. Both his bandish were embellished with murki, bahelawa, bolbaat, meendkhand and more. Later, the maestro performed a khayal based on Raga Sohini and a thumri set on Raga Bhairavi. Bizon Chandra Mistry on harmonium and Tasaouf Islam and Mukul Roy on tanpura accompanied the maestro.

Abul Khair, Chairman of Bengal Foundation, presented bouquets to Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar, all the gurus and Sanjivani Kashalkar, the administrative head of BPS. Luva Nahid Choudhury, DG of Bengal Foundation, emceed the programme.



Pt. Kashalkar performs at the soiree.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADDID RUPON

8th ICFF begins tomorrow New windows for children filmmakers

A CORRESPONDENT

The 8th International Children's Film Festival Bangladesh will begin tomorrow with an aim to open a new world of cinema to the children of Bangladesh. The weeklong event, from January 24-30, will see the screening of over 200 films from 50 countries from different parts of the world.

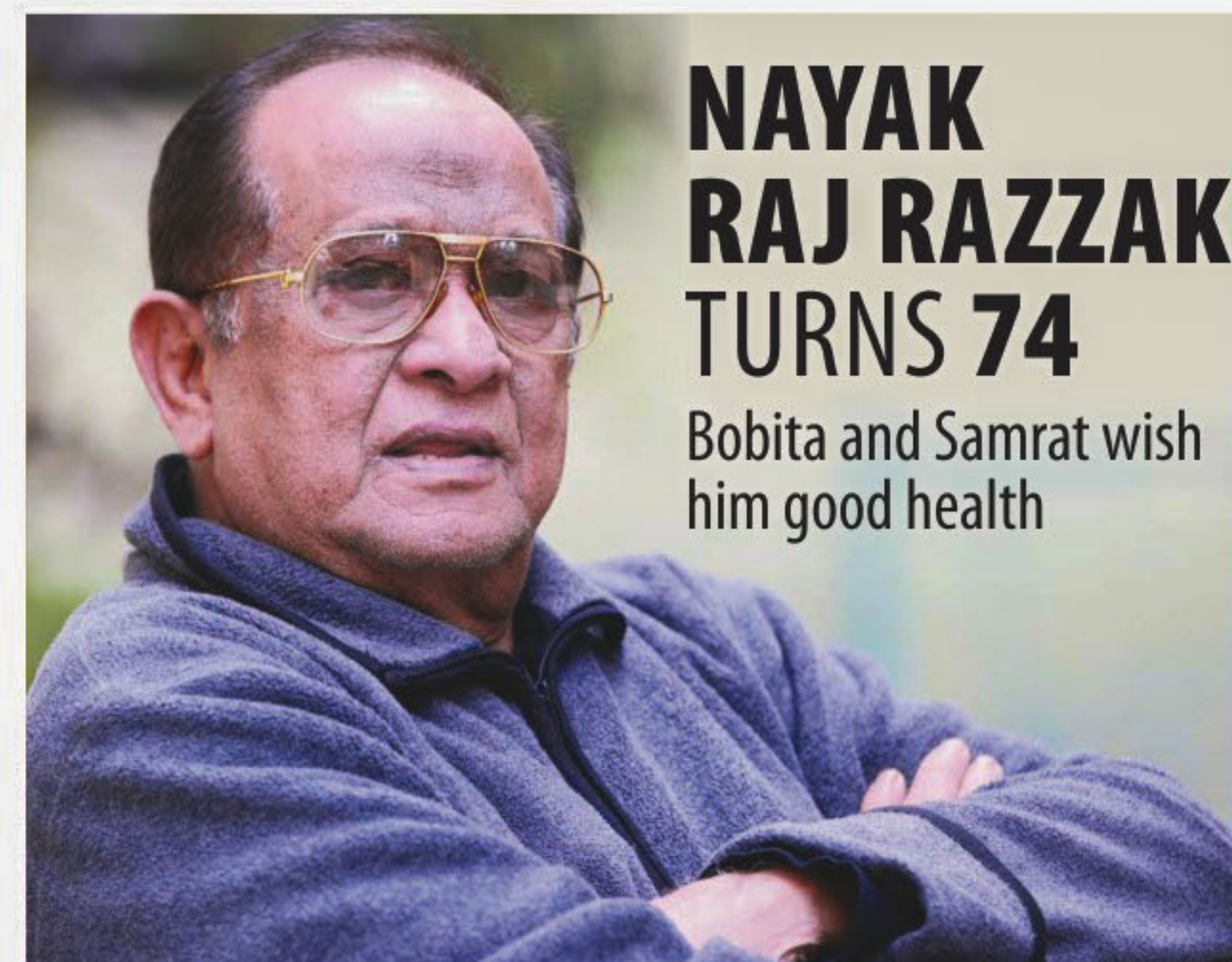
Aside from film screening under various categories -- including films by Bangladeshi children, Bangladesh panorama, selection from international competitors, the fest will include workshops, competition and award distributions.

A total of 45 child and youth representatives from the participating countries will attend the festival, which the organisers hope will help foster a cultural exchange among the children.

Apart from Dhaka, the festival, organised by Children's Film Society Bangladesh, will be held simultaneously in Chittagong and Sylhet, and will reach approximately an audience of 80,000.

This time, Rayeed Morshed -- a 21-year-old youth -- is the director of the festival. Talking to The Daily Star, General Secretary of CFS Munira Morshed Murni said "It's time that new blood should take the responsibility; a new leader should be nurtured to inspire our future generation, who should take the film industry further."

The Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Canadian Film Commission in Dhaka, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Daffodil University, British Council and Somoy Television are partners of the festival.



NAYAK RAJ RAZZAK TURNS 74

Bobita and Samrat wish him good health

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Veteran thespian Nayak Raj Razzak turns 74 today. The Lifetime Achievement recipient of the National Film Awards will be spending the day with close friends and family.

Bobita, a popular onscreen partner of Razzak, said, "First of all, I consider him a member of my family rather than a hero. We have a strong family connection, as he came in the industry with Zahir Raihan's film. He is a man of great stature who equally shined in acting, directing and producing films. I played in many films opposite him. It has always been a pleasure to work with the great actor. I wish him good health."

About his father, Razzak's son Samrat, who also acted in six films with Razzak, said, "He is an ideal father and a good human being. Baba is a rare example in the industry who always performed family responsibilities apart from maintaining a busy schedule. Working with him was a different experience, and he never allowed me to take any advantage as his son. We celebrate father's birthday with the family. I wish him good health, and a long life."

Razzak was born on January 23 in 1942 at Nagtola in Taliganj of Kolkata. His parents fondly addressed him as Raju and some-

times Raja. He loved acting from his school-days. He also worked on stage those days.

He first stood in front of the camera for the film "Shalipati". In 1964, he moved to Dhaka and met Abdul Jabbar Khan, producer of the film "Mukh O Mukhosh". He later got a job at the production house Iqbal Films with the help of Jabbar.

However, acting was his forte and within a short span of time, he became the most popular face in the film industry.

In the middle of his career, he got the title of "Nayak Raj" from Ahmed Zaman Chowdhury, editor of Chitral.

Later, he made his directorial debut with the film "Chanpa Dangar Bou".

Some of his notable works are "Abirhab", "Bashori", "Etotoku Asha", "Nil Akhasher Niche", "Je Agune Puri", "Moimamothi", "Dwip Neva Nai", "Sharalipi", "Ashikkhi", "Chutir Ghanta" and more.

He won the hearts of millions through his powerful acting in the film "Rangbar". It was his first modern action film in Bangladesh. In 1976, he emerged as producer with the film "Akankha".

Razzak was elected goodwill ambassador of Unicef as a first Bangladesh film artist. He was also the founding president of Bangladesh Film Artists' Association.

Turongomi premieres Waterness at BSA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Turnongomi- Repertory Dance Theatre premiered their latest production "Waterness" at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on Wednesday evening.

The production, said to be inspired from the life of Rabindranath Tagore, reflects the resemblance between woman and water. To be precise, women in Tagore's personal life and his major fictional characters are at the

heart of this production.

"Waterness" strives to portray the creative journey of Tagore between the span of 1890 to 1941 and tries to trace the major shifts in the nature of creations by Tagore in post "Manoshi" period.

The production includes a blend of classical dance and contemporary dance, Tagore's poetry, prose and letters which altogether endeavor to conjure up the images where the major women in Tagore's life and fictional characters interact with each other.



NEWS bytes

Gyllenhaal out of Suicide Squad

Last week, it was announced that Tom Hardy had dropped out of the upcoming DC movie "Suicide Squad". Hardy was set to play team leader Rick Flag, but due to other commitments, he had to forgo appearing in the 2016 blockbuster. It was then reported that Warner Bros. was looking at Jake Gyllenhaal to fill the vacant position. It appears that they will have to keep their search going, as Gyllenhaal won't be joining the DC Cinematic Universe anytime soon.



Variety reports that Gyllenhaal has passed on the offer to play Flag, though they didn't provide a reason why. "Suicide Squad" will begin production in April, so there is still time to secure a replacement. So far, the cast of "Suicide Squad" consists of Will Smith as Deadshot, Margot Robbie as Harley Quinn, Jai Courtney as Captain Boomerang, Jared Leto as The Joker, Carla Delvinige as Enchantress and potentially Viola Davis and Jesse Eisenberg as Amanda Waller and Lex Luthor.

Suicide Squad will be released in theaters on August 5, 2016.

IT'S TRUE!

Michelle Pfeiffer took the role of Catwoman in Tim Burton's "Batman Returns" (1992) opposite Michael Keaton and Danny DeVito. She supposedly got through 60 catsuits during the 6 month shoot, at a cost of \$1,000 a time. She later said her costume was vacuum-sealed once she was fitted into it for scenes, so she actually had only a short amount of time to perform before she would have to have it opened or she could become light headed and pass out. It was so tight on Pfeiffer that she often had trouble hearing her own voice. Tim Burton had to tell her to lower her voice register because she would often shout her dialogue instead of just saying it.



Shofi Mandal



Rob Fakir

Veet WHO WILL BE THE NEXT TOP MODEL? Grand Finale

Watch tonight on Channel i LIVE telecast at 7:31 pm

PHOTO COURTESY: KHALED SARKAR

23 January, 2015