

WHAT'S ON

Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2015
Venue: Bangla Academy Premises, Dhaka
Date: February 1-28
Time: 8-9pm & 11am-8pm (Fridays)



Film Festival
Organiser: Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Int'l Digital Cultural Archive, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Feb 17-28
Time: 6pm



Anne Frank Exhibition
Organiser: Liberation War Museum
Venue: National Museum
Date: Feb 23-27
Time: 3pm-8pm



Crafts Exhibition
Venue: Bangladesh National Museum South Premises, Dhaka
Date: February 20-24
Time: 9:30am-7pm



Theatre
Play: Kanjush
Troupe: Loko Natya Dal
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall
Date: Feb 24
Time: 7pm



NEWS bytes

Sisimpur celebrates 9th anniversary



"Sisimpur", the Bangladeshi version of Children's popular television series "Sesame Street" celebrated its ninth anniversary on February 23 through a programme held at Bengal Multimedia Studio in the capital.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, State Minister for Women and Children's Affairs Meher Afroze Chumki and US Ambassador to Dhaka Marcia Bernicat attended the programme, among others, as per a press release.

The show -- jointly produced by Asiatic Marketing Ltd and Creative Services with financial aid from USAID, airs every Friday, Monday and Wednesday on Rtv.

"Sisimpur" is made under the supervision of Sesame Workshop USA, and aims to raise awareness among children on various issues through producing different episodes focusing on particular issues. The show is tremendously popular in Bangladesh.

IT'S TRUE!



Michael Jackson, the king of pop, is in the Guinness Book of Records for giving more to charity than any other person. The term "King of Pop" was originally given to him by Elizabeth Taylor. Jackson was also crowned "King Sani" by an African tribe in 1993. Michael made a cameo appearance in "Men in Black II" as Agent M. He is the only artiste in history to have a hit in the top 10 Billboard Charts in five different decades. Michael and Janet Jackson's *Scream* video is still the most expensive video ever, holding the record for nearly 20 years.

"Birdman" soars above all at Oscars

FAHIM FERDOUS

Alejandro González Iñárritu's dark comedy "Birdman" flew high at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles yesterday at the 87th Academy Awards, taking home Best Picture, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay and Best Cinematography. It clearly outshone Richard Linklater's coming-of-age film "Boyhood", which took just one prize out of six nominations -- Patricia Arquette for Best Actress in a Supporting Role. Eddie Redmayne's portrayal of physicist Stephen Hawking in the biopic "The Theory of Everything" earned him Best Actor, while Julian Moore scored her first Oscar for playing an early-onset victim of Alzheimer's in "Still Alice", after four previous unsuccessful nods. JK Simmons expectedly picked up the Best Supporting Actor Oscar for "Whiplash", where he plays a strict jazz instructor.

The ceremony began with host Neil Patrick Harris performing a catchy song-and-dance routine, featuring Jack Black and Anna Kendrick. Other performances of the night included "Everything is Awesome", the theme song from "The Lego Movie", Jennifer Hudson paying tribute to the In Memoriam segment remembering all the deceased artistes of the year (which surprisingly left out Joan Rivers), Maroon 5 performing "Lost Stars", Lady Gaga paying tribute to "The Sound of Music" on its 50th anniversary, and a touching performance of



The entire "Birdman" team assembles to collect their award; (below) Neil Patrick Harris and Anna Kendrick perform; Lady Gaga pays tribute to "Sound of Music"; Eddie Redmayne and Julianne Moore pick up their Oscars.

"Glory", the soundtrack from "Selma" by John Legend and Common, that later won Best Song.

"Whiplash" won three awards in total, behind joint highest of "Birdman" and Wes Anderson's comedy "The Grand Budapest Hotel", which also won four Oscars, mostly in technical categories. Disney film "Big Hero 6" surprised many to pick up Best Animated Feature -- ahead of the favourite "How To Train Your Dragon 2", while "Citizenfour", about Edward

Snowden's exposure of the NSA's domestic surveillance, was awarded Best Documentary. Polish film "Ida" was recognized as the Best Foreign Language Film.

Steve Carrell-Channing Tatum-Mark Ruffalo-starrer "Foxcatcher" was the most-nominated film (with five nods) to go home empty-handed, while "The Imitation Game" -- the biopic of World War II codebreaker Alan Turing starring Benedict Cumberbatch -- took just one Oscar (Best Adapted

Screenplay) despite eight nods. American Sniper joined "Boyhood" in the one-win-off-six-nods club, while there was little love for Christopher Nolan's "Interstellar", which only won for Best Visual Effects out of five nominations, equaling "The Theory of Everything".

Serious issues came up during the ceremony, though -- often in acceptance speeches. Patricia Arquette made a moving statement on wage equality for women that had her co-

nominee Meryl Streep stand up in an enthused cheer. Iñárritu hoped for a better government in his native Mexico and addressed immigration issues, John Legend and Common mentioned mass incarceration, "Citizenfour" director Laura Poitras extended his thanks to whistleblowers everywhere, while "Imitation Game" screenwriter Graham Moore said he tried to commit suicide when he was 16, adding "I would like for this moment to be for that kid out there who feels like she doesn't fit in anywhere. You do. Stay weird. Stay different, and then when it's your turn and you are standing on this stage please pass the same message along." Dana Perry, producer for "Crisis Hotline: Veterans Press 1" -- which won Best Documentary: Short Subject -- also said "We need to talk about suicide out loud", as she dedicated the award to her son who committed suicide at age 15 in 2005.

The red carpet also made space for serious topics with the #AskHerMore hashtag -- a call to reporters to ask celebrities questions beyond their outfits.

Some of the lighter moments of the show came through Neil Patrick Harris walking on the stage only in his underwear in a tribute to Michael Keaton in "Birdman", while John Travolta was called on stage alongside Idina Menzel -- whose name he mangled into 'Adele Dazeem' at last year's ceremony -- to give the "Frozen" star a fair shot at a comeback, which she did in great spirit.



"Bish-kata" premiered Documentary depicts agonies of Birangona



Farzana Bobby (L) speaks at the premiere.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The premiere of "Bish-kata", a documentary by Farzana Bobby, was held at Chhayanaut auditorium in the capital on February 22. The documentary sheds lights on the bestial tortures that scores of women of our country went through during the Liberation War. Not only that, the film, subtitled "The Poison Thorn", vividly articulates the firsthand stories of three Birangonas -- Roma Chowdhury, Ranjita Mondal and Halima Khatun -- who are still bearing the marks of their nightmarish experiences.

The 41-minute documentary breaks the stereotypes of narration, and presents the stories from the women's points of views.

Roma Chowdhury and Ranjita Mondal were present at the premiere, and were honoured for their strength that still helps them keep going.

Following the premiere, a discussion was held with participation Sultana Kamal, Manzare Hasin Murad and Afsan Chowdhury, among others.



Salman Shah week on ATN Bangla

A CORRESPONDENT

ATN Bangla is airing seven films of Salman Shah -- from February 22-28. Throughout the Salman Shah Week, audience will get to see seven of his hits -- "Ananda Oshru", "Satyer Mrittu Nei", "Sneho", "Swapner Prithibi", "Bikkhov", "Swapner Thikana" and "Prem Piyashi".

Salman Shah, perhaps the most popular hero of Bangladeshi film, had delivered 27 blockbuster hits before he breathed his last on September 6, 1996 at the age of 25.

Shraddha TURNS ATTENTION TO SEQUELS

Actress Shraddha Kapoor seems to have turned into a reigning queen of sequels in Bollywood, with films like "ABCD 2" and "Rock On 2" in her schedules. But the actress says there is no particular pattern she follows while choosing films, but just looks for good scripts.

"I did not realise this pattern, but I feel extremely fortunate to be working with such talented people and being a part of such good scripts," Shraddha said in a statement.

After failure in "Teen Patti" and "Luv Ka the End", the actress rose to fame with romantic film "Aashiqui 2" in 2013, sequel of the 1990 blockbuster "Aashiqui".

Shraddha has been paired with Varun Dhawan for the first time for the sequel of Remo D'Souza's dance film "ABCD: Anybody Can Dance", while she will be seen sharing screen space with Farhan Akhtar in the sequel of rock musical "Rock On!!".

The actress has carved a niche for herself in the film industry with her performance in films like "Ek Villain" and "Haider". She has also showcased her dancing skills in songs like "Dance Basanti" and her singing prowess with "Galliyan" in "Ek Villain".

Source: TOI

