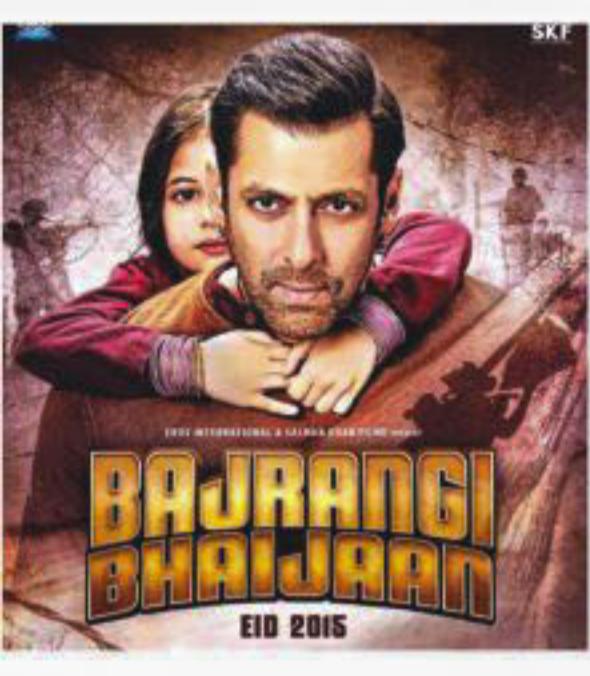


NEWS bytes

"Bajrangi Bhaijaan" opens big



"Bajrangi Bhaijaan" had quite a debut weekend, logging the best opening frame ever for Bollywood superstar Salman Khan with 102.6 crore over the three-day weekend in India; and the third biggest weekend ever for Bollywood.

It also put Salman in a class by himself. Scoring an eighth film with over 100 crore at the box office gives him the most Hindi-language movies over that level of any actor in history, according to box office analyst Taran Adarsh.

What's more, "Bajrangi" set Salman a new overseas benchmark with \$8 million more in grosses.

This has been a strong two weekends in a row for Indian films. Last session's Hollywood release, "Baahubali", broke several records at its debut including biggest worldwide opening gross for an Indian movie at about 163 crore.

Source: Deadline

IT'S TRUE!

Angelina Jolie's big screen debut came much earlier in life before her modeling career even started. When Jolie was just seven in 1982, she had a minor role in "Lookin' to Get Out", which was co-written by and starred her father Jon Voight. Jolie began modeling when she was 16 and soon appeared in videos for several huge bands and musicians,



including The Lemonhead's "It's About Time" (1993) and Lenny Kravitz's "Stand by My Woman" (1991). Jolie's biggest Hollywood breakthrough came in 1999, when she played a sociopathic mental patient in "Girl, Interrupted". She took home her third Golden Globe and the Supporting Actress Oscar.



Saurav Dey

It was indeed a great opportunity for theatre goers in Dhaka to watch "Hamlet" being staged in front of their eyes by none other than Shakespeare's own troupe, Globe Theatre.

The London-based theatre company, dating back four centuries, travelled to Bangladesh on an invitation from Dhaka Theatre to stage "Hamlet" as part of its world tour marking Shakespeare's 450th birth anniversary.

As termed by Globe Theatre itself, the play that we saw was a young, fresh and lucid version of "Hamlet". And upon watching the play, jointly directed by Dominic Dromgoole and Bill Buckhurst, one could say that it was fair.

It was indeed a clear, fast-paced and unusually funny adaptation of "Hamlet", considered to be one of the greatest tragedies

ever penned.

Sometimes it was beyond just fair, and at times, the actions on the stage seemed to cross the border of unusually funny to become unnecessarily funny.

As opposed to the seriousness that a Shakespearean tragedy generally offers, the touring version of Hamlet is rather free-flowing and more accessible than the written book.

The dialogues were lucid and one can vouch that the audience barely misunderstood what was happening on the stage.

However, there were many things that did not work. One did not simply want the protagonist to be a goofy young prince; instead, Hamlet ought to have been the anxious prince of Denmark, worried over his father's death at the hands of his uncle who later became the king and married Hamlet's mother.

He was expected to be engulfed in the horrors of life and death

GLOBE TO GLOBE SHAKESPEARE'S HAMLET IN DHAKA

manifest.

Also, some of the scenes were afflicted by trivialisation and turned rather bland instead of achieving the comedic impact.

We saw a weirdly neutral Claudius and a merely incapable Polonius. The scene where Hamlet killed Polonius behind the arras was weakly staged. Also, there was no spark in the performance of Nayem Hayat as Hamlet. His acting seemed a bit disconnected and his face was lacking the angst that was supposed to be visible in the prince's face. However, Ophelia did well in her small role, while Gertrude was very lively on the stage.

What was admirable was the production's clarity. And what truly worked were multiple roles played by most of the actors, aside from doubling as musicians.

The stage design was minimalistic with only steamer

trunks kept on the stage, and the stage light was simple with no artificiality. Surprisingly, the house lights remained up so that the audience had the flavour of sitting in Shakespeare's Globe.

The actors skilfully articulated the rhythm of Shakespearean speech to show the outburst of emotion and highlight the poetic quality of the text.

Above all, the show was entertaining and fresh. And it was clear that we were watching a group of travelling actors carrying "Hamlet" on their backs to every country of the world within a timeframe of two years.

They enchanted us with their liveliness, humour and folk song. If we put aside its flaws, the production was indeed once-in-a-lifetime experience for the Dhaka audience. And when it ended, Globe Theatre was rewarded with standing ovation and a big round of applause.

"Abaro Devdas" on SATV



A CORRESPONDENT

Eid special tele-film "Abaro Devdas" will air on SATV today at 3pm. Adapted and directed by Imraul Rafat based on Sharatchandra Chattopadhyay's classic novel "Devdas", the tele-film casts Arfan Nisho, Mithila, Jannatul Ferdoush Peya, Abdullah Rana and Niloy among others. The plot encircles Deep and Parul who fall in love with each other. Meanwhile Deep's father sends him abroad for higher education which causes a schism in their relationship.

Jon-Mithila in "Cry Baby Cry"



A CORRESPONDENT

Single-episode television play "Cry Baby Cry" will air on Banglavision on the fifth day of Eid at 8pm. Written and directed by Mabrur Rashid Bannah, the play encircles Mymun and his girlfriend Ishika. Despite the old saying that boys never cry, Mymun cannot control his emotions and cries at the drop of a hat, to the annoyance of Ishika.

The play casts Jon, Mithila and Ishika in the lead roles among others.

Ranveer, Deepika, Priyanka ready for "Bajirao Mastani"

After years of confusion, Sanjay Leela Bhansali's epic "Bajirao Mastani" is now close to completion. Its lead actor Ranveer Singh, Bajirao of the title, revealed the poster of the film with the tweet: "A storm is coming."

Production house Eros followed it up with the first looks of the lead characters - Ranveer as Bajirao, Deepika Padukone as his second wife Mastani who is also a warrior princess and Priyanka Chopra as the first wife Kashibai. Director Bhansali, who calls this his dream project, said it was a challenge to make the film.

The movie's shooting will continue till August this year and it will release in December.

The first looks are intense and just reinforce the point made by Ranveer in his tweets. While Deepika is in complete battle regalia, Priyanka also seems to be toying with the idea.

Source: Hindustan Times



CHHAU workshop at Shilpakala

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nrityajog, the Bangladesh Chapter of World Dance Alliance, has organised a weeklong (July 22-28) dance workshop, in cooperation with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). Renowned Delhi-based dancer Santosh Nair will conduct the workshop starting from today, at the Nrityashala rehearsal room of BSA.

The workshop, to be held in two sessions (10am-1pm and 4pm-7pm), will be demonstrated into two parts, one on the famous Mayurbhanj Chhau dance and the other on contemporary dance.

A dance recital will be held at the end of the workshop, on July 28, at the Music and Dance Centre auditorium of BSA. The show will exhibit what the participants had learnt during the workshop and will also include performances by Santosh Nair himself.

This workshop, like many previous others conducted by Nrityajog, will not only help young dancers in Bangladesh to improve their technical skills in dance and also aid in building a proper body language very much needed for dancers, but also enable them to get in touch with Mayurbhanj Chhau dance, which may be new to many participants in the workshop.

Attempts such as these would encourage dancers from various districts to train properly and also come in contact with dance vocabularies from other parts of the world, in order to enhance their skills and technical training.

"Dhonnobad Ultapalta" on ATN Bangla

A CORRESPONDENT

Ed special magazine show "Dhonnobad Ultapalta" will air on ATN Bangla on the fifth day of Eid at 10:45pm. Hosted by Rumana Malik Munmun and directed by Nahid Rahman and Lobi Rahman, the show packs dance, music, humour and other elements. Dinat Jahan Munni and Kabir Bokul present duet songs in the show, aside from Shakila Zafar's solo song, Shokh and her troupe's group dance and more. Also, fashion designer Biplab Saha, Lipi Khandakar, Shahrukh Amin, beauty expert Afroza Parvin, Farzana Munni, and Abida are guests on the show. Also, actor couple Syed Hasan Imam and Laila Hasan, singer couple Abida Sultana and Rafiqul Alam sing at the programme.

DiCaprio hunts Tom Hardy in 'Revenant' trailer



adventure of survival in the early 19th century American wilderness.

The trailer, which is light on dialogue and heavy on action,

finds DiCaprio's character facing off against Tom Hardy, who plays his confidant-turned-enemy John

Fitzgerald. Glass vows revenge on

Fitzgerald when he betrays him, robbing him and leaving him for dead in the wilderness. The fur trapper also battles a bear and a vicious winter, ultimately traveling more than 200 miles to seek redemption.

The film also stars Domhnall Gleeson and Will Poulter. It was shot entirely in natural light by cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki.

"The Revenant," from New Regency and 20th Century Fox, hits theaters on Christmas Day before going wide on January 8, 2016.

Source: Variety



Eminent singer Sabina Yasmin (R) and her daughter Badhan (L) together with actor-dancer Sadia Islam Mou and her daughter Pushpita are featured in the Eid special Ityadi, hosted by Hanif Sanket. The popular magazine show will be telecast on BTV tonight after the 8pm Bangla news.