

SHARMILA TAGORE

lauds Yemeni director for highlighting women's sufferings

Veteran actress Sharmila Tagore heaped praises on Yemeni film-maker Khadija Al Salami, considered the first woman director from her country, for being courageous enough to highlight the sufferings of women in the name of religion and tradition in her film "I Am Nojoom, Age 10 And Divorced". Tagore was heading the jury selecting the best woman director and film from 14 short-listed entries at the closing ceremony of the 21st Kolkata International Film Festival.

"It is very brave of her to show the courage and make this film and highlight the suffering of scores of women in the name of religion and tradition," Tagore said.

Though Salami didn't bag the top honours, she received special mention from the five-member jury which also included Chinese-American actress Bai Ling, Polish director Filip Marczewski, Israeli filmmaker Samuel Maoz and Sri Lankan actress Swarna Mallawarachchi.



Never thought I will make comedy films: Shoojit Sircar

Remember Annu Kapoor's analogy from "Vicky Donor" or Irrfan Khan's funny motion relieving mantras from "Piku"? The cinematic moments brought smiles on the audience's faces, but their director Shoojit Sircar says he never intended to make comedy movies as he always thought political thrillers were his calling. "I came to make films like 'Yahaan' and 'Madras Cafe'. I never thought I will do a comedy film," Shoojit said.

Shoojit picked a love story between an army officer and a girl in Kashmir to be his directorial debut through "Yahaan", and then made a film in a light manner in 2012 with "Vicky Donor". After a light take on a serious subject, he tried to account the processes leading to Rajiv Gandhi's tragic assassination in 1991 with semi-fictional account "Madras Cafe".

His last film "Piku", which highlights the children-parent relationship, was a commercial hit and generated rave reviews.



I am too critical and harsh on Ranbir: Rishi Kapoor

Rishi Kapoor is too strict a father, and when it comes to praising the work of his actor son Ranbir the veteran Bollywood star prefers being "critical" and "harsh" on him. The 63-year-old "All Is Well" actor said till now he has found his son significantly decent in "Barfi" and "Rocket Singh: Salesman of the Year". "Generally I don't like him as I am too critical and harsh but he was decent in 'Barfi' and 'Rocket Singh'," Rishi said. Son of Bollywood legend Raj Kapoor, he also recalled his childhood days when yesteryear gems Madhubala and Meena Kumari visited their house on Diwali, but regretted that he did not realize their importance during those days. The actor will next be seen in the rom-com film "Kapoor & Sons" directed by Shakun Batra.

SIR KENNETH BRANAGH

to Direct and Star in Murder on the Orient Express



Sir Kenneth Branagh will direct Fox's new adaptation of Agatha Christie's famous novel "Murder on the Orient Express", which will have a script by Michael Green. Branagh will also star as Christie's hero, the fastidious Belgian detective Hercule Poirot. Branagh faces some stiff competition, as Sydney Lumet's 1974 adaptation of the novel earned an Oscar nomination for Albert Finney (as Poirot) and David Suchet's portrayal of the detective has been on British TV for more than 20 years, and he even did a Murder on the Orient Express episode with Jessica Chastain. But, for better or for worse, Branagh can be sure that a studio will remake the film in another 20 years or so, as soon as they find someone more British than himself.