



Ringling in Christmas

FAYZA HAQ

Going to the Cooper's bakery early morning, one found the first Christmas tree. "One has to work even on Christmas ma'am," the serving girl complained.

All the malls looked spruced up with winking lights this Christmas. The city was bathed with the sweeps of winking fairy lights. At all large hotels one could see garlands of bright and shiny winking lights as if the city had worn a festive look for the occasion.

Ruposhi Bangla hotel getting a facelift looked forlorn, although we had Shawn papri and peanuts for good measure. As we proceeded on to Sonargaon, things brightened up with the notes of

"Silent night holy night" greeting us as we entered the hotel lobby. Father Christmas appeared later with his rotund belly and red cap with people jostling around him to be photographed. They too donned Christmas caps, whether they were wearing the festive gown or the sari to go with it. Earlier, we had munched some yummy beef tacos to fill our rumbling tummies. Sure there was not eggnog for the occasion. But the fridge at home had some lemon flavoured iced cakes for guests that would come by in the evening. There were nut-filled chocolate cakes too for the occasion. A guest had brought huge 'rui' fish which were filleted, and put away for future meals. The girl had been intelligent enough to stir up some

yummy chicken with thick gravy and pilau with peas and slices of carrots. One felt that the meal at night was from "Pillars of Wisdom" with the table laden with stuffed peacock and a sumptuous pig with apple in its mouth.

There were snow-capped trees of Christmas for the main decoration. There was a reindeer flying atop Christmas tree tops. There were golden coloured balls, a snowman with a red cap, muffler, and a red stick with a golden star. There were fake, enormous green, red and mauve gift packages tied with ribbons. The golden balls went hand in hand with the blue ones. The Christmas tree was lit up. Father Christmas was there flying in black with his collection of reindeer and sleigh in black. There

was a small kiosk with embroidered Muslin table cloth with brown and white motifs on the edge. There was moreover a penguin and its young one in the decoration. Nearby were people sitting, selling tickets for the merriment on New Year's Day. Couples and children were busy dressed in their Christmas best, having their pictures taken by camera and mobile phones. At the poolside was the party for the children for Christmas -- but one had to be wearing finery to be allowed in.

The day was filled with more adventures for me, including the teaching of German to an old friend of mine, while the cakes and sandwiches were being packed to take home for guests for Christmas.

TISHA in Christmas play

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular actress Tisha will be seen in Christmas special television play "Upohar". Written by Apel Mahmud and directed by Jayanto Rozario, the play will air at 6:40pm on ntv on Christmas day.

Tisha will be seen as Angela Gomes in the play which also casts Sabbir and Nabila, among others.

Tisha said, "Angela is a new character for me, and the storyline is fantastic. I play a writer who goes to Bandarban to write a book. There she comes across a young boy in the hills. Gradually they develop a bonding."



Musical legacy of the legend Abdul Alim Book and DVD launched at Shilpakala

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Folk music is a very significant part of our rich folk culture. Through a lifetime of dedication and devotion to his art, the legendary folk singer Abdul Alim took our music to a greater height. I sincerely thank Abdul Alim Foundation along with Bangladesh

UNESCO National Commission for its outstanding preservation and promotion of the life sketches and songs of Abdul Alim," said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, as chief guest, in a programme at the National Music and Dance Centre auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on December 23.

As to the question of archiving Abdul Alim's songs in BTV and Bangladesh Betar (propounded by Jahir Alim, a singer and son of Abdul Alim), Information Secretary Martuza Ahmed, a special guest of the event, gave an assurance that necessary steps would be taken. Education Secretary Sohorab Hossain was

also present as special guest while Bangladesh UNESCO National Commission Secretary M. Monzur Hossain presided over the programme.

A research-based book on the life of the legend, titled, "Bangla Loko Sangeet-er Amor Kanthoshilpi Abdul Alim" along with a DVD titled "Tomaro Lagiary" were launched at the programme. The guests distributed awards to folk researchers and singers from across the country, who wrote the book and recorded Abdul Alim songs for the DVD. A documentary featuring the life and songs of Abdul Alim, was screened at the event.

Under the UNESCO Participation Programme 2014-2015, the organisers jointly worked on the theme "Preservation and promotion of the songs of Abdul Alim, the legendary folk singer of Bangladesh." Later, the singers, who recorded songs for the DVD, performed songs at the event.



Guests at the book launch.

PHOTO: STAR

Depp 'most overpaid actor' of 2015

Johnny Depp has been named the most overpaid Hollywood actor of 2015 by Forbes magazine. The list, based on the last three films in which those included starred before June, revealed Depp returned only \$1.20 for every \$1 he was paid.

Depp's comedy "Mortdecai" flopped in cinemas, only making back \$47.4m of its \$60m production budget. The actor's 2014 sci-fi thriller "Transcendence", meanwhile, only just made back its costs.

Denzel Washington is ranked second on the list, returning \$6.50 on every dollar.

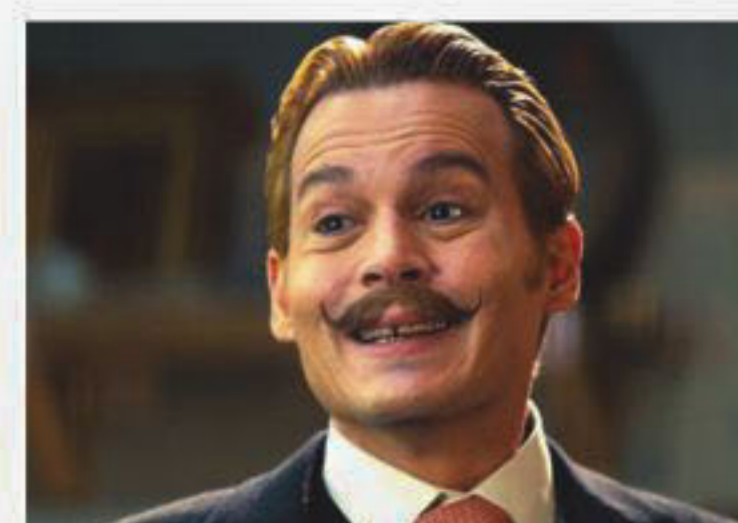
Will Ferrell, who topped the list in 2009 and 2010, is third this time after only bringing in \$6.80 for every \$1 spent on him on "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues" and "The Campaign". That was just ahead of Liam Neeson, whose fourth place is down to the success of "Taken 3" cancelling out "Run All Night".

Adam Sandler, named the most overpaid actor in each of the past two years, was considered ineligible this year after signing a four-film deal with streaming service Netflix.

Chris Evans was Forbes' best value actor of 2015, the "Captain America" actor's films returning an average \$181.80 for every \$1 he was paid. Four actresses fill the next four places in the best value list.

Mila Kunis comes second with an \$87.30 return on every dollar, while Scarlett Johansson, whose last three major films grossed a combined \$2.58 bn, is third.

Gwyneth Paltrow, whose appearance in "Iron Man 3" more than made up for her contribution to "Mortdecai", is ranked fourth. Last year's winner, Emma



Stone, comes fifth, with the disappointing performance of "Aloha" balanced out by 2014's "The Amazing Spider-Man 2".

Source: BBC

A Merry Christmas from KALYAN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular actor Kalyan Corraya has flown off to Sydney, Australia for Christmas and New Year. The Daily Star caught up with him for a telephonic interview on the eve of Christmas.

What's your plan for Christmas?

Kalyan: I am in Australia and will spend a month here. This is the first time I am spending Christmas outside Dhaka. It's a new experience and I love it. It feels good to be here.

Any work planned in Australia?

Kalyan: I am here on holiday, but I've got work to do as well. I am in the midst of negotiating tie ups for television productions in Australia. I have some per-

sonal projects in Sydney and I hope those will kick off soon. I will go back to Dhaka and my work on television, though.

What's your resolution for 2016?

Kalyan: I want to see more success. I am waiting to see our showbiz industry flourishing, and I hope many good productions will emerge. There are budget constraints in our film industry, and I hope this problem get resolved in the new year. Above all, I wish the year brings peace in the lives of all Bangladeshis.

Any word for your fans on Christmas?

Kalyan: I wish my fans and everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May this day bring peace, happiness and fulfillment to their lives.



ASK AWAY TO MIM

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Star Arts & Entertainment brings you the golden opportunity to ask your favourite personalities from the cultural fraternity questions you have always wanted to. Every month in 2016, one celebrity will take on your questions, and the best ques-

tions and their answers will be published on The Daily Star.

Bidya Sinha Mim, the beauty queen turned actress, is the first featured artiste. Ask your questions away -- via email, along with your name, location and occupation, to culturetds@gmail.com by 5pm on December 28.



Quiz Contest

10 Winners Everyday! 2 Premium Tickets For Each Winner



The Daily Star | STAR CINEPLEX

Three decades after the defeat of the Galactic Empire, a new threat arises. The First Order attempts to rule the galaxy and only a rag-tag group of heroes can stop them, along with the help of the Resistance

The Daily Star together with Star Cineplex will host a quiz for the movie lovers in the Arts & Entertainment Section. So keep your eyes on this Newspaper.