

NOSTALGIA

Shimu recalls school days

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Sumaiya Shimu, a household name on the small screen, has been involved with TV plays for long. She won the hearts of millions with her acting. In a chit-chat with The Daily Star, the actress talked about her childhood days and more. Excerpts:



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

"Since I was born and brought up in Narail, my first school was Narail Government Primary School. After a few years, we shifted to Dhaka where I got admitted to a school and studied there for three years.

"I returned to my hometown again and got admitted to Narail Government Girls' High School from where I passed the SSC examinations.

"I have so many fond memories of my schooldays and those still resonate in my mind. My close school friends were Labony, Jholon, Shilpi, Rubi, Chameli, Lira, Chandni and Sajani. We all went together to school and for private tuition. We had lots of fun those days.

"Many memorable incidents of my schooldays still cheer me up. Once, all our friends decided to shave of our head simultaneously. With the bald heads, we wandered everywhere. We really enjoyed this.

"The River Chitra passes by our home. During my childhood, I went to the river with my grandfather who taught me to swim. We often wandered on the bank of the river. Our family often enjoyed boat rides in the river. This is one thing I still enjoy when I visit Narail.

"I grew up seeing world-renowned artist SM Sultan. He often strolled past our house but that time I had little idea of how great the person is! I feel nostalgic when I recall those days.

"I remember early in the morning, we siblings would compete to pick ripe mangoes that fell from the tree in our yard. Nothing deterred us even amid heavy storm.

"I was scared of ghosts during the night. I still get shudders remembering those days.

"As everyone is scattered now it is difficult to get in touch with old school friends nowadays. Two year ago, I went to Narail and all on a sudden, some of my school friends met after a break of 20 years. We became very emotional at the get-together.

"Later, we visited our favourite teacher Nannu Madam who burst into tears seeing us. We also wept.

"To me, I can never erase those sweetest memories of my schooldays from my mind."



A Raghu Rai photo of a refugee camp during 1971.

The exhibition stands out in terms of its content, first up -- with an excellent balance of photos, rare documents, posters, an installation and audiovisuals, giving exhibition-goers a closer look at the background of the War, and many unknown facets of it. The exhibition is divided in 11 segments -- commemorating the 11 sectors of the Liberation War. Labeled sequentially as Uprising, Billowy, Horrors, Refugee, Resistance, Fightback, War, Allies, Irreversible, Victory and Homecoming, the segments take the audience through the uprising of '69 and the subsequent landslide victory in the 1970 general election, on to Operation Searchlight and the genocide, to the happenings of the nine months that followed, closing with the Freedom Fighters' return and reception. The information is detailed and thorough, and the commendable research that has gone into the project is quite clear. Particularly two sections -- Refugees and Allies -- have a greater focus in the exhibition. According to the curator, about 10 million people were displaced out of their country during the

war and another 40 million were internally displaced, making it one of the biggest displacements of human history. The heart-wrenching conditions of the camps and the people's sufferings are brilliantly documented. The allies section also showcases some lesser-known stories: like the dock workers at USA's Baltimore who protested and prevented a war-ship from loading arms that were en route to Bangladesh for the Pakistan Army; the shoe-polishers of Mumbai working one whole day just to raise funds for refugees; or the French youth who attempted to hijack a plane and demanded ransom in the form of medical aid to be sent to the war-torn zone. The diplomatic and humanitarian efforts by both general people and diplomats are also portrayed with care.

Curator Amitabh Dewry clarified his unusual choice of materials for the exhibition. "With the advent of technology, more than ever we now have access to new documents -- even classified ones, photographs and other evidence of what the Liberation War really was and what its impact was, so there is no space to

A close look at the birth of BANGLADESH

"1971: Emergence of a Nation" at BSA

FAHMIM FERDOUS

An in-depth, engaging multimedia exhibition on our Liberation War, titled "1971: Emergence of a Nation", is currently on at the National Art Gallery of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and curated by Amitabh Dewry, the exhibit opened on March 19. Abul Hassan Mahmud Ali, Foreign Affairs Minister; HT Imam, Prime Minister's Political Advisor; Md. Shahriar Alam, State Minister for Foreign Affairs and Professor Dr. Bazlul Haque of the Department of International Business at Dhaka University were present at the inauguration.



Guests watch an audiovisual at the exhibit.

PHOTO COURTESY: DIPANKAR DIPU

create any confusion or controversy about it. The materials used -- acrylic (for the photos) symbolises transparency, the wood symbolises strength and solidity of it, and the laser engraving of the captions on to the wood symbolizes how the War is engraved permanently in our hearts.

"This exhibition is dedicated to the

50,000 children that died during the War," Dewry added. "We always mention the number of martyrs and rape victims, but these children rarely come up in discussions. We decided to honour their memory through the exhibition."

The exhibition remains open till tomorrow, from 3-8pm.

ASK AWAY TO FERDOUS



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

National Film Award winning actor Ferdous is the featured artiste for April. Ask your questions away -- via email, along with your name, location and occupation, to culturetds@gmail.com by 5pm on March 30. Keep your questions short and interesting to maximize your chances of getting published!

"Batman V Superman" opens at Star Cineplex

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the most anticipated superhero films of the year, "Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice", opens in Dhaka today, on the date of its international release, March 25.

A special premiere show was held at Star Cineplex in the capital on Thursday evening, where a houseful of invited guests caught a glimpse of the ultimate fight of the two superheroes.

The Zack Snyder-directed film reprises Henry Cavill, Amy Adams, Diane Lane and Laurence Fishburne from "Man of Steel", while Ben Affleck replaces audience-

favourite Christian Bale as Batman. DC Comic's another popular character Wonder Woman, portrayed by Gal Gadot, takes up a big screen space as well making it the first action film to include the trinity -- Batman, Superman and Wonder Woman -- together.

As the story unfolds, Batman takes on the Man of Steel fearing that his actions are left unchecked, while the world wrestles with what kind of a hero it really needs. With Batman and Superman fighting each other, a new threat, Doomsday, is created by Lex Luthor. It's up to Superman and Batman to set aside their differences along with Wonder Woman to stop Lex Luthor and Doomsday from destroying Metropolis.



Farhan Akhtar set to rock Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Farhan Akhtar, the quintessential 'complete star' of Bollywood, is set to perform in Dhaka on March 31, at the International Convention City, Dhaka. Presented jointly by Morpheus Planners and Blues Communications, the event has already created quite a buzz among his fans in the city.

Farhan, son of legendary poet-lyricist Javed Akhtar, forayed into Bollywood with direction, and won a National Award with his debut "Dil Chahta Hai" (2001), that went on to become a cult classic. His other films "Lakshya" and "Don" also met critical and commercial success, before he made his acting and singing debut with "Rock On!" (2008). Farhan has since established himself as a force

to be reckoned with, as an actor, director, screenwriter, producer and a gifted musician. He also has a reputation as an elocutionist. His performance in 2013 biopic "Bhaag Milkha Bhaag" brought him international attention.

Blues Communications CEO Farhadul Islam informed that his company is always looking to give the audience something extra, and bringing Farhan Akhtar is a part of that

plan. He also informed that unlike other Bollywood actor visiting Dhaka and just spending a little time talking and doing one or two choreographed dances, Farhan Akhtar will have a power-packed 90-minute set.

Tickets for the event, available in three categories, are available online and are also being sold at select locations. More details can be found on the event's Facebook page.



The Daily Star | STAR Cineplex

BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE QUIZ CONTEST

10 Winners Everyday! 2 Premium Tickets For Each Winner

Fearing the actions of a god-like Super Hero left unchecked, Gotham City's own formidable, forceful vigilante takes on Metropolis's most revered, modern-day savior, while the world wrestles with what sort of hero it really needs. And with Batman and Superman at war with each other, a new threat quickly arises, putting mankind in greater danger than it has ever known before.

From director Zack Snyder comes "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice," starring Oscar winner Ben Affleck ("Argo") as Batman/Bruce Wayne and Henry Cavill as Superman/Clark Kent in the characters' first big-screen pairing.

The Daily Star together with Star Cineplex will host a quiz for the movie lovers in the Arts & Entertainment section. So keep your eyes open.