

K-Pop World Festival Venue: Music & Dance Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy

Photography Exhibition Title: ViHiMiMis` [Missing Credit] Artist: Dr. Firoz Mahmud Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi Date: 4-14 June Time: 9:30 AM - 8.00 PM

Photography Exhibition Life, Light & Chaos Photographer: Joy K Roy Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka



TAKING TAGORE TO CANNES

ENAYETULLAH KHAN, back from Cannes, France

Cannes - the very name conjures up images of movie star glamour, unalloyed creativity, and cinema as it should be - artistic, visually captivating, and incorporating a language that is altogether in danger of getting lost in a tsunami of reality TV and franchise filmmaking. Every year in May, this quintessential resort town in the South of France plays host to the Cannes Film Festival. It isn't just another stop on the festival circuit. Cannes is famous for launching many a star into world renown, from 60s French siren Brigitte Bardot to Abbas Kiarostami, the acclaimed Iranian director.

For most filmmakers, Cannes is the beating heart of their craft - mainly for its artistic ethos that rewards directors and producers for their vision, and where they take their craft, rather than how much they can boast in box office takings. It's a place where you feel Rabindranath Tagore, with his natural charisma and humanist outlook -- would have belonged. Tagore himself was welltravelled of course, but the festival itself started its journey a bit too late for him in 1946, five years after his death.

The Kabiguru certainly took an interest in film, and the possibilities inherent to the medium. But the film industry was still nascent in this part of the world during his lifetime. It isn't very well known, but Tagore did still manage to make a foray into filmmaking at the insistence of producer BN Sircar. Unfortunately, it failed to enjoy a run worthy of its maker's stature. Just a year after it was made, it was destroyed in a 1933 fire in the warehouse of New Theatres, Calcutta (now Kolkata).

All the more reason for filmgoers, as



Enayetullah Khan with Karl Bardosh at Cannes, with the certificate for their labour of love.

well as Tagore aficionados, to sit up and take notice of a 3D colour recreation of the only film Tagore ever made, "Natir Puja" (1932), that was unveiled in this year's Cannes Film Market. Professor Karl Bardosh, Hungarian-born American

academic and filmmaker, has brought alive the film that provides another fascinating insight into the creative vision of Bengal's first Nobel laureate.

Bardosh's interpretation of the dancedrama that Tagore wrote in 1926 for the

stage at the Jorasanko Thakurbari is titled "Natir Puja - The Court Dancer", and features Sujata Awon Pradhan of Kolkata, where she heads the dance group Nrityalok, in the lead role. She choreographed herself, with Jayati Chakraborty, a leading exponent of Rabindra Sangeet in West Bengal, as the playback singer. Renowned Dutch cinematographer Leonard Retel Helmrich, the master of the 'single-camera shot' technique, was roped in as cinematographer. Tagore's script is based on a Buddhist tale that goes back 2400 years.

Unsurprisingly, the message it delivers is of religious tolerance, and that fact alone should be enough to ensure its continued relevance in this day and age. The fact that it gives Tagore fans an opportunity to catch a glimpse of what their favourite bard may have envisioned in another, arguably more encompassing medium than what they are used to with his poetry, prose and lyrics, makes it even more intriguing.

Enayetullah Khan is Editor-in-Chief of UNB, and executive producer of "Natir Puja".

Modhu Shikari at British Council today



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking World Environment Day (June 5), theatre troupe BotTala will stage their play "Modhu Shikari" at the British Council today. The staging of the play, translated from Karthika Nair's book "The Honey Hunter" by Shamim Azad directed by Mohmmad Ali Haider, will be held at 6:30pm.

The story of "Modhu Shikari" begins in the Sundarbans where three rivers meet in a huge mangrove forest. Everyone who lives in the Sundarbans loves honey, but one most of all: a small, black-haired boy named Shonu. One year, due to climate change, the seasons in the Sundarban get mixed up and the region is plagued by powerful cyclones followed by drought and hunger. Shonu becomes so hungry that he sneaks into the mangrove forest and breaks the golden rule: he takes honey from the hives even though it is not yet the harvest time. Shonu doesn't quite realise that what he has done could get him into deep trouble with the almighty demon tiger Dakkhin Rai and the goddess Bonbibi, the Guardian Deity of the Sundarbans.

This modern-day fairytale reveals what can happen when someone interferes with nature's rhythm. It teaches children to respect and appreciate the environment.

"Shororipu" set for release in Kolkata

Sohana Saba's first Indian project



Saba in a still from "Shororipu".

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

"Shororipu", a Tollywood film starring Sohana Saba, is set to release later this month (June 17) in Kolkata. This is a first for the popular Bangladeshi actor of TV and film, to have a film release across the border.

"I'm very excited. It has been a while since I had a film release in theatres," Sohana told The Daily Star.

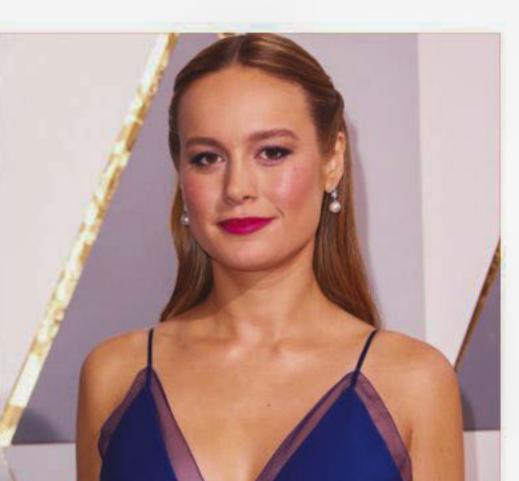
"Shororipu", directed by Ayan Chakrabarty, also stars Indranil, Rudranil, and Chiranjit. Saba plays a woman named Raka. About her character, the actor said, "The audience will see me in a new light in this film. I believe they will

find it enjoyable." Asked how she got involved with a

Tollywood film, Saba says, "I met Tollywood director Aniket at a festival in the city, who was impressed by my performance in 'Brihonnola'. He introduced me to Ayan Chakrabarty who offered me the role."

Saba recently also returned to TV modeling after a few years' hiatus, filming for a TV commercial for a mineral water brand shot in Darjeeling, India. The commercial was directed by Kolkata-based Rupok Majumdar. She is currently busy shooting for TV plays for the upcoming Eid.

Although "Shororipu" marks her debut in Tollywood, Saba has a solid profile in Dhallywood - with films like "Priyotomeshu", "Chondrogrohon" and the controversy-marred "Brihonnola".





Brie Larson in talks to play Captain Marvel

After winning the best actress Oscar for "Room", Brie Larson has her sights on another marvelous role.

Sources say Larson is in early talks to play Captain Marvel, one of Marvel's most popular female superheroes, in an upcoming standalone film. It's unknown where negotiations stand, but sources have told entertainment magazine Variety that Larson is their first choice, and that she's leaning toward playing the part.

Marvel had no comment on the story. No director is currently on board. Marvel, however, had always planned to have an actress lined up early, with the idea of possibly introducing her in one of its upcoming films before

its "Captain Marvel" movie bows.

"Inside Out" writer Meg LeFauve and Nicole Perlman are currently writing the script, which follows Carol Danvers, an air force pilot whose DNA is fused with that of an alien during an accident. The resulting alteration imbues her with the super powers of strength, energy project and flight.

Larson has been choosing both big-budget spectacles, like the upcoming "Kong: Skull Island", and prestige films, such as "Room" and "The Glass Castle", which she is currently film-

ing. She can be seen next in Ben Wheatley's "Free Fire" opposite Armie Hammer.

Source: Variety

"Droho" staged in Bogra

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

A drama titled "Droho", based on the struggles of the people living in a suburb by the Jamuna River in Shariakandi upazila of Bogra district, saw its 63rd staging by leading cultural organisation of the district Bogra Theatre, at Shaheed Titu Millenayatan on this past week.

The play was staged marking the found-

A scene from the play. ing anniversary of Bogra Theare, following a colourful rally, raffle draw, an award ceremony, dinner and reminiscence of past founding members.

The play was written and directed by noted theatre personality of the town, president of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote and general secretary of Bangladesh Gram Theatre, Toufique Hasan Moyna. The stage lighting designer was Deen Mohammad Dinu and musical accompa-

nists were Nazrul Islam, Tonmoy Shutradhor, Sajal Sarkar, Ovi Ghosh and

PHOTO: STAR

Mithun. The show depicted the social as well as physical struggles of the people who lived in a suburb by the Jamuna River. The play also highlighted the struggle of freedom fighters against their enemies as well as the fraternity amongst them. It proved a hit among audience mem-

NEWS bytes

First poster of "Noor" out

After treating their fans with Sonakshi Sinha's first look from the upcoming film "Noor", the makers have now unveiled its first look poster. Trade analyst Taran Adarsh took to his Twitter handle to write, "First look poster of # Noor . Directed by Sunhil Sippy. Produced by TSeries and Abundantia. Filming begins July

The poster features Sonakshi donning different looks. Based on a cimedy-crime thriller book "Karachi, You're Killing Me" by Pakistani journalist Saba Imtiaz, will see the 28year-old actress portraying the role of a journalist alongside stand-up comic and YouTube star Kanan Gill.

No release date for the film has yet been set.

Source: TOi



