

NEWS bytes

Pabna Drama Circle observes 35th anniversary

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TOPU, Pabna

Pabna Drama Circle, a leading theatre organisation of Pabna observed its 35th founding anniversary through discussion and Iftar Mahfil on Monday. Leading cultural and social activists joined the programme held at the Pabna Chamber of Commerce and Industries (PCCI) auditorium.

Pabna Drama Circle began its journey on June 13, 1981 with the spirit of nourishing the youths for bringing the better generation through the theatre movement. The organisation has produced 43 plays and also took part in the theatre and social movement in the district.

President of the organisation Faruk Hossain Chowdhury chaired the programme while president of Pabna Press Club Professor Shibojit Nag, vice president of PCCI Mahabubul Alam Mukul and president of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote Abul Kashem addressed the session, among others.

The speakers stressed on cultural movement for fighting against militancy, saying that cultural activists play vital role against militancy. Cultural movement leads for secularism in the society and also raises awareness among people.



USHERING IN MONSOON

Udichi holds Borsha Utshab at Bangla Academy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Among all the six seasons, monsoon has a special appeal. And when it comes to melody, Bengali people have a special place in their hearts for monsoon melodies. Though the city dwellers have been experiencing occasional showers over the last couple of weeks, yesterday, the first day of Bengali month Ashadh, marked the advent of the season.

To preserve nature and to welcome the Monsoon, cultural organisation Udichi Shilpi Gosthi (Dhaka Metropolitan Unit), organised Borsha Utsab 1423 yesterday at Nazrul Mancha, Bangla Academy, Dhaka.

The programme started off with the choral performance of the song "Allah Megh De, Pani De, Chhaya De Re Tui". The rendition was accompanied with traditional Bengali instruments— dhol, tabla, dotara and banshi. With a rendition of Raga "Mian Ki Malhar", talented artiste Priyanka Gope welcomed the season of rain. The programme also featured performance of solo songs, dance and poetry recitation.

Leading and promising artistes including, Bulbul Islam, Mahadeb Ghosh, Anima Mukti Gomes, Bizon Chandra Mistry and Biman Chandra Biswas rendered solo songs composed by Tagore, Nazrul, folk

bards and other poets, at the programme. Artistes of Nriyam and Spondon staged colourful dance performances. Jayanta Chattopadhyay, Belayet Hossain and Shikha Sengupta recited poems.

A special monsoon musical titled, "Brishti Porey Tapur Tupur" was presented

Udichi Central Unit President Kamal Lohani, Vice-president Shankar Shawjal and Dhaka Metro Unit president Kazi Mohammad Shish spoke at the discussion. Nibash Dey, convener of this year's Borsha Utshab Udjapan Parishad, read out the declaration for monsoon.



(Top) Artistes perform a choral song; Nibash Dey reads out the declaration.

at the venue. Compiled by Mahmud Selim and Directed by Biplob Raihan, artistes of Udichi Dhaka Metro Unit along with artistes of Mirpur, Badda, Turag, Kafur and Nawabganj branches of Udichi took part in the musical.

The programme also included a discus-

sion. "One of the main objectives of holding Borsha Utshab by Udichi is to uphold the picture of monsoon not only to the people of cities but also to the drudges of rural areas of Bangladesh," said Kamal Lohani.

The organisers presented saplings to every artiste who performed at the event.

Emdad Hoque

Designs on direction

ZAIMA ZAHRA

Prominent fashion designer Emdad Hoque doesn't want to be pigeon-holed. Though he embarked on his career as a talented journalist and has made it big as a designer, he has now taken on the persona of television play director. Hoque spoke to The Daily Star about his new ventures:

How did the idea of TV play direction strike you?
Emdad: I started writing in my college days. My professional life began with journalism. So, I used to write for dailies and magazines like The Daily Janakantha, Bichitra, Shaptahik 2000 and Canvas. I just couldn't stop writing. My friends liked my writings and encouraged me, but I never took them seriously. However, recently a friend of mine died and I felt like writing her story; eventually it developed



into a play called "Ebong Tarpor".

Tell us about your plays?

Emdad: After writing my first play, "Ebong Tarpor", I wrote another play "Bhalobashar Asroye". This story centres on a couple whose marriage is thrown in turmoil when the wife becomes suspicious of her husband. The miserable husband falls in love with another woman. Now, I am writing a play about the life of courtesan whose self respect does not diminish despite advancing years. Actress Champa has expressed her interest in my new venture.

At what stage is "Ebong Tarpor"?

Emdad: Well, "Ebong Tarpor" will be aired this upcoming Eid or the next, and the production of the other two will begin after the festival. In "Ebong Tarpor" you will see Mou, Riaz and Sajal as the lead characters. Besides, Laila Hasan, Chaity, Sujon and little Zara play some important roles.

What's your experience of direction?

Emdad: I believe TV plays should reflect on life, not just a story. I do not go for plays that start and end in a room. So I have lent authenticity to every segment of my play in terms of ambience, sound, costumes and makeup. I have incorporated sounds and musical tracks that fuse with the scenes. I tried my level best not to go overboard. Another plus is that the original soundtrack too is written by me and sung by Tanveer Alam Shawjeeb. I hope it will go down well with viewers as I have fully stretched myself to bring it about.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Bhabna has her hands full with TV plays

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Bhabna has achieved a commendable level of popularity on the small screen, and it is reflecting in her hectic shooting schedules ahead of Eid.

Two of her plays are with TV veteran Zahid Hasan: Shamima Shammi's "Roktordrone" and Anjan Aich's "Dr. Zahid Hasan". "He is an actor of great stature, and it's a pleasure to be working with him," Bhabna told The Daily Star.

Bhabna is also pairing up on-screen with Salauddin Lavlu for the first time, in "Disturb", and with Iresh Zaker in Animesh Aich's "Oshompurno".

"Oshompurno" was filmed in Goalanda, where I play the role of a village housewife. Dacoits kidnap me in the play, and I eventually end up committing suicide," she said.

In two of her upcoming plays, Bhabna will be seen with Chanchal Chowdhury: Animesh Aich's "Osshodimbo" and Masud Sezan's "Wow". One other play she is working in is titled "Hero Bhaier Heronine", where she will share screen space with Sazu Khadem.

Passion of the Christ sequel in works

Mel Gibson is reportedly moving ahead with a sequel to "The Passion of the Christ", that will recount the resurrection.

Randall Wallace, who wrote Gibson's Oscar-winning movie "Braveheart", told Hollywood Reporter he is writing the script. As rumours swirled that a follow-up to "Passion" was in the works, Wallace said it was too hard to keep the project "under wraps".

"I always wanted to tell this story," Wallace said. "The Passion" is the beginning and there's a lot more story to tell."

The script currently has no financing or studio attached, but the original 2004 film was highly profitable. The Gibson-directed film, which starred Jim Caviezel as Christ, earned more than \$370 million domestically at the box office on a budget of just \$30 million.

The drama, which depicted the last hours of Christ's life, was noted for its graphic violence and criticised by some groups for its depiction of Jews.

Source: THR



EX-BOND GIRL IN BOLLYWOOD'S FEVER

The first trailer for upcoming Bollywood film "Fever" features the first look of Caterina Murino in Bollywood, along with veteran Rajeev Khandelwal, Gauhar Khan and British actress Gemma Atkinson.

Written and directed by Rajeev Jhaveri, the trailer of the suspense-thriller was released on Tuesday.

Murino, who appeared in the 2006 James Bond film "Casino Royale", plays the role of Solange Dimitrios. "There cannot be a bigger romance for a spy than to romance a Bond girl. I sent Caterina the script and she was gracious enough to accept it. I met her at Monte Carlo, which is an essential location for all Bond films. I told her the role and she was excited. The fact that a spy is romancing a Bond girl completes the genre for me," said director Rajeev Jhaveri.

Produced by Ajay Chabbria, Fever is scheduled to release on July 22.

Source: Hindustan Times

TV WATCH

"Akasher Buke Jome Roilo Megh" on Maasranga

A CORRESPONDENT

Telefilm "Akasher Buke Jomey Roilo Megh" airs at 7:50pm tonight on Maasranga TV. Written by Saba Tajbin and directed by Rajaraj and Shahadat Rashed, the telefilm casts Sajal, Nisha and Moutushi Biswas, among others.

The story revolves around two friends Nipa, Megh, and a popular singer named Akash. After Nipa and Akash's relationship breaks up, Megh tries to get them back together and gets in touch with Akash. But he tells her a different story than he told his former girlfriend.

