

NEWSbytes

Bluegrass pioneer Ralph Stanley dies

Ralph Stanley, one of the founding fathers and great originals of American bluegrass music, died on Thursday. He was 89.

His grandson, Nathan, posted on his Facebook page that Ralph Stanley died after a long battle with skin cancer. His publicist, Kirt Webster, also confirmed the news to the Associated Press.

Partnered with his older brother Carter, tenor singer and banjo player Stanley helped develop the "high lonesome" sound of bluegrass, the virtuosic string band music established in the late 1940s by singer-mandolinist Bill Monroe and his dissident sidemen, guitarist Lester Flatt and banjoist Earl Scruggs.

The flinty Stanley always backed away from the "bluegrass" label, however, choosing to associate his highly personalized style with a more venerable type of music.

Winner of three Grammy Awards, Stanley was honoured with the National Medal of the Arts in 2006.

Source: Variety



JAYA AND FERDOUS to host Eid Anandamela

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

This Eid, Bangladesh Television will be bringing their viewers their special Eid variety show "Anandamela". BTV director Harun-ur Rashid has directed the show, which this year will be anchored two of the biggest names in the country's entertainment arena, Ferdous and Jaya Ahsan. This will mark the first time the two actors are hosting an entire show together. The duo filmed the show at BTV's Rampura studio on Thursday. Ferdous will make an entry to the set on a helicopter, and the two will engage in

playful banter and jokes with each other throughout.

This, however, is not the duo's first pairing for Anandamela. Only last year, Ferdous and Jaya had danced on three songs on the show.

Upon his commitment to the show, Ferdous said, "Jaya and I have worked together in films before, and last year we came on Anandamela and danced together. This year we will be presenting for the first time. We have enjoyed working on this immensely and I hope the audience will enjoy the new twists we have included this year."

Jaya also added, "To me it did not feel

as though I was merely anchoring in the show – it had been planned with such creativity. I had a great time working with everyone and also had the opportunity working with children on stage, which gives me immense pleasure. I know that the audience will greatly appreciate this show."

Anandamela will air after the 10pm news on the day of Eid. Other performers in the show include Rozina, Faruque, magician Saheen Shah, Chandni, Sohel Rahman, Munmun, Likhon, Muhin, Liza, Sabbir, Jhilik, Toma Mirza, and many more.

IN TRANSITION RANJIT KUMAR BISWAS
A man dedicated to cultural development

ZAHANGIRALOM

Ranjit Kumar Biswas, the former senior secretary to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, passed away in Chittagong on June 23. He was 60.

He was found dead in his room at the Chittagong Circuit House at about 5:30pm, where had gone to attend a family programme. Ranjit is survived by his wife and a daughter.

Dr. Ranjit Kumar Biswas, ndc, was a highly cultured personality. He was a fine elocutionist, an avid art connoisseur, a litterateur and a prominent sports writer.

After completing his studies from Chittagong University, he joined the Bangladesh Civil Service and served the Bangladesh government for many years before retiring as the senior secretary of Cultural Affairs Ministry.

Last year at the second Dhaka International Theatre Festival, Biswas, the erstwhile cultural affairs secretary, spoke to The Daily Star about the country's cultural scene. Despite the troubled times in the country, Biswas saw a silver lining under the cloud. As he said, "The odd time that we are passing through is transient. The optimists will tackle this situation as a challenge. It is an open field for theatre and cultural activists to prove their calibre."

From 1977, he was a regular contributor in the fortnightly magazine Kirirajagat on various issues. He wrote three books on Bangla literature and a number of essays and articles on cricket. In recognition, he received several awards such as the lifetime achievement award from the Bangladesh Sports Press Association, Palok Sahitya Puroshkar and monthly Mohammedan Sports Award.

Ranjit Biswas was an enthusiastic and encouraging person. His presence in cultural programmes and feedbacks were inspiring for organizers and organisations. He will surely be missed dearly by the cultural fraternity of the country.



Lectures on 'Relevance of Nazrul' held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nazrul Institute organised a four day (June 20-23) series of lectures on the title "The relevance of Nazrul: from yesteryears to present time" at its auditorium. Cultural affairs secretary Begum Akhtari Momtaz, and eminent Nazrul exponent and artiste Sadya Afreen Mallick spoke at the event on its concluding day.

Chairman of Nazrul Institute Trustee Board Professor Rafiqul Islam presided over the programme while executive director of Nazrul Institute Ikram Ahmed delivered welcome address.

"The advent of Nazrul in Bangla Literature is enlightened regarding his distinctive contributions. His poetry broadly deals with dreams, love, the conscience of beauty and outbound rebellion. The poet repeatedly wrote against the exploitation and deprivation of the masses; superstitions and communal violence and the repression imposed by the then British Raj," said Begum Akhtari Momtaz.

"The audacious patriot and humanistic litterateur like Nazrul is a crying need for the

society. Nazrul's insights and literary creation will inspire forthcoming litterateurs," said Professor Rafiqul Islam.

"Nazrul is relevant till date. His music is eternally appealing. He not only speaks of rebellion in his poetry but also embellishes the world of Bangla music with his unmatched musical genius," said Sadya Afreen Mallick.

Later, organisers distributed certificates among young artistes.



Guests hand over certificates to young artistes.

PHOTO: STAR



Tahsan-Mithila-Apurbo-starrer "Kothopokothon" will air on Gtv this Eid.

GTV Promises 'Break-free Eid Fest'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Paying heed to viewers' complaints that it gets nearly impossible to enjoy the entertainment on TV during the Eid season, Gtv has taken a massive step – to broadcast ad-free entertainment during the whole week of Eid.

With the theme "Swopner Ayojon Birohinh Binodon", the channel will not broadcast any ads in between programmes from 6pm to 2am. The channel had first taken the initiative last Eid-ul-Adha (where they went break-free from 4:30pm-midnight) and the move was applauded by

the TV audience and the media.

The channel has categorised all its programming into different 'fests', and has kept audience of all ages in mind. Their programmes will include a Kids' Cine Fest where Hollywood animated blockbusters like "Ice Age" will be screened. Their other fests will be of romantic TV plays, comedy plays, local-dialect based plays, an international short film fest, tele-film fest, celebrity fest, romantic cine fest and late night cine fest. The channel will also have TV premieres of seven recently-released Bangla cinemas.

"Mirzya" trailer gets Bollywood's thumbs up

The trailer of Anil Kapoor's son Harshvardhan's Bollywood debut film, "Mirzya", released on Thursday and the industry seems to have loved it. Director Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra gave details about Mirzya and Sahiba's (played by newbie Saiyami Kher) love story which looks ethereal.

Actor Aamir Khan and filmmaker Karan Johar joined the Mirzya fan club and praised the film's "stunning visuals" and how the actors looked.

Mehra released the film's trailer at an event in Madrid, where he is one of the

IIFA attendees.

A number of other members of the fraternity tweeted their excitement about the trailer, and wished the two newcomers good luck.

In the three-and-a-half-minute clip, Saiyami is seen talking about her childhood sweetheart (presumably Harshvardhan), who she says is now gone. Now engaged, Saiyami is still looking out for her true love. And then, a fight ensues. The action sequences look fantastic.

Source: NDTV Movies



Fantastic Beasts featurette delves into Newt Scamander

Warner Bros. has released a new "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" featurette. The film, which takes place in New York City about seventy years before the events of Harry Potter, follows magizoologist Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne), who must recapture magical creatures that have escaped.

In the featurette, Scamander and his personality are explored in greater depth. It also gives a glimpse into how the magical world operates in North America, specifically with regards to interactions between wizards and muggles (or as they're called in America, "no-maj"). It will be interesting to see how this develops, especially since one of the main characters, Jacob (Dan Fogler), is a no-maj.

The film opens November 18, and also stars Katherine Waterston, Ezra Miller, Alison Sudol, Samantha Morton, Jon Voight, Ron Perlman, Carmen Ejogo, Jenn Murray, Faith Wood-Blagrove and Colin Farrell.

"Fantastic Beasts" returns the film audience to the wizarding world created by JK Rowling, under the direction of David Yates, who helmed the last four "Harry Potter" blockbusters.

The film opens in 1926 as Newt Scamander has just completed a global excursion to find and document an extraordinary array of magical creatures. Arriving in New York for a brief stopover, he might have come and gone without incident... were it not for a No-Maj named Jacob, a misplaced magical case, and the escape of some of Newt's fantastic beasts, which could spell trouble for both the wizarding and No-Maj worlds.

The film marks the screenwriting debut of Rowling, with script inspired by the Hogwarts textbook "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them", written by her character Newt Scamander.

Source: Collider

