

NEWS bytes



Google pays tribute to legendary composer RD Burman

Google on Monday paid tribute to legendary music composer of Indian Film Industry RD Burman through a doodle on its home page.

Burman, who was also popularly known as Pancham Da, was the only son of composer Sachin Dev Burman. Today is his 77th birth anniversary. The Google Doodle carries a colourful, smiling portrait of Burman along with music notes and scenes from Bollywood songs in the background.

Pancham Da had composed music for more than 330 movies including Sholay, Yaadon ki Baraat and Masoom among others. He also won the Filmfare award for best music director three times in 1983, 1984 and 1995.

Many of his classics like "Chura Liya Hai", "Ek Ladki Ko Dekha", "O Majhi Re", and many more are still enjoyed by the younger generations.

Source: Indian Express

THE RETURN OF RAHUL

Joler Gaan performs at Shilpakala Academy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Joler Gaan celebrated the return to health of frontman Rahul Ananda in a concert at the National Theatre Hall auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on June 25. The initiative was taken to express the band's thanks to the friends, fans and well-wishers following Rahul's recent accident.

Before the concert began, the band invited Dr. Mahbubur Rahman Kachi, who had performed surgery on Rahul, to express their gratitude.

The band set off the musical flight with "Shua Jao" in typical theatrical fashion.

The band went on to perform their hits including "Emon Jodi Hoto", "Brishti Porey Tapur Tupur", "Kagojer Nouka", "Lilua Batash" and "Bokul Phul". They also performed a Shah Abdul Karim song "Kon Mestori Nao Banailo" and another song "Ja Ja Mon Tui Jarey Ja", written by Dr. Salauddin Kawsar Biplob.

The music of Joler Gaan can best express the odes to mother, motherland and the opulent folk culture of our country. The uses of metaphor and allegory are frequent in their thought-provoking lyrics. Through their rendition of songs and instrumental performance along with skits and banter, the band member satirically upholds contemporary issues to tease and toss the conscience.



Rahul Ananda gave his first stage performance after more than a month at the show.

PHOTO COURTESY: IFTAKHAR RAKIN



Festival of Bangla Lit held in London

Since its inception in 2002, Bishwa Shahitya Kendro, London (BSKL) has been organising Baishakhi Literature Festival (BOI-LIT Festival) to mark the Bangla new year with a unique display of authentic Bangladeshi heritage. BSKL aims at promoting language, literature and culture in true flavour of Bengal at the very heart of cosmopolitan London, says a press release.

The two-day festival was held last month at Rich Mix Cultural Centre, London. The first day of the festival marked the children's literature emphasising on traditional and multicultural storytelling, dance-drama, songs and rhythmical recital of childhood rhymes. London's illustrious storyteller Sef Townsend, Daedalus theatre's artistic director Paul Burgess, and Poet Shamim Azad, Chair, BSKL -- inaugurated the children's fete by lighting up candles with the theme song "Alo Amar Alo" sung by BSKL singers. The owner of Bibiana fashion house, Lipi Khandker and poet/writer/musician Freddy Macha graced the show as special guests. The programme was presented by TV host Punam Priyam.

The second day of festival was themed on "Bangla Renaissance and Influence of European literature". Poet Shamim Azad briefly mentioned the reason for selecting such a theme. The programme focused on the work of Rabindranath Tagore, Michael Modhushudhan Datta and DL Roy's work and influence of WB Yeats, Homer's Iliad and Shakespeare's literature on their creativity.



Ranveer, Deepika win top honours at IIFA

"Bajirao Mastani" sweeps the awards at Madrid

Indian historical epic "Bajirao Mastani" swept the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards held in Madrid, Spain, taking home awards for Best Director, Best Supporting Actress and Best Male Actor for leading man Ranveer Singh.

The movie, which stars Ranveer as 18th century Maratha warrior Bajirao, picked up nine other technical awards at the ceremony, including for choreography and best cinematography.

"I am quite overwhelmed by all of this," director Sanjay Leela Bhansali said as he picked up his prize. "I don't want to thank anyone for this film. I think thank you is just not enough for this film," he added to applause from the 5,000-strong crowd gathered at Madrid's IFEMA Congress Centre.

Ranveer in turn said that he learned "how to be single-minded and uncompromising in the pursuit of excellence" by working with Bhansali for the film.

The Best Film award went to "Bajranghi Baijaan", starring Salman Khan. The film also won Best Story.

Ranvir's beau and one of the leading ladies of Bollywood, Deepika Padukone picked up Best Actress for "Piku", while her closest rival for Bollywood's top female actor spot, Priyanka Chopra, was named Woman of the Year, along with Best Supporting for "Dil Dhadakne Do". Anil Kapoor also picked up the Best Supporting Actor for the same film.

The song "Moh Moh Ke Dhaage" won both its singers - Monali Thakur and Papon - Best Playback singers. The film's heroine Bhumi Pednekar also picked up Best Female Debutante. Amaal Mallik, Meet Bros Anjan, Ankit Tiwari were awarded Best Music Directors, for "Roy".

Sridevi, the iconic actress from the 80s and 90s, was honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award.

Co-hosts Farhan Akhtar and Shahid Kapoor arrived on the stage for the start of ceremony - which got underway two hours behind schedule - riding donkeys. They were followed by young men wearing football jerseys who did tricks with a ball with their heads and a mariachi band in white suits. In keeping with a Spanish theme, Hrithik Roshan performed the flamenco-inspired song "Senorita" from his 2011 film "Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara". The Madrid city hall was illuminated with the colours of the Indian flag over the weekend in honour of the awards.

The award show, which celebrates Bollywood films, takes place in a different city outside of India every year in the hope of luring new audiences to the genre.

Source: NDTV Movies

FROM THE SETS

Tisha and Nobel in "Jajabor Prem"

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shooting for TV play "Jajabor Prem" is already underway and stars Nobel and Tisha. At the set of the filming, Nobel is seen driving away in a car, being instructed by director Zakaria Shoukhin on how far he must drive. After a retake, the director seems satisfied with the shot.

For the next scene, Nobel and Tisha are instructed to stand by a bridge, but unfortunately the filming process is interrupted repeatedly, due to the noise from honking cars. The location is also very crowded as a sea of admirers and curious spectators arrive to watch the actors at work. There are three retakes for this particular scene due to frequent interruptions.

Before the day is over, the crew manages to film another scene.

On the work, Nobel commented, "The plot for the TV play is wonderful and very interesting. I am sure the audience will enjoy it." Tisha also added, "Nobel is a fantastic artiste and I enjoy working with him."

"Jajabor Prem" will air on the fifth day of Eid, on Banglavisión. Zakaria Shoukhin is both the director as well as scriptwriter for the TV play.



BET Awards pays tribute to Prince

The BET Awards rolled out a surprise performance by Beyoncé, a tribute to Prince and a riveting speech by actor/social activist Jesse Williams, at its 16th annual awards show at the Microsoft Theater at Los Angeles yesterday.

Beyoncé surprised a stunned audience with an electrifying performance of Lemonade track "Freedom", along with Kendrick Lamar. She opened the show by emerging from a cloud of smoke alongside her dancers in a wading pool of water. Upping

the surprise ante came Lamar, who stepped into the pool with the singer to splash, kick and stomp home the song's powerful message.

Beyoncé was also the evening's big winner with four awards out of five nominations (including best female R&B/pop artist, video of the year for "Formation" and Coca-Cola Viewers' Choice). Her mother Tina Knowles accepted the awards on Beyoncé's behalf as the singer hopped a plane to London for the start of her

international tour.

BET staged a series of tributes to the iconic Prince that ran throughout the show. Among those paying their respects were Erykah Badu, Bilal, Stevie Wonder, Jennifer Hudson, Maxwell, Janelle Monae and an emotional Sheila E.

Political and social activism were also prevalent themes during the course of the show. Presenter Taraji P Henson, lifetime achievement award honoree Samuel L Jackson and others emphatically stressed how crucial it was to register and vote in this year's presidential election. However, it was actor Jesse Williams who truly roused emotions. Presented with the humanitarian award by BET chairman/CEO Debra Lee for his social activism, the "Grey's Anatomy" star delivered a reasoned and fiery speech about the injustices that black people have suffered—and still suffer—in America and what needs to happen to make the status quo change.

Drake led with nine nominations and won three awards: best male hip-hop artist, best group (with Future) and best collaboration for his featured role on Rihanna's "Work".

The BET Awards were established in 2001 by the Black Entertainment Television network to annually celebrate African Americans and other minorities in music, acting, sports, and other fields of entertainment.

Source: Billboard



Stevie Wonder performs his Prince tribute; Taraji P Henson receives her award.



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