

NEWS bytes

Tauquir bags best director at DCSAFF

ANOTHER WIN FOR "OGGYATONAMA"



Pre-teen girl wins America's Got Talent

12-year old singer-ukulele player Grace VanderWaal has won talent show "America's Got Talent", pushing off stiff competition from a variety of talented performers. She is now Vegas bound, where she will headline the PH Showroom at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino on Oct. 27, 28 and 29, according to a statement.

The Season 11 winner -- who will also collect a \$1 million grand prize -- will be joined by the AGT runner-up, mentalist magicians The Clairvoyants, and prop mime Tape Face for all three shows.

VanderWaal was a frontrunner from her very first audition, when she played her original "I Don't Know My Name". Her performance excited judge Howie Mandel, who propelled her into the competition by hitting the Golden Buzzer.

As a special treat, the New Yorker -- who purchased her ukulele with birthday money for her 11th birthday -- performed a reprise of her audition song, earning praise from special guest Stevie Nicks.

Source: **Billboard**



A scene from the film.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Actor-director Tauquir Ahmed is making waves again in the international film festival scene with his directorial venture "Oggatonama". The latest feather in his cap was added at the South Asian Film Festival held at Washington DC (9-11 September), where he bagged the Best Director Award. Previously, the director had also won awards for best director at Kosovo's film festival "The Goddess on the Throne" and the Gulf of Naples Film Festival. The film has also been selected for screening at Seattle's South Asian Film Festival and Italy's Trento

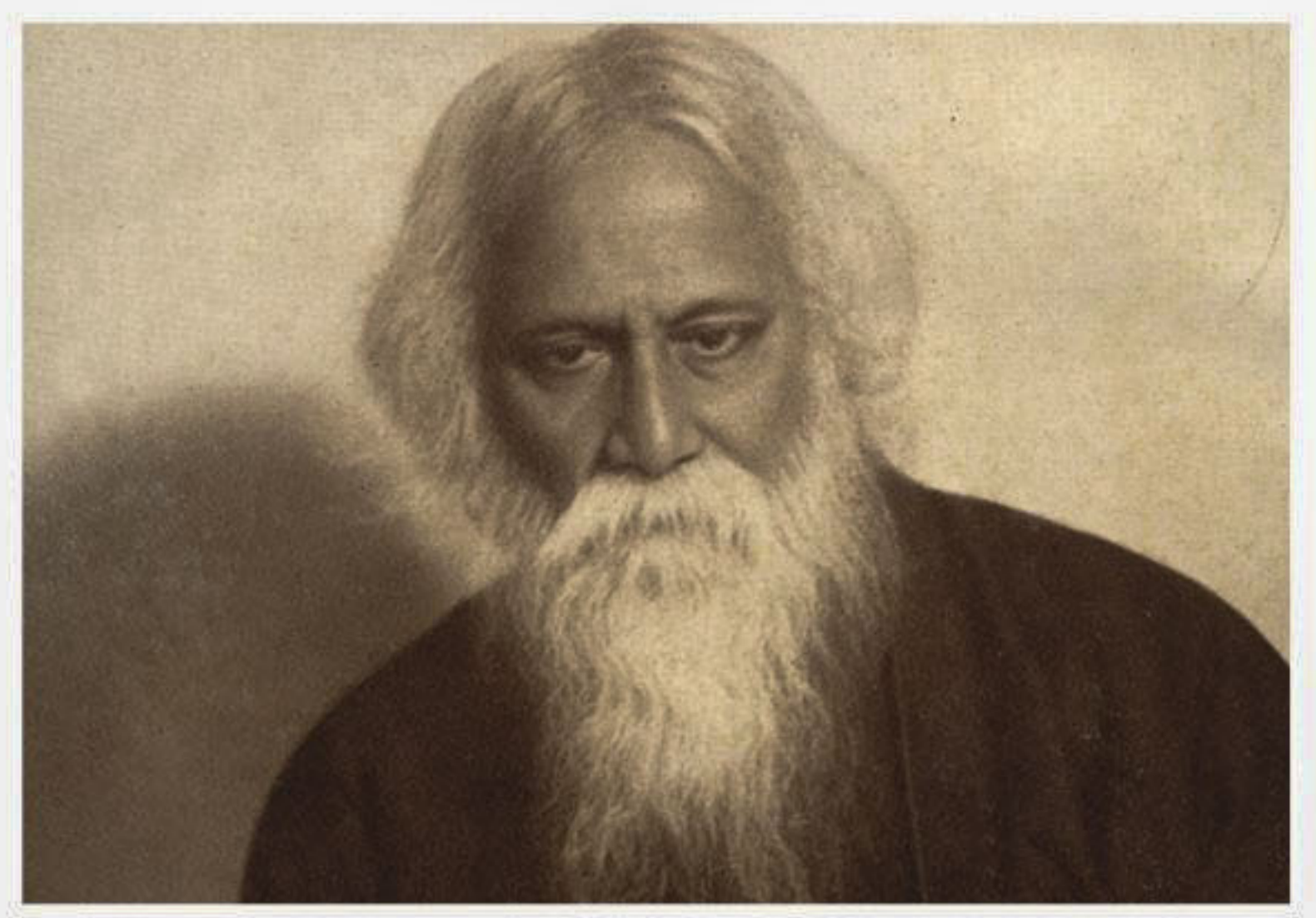
Religion Today Film Festival in October.

Written and scripted by Tauquir, the film stars Mosharraf Karim, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Nipun and Shatabdi Wadud, among others. The narrative explores the realities of working class Bangladeshi migrants and their families.

The DCSAFF event closed with a ghazal tribute to Jagjit Singh. Other artists who were honoured at the awards ceremony were Naseeruddin Shah as Best Actor for the film "Waiting", and Deepa Mehta who was conferred the Special Award for her outstanding achievements in international cinema.



"Oggatonama" was originally written as a theatre play, for which Tauquir also wrote two songs.



Tagore poem to be brought to celluloid

An India-Bangladesh joint production

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Rabindranath Tagore's poem "Hothat Dekha" will soon be turned into a film under an India-Bangladesh joint production, with a cast drawn from the two countries.

The film's director Reshmi Mitra said that shooting would be done extensively in Bangladesh and Birbhum district in West Bengal.

"The dialogues retain the resonance of the poem and we have recreated the period look of 1938," she said.

Besides Kanchan and Debosree, among others in the cast are Shankar Chakraborty, Tulika Basu (India), and Munira Yusuf Memi and Azhar JS Himi (Bangladesh).

"We have sought to incorporate several important issues of the bygone times including female education and the general condi-

tion of women in the feudal set-up and the women who came out of this," Reshmi said.

She said that the storyline involves two characters who meet in a train compartment after many years of their first encounter.

The film, produced by Bangladesh's Impress Telefilm and two Indian producers, would be shot in Chittagong, Mymensingh, Dhaka and Rangamati, and in several parts of rural West Bengal where Tagore was primarily based.

The film has Rabindra Sangeet and Baul songs rendered by popular Bangladeshi Rabindra Sangeet exponent Rezwana Chowdhury Banya, Anupam Roy and Kartik Das Baul.

"Music plays an important part in the movie since there are shots of vast expanse of rivers, a typical sight across the borders," said the director, who has previously made two films.



"Bhalo Thakar 7ti Upai" on Gazi TV

A CORRESPONDENT

Gazi TV is airing a TV miniseries "Bhalo Thakar 7ti Upai" till the seventh day of Eid festivals at 8pm. Directed and scripted by Amirul Islam Torun, cast members include Mir Sabbir, Nadiya, Nabila, Tania Brishti, and Kazi Ujjol.

The plot outlines an eccentric boy who

does poorly every year in school exams, which does not stop him from celebrating his friends' successes. Once he gets a job placement after an interview, he sacrifices his offer to help a female candidate who had lost her father and has a sick mother. His life thus takes on a different turn, and the story goes through different twists until the end.



Sofia Vergara TV's highest-paid actress

Colombian actress retains top spot for fifth straight year

Sofia Vergara of "Modern Family" is the world's highest-paid TV actress for the fifth year in a row, according to Forbes. With \$43 million (before management fees and taxes), her salary is almost \$20 million more than that of runner-up Kaley Cuoco, who earned \$24.5 million. Unlike the list of film stars, she makes more than her male counterparts.

Aside from the hit ABC sitcom, Vergara can also thank a handful of lucrative product endorsements for the 66% spike in earnings over the previous year.

Cuoco, who stars in "The Big Bang Theory", tied with Vergara on last year's Forbes list, when both actresses netted \$28.5 million. Unlike Vergara, Cuoco's haul is based almost solely from her pay as Penny on the CBS comedy, for which she commands \$1 million per episode.

Mindy Kaling is the biggest climber on this year's ranking, rising from eighth to third place, with \$15 million between June 2015 and June 2016.

"Quantico" star Priyanka Chopra cracked the list for the first time, coming in eighth with \$11 million. The Bollywood star can also soon be seen on the Hollywood big screen alongside Dwayne Johnson, the world's highest-paid actor, in the "Baywatch" movie.

Mariska Hargitay and Ellen Pompeo rounded out the top five, while Kerry Washington, Stana Katic, Julianna Margulies, and Vergara's "Modern Family" co-star Julie Bowen made this year's top 10.

Source: **Variety**

"Prakton" on Rtv

A CORRESPONDENT

Rtv will air an Eid special TV play "Prakton" at 11:45pm tonight. Based on Andy Adnan's story and written by Topu Khan, the play is directed by noted actor and director Afzal Hossain.

With Afzal and Tisha playing the lead

roles, the play depicts a story of two lovers. Tisha plays a student who falls in love with Afzal Hossain. Eventually the relationship does not last long as Afzal is Tisha's professor. However the story takes a different turn as love of the duo blooms again, when they meet after a gap of few years.



"Shobujal Pothey Ekdin" on ntv

A CORRESPONDENT

Eid special single-episode TV play "Shobujal Pothey Ekdin" will air tonight on ntv at 8pm. Written by Proshun Rahman, the play is directed by Kaushik Sankar Das.

"Shobujal Pothey Ekdin" depicts a story of a married couple, who visit a resort to recall the memories of their son. Hit on-screen pair of the 90s, Noble and Mou will be seen reprising their chemistry in the play. The cast also includes AK Azad Shetu and others.

First look of "Tum Bin 2" is a blast of nostalgia

The first look for Anubhav Sinha's upcoming film and sequel to hit 2001 film "Tum Bin", is out.

The film stars Neha Sharma, Aditya Seal and Aashim Gulati and is written, directed and jointly produced by Sinha with Bhushan Kumar.

The 'sneak peek' is done through a song, a re-imagining of the classic Koi Fariyaad, sung by Jagjit Singh in the original movie. The new clip also uses the late ghazal maestro's version in part, and is very much a strong gust of nostalgia for fans of the original sleeper-hit film.

The original "Tum Bin" starred three newcomers -- Priyanshu Chatterjee, Sandali Sinha, Himanshu Malik, and Raqesh Vashisth, and gained success by word of mouth despite a modest opening. The film's music played a big part in its reception, with top artists of the time Sonu Nigam, Anuradha Padwal, Abhijeet, Udit Narayan and Jagjit Singh singing the melodious numbers.

Shot in Scotland, "Tum Bin 2" is all set to hit the screens on November 18.

Source: **Hindustan Times**

