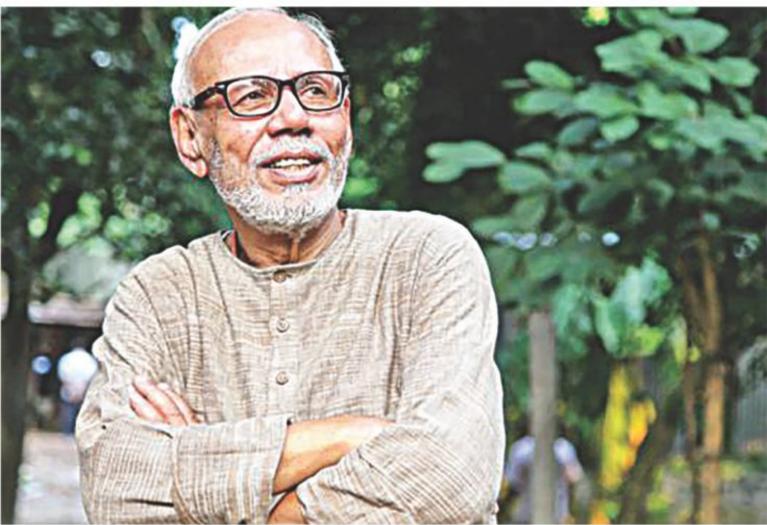


A quiet day like any other

Happy Birthday, ATM Shamsuzzaman!



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

ATM Shamsuzzaman is a name that needs no introduction to the country's TV and film audience; his illustrious 40-year career speaks for itself. Aside from being a noted actor, his list of accomplishments includes screenwriting and directing. Today marks the veteran artiste's 77th birthday.

ATM Shamsuzzaman's career in the film industry began behind the scenes. He worked with renowned filmmaker Udayan Chowdhury as an assistant director in films such as "Manusher Bhagban" and "Bishwokanya". This was followed by small roles on screen, as well as lending his hand in crafting a few scripts. Around this time, director Amjad Hossain cast him in "Nayanmoni", a movie that went on to become a box office hit, and earned ATM Shamsuzzaman star status.

The acclaimed actor has his roots in Dowlatpur, Noakhali, where he was born in September 10, 1941. Even today, the veteran star is never one to celebrate the special occasion with grandeur. The artiste shared his

thoughts on the day with The Daily Star, saying: "I never have big plans on the day, because to me, birthdays are a sober reminder of my end coming closer. I would like to remain in this world for a thousand years to come, but I can only stay for as long as God wills."

However, these morbid reminders do nothing to deter the artiste from continuing his work with passion and vigour. The artiste has retired from the big screen, and is focusing his energies on television projects. He appears in a number of drama serials across various TV channels, and has been involved in a number of Eid ventures as well. "I must continue to work, because I cannot identify

myself as anything other than an actor," he added.

The actor has five National Film Awards to his name, as well as the prestigious national honour -- the Ekushey Padak. Despite all these magnificent accolades, the artiste still says, "For me the biggest achievement is the love people have for my work." Over the years, he has appeared in various box office bumpers, such as "Jolchhobi", "Jibon Trisha", "Shopno Diye Kena", "Matir Ghor", "Matir Kosom", "Lal Kajol" and many more. His directorial credits include the acclaimed film "Ibadat". His recent works include the film "Mollabari'r Bou", for which he wrote the script.

EKTI CINEMA'R GOLPO gets off the ground

A CORRESPONDENT

Veteran actor and director Alamgir's big screen project has taken off.

"Ekti Cinema'r Golpo" began filming yesterday at Floor 4 of the Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC), where eminent singer Runa Laila (who is also Alamgir's wife) and seasoned actor Syed Hasan Imam inaugurated the filming. Among others present were lead cast members Arifin Shuvo and noted Indian actress Rituporna Sengupta and singer Ankhi Alamgir.

Shooting for this lot will continue throughout this month, informed Alamgir -- who has written the story, screenplay and dialogues as well as directing and acting in it. Yesteryears heroine Champa will act in the film opposite Alamgir. Other than Shuvo and Rituporna, Hasan Imam is also part of the cast.

Runa Laila, one of the most prominent singers of Bangladeshi music history, is debuting as a music director through the film. "Gazi Mazharul Anwar has written the song, and Ankhi Alamgir has sung it. The other songs are also quite beautiful," Runa Laila said.

"This is the first time I'm working in the same frame as Alamgir sir, and that too under his direction; this is a milestone in my career," said Arifin Shuvo on the set.

Rituporna reminisced about her memories of working at BFDC, saying: "Coming to BFDC is bringing back so many memories -- of Nayak Raj Razzak, of Manna. This will be a nostalgic project for me. I have worked with Alamgir sir once before, but that was a long time ago. He is a great actor, and I am excited to be working with him again."

"Ekti Cinema'r Golpo" is being produced under Alamgir's Icon Entertainment Banner.



(L-R) Ankhi Alamgir, Runa Laila, Alamgir, Rituporna and Shuvo, along with Ankhi's daughters, on the sets of the film.

TV WATCH



Shabnur in "Sense of Humour"

A CORRESPONDENT

Special celebrity show "Sense of Humour" is to air tonight on ATN Bangla. Tonight's episode will feature popular film actor Shabnur, and will air at 10:30 pm.

The show has been planned and hosted by actor and director Shahriar Nazim, and has been directed by Abdus Sattar. The programme usually hosts popular stars, and is divided into different segments, that include dance and song performances, along with discussions with the stars.

"Dekha Dekhi" to air tonight on Channel 9



A CORRESPONDENT

Single episode TV play "Dekha Dekhi" is set to air tonight on Channel 9. Written and directed by Kajol Arefin Omi, the story is about Raha, who has to meet different suitors every day because her father keeps pressuring her to get married. She, on the other hand, is not impressed by any of them. She wants the kind of man who can be more of a friend, than a husband. In another home, a boy named Imon is going through the same pressure at home, and like Raha, meets a different girl everyday. When the two meet, Imon seems too reserved for Raha. Raha confesses that she needs someone more friendly, but what she doesn't know is that Imon has been putting up an act to satisfy his mother. With that in hand, the story unfolds. Starring popular actors Shajal, Tanjin Tisha and others, "Dekha Dekhi" will air at 11pm tonight.

"Despicable Me" becomes biggest animated franchise ever

With a boost from its jabbering minions, Illumination's "Despicable Me 3" crossed the \$1 billion mark at the worldwide box office this week as it took in \$741.4 million internationally and \$259.05 million in North America.

Collectively, the four movies in the "Despicable Me" franchise, which includes 2015's "Minions", have grossed \$3.67 billion, surpassing the \$2.96 billion grossed by the four "Shrek" movies to become the highest-grossing animated film franchise of all time.

As for other stats, "Despicable Me 3" is the second Universal release to cross the \$1 billion mark this year, following "The Fate of the Furious" (\$1.2 billion). At the global box office, the movie is the biggest animated film of 2017, as well as the third-highest-grossing film of the year to date. Additionally, it is now the sixth-highest-grossing animated film of all time worldwide, and the third-highest-grossing animated film of all time internationally, behind only Disney's "Frozen" and "Minions".

"The enduring success of 'Despicable Me' and 'Minions' is a testament to the extraordinary talent of the team at Illumination and



Illumination Mac Guff combined with the world's greatest studio, Universal," Illumination founder and CEO Meledandri said of the movie's latest box office benchmark.

Illumination's upcoming films include "Dr.

Seuss' The Grinch", coming in November 2018, "The Secret Life of Pets 2" in June 2019, "Minions 2" in July 2020, and "Sing 2" in December 2020.

Source: **The Hollywood Reporter**



There's one endorsement Priyanka Chopra seriously regrets

Priyanka Chopra, who has transcended her success in Bollywood and is now a globetrotting international film and TV star, says there is one commercial she did in her early twenties that she regrets.

In an interview with Vogue India, Priyanka was asked about her opinion of endorsement of fairness creams. She said: "Before 15, I had a lot of self-esteem issues. I was very conscious of the colour of my skin. Because in India, you're prettier if you're fairer."

"So I did this cream commercial and when I saw it, it made me feel like crap. It reminded me of what I felt like when I was a little girl. I was like, 'Oh my god, this is what I felt like. Like what I have is not good enough.'"

"I got out of the contract and never did it again. It took me seeing myself advocating the thing that made my teenage years miserable, because it was normal and everyone did it," Prinayka said. "It was sold in stores right next to toothpaste. You don't understand the psychology of what it does to society. When I did it is when I understood it. Creams for glowing skin are different, but as soon as it says 'whitening', it's like, what?" she added.

Priyanka was last seen attending the Toronto Film Festival, and is currently working on two Hollywood projects: "A Kid Like Jake" and "Isn't It Romantic?"

Source: **Cosmopolitan, NDTV**

NEWS bytes

LADY GAGA going on 'rest' from music

Pop icon Lady Gaga says that she's planning to take a "rest" from music and "slow down for a moment for some healing."

The pop star was at in Toronto on Friday for a pair of concerts and to premiere a Netflix documentary about herself, "Gaga: Five Foot Two". The film, playing at the Toronto International Film Festival, chronicles her life, last year's Super Bowl performance and her struggle with chronic pain.



Gaga teared up speaking to reporters about her health issues. "It's hard," she said, "but it's liberating too."

The singer said that she'll still be creating during a break from music. "It doesn't mean I don't have some things up my sleeve," said Gaga.

Gaga recently shot a remake of "A Star is Born", co-starring Bradley Cooper.

Source: **Billboard**