

Azizul and Zinat Hakim Celebrating 25 years of love

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Among all the many stories of love old and new, Azizul Hakim and his wife, Zeenat Hakim, stand out in the small screen industry. The pair fell in love and married 25 years ago, during which time Azizul Hakim continued to flourish as an actor, and his wife a screenwriter. Fresh off the Valentine's Day spirit, the couple shared stories about their lives together, and more.

What does love mean to you?

AH: Love means to trust someone wholly. Without trust, there cannot be love.

ZH: Marriage and love is a two-way lane and it is important for couples to understand each other deeply. To be able to depend on each other, that is love.

Valentine's Day has become a celebratory occasion only recently; how do you feel about this?

AH: Well, times are changing, and I don't think that's a bad thing. Love exists every day, beyond the bounds of time, but if people wish to single out one day to mark an occasion of love, there is nothing wrong with that.

ZH: I love Valentine's Day. The bonds of love and marriage go on forever and we don't need a special day to remember that. But it is wonderful to see how young people are so happy and full of hope, going out dressed in red saris and punjabis.

Do you usually have special plans for the day?

AH: We always do something special on Valentine's Day. I always have a new panjabi, and this year was not any different. We also went out for dinner.

ZH: Two single episode plays scripted by me and directed by my husband released on Valentine's Day from my production house. We watched those at home, and took our children out with us for a meal.

What kind of presents do you love receiving on this day?

AH: Gifts are a gesture, so it's the thought that counts.

Everyone loves flowers on this day, and so do I.

ZH: My husband never fails to get me flowers, which I something always look forward to.



PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Catching up with an all-new JOLER GAAN

ROKON SHAHRIAR

With a single-storey, antique-type building and token of music and art hanging here and there on the walls, the house was a perfect fit for Joler Gaan, the massively popular folksy-fusion band. In the jamming room, band leader Rahul Anand was circled by young band members practicing for a show to take place that evening. They had to practice for the show and I had to interview them, so it became more of a conversation than a typical interview - sitting in a circle on the floor carpet.

The jamming room was all packed with known, unknown and half-known musical instruments - some collected from different places of the world, some designed by the band. Rahul has a passion for musical instruments, and can play an impressive number of them. "Wherever I go, I collect musical instruments," said Rahul as I asked how come they had so many of them.

Joler Gaan performs with instrument all designed by themselves, and with unique names: Mondola, Noyontara, Gitam, Haramoni, Padma etc.

When asked if these musical instruments made by them create a predicament in playing live, Rahul said it had always been the other way round. "We make our kind of sound by the instrument made by us," he added. "If not supported properly by the sound system, we perform even fully unplugged, keeping the sound engine off. This has happened several times, even at five star hotels," said Rana, the percussionist.

"Some people term us as folk band, some as fusion band, and there are many more terms that are used to label us, but we know we sing whatever touches us," said Rahul. "I passed a significant amount of time with bauls and still I do which might be the reason for my folk knack", he added.

To emphasize on their adherence to nature in terms of lyrics, guitarist Xem said, "We sing mostly about nature and love as these two things are inbuilt in all of us."

"The band was formed in the campus of the Charukala of Dhaka University by few students of the batch 1994, including me and Kanak (Aditya) and we used to perform in all the programmes of Charukala at that time," said Rahul. Rana said immediately after their formation, they had performed for the first time in British Council in Dhaka after which they had been invited for a show in Glasgow. "We did not have a name at that time. When the authority asked for one, we hurriedly gave the name 'Joler Gaan'," Rana added.

Joler Gaan's set-up has changed many a times and this is the fifth formation, according to Rana. Their present lineup is - Rahul Anand (vocal, flute, mondola, noyontara), Rana Sarwar (vocal and percussion), Abs Xem (vocal, guitar), DH Shuvo (sound), Md. Masum (dhol and percussion), Mallik Yishorja (vocal and haramoni), Dip Roy (padma, a bass instrument), Lippu Asim (dotara) and Gopi Devnath (violin and percussion).

The author is a freelance contributor to The Daily Star.

WHAT'S ON

Amar Ekushey Book Fair
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan & Bangla Academy Premises
Date: Feb 1-28
Time: 3-9pm (Sun-Thurs), 11am-9pm (Fri-Sat)

Classical Guitar Concert
Flaming Acoustics
Organiser: AFD
Venue: Nouvelle Vague, AFD
Date: Feb 17
Time: 6pm-7:30pm

Subtext
Organiser: Bengal Foundation Arts Programme
Venue: Gyantapas Abur Razzak Bidyapeeth
Date: Feb 4-24
Time: 11am-7pm

Solo Painting and Craft Exhibition
Title: Beautiful Anger
Artist: Rubina Akhter
Venue: Gallery Twenty One
Date: Feb 7-23; Time: 12pm-8pm

Musical Soiree
Organiser: Indira Gandhi Culture Centre
Venue: Sufia Kamal Auditorium, BNM
Date: Feb 17; Time: 6:30pm

Jatra Biroti Live Performances
Organiser: Jatra Biroti
Venue: Jatra, Banani
Date: Feb 15-17
Time: 7pm-10pm

Musical Show
Bangladesh Hriday Hotel
Organiser: BSSSP
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: Feb 16; Time: 6:30pm

EMK Center celebrates Bashanta Utshab

The Edward M Kennedy (EMK) Center in Dhaka, in collaboration with the Dance Department of the University of Dhaka (DU), hosted a Bashanta Utshab on February 14 at the Kala Bhaban premises of the university, to mark the 46th anniversary of the planting of the Banyan Tree by US Senator Edward M Kennedy.

On February 14, 1972, a Banyan tree was planted by Edward M

Kennedy in front of Kala Bhaban, according to a press release. The event celebrated the replanting of the tree that was dynamited by the Pakistani Army in the initial phase of the war of independence in 1971. The tree is the logo of the EMK Center and a symbol of friendship between the people of the USA and Bangladesh.

MK Aaref, Director of EMK Center for Public Service and Arts;

Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, singer and an associate professor in the Department of Music at the University of Dhaka and Nicholas Paap, Public Affairs Officer, US Embassy were present at the event. The programme included performances by Dance Department of DU and Shurer Dhara, Shomoguet, Kuddus Boyati and a special digital music performance by EMK MakerLab.



Dancers from Dhaka University perform under the Banyan tree.

Pathshala launches Bachelor's and post-grad diploma with DU affiliation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pathshala South Asian Media Institute, one of the most influential institutions of photography and film education in South Asia, yesterday launched two new programmes with affiliation of the University of Dhaka (DU): Bachelor of Photography and post-graduation Diploma in Film and Television.



Speakers at the press conference.

The announcement was made in a press conference at the Pathshala office, where Pathshala Chairperson Dr. Shahidul Alam, acting principal Abir Abdullah, head of film and television Kha Ma Harun, teacher Munira Morshed Munni and governing body member Tanzim Wahab were present.

The honors programme will have eight semesters of six months each, and a total of 31 courses comprising

128 credit hours. Students who have passed HSC or equivalent in the 2015-16 or 2016-17 sessions are eligible to apply for the programme. The post graduate Diploma on Film and Photography consists three semesters, with 10 courses completing 30 credit hours. Admission for both courses will begin from April for the July-December 2018 session with a batch of 25 students.

Sanglap to stage "Bodh" today

A CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Sanglap is set to stage their 26th production "Bodh", to mark the upcoming International Mother Language Day and as a tribute to all language martyrs. Based on a story by Munshi Premchand, Swapan Das has adapted the play with Mostofa Heera at the helm of direction.

The play will be staged at 7pm this evening at the Experimental Theatre Hall of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. It casts Md. Habibur Rahman, Moinuddin Hasan Khokon, Tamanna Meher Poppy, Shakil Ahmed and Masud Alam Babu.

The story revolves around Ghisu and Medho, a father-son duo who have been beaten down by life. Hunger has taken the humanity out of these two men and turned them animal-like. For a mere few potatoes, the two stoop as low as they possibly can for the sake of their survival instinct.



Fright takes centre-stage in "Pari" trailer

Anushka Sharma-starrer "Pari" released its first full trailer on Wednesday, teasing a gul-clenching horror thriller without giving much away about the characters.

Directed by debutant Prosit Roy, the film also stars Parambrata Chatterjee, Rajat Kapoor and Ritabhari Chakraborty. Sharing the trailer on Twitter, Anushka wrote, "This Holi, the devil's out to play." At one-and-a-half minute, the trailer is edited with rapid cuts and a few jump-scares thrown in, enough to pique the curiosity of the viewer.

The trailer begins with Anushka being in some sort of peril and Parambrata being the man who tries to help her. As some romance begin to bloom between the two characters, things get hazier as Anushka's character seems to have layers previously undiscovered. It ends with an intriguing shot of two different versions of Anushka - one a meek, scared girl and the other a sinister, blood-covered one.

Co-produced by Anushka's Clean Slate Films and Purna Arora's KriArj



Entertainment, "Pari" has all the elements of a proper horror flick. Karnesh Sharma of Clean Slate Films, film's co-producer and Anushka's brother, said about the film: "At Clean Slate our endeavour is to push the envelope with every film that we make. With 'Pari', we are hoping to give to our discerning

audience an experience in the horror genre that will hopefully stay with them for a while."

The film was initially supposed to release on February 9, but was pushed back a month to March 2.

Source: Hindustan Times