Film fest at Ray school

Ballybungee Government High School Alumni Association organized the second edition of a short film festival in memory of alumni and legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray on May 6 and 7. The event was held at the school auditorium, named Satyajit Ray Sabha griha. The three winners were felicitated at Nandan on Sunday, where Ray’s son director Sandip and veteran actor Dipankar Dehanded over the awards.

The film festival received 31 entries, out of which 10 films were shortlisted for the finals. On Sunday a Satyajit Ray memorial lecture was also organized with Sandip and De as the main speakers, followed by screening of the three best films and of one of Ray’s masterpieces — ‘Ganashatru’.

The three best films that won the contest were ‘The Last Rain’ by Aniket Mitra, ‘Take Care’ by Sayan Chanda, and ‘Shashan theke suru’ by Dharmendra Patra and Krishanu Chanda.

Musical with a message

Dobby Chakraborty, an actor and anti-drug activist from the city, recently visited Minnesota State University and Mayville State University and one of the largest schools in America, Cheney Middle School, as part of his anti-drug campaign. He organized a musical drama ‘My Wonderful World’, in memory of Sreejoni Laha, a 17-year-old who was killed in a car crash in 2014. The drama, co-written by Chakraborty and Ipsita Malik, was put up in Minnesota State University Moorhead on April 13, in Mayville State University on April 24 and in Cheney Middle School on April 25 and 27. Chakraborty had organized an antdrug campaign in the US in 2014 and this time, he is organizing it in the red-light areas of Kalighat, Sonagachi and Musinaghat.

Founder’s Day celebration

The Annual Day and Founder’s Day of The Newtown School was held on May 6. The event began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by chief guest Padma Shri Arumina Sinha, along with the founder directors Sunil Agarwal and Sanjay Khemka, and CEO Vinod Kansal. Sinha is the first femaleateur to climb and conquer Mount Everest. Dedicated towards social welfare, Sinha wants to open a free sports academy for the poor and differently-abled. At the event, the moutaineer interacted with students, sharing some of her most treasured memories and experiences during expeditions.

On Sunday actor Irrfan Khan visited the school for an interactive session with the students.

Neighbourhood theatre fest

The third edition of Natyo Mela Deshe, a one-act Bengali drama festival, was held at the Highland Park auditorium on April 22 and 23. People from four residential condominiums — Hiland Park, Greenwood Park, Calcutta Greens and Rosedale — came together to engage in aesthetic and creative theatre lovers. Barring the lights, action and applause, the actual fun of amateur theatre resides in the preparation, with late-night rehearsals after a stressful day at office. Natya Mela Deshe was conceived to simply double the fun by providing a platform to stage productions by theatre lovers.

Blending Tagore and Gulzar

A special musical titled ‘Two Poets’, blending Tagore’s classics with those of poet-lyricist Gulzar, will be staged on May 18. Conceived by Assamese-based vocalist Chandrika Bhatattacharya, the musical will revolve around the similarities between the two legends’ creative aspects. Be it songs of love or monsoon, their philosophy about the journey of life connects quite well with each other. Choreographer Sudarshan Chakravorty will present this musical journey as a story told while Bhatattacharya will enthral the audience with songs penned by Tagore and Gulzar. The script is by Ankuran Bhatattacharya, supported by Robin and Sudipta Chanda.

Braille library in city

Last week, a Braille library was set up at D F Blind School in Kolkata. This library is one of the five such libraries being set up by Amway, in partnership with Turnstone Global (formerly known as National Association for the Blind), across eastern India, the other four cities being Bhubaneswar, Siliguri, Azizwali and Agartala. Consumer affairs minister Sachin Pandey inaugurated the library in presence of IPS DG, Fire, Jagmohan, senior VP, North and East, Anway Indi, G S Cheema and Turnstone Global secretary Ranchan Ga. The library will offer braille versions of a variety of books, journals and CDs ranging from academic, fiction, self-help to general knowledge for the benefit of more than 85 visually-impaired students. The library is also equipped with computers that will enable students to access more than 30 CDs.

(Contributed by Uditprasadna Mukherjee, Sandeepa von and Althea Phillips. Compiled by Diya Sinha)