



## Denis Mukwege & Nadia Murad jointly awarded 2018 Nobel Peace Prize

**BAGHDAD, OCT 5 /-/** Nadia Murad survived the worst cruelties ever inflicted on her people, the Yazidis of Iraq, before becoming a global champion of their cause and winning the Nobel Peace Prize. On Friday, Murad and Congolese doctor Denis Mukwege were jointly awarded the prize for their "efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war." Nobel committee chairwoman Berit Reiss-Andersen said in unveiling the winners in Oslo. The 25-year-old Murad, her thin, pale face framed by her long, brown hair, once lived a quiet life in her village near the mountainous Yazidi stronghold of Sinjar in northern Iraq, close to the border with Syria. But when the so-called Islamic State

ambassador group stormed across swathes of the two countries in 2014, her fate changed forever and her nightmare began. One day in August that year, pick-up trucks bearing the black flag of the jihadists swept into her village, Kocho. IS fighters set about killing the men, taking children captive to train them as fighters and condemning thousands of women to a life of forced labour and sexual slavery. Today, Murad and her friend Lamia Haji Bashar, joint recipients of the EU's 2016 Sakharov human rights prize, continue the fight for the 3,000 Yazidis who remain missing, presumed still in captivity. IS fighters wanted "to take our honour, but they lost their honour," said Murad, now a United Nations goodwill

ambassador for survivors of human trafficking. It is an evil she personally experienced during a harrowing three months. After being captured by IS fighters, Murad was taken by force to Mosul, the de facto "capital" of the IS's self-declared caliphate. During her ordeal she was held captive and repeatedly gang-raped, tortured and beaten. The jihadists organised slave markets for selling off the women and girls, and Yazidi women were forced to renounce their religion. For the jihadists, with their ultra-strict interpretation of Islam, the Yazidis are seen as heretics. The Kurdish-speaking community follows an ancient religion, revering a single God and the "leader of the angels",

represented by a peacock. Like thousands of Yazidis, Murad was forcibly married to a jihadist, beaten and forced to wear makeup and tight clothes - an experience she later related in front of the United Nations Security Council. "The first thing they did was they forced us to convert to Islam", Murad told AFP in 2016. Shocked by the violence, Murad set about trying to escape, and managed to flee with the help of a Muslim family from Mosul. Armed with false identity papers, she managed to cross the few dozen kilometres (miles) to Iraq's Kurdistan, joining crowds of other displaced Yazidis in camps. There, she learnt that six of her brothers and her mother had been killed. With the help

of an organisation that assists Yazidis, she joined her sister in Germany, where she lives today. She has since dedicated herself to what she calls "our peoples' fight", before a well-known spokeswoman even before the #MeToo movement swept the world. The Yazidis numbered around 550,000 in Iraq before 2014, but some 100,000 have since left the country. Many others have fled and remain in Iraq's Kurdistan, reluctant to return to their traditional lands. Slight, and softly-spoken Murad has now become a global voice, campaigning for justice for her people and for the acts committed by the jihadists to be recognised internationally as genocide. And she and the Yazidis have won a high-profile

supporter - Lebanese-British lawyer and rights activist Amal Clooney, who also penned the foreword to Murad's book, "The Last Girl", published in 2017. The same year, the UN Security Council committed to helping Iraq gather evidence of IS crimes. Yet in contrast to all the tragedies that have befallen her, recent pictures on Murad's Twitter feed show happier times. In August, she announced her engagement to fellow Yazidi activist Abid Shaden. "The struggle of our people brought us together & we will continue this path together," she wrote. Underneath, a photo showed her next to a young man in a bow tie, her face still framed by her long brown hair, but this time, bearing a broad smile. (AFP)

## 'Shakuntala - The Opera' staged by Austrian Embassy

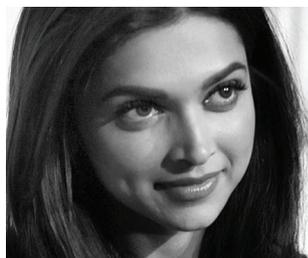
**KOLKATA, OCT 5 /-/** The romantic story of the Indian epic Mahabharata and Dusshanta was staged in song and dance here at the initiative of the Austrian Embassy. Named 'Shakuntala - The Opera', was enacted by a team comprising the Austrian chamber orchestra, the award-winning Shalini chamber choir and famous Kathak dancer Shovana Narayan on Thursday. While the introductory song 'Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram', a Baisnavi bhajan popularised by Mahatma Gandhi was in Hindi, other songs were in German and the narration was in English. Director, Austrian Ambassador Brigitte Oppinger-Walchhofer said the production was adapted from the incomplete opera by legendary Austrian composer Franz Schubert in 1820 and later put together by composer and president of Vienna Boys' Choir Prof Gerald Wirth. Walchhofer said the production was being staged in New Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai in October and remained an example on Indo-Austrian cultural ties. The Kolkata show was the second show of the 'Shakuntala' series staged in New Delhi on October 2, the 150 birth anniversary of Gandhiji, the envoy said. "I am sure the entire presentation in dance form will be liked very much by the Indian audience. Music is understood by everybody and musical collaborations build bridges," the diplomat said. Director, Austrian Cultural Forum, Embassy of Austria, Michael Heinz said that the relationship between India and Austria remained strong and "we had many great Indian artists who travelled through Vienna" in the 20th century. He said Indian culture remained very popular among the German intellectual community for centuries. About choosing 'Shakuntala', he said it was one of the most valuable pieces of work that people know both in Europe and India. The 70-minute show narrated the love and separation between 'Shakuntala' and King Dusshanta and how they reunited in the end. (PTI)

## CREATIVE WORLD

### Deepika to star in, produce film on acid attack survivor

**MUMBAI, OCT 5 /-/** Deepika Padukone will be playing the role of an acid attack survivor in Meghna Gulzar's next directorial venture which the actor will also be producing. The 32-year-old will play the role of Laxmi Agarwal in the yet to be titled film. "When I heard this story, I was deeply moved as it's not just one of violence but of strength and courage, hope and victory. It made such an impact on me, that personally and creatively, I needed to go beyond and so the decision to turn producer," Deepika said in a statement. According to the release, in 2005, while Laxmi was waiting at a bus stop in Delhi, she was attacked by an assailant, a man twice her age, known to her family and an unlikely suitor whose advances she had declined.

The film showcases Laxmi's journey in the time after her attack spanning 10 years, a significant part of the story is the game-changing PIL in the Supreme Court which inspired the amendment on acid laws in 2013. Meghna said in spite of regulation on the sale of acid and



changes in legislation regarding acid attacks, the ground reality is still very grim. "Acid violence is a very prevalent danger even today. Medical treatment, compensation, rehabilitation and inclusion of acid attack survivors are still very real challenges. "Using Laxmi's story as a lens, we are attempting to explore these aspects and consequences of acid violence in our society. This is what makes this story, relevant and one that must be told. Because if anything, awareness is the first step towards change," she said.

The 'Razdi' director added that the role is emotionally and physically challenging and she is confident that Deepika would do justice to the character and the story. "Her physicality matched with what I'd imagined for Laxmi's character. I'm grateful and encouraged that she was so spontaneous in her decision to do the film. When you take a face as beautiful as hers and portray her as an acid attack survivor, the magnitude of the violence and damage is that much more resonating," Meghna said. Deepika's last film was Sanjay Leela Bhansali's blockbuster 'Padmaavati'. Earlier, the actor was supposed to work with director Vishal Bhardwaj and Irrfan Khan on a film, in which she was to essay the role of a gangster. But the film has been postponed due to Irrfan's ill health. (PTI)

## Janch Partal: A Knockabout Comedy

**KOLKATA, OCT 5 /-/** Padatik Theatre & rikh. (Kolkata) presents a comedy play Janch Partal on Oct 7th, Sunday from 6:30 pm and on Oct 11th, Thursday on 7 pm onwards at Padatik Little Theatre. Janch Partal is based on Nikolai Vasilievich Gogol's 'The Government Inspector'. The play is directed by Vinay Sharma and is written by Sanjay Sahay. Starring Kautilya A. V., Saikat Baidya, Rohit Basore, Saayak Chakraborty, Nikunj Daga, Saikat Debnath, Manjira Dey, Yogesh Jain, Kalpana Jha, Sudip Mondal, Avik Roy, Swati Sharma, Bessik Singh, Vikash Singh, Amanda Sodhi, Krishna Sonika and Susanta Yadav. The story is about a corrupt small town mayor and his equally unprincipled cronies -

the magistrate, the school inspector, the civil surgeon and the postmaster - meet to discuss an impending threat: a Government Inspector may soon visit the town incognito to investigate the administration. A young thug from the big city checks into a local hotel. The Mayor's informers take him to be the Inspector-indisguise. Events thereafter tumble through a misadventure and enchantment as the Mayor and his family and the officials apple-polish the man to save their skins. It's a familiar tale, an ancient tale, a contemporary wall of disaffection. Tickets ranging Rs. 200/. (Limited seating and on first come first serve basis) Tickets are also available on 9830059978, venue & BookMyShow. (EOIC)



## Calcutta Boys' initiated inter-school debate

**KOLKATA, OCT 5 /-/** In the year 2015 the Calcutta Boys' School initiated The Clifford Hicks Memorial Inter-School Debate as a commemoration of the life and services of Clifford Hicks, who was the Principal & Secretary of CBS from 1952 to 1974. Mr Hicks was a phenomenon of wit and wisdom, an intellectual of the highest calibre, a voracious reader, a political analyst (being nominated the Anglo Indian MLA in 1967), a sports fan, a dreamer, an understanding and extremely generous friend to all who needed help, and a wonderfully well-informed teacher and above all he was an orator par excellence, whose speeches, both in the school chapel and the legislative assembly, were inspiring, informative and convincing.

## Calcutta Boys' initiated inter-school debate



The acumen with which he got his point across, without any hysterics or drama, is the aspiration of any good debater. This is exactly what we celebrate from the 3rd to 8th October 2018 in the Fourth edition of The Clifford Hicks Memorial Inter-School Debate where we witness our young contestants from prestigious Schools from all over India display their rhetorical skills and showcase their debating flair. The previous three editions have been grand successes, thanks to the support and enthusiasm extended by the participating schools. This year like the previous years, the debate will be held in two Categories - Category I for Classes XI & XII, and Category II for Classes IX & X, with Prelims and finals for each stage. Each team will be placed in a pool

and the top seven teams from the Prelims will qualify for the finals in each Category. The Calcutta Boys' School is also proud to have eminent personalities officiating as Moderators and Judges for the Debate that is Chandrayee Verma, Rita Wilson, Harry Manu, Neelu Virk, Prakruti Rudra, Francis Gomes, John Andrew Bagul, Esther D'Rozario, Masood Haque, Charlotte Simpson Veigas, Lawrence Hartnett and Paula Ghosh. Guests of honour for the Opening Ceremony will be Manoja Lohia of India Today the Winner of Ramnath Gokarna Award for Excellence in Journalism 2016 & Alumni of International Visitor Leadership and Maria Fernandez, the Vice Chairperson, Women's Commission, Govt. of West Bengal. (EOIC)

## Jalsha stars step in style this Pujo

**KOLKATA, OCT 5 /-/** Star Jalsha has always created icons for Bengal who have re-defined status quo and have been catalysts of positive change. And, over the last decade, Jalsha's protagonists have become nothing short of style icons; be it Baha's saree, Pakhi's Salwar suits or Aranya's power-dressing, these trend-setters have defined fashion for Bengal year on year. The season when Bengal goes into a fashion-frenzy is finally here. Since our hearts are benevolent and our pockets are heavy we should look our best this puja. And, this year Star Jalsha decodes the looks of the most fashionable TV icons in Bengal.



**Roddur (Vikram Chatterjee):** Pastel Shirts and rim-less glasses. Durga Pujas are all about waiting. Waiting in lines outside the pandals, waiting in front of restaurants or waiting in jams, pujas are sure to be hot and sweaty. Raddur shows the way with his cool pastel shirts. Pastel formal or casual-shirts can surely perk up sunny Pujo mornings and gives one the opportunity to play with colours. This Pujo, Raddur surely won't shy away from pairing them with shorts for a morning pandal hopping session or put on a great shade of denim for an action-packed evening.



**Joba (Pallabi Sharma):** Floral blouse and Linen Sarees. Joba embodies the 'casual chic' look with her boat neck floral blouses and linen sarees in the mega hit serial KeAponKe Por. She defines the perfect look for a casual Shashiti dresses and tops had been a rage last Pujo and she takes it a notch higher with cold shoulder blouses this year. Bengali women cannot go without pulling off that 'special' sari draped look during pujas. This festive season, Bengali women's favorite drape will get a fresh tweak with the added spunk of cold shoulder blouses. This look will certainly be a winner at the family bhoj or the Sandhi Puja.



**Mohul (Oindrilla Sen):** Tone on Tone Dhakai sarees with brocade blouse with triangle laktan. Self-colored dhakai sarees are a definite part of the modern woman's treasure trove after Mohul stylishly draped it in PhagunBou complemented by color-coordinated blouses with triangle laktans. This look is a definite off-the screen hit as it can effortlessly deck up someone like a Saptami morning ethnic beauty as well as Nabami night diva. This look allows one to be dynamic and play with



colors which can range from color coordinated to complete contrasts in the saree and blouse.

**Aakash (Syed Arefin):** Linen blazers with horn-rimmed glasses. Talk about power-dressing and this man is doing it with élan. In just two months and Aakash Ghosh is every woman's dream-date this Pujo. Linen blazers that fit like a dream and classy horn-rimmed glasses is his signature style. A dash of color can grab eye-balls in the morning, while for the evening parties throw on the linen blazer over a single-colored tee or shirt. A great way to pull off a fantastic look is to team it with the correct pair of trousers. (EOIC)

