



churya Patra and Krishanu Chanda.

### Musical with a message

**B**oby Chakraborty, an actor and an anti-drug activist from the city, recently visited Minnesota State University and Mayeville 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 Sreejon Laha, a 17-year-old who was killed in a car crash in 2014. The drama, co-written by Chakraborty and Ipsita Mallik, 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 anti-drug campaign in the US in 2014 and this time, he is organizing it in the red-light areas of Kalighat, Sonagachi and Munshiganj.

### Founder's Day celebration

**T**he 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 Arunima Sinha, along with the founder directors Sunil Agarwal and Sanjay Khemka, and CEO Vineet Kansal.

Sinha is the first female amputee 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 mountaineer interacted with students, sharing some of her most

### Film fest at Ray school

**B**allygunge Government High School Alumni Association organized the second edition of a short film festival in memory of alumnus and legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray



on May 6 and 7. The event was held at the school auditorium, named Satyajit Ray Sabhagriha. The three winners were felicitated at Nandan3 on Sunday, where Ray's son director Sandip and veteran actor Dipankar De handed 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 Dhar-



Debobrata Shome

Veteran filmmaker Mrinal Sen celebrates his 94th birthday on Sunday amid his family, friends and fans at his apartment in Bhowanipore's Paddapukur. Winner of 12 international film awards, Sen, a Padma Bhushan and Dada Saheb Phalke awardee, along with Satyajit Ray and Ritwik Ghatak, was a pioneer of parallel cinema in the country and reshaped the profile of Indian cinema, starting with his 'Bhuvan Shome'

treasured memories and experiences during expeditions.



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

### Neighbourhood theatre fest

**T**he third edition of Natyo Melar Deshe, a one-act Ben-

gali 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



practices, bringing back the Bengali theatre scene into focus. The festival has, for three years, fostered a passion for theatre and dramatics that has encouraged locals to not only enjoy but participate as well.

The festival was attended by actors Basudev Mukherjee, Dipankar De, Dolon Roy and filmmaker Raj Chakraborty.

Dr Sharmistha Ray, vice-president of Hiland Park Club Limited, said "Condominiums are 'vertical paras' and every 'para' has a group of passionate



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. Natto Melar 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 Assam-based vocalist Chandrima Bhattacharya, 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 connect quite well with each other. Choreographer Sudarshan Chakravorty will present this

musical journey as a story teller, while Bhattacharya will enthrall the audience with songs penned by Tagore and Gulzar. The script is by Angshuman Bhattacharya, supported by Romil and Sudipta Chanda.

### Braille library in city

**L**ast 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, Aizawl and Agartala. Consumer affairs minister Sadhan Pandey inaugurated the library in presence of IPS DGP, Fire, Jagmohan, senior VP, North and East, Amway India G S Cheema and Turnstone Global secretary Kanchan Gaba. 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 im-



paired students. The library is also equipped with computers that will enable students to access more than 30 CDs.

(Contributed by Uditprasan Mukherjee, Somdatta Basu and Althea Phillips. Compiled by Diya Sinha)