

From the diary of an avid reader: Keltuda meets Pagla Dasu and then

Santanu Ghosh

Today Pagla Dasu brought a wooden box to school. He said that his uncle Panchu Mama gave it to him. That wooden box had a dragon painted on it. The dragon was looking so real. Pagla Dasu was not ready to give the box to anyone. When I asked for the first time to see the box, he jumped like a prawn and moved his hands very rapidly to avoid me. But later I promised him to give a share of my tiffin instead to see the box. He thought of something. Don't know what. He gave me the box to touch only. He said, "Panchu Mama told me that this box was the property of Podipishi. This box was named Podipishir Bormibaksho (a wooden box of Podipishi). She was an old lady with a heart of a lion." While he was telling me this story I tried to open the box. Pagla Dasu shrielled and run away with the box. We all friends started planning

to steal the box from him. My friends are Nonte, Phonte, Handa, Bhoda and a senior known as Keltuda. Keltuda, our chief said, "Let us make Pagla Dasu a fool. Handa, you will keep busy Pagla during tiffin. We all will try to take the box at that time." During break Hada and I were with Dasu who was very cheerful at that time. He kept his Barmibaksho in the bag and then he put the bag behind him. The robbery was done under the leadership of Keltuda. We got back to our class as break was over and planned to open the box after school. We



level of excitement. We were all leaning on each other to see what was inside the box. The moment the box opened we were shocked. There was just one picture in the box; it was the picture of a donkey. Immediately we heard a peal of laughter. It was Pagla Dasu laughing at us. He has done it again. I woke up just then and realized it was a dream. My dream had all the friends of my childhood I have grown up with. Pagla Dasu, Handa Bhoda, Nonte Phonte were my real life friends. The moments I shared with them at that time were the golden time of my life. Today is the

first day of Bengali New Year; don't know why I saw this dream today. The characters which were with me in my childhood are all stacked in the bookshelf today covered with layers of dust. I think the layers of dust are also in my mind because today I cannot recall all the activities of my childhood friends. When I started reading the stories I felt amused at myself that how these impossible things could make me laugh back then. I think today we have stopped laughing. I can recollect many moments when I laughed with these immortal characters and they are reasons for which my childhood was so joyous. There are hardly any such characters I come across now-a-days that can make us laugh. The laugh of Pagla Dasu in my dream was the alarm for me who told me to trust the world like we do in childhood and enjoy every moment of it.



thought Dasu will be very upset about the loss of his box but he made us astonished. He was very cheerful and solved all the sums in Math's class. After the school, we saw Dasu going back home. We went under the Mimusops tree (Bokultree) near the broken wall of school. We were all excited to get something exciting from the box. Keltuda took the initiative. He slowly opened the box. The speed with which he opened the box was inversely proportional with our increased



MH 370 Rescued: Bengali superhero Batul's mission impossible successful

Santanu Ghosh

"With great regret we inform you all that flight MH 370 is still missing. It was flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing but after reaching the South China Sea its course got diverted towards the Indian Ocean. The reason for this diversion is still unknown. 227 passengers and 12 aircraft workers were flying in the plane. The Malaysian Air Force is trying their best to locate the plane but the ray of hope is still very distant". The television screen flashed this news.

Batul got very depressed by this news. Bachhu and Bichhu, the two mischief-makers saw the disturbance on Batul's face. They whispered among themselves and told Batul that he should go and try to find the airplane as soon as possible. Their plan was to make Batul go find the plane so that he might die among the big ocean waves. Batul first got in touch with the

Prime Minister of India to seek his permission. The Prime

Minister said, "I am very glad to hear that you are going to rescue the plane. I was about to call you wanting for your help."



Minister said, "I am very glad to hear that you are going to rescue the plane. I was about to call you wanting for your help." The very next morning Batul reached Digha. Since he was a

little heavy to travel in a plane, he had a pet whale named Ponata to travel overseas. After reaching Digha he swam for 10kms to call Ponata. Ponata was very happy to see his master. He carried Batul to the place where the plane was last seen. There

Batul searched for the plane underwater. After searching for

almost 4 hours he saw a huge iron plate with the Malaysian airlines logo on it. He pulled the iron plate which was stuck in mud and aqua moss. To Batul's surprise the entire plane came

out apiece from the ocean bed. Through the windows Batul saw that all the passengers were alive and when he looked through the cockpit window he saw that the pilots were signaling him to push the plane hard so that they can start the engine.

Batul held the plane high in his hand and told Ponata to swim upwards towards the surface of the ocean. From there he threw the plane towards Malaysia. The plane's engine started midway towards Malaysia and the pilots were able to land the plane safely in the airport. Batul was honored with a medal for his bravery by the Indian government. Malaysia's Prime Minister also invited Batul to come visit there country as a guest. Bachhu and Bichhu were sad because their plan to kill Batul failed but Batul told them that they will also go with him to visit Malaysia.

Sorry Deepika, it is not 'My Choice'

Koustabh Das

Sorry Deepika, these are not the 'choices' a women need for her empowerment. It is 'My Choice' that I did not hit a like on your viral.

You are indeed a Bollywood feminista and after battling depression because of a top newspapers stupidity which published your inappropriate images and stories that made headlines, you chose to shun the cleavage battle with a 'woman empowerment' video which was of course meant to go viral on the internet because of her your 'celeb' caliber. Yes, it did fuel wrong feminism message and now 'My Choice' spoofs reign high in the internet.

The viral video features you and hundred other elite women. 'My Choice' video almost alienates the existence of men; the forgotten gender. It has dialogues which lack the power and depth to invoke thoughts "To marry or not to marry, to have sex before marriage, to have sex

outside marriage, to not have sex, my choice" makes it easier for the viewers to misunderstand and point a finger at the female chauvinism that's on a high in India. And the icing on the cake was a comment made by Nandita



Das which allegedly tagged all men as rapists.

The sleek and shiny video in which you talk about 'My Choice' was perhaps aimed at hitting the system of patriarchy hard where it hurts the most. You were perhaps talking about the need to eliminate the gender

gap that exists in the society and for which we need to make 'A Choice'. Instead of talking about rape, female foeticide, domestic violence, harassment at workplace, pay gap, the sick male gaze or a million other issues that a woman has to deal with everyday, the video chose to talk about topics which are plain bizarre. What this video is suggesting

is called adultery and that's not acceptable for any gender. Imagine a male version of the same video, perhaps then the society would term us, men, as cheats. If a male actor would have done the same there would be 'dhar na' in front of his house. According to reports

Kalki Koechilin has expressed her views on Deepika's 'My Choice' video, saying that she understands the counter argument that if men would have done the same they would have been branded as bastards.

Interestingly in response to your viral, a male version on 'My Choice' has also come up and is being shared with equal viral potent. While you have talked about the freedom of women having sex before marriage or out of marriage or not having sex at all, the male version has a man talking on the same issues but on from a man's point of view. Can we pay attention to the more serious issues that all people irrespective of the gender they belong to have to face day in and day out? And finally, can you please talk about a change in perception that men have about women and vice versa? All men are not rapists, neither are women worthy of only having sex with.

News In Brief

Trina Chowdhury

Brave or Banal

My life My choice, a short film directed by Homi Adjanian, starring Deepika Padukone and 99 other women regarding "Women Empowerment" has still been an issue of debate. The film had actually wanted to portray the change to be brought among men regarding women in the modern society. But it came as a shock to most of us when actress Deepika Padukone had passed some unfavorable comments like, "My choice to have sex before or outside marriage or not to have sex". It simply could have been about education, employment strength and girl talent all over the country.

Lion's best friend

24th March 2015, gets something really shocking but an amazing fact in front of us. Valentin Gruener's best friend has been 'Sirga', a 'Tiger'. It has been such a close friendship between the two of them that they greet each other with a cozy hug. This 27 year old Conservationist has been the founder of the "Modisa Wildlife Project". He has raised Sirga almost from birth feeding her with milk, fresh eggs, vitamins, cream, calcium and sunflower oil. Currently he has been teaching her to stalk and kill so that she can get acclimatized in the wild.

Gay sex ban

On 7th of April, 2015, there had been a serious controversy against gay sex in India. Rajan, a local of Mumbai, was followed into a public toilet by two men and was forced to perform oral sex on them. The 31 year old gay, marketing professional, realized the end of his short lived sexual freedom. Rajan has been one out of the millions of people from India's lesbian, gay, homosexuals, and transgender community who have faced torment after the world's largest democracy.

Dorffman's passion

A collection of total 10,000 dolls! Dorfmann, 48, has been diligently collecting 7000 iconic dolls and 3000 normal dolls. Recently Guinness Book of World Records has got her name, Bettina Dorfmann, registered in it due to her huge stockpile of Barbie dolls. Her obsession for these has grown up to such an extent leading to the accommodation of dolls in her bedroom, vault and kitchen. "There's nothing I would change about Barbie. I know her legs are too long and her feet too small, but that makes her Barbie".

Dibakar's detective gets 'Sherlocked' and resurrects to save the city ...

Milinda Ghosh Roy

FILM: DETECTIVE BYOMKESH BAKSHI
DIRECTION: DIBAKAR BANERJEE
STARRING:

Sushant Singh Rajput, Swastika Mukherjee, Niraj Kabi

The last few months have been an absolute carnival for the Byomkesh lovers as he has come up on screen, both small and big, quiet frequently in search of the harsh truth. Be it Anjan dutta's 'Byomkesh phire elo' (the last part of the trilogy) or the recently released 'swajarak kaa'ta', Byomkesh always gives its spectators a taste of the-then socio-economic situation along with the insightful journey in solving the mystery.

However in Dibakar Banerjee's 'detective Byomkesh Bakshi' the young detective does a lot more than that. Dibakar has chosen the first story of Byomkesh called 'Swattaneshi' as the plot of his film but the treatment and magnitude he has given to the plot, adds so many dimensions that it becomes more of a cutting edge Dibakar Banerjee thriller; like his previous 'Sanghai'. The original story talks about a series of murder mysteries in the 1930s Kolkata that had direct link with drug dealing. In the movie, Dibakar has broadened the premise as he caters to a more global audience. 'Detective Byomkesh Bakshi' is placed in British ruled Calcutta that was shaken with a series of Japanese air strikes during the Second World War. The days of political unrest and the nights of black-outs and thrill

sirens. During this time, young Byomkesh was approached by Ajit, his future assistant, to solve the mystery of his father Bhuvan Banerjee's disappearance. As Byomkesh starts investigating, the mystery thickens around a series of murders, gang of drug



dealers and a dangerous plot of Japanese attack in British ruled Calcutta.

Dibakar has consciously recreated the period of the film. The set design in the film is remarkable. The old trams, shops, banners and hoardings around the city, people's attire and most importantly the iconic Laalbazar and Howrah bridge, everything reminds us of the old Calcutta. The cinematography is apt and vivid in keeping with the spooky mood of the film. A shot of Byomkesh crossing the Howrah bridge in a taxi with the lights coming through the jigsaw architecture of the bridge over his head- alludes to the growing mystery of the film. In many ways, Dibakar seem to take an inspiration from the Sherlock Holmes movie 'game of shadows'. The recreation of

the old city and the anarchic madness of a genius refferes to the Guy Ritchie movie. Moreover, like Charles Moriorty, the villain here is always one step ahead of the protagonist until the very end.

As a whole, the film seems a bit

too long and the climax loses its tempo as the detective does a lot of explaining. However; great sets, haunting soundtracks, reasonably good acting and Dibakar Banerjee's Midas touch makes 'Detective Byomkesh Bakshi's first encounter, a



Interview

Sananya Dutta



Hearty congratulations Kartikey Tripathy, ex-student of BMS 2009-12 batch for your phenomenal success in Bomkesh Bakshi. As an NSHMite we are proud of you and wish you all the very best in future

1. How does it feel to become a star overnight?

Thank you so much but I haven't become a star. I'm just another common man who's learning everyday to be a better actor.

2. How did you get this breakthrough??

I got a call for auditions last year. I went there and by stroke of luck got selected.

3. How was the experience of working with director Dibakar Banerjee and big name like Sushant Singh Rajput?

Experience of working with them was enriching. Both director and the co-actor need to give you your space which they both did very nicely.

4. As an ex student of NSHM how does it feel to get so much appreciation from your juniors and faculty for your performance.

Lovely and blessed. Teachers bless you like always and juniors love you more. No matter what happens that is the best feeling one goes through.

(Kartikey Tripathi is an ex student of NSHM Batch 2009-2012. He has performed in the movie Bomkesh Bakshi released recently)