

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

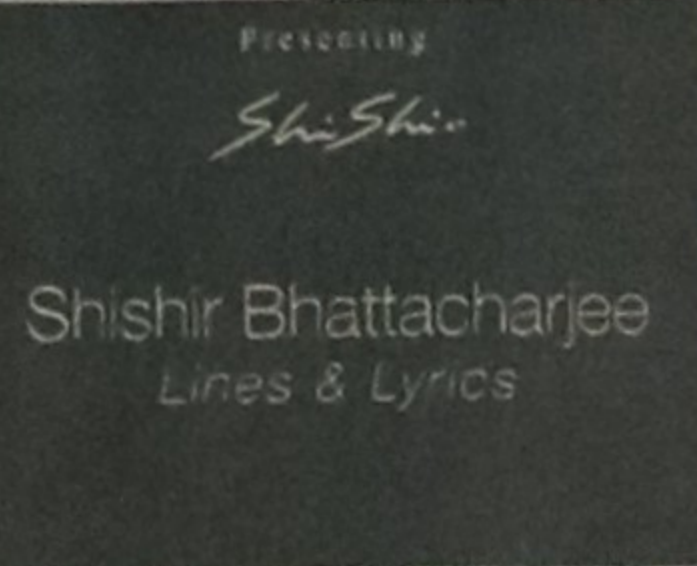
Film Screening

3rd session of African Film Festival '08
Organiser: Zahir Rahman Film Society, Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H 9, Rd 10, Dhanmondi. Date: June 2
"Sleepless Nights" (Egypt) at 3pm, "The Silence of the Palace" (Tunisia) at 5pm and "Omar Mukhtar: Lion of the Desert" (Libya) at 7pm



Solo Exhibition

to mark the 4th anniversary of Galleri Kaya
Title: Lines & Lyrics
Artist: Shishir Bhattacharjee
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H 20, Rd 16, Sec 4, Uttara
Date: June 6-20
Time: 11am-8pm



Fundraiser

Photo exhibition for Poet Samudra Gupta
Organiser: www.bangladeshphotographers.com and IFA students
Venue: IFA (Institute of Fine Arts) premises
Date: May 29-June 2



Photography Exhibition

Title: Beyond the Dream
Photographer: Srabon Reza
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise, 26 Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi
Date: June 6-19



Ferdausi Rahman takes a noble step



Ferdausi Rahman

AUREEN AHSAN

Renowned singer Ferdausi Rahman was recently honoured with the Meril-Prothom Alo

honoured that the award was conferred on me. It's not easy to work consistently over a long period of time. I feel blessed to have attained what I desired as an artist. Recognition is very important for an artist; it works as an incentive for his/her evolution.

The seasoned artiste is extremely grateful to her father - legendary singer Abbasuddin, who introduced her to the world of music. Alongside, she said, her mother, brothers, husband, children and other family members have supported her throughout her illustrious career.

Ferdausi has donated the award money to 'Inner Wheel,' an international women's organisation that supports acid survivors. "I felt that it was the right opportunity and the right time to help them," she explained. Ferdausi Rahman is an active member of the organisation, which has around 30 clubs and 400 members around Bangladesh. The organisation also conducts different programmes to provide education and health facilities to underprivileged children.

Although she has earned endless adulation and appreciation for her work, Ferdausi said, "People have a lot of dreams, but obviously it is not possible to fulfill all. Nevertheless, I hope to continue working sincerely till the day I die."

Lifetime Achievement Award. Ferdausi talked to *The Daily Star* on her reaction to the award and her decision to donate the prize money to acid survivors. Ferdausi said, "I am highly

Srijon celebrates National Poet's birth anniversary

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Cultural organisation Srijon arranged a musical soiree at the Begum Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum on May 31 to celebrate Kazi Nazrul Islam's birth anniversary. This was Srijon's 70th monthly programme.

Artists performed songs and poems of Kazi Nazrul Islam. The programme also included songs of yesteryears.

The programme started with a group rendition of the Nazrul Sangeet Nobin asha jaglo jey rey aaj. Another group rendition, of Jago anoshan bondi, followed.

Recitor Mahidul Islam rendered Nazrul's poem *Shamyabadi*. Bijon Chandra Mistri sang *Aamar apnar cheye apon jey jon* and *Cheona shunoyona*. A solo mandolin performance by Nirmal Kumar Das was lauded by the audience.

Chhaya Karmakar, Tanvir Tomal, Sheikh Ruhul Amin and Sanjida Titli rendered *Ajieshechhi*, *Tumi nirjon upokuley*, *Keno bhalobasha hariye jay* and *Kon shey alor shopno* respectively.

Abul Kalam Azad rendered folk songs including *Ki jadu Bangla gaaney* and *Gramer naujowan*.

Nurul Islam Polish compiled and directed the programme.



PHOTO: MUMIT M

Artistes of Srijon perform at the programme

Cultural programme by Bangladesh Association Norway



Local Bangladeshi artistes perform at the event

Bangladesh Association Norway (BDAN), an organisation of expatriate Bangladeshis, arranged a two-day cultural programme and get-together on May 25 and 26 at Kampen Menighetshus in Oslo, says a press release.

Noted *Gano Sangeet* artiste Fakir Alamgir and singer Dinat Jahan Munni performed at the programme.

The event introduced the newly elected executive committee of BDAN. Khorshed Alam was announced as the president while Iftekhar Gani and Md. Badrul Islam were introduced as the vice president and general secretary

respectively.

BDAN has been arranging cultural programmes on special occasions such as *Pahela Baishakh* (Bengali New Year), *Independence Day*, *Victory Day* and more since it was founded in 1978.

The cultural programme on May 25 started with a rendition of the National Anthem by the local Bangladeshi artistes. Rumana Hasibur Rahman, Surovi Barua and others performed at the event. Tarak Dutta accompanied the artistes on *tabla*. Apart from the Bangladeshi expats, representatives of Norwegian and Asian

communities were also at the programme.

Fakir Alamgir's performance delighted the audience who were eagerly waiting for the artist in Norway. Dinat Jahan Munni's performance was also a treat.

The event ended with a hearty get-together arranged by Md. Badrul Islam, general secretary of the association at Rica Helsing Hotel. The two-day programme was an exhilarating experience in the busy lives of the Bangladeshis living in "the land of the midnight sun," providing a glimpse of Bengali culture.

Shahiduzzaman Selim conducting workshop for young actors

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

"A lot of TV plays are currently being aired on the local channels, featuring many promising young actors. However, most of these actors are not properly trained. In fact, for a lucrative small screen industry, a lot of young artists with training are needed," informed renowned TV actor-director Shahiduzzaman Selim.

Lead by Selim; Nader Chowdhury, Masum Aziz Zahiruddin Piar, Debashish Ghosh, Abdullah Rana, Rosy Siddiqui and others are conducting a workshop for upcoming actors.

Twenty selected actors participated in the workshop in March-April session. The second

training session begins today. Selim said, "As a director I've observed that without proper training, even talented actors don't seem spontaneous. The aim of the workshop is to guide them to deliver performances that look credible. It's totally on practical training, not typical theory based workshops."

On his current projects, Selim informed that he is making a 13-episode TV serial titled *Easy Marriage Media Limited*. "The serial features a contemporary issue: Fraudulent nature of the so called 'matchmaking agencies'. Many become victims of these agencies."

Amar Bou Shob Janey, directed by Selim, is also on air on ntv.



Shahiduzzaman Selim

Sharon Stone contrite over China remarks



Sharon Stone

There is no denying that the high-heeled foot in Sharon Stone's mouth at the Cannes Film Festival belongs to the actress herself. She admitted that her comments suggesting that karmic retribution may have caused the devastating earthquakes in China were blithering.

"Clearly, I sound like an idiot," said Stone last Thursday evening from her home in Los Angeles, after she had watched a widely viewed Internet video of her remarks from Cannes.

In the red-carpet interview on May 22, Stone, who was about to enter a fund-raising gala for the American Foundation for AIDS Research, of which she was a host, told a journalist: "I'm not happy about the way the Chinese are treating the Tibetans because I don't think anyone should be unkind to anyone else. And the earthquake and all this stuff happened, and then I thought, is that karma? When you're not nice that bad things happen to you?"

The comments created a stir in the Chinese news media and on blogs, and Dior, which has a modelling contract with Stone for a face cream, removed her from advertising in China, fearing a

backlash. Dior's Shanghai office issued a statement in which Stone was quoted apologising: "I am deeply sorry and sad about hurting Chinese people."

She insisted her comments in Cannes had been taken out of context. She also said that she resisted Dior's efforts at damage control, and that the apology issued in her name distorted her words.

Stone said the interview in Cannes with her remarks about Tibet and karma came at the end of a media line of 80 to 100 television crews. She believes, but is not certain, the interviewer was from a Hong Kong television station. The call letters on the microphone are blurred out on Internet sites showing the video.

If Stone's expression in the video seemed unduly happy as she referred to the earthquakes in Sichuan Province, which have taken the lives of more than 68,000 people, it may be because, as she said on Thursday, she had recently been in communication with the Bridge Fund, which does work on behalf of Tibetans, and was touched by the group's relief efforts in the devastated area.

On May 20, Stone said, she

received an e-mail message from her friend Monica Garry, executive director of the Bridge Fund, requesting a quote from the actress for the organisation's Web site that might encourage people to give money to the relief.

"This was the story I was telling the reporter" at Cannes, Ms. Stone said, adding that some of her explanatory comments were edited out.

At the end of the film festival, on May 24, Ms. Stone flew to Stockholm, where she was scheduled to address a global health forum attended by scientists and public health experts. Meanwhile, Chinese blogs were starting to condemn Stone for being insensitive.

The apology released in Stone's name by Dior's office in Shanghai bears little resemblance to the original, and the difference seemed to irritate the star.

"It makes it appear that I'm in agreement that I did a bad thing," Stone said, adding that she believes the statement was not a poor translation but rather rewritten. It is unclear who at Dior provided the statement to the Chinese news media.

Source: Internet



Young artistes dance at a cultural programme arranged by Amra Ko'Jon Shilpi Goshti. The event was held at the Mukhtijodha Aminul Karim Auditorium, Bogra last Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR



The Comilla unit of Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad recalled the contribution of Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Manik Bandyopadhyay and Sukanta Bhattacharya on May 30 at the District Council Auditorium, says a press release. President of the unit, Shantanu Kaiser discussed how the litterateurs developed and enriched our culture and literature. The programme, titled "Achhey Mrityu Achey Ananda", featured solo and chorus renditions of songs and recitation of poems.