

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Art Exhibition
Abdur Razaque Retrospective
 Title: Rhythms of Figures, Forms and Nature
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
 Date: October 10-29
 Time: 12pm-8pm



Lalon Death Anniversary

Organiser: Lalon Academy, Kushtia
Venue: Lalon Academy premises, Chheuria, Kushtia
Date: October 16-18
Time: 7pm everyday



Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Beauty of Nature
Artist: Kantideb Adhikari
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU
Date: October 17-22
Time: 10am-8pm



Publication Ceremony

Title: Artist K G Mustafa and his exceptional designs
Organiser: Theme-O-Graph
Venue: CIRDAP Auditorium, 17, Topkhana Road
Date: October 21
Time: 5pm



Heretic tales

Pedro Meyer retrospective at Drik



KARIM WAHEED

An indigenous Mexican boy hugging a greasy looking pole. Hands around his feet, either pushing the boy up or trying to pull him down. A blazing sun, perhaps during dusk, thick black smoke and searing flames in the background. The caption reads, "Virgil on the Greased Pole" (Nochixtlán, Oaxaca, Mexico).

The image can be interpreted in several ways. The roaring flames and climbing up a sinister looking pole may refer to Dante's depiction (in *Inferno*) of the Roman pagan poet Virgil suspended in Limbo. Or it may simply refer to the "Catholicisation" of the indigenous Mexicans. The analogy: Attempts were made to Christianise Virgil centuries after his death.

Mexican photographer Pedro Meyer is recognised widely for his provocative, powerful images and his pioneering work in the digital imaging era. Meyer's photos constantly question the thin line between truth and fiction. With the advent of digital technologies in the early '90s, Meyer evolved from a documentary photographer, who created what is known as "direct images," to a digital documentary-maker, who combines elements of different photographs to arrive at a higher or different truth. His famous statement that every photograph, either digitally manipulated or not, is both true and untrue, has earned him the nickname "Heretic" in the orthodox world of documentary photography.

The ongoing Pedro Meyer retrospective at Drik Gallery is, in that sense, justifiably titled "Heresies." The exhibition opened simultaneously in nearly 60 museums around the world this month.

"Heresies" challenges the limits of current photography exhibitions by mixing large format prints with new technological elements, such as digital galleries that integrate audio, text and images; the use of iPhone and iPod for downloading videos and audio, interaction between the participating museums, as well as between the museums and their visitors.

Apart from photos shot in different parts of Mexico, US and other countries, the exhibit also includes Dhaka images. "Little Pearls" (black and white, Dhaka) is poignant and at the same brimming with suggestive ideas. The image of the emaciated, dark little girl is full of contradictions. She visibly belongs to the underclass, and the string of pearls (which may just be plastic beads made to look like pearls) carelessly dangling from her feeble neck



creates an intrigue. The intense gleam in her big eyes does however outshine the rarest of pearls.

Every image at the exhibition is more than a photograph -- digitally manipulated or not. Each angle, each colour goes on to cohesively construct a remarkable tale originating in our mundane world.

Take "Life is not Rosy" (Tlaxiaco, Oaxaca, Mexico) for example. An elderly indigenous Mexican woman bent under the load of a sack almost as big as her, wearing a red sweater, against a background of a rosy pink wall.

Many would perhaps find Meyer's version of a five-dollar bill amusing. Instead of the portrait of a dead American president, Meyer's creation has an ubiquitous counter-cultural symbol -- the Argentine Marxist revolutionary, Che Guevara. The CIA may not find it amusing though.

Other provocative images include stone faces behind bars and barbed wires, titled "Homage to the Dead in the Soviet Gulags" and Mexican immigrant labourers toiling under a billboard (for the famed Caesar's Palace hotel) that says "Caesar".

The exhibition certainly provides food for thought. "Heresies" will continue at Drik till October 20.



TV Watch

"Ekdiner Raja" on ntv tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Single-episode play *Ekdiner Raja* will be aired on ntv tonight at 9 pm. Written by Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and directed by Abdullah Rana, the play depicts the story of a university student seemingly hitting the jackpot, but only for a day.

Raju, a university student lives in a hostel in the city and is always short on cash. One day, he meets a wealthy entrepreneur, Azhar Ali. For some reason, Azhar Ali takes a liking to Raju and employs him at his business. There is a strange clause attached to the job though. Raju has to spend Tk one lakh in a day without violating certain rules set by Azhar Ali. Though Raju initially thinks that it'd be cakewalk, the situation proves otherwise.

Aly Zaker, Eresh Zaker and Mamo play the lead roles.



Eresh Zaker in a scene from the play.

Drama serial "Sagai" on ATN Bangla

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Third episode of the drama serial *Sagai* will be aired tonight at 8 pm on ATN Bangla. Written and directed by M. Sakawat Hossain, the cast includes Mamunur Rashid, Jayanto Chattopadhyay, S.M. Mohsin, Khisun Rahnim, Mifon, Apurbo, Jyotika Jyoti, Barsha and others.

The plot is set in a village called Kholahati. Most of residents are potters. They make pot and pans, toys and other items, and sell them at the local bazaar. Ketki however, has another talent aside from pottery; she is a singer. She even forms a singing troupe, which performs on several occasions at the village and neighbouring areas. Hanif Miah is an influential man in a neighbouring village. A relationship blossoms between Hanif and Ketki.



A scene from *Sagai*.

Meanwhile, Rashed, a young man from the city comes to the village with an NGO working on micro

credit. The serial progresses as incidents occur in the lives of the characters.

Shironamhin to release new album in December

JAMIL MAHMUD

Fusion band Shironamhin, popular for its thematic lyrics and post-modern approach to music, is working on its third album. The album titled *Bondho Janala* will be released this December. *Ichchhey Ghuri*, the band's second album, was released in 2006 and its debut album *Jahaaji* was released in 2004.

"Usually we take time to put in our best. We want to assure the audience that the upcoming album

will once again emphasise the band's philosophy," said Zia, bassist and main composer of Shironamhin.

Bondho Janala will feature 10 songs, including the titular song, and *Bullet kimba kobitaye*, *Bhalobasha meghe*, *Bus stoppage* and *Shuprobhat*.

Shironamhin's music uses a healthy dose of *sarod*. Apart from *sarod*, the new album features instruments that are not used frequently in mainstream pop/rock music, like *esraj*, violin, *bodhran* (an Irish instrument),

banjo, saxophone, trumpet and silver flute. Zia pointed out that a group of seasoned musicians are working with the members of the band for the upcoming album.

A unique feature of the album is that, it will feature one or two songs penned by fans. According to Zia, "Including our own website (www.shironamhin.com), we have several fan pages on the Internet. To encourage our fans, we will use their lyrics in our new album."

"I think this will help the audience understand our music better," he added.



Members of the band Shironamhin

Ringo Starr refuses to sign fan mail or memorabilia

CNN, London

Former Beatle Ringo Starr has given his fans a ticket to ride.

In a video posted on his Web site, Starr says he will no longer sign fan mail or memorabilia.

"I want to tell you please...do not send fan mail to any address that you have. Nothing will be signed after the 20th of October. If that is the date on the envelope, it's gonna be tossed.

"I'm warning you with peace and love I have too much to do. So no more fan mail, thank you, thank you, and no objects to be signed. Nothing," the 68-year-old said.

The drummer, wearing dark glasses, said it was "a serious message to everybody watching."

Starr once starred in an episode of "The Simpsons" which showed him answering every piece of fan mail.

"They took the time to write to me, and I don't care if it takes 20 years, I'm going to answer every one of them," Starr said on the show.

Starr, who earlier this year released a new album called "Liverpool 8," divides his time between homes in Los Angeles, the South of France and Surrey.

He angered Liverpool residents during an interview on British television in January when he said he missed nothing about the city.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Prachyanat's version of Manoj Mitra's famed play *Kinu Kaharer Thetar* was staged on October 16 at the Mahila Samity in the city. Directed by Kazi Taufikul Islam Emon, the play is the 15th production of the troupe.



Aamir Khan as Kishore Kumar?

If everything works out, Aamir Khan might play the role of late singer-actor, Kishore Kumar in a movie by Percept Pictures. The company has even gotten a go-ahead from the singer's wife, Leena Chandavakar.

"I am a great fan of Kishore Kumar and I love the script, I will surely do it," Aamir said.

He however added that he was too busy to read the script.

The actor is promoting his latest film, *Ghajni*, which is slated for a December 25 release.

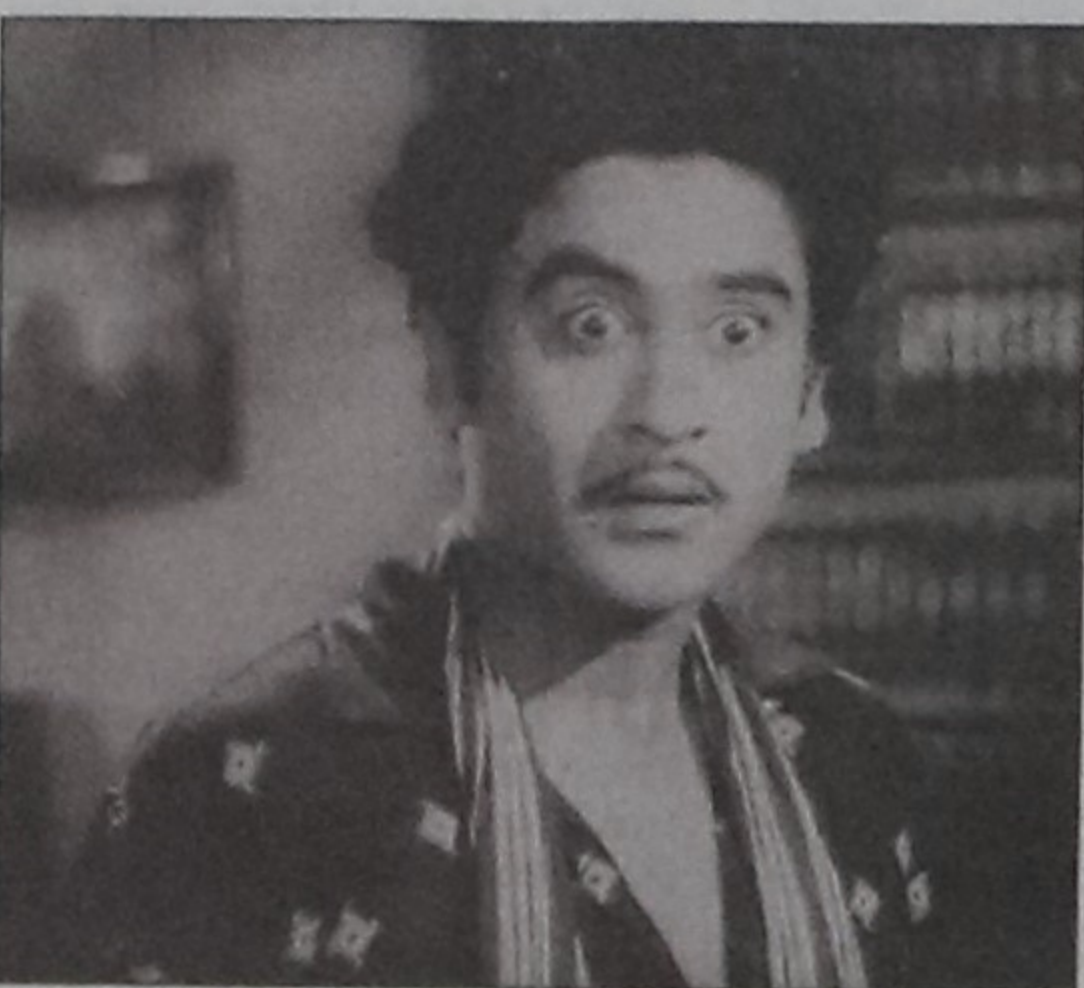
"I have not seen the script yet because of my busy schedule. I also have to prepare for *Taare Zameen Par*'s marketing strategy for the Oscars early next year," Aamir added.

Kishore Kumar's rise has been one of the most dramatic in the

Bollywood film industry. He, along with another great singer, Mohammad Rafi, ruled the golden era ('50s to '70s) of the film industry.

Kishore also acted in several Hindi films and is known for his comic roles in *Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi* and many others.

Source: Internet



Kishore Kumar



Aamir Khan