

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Ekushey Boi Mela '09
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Bangla Academy premises
Date: February 01-28



Chobi Mela V
1st Festival of Photography, Bangladesh '09
Theme: Freedom
Venues: National Museum, BSA, Drik Gallery, Bengal Gallery, AF, GIB, British Council, Asiatic Gallery, Kalpana Boarding and Karwan Bazar underpass
Date: Jan 30-Feb 20



4th Asian Film Festival
Organiser: Centre for Asian Arts and Culture
Venue: Alamgir Kabir Film Centre, H 62, Science Laboratory road.
Date: February 12-17
Time: Inauguration at 5pm on February 12



Streetwise Art Exhibition
Venue: Bay's Galleria, 57, Gulshan Avenue
Date: December 2008-February 2009
Time: 11am-6pm



Srotar Ashor by Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha



Saturday's programme was the 30th instalment of BRSSS' "Srotar Ashor."

PHOTO: MUMIT M

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha (BRSSS) held a musical soiree on February 7 at the Sufia Kamal Auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum. The event was the 30th instalment of BRSSS' "Srotar Ashor" programme.

With a view to create a platform for Tagore artistes, BRSSS started its journey in 1988. Since then, the organisation has been working to promote Tagore songs across the country. Eminent Tagore exponent Kalim Sharafi is the president of the organisation.

The event was dedicated to the memory of Syed Shamsul Huda, adviser of BRSSS, who passed away recently. A former member of the organisation, the artiste was a sub-regional director of Bangladesh Betar.

Bishnu Mandal opened the event, presenting two songs -- "Amar hiyar majhey lukiye chhiley" and "Keno chokher joley bhijye dilem na." Next was Pranoti Roy with her renditions of "Tomasurshonaye" and "Purbacholer paaney takai."

Artistes of BRSSS made a homage to Syed Shamsul Huda with a group presentation of "Aguner poroshmoni chhoa(n) opraaney."

Salma Akbar performed the song "Chokher aloye dekhey chhilem." Nasima Khan, Anima Roy, Adrita Anwar, Pramod Dutt, Nahar Jamil and Azizur Rahman entertained the audience for the next hour. Their performances included several popular Tagore songs including "Ogo nadi apon begey," "Dakbona, dakbona," "Tomare koriachi jibonero dhrubotara," "Kanti amar khoma koro" and more.

From now on, BRSSS intends to organise "Srotar Ashor" once every month.

Chobi Mela V

Life is Elsewhere: Sohrab Hura's subliminal freedom

JAMIL MAHMUD

"Everything turns problematic, questionable, subject of analysis and doubt: Progress and revolution. Youth. Motherhood. Even man. And also poetry... Life is elsewhere."

-- Milan Kundera

As part of Chobi Mela V, Indian documentary photographer Sohrab Hura's exhibition "Life is Elsewhere" is on at the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Along with several other

ers, the exhibition started on January 30. The exhibit is a journal of Hura's life, family, love, friends and travels. Through this journal Hura attempts to connect his sense of freedom with the world he sees, hoping to understand the reality.

Hura has named his series after the title of a book by Czech author Milan Kundera. The book delves into contradictions and doubts, laughter and forgetfulness. Hura constantly questioned himself by documenting frag-



Photographs by Sohrab Hura.

ments of his life.

Hura was born on October 17, 1981. He grew up shifting from one ambition to another. He started with dreams of growing up and becoming a dog, which later turned to becoming a superhero, and then to a veterinarian and eventually, a wildlife filmmaker.

In the summer of 1999, when Hura's mother was diagnosed with an acute case

of schizophrenia, he was only 17. The doctors said that she had started developing the symptoms many years ago.

The incidence brought an abrupt emptiness in their home. People stopped visiting them because Hura's mother was too scared to let anyone in. All that remained were the traces of a life that no longer existed.

Several years later his mother luckily escaped the

paranoia and revealed that all those years she didn't stop loving him.

"Today, as I look back, I realise that who I am, what I feel, how I see and think, are connected to my relationship with my mother in a way stronger than I realised. In my works, I hope I've been able to articulate that impact," says Hura.

Hura's exhibition ends today.

Festival featuring Tagore dance-dramas in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A five-day festival featuring Tagore dance dramas is drawing theatre and dance enthusiasts at Rajshahi Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

Dhrupadaloke, a local cultural organisation is holding this festival that ends today.

Around 57 members of the organisation are participating in the festival under the direction of Dhrupadaloke director Ladli Mohon Maitra and his sister Alo Maitra.

On the first day of the festival, Dhrupadaloke staged "Chandalika." The group staged "Kal Mrigaya" and "Balmiki Pratibha" on the second day. "Chitrangada" and "Shyama" were staged on the third day.

"Shap Mochon" and "Phiraye Anibo Torey" were staged on Sunday and "Kabi Chitto" will be staged today at the festival.

Ladli Mohon Maitra informed that the festival aims at demonstrating the brilliance of Rabindranath Tagore as a lyricist and playwright.

"We actually just got a chance to speak with Etta James," Beyonce told Access Hollywood at the time. "She's a living legend and I want her to love the movie, and I hope she does."



PHOTO: STAR

Artistes of Dhrupadaloke in the Tagore dance-drama "Chandalika."

Ekushey Book Fair begins in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A five-day Ekushey Book Fair began in Bhangura upazila, Pabna district last Friday. The organiser of the fair is Shachetan Shahitya Sanskritik Parishad, Bhangura. This is the largest book fair marking the month of Language Movement at the upazila level, said the sources.

The book fair was inaugurated on February 6. Vice president of the organisation, Mohammad Omar Faruk Rana chaired the inauguration programme. Lawmaker of Pabna-3 constituency, Mohammad Makbul Hossain, was the chief guest.

A cultural programme was a popular draw. Music, dance, puppet show and more attracted visitors. Earlier a colourful rally was brought out, which included political leaders, activists, teachers and journalists.

Etta James rips Beyonce for singing At Last



Etta James

It's a feud that spans a generation -- music legend Etta James has put modern superstar Beyonce on blast for singing her signature song, "At Last," at the Neighbourhood Inaugural Ball after Barack Obama's presidential inauguration.

"I can't stand Beyonce, she had no business up there singing... my song that I've been singing forever," James told a crowd at a concert in Seattle recently.

But it seems the feud is one-sided. Beyonce recently portrayed the older singer in the film "Cadillac Records," where she performed "At Last" among other songs, and the two had the chance to meet at the film's L.A. premiere, where Beyonce sang her predecessor's praises.

"I actually just got a chance to speak with Etta James," Beyonce told Access Hollywood at the time. "She's a living legend and I want her to love the movie, and I hope she does."

It's not the first time Beyonce has had a run-in with a soul icon. After she referred to Tina Turner as "the queen" at the 2008 Grammy Awards, Aretha Franklin -- long known as the Queen of Soul -- issued a statement that said, "I am not sure of whose toes I may have stepped on or whose ego I may have bruised between the Grammy writers and Beyonce... However, I dismissed it as a cheap shot for controversy."

As for "At Last" -- while it may be James' trademark tune, the track was first performed by Glenn Miller and his orchestra in 1941 and later by Nat King Cole in 1957. James debuted her version in 1961.

The writers of the song are Mack Gordon and Henry Warren, who penned a number of '40s hits, including "Chattanooga Choo-Choo" (the first gold record ever with sales of 1,200,000), "You'll Never Know" and "The More I See You," all number 1 singles.

Source: Internet



Beyonce Knowles as Etta James in "Cadillac Records."

Bidrohi Natya Goshthi to celebrate silver jubilee

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

On February 12, a three-day festival marking silver jubilee of Bidrohi Natya Goshthi will begin in Mymensingh town. The local Town Hall is the venue. The festival's slogan is "Drama Disperses Darkness."

Theatre is the main feature of the festival. Other features include discussions, musical soirees and dance performances by local artistes. The plays to be staged are "Barnamalar Chokhey," "Kakpakki" and "Allah Rakha" by Bidrohi Natya Goshthi; "Mora" by Mymensingh Udhchi; "Lalmon Chura" by Mokhush Natya Sangstha and "Daye Dayitto" by Bahurupi Natya Sangstha.

Eminent theatre artiste and organiser Shahadat Hossain Khan Hilu, also the convener of Mymensingh Theatre and presidium member of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTFF), will inaugurate the festival. Chairman of BGTFF and chief executive of Rtv, M Hamid, will speak at the inaugural ceremony as chief guest. Lion member Mizanur Rahman, president of Sangeet Bidyalay and advisor to Bidrohi Natya Goshthi, will be the special guest.