

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

4th National Dance Festival

Organiser: Bangladesh Dance Artists Association
Venue: Plaza, National Art Gallery, BSA
Date: April 23-29
Inauguration on April 23 at National Theatre Hall
Time: 6pm



Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Searching
Artist: Nusrat Jahan Nazlee
Venue: Radius Centre-Bay's Galleria, 5th Floor, 57, Gulshan Avenue
Date: April 17- May 1



Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Touching the Really
Artist: Golam Faruque
Venue: Shilpangan, H 26, Rd 3, Dhanmondi
Date: April 17-26
Time: 10am-8pm



Ghazal and Thumri Concert

Artist: Swani Zubayer
Organiser: High Commission of India
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, H35, R24, Gulshan-1
Date: April 24
Time: 7pm



Out of sight at times, but never out of mind

In conversation with Mitali Mukherjee



(From left) Mitali, Gulzar and Bhupinder Singh.

SYEDA SHAMIN MORTADA

She excels in showmanship and performs all songs -- classical or popular -- with equal panache. She may be living away from the country, but the gifted Mitali Mukherjee remains in the hearts of her admirers through her timeless songs and occasional performances here.

Mitali teamed up with famous singers and music directors of the subcontinent for several of her studio albums. She has many awards and accolades to her credit, including a National Award (in 1981) for the song "Ei duniya ekhon to aar shei duniya nai" from the movie "Dui Poishar Alta." The song took the music industry by storm; misty-eyed listeners continue to hum along.

Her first album, "Saahil" (released by HMV), became a gold disc. Subsequently, Mitali and renowned Indian artist Bhupinder Singh joined forces in many albums. For her latest album, "Chand Parosa Hai," she has collaborated with Oscar winning lyricist Gulzar. Mitali has sung in several languages, including Punjabi, Gujarati and Tamil. She received a triple disc for a song (from the Tamil blockbuster, "Dalpati") composed by renowned South Indian music direc-

tor Iliya Raja.

The sixth child of Amulya Kumar Mukherjee and Kalyani Mukherjee, Mitali was born in Mymensingh. Reminiscing on her childhood, the diva says, "I grew up in a culturally-oriented family. My elder brother was a professional tabla player. One of my sisters was a Kathak dancer and another sister was a very good singer. We are fortunate to have such great parents, who instilled in us a great love for music."

Mitali began her formal training in classical music at a tender age. Her parents were well versed in classical and Nazrul Sangeet and persuaded her to groom her voice. According to Mitali, "We were very involved with the Mukul Fauj. In fact, my first appearance on TV was as a member of Mukul Fauj. I rendered a Nazrul Sangeet; I was only six-years-old."

Mitali received a scholarship from the Indian Government when she was a college student. The scholarship was for the study of music at the Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda, in Gujarat. She sailed through her bachelor's with a gold medal. She went on to complete her master's as well. Meanwhile, during her holidays in Bangladesh, she used to perform on Bangladesh Television and Radio. Smilingly Mitali says,

"Those songs turned out to be chart toppers and till date are sung with much fervour."

Mitali tied the knot with ghazal singer Bhupinder Singh in 1983 and settled down in Mumbai. Talking about her ties with her homeland, she says, "I have a deep connection with my country. Whenever I come to visit Bangladesh I don't feel like leaving. The enthusiasm and love with which I am received here is simply amazing. Wherever or whenever I perform, I always start with a Nazrul Sangeet."

Discussing the difference between Bangladesh and India, she asserts, "This country has many talented artistes but they need greater exposure. We require high quality academies with excellent classical teachers who can guide and train aspiring artistes. Adequate support from the government and the corporate sectors can also play a great part. It is imperative that we provide an international platform to young talents so that they can perform globally."

Mitali has managed to take our culture beyond the borders; her serene voice and poignant performances continue to stir the hearts of many a fan.

The writer is a freelance contributor

Humayun Ahmed's Shubhro on Desh TV



Ayaz and Mamo in "Shubhro."

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Based on the mega-popular character created by Humayun Ahmed, drama serial "Shubhro" will be aired on Desh TV tonight at 9:30 pm. The play has been adapted by Noumi Kamrun Bidhu from Humayun Ahmed's novel, and directed by Mosharrif Khan Badol. Tonight the seventh episode of the serial will be aired.

The story: Though Shubhro, a talented young man, excels in academics, he is completely naive. His knowledge of the world is derived from the books he so avidly pores over.

Shubhro's father Motahar is a business magnate, while his mother, Jahanara is an overbearing housewife. Shubhro is the only binding factor between his parents, who shower him with love. However, this has turned him into a puppet who moves to the bidding of his parents. To escape reality, Shubhro goes inward into the world of his imagination.

And another factor that drives him to his inner world is his weak eyesight. The doctors say that he will be completely blind one day. However, the disillusioned Shubhro regards this possible handicap as an escape from the real world.

The cast includes Jayanto Chattopadhyay, Pijush Bandopadhyay, Dolly Zahur, Iresh Zaker, Salek Khan, Ayaz, Lara, Mamo, Oni and others.

Hugh Jackman cements his reputation

First he was People magazine's Sexiest Man Alive, then he hosted the Oscars -- but Wednesday, Hugh Jackman joined the ranks of Hollywood royalty by sinking his hands and feet into the cement in front of Grauman's Chinese Theatre.

"I have to tell you, this particular block of real estate has brought me two moments in my life I thought would never happen -- hosting the Oscars and now here today," he told the crowd. "It means the world to me to be here today."

The Australian heartthrob received the coveted Hollywood honour in advance of the release of his latest film, "X-Men Origins: Wolverine," which hits theatres May 1. The film is the third instalment in the popular "X-Men" franchise.

Jackman, 41, most recently appeared with Nicole Kidman in the epic saga "Australia."

His other film credits include "The Fountain," "The Prestige," "Swordfish," "Van Helsing" and Woody Allen's mystery/comedy "Scoop."

Jackman won a Tony Award in 2004 for his Broadway performance in "The Boy from Oz." He has also appeared in theatrical productions of "Carousel," "Oklahoma!," "Sunset Boulevard" and "Beauty and the Beast."

The actor said at the ceremony that he was grateful for the support of the fans who showed up to watch him be immortalised at the Grauman's forecourt.

"Honestly, without them, there's no putting your hands in cement," he said. "It's humbling what an honour it is, and the names that are here, to be even alongside of them is incredible."

Source: Internet



Single-episode play Ektu Darao on Channel 1

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Single-episode play "Ektu Darao" will be aired on Channel 1 tonight at 8:15 pm.

The play follows the life of Trina Rahman, a young working woman. Busy with her job, she hardly has the time to contemplate marriage, though her widowed mother wants her to tie the knot. Trina reluctantly gives her consent to an arranged marriage on the condition that she will meet the potential groom one-to-one. Thus she meets Riaz. They spend some time over a few days and develop feelings for each other. However, Trina hears some



Shojol and Tisha in a scene from the play.

unsavoury facts about Riaz that make her change her mind. Riaz doesn't want to let go. Written and directed by Kaushik Shankar Das, the play features Tisha and Shojol in the lead roles.

A boost to folk tradition

Five-day traditional fest inaugurated in Tangail



Highlights of the festival are traditional rural sports like 'lathi khela.'

PHOTO: STAR

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

A five-day "Loko Shangkritik Utshab" began in Tangail last Wednesday amidst much festivity and a traditional ambience.

Coronation Dramatic Club (CDC), Tangail organised the event on the occasion of the Bengali New Year 1416.

The festival was held at Shaheed Smriti Paura Udyan in the town with the objective of giving a boost to rural traditions. The Tangail district administration and Haji Abul Hossain Institute of Technology (HABHIT) assisted in organising the festival.

Jute and Textile Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui, the chief guest, inaugurated the festi-

val.

CDC President Abdur Rahman Montu presided over the inaugural function. Among others who attended the opening were Tangail deputy commissioner Maksudur Rahman Patwari; superintendent of Police Mizanur Rahman; private TV channel ATN Bangla's adviser Nawazish Ali Khan and CDC's former president Atoar

Rahman Khan.

On the inaugural day, 'lathial' Nuru Miah and his group performed a traditional 'lathi khela.' Students of Hatila and Taratia Government Primary Schools also participated in traditional rural sports such as 'golla chhut,' 'dariabandha,' 'bou chi' and 'guti khela.' A 'kabadi' match was held at the venue with the competing senior and junior former players of the National Kabadi team from Tangail. Moreover, an event featuring 'puthi path' and folk songs was also held at an open stage.

A large number of people turned up for all the events -- braving the blistering heat of summer.

Various events including discussions, 'shong jatra,' 'jari-shari-bhatial' songs and Bangla poetry recital are part of the festival. Aronyak Natya Dal, Dhaka will perform a street play "Khek Shiyal" on the third day of the festival.

Prominent theatre personalities Aly Zaker, Mamunur Rashid and Malay Bhownik along with Nurul Kabir are set to attend the festival, said the festival organisers.

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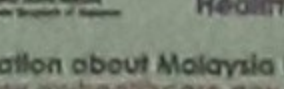
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