

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Photo Exhibition

Images of tourist sites of Moscow and St. Petersburg
Venue: Lobby, Russian Centre of Science & Culture, H 42, Rd 7, Dhanmondi
Date: September 1-30



Solo Crafts Exhibition

Artist: Mahmud-un-Nabi
Venue: Zainul Gallery-1, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU
Date: September 1-7
Time: 12-8pm



Iranian Film Screening

Film: Lella
Director: Dariush Mehrjui
Venue: Alamgir Kabir Film Centre, 62 Science Laboratory Road
Date: September 4
Time: 4pm



Film Show on Hena Das

Organiser: Ranesh Dasgupta Film Society
Venue: Maitree Auditorium, Mukti Bhaban, Purana Paltan
Date: September 4
Time: 3:30pm onwards



11th Art Festival

Anisul Islam Hero and his team represent Bangladesh in China



Artistes from Sri Lanka perform at the 11th Asian Art Festival held in Ordos, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on August 19, 2009.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Back from an exciting trip to the 11th Art Festival in China, dancer Anisul Islam Hero shared some of his experiences with The Daily Star.

The inauguration ceremony was just mind-blowing! The dazzling colours, the vibrant spirit, the cheering crowd of around one and a half lakh people: it was really something to watch! The stage was going up and down! Then there were fireworks! Everyone was given a national flower. We all received a warm welcome. In every corner there was a big screen monitor. All of us had separate tents. Everything was

just impeccable!"

"The Bangladeshi group included Chandni, Nisa, Snata, Munni, Tanin, Shohag, Sonjoy and myself. I went there as a dance director and a performer," Hero said.

"The 11th Art Festival had 18 participating countries from Asia. It continued from August 18 to 26. The opening ceremony was held in Ordos, in Inner Mongolia. After that the festival took place in seven other cities.

"It was exhausting as we had to come back to the hotel and pack up everyday, but it was also fun. Our guide was also very helpful.

"At the opening ceremony

(August 18), the first two countries to march with their flags were Afghanistan and Bangladesh. I felt proud to be a Bangladeshi at that moment, representing my country at an international stage. The Bangladeshi Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad and the director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Kamal Lohani were present at the programme. Chinese star performers sang at the show."

An interesting experience: "On the opening day it was raining heavily. All the grand arrangements would have been wasted, as it was an open-air event. But the



The Bangladeshi team; Anisul Islam Hero seen in the back (centre).

organisers somehow managed to go on with the show! The following day it was raining as well, but the thousands of people sat in that rain and cheered on!"

This was Hero's second visit to China. "We had a bit of trouble with food, as their cuisine is very different from what we're used to, but everyone was so hospitable there!

The locals warmly received us, wherever we went. Everything was organised to perfection. We did a lot of sight-seeing. At one point we had to actually request a shopkeeper to take money from us when we bought some things. Initially, he did not want to, as we were guests! All in all, it was a wonderful experience," said the dancer.

Kalottirno Sanglap: Mahbub Parvez's debut album of recitation

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Young recitor Mahbub Parvez's first solo album, "Kalottirno Sanglap," was released recently. The album was released under the banner of Kissa Kahini, and features a repertoire of poems by renowned poets -- from Rabindranath Tagore to Syed Shamsul Huq.

Recently in an interview with The Daily Star, Parvez talked about the album and his journey into the world of recitation.

The album includes well-known poems by celebrated poets from both side of the border. Poems featured in the album include Tagore's "Prithibi" and "Africa," Kazi Nazrul Islam's "Aguner Phulki Chhutey," "Shey" and "Tomakey Bhalobeshey" by Jibanananda Das, Syed Shamsul Huq's "Nurulud-er Sharajibon" and Al Mahmud's "Pratyabarton-er Lajja."

The title of the album derives from the essence of the poems featured in the album, according to Parvez. "Each poem in the album is well known and most of them have powerful messages," he said.

Parvez informed that he has been passionate about recitation from an early age. But he had to take hiatus from the recitation scene for a few years, as he had to focus on his academic pursuits. At present Parvez is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Business Administration, Daffodil International University.

Parvez's interest in continuing as a recitor had a major impact when he got involved



Mahbub Parvez

with the cultural organisation 'Swarit,' nearly a decade ago. He also worked for several years with the reputed organisation Bishwa Shahitya Kendra -- first as an apprentice reader, and later as a volunteer.

"Those magnificent times provided my foundation as a recitor and an individual," said Parvez. At Bishwa Shahitya Kendra, he came close to Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed, who helped him recognise the aesthetics within. Parvez is also thankful to veteran recitor Kamrul Hasan Manju and his organi-

sation 'Swarit,' though it is no longer functional.

Parvez has also been an avid theatre activist. He completed a workshop from the school run by the renowned troupe 'Theatre and worked for a couple of years as an activist under the Department of Production, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

At present Parvez is deeply involved with stage performance. He is also working on his second album, which is likely to be released around the next 'Pahela Baishakh.'

Salman vs Shah Rukh on the cricket field

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The on-screen rivalry between Bollywood's two super stars--Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan--could spill over to the cricket field if Salman's desire to own a team in the popular Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 competition is fulfilled.

Salman has expressed interest in buying a new team when the competition expands to a 10-team event in the year 2011 and even met IPL Chairman Lalit Modi in Mumbai on Wednesday.

Modi said Salman has, in fact, been in discussion with him for the last few months but a formal meeting took place only on Wednesday about his interest in bidding for the ownership of a new team when two more teams are added to the 2011 edition of the competition.

He said Salman was a "serious buyer" and wanted to know what it takes to own a team, what is process and what is the timeline for it.

Sources said the franchise for the two new teams in IPL in 2011 may cost more than US \$

200 million-300 million.

The eight teams in the inaugural edition of the IPL tournament in 2008 were bought for between US \$ 67 million dollars and 112 million when they went under the hammer prior to the competition.

If Salman does indeed own a team in IPL, it would further add to the silver screen glamour to the tournament where Shah Rukh and actress Juhi Chawla jointly own Kolkata Knight Riders team and Bollywood actresses Preity Zinta and Shilpa Shetty own Kings Eleven, Punjab, and Rajasthan Royals respectively.

According to Modi, more than 20 celebrities are interested in buying a team in IPL but he declined to name them.

The IPL Chairman acknowledged that the presence of film stars does add to the glitter of the tournament. "It does add to the spark", he said.

Cricket and Bollywood are among the biggest obsessions of Indian people and the association of the two in the two IPL tournaments so far has clearly been proved by the huge turnout of spectators.

The oldest film festival in the world begins

This is a challenging year for the Venice Film Festival, given that construction has now started on a brand new Palazzo del Cinema on the Lido, due to be completed in 2011, on the same site where the world's oldest filmfest has taken place since it began in the 1930s.

The organisers have taken advantage of the void created by the levelling of part of the area to erect a temporary additional screening space, which will more than triple the seating for the Venice Days and International Film Critics' Week sections. The latter sidebar category for first films turned up some of the most interesting movies last year, including Barmak Akram's "Kabuli Kid" and the veteran screenwriter and actor Gianni Di Gregorio's directorial debut at the age of 59, "Pranzo di Ferragosto" (Mid-August Lunch), which many festivalgoers were unable to see because of the limited capacity of the Sala Volpi in the old Palazzo del Cinema.

Marco Müller, in his sixth year as the festival's artistic director, has also increased the number of first and second works by putting 26 of them in the main categories of the event (which opened yesterday and continues until September 12). There will be 71 world premieres out of the 75 productions from 25 countries -- up seven from last year -- selected from the 2,519 full-length features viewed.

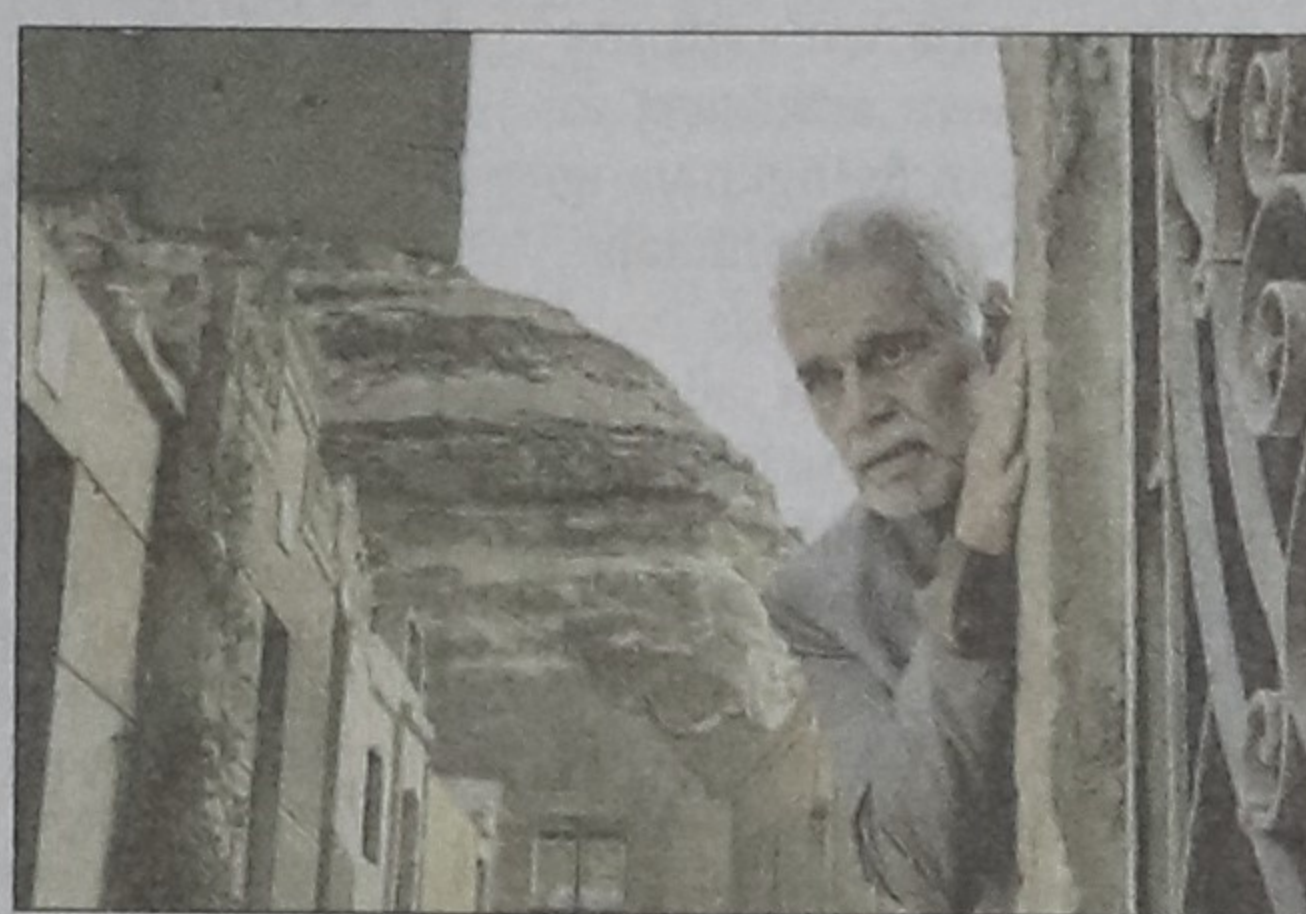
Müller's principal gamble this year has been to put so many Italian films in the core programs -- 22 of them, four in

competition.

For the first time in nearly two decades, an Italian film will open the Venice festival: Giuseppe Tornatore's in-competition "Baaria," a two-and-a-half-hour epic view of 20th-century Sicilian history set in the director's hometown, Bagheria (near Palermo), from whose name in local dialect the film takes its title. Tornatore won a best foreign film Oscar for his "Nuovo Cinema Paradiso" in 1988, and "Baaria," with its budget of \$21 million, or about \$30 million, is being described as the most expensive Italian movie ever made. The large cast includes several of the country's most popular actors, including Monica Bellucci, Raoul Bova, Michele Placido, Enrico Lo Verso and Gaetano Bruno.

Back in force on the Lido are U.S. productions, with 17 in the official categories, six of them in competition. The first to be screened will be John Hillcoat's "The Road," based on Cormac McCarthy's novel of a world following an apocalyptic disaster, with Charlize Theron and Viggo Mortensen. Other American films competing for the Golden Lion will be: Tom Ford's "A Single Man," Michael Moore's documentary "Capitalism: A Love Story," Todd Solondz's "Life During Wartime," George Romero's zombie movie "Survival of the Dead" and Werner Herzog's "Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans," starring Nicolas Cage and Eva Mendes.

Müller and his advisers seem to have developed an



The Omar Sharif starrer "Al Mosafer (The Traveler)," directed by Ahmed Maher, is representing Egypt at the festival.

aversion to British films. There were none in the main categories last year and there was only one this year, a four-minute short directed by Herzog, "La Bohème" -- featuring an aria from Puccini's opera but set against the backdrop of Ethiopia.

Aside from Romero's chiller "Survival of the Dead" in competition, Müller has given prominence to two other horror movies -- the Spanish Jaime Balagueró and Paco Plaza sequel "[REC] 2" and Joe Dante's "The Hole" -- in the out-of-competition list. Two American star vehicles are also to be screened in this section: Grant Heslov's "The Men Who Stare at Goats," a satire about a special unit of the U.S. military employing paranormal weapons against the enemy in Iraq, with George Clooney, Ewan McGregor, Jeff Bridges and Kevin Spacey; and Steven Soderbergh's "The Informant!" starring Matt Damon,

a dark comedy based on a real case of corporate skullduggery, price fixing and whistle-blowing in the agri-business.

France is represented by four films in competition -- with Jane Birkin appearing in Jacques Rivette's "36 vues de Pic Saint Loup" (Around a Small Mountain) and her daughter Charlotte Gainsbourg in Patrice Chéreau's "Persécution." The two German films on the list are both directed by filmmakers with roots in the Islamic world: "Soul Kitchen" by Fatih Akin, the Hamburg-born son of Turkish immigrants; and "Zanan bedoone mardan" (Women Without Men), the debut full-length feature by the Iranian-born video artist Shirin Neshat. The in-competition "Al Mosafer" (The Traveler), directed by Ahmed Maher, marks the return of Omar Sharif to Egyptian cinema. Another film from Egypt, Yousry Nasrallah's "Ehky ya

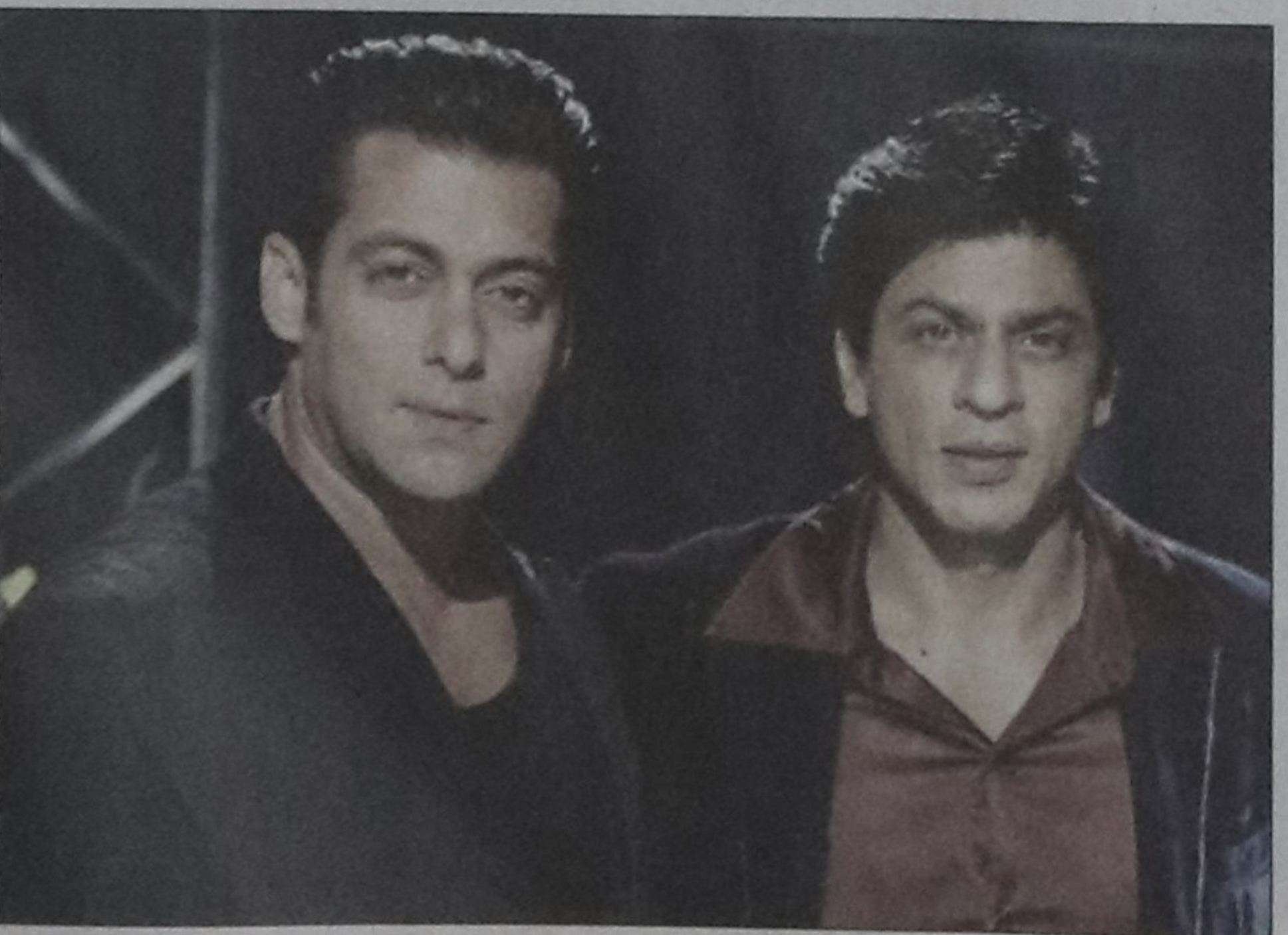
Shahrazad" (Scheherazade, Tell Me a Story), about a crusading woman TV journalist whose marriage is threatened by her pursuit of women's rights, will be one of the opening-out-of-competition films.

There are two Chinese-language productions in competition, while Austria, Israel, Japan and Sri Lanka each have a film vying for the prizes.

"Culture shock" was something Westerners visiting the Indian subcontinent used to talk much about, but Mehra Rakeysh Omprakash's "Delhi-6," set in that district of the Indian capital, is about the grandchild of Indian immigrants to the United States suffering similar sensations when he is plunged for the first time into the hurly-burly of his extended family and the life of the city. The film is one of four Indian productions to be screened, and one of three in the out-of-competition "Midnight" category, which also includes "Gulaal" and "Dev D," both directed by Anurag Kashyap.

Kashyap is a member of this year's Golden Lion jury, along with Dante (who has two films in other categories), the French actress Sandrine Bonnaire, the Russian filmmaker Sergei Vladimirovich Bodrov and the Italian directors Liliana Cavani and Luciano Ligabue. The president of the jury is Ang Lee, who won the top prize here in 2005 for "Brokeback Mountain" and in 2007 for "Lust, Caution."

Source: Internet



Salman with Shah Rukh