

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Jai Bangla
Artist: Shahabuddin
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: Sep 27-Oct 10
Time: 12-8pm



Film Screening
Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society
Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi
Date: September 15-16
Time: 3pm onwards
Sep 16: 'The Scarlet Flower' & 'The Blue Elephant'



Photography Exhibition
Title: Heritage Inspiration
Photographer: M. Shamsuzzaman
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: September 15-19
Time: 3-9pm



Iranian Film Festival
Film: The Circle
Director: Jafar Panahi
Venue: Alangir Kabir Film Centre, 62 Science Laboratory Road
Date: September 18
Time: 5pm



Loosening up on this festive occasion

Eid for Munmun and Tamanna



Munmun Ahmed



Tamanna Rahman

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Munmun Ahmed and Tamanna Rahman are two of the leading Bangladeshi classical dancers. The Daily Star talked to them to get an update on their Eid plans.

"Eid is such a festive day for all! I enjoy the day with my family and relatives -- my brothers, sisters, cousins and others," said Munmun, who enjoys chatting with loved ones, visiting them, receiving guests and having good food.

Tamanna, on the other hand, has different plans. She enjoys the day with her husband and her mother-in-law and gives them quality time. "Of course Eid means happiness and there is a lot of

exchange of greetings with friends and relatives. But my Eid is mainly centred around my mother-in-law who cooks a special meal this day. We all watch as she prepares delicious dishes one after another. Eid is a special excuse to spend a beautiful time with the people I love the most."

This Eid, Munmun will be going to Cox's Bazar with the whole family. "There will be two jeeps and we have booked a circuit house. There is also a cook but the other ladies and I have decided to cook for all of us. The kids are already excited and geared up. This year we have a lot more shopping for the trip than for Eid itself. We will be taking ludo, cards, etc. It's going to be fun!"

Tamanna Rahman will be busy on the remaining days of Eid in rehearsals for Durga Puja. "This is very unusual," said Tamanna. "But I am thrilled with the idea."

And of course the culture of *salami* goes on for these two artistes as well. "I meet my students and even on the second day of Eid, they will be coming with their big smiles and greetings and we would bestow them with a handsome *salami*," said Munmun. "I keep brand new notes of Tk 100, Tk 50, Tk 20, Tk 10 and even Tk 5 and Tk 2 for this special day. And as a tradition my students wait eagerly for *salami* from their guru," she said.

Gaanchil's Eid offerings

Seven albums released

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On this Eid, Gaanchil is here with a range of new offerings. On September 13, the music company released seven albums -- "Brishtir Raat" featuring Naquib Khan; "Premer Manush Ghumailley Chaiyya Thakey," a solo video CD of Kumar Biswajit; "Hawar Gari," a folk album by Rinku; "Bondhu Ailana" by 2006 'Close Up 1' winner Salma; "Ontohin" duet by Elita and Mahadi; "Ki Jala," Hridoy Khan's latest album featuring Panna and 'Ilshey Gurir Gaan' featuring the young singers from 'Channeli Khudey Gaan Raaj'.

"Brishtir Raat" is the second solo album by Naquib Khan. The album comes after a long hiatus of nearly 20 years. Naquib's first solo "Swapno Jorano" was released in 1989. Naquib has been actively involved in the music scenario throughout this time. So why such a long interval between the two solos?

Naquib's response: "Going solo is something which never actually crossed my mind. I've always been loyal to my band and focused on



Kumar Biswajit (centre), Naquib Khan and others with the young singers of 'Channeli Khudey Gaan Raaj' at the album launch.

releasing albums with my compadres. Because of constant requests from my family, friends and fans I decided to bring out another solo album."

Naquib's elder brother Ziloo Khan launched the album. "My brother is my music guru. It was him who introduced me to music," says Naquib. Lyrics for the album have been written by Asif Iqbal, Liton Adhikari, Rintu, Zulfiqar Russell and

others. The third track of the album "Amar mon-e holo" was written by the late Abdullah Al Mamun. The song also contains recitation by Asaduzzaman Noor.

The duet album "Ontohin" features Elita, vocalist of the band Raaga and Mahadi. The music arrangement has been done by upcoming composer Adit. The album contains 11 tracks -- "Hridoy," "Aaj ei akash," "Nijhum raat," "Neon-er alo," "Bhorer

Shisir," "Harano Akash," the title song "Antoheen" and so on.

"All the numbers in the album are soft and mellow except for the first track, 'Hridoy' which has a light touch of rock," says Adit.

"The music in the album is totally acoustic based," asserts Adit. Asaduzzaman Noor and Sara Zaker's effervescent recitation is an added attraction in the album.

Eid fashion, according to up & coming designers



Sharmin Lucky (right) and Kaniz Almas at the exhibition.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Thirteen up and coming designers, all students of Shahrul Shahid, displayed their Eid-special designs at Drik Gallery in Dhanmondi over the last weekend.

Titled 'Nabin Designers

Eid Fashion,' the inauguration of the exhibition was well attended by Kaniz Almas, CEO of Persona; designer Emdad Hoque; media personality Sharmin Lucky; singer Fahmida Nabi and designer Shahrul Shahid.

"I loved what I saw," said Fahmida.

"All of the designs are impressive," said Kaniz.

The participants are from the 11th batch taught by designer Shahrul Shahid.

"Towards the end of every batch, I usually make it a point to do a show," said Shahid. "I believe that at least 8 out of the 13 students will

take fashion designing professionally. In whatever time I get with them, I try my best to instill in them what I've learnt in 18 years," he added.

Eleven female and two male students attended the course and the exhibition featured 600 designs by them.

"All of us are from different backgrounds. But we share a common interest, that is designing," said Nazmun Nahar Shikha, one of the participating designers.

The exhibition highlighted local materials and fabrics. Designs included traditional and informal *fatua*, *panjabi*, *shalwar-kameez*, *saree* etc. All designs have that touch of festivity and have been crafted keeping the occasion of Eid in mind.

Among the designers, Habiba enjoys the *karchupi* works, whereas Zahin enjoys cutting and embroidery.

Nus Sanjida Zaman said, "Eid is all about bright colours and so the abundance of colours is noticeable at this display."

In Memoriam

Patrick Swayze (1952-2009): The ultimate romantic lead

Actor Patrick Swayze whose 20-month battle with advanced pancreatic cancer drew wide attention, died Monday. He was 57.

His publicist confirmed that Swayze died peacefully with family at his side.

Patrick Swayze did action movies and historical drama. But he will be best remembered for being the leading man in two enormously popular romantic fantasies: one where he was the first-love fantasy, and one where he was the perfect-martyr fantasy.

His huge success as a

romantic hero came after an early flirtation with pure Brat Pack success: his first major exposure came in "The Outsiders," followed by "Red Dawn" and "Youngblood."

Then, in 1985, in the first sign of what was to come, he played a gallant, romantic southerner in the miniseries "North And South." It set the table for the very big year he was about to have.

And the reason he moved up from supporting player to giant star really comes from his ability to convincingly play down his powerfully athletic physicality and be, for

lack of a better phrase, a little soft. Swayze was good-looking, of course, he had a dancer's body and not just one built strictly in the gym. But he wasn't quite as delicately pretty as a lot of similarly positioned stars. Eyes maybe a tiny bit too small, kind of a square head...

At the time Swayze made "Dirty Dancing" in 1987, the model for crush-worthy young actors was Tom Cruise -- after all, "Dirty Dancing" came out the year after "Top Gun." But Swayze didn't quite have Cruise's toothy, ingratiating brand of smoothness. His presence was a little quieter and it was much, much more vulnerable.

That's what made him the perfect guy for a coming of age story like "Dirty Dancing." A lot of actors would have seemed sort of creepy in the role of Johnny Castle, who's a little older and more experienced than Baby.

But instead of appearing in any way predatory, Swayze came off as lonely and a little sad -- the perfect adolescent image of the apparently dangerous bad boy who really does have a heart of gold.

There's a reason "Nobody puts Baby in a corner" became an iconic line: it combines someone loving you, someone insisting upon your freedom, and someone defending you from your parents -- what could be dreamier?

He navigated some potentially tough waters in

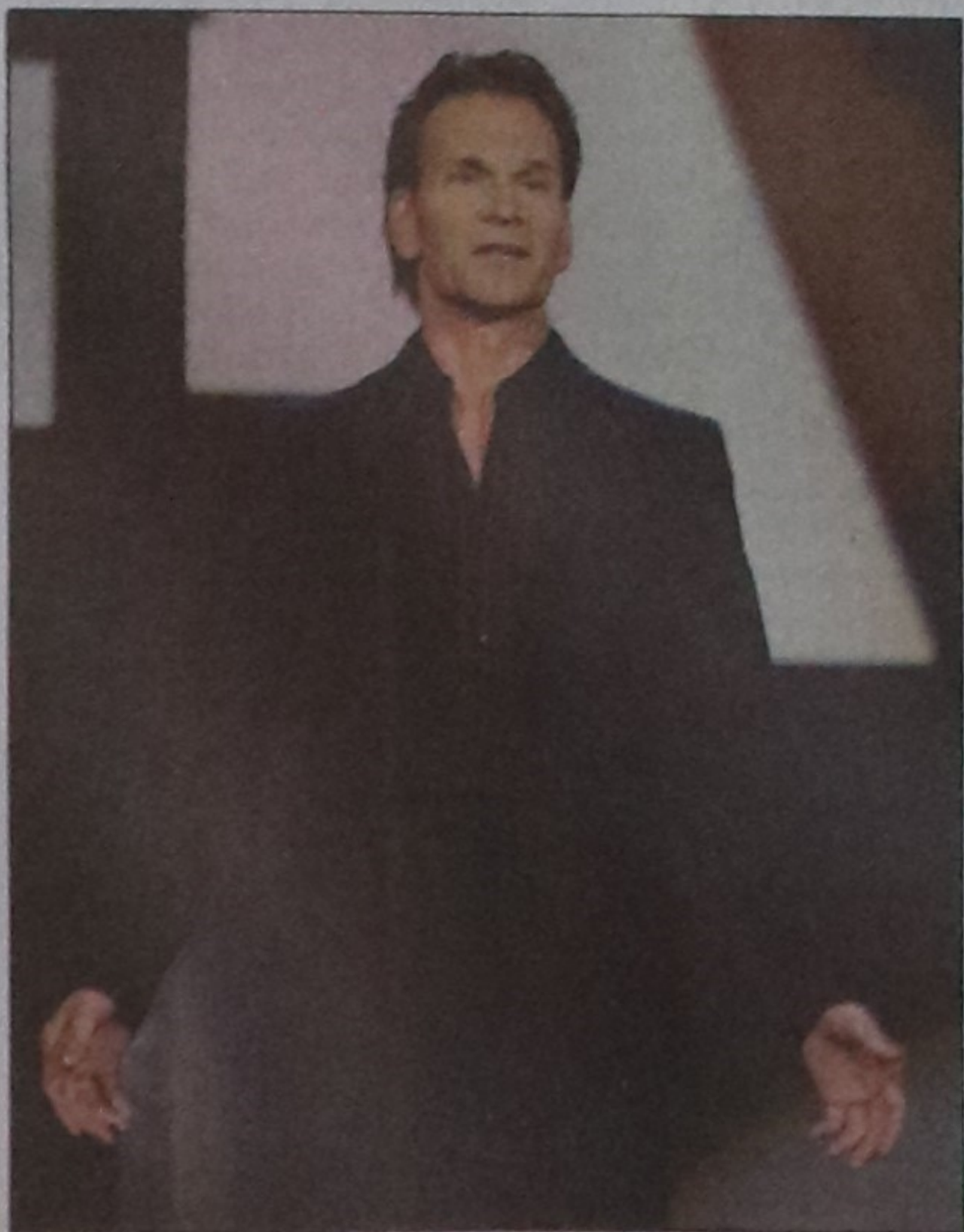
"Ghost," too: playing a literal avenging angel is not for amateurs. The schlock in that movie is cranked up to at least 10, and that's just in the first act. The music, the potter's wheel, the big emoting -- by the time he's vanishing in a field of little gobs of white light, the movie has hit a level of earnestness that's almost impossible to maintain. The only way through that kind of story is to commit, and that's how Swayze made that movie work. Maybe not for taking seriously, but for enjoying, as many people did.

Once again, "Ghost" is a fantasy -- about the guy who loves you so much he would defy the limitations of mortality to keep you from getting hurt. It's a different kind of ideal, but it's an ideal nonetheless. In the end, it added up to \$217 million -- a remarkable and rarely repeated box-office haul for a romantic melodrama.

There's also some nice comedic back-and-forth with Whoopi Goldberg in that movie -- showing a game willingness to play around that he repeated in "To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything, Julie Newmar."

Swayze had done many movies but the ones people are still going to be watching, even many years from now, are those two lovely romantic fantasies, perfectly executed.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent



Sir Elton John too old to adopt

Sir Elton John won't be able to adopt a 14-month-old HIV-positive child from Ukraine because the pop star is too old and is not married, a Ukrainian minister has said.

The star, 62, said on Saturday that he hoped to adopt a boy, named Lev, whom he met while visiting an orphanage.

But government minister Yuriy Pavlenko told the Associated Press that the age difference between an adoptive parent and a child must be 45 years or less.

Sir Elton's civil partnership with David Furnish would not be recognised as a marriage in Ukraine, he added.

"The law is the same for everybody -- for a president, for a minister, and even for Elton John."

However, the BBC's Gabriel Gatehouse in Kiev says the question of whether Sir Elton's civil partnership can be recognised in Ukraine could still depend partly on politics.

Ukraine is entering election



Singer Elton John kisses baby Lev during a news conference at an orphanage for HIV-positive children in the town of Makeyevka, Ukraine on September 12.

season and the issue of foreign adoptions is a sensitive one, he says.

On Saturday, Sir Elton said at a press conference in Ukraine that the boy -- whom he met at an orphanage for children whose lives had been affected by HIV/AIDS -- had "stolen my heart."

He and partner Furnish, 46, had always "talked about adoption," he said.

"David always wanted to adopt a child and I always said 'no' because I am 62 and I think because of the travelling I do and the life I have, maybe it wouldn't be fair for the child."

"But having seen Lev today, I would love to adopt him. I don't know how we do that but he has stolen my heart."

Sir Elton and filmmaker Furnish toured the orphanage as part of the singer's work with the Elton John AIDS Foundation.

Source: BBC