

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

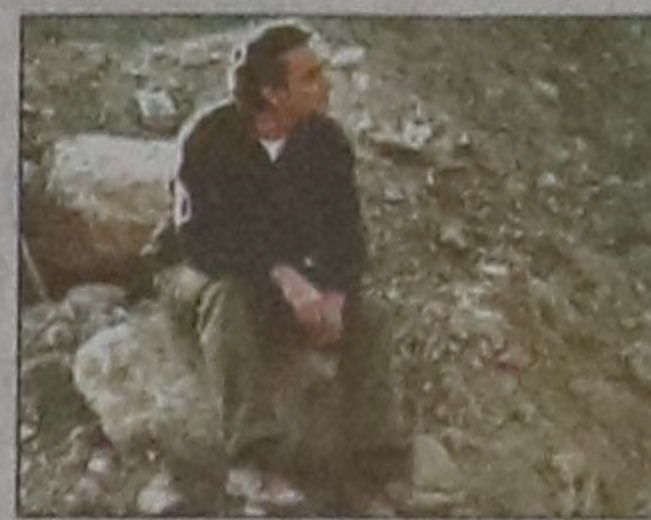
Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Jai Bangla
Artist: Shahabuddin
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: Sep 27-Oct 10
Time: 12-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Kantha Kahini
Artist: Fahmida Akhtar Kakoli
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: Oct 1-14



Iranian Film Festival
Film: Taste of Cherry
Director: Abbas Kiarostami
Venue: Alamgir Kabir Film Centre, 62 Science Laboratory Road
Date: September 25
Time: 5pm



Film Screening
Film: Though Fire, Water and... Brass Pipes
Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi
Date: September 26
Time: 5pm



Rhyme and reason

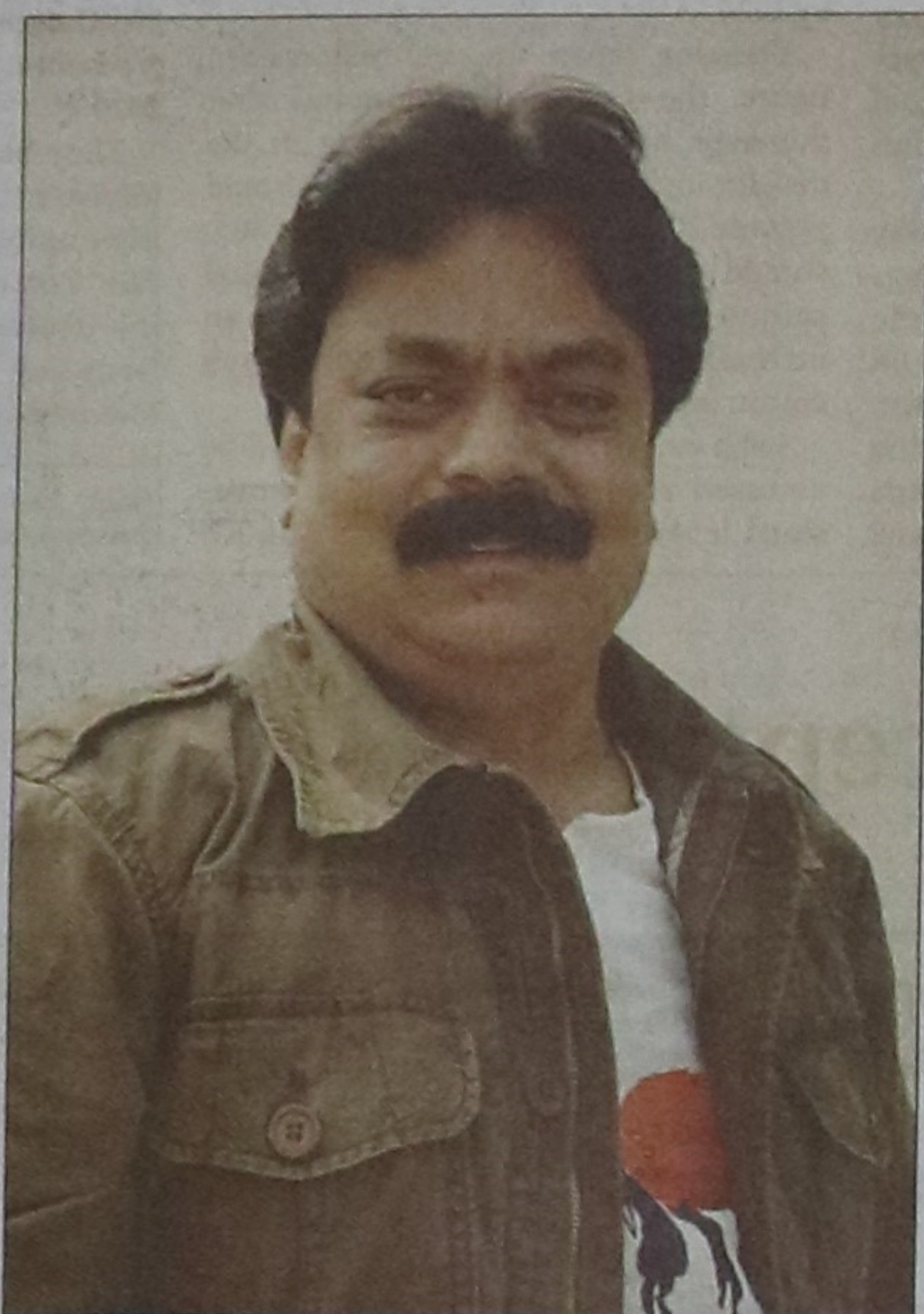
In conversation with Lutfor Rahman Riton

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Lutfor Rahman Riton is one of the leading rhymesters of the country and has been writing over the last three decades. Though his main interest lies in rhymes, he is also immersed in writing lyrics, stories and novels. So far, over 80 books featuring rhymes, stories and novels by the author have been published. Recently in an interview with *The Daily Star*, Riton talked about his career as a rhymester.

Like many of his contemporaries, Riton began his journey into the world of creative writing under the aegis of Rokonzaman Khan aka 'Dadabhai'. Dadabhai published Riton's first rhyme in "Kochi Kanchar Ashor," back in 1972.

Riton reveals that it was not his initial aim to become a rhymester; rather he wanted to be a painter. "I had



Lutfor Rahman Riton

a cherished dream since my early days to be a painter. But somehow that didn't happen and I got into writing instead," says Riton.

Riton has been abroad these last few years. He returned to Bangladesh recently. Though he was absent physically from the cultural scenario of Bangladesh, he never stopped writing during this period. Since he left the country in 2001, he has lived in USA, Canada and Japan, and has been writing for various Bangladeshi newspapers and journals.

A couple of books by Riton were launched at the 'Amar Ekushey' book fair last year. He also received the Bangla Academy Award in Children's Literature in 2008 for his significant contribution to the genre.

Riton plans to stay in the country from now on and will concentrate on his writing.

One of Riton's most well known works is "Keu keu abiram chupi chupi" -- title

song of the popular entertainment show "Ityadi." Riton also wrote the script for the character 'Falani,' for which Ishita -- then a child actor -- won a gold medal at the national talent hunt "Natun Kuri."

Riton started writing for adolescents and young readers in the early 1980s. His first book for adolescents was published in 1984. So far, he has written three books of rhymes for youngsters.

Riton finds that younger Bangladeshis are quite interested in rhymes. He says, "Alongside veterans, young people are doing well, especially when they are writing about the contemporary aspects. This is encouraging."

Riton thinks that though rhymes are mainly for children, adults can also appreciate this genre. Riton intends to continue his journey as a rhymester till his last breath.

Jobbor Ali returns to TV

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, a new episode of Amjad Hossain's popular "Jobbor Ali" series will be aired on Banglavisión. The play titled "Chandabaz Jobbor Ali" will be aired this evening at 8:10pm.

This episode shows how Jobbor Ali learns the ropes of extortion. Jobbor Ali's grandson Bitil Ali gets beaten by a mob after he is caught red-handed while trying to extort someone. Bitil takes shelter at Jobbor's residence. Jobbor starts learning the techniques of extortion from Bitil.

But things don't work out as usual. One day while extorting, law enforcers arrest Jobbor's whole family and send them to



Amjad Hossain (centre) reprises his role as Jobbor Ali.

jail. As always, Jobbor spends Eid behind bars.

Amjad Hossain plays the protagonist. Other central

characters have been played by Chitrakha Guha, Sohel Arman, Tele Samad, Farid Ali, Shanu and Afzal Sharif.

Musical show featuring Nachiketa on Desh TV



Nachiketa.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

This evening, on the fifth day of Eid-ul-Fitr, a musical programme titled "Swapno Dekhey Mon" will be aired on Desh TV at 7:30pm. The programme will feature solo performance by popular Kolkata-based singer Nachiketa.

Bangladeshi music enthusiasts are familiar with Nachiketa's 'jiban-mukhi' songs. Some of his well-known songs are: "Nilanjana," "Swapno dekhay mon," "Bridhashram" etc.

The show features the singer rendering some of his hit numbers. Mushfiq Kallol is the producer of the programme.

Julia Roberts shooting new film in India



Julia Roberts visits the Taj Mahal.

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The word is out despite attempts to keep a veil of secrecy around it. Oscar-winning Hollywood actress Julia Roberts is now in India to shoot for her next film "Eat, Pray and Love".

The 41-year-old actress, along with her three children and the entire entourage of the film are now in India.

Roberts has been joined by other members of the cast of the film, being directed by Ryan Murphy.

The story of the film, to be released next year, revolves round a divorced woman who eats in Italy, prays in India and loves in Indonesia. The shooting in Italy is already over.

The last time Roberts, who won the Academy Award for her role in "Erin Brockovich" in 2001, was in India she, was accompanied by her husband Danny Moder when the couple had visited the 17th century white marble ode to love -- the Taj Mahal in Agra.

Although the itinerary of the actress, who became film buffs' craze for her role in romantic movies like "My Best Friend's Wedding," "Pretty Woman," "Noting Hill," "Runaway Bride," as also crime thrillers like "Ocean's Eleven" and "Ocean's Twelve," was kept a closely-guarded secret, some members of the Indian paparazzi managed to click her pictures with her children at the airport.

It was not immediately clear whether Roberts, like other Hollywood celebs, will mix business with sight-seeing during her stay in India till first week of October for the shoot of "Eat, Pray, Love".

"Eat, Pray, Love," a Brad Pitt production, also features Oscar winner Javier Bardem, Billy Crudup and Richard Jenkins.

Some of the Indians who were part of the crew

of multiple Oscar-winning "Slumdog Millionaire" will also chip in for the shoot of "Eat, Pray, Love" during its shoot in India.

The main shooting is likely to be in and around the Pataudi Palace, belonging to the erstwhile prince of Pataudi and ex-Indian cricketer Mansur Ali Khan, which has been converted into a heritage hotel.

Among other locales will be a hermitage at Pataudi not far from a highway connecting Delhi with Jaipur.

"Eat, Pray, Love" is the latest manifestation of India being a popular destination for film shoot. In fact, more than 90 foreign film productions have been cleared for shooting in different locations across India over the last three years.

Permission was granted to 22 foreign film productions in 2006, 27 each in 2007 and 2008 and 17 already this year. Of these, 33 productions are of UK based organisations, 17 of US origin. The other productions relate to Bangladesh, France, Canada, Netherlands, Germany, Japan, Russia, Georgia, Italy, Israel and Pakistan among others, said an official statement.

Goa, Jaipur, Ludhiana (an industrial town in Punjab state), Pune, Panchmarhi (a hill station), Mumbai and nearby Thane and Versova, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad are some of the preferred locations for foreign film shoots in India.

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has streamlined the procedure for granting requisite permissions for shooting in India. The permission process normally takes not more than three weeks. The production houses are required to apply for permission of feature films/tele-films in India to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting with details of their chosen locations and the script of the production.

Global premieres for Jackson film

The Michael Jackson film, "This Is It," is to have simultaneous premieres in more than 15 cities around the world.

Cities hosting the premieres on October 27 and 28 include Los Angeles, London, New York, Berlin, Seoul and Rio de Janeiro, Sony Pictures said.

The movie is based on more than 100 hours of footage from rehearsals for the 50 London shows Jackson had planned to do. Jackson died in June aged 50.

Hollywood films often hold premieres at different locations around the world but rarely at the same time.

"Michael Jackson has an army of fans everywhere around the world... we are



Jackson's last rehearsal was in Los Angeles two days before he died.

giving the audiences an incredible opportunity to join together in celebration of Michael Jackson's incredible career," said Jeff Blake, chairman of worldwide marketing and distribution for Sony Pictures.

The Los Angeles premiere will take place on the evening of October 27, while the London event will happen after midnight local time on October 28.

In total, more than 25 cities will host premieres but not all will take place at the same time -- they include Moscow, Tokyo, Sydney and Paris.

"This Is It," directed by Kenny Ortega -- the choreographer of Jackson's

planned shows at London's O2 arena -- offers a behind-the-scenes look at preparations.

The content is drawn from footage shot in Los Angeles between March and June.

The film will go on general release in cinemas on October 28 for just a two-week run.

The \$60 million movie deal was made between Jackson's estate and concert promoter AEG Live and Sony Pictures.

The singer died after suffering a cardiac arrest on June 25, weeks before he was to have started the concerts.

Source: Internet

Workshop on Gazir Pala in Jhenidah

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

A 15-day workshop on 'Gazir Pala' -- dramatisation of the myth of Gazi, Kalu and Champabati -- was held recently at the Jhenidah Red Crescent Auditorium. Ankur Natya Academy, a reputed local cultural group, took the initiative of organising the workshop.

Cultural personality Narayan Chandra Nandi was present as the chief guest while Md. Rakib Hasan and Md. Kawsar Ahmed were present as special guests at the event.

The workshop was well attended by local cultural personalities. Of them, Abdus Shahid Mitu, trainer of the workshop, spoke at the programme chaired by



PHOTO: STAR

Trainees at the workshop rehearse for 'Gazir Pala'.

Hafizur Rahman.

Mitu said that cultural heritage is our identity and the young of the country need to be introduced to the various indigenous art forms.

Nazim Uddin Julius, direc-

tor of Ankur Natya academy, said that 25 trainees took part in the workshop. He also added that 'Gazir Pala' would be staged at the Jhenidah district Shilpakala Academy on September 27.

Barbie and He-Man get dolled up for big screen

She's a 50-year-old plastic fashion icon, and he's a loincloth-wearing prince with a pageboy and a Power Sword.

And now Barbie and He-Man are going to the movies! (But not together -- that Ken can be so possessive.)

The two Mattel toys are going to be developed into movies, reports Variety.

Universal won the moulded plastic heart of Barbie, while Sony will own the thrill of the promotional catchphrase "By the power of Grayskull, I have the power!" as it unleashes He-



Barbie in her Heidi Klum incarnation.

Man and the Masters of the Universe on the moviegoing public.

Unlike more offbeat doll-related films such as Steven Soderbergh's "Bubble" or "Lars and the Real Girl," these sound more like mainstream adaptations in the "G.I. Joe" vein.

Hardly out-of-the-box thinking. Then again, taking the doll out of the box just lowers its value, so maybe it's for the best.

Source: Internet