

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Photography Exhibition
 Title: "Amar Bangla"
 Photographer: Naib Uddin Ahmed
 Venue: National Museum Auditorium
 Date: November 7-13
 Time: 9:30am-8:30pm



Photography Exhibition
 Title: Biponjoto Paribesh
 Baponno Manobjati
 Organiser: Photo Shamabadi Bohumukhi
 Venue: National Press Club Auditorium
 Date: November 9-11
 Time: 11am onwards



Painting Exhibition
 Title: Faces of Buddha: An Expression of early medieval spirit
 Organiser: IUB Art Club
 Venue: Art and Aesthetics Gallery, 90 Park Road, Bandhara, Dhaka
 Date: October 28-November 11



Solo Painting Exhibition
 Artist: Mustapha Khalid Palash
 Venue: Asiatic Art Gallery, Nimtoli, Ramna
 Date: October 23-November 22
 Time: 10am-8pm



A stepping-stone for undiscovered talents

Finale of 'Celebrating Life 2009' underway



Chief of Chakma Circle Raja Devasish Roy and Samina Chowdhury at a cultural programme held in Rangamati earlier this year to generate more interest in the nationwide contest.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT
 "Celebrating Life" -- the composite competition providing a platform for upcoming filmmakers, photographers and lyricists -- is all set for this year's finale. The nationwide talent hunt was initiated last year.

Arranged jointly by The Daily Star and Standard Chartered Bank, "Celebrating Life" is a welcome step forward to encourage undiscovered talents in the country. It is noteworthy that this is the first contest of its kind on such a large scale in the country.

The finale of this year's competition will be held towards the end of this month, informed the organisers.

This year, the theme of the talent hunt is 'Celebrating Womanhood' as the organisers are strong adherents of

women's empowerment in the country. This year's finale will unveil twenty-six awards in three categories -- film, lyrics and photography. Of these, four awards

will go to the film section, ten to lyrics and twelve to the photography section.

On behalf of the organisers of the competition, Rafi Hossain asserted that the

response -- in all three categories -- is as good as last year, though the submission in the film section is a little disappointing. "We expected more entries in the



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film category," he said.

However, Hossain also affirms that they will put in greater effort to encourage more people to make films. As per the commitment, the organisers will arrange a film workshop after the competition, to be conducted by renowned filmmakers.

This year 100 entries were received in the film segment, over 2,500 in the photography segment and over 3,000 in both Bangla and English lyrics. A jury board, containing renowned personalities from the respective fields, is evaluating the entries.

Like last year, renowned artistes including Runa Laila, Shahnaz Rahmatullah, Kumar Biswajit, Samina Chowdhury, Fahmida Nabi and Subir Nandi are to feature in an album containing this year's award winning lyrics.

The organisers also plan to publish a book of photography, containing award-winning images.

Last year, after the competition, the organisers arranged cultural programmes in several districts to popularise the event and connect with more people. Hossain pointed out that this year they will arrange more elaborate programmes across the country.

Last year, Shibu Kumar Shil won the Best Documentary Award. Selim Newaj Bhuiyan won the Best Photograph Award, while Chandra Chowdhury and Tanveer Ahmed Tomal won the Best Award for Bangla and English lyrics respectively.

Channel i, abc radio, weekly 2000, Zaheen Music and Dots and Marks are the media partners of this year's event.

Ekbar Mugdho Hotey Chai Aupi in four avatars



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Talented actor Aupi Karim will soon be seen in four different characters in a single-episode play. The play titled "Ekbar Mugdho Hotey Chai" will be aired during this Eid-ul-Azha. Written and directed by Shamim Shahed, the play also features seasoned actor Aly Zaker as the protagonist.

"The story seemed interesting to me. The play and the characters are quite unique," said Aupi about the project. "When the director informed me about the play and after reading the script, I decided to take the chance," she added.

About her co-actor Aly Zaker, Aupi said, "I look up to Aly Zaker as a role model. It's been a privilege to get an opportunity to work with him."

The story of the play follows a librarian,

enacted by Zaker. Everyday at work, a girl -- taking appearances of famed literary characters -- appear to the librarian. Sometimes she appears as Charulata from Rabindranath's "Nashto Neer", and at others she comes as Thakurji from Tara Shankar's "Kobi" and Rina Brown from the novel "Shaptapadi."

"The latter part of the story is more interesting," said Zaker. "One day when the girl stops appearing to him, the librarian decides to find her. Coincidentally, he comes across a different girl who looks like her."

"This play is one of the most interesting ones I've done this year," said the actor.

"Ekbar Mugdho Hotey Chai" has been produced under the banner of Raat Productions. Apart from Aly Zaker and Aupi Karim, the play features Shirin Bakul, Tanvir Hossain Prabal, Fakhruzzaman Chowdhury, Swarna and Mukul Siraj.



A weeklong workshop on "Stage Management" was recently organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) in association with Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT). Two renowned Norwegian stage managers -- Knut Borresen and Pelle Gustavsen -- conducted the workshop. The workshop, held from November 3 to 9 at the BSA premises, was attended by 21 theatre activists. Kamal Lohani, director general of BSA, handed over the certificates to the participants. President of CAT, Professor Abdul Mannan and Sara Ara Mahmud, director of Drama Department, BSA, among others, were present at the programme.

Posthumous honour for three artistes in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

'Shangskritik Shilpi Shohayota Shangstha', Pabna honoured three late artists who had played vital roles in the cultural arena of the district. The organisation held a programme at Pabna Town Hall premises on the occasion.

Artists honoured at the programme were the late Baul MA Gafur; cultural activist and also the founder of Shammilito Shangskritik Jote, Pabna, late Abu Zafar Md. Mohsin and the late classical singer Ustad Baruneshwar Saha. The event included a discussion and cultural programme.

President of Shangskritik Shilpi Shohayota Shangstha, Pabna, Mahbulul Alam Mukul chaired the programme. Pabna Deputy Commissioner Dr. AFM Monjur Kader handed the crests to the family members of the deceased artistes. Among others, Assistant Police Superintendent (ASP), Pabna, Nizam Uddin; Pabna Sadar upazila vice chairman Samsun Nahar Rekha; cultural activists Abdul Aziz, Ganesh Das and Ashraf Hossain Rabi spoke on the occasion. Speakers focused on the cultural heritage of the district.

Several prominent figures from Pabna have played major roles in the national cultural

arena. Poet Bonde Ali, singer MA Gafur and others from the district are widely known throughout the nation. But it is unfortunate that not all of these personalities have been properly honoured, speakers were of the view.

Mentioning the great contribution of the noted cultural activists, speakers also urged all to restore the local heritage. They also called for providing patronage and encouraging talented young artistes of the region.

Baul MA Gafur was a prominent artiste of the region. He was killed by the Pakistani army during the Liberation War. Speakers on the occasion demanded to include Gafur in the Liberation War memorial in Pabna.

Ustad Baruneshwar Saha was one of the noted classical artistes of the area. He had trained several artistes of the district who had gone on to earn national acclaim.

Abu Zafar Md. Mohsin is also an important name in the cultural arena of the district. He formed Shammilito Shangskritik Jote.

Later artistes of the district performed at a cultural programme held at the venue. Pradip Kumar Das, Abul Kashem, Abdul Malek Sarkar, Nasima Ashraf, Proloy Chaki, Rita Ghosh and Sharmin Islam Tithi performed at the programme.

Michael Bublé and his "crazy love" for music

Michael Bublé recently received a cassette tape of his first performance ever, but it didn't bring back pleasant memories.

"I was absolutely terrible. I didn't know how to get in and out of the song," the 34-year-old said embarrassingly of a performance when he was 16. "At that point I didn't understand the form of a song. So wrong, so terrible."

But even though he went through an awkward stage as a performer, he was convinced that singing was in his future.

His faith paid off. His first three CDs have gone gold, platinum and triple-platinum, and his newest one, "Crazy Love," recently debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's Top 200 albums chart.

In a recent interview, Bublé talked about his approach to music and his new album, which finds the Canadian-born singer covering songs by Van Morrison, Ron Sexsmith and the Eagles.

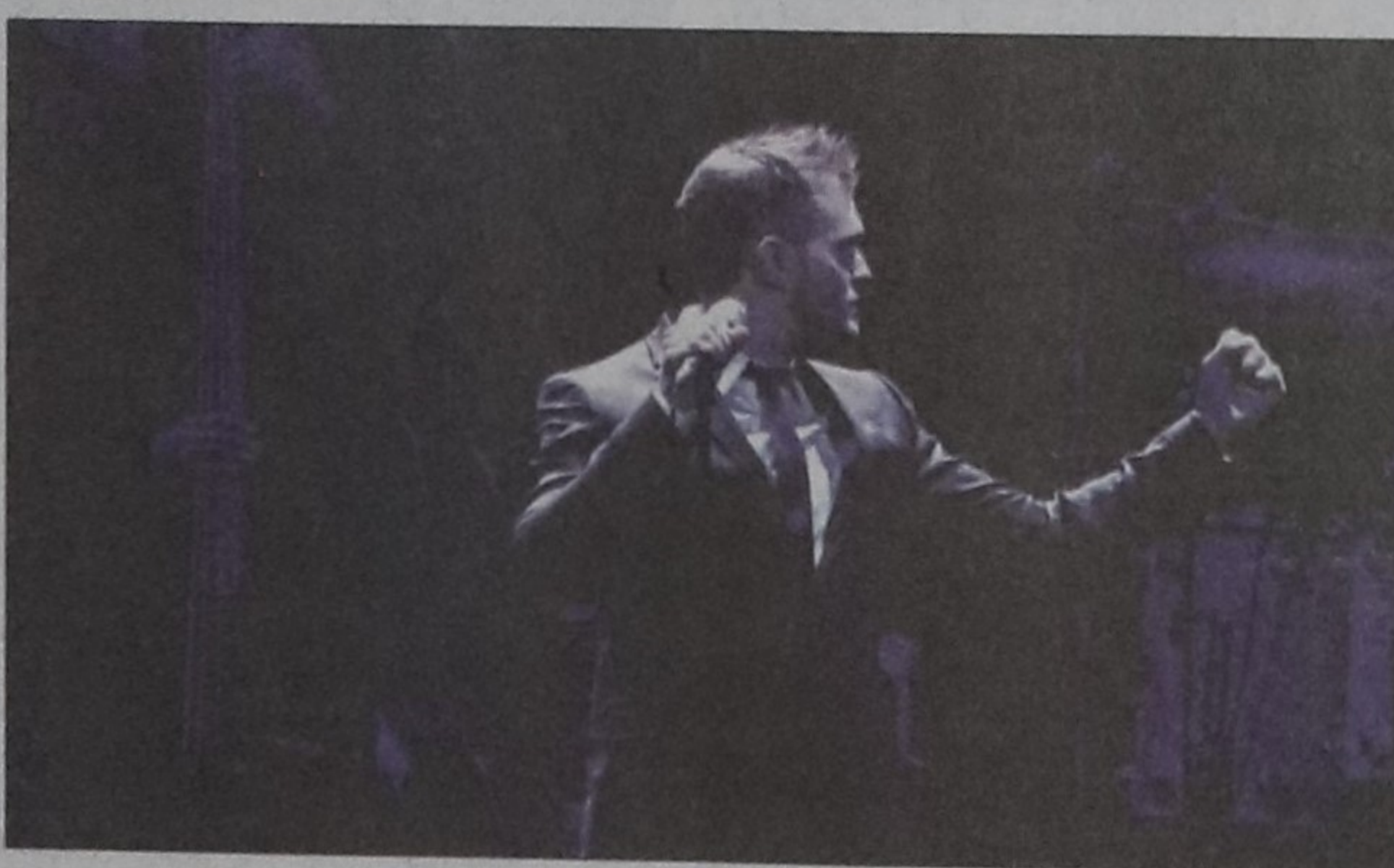
You're covering old school songs in this digital era of the music industry. How did

technology play a role in the recording process?

Bublé: I tried to make it very organic, to record off the floor, to mic it in a way you could really capture the essence of what I do live... Of course we used machines and Pro Tools, and there were parts of it where I tuned my voice up and all that stuff. I mean, I'm going to take advantage as much as I can, of course, of technology as much as we could. (But) we tried to make this record feel good as opposed to sounding good, and for me, that's a huge step forward personally.

Do you find covering songs easier or harder to do compared to creating your own music?

Bublé: It's far more difficult for me to cover a song because you can compare that song with another 400, iconic artistes who have recorded it. So it's my job to take it to a different place. And as an interpreter, I take it really seriously. When I'm remaking a song, I'm aware that I'm not here to sing the



Michael Bublé

song better than Frank (Sinatra) or I cover Van Morrison or I cover the Eagles, my job isn't to sing it better, my job is to make it my own.

What's the message you're trying to send with the new CD?

Bublé: I think the message is that all of us can relate to this feeling, this emotion called love and it's a complicated feeling. It

doesn't just come with butterflies in the stomach and happiness and sunshine and lollipops, it comes with heartache and jealousy and sometimes rage and sometimes insecurity and sadness and regret. It's a beautiful, complicated, and really special feeling that keeps us all connected.

Bublé plans to give his fans another dose of "Crazy Love"

in 2010. The singer told Billboard.com that he will reissue the album with some tracks left over from the recording sessions. Among them will be "Hollywood Dead," which will be the third single from "Crazy Love" after "Have I Met You" and "Hold On."

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

Begumganj Jubo Kolyan Shamiti recently arranged a cultural programme at Shegunbagicha School premises to mark its 16th anniversary. Popular and upcoming singers including Monir Khan, Jhilik, Rajib and Hasan performed at the programme. The event also featured a dance performance and rendition of songs by local artistes of Begumganj.

