

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Art Exhibition

Painter: Zahura Sultana Hossain
Title: Contemplation
Venue: Bay's Galleria, Radius Centre, Gulshan-2
Date: December 11-January 27
Time: 10am-8pm



Mudhu Mela 2010

Title: 186th Birth Anniversary of Madhushudan Dutt
Organiser: District Administration, Jessor & Banglalink
Venue: Sagordari, Jessor
Date: January 22-28
Time: 3:30pm onwards



3rd Int'l Children Film Festival

Organiser: Children Film Society Bangladesh
Venue: Public Library premises (the main venue)
Date: January 23-29
Time: 11am onwards



Musical Soiree

Title: Praner Khela
Artists: Farida Parveen and Gazi Abdul Hakim
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: January 28
Time: 7:30pm



Delving into musical roots

Folk Music Festival 2010 opens at Shilpakala Academy

A CORRESPONDENT
Department of Music and Dance of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) has arranged the week-long Folk Music Festival 2010 at the academy premises. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Advocate Promode Mankin formally inaugurated the festival yesterday as the chief guest. Director general of BSA Kamal Lohani along with director of Music and Dance Department, BSA Mahmud Selim were present on the occasion.

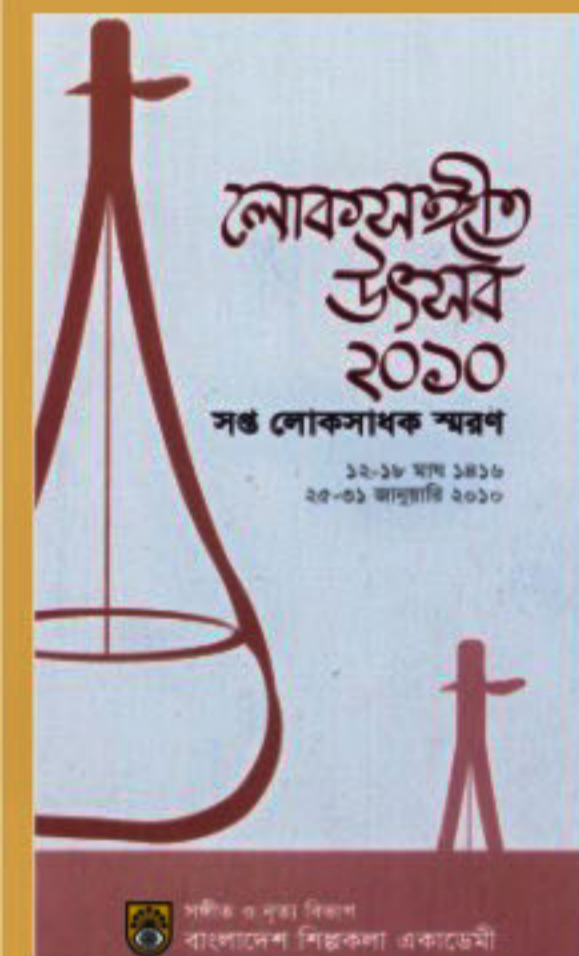
Each day's programme at the festival features a discussion on the life and works of a legendary folk musician or bard, followed by renditions of his compositions. The programmes also include dance.

On the inaugural day, Sumon Das delivered a speech on Baul Shah Abdul Karim. Renditions of Karim's songs were the highlight of the programme.

Over the next few days (January 26-31) at the festival, Professor Nandalal Sharma will speak on Radha Raman Dutta; Simon Zakaria on Bijoy Sarkar; Shamsuzzaman Khan on Hason Raja; Golam Faruk Khan on Jalal Khan; Syed Mohammad Shahed on Kabial Ramesh Sheel and Dr. Abul Ahsan Chowdhury will deliver a lecture on Lalon Shah.

Shah Abdul Karim, Radha Raman Dutta and Hason Raja popularised their unique take on folk songs in Sunamganj/Sylhet region. Bijoy Sarkar was popular in Narail/Faridpur region; Jalal Khan in Mymensingh; Kabial Ramesh Sheel in Dhaka and Lalon Shah established Kushtia region as the centre of his spiritual movement through music.

Folk music is the essence of our culture. Such arrangement by BSA is appreciable.



3RD INT'L CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL

Disadvantaged children in focus



Over 240 children's films from 50 countries are being screened at the festival.

JAMIL MAHMUD

The 3rd International Children's Film Festival began on January 23. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the festival at the Osmani Memorial Hall. Over 240 children's films from 50 countries are being screened at this year's festival. Of these, 61 are Bangladeshi films. Child filmmakers have made 34 films. Children's Film Society Bangladesh, in association with Unicef, is the organiser of the festival.

Everyday films are screened at four sessions starting from 11 am. Films are being screened at several venues including Central Public Library and

National Museum. The Central Public Library is the main venue of the festival.

Apart from film screening, a workshop and a daylong seminar as well as few interactive sessions with eminent personalities are part of the festival.

Eminent educationist Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed talked to the children on the second day, as part of the interactive session. Apart from Professor Sayeed, the interactive sessions also feature Professor Mehtab Khanam and Muhammad Zafar Iqbal.

The daylong seminar will be held tomorrow (January 27) at the Seminar Hall of Central Public Library. Divided into four sessions, the seminar will highlight different issues regarding

cinema for children in Bangladesh. Dr. Aminul Islam, Shabnam Azim, Fahmidul Huq and Abdullah Al Mamun will deliver the keynote papers.

The daylong workshop was held yesterday. The workshop addressed basic concept of film language, techniques of filmmaking, film and reality and a question-answer session. Noted filmmakers Tanvir Mokammel, Tareq Masud, Yasmin Kabir and Morshedul Islam gave lectures at the workshop.

A highlight of the festival is a retrospective on Indian filmmaker Tapan Sinha. Raja Sen, Indian filmmaker, will deliver a special lecture on Tapan Sinha today at 6pm at the Seminar Hall, Public Library. A documentary, "Filmmaker for Freedom", on Sinha will be screened as part of the special programme.

Over 100 child delegates from all over the country are participating at the festival. The festival sees a competition as well where five awards would be conferred. A five-member jury, with children as members, will choose the best films. The awards will be given on the last day of the festival.

The festival will end on January 29. Apart from Central Public Library and National Museum, films are being screened at Shishu Academy, Russian Centre of Science and Culture, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Iranian Cultural Centre, German Cultural Centre, British Council Auditorium, UCEP Auditorium in Mirpur, Pallima Sangsad Auditorium in Malibagh, Bangladesh College of Leather Technology Auditorium in Hazaribagh and Star Cineplex.

Warid Telecom is the sponsor of the festival.

Documentary "Laguna Helper" screened

A CORRESPONDENT

As part of the ongoing 3rd International Children's Film Festival, an 11-minute documentary, titled "Laguna Helper", was screened at the Russian Centre of Science and Culture on January 24.

The documentary has been jointly written and directed by Anwar Khan and Abu Zahid Hassan

The film zooms in on a 10-year-old boy, Musa, who lives in the Kamrangir Char slum, in Dhaka. Musa, who doesn't have a father, has to wake up early every morning and set out in search of livelihood; his family of four depend on his income. Musa has a risky job. He is the 'helper' of a 'Laguna' (a form of a van).

There are times when he has to face the wrath of both passengers and the driver of the vehicle, yet he sings at his leisure. He stares at kids his age playing in the schools and wonders if he could ever join them.

Anwar Khan is the cinematographer. Abu Zahid Hassan has done the commentary in the documentary.



The film zooms in on Musa, a 'helper' of a 'Laguna' (a form of a van).

Cricketer Akram Khan turns actor



Akram Khan

Renowned Bangladeshi cricketer Akram Khan is set to make his appearance on the big screen. Filmmaker Chotku Ahmed's upcoming feature film "To makei Khujchhey Bangladesh" will feature the former captain of the Bangladesh cricket team.

Since the story of the film revolves around cricket, casting Akram Khan in the role of a cricket coach was an easy choice.

The mahorat (formal launch) of the movie will be held on January 28 at FDC, according to a press release. Renowned film personalities Razzaque and Gazi Mazharul Anwar are likely to attend the mahorat.

The film will feature newcomer Regan and actress Priyanka. The film is being produced by Yasmin Shareef Usha. Script and dialogues have been written by Chotku Ahmed.

Puppets have their say

Ishara Puppet Theatre Festival in Delhi

KAVITA, New Delhi

Artists from countries as diverse as India, Brazil, Israel, Switzerland and Italy are to converge on the Indian capital for the exciting forthcoming Ishara International Puppet Festival. Beginning January 27, the Delhi audience will get a taste of puppetry at its very best. From Brazil come two entries -- 'Animals of Brazil', directed by Beto Andreatta and 'Flamingo', directed and performed by Anne Westphal. 'Animals of Brazil' uses inflatable puppets, great music and choreography to depict the amazing diversity of Brazilian jungle animals. 'Flamingo', directed and performed by Anne Westphal, is a silent solo show that slips in dance, movement and animation theatre to relate the story of an egg from which emerges a baby flamingo. Along the way the audience is treated to some several surprises and incredible images. A show with a sure appeal to young and old alike.

Iranian director Fahime Mirzahoseini, presents 'The Bald HeroPahlevan Kachal', a glove puppet play about the eponymous hero who loves money and uses every trick in the book to gain it with the help of his mischievous assistant Mobarak. This



'Animals of Brazil' uses inflatable puppets, great music and choreography to depict the amazing biodiversity of Brazil.

show is performed by four sisters accompanied by live music.

Israel brings 'A Touch of Light' directed and designed by Patricia O'Donovan. The show traces the life of the sightless Louis Braille, the famous inventor of alphabet for the blind.

Handcrafted glove puppets interact with the audience in the hilarious solo show 'I Teatrini' from Italy, directed and performed by Bruno Leone.

Switzerland comes in with 'Krunck', the tale of a grey chick in search of an

ographer Aditi Mangaldas. Then there's 'Bollywood Bandwagon', a take on Bollywood directed by Anurupa Roy. 'Swagat' directed by Puran Bhatt presents a contemporary version of the celebrations that accompany the return of a victorious king to his kingdom after a war. And of course there's 'Kalapataru', a visually delightful performance with shadow puppets directed and designed by Pudumjee.

Puppetry, to most in the subcontinent is not as high profile as the other arts. Pudumjee refutes this theory. "The art has a tremendous audience at our festivals, but needs to be nurtured and supported as in many other countries." Nevertheless, he qualifies, "The Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) and other organisations do their bit for puppetry; probably India is one of the few countries in the world where a puppeteer is given a national award by the President, that is the SNA Award". Pudumjee himself won this distinction in 1992

If one can fault the festival organisers, it is on the score that no other country on the subcontinent has been represented. However, this is one event sure to find a firm place in most cultural calendars.

Star on Moon: Crater named after Shah Rukh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan seems to have turned the idiom "asking for the moon" on its head, if a newspaper report is anything to go by.

The International Lunar Geographic Society, a New York-based organisation devoted to the study of Moon, has declared that a lunar crater in the Sea of Tranquility has been named after Shah Rukh Khan, leading Indian newspaper The Times of India reported today.

This has been approved by the International Astronomical Union, which said the crater has been given the honorary designation as the Crater S R Khan on the occasion of his 44th birthday on November 2 last year, the daily said.

According to the Society, the crater was named following a flood of petitions from the actor's admirers in India and outside.

The newspaper quoted leading scientist K Kasturirangan, the father of India's mission to the moon, saying Khan is an extremely popular actor who is a "symbol of national pride".

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REHAB... Working for a better environment

REHAB Fair, Chittagong '10

28 January 2010 : 3:00 pm- 9:00 pm
29-30 January 2010 : 10:00 am- 9:00 pm

Venue : Chittagong Club, Chittagong

Co-sponsors:

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