

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Ekushey Book Fair

Venue: Bangla Academy
Date: February 1-28
Time: 3pm-9pm



Cultural Programme

To mark Amar Ekushey
Organiser: Shammilito Sangskritik Jole
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises
Date: February 8-21
Time: 4pm onwards



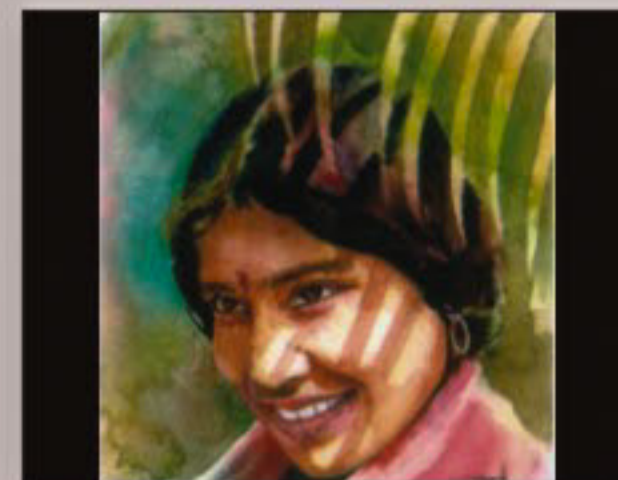
Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Rashid Amin
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-26, R-3, Dhanmondi
Date: February 18-March 1
Time: 12pm-8pm



Recitation Programme

Recitor: Dalia Ahmed
Venue: Main Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh
Date: February 22
Time: 7pm



Boi Mela thoughts



The venue could be expanded to Suhrawardy Udyan

-- Rafiq Azad

A CORRESPONDENT

Rafiq Azad is one of the more renowned poets of the country. His poetry reflects his experiences of the Liberation War. His poems are bold and patriotism often gets the focus. Romance and humanity are also noticeable aspects of his works. The poet developed a keen interest in writing



at a young age.

Recalling his college days, the poet says, "My college had a big library and that's where I was exposed to thrillers, periodicals and poetry. I was completely engrossed in Bengali literature through that experience."

Nature is another recurring theme in Azad's poems. "I have been a keen observer of nature since childhood. Seasons changing, new leaves emerging, sailing boats, paddy fields -- all these images nourish my soul and inspire me to be a poet," he says.

About the ongoing book fair, the poet says, "For more than three decades, Bangla Academy has been organising this fair. I think now, the venue could be expanded to Suhrawardy Udyan."

Azad's book of poems "Nirbachito Kobita" (published from Nandonik Publication), "Prokriti O Premer Kabita" (published from Anesha) and "Premer Kabita Shamagra" (published from Rodela) are now available at the book fair.

Bangladeshi rockers going places



Artcell at the concert in Australia.

NUSRAT JAHAN PRITOM

Artcell performs in Australia

Ershad, Lincoln, Cezanne and Shaju took their rocking sounds and unbeatable beats to the southern hemisphere. Artcell came back last month from their Sydney tour. The crew shared their experiences:

"Although we have had numerous concerts abroad, this was our first performance in Australia. The experience was awesome," said Cezanne

Artcell left Dhaka on December 29, 2009, soon after their Nokia Concert. The band performed at the Music Festival Open Air Concert on January 3, 2010 at Belmore Sports Ground, NSW, Australia. It was organised by Tempestra Entertainment. Artcell did a Metallica cover along 14 hits of their own such as "Durgam Giri", "Aniket Prantor" and "Onno Shomoy".

Cezanne said, "The crowd was just awesome! This show was an eye opener. The organisers tried to launch Bangladeshi bands at a concert for the mainstream music fans. Up until now, concerts featuring Bangladeshi bands were limited to only the Bengali expatriate community. This one reached out to everyone."

"There was Drummers Dream -- a mega warehouse with the latest hi-tech drums," said Shaju. "It was every drummer's dream come true!"

When they were not performing, the band split up and went out to try different things. Some went to feast their eyes on the scenic beauty, and some went to feast at their friends' homes.

The band was back in Dhaka on January 14, and they didn't take time out to rest. They came out loud at 'Rock the Stage-II' concert. That's a lot of energy!

"We are working on our next album at present," said Lincoln.



LRB plays to a keen Kolkata audience.

LRB rocks Kolkata

On Valentine's Day (February 14, 2010), LRB rocked the Kolkata music scene. Ayub Bachchu spoke to The Daily Star about the band's latest tour.

"We arrived in Kolkata at 5:30 pm on February 13 and went straight to the hotel. Whenever we go to Kolkata, and this is like the 13th or 15th time that we went there, we always stay at the same hotel: the Stadel. It's very close to Saltlake Stadium. At 10:30 pm we went out to check the sound system for the big day ahead," Bachchu said.

"Next day, we had a sound check for two hours till 2:30pm. We went on stage around 8:30 pm.

"As always, the crowd was superb. It is quite interesting interacting with the Kolkata fans. They don't care if it is a Bengali, Punjabi or Pakistani Band -- they are just ready to groove and headbang. I was amazed when the crowd cried out loud for 'Shei Tumi'; we enthusiastically

cally obliged. We performed a total of 18 songs at the show."

Did they miss anything or anyone on Valentine's Day? Bachchu: "Well, yeah. We missed our fans here in Bangladesh, and our families. But then again, we made a commitment to perform in Kolkata."

What is LRB up to now? "We are getting ready to rock the music scene again with our new album 'Juddho'. Five songs of the album have already been aired. However, we are not sure about the release date of the album yet."

Bachchu is also working on his second guitar solo "It's Only You". "Two of the songs are my tribute to 'Guru' Azam Khan. Rest are my own compositions," the rockstar said.

Word to the fans? "Please don't encourage music piracy and give the music industry a chance to thrive," he said.

The writer is a freelance contributor

75th show of "Binodini"

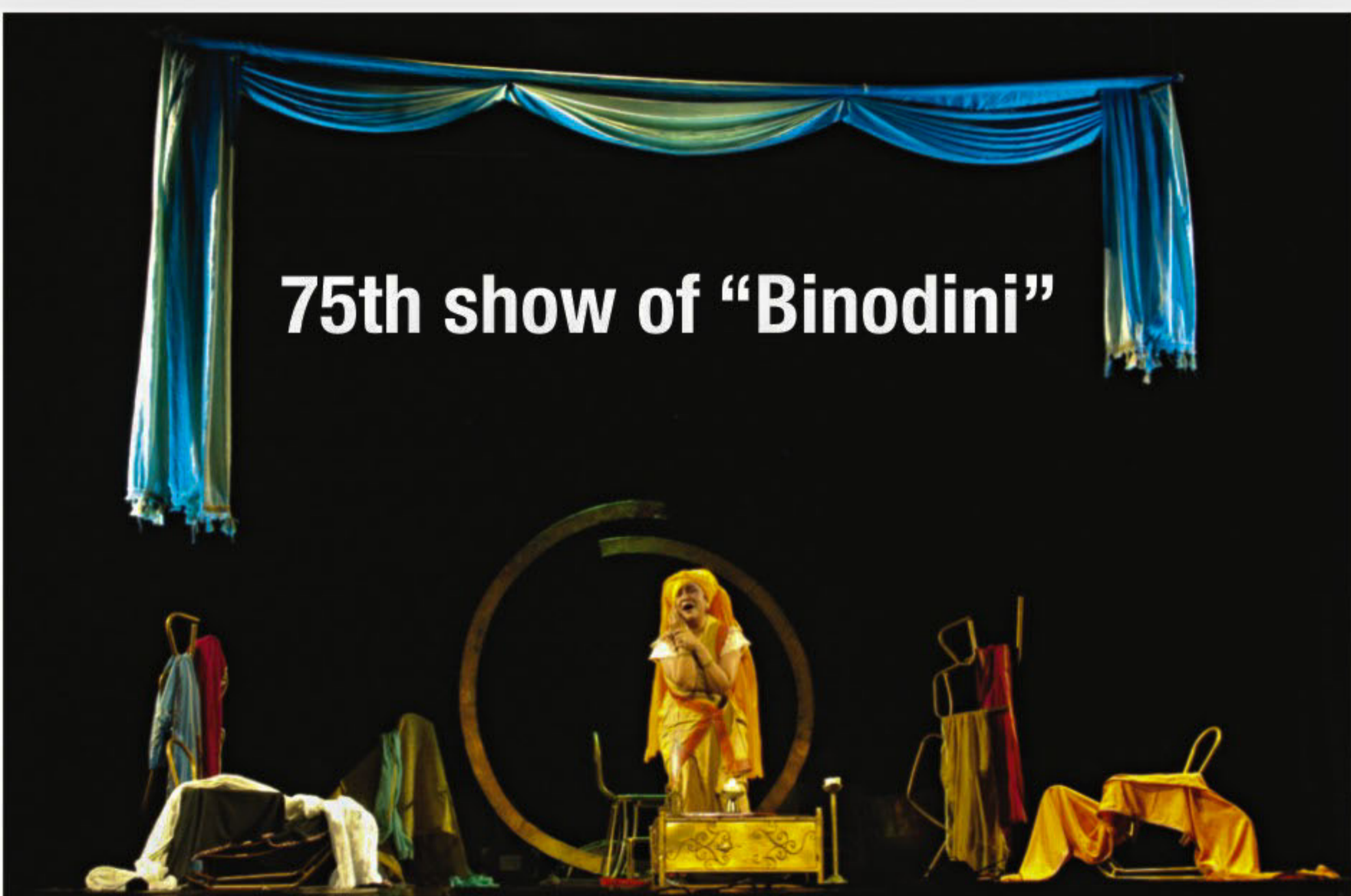


PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Dhaka Theatre staged the 75th show of its much-acclaimed production "Binodini" at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on February 18. The play is a narrative, based on the 19th century pioneering Bengali theatre activist Binodini Dasi's autobiographies -- *Amar Kotha* and *Amar Abhinetri Jibon*. Highlight of the play is the soulful solo performance by noted actor Shimul Yousuf. Nasiruddin Yousuff is the director of the play. Simon Zakaria, with guidance from Selim Al Deen, dramatised the work. *Shadhu Bhasha* (Formal Bangla) has been used in the play.

Disney's "Alice in Wonderland" faces boycott in Europe

Walt Disney has clashed in Europe with several large cinema chains threatening to boycott "Alice in Wonderland", a forthcoming release, after Disney said it would bring forward the DVD release of the film.

Disney wants to accelerate the release by a month, from 17 weeks after the theatrical release to 13 weeks.

The aim is to bolster DVD sales, which have been in decline, by allowing the studio to take advantage of the cinema marketing for the film.

But cinema chains are concerned the early DVD release will eat into ticket sales for "Alice in Wonderland", a 3D fantasy directed by Tim Burton.

"Disney is not keeping its part of the bargain," Youry Bredewold, a representative for Pathe and the Dutch National Board of Cinema

Owners, told AFP.

"There is an agreement between movie distributors and cinema owners that there must be a window of at least four months between the cinema release and the DVD release."

He added that cinema

chains representing 80 per cent of the Dutch market would not show the film.

"We will lose money due to our decision," he said. "We expected this to become one of the most popular movies of 2010."

"But we decided we need to

send a message to the whole industry: if you don't accept our terms we will never show your movies again."

As Europe's largest theatrical market, any boycott in the UK could also have big repercussions for Disney and the film's global performance at the box office.

There are strong ties between the film, which has a large English cast, and the UK: Tim Burton lives in London and the film's global premiere will also be held there on March 5 with Prince Charles as the guest of honour.

No UK cinema chain has yet publicly backed a boycott of the film but there is growing concern about the longer-term implications at the possible shortening of the theatrical release window.

Source: Internet



Helena Bonham Carter as the Red Queen in "Alice in Wonderland".

Classical Jazz dance demonstration at Shilpakala Academy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Highly inspired by Asian, European and Mediterranean elements and complemented by classical Indian forms like kathak, classical jazz is an emerging contemporary dance style. Unlike pure jazz, it is not very funky. The philosophy of this form is: torso and above it is European and Asian, and down below, it is African.

As an introduction to this new form of dance, a three-day workshop was held from February 16 to 18 at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). World Dance Alliance Bangladesh in association with its West Bengal wing arranged the workshop.

"One of the goals of this workshop is to take a look at how dance has been evolving around the globe," said Sharmila Banerjee, noted dancer and one of the organisers.

The workshop was conducted by

Indian dance duo Ronie Shambhik Ghose and Mitul Sengupta. Thirty-seven participants, most from schools, took part in the workshop.

A demonstration by the students and Mitul Sengupta was held at the Rehearsal Room of BSA on the last day of the workshop.

The demonstration featured five performances. Mitul Sengupta performed three compositions in a row -- a pure kathak, a pure jazz and a classical jazz number. Sengupta's performances articulated how classical jazz evolves through the mingling of kathak and pure jazz.

Later participating students performed a couple of demos featuring what they learnt from the workshop.

Among others, dancer-organiser Lubna Mariam and Director General of BSA Kamal Lohani were present at the programme. Lohani handed over the certificates to the participants.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.



Mitul Sengupta (top) performs a Kathak piece and participating students during a Classical Jazz demonstration.