

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Street Theatre Festival
Organiser: Bangladesh Patha Natok Parishad
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar
Date: March 1-7
Time: 4pm



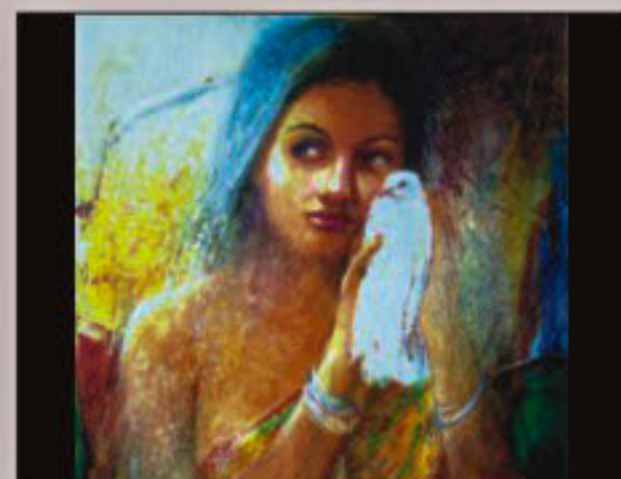
Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Rashid Amin
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-26, R-3, Dhanmondi
Date: February 18-March 5
Time: 12pm-8pm



Group Art Exhibition

Venue: Haq Gallery, DCC Market, Gulshan-2
Date: March 15-28
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Call of Eternity
Artist: Nurul Islam
Venue: Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 1-6
Time: 11am-8pm



Catching up

The quirky side of Probha

A CORRESPONDENT

"From around 8 am in the morning to 12 pm, I usually have my (university) classes. After that I have shooting, where more often than not I stay till midnight. You could say it's a lot of pressure, but then again I wouldn't want to be someone who vegetated at home. That would just make me sick; I mean a day or two of relaxing is fine but then it gets really boring. I want to be up and out!" -- says Sadia Jahan Probha, the young vivacious actress of the mini-screen.

"Usually I'm chirpy and amicable, but when I'm angry, I kind of explode. I am somewhat emotional; I shout a lot. It might seem childish but that's who I am.

"Now I am almost a graduate, but my friends and family still think of me as a kid.

"I like to hang out with friends, like to stay busy. When my mom goes out, and if there's enough time, I redecorate the room or the whole house. Once I moved all the furniture, and when my mom came home she was stunned! Another thing I like to do when my mom is out is to cook and experiment with different recipes."

Currently Probha is busy with "Joto Durey Jai", "Khunshuti", "Dhupchhaya", "Shopnocharini", "Sitara", "Chaya Judhho", "Ashchorjo Ek Raater Golpo", "NebhaDip" and many more.

Probha began her acting career in 2006 with "Lost Project" on Channel 1.

"Initially I was not interested in acting. However when I began and got into the swing of things, it grew on me and now I'm totally passionate about it," she says.

"I also like to design," she adds.

"I truly appreciate the support of my family, friends, directors, co-stars, along with many others."

Homage to Tagore

Italian artists break new ground

KAVITA, New Delhi

The lilting strains of a Tagore song waft across the room. It's not the usual Rabindra Sangeet concert, but an art exhibition inspired by the songs and poems of the great bard. On the walls are paintings by two Italian artists, Karen Shah and Nike Borghese, that take the viewer through some stunning landscapes and images.

The hills, countryside, forests and seas come alive in Karen's works. She creatively captures deep Tagorean spiritual and meditative qualities in her works, be it the Indian locales of Mumbai and Goa or the Italian landscapes of Florence, Ninfa, Lake Canterno, Nemi and Vico nel Lazio. Tagore's "Noyono tomare paye na dekhite" (translated as, "My eyes see you not, for you remain within them...") epitomises a memorable image of leafless trees that reach towards an azure, cloudy sky. The song "Tumi sondhyar meghomala tumi amar shadher shadhona" creates the perfect ambience for hills in hues of brown, blue and black with a shadow line of sunflowers in the forefront. Then there's the Van Gogh-like painting of a man in a hat with a violin in hand and violin case placed on the ground, titled, "Asha jaowar pauther dhare".

If nature is the common thread in Karen's paintings, Nike seems to specialise in more complex subjects. Swirls and swirls of colour dominate her works like "Aretusa" (that draws from "Bashonti bhubonomohini),

"Floating lotus" ("Nriyero tal-e tal-e hey nataraj") and the aptly named "The Unparalleled One" ("Shunil shagorer shaymal kinare"). This depicts a female figure clad in attire the colours of the rainbow which seem to flow flawlessly into a wide sea.

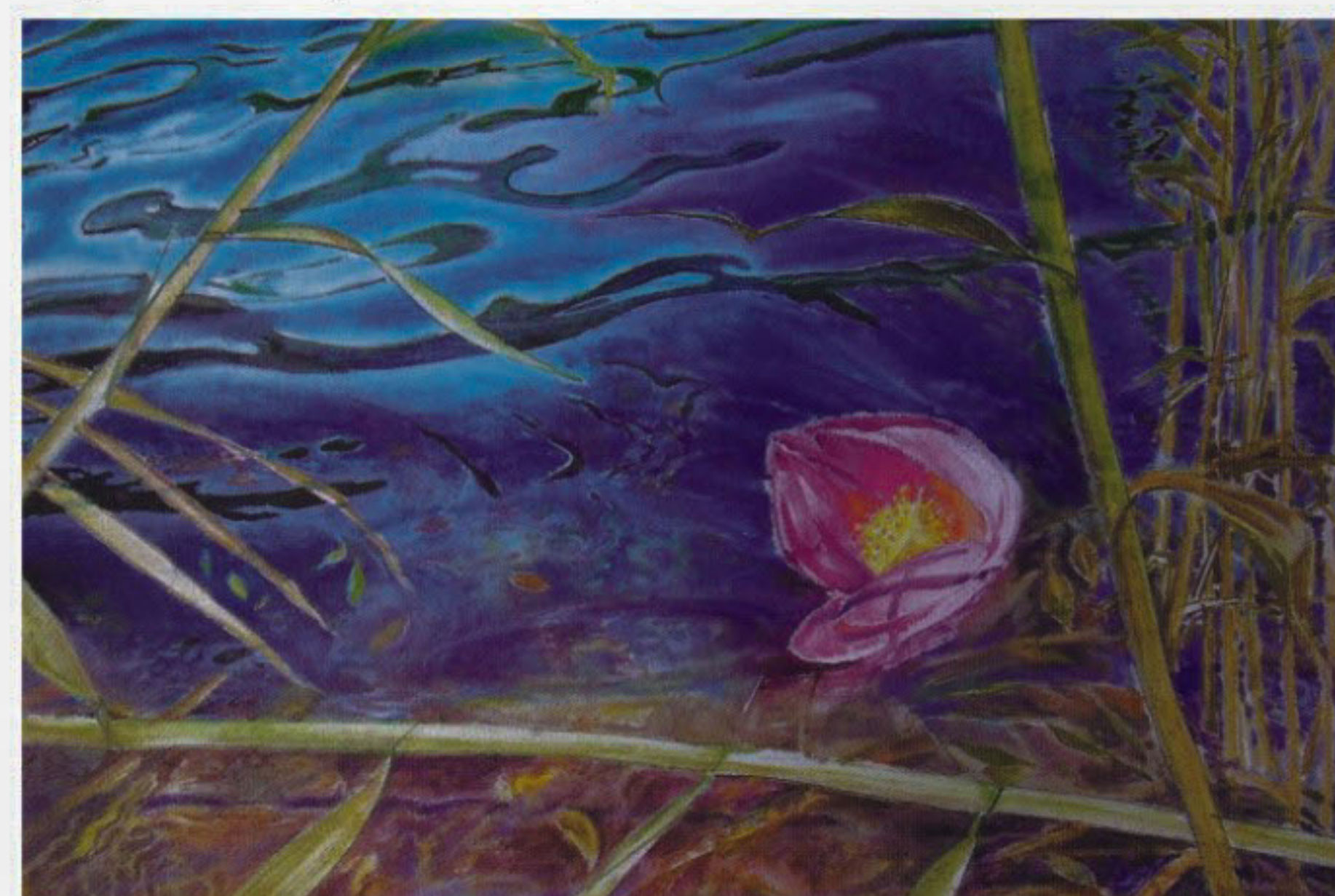
Apart from the art works (unfortunately the hugely talented artists were not present in Delhi), the centre of attraction was seasoned Bengali actress Sharmila Tagore, who inaugurated the exhibition. This correspondent had a chance to get a word in with Sharmila. Sharing her perspective on the exhibition, Sharmila said, "I am responding to Karen a bit more but Nike is more revolutionary and different. I love some of Karen's stunning landscapes, which are reminiscent of the late Russian painter Nicholas Roerich, the husband of late Indian actress Devika Rani." She however went on to point out that she had her reservations about the framing of Karen's works.

Sharmila is a firm believer that Tagore's songs need to be translated into Hindi, so that they have a wider reach and can be sung by many an Indian. No distant dream. In her new film, "Life Goes On", lyricist Javed Akhtar has done several love songs, including a "brilliantly translated" Tagore song. The film stars Sharmila and her daughter Soha Ali Khan, together for the first time. The other heavyweights in the film are Girish Karnad and Om Puri.

The credit for the exhibition "Limitless within Limits Homage to Tagore's songs" must also of course go



"Noyono Tomare Paye Na Dekhite" by Karen Shah.



"Nriyero Tale Tale Hey Nataraj" by Nike Borghese.

to Dr. Reba Som the director of the Rabindranath Tagore Centre, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR),

Kolkata. Apart from curating the path breaking exhibition, she has translated the song captions and is a talented

Tagore singer in her own right. The exhibition was a fitting tribute to Tagore, the eclectic cultural giant.

Int'l theatre festival by Dhaka Padatik from March 19



Natyakendra will stage its production "Dalim Kumar" at the festival.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate its three decades, Dhaka Padatik will arrange a weeklong international theatre festival from March 19. Featuring reputed local troupes alongside teams from India and Switzerland, the festival will be held at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad is expected to inaugurate the programme. Delegates from the participating countries will grace the occasion, according to the organisers. Apart from Dhaka Padatik, Bangladeshi participating troupes are Dhaka Theatre and Natyakendra. Sanglap-Kolkata and Lokokrishi (both from India), and Mummenschanz (Switzer-

land) will stage their productions at the festival.

Dhaka Padatik will stage its latest production "Baichya Chorer Kissa", while Dhaka Theatre and Natyakendra will stage "Dhaboman" and "Dalim Kumar" respectively. Both Indian troupes will stage two plays each.

A fifteen-minute demonstration featuring folk songs and dance will be the highlight of the inaugural programme, informed Golan Kuddus, president of Dhaka Padatik.

On the last day (March 25), two deceased activists of Dhaka Padatik -- Gazi Zakir Hossain and Abul Kashem Dulal -- will be given posthumous honours.

Dhaka Padatik started its journey in 1980. So far, the troupe has produced 34 plays.

Colours of spring

Cultural programme held in Thakurgaon

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT

A cultural programme titled "Boshonto Shondha" was held on Saturday evening at District Shilpakala Academy Auditorium in Thakurgaon.

The school branch of Thakurgaon Alpona Shahitya Shangskriti Shangshad organised the event to celebrate spring.

The programme included a discussion, renditions of songs and dances.

Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen inaugurated the programme. The auditorium resonated with the Tagore song "Aguner Porosh Moni Chhoao Praney".

Ahmed; Superintendent of Police BM Harun ur Rashid; headmaster of Thakurgaon Government Boys' High School Akhtaruzzaman Shabu and others as special guests.

President of Thakurgaon Alpona Shahitya Shangskriti Shangshad, Shafiqul Islam presided over the discussion.

Boshonto (spring) is the harbinger of a new and fresh chapter. Celebration of Boshonto is an integral part of our Bengali culture and heritage, discussants said.

Such programmes help to preserve our cultural heritage, they added.

After the discussion the chief guest unveiled the cover of the 17th 'Chalcitra', a quarterly Shahitya publication of Alpona Shahitya Shangskriti Shangshad.

"3 Idiots" shines at 55th Filmfare Awards

This year's Filmfare Awards saw the best acting prizes going to the lead actors in "Paa", with Amitabh Bachchan and Vidya Balan being named the Best actor and Best actress for their role in the film.

The top grosser "3 Idiots" earned six trophies, including the one for the best film.

The best actress honour went to Vidya Balan for her riveting performance in "Paa" as Auro's mother. In a witty manner Vidya shot back at the hosts Shahrulkh Khan and Saif Ali Khan, who had poked fun at her a couple of years ago for her questionable fashion sense. Shahrulkh presented a trophy called the "Naa-real Award" to Vidya.

While accepting her Filmfare Award on the stage, Vidya said, "From nariyal to this Black lady, it's been a great journey at the Filmfare."

Bachchans skipped the function

Amitabh Bachchan and his family, however, chose to skip the star-studded event as a continuation of their protests against the Mumbai Mirror, the tabloid that published false reports about Aishwarya Rai's health conditions.

A publication that solely belongs to Filmfare, the Mumbai Mirror has been served a legal notice by the Bachchans for refusing to retract their report. The family has also asked the tabloid for an apology.

"3 Idiots" won top awards

The Aamir Khan starrer "3 Idiots" snapped up the most popular awards -- best film, best director, best story, best screenplay, best dialogue and best supporting actor. Anurag Kashyap's "Dev D" won six as well.

Shashi Kapoor and Khayyam honored

Veteran actor Shashi Kapoor and music composer Khayyam received their Lifetime Achievement Awards this year.

The Critics' Awards this year was won by Nandita Das in the best director category for "Firaq", while Ranbir Kapoor and Mahie Gill got the best actor and actress award for their splendid performances in "Wake Up Sid" and "Dev D" respectively.

Grammy winner AR Rahman was honoured with the best music director award for "Delhi 6". While Kavita Seth and Rekha Bharadwaj won the Best playback singer (female) award, for "Iktara" from "Wake Up Sid" and "Genda Phool" from "Delhi 6".

The best playback singer (male) award was presented to Mohit Chauhan for his fast number in "Delhi 6".

The 55th Idea Filmfare Awards event was hosted by Karan Johar, Shah Rukh Khan and Saif Ali Khan.



Vidya Balan with her Filmfare Award.



"3 Idiots", directed by Rajkumar Hirani and starring Aamir Khan, won top awards.