

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



Two-day folk music fest in honour of Shah Abdul Karim



A CORRESPONDENT

"Agye Ki Shundor Din Kataitam", "Gari Cholena", "Ashi Bole Gelo Bondhu", "Maya Lagaise", "Ami Kulhara Kolonkini" and so on -- songs of Shah Abdul Karim will continue to fascinate music enthusiasts for generations to come.

To celebrate the birth anniversary (February 15) of the late folk maestro, a

two day folk music festival, titled "Shah Abdul Karim Loko Utsab 2010", is going to be held at Ujandhol (Karim's home) in Sunamganj district, starting from March 5. Banglalink is the sponsor of the event.

The event is expected to draw folk artistes and enthusiasts from across the country, turning the bard's village home into a celebration ground. Everyday performances will begin from 1 pm and will continue till midnight.

Bangladesh Street Theatre Festival at Shaheed Minar

Play highlights the call for trial of war criminals



Actors of Padatik Natya Sangsad, TSC, in the play "Tribunal".

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

A CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Street Theatre Festival is on at the Central Shaheed Minar, in the city. On the second day of the weeklong festival (that began on March 1), Padatik Natya Sangsad, TSC; Natyajoddha, Dhaka; Natyarath, Dhaka; Ei Banglay, Narayanganj; Bangla Natyam, Narsingdi and Shanchalok, Munshiganj performed "Tribunal" (written and directed by Kazi Rafiq and Wahidul Islam), "Philm Karbar" (written and directed by Joynal Abedin Joy and Shafiqul Islam Sohel), "Junction" (written and directed by Hamidur Rahman Sujon), "Sagar Loot"

(written and directed by Kazi Shahidul Islam) "Shapath" (written and directed by Anisur Rahman Shiplu) and "Bhengcha Dot Com" (written and directed by Alamgir Mahmud) respectively.

The highlight of the day was "Tribunal" which zooms in on the demand for trial of war criminals. The protagonist of the play is an octogenarian who as a symbol of the country's history describes the brutalities carried out during the Liberation War.

Two women beautifully personified the poetic characters of Shamsur Rahman's Sakhina and Haridashi in that play. The festival starts at 4pm everyday.

Rathindranath Roy makes a TV appearance after a hiatus

A CORRESPONDENT

"Bashudha Tomar Jonno Amar E Gaan" will be aired on rtv tonight at 11:30 pm.

Rathindra Nath Roy was one of most prominent performers of the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra. Roy has also done his bit to promote folk songs, especially Bhawaiya songs that are popular in the Rangpur area. Roy is also a playback singer and has won many awards like BACHSHASH (Bangladesh Cine Journalists Society) Award in 1979 and 1981, The Ekushey Padak in 1994 and the Popular Folk Song Award in the World Youth Festival in East Germany in 1973. Nath will be guest on rtv's phonomusical programme "Bashudha Tomar Jonno Amar E Gaan". Apart from live conversation with the audience, Nath will also sing on request on the show. Tanif Mahmud is producer and Shayam is the host at the programme. The programme will be aired on Thursday at 11.30pm.



Tagore's reflections on women

Anima Roy's latest album "Ami Chitragada"

A CORRESPONDENT

Promising singer Anima Roy's latest solo album [featuring Tagore songs] "Ami Chitragada" was launched recently. The album has been produced under the banner of Laser Vision and features eleven songs. Renowned Human rights activist and cultural enthusiast Advocate Sultana Kamal unveiled the album as the chief guest.

Anima's latest album features the songs "Bhora Thak Smirti", "Na Bujhey Karey Tumi", "Ami Hridoyer Kotha", "Phire Jao Keno", "Amaro Poran Jaha Chaye", "Rodon Bhora E Bashonto" and more.

Songs in the album articulate Rabindranath Tagore's reflections on women, says the singer.

"The songs have been carefully selected. I've tried to include songs that are not overly familiar. I had my basic lessons from Mita Haq. I learned several techniques and methods from her. It was her suggestion that I enrol in Chhayanaut," Anima says.

"Music is my passion. My uncle Bimol Roy has a major influence on my music career. Initially I took classes at Surobani Institute. After completing a five-year course, I joined the



Anima Roy

institute as a teacher. Then I moved to Sangeet Mahabidyalay. My favourite singers are Mita Haq, Rezwana Chowdhury Bonna, Auditi Mohsin and

Indrani Sen," says Anima. Anima's first solo album "Kotha Jao" was released in 2009. The album won her much appreciation from music enthusiasts.

Constantly on his toes

In conversation with Nobel

A CORRESPONDENT

It's hard to touch base with Nobel these days; he seems to be busy with one thing or another. Recently he appeared in a TV commercial for Comfort Housing with actress Moushumi. However he isn't seen that often in ads, TVCs or plays.

According to Nobel, "I rarely act in TV plays, may be for Valentine's Day or some other special occasion."

Nobel is pretty good at time management, and that's important especially when he is working on marketing and sales on weekdays and in the media over weekends.

"It's basically a matter of juggling both commitments. I work for a multi-national company. I'm offered a schedule first, shootings are mostly over the weekends," the model-actor says.

"It's been like this for ages. Since 1996, everyday is about work for me. But I enjoy my work as well," he adds.

What's his motto? "Sometimes I feel like I'm going to be an entertainer on my own, sometimes I feel like I'm discovering myself."

In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, it is as if Nobel finds himself in his works.



"My job is to make people smile"

-- Shah Rukh Khan

Putting a smile on millions of faces is all in a day's work for the reigning king of Bollywood.

"I truly believe my job is to make sure people smile. I have no self-centeredness or ego about being a movie star," Shah Rukh Khan said recently.

He may have simple intentions, but Khan, the world's most popular film star, has stirred controversy at home lately, which has entangled his newest film, "My Name is Khan."

Backed by Hollywood studio Twentieth Century Fox, the film, which examines racial profiling in the United States in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, is one of the few Bollywood movies to be distributed widely outside of India.

What's more, it has had some serious cross-over success.

The movie had its European premiere at the Berlin Film Festival and has been released in several countries, including the United States, Canada, Singapore and Indonesia. In the United Kingdom, it set a box office record -- the biggest opening weekend ever for a Bollywood film.

"I really want everyone to be happy when they see my film," Khan, who has inspired hero worship among fans around the world, said on the sidelines of the Berlin festival.

But the movie, a love story that advocates tolerance and understanding, ironically has become the victim of division in India after protests triggered in Mumbai earlier this month.

Members of far-right Hindu nationalist political party, Shiv Sena protested the opening of the film after Khan, a Muslim, expressed disappointment that no Pakistani players were selected for the Indian Premier League (IPL), the country's wealthiest cricket league.

Despite the shadow cast by the protests, "My Name is Khan" has been a draw at the box office. In less than two weeks, it's taken in \$6.3 million worldwide, with nearly half of that coming from foreign ticket sales, according to Boxoffice Mojo.com.

Khan plays a Muslim with Asperger syndrome, a mild form of autism, who is detained by U.S. authorities. A hero with a Forrest Gump-like simplicity, he sets out on a journey across the United States after the love of his life tells him to find the president and tell him that he is not a terrorist.

The success of "My Name is Khan" is a testament to the far-ranging star power of the 44-year-old actor, whose global fan following also reflects the growing reach of Bollywood films.

Described by some as India's Brad Pitt, Khan made a name for himself with his first full-length movie "Deewana" in 1992. Khan's so well known in India that he's often referred to



In "My Name is Khan" Shah Rukh's character sets out on a journey across the United States to find the president and tell him that he is not a terrorist.

simply by his initials, SRK.

"My Name is Khan" reunites the star with another Bollywood star, Kajol, who plays the love interest. Karan Johar directs. He and Khan have collaborated on several projects in the past.

Khan said he hopes the movie will help change practices such as racial profiling -- a procedure he is familiar with through personal experience.

Khan was stopped and questioned by immigration officials at New Jersey's Newark International Airport last August, an international incident that grabbed headlines.

The star said he's resigned to being routinely questioned in airports, which he says is a sign of the times. "This is the world we have created. We are all paranoid of each other," he said.

But he also wants to challenge those notions with his new drama.

"I know it's very idealistic and utopian, but I believe we need to just let everyone not be judged in terms of religion, groups or nations or region."

Source: CNN

Dol Festival in Pabna

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

The three-day 'Dol' festival in Pabna ended on March 1. The festival also marked the 122nd birth anniversary of Thakur Anukul Chandra and was held in Hemayetpur Ashram, Pabna. Several thousand devotees of Thakur Anukul Chandra from all corners of Bangladesh and overseas participated at the festival.

A spiritual discussion and festivity marked the opening day of the festival at the ashram. On the second day, State Minister for Culture Affairs, Advocate Promod Mankin, spoke as the chief guest.

A discussion was also held on Sunday night. Among the speakers were president

of JSD Hasanul Haque Inu; lawmaker of Pabna-5 Golam Faruk Prince; noted Indian author Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay; Pabna Deputy Commissioner Dr. AFM Monjur Kadir and Binayak Chakrabarty, the grandson of Thakur Anukul Chandra.

Speakers at the discussion emphasised the need for secularism. Thakur Anukul Chandra teachings preach the nurturing of humanity and his verses are a precious legacy, they added.

A discussion was held at the ashram premises on the concluding day of the festival. State Minister for Home, Advocate Samsul Haque Tuku, spoke as the chief guest at the concluding programme. President of the ashram Bimol Roy Chowdhury chaired the discussion.