

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Remembering Waheedul Haque
 Title: Waheedul Haque
 Sharoniq Milon Ulshab 2010
 Organiser: Konthoshilon
 Venue: Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Central Public Library
 Date: March 18-20
 Time: 9:30 am onwards



Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Not Here
 Artist: Ali Akbar
 Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
 Date: March 13-27
 Time: 3-9pm (except Fridays and Saturdays)



Solo Photography Exhibition
 Title: Hridaye Bangladesh
 Photographer: Chanchal Mahmud
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, R-27 (old), Dhanmondi
 Date: March 19-30
 Time: 12pm-8pm



Boats Exhibition
 Title: Traditional Boats of Bangladesh
 Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattashali Gallery, Bangladesh National Museum
 Date: March 23-April 19
 Time: 10am -5pm



Dhaka Padatik-UCB International Theatre Festival begins



of Dhaka Padatik; Gabriele Derighetti, deputy head of mission, Embassy of Switzerland; joint convenors of the festival Nader Chowdhury and Mizanur Rahman; Khorshed Ahmed, general secretary, Dhaka Padatik were present at the conference.

Theatre troupes from Bangladesh, India and Switzerland will take part in the festival, informed the organisers.

"The festival aims at promoting cultural exchange among the participating theatre troupes," said Golam Kuddus.

"We are optimistic that such international events will encourage the youngsters to take interest in theatre," Kuddus added.

Calling the festival "a great occasion," Gabriele Derighetti said, "It is our pleasure to present a Swiss theatre troupe to the Bangladeshi audience for the first time. We are optimistic that this festival will be a good platform for cultural exchange."

Swiss troupe Mummenschanz will be staging a mime performance on the sixth day (March 24) of the weeklong festival, which ends on March 25.

Today theatre troupe Loko Krishti from India will stage its play "Teen Nombor Chokh". The play is an adaptation of noted Indian writer Samaresh Majumdar's work. Other plays to be staged at the festival are "Laboratory" by Loko Krishti on March 20; "Dhabomaan" by Dhaka Theatre on March 21; "Lathikando" and "Ostoraag" by Shangleap Kolkata and "Paicho Choror Kichchha" by Dhaka Padatik on March 25.

United Commercial Bank Limited is the sponsor of the event.

A CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Padatik-UCB International Theatre Festival 2010, marking the thirty years of Dhaka Padatik, begins today. The slogan of the festival is "Dhormo Borno Jatir Urdhey Jago Hey Nobin Pran". The inauguration ceremony of the festival will be held at National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy at 6 pm today. Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad is expected to inaugurate the festival.

On the occasion Dhaka Padatik held a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday. Golam Kuddus, president

Aupee's big day at Shilpakala Academy

A CORRESPONDENT

At Shilpakala Academy, 7 pm today, a story of forgotten dreams and homes will be delineated through graceful Kathak dance. The recital will feature TV star Aupee Karim in one of the lead performances.

It was back in 1994 when Aupee had last danced on stage. After all these years, she is performing today at the auditorium of Music and Dance Centre, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The Daily Star caught up with the actress-dancer:

"Dance certainly differs from acting. The former requires a lot of practice and devotion. I used to be regular with my dance practice. But then there was a gap as I got entangled in other works. I'm excited to be dancing again. I'm not sure if I'm in top form but I'll definitely give it my best shot," said Aupee.

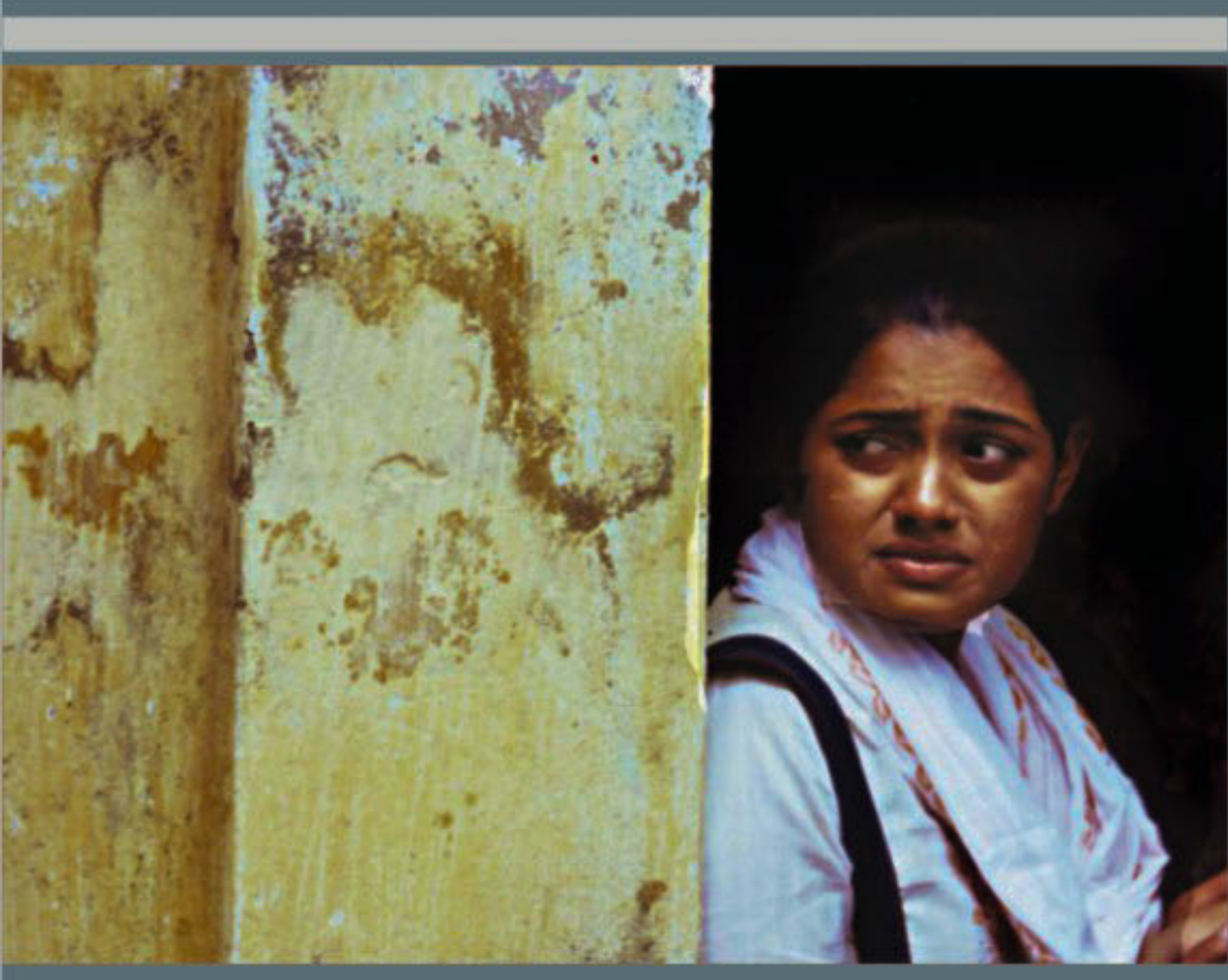
Apart from Aupee, other dancers performing at the recital are: Tahmina Islam Jhumi, Farah Shahwar Jhunjhun and Snata Shahrin. "The composition is introspective," said Aupee. "In the beginning I thought, it's not possible, but after a week it felt like it is possible and after 15 days the feeling was like 'bring it on!'"

Are you nervous?
 Aupee: "Of course! For me it's a big day. I did perform classical dance abroad occasionally, but in the country it's going to be after more than a decade. I've been skipping TV plays all for the sake of this show. I have been asked what would I gain in return. My response is, 'confidence,' as that is what I need the most right now."



Aupee Karim

"Third Person Singular Number" competing in Milan Film Festival



The film poses a question: can a woman, on her own, lead a secure life in our society?

A CORRESPONDENT

Twentieth Afro-Asian-Latin Film Festival is on in Milan, Italy. Starting from March 15 the festival will continue till March 21. Nine films, including several that have already won some awards, are competing in the "Windows on the World" category.

Produced by Impress Telefilm Ltd, Mostafa Sarwar Farooki's "Third Person Singular Number" will compete with "Adieu Gary" directed by Nassim Amaouche [Best Critique Week Award winner at Cannes Film Festival 2009], "Northless" directed by Rigoberto Pérezcano [Rotterdam 2010, Toronto 2009, San Sebastian, Abu Dhabi], "A Brand New Life" directed by Ounie Lecomte [Asia Pacific Screen Award, Tokyo] and "Buried Secrets" directed by Raja Amari [Pussan 2009] at the festival.

Apart from these, another film from the subcontinent, "Janala", directed by Buddhadeb Dasgupta, will also compete in the festival.

Farooki is now in Milan and will be there till March 21 as he is scheduled to join a special discussion with the organisers on March 20.

NEW RELEASES

<p>Shindhur Bindu Solo album by Salauddin Ahmed Source: Laser Vision</p> 	<p>Dip Nebhar Agey An album featuring soundtracks from the film 'Dip Nebhar Agey' Source: Gaanchill</p> 
<p>Bangkok TV play directed by Muhammad Mostafa Kamal Raj Cast: Mosharraf Karim, Banya Mirza Source: G-Series</p> 	<p>Graduate TV serial directed by Muhammad Mostafa Kamal Raj Cast: Zahid Hasan, Hasan Masud, Srabonti, Tisha Source: G-Series</p> 

"Gohiney Shabdo", Khalid Mahmood's debut film, to premiere soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Artist Khalid Mahmood Mithu's debut feature film "Gohiney Shabdo" will be released countrywide on March 26. The Bangladesh premiere of the film will be held on March 21 at the Star Cineplex, Bashundhara City Mall. Apart from direction, Mithu, along with Faridur Reza Sagar, has written the story of the film. Impress Telefilm Ltd. has produced the film.

the grandchild of the family, who studies at the same university as Swapna does. Niloy develops feelings for Swapna who tries to convince him that a relationship between them would be impossible -- the difference between the classes

"Gohiney Shabdo" features a cast of TV actors including Emon, Kushum Sikdar, Masum Aziz, Ariful Haque, Abul Hayat and Shams Sumon.

"Gohiney Shabdo" had its world premiere at this year's



Kushum Sikdar and Masum Aziz in a scene from the film.

is just unsurpassable. But an emotionally overwhelmed Niloy does not agree to reason, as he still does not know what Swapna's father does for a living. Reality hits hard when Niloy finds out the truth.

Palm Springs International Film Festival in California, USA. The film was one of the official selections of this year's Dhaka International Film Festival, where it bagged the 'FIPRESCI Special Mention Award'.

Bollywood soars toward Hollywood

Little about "Kites" suggests "Rush Hour." An extravagant Bollywood romantic thriller, "Kites" features the Indian star Hrithik Roshan and the Mexican actress Barbara Mori as mismatched lovers who can't speak each other's language and end up on the run in New Mexico.

But last October, when the director Brett Ratner saw an unfinished version at a screening in Los Angeles, he found echoes of "Rush Hour," his own Jackie Chan-Chris Tucker smash hit. "It was two characters that were fish out of water," Ratner said, "only here it was an Indian and a Mexican. I'm not saying that 'Kites' will be the box office hit that 'Rush Hour' was, but I felt it had the potential to cross over to American audiences."

So Ratner, who until then had seen only a few Hindi films, offered to re-edit "Kites" and make it more accessible for mainstream America. Working with Mark Helfrich, his editor on the "Rush Hour" series and "X-Men: The Last Stand," Ratner pared the 118-minute film to 90 minutes. He lost some of the elements that "just wouldn't translate," including a song sequence featuring Roshan, and had the dialogue for all the characters, except the two leads, dubbed by American voices.

On May 21 the original Hindi version and Ratner's reworked English version of "Kites" will be released simultaneously globally, receiving a much bigger push than is typical for an Indian movie in the United States.

Bollywood already has a world market. Indian cinema has an annual

estimated audience of over three billion worldwide. South Asians are avid consumers, as are viewers in countries as varied as Germany, Malaysia and South Korea. But the world's largest film market, the

and unfamiliar actors. But these films must reflect a cultural, political and social reality of their country. Bollywood films by their very nature do not fit into either category.

That state of affairs is beginning to



Bollywood star Hrithik Roshan and Mexican actress Barbara Mori in "Kites".

United States, has remained impervious to the seductions of song and dance. "There are essentially two kinds of audiences in the West: mass and niche," said Nasreen Munni Kabir, a documentary filmmaker and authority on Indian cinema. "The mass audience wants English-language films with known stars and familiar story lines. The niche audience accustomed to world cinema accepts subtitles, slightly longer films

change, thanks in large part to the staggering success of "Slumdog Millionaire." Hollywood studios have made significant investments in Bollywood and wouldn't mind their Indian movies translating around the world. It also helps that the definition of Bollywood has become more elastic. No longer a monolithic style that denotes stars, songs and melodrama, Bollywood has also come to encompass something else; over the last

decade new filmmakers have tweaked the traditional form so that Hindi cinema also includes films without songs that are stark and rooted in contemporary Indian realities.

Even established filmmakers are willing to break boundaries. So in the recently released "My Name Is Khan" the director Karan Johar forgoes his trademark opulent songs and feel-good emotions for a more grim subject: the plight of American Muslims post-9/11. Bollywood's biggest star, Shah Rukh Khan, plays the lead, a man with Asperger's syndrome, who embarks on a journey to meet the American president, after his family is devastated by a hate crime.

Even as overblown Bollywood extravaganzas are being reworked to suit more minimalist Western palates, smaller, grittier Hindi films are making inroads via the festival route. In January "Peepli Live," a low-budget black comedy about farmer suicides in central India, became the first Hindi film selected for competition at Sundance. In February "Peepli Live" screened at the Berlin Film Festival, alongside another crossover candidate: "Road, Movie." A whimsical tale of a travelling cinema in rural India, "Road, Movie" was co-produced by Ross Katz, whose credits include the Oscar-nominated "Lost in Translation."

Meanwhile Ratner has already figured out his next move: "I would love to make a movie in Bollywood," he said. "I would do American stars in an Indian musical. That's my idea."

Source: The New York Times