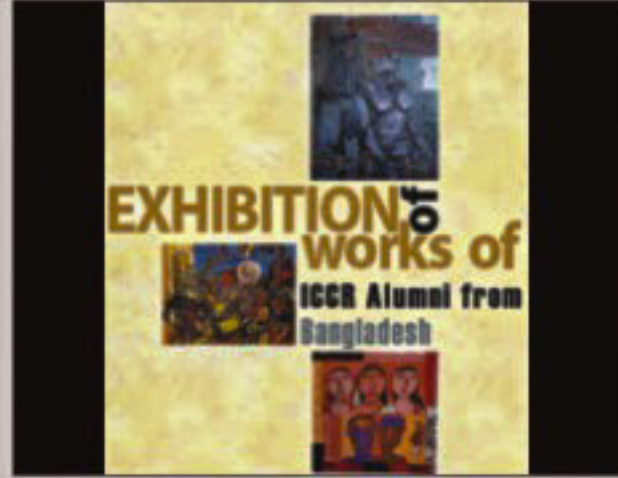


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Group Art Exhibition

Organiser: High Commission of India, Dhaka and ICCR
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1
Date: March 10-23
Time: 10am-6pm



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



Exhibition of traditional boats begins today

A month-long exhibition featuring traditional boats of Bangladesh begins today at the National Museum, Shahbagh, says a press release. In association with AB Bank, Friendship is organising the exhibition titled "Traditional Boats of Bangladesh".

The exhibition will highlight different aspects of traditional boats, including scale models, the building methods of the boats and the livelihood associated with boats. The exhibition will allow people to not only admire the beauty and craftsmanship of these collectible items but also to raise awareness of a heritage on its way to being lost.

The geography of the country has resulted in more than 50 different types of sailing vessels -- both river and sea going -- such as the *goina*, *soronga*, *dingi*, *patam*, *kosha*, *malar*, *raptani*, *shampam* and more. Several life-size boats will be on display at the exhibition.

The exhibition will continue till April 19 at the Nalinikanta Bhattashali Exhibition Hall of National Museum. Throughout this month, everyday the exhibition will start from 9:30am and will remain open till 4:30pm. In April, it will remain open from 10:30am to 5:30pm.



Tête-à-tête

Actress Sweety on her metamorphosis to TV show host

NUSRAT JAHAN PRITOM

Actress Sweety has been making waves as the host of the celebrity talk show "Eki Brinte" on Desh TV on Thursdays at 8.30 pm. She recently spoke to The Daily Star about her experiences regarding the programme and on loads of other subjects.

"When I was young, I was pretty shy and didn't talk much. Now I love talking. I still can't trace when the metamorphosis happened! I am open, straightforward and just say what's on my mind.

"Before I started the programme I gave some thought to what we should talk about. Like in plays you are given a script and you stick to that. Well, there is of course some improvisation that goes around beyond the script when all of us colleagues sit together. Maybe my involvement with the media has made me more conversational. First it was plays where I opened up a little, and then through hosting TV shows I started talking more and more!

"Having been in the media for around 15 years, one advantage that I have is that I know and have cordial relationships with almost all my fellow artistes. 'Eki Brinte' refers to the relationship between the guests."

Some celebrities to appear in the upcoming programmes are Momtaz, Chumki, Hillol-Tinni and others.

Sweety will appear in TV plays

"Jolpona" and "Tomato Ketchup". She is working on three serials and is also to feature in "Shomporko" on Channel-i.

Any significant memory that she would like to share?
 "I was in Rangamati and we were on a boat. I was a tad scared. For some reason I keep thinking of that. Also the other day when I was with my husband in Dhanmondi I was telling him that back when we started dating, we used to hang out there and have many great memories. In this short life we experience so much; there is always much to remember," says the vivacious actress-TV show host.

The writer is a freelance contributor.



Rabiraag anniversary



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Rabiraag, and organisation of Tagore artistes, celebrates its 24th anniversary this year. To mark the occasion, Rabiraag arranged a two-day programme at the Shishu Academy Auditorium, which ended yesterday. Titled "Dui Parer Kanakani", the programme was inaugurated by noted Indian singer Dwijen Mukhopadhyay. The event was presided over by Amina Ahmed. Cultural personalities Mustafa Nurul Islam and Kazi Shahed Ahmed graced the occasion as guests. On the first day, members of the organisation rendered several songs including "Mor Shondhyay Tumi" and "Shatya Mangal Premmoy Tumi". Noted Tagore singer Sadi Mohammad founded the organisation in 1987.

Schemes and scams: Shyam Benegal's "Well Done Abba"



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Shyam Benegal is one of the few acclaimed film directors who have had the rare opportunity of getting a ringside view of politics as well as a first-hand knowledge of the condition of

the oppressed sections of society springing from politics.

Benegal has handled several serious socio-political issues, including exploitation of the rural poor and women's condition in villages, during his career that brought him seven national awards.

And now as a member of the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Indian Parliament, for nearly two years rubbing shoulders with top-notch politicians, he has come up with his latest offering "Well Done Abba", a story about a Muslim father and his daughter after the former goes on a leave of absence and faces dismissal by his employer.

Starring Boman Irani, Minishsha Lamba and Sammir Dattani, the film, a political satire, says Benegal, drives home the point that even dark realities of rural life can be portrayed at times with humour.

On why he chose political satire, 75-year-old Benegal says "there is no point in being sombre all the time. You can say serious things with a twinkle also."

The film deals with the government legislation schemes and how fruitful they are for people below the poverty line. "And where there are schemes, there are also scams. I am exploring that side," he told the newspaper.

Antonio Banderas in global poverty fight

Actor Antonio Banderas has been appointed a Goodwill Ambassador by the United Nations Development Programme.

The Mask of Zorro star will focus his attention on the Millennium Development Goals, a set of targets aimed at halving world poverty by 2015.

"Poverty robs us of our potential as a people, preventing us from being all that we can be."

"This is why it is so important to mobilise all of our efforts to defeat it," said Banderas, 49, in a statement.

"Today we have the knowledge, the tools and the resources to do it," he continued.

Helen Clark, of the UN Development Programme, said the actor's "proven commitment to the causes of the less fortunate makes him an ideal advocate for our work".

Spanish-born Banderas is best known for his work in the early Pedro Almodovar films, and his subsequent Hollywood roles in the Spy Kids series and Shrek franchise, voicing Puss in Boots.

An animated Puss in Boots prequel is due to be filmed later this year; the actor is also lined up to play the artist Salvador Dali.



He is currently writing, directing and producing a film about Boabdil, the last Muslim ruler of Granada, Spain.

Source: BBC



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