

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Concert

Title: Shadhinotar Shurey Gaibo Mora
Line up: Warfaze, Black, Artcell, Aurthohin, Mechanix, Shironamhin and others
Venue: Kalabagan Krira Chakra Club, Dhanmondi
Date: March 26
Time: 2pm 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



Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra The arms and the music



Covers of CDs from the collection.

A CORRESPONDENT

During the Liberation War, Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra played a crucial role. While the Freedom Fighters fought the Pakistani occupying forces in the battlefields, the artistes of the radio station were engaged in another kind of war -- keeping the hope of freedom alive among the millions. In the course of the nine-month war, the station inspired the nation with their songs and several programmes.

As a tribute to Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra and its artistes and songs, Close-up and ntv are jointly releasing "Chetonay Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra" this Independence Day (March 26) -- a compilation of 50 patriotic songs aired from Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra. The songs have been re-recorded. The album contains five CDs. Twenty Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra veterans and 20 "Close-up 1" contestants (representing the current generation) have recorded songs for the album.

A concert featuring the songs will be held at the south plaza of the National Parliament on March 26.

Shujeyo Shyam and Ajit Roy are the music directors of the album. Musician Partho Barua has done the music arrangement.

Fakir Alamgir, Kalyani Ghosh, Timir Nondi, Rafiqul Alam, Shujeyo Shyam, Gazi Mazharul Islam, Kaderi Kibria, Bulbul Mohalanobish and Manoranjan Ghoshal are among the artistes who have recorded songs for the album.

Tanvir Mokammel's films to be screened on Independence Day

On the occasion of Independence Day, Bangladesh Film Centre will screen the films of renowned filmmaker Tanvir Mokammel at Bangladesh Film Centre Auditorium, Lake Circus, Kalabagan, in the city on March 26, says a press release.

The daylong show will begin with the screening of "Tajuddin Ahmed: Nishongo Sarothi" at 10:30am, followed by "Chitra Nadir Parey" (12:30pm), "Lal Shalu" (3:00pm), "Lalon" (5:00pm) and "Rabeya" (7:30pm).



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (left) and Tajuddin Ahmed in the documentary "Tajuddin Ahmed: Nishongo Sarothi".

The many shades of Rabindra Sangeet

In conversation with Roquaiya Hasina Neely



Neely receiving her Citycell-Channel i Music Award from Ajit Roy.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Inspired by her martyred intellectual father Professor Rashidul Hasan, noted Tagore artiste Roquaiya Hasina Neely began learning music at the age of six. Though her father taught English literature in Dhaka University, he had a great penchant for Bengali literature and the creative works of Rabindranath Tagore in particular.

"My father was a life member of Visva Bharati University. I went with him to the University for several festivals, where I got close to legendary singers like Kanika Bandyopadhyay, Neelima Sen and Shanti Dev Ghosh. They inspired me to sing," says Neely.

In her early days in Birbhum, West Bengal, Neely had her initial musical lessons from Radhapada Sarker. Though she learnt Rabindra Sangeet for a few years at the Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA), in the pre-Liberation years, her music education was further refined under eminent teachers like Waheedul Haque, Abdul Ahad, Dr Sanjida Khatun and Zahidur Rahim of Chhayanaut just after the birth of Bangladesh.

Amongst the themes of Tagore's songs like Puja, Prem, Prokriti and compositions from the bard's plays like "Bhanushingher Padaboli", Neely loves to render songs that have melancholic shades.

"Tomaye Amaye Milon Hobey" and "Amar Shokol Dukher Prodip" belonging to the Puja theme; "Durey Kothaye

Durey", "Bhora Thak Smriti Shudhay" and "Kandaley Tumi Morey" of Prem; "Sawan Gaganey Ghor Ghanaghata" and "Gahono Kusum Kunja Majhey" from "Bhanushingher Padaboli" are among her favourite Tagore songs.

"The lyrics of Tagore songs make us think once again about the vastness of his creative domain. The tunes of his songs are global; for example "Kotobar Bhebechhinu Apona Bhulia" is an adaptation of a Scottish tune, "Drink to Me Only". "Phooley Phooley Dholey Dholey", "Purano Shei Din-er Kotha" and more are other good examples of adaptations where use of piano is noticeable," explains Neely.

Ottawa Bangladesh Society produced her first audio album "Rabindra Sangeet" in 1988 while her second album titled "Ebar Amaye Dakley Durey" was released in USA, UK and Bangladesh in 1997. O-series produced two of Neely's albums "Baajey Jharnar Gaan" (2006) and "Ki Shur Jagao" (2008). Neely's fourth album "Ki Shur Jagao" earned her a Citycell-Channel i Music Award (for the year 2008).

"An award recognises an artiste's skills. It also consolidates the career of an artiste making him/her more responsible towards his/her works," Neely comments.

Asked about the possible reason for the popularity of Tagore songs, Neely says, "Rabindranath was deeply inspired by Lalon Shah; many of his songs demonstrate this interest in Baul tunes. This explains how Rabindranath developed a proximity to the masses. Because of his closeness to the soil and people, two countries of the subcontinent have his songs as their national anthems."

"From this soil he soared to the world stage. To quote him, 'Mahabishwe mahakashey mahakal majhey, ami manob ekaki bhromi bishshoy' or 'Akash bhora shurjo tara bishwa bhora pran, tahari majhkaney ami peyechhi mor sthan'," she adds.

Neely taught music at Chhayanaut from 1977 to 1993 and is now teaching at Government Music College, Agargaon, Dhaka.

Second Independence Day Film Festival

Generating awareness in the history of our country

The second Independence Day Film Festival, titled "Shadhinota" will be held at Star Cineplex, on March 26, says a press

release. At the daylong event, "Stop Genocide" by Zahir Raihan, "Muktir Kotha" by Tareque Masud, "Emon Deshti Kothao Khuje Pabe

Nako Tumi" by Mostafa Sarwar Farooki, "Phirey Ashay '71" by Asif Iqbal Jewel, "Janani Shahoshini 1971" by Redowan Rony,

"Muktir Shoinik" by Maruf Hasan, "The Promised Land" by Tanvir Mokammel, "Shey Kotha Bole Jai" by Fauzia Khan, "Sharat '71" by Morshedul Islam and "Concert for Bangladesh Revisited" by Claire Ferguson will be screened. The film screening session will begin at 11 am and continue till 9 pm.

Dancer and researcher Lubna Marium, actor-director-producer Sara Zaker, filmmaker and film critic Manzar-e-Haseen Murad, human rights activist Meghna Guhathakurta and Liberation War Museum trustee Mofidul Hoque are scheduled to speak as special guests at the event.

Kamar Ahmad Simon, festival director, said, "The goal of this festival is to generate awareness in the history of our country among the young."

Beginning and Star Cineplex are jointly organising the event.



A scene from "Emon Deshti Kothao Khuje Pabe Nako Tumi".

Cultural programme with a cause

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Amar Sonar Paribar, a project of a local NGO Rishilpi, run by an Italian national based at Binerpota village in Sadar upazila, staged a drama at the Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) fair at Dhulihar, in Sadar upazila yesterday.

NGO Forum for Safe Drinking Water and other local NGOs including Rishilpi jointly organised the fair.

Several cultural programmes were also organised to generate awareness among the people regarding primary health care and also to fight against early marriage and dowry.

Amar Sonar Paribar members staged a drama titled "Shesh Parinoti" written by Mohammad Maniruzzaman under the Rishilpi Education Support programme at the fair premises.

The drama depicted how early marriage and dowry are a curse for adolescent girls in society and sometimes even claim their lives.

Parvus PRESENTS

Ticket Price

2,500 TK. + 15% VAT

2,200 TK. + 15% VAT

1,800 TK. + 15% VAT

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a night with

HARIHARAN

1 April 2010 Thursday 8 PM onwards

Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (Hall of Fame)

Tickets Available at

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