

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

21st National Rabindra Sangeet Festival

Organiser: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Public Library, Shahbagh
Date: May 4-8
Time: 7pm onwards



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Nocturnal Shades
Artist: Hamiduzzaman Khan
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H-275/F, R-16, Dhanmondi
Date: April 4-16
Time: 12pm-8pm



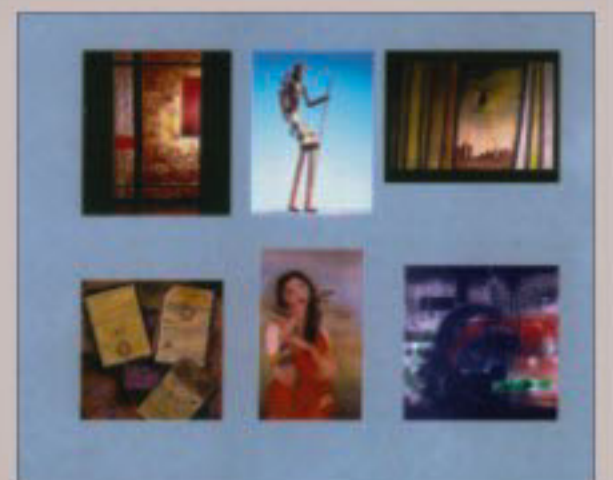
Musical Soiree

Singer: Shama Rahman
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1
Date: May 7
Time: 7pm



Group Art Exhibition

Title: Diversity
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: April 23-May 6
Time: 5pm-8pm



A day at the "Cholo Lathi Kheli" brainstorming camp

Getting to know the lathiyals



(From left): Md. Chan Mian, Md. Abdul Aziz, Mostafa Mian, Md. Saidul Islam and Md. Nurul Haque.

JAMIL MAHMUD

A five-day brainstorming camp on *lathi khela* ends today at the Rehearsal Room of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). The camp is part of the yearlong project, "Cholo Lathi Kheli", jointly arranged by BSA and Shadhona. The aim of the project is to promote and popularise the traditional performing art. A total of 52 *lathiyals* from all over the country have been attending the camp. The agenda of the camp includes documentation of the various forms of *lathi khela* practiced all over Bangladesh, an analysis of the forms and comparison with other global forms of martial arts. Of the *lathiyals*, The Daily Star talked to the leaders of the troupes from Lakkhipur, Netrakona, Manikganj, Kurigram and Kushtia. Excerpts from the conversations:

Mostafa Mian (Ramgati, Lakkhipur)

Mostafa Mian, 61, runs a 16-member troupe. He

has been the leader of the troupe for the last three decades. Mostafa's troupe performs *lathi khela* at different parts of Lakkhipur. Mostafa Mian informed that they occasionally go to Chittagong and Cox's Bazar to perform.

Mostafa Mian started *lathi khela* in childhood after being impressed by a performance. The seasoned *lathiyal* hopes that the current initiative to revive the traditional art form would help them reach the goal that they, the *lathiyals* across the country, have longed for over the years.

Md. Abdul Aziz (Kendua, Netrakona)

Abdul Aziz, 50, runs a 20-member troupe. His troupe usually performs at Netrakona, Mymensingh and occasionally in Dhaka. He finds that the practice of *lathi khela* is no more widespread as before. It has been waning significantly as there are lesser scopes of earning money if anyone wants to take it as a profession.

Apart from *lathi khela* Abdul Aziz runs a small business, which is his primary source of income. If

anyone wants to learn *lathi khela*, Aziz assured that he could train him/her within two months. Abdul Aziz's mentor was Shamsuddin, who was the former leader of the troupe. His troupe performed in Dhaka on last *Pahela Baishakh*.

Md. Chan Mian (Shaturia, Manikganj)

Aged 61, Chan Mian has been involved with the art form over the last three and a half decades. He informed that his troupe is the lone *lathiyal bahini* in the Shaturia area. The troupe includes 15 members and often comes to Dhaka to perform.

Chan Mian said that he learnt *lathi khela* from his grandfather, who was a member of a *lathiyal* group sponsored by the local *zaminder* (landlord). Chan Mian wants to pass on this tradition to the next generation.

Md. Nurul Haque (Kurigram)

Md. Nurul Haque is a former freedom fighter. He proudly informed that his troupe was formed about a century ago. He has been involved with the troupe over the last four decades. Attending the brainstorming camp, Nurul Haque realises that the art form varies from one region to another, in regards to styles. A noticeable difference is that the *lathi* (sticks) they use are bigger than the ones used in Netrakona region.

Nurul Haque wants all of his sons to learn the traditional art form, as he learned from his father and his father did so from his father. He also mentioned that this brainstorming camp is a good opportunity to express views with fellow *lathiyals*. He said that six/seven troupes are active at present in Kurigram district.

Md. Saidul Islam (Poradaho, Kushtia)

Saidul Islam is 37 years old. He is the youngest of the participating troupe leaders at the brainstorming camp. Saidul has been running his 18-member troupe for the last 18 years. He started *lathi khela* at the age of six. His father and grandfather were also *lathiyals*, informed Saidul.

Saidul wants to popularise the traditional art form among the urban people. He is a farmer and *lathi khela* is his passion. His troupe performs at local festivals and celebrations.

Buzz

Humayun Ahmed's latest work "Noshto Bashor"

A CORRESPONDENT

Written and directed by popular author Humayun Ahmed, the single-episode TV Play "Noshto Bashor" will be aired soon. As usual, a Humayun Ahmed creation promises humour and adventure with a message.

Meher Afroz Shaon and Joyonto Chattopadhyay don the lead roles in the play. Shooting of "Noshto Bashor" will start from May 18 in Dhaka.

The protagonist of the play is a loner. A widower, this middle-aged man eventually sees a *bashor* (wedding bed) in his future. But what does his future really hold? The play progresses with the answer.

Apart from this single-episode play, Humayun Ahmed is busy with his new film "Ghetu Putra Kamola".



He is also a judge on the "Khudey Gaanraaj" (aired talent hunt for children, on Channel i).

Katrina's role in "Rajneeti" based on Sonia Gandhi?

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Was the politician's role played by Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif in Prakash Jha's forthcoming film "Rajneeti" inspired by India's ruling Congress party president Sonia Gandhi? No, if one was to go by what Katrina Kaif says.

However, Katrina does admit that she watched election campaign videos of Sonia Gandhi's daughter Priyanka Vadra to get the right look and body language.

"Priyanka is a young, strong, independent and a modern leader with the right blend of values. My character is not based on her. I just watched her campaign videos to observe her body language and how she campaigns and interacts with the crowds," Katrina said during her promo of Jha's movie, which also stars Ajay Devgan and Nana Patekar.

The 25-year-old actress says she is not play-

ing Sonia Gandhi in Rajneeti nor has she modelled her look on any politician.

"Prakashji himself chose the sarees I wore as a politician in the film. My mother is English and I grew up in UK. Sonia Gandhi also has foreign roots and background. So the comparison was logical."

Katrina says she had her initial apprehensions before accepting the film as there was no song, dance, romance which she enjoys a lot.

"When I first heard the script, I made up my mind to refuse the film. I felt this was not my kind of movie. Why should I do serious films, which I don't enjoy? I had only heard about Prakash Jha's reputation," she said.

Katrina's denial notwithstanding, the media has not stopped finding similarities between her role in Jha's political thriller and Priyanka and some even juxtaposed the photos of the two ladies.



Katrina Kaif in "Rajneeti".

Michael Jackson's "Thriller" voted most groundbreaking pop video

Michael Jackson's video for Thriller was yesterday named the most groundbreaking pop promo in music history.

The 14-minute mini movie for the 1983 No. 1 hit beat off efforts from Queen, Johnny Cash and Peter Gabriel.

Industry experts were asked to provide a shortlist of 20 innovative videos to be put to the public vote. More than 1,000 people took part in the MySpace poll.

Thriller took 15.2% of the vote. At £327,000, it was the priciest promo of its time.

Us indie band OK Go's 2006 viral hit "Here It

Goes Again" came second with 11.7%, and Britney Spears' video for "Baby One More Time", in which she appears dressed as a schoolgirl, came third.

The top 10 Thriller, Michael Jackson; Here It Goes Again, OK Go; Baby One More Time, Britney Spears; Take on Me, a-ha; Hurt, Johnny Cash; Bohemian Rhapsody, Queen; Daft Punk, Around the World; Weapon of Choice, Fatboy Slim; Sledgehammer, Peter Gabriel and Beastie Boys, Sabotage.

Source: Internet

Winning the world with a smile

In conversation with Shahnoor

A CORRESPONDENT

Whether it's rush hours or stress, life in the city gets harder each day. Lightening up the air of gloom is the affable actress Shahnoor, who seems to be perpetually smiling, both on and off screen.

It is difficult to believe that when she embarked on her career, she was a complete introvert. "I was quite shy up until my college days. When I used to go to college I'd almost veil myself, hardly talking to anyone. Many of my more outgoing friends had also taken a shot at acting, but when out of them all, I, the shy, introvert made it -- it was a complete surprise to everyone!"

So far Shahnoor, aka Moushumi, has done around 34 movies, 45 TV plays and telefilms and several TV commercials. In 1997 she started modelling and hosting stage shows. Her first commercial was for Sunny Brand Mango Juice after which she did Plaza Print Saree and other ads. In 1999, she made her debut on the silver screen. Some of her early films were "Kuashar Shesh Chithi" directed by Abed Islam Tipu and "Ziddi Shontan" directed by Zillur Rahman.

With a string of other films behind her, Shahnoor also did a movie shot in India, "Chor O Bhogoban" directed by Biplob Chatterjee.

Shahnoor is currently busy with "Ke Aamar Shotru", "Neel Neel Akashe" and "Police Super". She had worked with the late actor Manna in a movie titled "Jibon Jontrona". Shahnoor also composed and recorded a song in the album "Isharaye Sheesh Diye" in 2004 and has plans to do something similar in the near future.



Shahnoor

tragic moment in Shahnoor's life was her first day of shooting. "The role in my first film was that of a girl from a well-to-do background with short hair. Back then I had really long hair. Shooting was in the evening -- I was taken to a salon for a trim. My long hair was reduced to neck-length. I couldn't stop crying. Believe it or not, I fainted four times!"

"That evening before the shooting, something hilarious happened. The director told the make-up artiste to 'cut' my nose and cheeks. Tears streamed down my cheeks. The make-up artiste probably thought that I was still upset about the haircut. I made up my mind that if I saw

a knife or sharp object in his hand, I would get up that very moment and quit acting. After a while, when nothing happened, I asked the make-up artiste what the director meant when he said that. In reply I was told that it's a technical term, which means sharpening the cheeks and nose with make-up. I didn't know whether I should laugh or cry."

"My main source of inspiration is my family. My parents are very sociable. Maybe that's why my brother and I turned out to be fun-loving as well."

"As a person, I think I am rather emotional. I trust people a lot and get hurt easily."

Naomi Campbell breaks down on Oprah, says she fears for her family

Naomi Campbell told Oprah Winfrey on her show that she fears for the safety of her family and that is why she has refused to cooperate with prosecutors who are trying a former African dictator for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Prosecutors allege that Charles Taylor, former president of Liberia, gave Campbell a blood diamond, the kind of gem Taylor is accused of using to buy guns for rebel groups in neighbouring Sierra Leone who terrorised civilians and killed and maimed tens of thousands.

"I don't want to be involved in this man's case -- he has done some terrible things and I don't want to put my family in danger," Campbell told Oprah and her millions of viewers during the most recent episode of the talk show.

At New York Fashion Week in February, Campbell denied receiving a diamond from Taylor when asked about it by ABC News.

"I didn't receive a diamond and I'm not going to speak about that, thank you very much. And I'm not here for that," said Campbell.

She stormed out of the interview, slapping a producer's camera.

Taylor has been on trial for almost three years at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The U.N. war crimes trial is being held in the Netherlands.

Campbell also burst into tears when her mother apologised for abandoning her as a child on the Oprah show.

Valerie Morris, Campbell's mother, was in the audience for the taping of the show and listened as her daughter tried to explain what was the reason behind her violent temper.

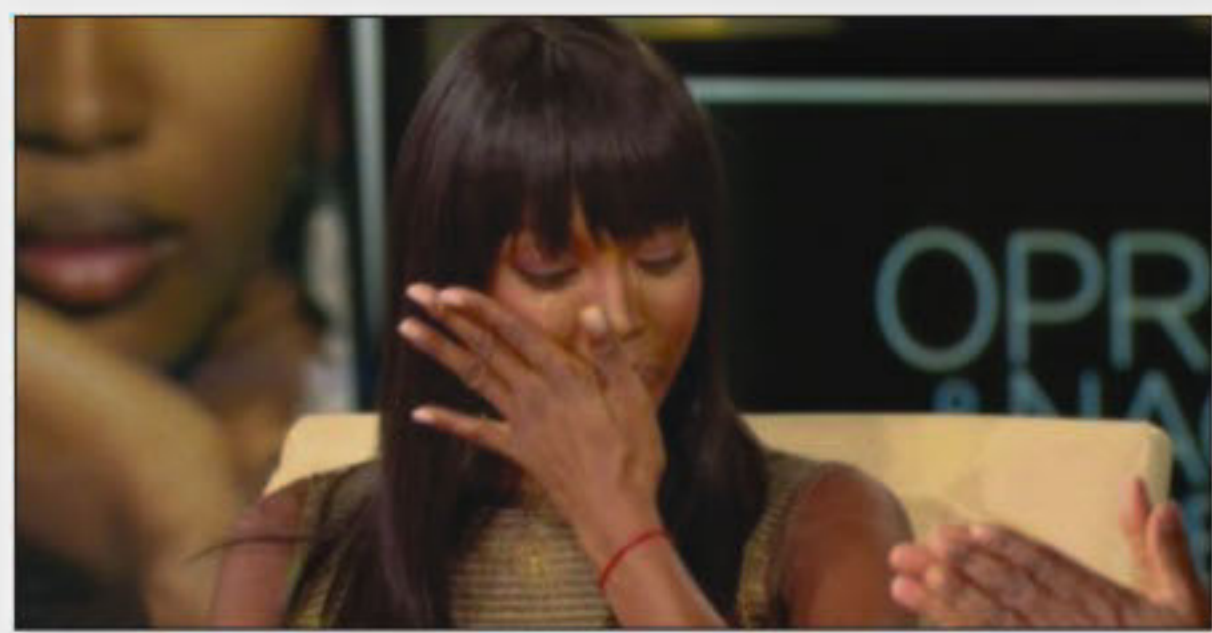
And something hit home when the model explained that she felt hurt when people she trusted lied to her or stole from her because, at that point, she felt childhood issues rising inside.

Asked for her opinion, Morris brought her daughter to tears when she opened up about her parenting problems when Naomi was a little girl.

"She used the word abandonment and it's fair to say that yes, I do feel that I abandoned her. I was 19 when I had Naomi and I was a single mother..."

"I wanted the best for my daughter and I left Naomi to work to give her a better life, private education... and so, looking back, you sort of realise that material possessions are not the only thing that a child needs," said Morris.

Source: Internet



Naomi Campbell on the Oprah Winfrey show.