

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Photography Exhibition

Organiser: NSU PC
Venue: Drik Gallery, H-58, R-15A, Dhanmondi
Date: July 4-10
Time: 3pm-8pm



Recitation

Title: Ekatturer Kobita
Organiser: Ekatturer Jatri
Venue: Seminar Room, Central Public Library, Shahbagh
Date: July 5
Time: 6:30pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Painter: Samiran Chowdhury
Title: Connecting with Nature
Venue: Galleri Kaya H-20, R-16, Sector-4, Uttara,
Date: July 2-15
Time: 10am-8pm



Theatre Festival

Play: End Game (Playwright: Samuel Beckett)
Troupe: Dept. of Theatre, Dhaka University
Venue: Natmandal, DU
Date: July 2-6
Time: 7pm everyday



Taking Bangladeshi artistic sensibilities overseas

Catching up with Shibli Mohammad



Shibli and Rituparna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned dancer Shibli Mohammad will be one of the main judges on an upcoming reality show to be aired on ETV Bangla, Kolkata. The Bangladeshi artiste will join famed Kolkata actress Deboshree Roy as the regular judges. Artistes -- both from Bollywood and Tollywood -- including Malaika Arora, Mahima Chowdhury, Priyanka Trivedi and Sulekha Mitra will appear as guest judges on different episodes.

Titled "Mamoni-Shonamoni," the reality show will be a competition among teams consisting of mothers and their offspring. Shibli informed that the programme will have 66 episodes and is expected to go on air in August. He is the only Bangladeshi artiste to be featured on the show.

Indian actress Rituparna Sengupta is the brand ambassador of the programme. Shibli has previously worked with Rituparna, who is also a skilled dancer. They played the protag-

onists in two Tagore dance-dramas produced in Kolkata -- "Shyama" and "Shapmochan." Couple of years ago, Shibli and Rituparna were judges on another Kolkata-based reality show "Jhum Ta Ra Ra." Bangladeshi actor Ferdous was one of the guest judges on the show.

"Apart from regular competitors, celebrity mothers and their offspring, such as Dona and Sana Ganguly (wife and daughter of Sourav Ganguly), Mimoh and Yogeta Chakraborty (son and wife of Mithun Chakraborty), Hema Malini and Esha Deol will also appear on the show as competitors," said Shibli.

"Jhum Ta Ra Ra" was a celebrity dance competition but 'Mamoni Shonamoni' will highlight mothers and their sons and daughter from all walks of life," he added.

While Shibli is preparing for the reality show, another big assignment is in the pipeline. Shibli will perform at the British Museum, London on July 10 as part of the cast of a Bangladeshi folk dance-drama "Shonai Madhob." He will don the protagonist of the drama. Based on "Mymensingh Geetika," the drama is directed by London-based Bangladeshi expatriate China Chowdhury. Shibli informed that Chowdhury's organisation Taal Taranga is producing the drama. Shibli is scheduled for London on July 5.

Actor of many seasons

In conversation with Chanchal Chowdhury

SHAH ALAM SHAJU

Chanchal Chowdhury is a busy and popular TV and film actor. After his debut blockbuster film "Monpura," Chanchal is busy with a new film, "Rupkathar Galpo" and plays a role in Gautam Ghosh's film, "Moner Manush" as well.

Acting goes side by side with modelling. The actor recently talked to The Daily Star (TDS) about his numerous assignments.

TDS: What are you currently busy with?

Chanchal Chowdhury: A number of drama serials and single episode TV plays are on hand. I am acting in three drama serials "Barisal-er Mama Bhagney," "Cafeteria" and another untitled work. All of them are directed by Golam Sohrab Dodul. Directed by Aranya Anwar, two serials "Kabiraj Golap Shah" and "Gents' Tailors Pvt. Ltd" were scheduled to go on air on Channel 1. The shooting of the serials is currently on hold as the channel is now switched off.

My present serials are, "No Problem Dot Com", "Kancher Phul" and "Asharey Galpo", directed by Manik Manobik, F. Zaman Tapash and Kochi Khandakar respectively. Directed by film actor Mahmud Koli, spectators will see me soon in a serial that will go on air on BTV. The title is yet to be decided.

TDS: Don't you find it difficult to take on so many serials?

Chanchal Chowdhury: The serials I mentioned will keep me busy for a few months. Schedules are set accordingly, so the problems don't seem acute. As acting is my profession, I can cope with a number of serials. Anyway, I forgot to mention another of my ongoing works "Nokshi Kanthar Maath", written by Palli Kabi Jasimuddin. Rajib Hasan is directing the TV play.

TDS: You personify different characters in each TV play or serial that you take on. Local dialects are also noticeable in the many roles you play. Will your fans get to see you taking on a new dialect?

Chanchal Chowdhury: I am a theatre activist so I may do so. At present, I am taking on a role in Golam Sohrab Dodul's serial "Barisal-er Mama Bhagney" which is in the local dialect of Barisal. In the beginning I do face a few problems in doing new dialects but later it goes well. Besides, the dialect of Barisal is fantastic.

TDS: What about your film assignments?

Chanchal Chowdhury: My latest film is "Moner Manush", directed by Gautam Ghosh. The film is all set to be released



this year in Bangladesh and West Bengal.

TDS: What role do you play in "Moner Manush"?

Chanchal Chowdhury: My character is Kaloa Mirza, who is a friend of Lalon Shah. Kaloa Mirza once gave shelter to Lalon Shah in a jungle. Later, Lalon Shah founded an *akhra* in that jungle. I am satisfied with my role in the film.

TDS: What are your future plans on the film front?

Chanchal Chowdhury: After "Monpura's" success, I have received offers for acting in 30 films. I have to be selective or the quality suffers. I can easily do three or four films a year. Basically, my plan is to act in one or two films in a year.

TDS: You are a singer too and have lent your voice to the hit film "Monpura." What are your plans on this front?

Chanchal Chowdhury: I have been singing since my childhood and it stood me in good stead in the theatre world also.

I never thought of releasing an album but it happened naturally. My first solo album is "Palki" that was released six months ago. I playbaked in "Monpura" in deference to Gias Uddin Selim). However, it is merely a hobby for me.

TDS: What about your theatre work?

Chanchal Chowdhury: I belong to the theatre troupe Aranyak Natyadol. Aranyak gets full credit for everything I have learnt. I do act on stage even now. I keep myself aloof from all activities when the troupe's staging is scheduled. Our latest production is "Shotrugon." I am scheduled to go to London next month with Aranyak Natyadol.

TDS: Anything else that you want to share with your fans?

Chanchal Chowdhury: I have recently become a father. The youngest daughter of actor Fazlur Rahman Babu named my nine-month old boy as "Shuddha." I am euphoric about my new born baby.

PHOTO: STAR

The Bogra Theatre troupe stages its acclaimed production "Koibarto Bidraho" as part of the theatre festival organised by District Shilpakala Academy. The play was staged on July 2 at the academy's auditorium. Written by Taufique Hasan Moyna, the play has been directed by Saidur Rahman Lipon.



Awesome football movies

The world has football on the brain right now, what with the ongoing World Cup throwing up one great match after another.

But for those who find the 0-0 draws less than magnificent, here's a look at some truly great English-language films about football -- some of them even better than the real thing:

Victory

One of the seminal football films, this John Huston movie is one of those immensely likable -- and immensely one-sided -- pieces of Anglo-American propaganda.

Set during World War II, the film is about a match between the German national team and a ragtag team made of POWs, who are gunning not just for an upset victory, but for an escape to freedom.

Max von Sydow and Michael Caine bring in the acting muscle, but the scene is stolen by the all-star line-up of global soccer superstars, including Pele, Bobby Moore and Oswaldo Ardiles.

Shaolin Soccer

Without question the most original take on soccer, this chopsocky tour de force by director Stephen Chow is a must-watch in every sense of the word.

With action straight out of a Looney Tunes cartoon, a sloppy team brings kung-fu to the football field and the results are mind-blowing.

Visually trippy and consistently hilarious, this slapstick stunner is one

for the ages.

A Shot At Glory

Robert Duvall stars alongside real-life Scottish footballer Ally McCoist in this predictable but warmly made story of a fictional Scottish football club trying to reach the finals of the Scottish Cup.

Borrowing from real life matches, teams and characters, the film is a rousing one -- not least because of a soundtrack written by none other than Mark Knopfler.

The Other Final

Sometimes the losers can slug it out better than any winning team can ever hope to.

In this terrific 2003 documentary,



we see Bhutan and Montserrat, the lowest ranked teams in the FIFA rankings, take on each other in Bhutan.

The film is a tremendously engrossing one, and the scrappy teams bring a level of commitment -- not to mention drama -- that the usual favourites hardly ever provide.

Bend It Like Beckham

Gurinder Chadha's cross-cultural take on soccer as an escape route for an Indian-British teenage girl is a riot, a truly original hotchpotch of ideas and genres.

Jess wants to be like her hero, David Beckham. Her Punjabi parents obviously oppose this plan, but Parminder Nagra's heroine is determined enough, and, aided by best friend



Keira Knightley, manages to get on the pitch.

The Damned United

The always-brilliant Michael Sheen stars in this story about the Leeds United football team.

Playing the controversial but exceptionally talented Brain Clough, Sheen traces the rise to glory -- all the way up to the team manager role -- and slips along almost every pitfall along the way. A powerful performance.

Kicking It

Soccer minus the glitz, this fascinating documentary shows us a tournament held every year in South Africa -- the homeless world cup, consisting of homeless people from around the world.

Emotionally crippling, the film might seem manipulative at times but the very concept of this unbelievable tournament makes up for everything.

Looking For Eric

One of the best recent films about football, this wonderful Cannes-nominated effort from Ken Loach is about a man called Eric fanatically obsessed with his idol, footballer Eric Cantona of Manchester United.

Nothing goes right with the fan's life till he meets his idol -- after which the idol, or Eric's illusion of Cantona, helps the fan turn his life around.

Compiled by Correspondent

Tweeting with Aamir Khan

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan chose the first day of July to do two things: to join micro blogging site Twitter with an Urdu couplet dedicated to veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan and launched the promos of his latest production "Peepli Love" which is believed to address the issue of farmers' suicide.

Aamir, whose last three films "Taare Zameen Par", "Ghazni" and "3 Idiots" featuring the actor set the box office on fire making him the most bankable Bollywood star, turned out to be an instant hit even in Twitter. He had a 50,000-strong following within a few hours of joining the social networking site.

That Aamir would begin his Tweeting by dedicating the couplet to Amitabh is natural because as he says it was at the insistence of the latter that he chose to join the micro blogging site.

"Mr Bachchan insisted that I join the Twitter community and I could not have refused him," says Aamir.

On the first day, Aamir tweeted three times and made it clear that he would not use the social networking site to promote "Peepli Love",



Aamir Khan

directed by Delhi-based documentary filmmaker Anusha Rizvi.

At a function in Mumbai, Aamir made public two separate promotional videos of "Peepli Love" which however does not have the actor in the cast.

Addressing the function, Aamir said his latest film does not deal with the issue of

agrarian crisis and farmers' suicide in villages of India but is a satire on the growing gulf between rural and urban India.

However, at the core of "Peepli Love" is how a farmer decides to commit suicide in order to seek compensation from the government for his family, which sets in motion a chain of hilarious events.