

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Theatre Festival 2010

Title: Srijonshil Tarunner Tatyapokash
Organiser: Department of Theatre, Dhaka University
Venue: Natmondi, DU
Date: August 11-18
Time: 7:30pm



Ethnic Jewellery Exhibition

Title: Aadi
Artist: Amman Rashid
Venue: Chondons, Rd 103, H 9, Gulshan-2
Date: August 20-21
Time: 10am-8pm



Film Screening

Film: "Angel-A"
Venue: Auditorium, Alliance Française De Dhaka, Dhanmondi
Date: August 20
Time: 6pm



Contemporary Norwegian Glass and Ceramics

Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, R-16, H-275F, Dhanmondi
Date: August 6-20
Time: 12pm-8pm



Bringing an extinct musical tradition to big screen

Humayun Ahmed talks about his latest film "Ghetu-putro Komola"



Humayun Ahmed (C) with the cast and crew.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Humayun Ahmed is perhaps the most celebrated contemporary Bangladeshi fiction writer. His immense contribution to the Bangladeshi literature over the last three decades has earned him international acclaim as well. The author has explored the film industry and TV as a director as well. His first film, "Aguner Parashmoni", based on the Liberation War, received critical acclaim and won eight National Film Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director.

The Daily Star (TDS) recently caught up with Ahmed to find out his plans for the upcoming Eid. Excerpts from the conversation:

TDS: How many plays are you planning to direct this Eid?

Ahmed: I cannot say for sure, but two plays -- "Noshto Bashor" and "Shada Bari" -- are complete. "Noshto Bashor" is a story of a single night, while "Shada Bari" conveys a message, which

should encourage people to pay taxes.

TDS: Who are the cast and crew for the plays?

Ahmed: "Noshto Bashor" features Jayanto Chattopadhyay, Tomalika Karmakar, Naznin Naz and Masud Akhand. Asaduzzaman Noor, Faruk Ahmed, Shamim Shahed, Majnun Mizan, Masud Akhand and Kuddus Boyati will be seen in "Shada Bari".

TDS: Memorable experiences while writing your latest plays?

Ahmed: "Noshto Bashor" is very close to my heart. My eyes watered while writing a particular scene. When the script was finished, I was content. This was a special experience for me.

TDS: Shooting for your latest film "Ghetu-putro Komola" was scheduled to begin a few months ago. What happened?

Ahmed: A few problems caused the delay. Collecting props was the first challenge. I felt that the music director I decided to work with initially

was not the right choice for the film. I also realised that I could not make headway with my first choice for the cameraman. Another reason is that my wife Shawon cannot be on the set due to her physical condition. And the protagonist of the film had to urgently go to Singapore, further delaying shooting.

TDS: What's the USP of "Ghetu-putro Komola"?

Ahmed: Others may say that there are 50 special features about the film. But for me, there is nothing particularly special about "Ghetu-putro Komola".

TDS: What do you want to portray through the film?

Ahmed: I want to focus on the *haor* regions of Bangladesh. During the monsoon, a *haor* is submerged, with water stretching to the horizon and waves like a turbulent sea. The same location will be a dry, barren place during winter. When someone, not familiar to *haor* areas, watches the film, they would be surprised. We will take shots by giving reference.

TDS: What is the background of the story?

Ahmed: "Ghetu-putro Komola" revolves around 'Ghetu' songs. About 150 years ago, the 'Ghetu' genre was born in a *Boishnob Akhra* in Sunamganj's Jolshukha village. Although lyrics of 'Ghetu' songs were usually considered vulgar, the tunes became classics. Young boys, in the guise of girls, would perform these songs, and a lewd practice of being physically involved with these young boys began among the local affluent.

The *haor* people remained marooned from civilisation for three months during the monsoon, and used to have 'Ghetu' singers perform for them. The practice or genre doesn't exist anymore. The film highlights the tradition of 'Ghetu' songs.

TDS: Where will the shooting be held?

Ahmed: The indoor shooting will be done at Nuhash Polli; the sets -- designed by me -- took six months to create. An old chest was made, while a house, like the ones owned by affluent rural families 150 years ago, was also constructed. Sunamganj's *haor* region will be the spot for the rest of the shooting. Tarik Anam Khan will play the lead role in the film.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

To observe the National Mourning Day (August 15), a two-day light and sound show was held at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on August 15-16. The show titled "Mayer Kachhe Jabo" featured atrocities that took place at Dhanmondi 32 on August 15, 1975. Everyday three shows were held, starting from 3pm. The 30-minute show was coordinated by Nasirul Haque.



Asha Bhosle joins Beatles, Elvis and Jackson on music icon list



Asha Bhosle

Legendary singer Asha Bhosle features on the CNN list of the top 20 music icons of the past 50 years.

Bhosle is the only Indian artiste on the prestigious list, and features along with The Beatles, Bob Marley, Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan, Madonna, Arabic superstar Khaled, sufi legend Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Michael Jackson and the Rolling Stones.

Colombian pop star Juanes, 37, is the youngest name on the list.

Describing Bhosle on its website, the CNN said: "The brightest star in Bollywood, Asha Bhosle is the queen of playback singing, having recorded over 10,000 songs for more than 800 movies. Initially typecast as a vamp, Bhosle's versatile range secured her rise to stardom and a career that has spanned about six decades." Bhosle accepted the honour modestly, saying audience affection was her biggest achievement.

"Nothing is bigger than the fact that listeners, out of love for my voice, are voting for me. For me, 'Asha Bhosle from India' is the biggest achievement," she said. She added: "I have heard a lot of world music, including singers such as Madonna and The Beatles. I used to love Elvis. In fact, I would try to copy his style." Bhosle wrote on her Twitter account that all her life she has strived to popularise Indian music and culture. "I'm happy that I have been somewhat successful," she tweeted.

In India, fans are ecstatic. "It's a well-deserved recognition for Ashaji. For us, she has been a Goddess-like inspiration. Such global recognition was long overdue," said singer Sunidhi Chauhan.

Lyricist Javed Akhtar said Lata Mangeshkar, Mohammad Rafi and Kishore Kumar too deserved to be on the list from India.

Bhosle, 76, began her career in playback singing in the shadow of her sister Lata. Among her earliest hits was "Maang Ke Saath Tumhara" from "Naya Daur" in 1957. She sung some of her biggest hits for her late composer husband R.D. Burman.

The CNN website is conducting an online poll to choose the top five from the shortlisted 20.

Source: Internet

The Brunners on Buddha

Exhibition of paintings

KAVITA, New Delhi

Hungarian artists Elizabeth Saas Brunner and Elizabeth Brunner. An intensely spiritual mother and daughter duo bound by a common love of India. The late artists' Buddhist series of paintings were on display in New Delhi recently. The exhibition, titled "Be Ye Light Unto Yourselves" features 22 paintings, the majority by the younger Brunner. The display has been held to mark the birth centenary of Elizabeth.

Saas' mystical works date back to

1934 and are painted in Bangalore, a city in the South Indian state of Karnataka. Elizabeth Brunner's paintings cover the period 1956-1972. They are set in Kushinagar, Sarnath, Bodhgaya (India), Burma, Sri Lanka and Thailand, places associated with the Buddha.

While Saas largely depicts Buddha seated in meditation, Elizabeth's varying images of the great personage are derived from the places she has visited. One can contemplate a sitting Buddha (from Kushinagar), the emerald Buddha

(Bangkok), reclining Buddha (Bangkok) monks praying in front of Buddha at a Marble Temple (Bangkok), as well as associated paintings such as a stupa in Sarnath.

The works of both mother and daughter are in subdued colours, except for one by Elizabeth titled "Buddha with Sapphire Eyes", painted in Colombo (Sri Lanka).

Elizabeth has also done a portrait of His Holiness The Dalai Lama, whom she greatly admired, of his tutors and other Tibetan personages.

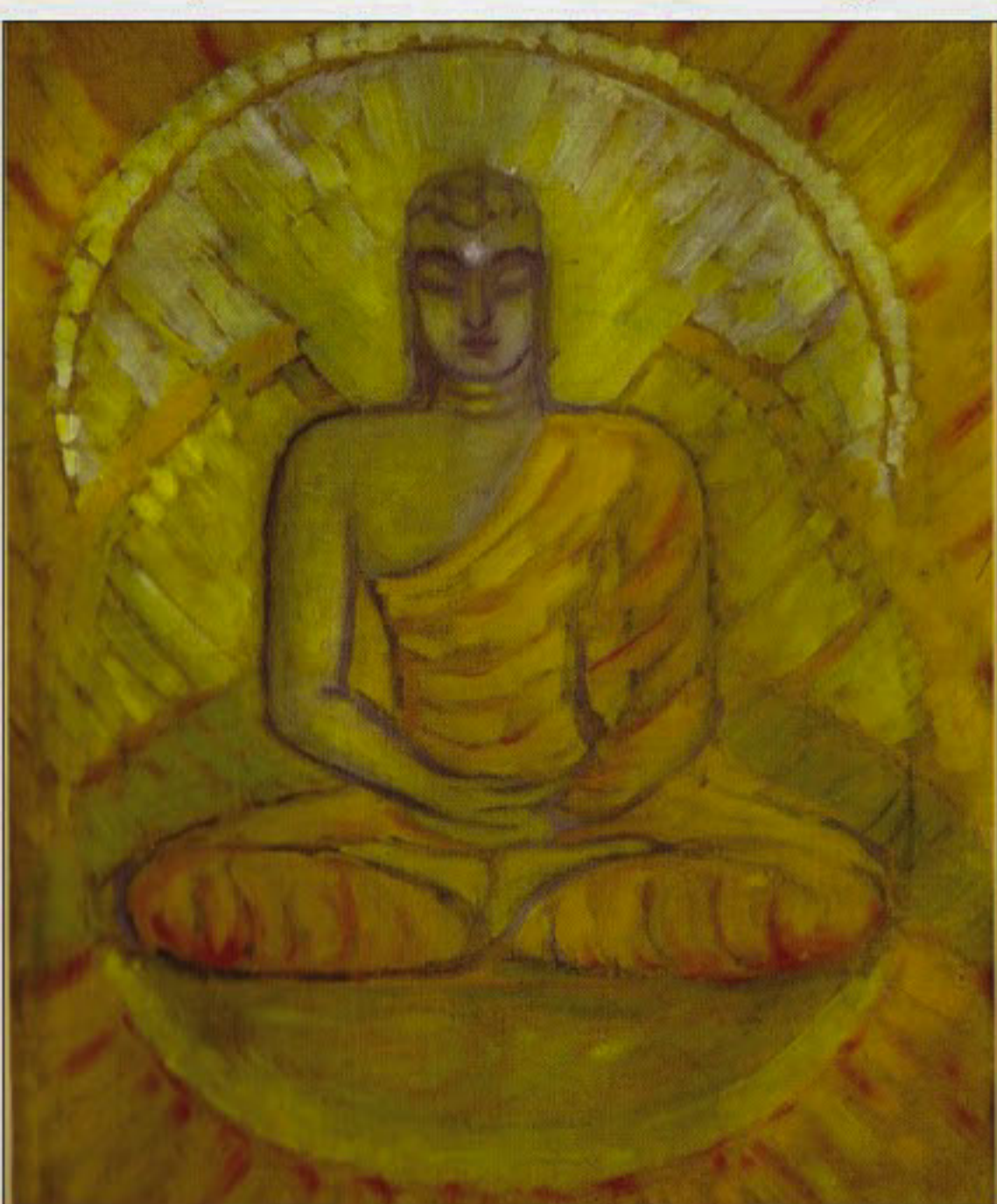
Eminent Hungarian scholar Professor Geza Bethlenfalvy, who inaugurated the exhibition, told this correspondent "While Saas was primarily a painter of landscapes and spiritual themes. Elizabeth was largely a portrait painter. The mother had what I would call transcendental experiences such as visions of a crucifix, Buddha and Shiva and these found reflection in her art.

"Elizabeth was influenced by her mother as also the permeation of Buddhist thought to Hungary at the beginning of the 20th century."

Professor Geza gave a brief description of Saas' paintings on display: "You can see a meditating Buddha seated on a globe in some of the paintings. Around him is an aura, or light that emanates from his body and soul."

Elizabeth willed these paintings to the Dalai Lama and they are now in the collection of Tibet House, New Delhi, the cultural centre of the Tibetan leader. "Though I wouldn't call the mother and daughter Buddhists, they were greatly inspired by Buddha's philosophy and teachings," says Lama Daboom Tulku, director, Tibet House.

Saas and Elizabeth arrived in India in 1930 via Italy, Egypt and Libya. Inspired by Tagore, they lived in Shantinetan for two years and decided to make India their home. Elizabeth has done a number of sketches of the bard. Apparently Tagore was greatly impressed by her talent.



One of Elizabeth Brunner-- "Sitting Buddha Image".



Elizabeth Saas Brunner (Right) and Elizabeth Brunner.

And so were visitors to the exhibition.