



WHAT'S
ON THIS
WEEK


**12th Annual
Bonsai Exhibition**
Organiser: Bangladesh
Bonsai society
Venue: WVA Auditorium,
H-20, Rd-27 (old),
Dhanmondi
Date: October 14-17
Time: 10am-8pm




**Painting and
Installation
Exhibition**
Title: Dhaka Traffic: the
City Can't Wait
Artist: Sulekha Chowdhury
Venue: Goethe-Institut
Bangladesh, Dhanmondi
Date: October 4-28



**Group Art
Exhibition**
Venue: Radius Centre,
Bay's Galleria
Date: September 24-
October 15
Time: 10am-8pm



**Group Art
Exhibition**
Title: Rooted Creativity-S
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine
Arts, 275/F, Rd 27 (old),
Dhanmondi
Date: October 15-26
Time: 12pm-8pm



Popular TV and film actor Challenger passes away

A CORRESPONDENT

Accomplished TV and film actor ASM Tofazzal Hossain, better known to the audience as “Challenger”, passed away on October 12 at 9:20 pm at his Shekherterk residence in the city. He was 51. Last year in July, during shooting the play “Onath Babur Bhoy”, directed by Golam Sohrab Dudul, Challenger suddenly felt ill. Later in August that year, his medical reports confirmed that he had brain cancer. His colleagues sent him to Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Singapore for surgery.

Ten days earlier, he was admitted to Bangladesh Medical College Hospital, but as his condition somewhat improved he was moved back to his residence. His condition deteriorated again and the actor succumbed to death, his family sources said.

The artiste started his career 10 years back through the TV play “Hablong-er Bazar” directed by writer-director Humayun Ahmed. It was Ahmed who named him Challenger.

Challenger has so far acted in more than 200 TV plays and serials. “Brikkho Manab,” “Bhober Haat,” “Shawkat Shaheber Gari Kena,” “Jamunar Jol Dekhtey Kalo,” “Chandra Karigor,” “Gani Shaheber Shesh Kichhudin,” “Kala Koitor,” “Lilaboti,” “Juta Baba,” “Salek Fodadar,” “Warrant” and “Dholbatti” feature some of his memorable performances.



After he was diagnosed with cancer, his wife brought him to my Dhanmondi residence. He stared at me for a while, as he could not speak then.

-- Humayun Ahmed

He acted in several films as well. Among them are Humayun Ahmed's “Shyamol Chhaya” and “Noy Number Bipod Shongket.” He also acted in the films “Daruchini Dwip,” “Lal Shobuj” and “Kaal Shokaley” directed by Tauquir

Ahmed, Shahidul Islam Khokon and Amjad Hossain respectively.

“It makes me realise how uncertain life is. I am upset. After he was diagnosed with cancer, his wife brought him to my Dhanmondi residence.

He stared at me for a while, as he could not speak then. Once he surprised me at Cox's Bazar, driving the whole night just to give me some time. He was an honest man and an outstanding actor,” said Humayun Ahmed about Challenger.

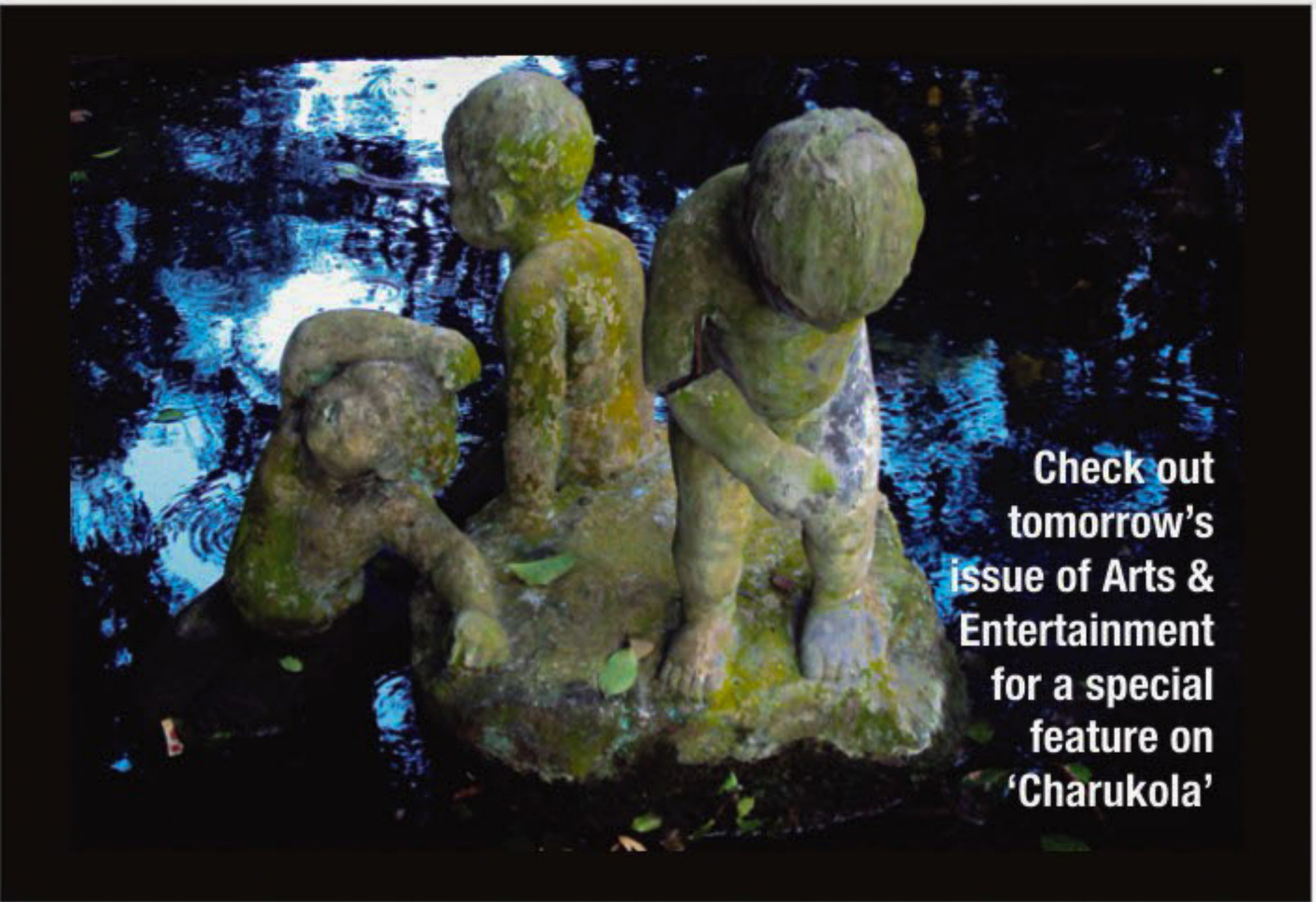
“We worked together on several TV plays and serials. Humayun Faridee and Challenger bhai acted in my 'Bhober Haat'. He was very frank. Last Pahela Baishakh we met at a programme; I could see his tears. I could not speak,” said Salahuddin Lavlu.

Fellow actor Dr. Ejaz Ahmed said, “I have so many fond memories of Challenger bhai. We used to have so much fun at the shooting spots! I am praying for his departed soul.”

Actor Mahfuz Ahmed said, “Challenger bhai acted in two of my plays -- 'Gani Shaheber Shesh Kichhudin' and 'Shesher Kabitar Porer Kabita'. He had an uncanny ability to grasp the required mood of the character he was playing. It's hard to believe that he is no more with us.”

The actor's namaz-e-janaza was held yesterday at 10 am. The body was taken to Central Shaheed Minar at 11 am. Later, he was buried at Paikpara in Dhamrai, next to his mother's grave.

Challenger was born in 1959 at Khilgaon in the capital. He left behind his wife, a daughter and a son. His sister Munira Mithu is also an actress.



Check out tomorrow's issue of Arts & Entertainment for a special feature on 'Charukola'

Shedding light on a social issue Street play “Ajker Khobor” staged

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, *Thakurgaon*

A street play, titled “Ajker Khobor” was staged at Thakurgaon Government College Campus last Sunday.

Thakurgaon Theatre Lab and District unit of Prothom Alo Bondhu Shobha jointly organised the programme to generate awareness on eve teasing among the students.

Mizanur Rahaman Rana directed the play, written by Habibur Rahaman.

The play features a group of college students who are drug abusers and harass any pretty girl they encounter. If they face protests, they become vindictive. One day the sister of a group member is similarly harassed. When she recounts the incident to her brother he protests to his friends, but they turn upon him and harass his sister even more. Driven to the edge,

the girl commits suicide. Reading of the incident in a newspaper, the locals raise their voices and vow to resist the social menace.

Prior to the play, a discussion was held at the venue.

Among those who addressed the gathering were, Head of the Department of Bangla of Thakurgaon Government College, Professor Amir Ali; Mizanur Rahim of Thakurgaon Theatre Lab and Sohel Rana, member of Prothom Alo Bondhu Shobha.

The speakers pointed out that women are feeling increasingly unsafe due to the rising incidents of eve teasing. In fact in extreme situations, unable to cope with harassment, several girls and women have been driven to suicide. They pointed out that raising awareness against these evil acts and changing mindsets are the only solutions to this problem.



Thakurgaon Theatre Lab and Thakurgaon district unit of Prothom Alo Bondhu Shobha jointly organised the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

Creative visions for an environmentally friendly Dhaka

Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, along with its local and international partners, is going to arrange a fortnightly festival of art exhibitions. The exhibitions, followed by cultural programmes, will be held at three different venues from October 18, according to a press release.

Mahfuz Anam, editor, The Daily Star and renowned artist Rafiqun Nabi will inaugurate the festival.

Titled “Dhaka Safe and Sound”, the programme's aim is to generate awareness on climate change and the need to protect our

local environment. Apart from exhibitions, the programme will also feature installations, photography, films, theatre and workshop.

The exhibitions will be simultaneously held at Shilpangan Gallery, Dhaka Art Centre and Goethe-Institut Bangladesh.

At the programme, audiences can participate and add their comments, share their ideas and creative visions to make Dhaka a better place for all.

The exhibition will continue everyday from 12-8pm till October 30.

In Vogue

3D animation making headway in Indian film industry

FROM PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, *New Delhi*

Three-dimensional animation film seems to be the new frontier for Indian filmmakers.

After veteran director Ketan Mehta, whose 3D animated film “Ramayana” was released last Friday, a clutch of other such projects involving names like Govind Nihalani, Karan Johar, Firoz Nadiadwala and Yash Raj Films are in the pipeline.

Nihalani, 70, with a career spanning over three decades, is set to make his debut in animated film with “Kamlu” based on the adventures of a baby camel and his friends.

The film, which is set for release next year, will mark his return to filmmaking after a gap of five years since his last feature film based on communal riots in Gujarat.

For Mehta too, “Ramayana” was his first animated film. Karan Johar's Dharma Production is working on an animated version of hit feature film “Kuch Kuch Hota Hai” starring Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol and Yash Raj Films is making another animated movie after “Roadside Romeo”.

Firoz Nadiadwala is coming up with animated versions of his own comedy films “Hera Pheri” and “Phir Hera Pheri” and so is Soumitra Ranade whose semi-animated film “Jajantaram Mamantaram” based on Jonathan Swift's “Gulliver's Travels” was released in 2003.

Nihalani says he is going for animated films because he loves technology, Mehta said animated film gives more scope for experimenting.

India's previous two animated films are based on epics, the “Ramayana” and the “Mahabharata” but the new work in the offing is trying out different subjects because this is an emerging market, say Bollywood sources.

Indian software industry had earlier estimated the income from animated films to be



Ketan Mehta's 3D animated film “Ramayana” was released recently.

at around 1.6 billion dollars by 2012 but later scaled it down to one billion dollars after the performance of “Roadside Romeo”.

However, with the lack of commercial success of “Roadside Romeo”, which has voiceovers of Saif Ali Khan, Kareena Kapoor and Javed Jaffri, other animated filmmakers have become cautious and are going slow with their projects.

In fact, roping in Bollywood actors is one of the selling components the makers of animated films are trying to capitalise on. For instance, Bollywood hunk John Abraham and actress Priyanka Chopra are lending their voices to Ranade's next animated film “Ali Baba and the 41 Thieves”.

Dhak and dhol players come together in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, *Mymensingh*

Like previous years, the dhak (big drum) and dhol (smaller drum) artistes from different districts of the country gathered at a temple here just before the Durga Puja celebrations.

Artists from Sirajganj, Bikrampur, Dhaka, Narayanganj, Meherpur, Chuadanga, Natore, Rajshahi, Magura, Bogra and different parts of greater Mymensingh region gather here every year at Dashbhuja Pujabari on Durgabari Road in the town.

“I've been coming here for the last four years,” said Sukhchand Das from Bikrampur.

Sukhchand, who is a farmer, said that they are not professional instrumentalists, but on the occasion of Durga Puja they come here to perform, make some extra income and enjoy the festivities.

Last year Sukhchand managed to acquire a contract to play for five days and this year, as of Tuesday, he was yet to get a gig. “I'm expecting better contracts this year as the number of puja mandop has increased in the district,” he hoped.

Likewise, Bashu Dev Moni Das from Narayanganj is a carpenter by profession, and has come here to perform and celebrate the biggest festival of Bengali Hindus.

Dipak Moni Das from Dhaka said that, apart from merry-making and earning some money, they also seek blessings from the Divine. “We perform not only to make money, but this is also our way of worship, as the beats of drums symbolically usher in the Divine,” Dipak said.

Raj Kumar Das, a young *dhak* performer of Mymensingh, said that as they have no platform or organisation representing them, many artistes have to arrange contracts to perform on their own.

Sometimes, artistes coming from other districts are deprived of fair deals by middlemen and their unfair practices. The number of professional artistes is on the wane, as this has become a seasonal profession, and one cannot survive on the meagre income, added Raj Kumar.

Though organisers are spending more money on mandops in recent years, the remuneration of performers is yet to go up, the artistes were of the view.

They also informed that there are two places in greater Mymensingh where the performers throng just before Durga Puja. One is in Mymensingh town and the other is at Nat Mandir in Katiadi, under Kishoreganj district.

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EXHIBITION/ SEMINAR

“WESTIN” Dhaka/Gulshan 2 exhibition/1 on 1 consultation

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
Oct 16th & 17th
11am - 6pm