

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

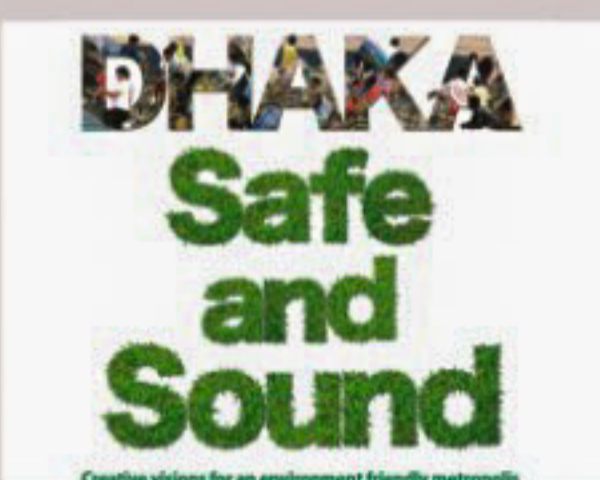
14th Asian Art Biennale 2010

Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Art Gallery (BSA) and Osmani Memorial Hall
Date: October 8-November 6
Time: 11am-7pm



Exhibition

Paintings, Installations, Photography, Films, Literature and Architecture
Title: Dhaka Safe and Sound
Organiser: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh
Venue: Goethe-Institut, Shilpakala Academy and Dhaka Art Centre
Date: October 18-30
Inauguration: 6pm



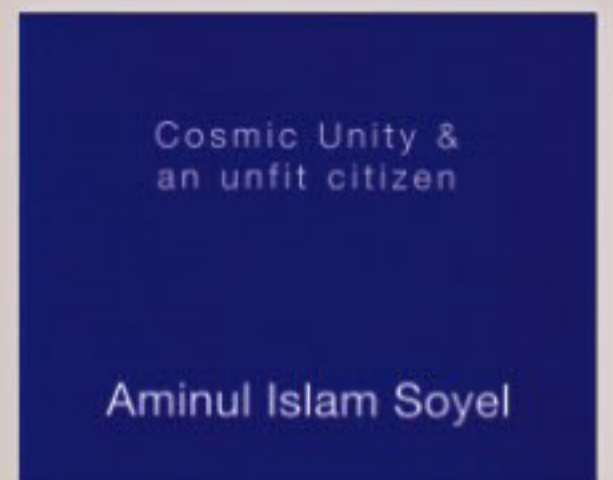
Musical Soiree

Title: 109th anniversary of Abbasuddin Ahmed
Artist: Mustafa Zaman Abbasi
Organiser: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre
Venue: Rd 24, House 35, Gulshan 1
Date: October 29
Time: 7pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Cosmic Unity & An Unfit Citizen
Artist: Aminul Islam Soyel
Venue: Kaya Galleri, H-20, R-16, Sector-4, Uttara
Date: October 15-26
Time: 11am-8pm



Life choked in the city

MA Taher's solo photography exhibition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Photographer MA Taher's solo photography exhibition titled "Present Dhaka" is now on at Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka. The 10-day exhibition inaugurated by National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, ends today. The exhibition features 65 photographs, highlighting the present condition of Dhaka. The exhibition has several pictures on interesting historical sites, buildings, temples, mosques, monasteries, orchards, etc, both ancient and contemporary. The exhibition is an example of the present state of Dhaka city.

Taher said, "There is unexpected sprawling of slums and unlawful activities. Life here is endangered due to tremendous traffic jams, over population, housing scarcity and an extreme waterlogging problem. I wanted to show the audience the changes of Dhaka over the years. As I've been brought up in Dhaka, it puzzles me sometimes that this historically beautiful city has gone through such massive changes due to unplanned urbanisation and lack of coordination. The exhibition is an attempt from my part to celebrate four hundred years of Dhaka."

Choto Katra, Lalbagh Fort, Chawk Bazar Mosque, Babubazar Mosque, Pari Bibi's tomb, Becharam Dewri and several other prominent architectural



Photographs by Taher at the exhibition.



buildings were also highlighted at the exhibition. Traffic jams, power failure, land grabbing, taking over of rivers, Buriganga River and other contemporary issues also appear at the exhibition. The photographer said, "Once Dhaka was famous for its adorned mosques, beautiful greenery and historical places. Nowadays Dhaka has lost much of its charm due to the increase of population. This population has made Dhaka almost an abandoned city."

Taher has enriched Bangladeshi photographic arena through his subject-based photography. Throughout his long illustrious career, Taher has taken part in various solo and group photography exhibitions at home and abroad. Bangladeshi birds, Bangladeshi flowers, Buddhist community, poet Shamsur Rahman, Kalim Sharafi are subjects of some of his photographic albums.

Shahrukh's rendezvous with Dhaka well underway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Known the world over as "King Khan", Bollywood superstar Shahrukh Khan will be in Bangladesh to perform at a show in the Army Stadium, Dhaka. Event management group Antar Showbiz is organising the event.

A press conference was held yesterday at the Marble Room of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel in this regard. Chairman of Antar Showbiz, Swapan Chowdhury, informed the media on the upcoming event.

Khan is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on December 9, 2010. The show will be staged on December 10 and the megastar will go back the following day.

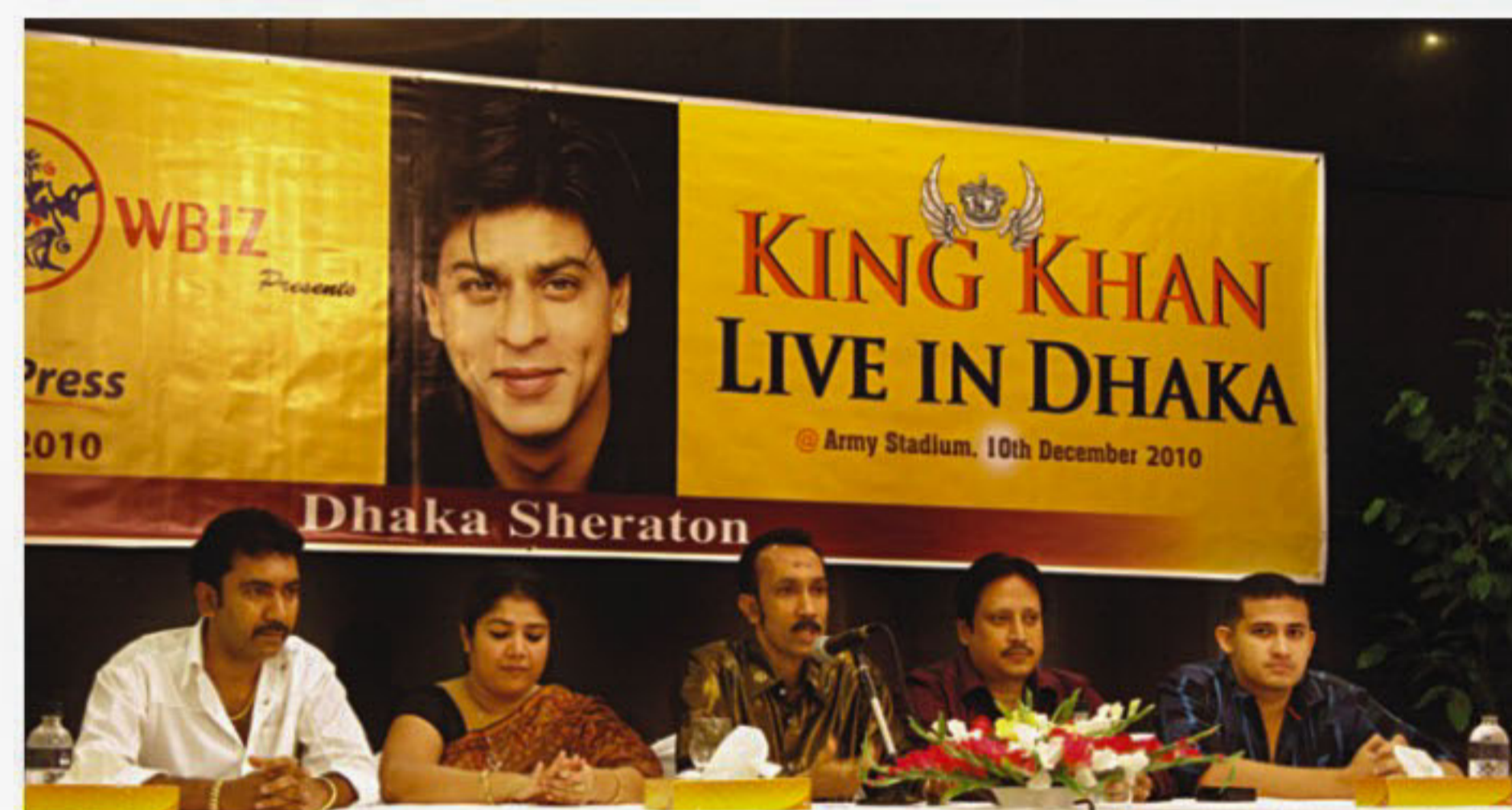
A 48-member troupe including Bollywood actors Rani Mukerji, Diya Mirza, Arjun Rampal; dance director Ganesh Hegde and singer Niraj

Shreedhar will accompany Shahrukh at the show. The troupe will arrive in Dhaka on December 8.

Swapan Chowdhury said, "Major preparations are on to make sure the show goes smoothly. Shahrukh's fans would not be disappointed. LCD projectors will be set up across the venue."

Founded in 1990, Antar Showbiz is one of the major event management groups of the country and is credited with arranging shows featuring major international artistes like Adnan Sami, Shaan and the Pakistani band Junoon.

The group also arranged a music festival, titled "Bangla-e Gaibey Bishwa", on the occasion of International Mother Language Day (February 21) this year in Dhaka. Over 150 singers from 20 countries, including USA and Canada performed at the event.



Swapan Chowdhury (centre) speaks at the conference.



Marking poet Shamsur Rahman's 81st birth anniversary on October 23, TSC-based recitation troupe 'Muktodhara Abrittii Orcha Kendra' arranged a programme, titled "Bhabikal Jar Daaknam" at Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbagh in the city on October 22. Artistes of the troupe recited a number of popular, patriotic and spirited poems by Rahman. Troupe leader, reciter Rafiqul Islam directed the production where his fellow artistes reverberated the auditorium with the late poet's words: "Hridoye amar sagor dolaar chhando chai, Oshubher shathe apshobihin dwando chai".

Pidim presents Nazrul songs

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Pidim, a Sylhet-based cultural organisation, held a musical programme featuring Nazrul songs with the title "Nazrul-e Gaan" at the Sylhet Auditorium last Friday night.

Artistes from Sylhet Sangeet Parishad presented Nazrul Sangeet for over one-and-a-half hours and captivated the audience.

The renditions included, "Jago Aruno Bhoirob", "Sur-e O Banir Mala Diye", "Eki Ashim Piasha", "Esho Hey Shajal Shyam" and "Ke Boley Hazrat", "Poush Elo Go" and more.

The programme ended with a choral presentation of "Karar Oi Louho Kopat".

Supria Das, Sharmila Majumder, Barsha Majumder, Prianika Das Tithi and Mahbulul Arefin Kamran performed songs, while Sraboni Das Mouli presented dances.

Pidim's advisor and district Bar Association President Shahidul Islam and veteran artiste Ustad Ramkanai Das spoke at the beginning of the programme. They pointed out that National Poet Nazrul is an icon and a unique source of inspiration for a modern and secular society. We need to enhance our knowledge of the literary works, songs and other creations of the great bard, they added. Pidim would hopefully focus its efforts in this direction, they said.

Kissing snakes in the rain...

Mallika Sherawat in her boldest role to date

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bollywood actress Mallika Sherawat, known for her steamy scenes in films, said some scenes in the upcoming film "Hiss", in which she plays the role of a serpent woman, was her best "onscreen kiss" till date.

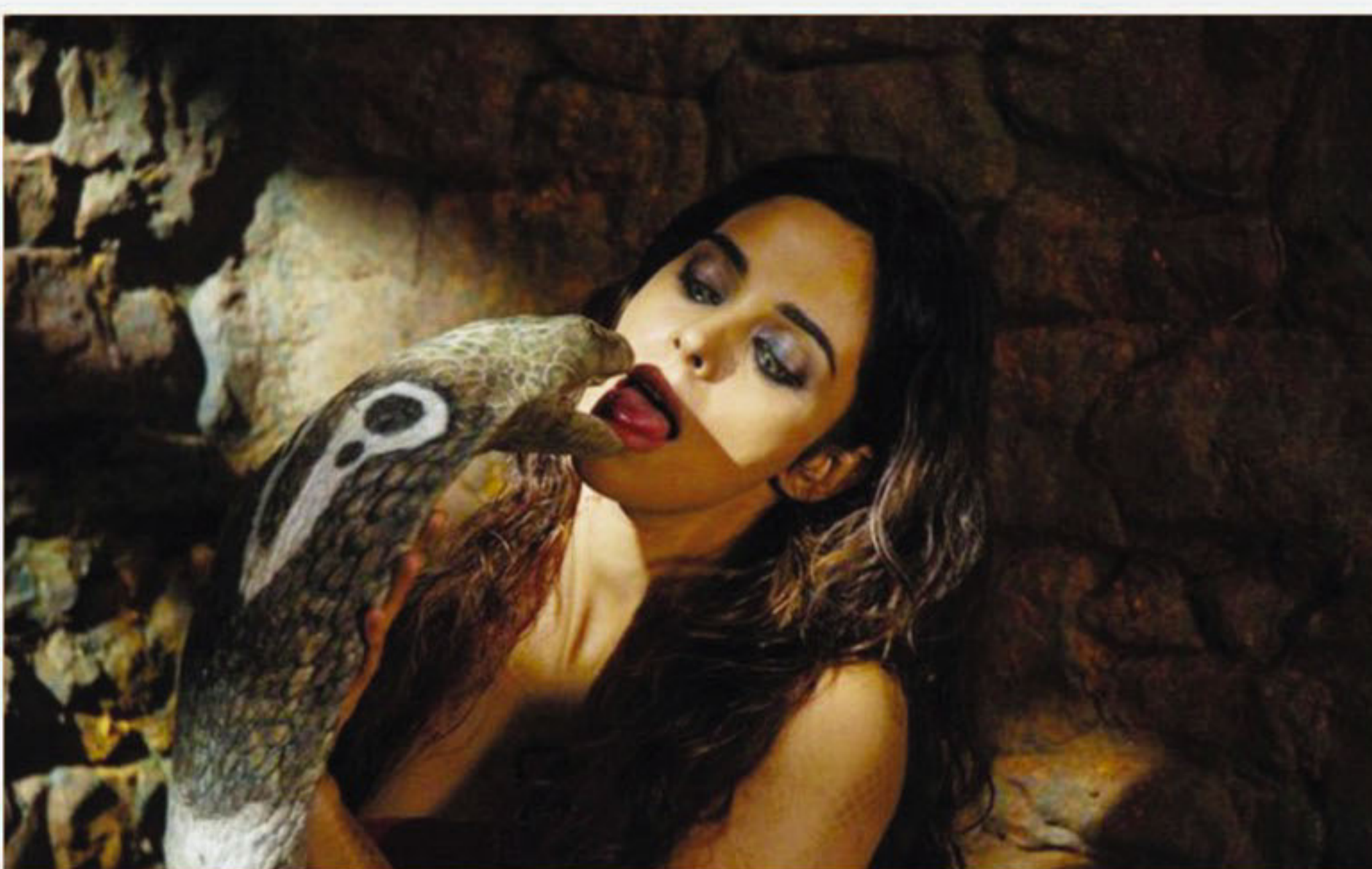
"I had to kiss a snake. It was a rainy scene, where I had to shoot this sequence with the snake inside. I believe this was my best onscreen kiss till date," Mallika told media persons as she went about the promo of the movie.

"This film most certainly will be hotter and bolder than my previous films," Mallika said, adding, "audiences can expect more from 'Hiss'. It surpasses 'Murder' and 'Khawish' in terms of oomph factor."

Directed by Jennifer Lynch, the film also features Irrfan Khan and Divya Dutta in key roles.

Mallika admitted her brother had objected to her bold scenes in the film. "I know what I am doing... It is my job after all," according to her.

"Hiss" marks Mallika's return to Bollywood after her tryst with Hollywood and Jackie Chan.



Mallika in a scene from "Hiss".

DS Café

Actor Mosharraf Karim takes the hot seat

Guess who features in this month's DS Café? None other than the busy TV and film actor Mosharraf Karim, who has been voted in as the celebrity of the month. He will take your calls at The Daily Star office. Just ring 8126155 between 2-3 pm on October 26 and fire away all your questions to Mosharraf Karim. He will reply individually to each of your queries.



Seminar and exhibition on art heritage

A CORRESPONDENT

Arts Council organised a seminar, titled "Heritage Show 2010: A Story of Legacy", at Gulshan in the city on October 23. The seminar highlighted the history of the Pala art. Veteran archaeologist Dr. Enamul Haque was the keynote speaker at the seminar. A number of noted environmentalists, scientists, artists, art critics and educationists were present at the daylong programme.

Arts Council is going to hold an exhibition, titled "A Story of Legacy: Rooted in the Tradition of Pala Art", at 12 Gulshan Avenue from December 9 to 11. Interested artists can participate at the exhibition with their paintings, prints, ceramics, sculptures and photographs.

As the title suggests, the exhibition will reflect upon the heritage of Bengali art. All participating artworks have to feature the theme, 'Pala School of Art and Sculpture'. The Pala style of art was popular in Bengal between 750 AD-1174 AD.



Dr. Enamul Haque (centre) at the seminar.