

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



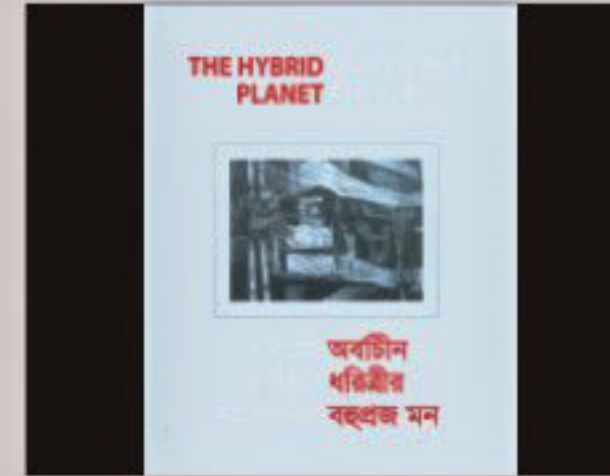
Photography Exhibition

Title: Living in the Urban Jungle
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: Oct 26-Nov 1
Time: 3-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: The Hybrid Planet
Artist: Dravid Saikot
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU
Date: October 29-November 7
Time: 11am-8pm



Theatre

Play: Drop Out
Troupe: Aikik Theatre
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: November 1
Time: 7pm



Not just a photogenic face

Tête-à-tête with model-actress Tinni

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Ever since she won one of the top spots at the "Lux Anondodhara Photoshondori" contest, model-actress Tinni has cemented her position in the media. However, even though she was at the peak of her career, she took a break when she had her daughter, Warisha, who is now the fountain of joy for Tinni. The actress does not regret her hiatus; rather she rejoices in her role as mother.

Tinni returned to the scene with Chayanika Chowdhury's "Kagojer Ghor", and gradually regained her niche in the field. TV serial "Lilaboti", based on a Humayun Ahmed novel and directed by Arun Chowdhury, is currently being aired on ATN Bangla. Tinni plays a non-glamorous role in the serial. She says she received positive response from the audience for her roles in "Kagojer Ghor" and "Lilaboti" as she focused more on the plots and characters. She adds that it was always her goal to be an actress, rather than a star.

On her return to showbiz, Tinni says she aspires to continue laying emphasis on quality work. She adds that she plans to be very selective from now on, taking on more challenging roles.

The actress has returned with newfound dedication and respect. She refutes common myths about actors failing to make it in the media after a break.

Despite her full-fledged return to the media, Tinni manages to spend quality time with her husband Hillol and daughter Warisha.

The versatile artiste also sings; a song recorded by her appeared in the 2007 album. However, plans to bring out an album with Bappa Mojumdar failed to leave the tarmac. Tinni loves to sing; she has rendered songs on Eid TV shows. Her vocal prowess can be found in the title song of Halim Talukdar's TV play "Golmal".

Tinni is currently busy on the silver screen as well; she is starring opposite filmstar Shakib Khan in Sohanur Rahman Sohan's "Shey Amar Mon Kerechhe". The actress is hopeful about her latest venture, adding that she has plans to be active in mainstream movies.

Tinni is not afraid of self-evaluation, adding that she trusts people too readily, which often causes trouble for her.



Giving form to the formless

Amit Chowdhury's Bharatanatyam



Amit Chowdhury during a performance.

A CORRESPONDENT

"Shining in his own glory, without physical qualities, formless, desireless, all pervading sky

of consciousness, wearing the sky itself as His garment" was the theme of Amit Chowdhury's Bharatanatyam recital 'Nataraja'.

Bharatanatyam, itself, is one of the most complex dance forms and to befittingly por-

tray the 'Lord of Dance' through this genre needs remarkable dramatic abilities. To the delight of the select few attending the recital, Amit outdid all expectations both through his dancing and 'abhinaya' or emotive abilities.

Amit's recital on October 29 at 'Moncho', in Banani, Dhaka was part of Shadhona's (A Center for Advancement of South Asian Dance and Music) project to organise monthly recitals for its membership-based Cultural Circle. This was the 25th such recital. Other recitals have showcased vocal music, dance, and instrumental music, including performances by both young and renowned artistes.

Bharatanatyam is one of the most stylised dance forms in South Asia, given its highly unnatural half-sitting posture, called 'aramandi', with toes and knees extended to the sides. Of course, it is the perfect 'aramandi' which allows the formation of exquisite geometric body movements. That Amit had spent grueling hours trying to achieve this was evident from the ease with which he executed the 'adavus' and 'jatis' -- body movements -- of each composition.

Amit began the recital with an invocation to Ganesha, the elephant-headed god; continued with an item of pure dance, or 'nritya' and then embarked on his dances of Shiva, whose five manifestations of 'sristi' (creation), 'sthiti' (preservation), 'tirobhava' (concealment), 'anugraha' (revelation or grace) and 'samhar' (destruction) were portrayed through changing 'rasas' or emotions. The recital ended with a 'tillana', which skillfully incorporates all the characteristics of Bharatanatyam within one presentation, increasing in tempo from the 'vilambit' (slow) to the 'madhyam' (medium) and ending with a flourish in the 'drut' (fast) covering the entire stage with various choreographic patterns.

By the end of the recital, none in the audience were surprised to hear that Amit, a graduate of Rabindra Bharati University of Kolkata, was awarded the title of 'Sringeri Shiromani' by the 'Kal ki Kalakar' Dance Festival 2010 held in Mumbai. It was truly heartening to see this young dancer from Chittagong maturing into a dancer who is sure to make Bangladesh proud.

Recreating the times of Master-da

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

"Masterda" Abhishek Bachchan came in a dhuti and shirt and keeping him company was his wife Aishwariya looking graceful in a Bengali sari as Bollywood veteran Amitabh Bachchan unveiled the music album of Ashutosh Gowariker's latest film "Khelein Hain Hum Jee Jaan Se" based on the Chittagong uprising of the early 1930s.

Amitabh, also accompanied by his wife Jaya, at the music launch in Mumbai, unveiled the album containing 11 songs -- the lyrics of which have been written by Javed Akhtar and the music composed by Sohail Sen. Akhtar has translated the patriotic song "Vande Mataram", penned by

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in Sanskrit, into Hindi for the film.

Was it a challenge for Akhtar to translate "Vande Mataram" into Hindi? No, says the 65-year-old lyricist-writer. He believes if one has the energy created by the original text, then it becomes easier for a writer to do something.

What Akhtar particularly kept in mind while translating the song was that it should sound like it was translated from Bengali.

Sohail Sen said he drew on various genres of Bengali music for the soundtrack of the film, which will be released in December.

The music director, who had worked with Gowariker in his previous film "What's

Your Rashee", said choosing the instruments was very important to get the feel of the 1930s and to compile those instruments and design sounds keeping that in mind was an interesting experience.

Sen said he composed music on the sets of the shooting of the film in a small town in Goa where he stayed with the entire unit for a month and a half.

Sen said he had faced certain problems while composing the number "Sapne Salone", a romantic number involving Abhishek and Deepika Padukone's characters.

The age difference between Kalpana Dutta and Master-da was quite substantial and one had to keep that in mind while composing the song, said Sen.



A galaxy of stars ---- Javed Akhtar, Amitabh Bachchan, Deepika, Abhishek, Jaya Bachchan and --- at the launch.

Now, a Kylie Minogue mango



Kylie Minogue may soon have a new variety of mango named after her.

The Northern Territory News reported that mango growers in Australia want to name a new variety of the juicy fruit after the pop princess.

The Kylie is one of three new mango varieties being tested by the Northern Territory's Primary Industry Department and it took researchers 16 years of work under the National Mango Breeding Program to come up with the new varieties.

Politician Kon Vatskalis was lobbying the partners involved to name one of the varieties after actor-turned-singer Kylie Minogue.

"I think Kylie should be so lucky to have this mango variety named after her," the New York Post quoted Vatskalis as saying.

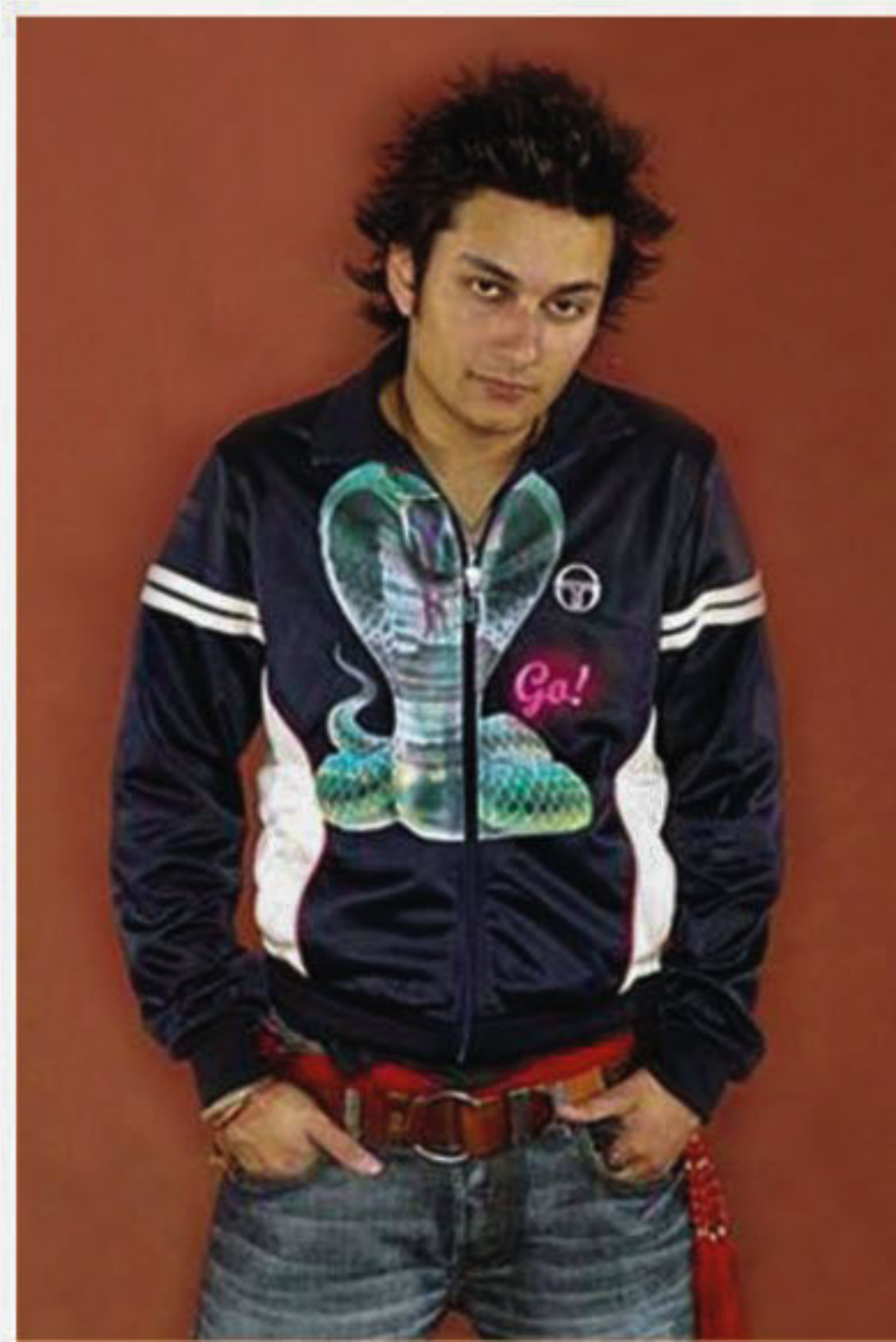
"She is the princess of pop, and just like royalty, it would be fitting to have a Territory icon named after her. I am even going to send Minogue a batch ... to get her to be one of the first in Australia to trial this new variety," he added.

The scientists worked to improve the attractiveness of the three varieties by enhancing the skin's blush. The new varieties also have longer harvest periods.

Source: Internet

"Pop music is a dead culture in India"

-- Raghav



The name Raghav may not ring bells instantly, but chances are you may have grooved to his popular track "Angel Eyes" couple of years back.

Born to Indian parents and brought up in Canada, Raghav Mathur imbibed the best qualities from different cultures. This is probably why his songs have topped the charts in Canada, UK and India. Being the product of two cultures, the amalgamation of these can be heard and felt in his songs.

"Music has always been my passion. I never thought of it as a burden. When you love what you do, it comes easy to you," says the vocalist-musician.

About the often-blurring line between passion and pressure in the music industry, Raghav says, "You should enjoy and love what you do. Pressure is there in every field -- you have your share of highs and lows. Music is no different."

Did growing up in Canada and India influence his music?

Raghav: "You can take and use a

lot of things which you have learnt from different places. You live the experience and that is what makes every musician unique."

How does it feel to see his albums topping the charts in UK, Canada and India? "It's overwhelming but I also know that I need to keep raising the bar, otherwise it will all fade away," Raghav's response.

What does he think of reality shows? Do they help provide a platform to budding singers? According to Raghav, "It's the least realistic thing on television. It's business."

What does he think about the future of pop music in India? Raghav: "It's a dead culture in India. Music is Bollywood centric and unless it comes through Bollywood, it can't be popular. I'm not saying it's a bad thing. I love Bollywood. But I do wish the media would give a chance to young pop musicians as well."

Compiled by Correspondent