

WHAT'S ON

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Monirul Islam  
Venue: Gallery Chitrah, Dhanmondi  
Date: May 27-June 15  
Time: 10am-8pm

**150th Birth Anniversary of Tagore**  
Organiser: Shilpakala Academy  
Venues: BSA, TSC, Rabindra Sarobar and two others  
Date: June 11-17

**Theatre Festival**  
Organiser: Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation  
Venue: Shilpakala Academy  
Date: June 3-17  
Time: 7pm everyday

**19th National Art Exhibition**  
Organiser: Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: May 28-June 17

**Photography Exhibition**  
Title: Tagore, the Universal Message  
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 20-25  
Time: 3-9pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Mustapha Khalid Falah  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7 A, Jh-60, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 17-July 1  
Time: 11am-8pm

**Solo Photography Exhibition**  
Title: In Search 2  
Photographer: Naymuzzaman Prince  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 3-14; Time: 12-9pm

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Title: Essence of Secret  
Artist: Tarak Mahadi  
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi

Catching Up with Ritchie Solaiman



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Ritchie Solaiman has established herself as a popular actress. She has also done some modelling and she is a dancer. As recognition to her skills, Ritchie has received a Meril-Prothom Alo award. The Daily Star (TDS) recently caught up with the actress.

**TDS: What is keeping you busy these days?**  
**Ritchie:** My child Raiyan keeps me busy mostly. **TDS: What plays are now on your work schedule?**  
**Ritchie:** A single-episode play "Noho Balika", directed by Chayanika Chowdhury, was recently aired on ntv. I've done a play directed by Shokal Ahmed, and I'm also working on S.A. Haq Ali's "Ladies First". There are other projects as well.

**TDS: You have portrayed diverse characters. Have you had trouble living up to the task?**

**Ritchie:** Adapting the role of Dipali in Tauquir Ahmed's "Jyotsnaka" was a challenge, psychologically. I had to play a girl who slowly loses her mind and tries to commit suicide over and over again. The madness, screams and hysterical laughs put me in a trance that was hard to come out of when the camera went off.

**TDS: You've been an actress since childhood. Any regret?**

**Ritchie:** There is no major regret. But acting has cost me some of the most important moments. At a stage when a girl is busy with studies or hanging out with friends, I was busy with acting. As soon as my classes were over, I had to rush to the shooting spot.

**TDS: You've appeared in many TV plays. Looking back, which of them stood out the most?**

**Ritchie:** The serial "Nir" showed an interesting relationship between a woman and her mother-in-law. Anwara played my mother-in-law in the serial. That serial received positive reaction from many. I was highly appreciated by people from all walks of life for my role in the serial "Nabila Chorito". I was told that no one else could've pulled off that character. I also received praise for my performances in the serials "Nil Nirjone" and "Moyur Bahon". I won a Meril-Prothom Alo award for my performance in "Tyag".

**TDS: Which directors are your favourites to work with?**

**Ritchie:** I like the works of Sumon Anwar, Tauquir Ahmed, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Akram Khan, Mezbaur Rahman Sumon, Mahfuz Ahmed, Animesh Aich, Chayanika Chowdhury, Rulin Rahman and Taher Shipon. I maintain a good rapport with them.

**TDS: Which of them stood out the most?**

**Ritchie:** "Ondhokar Phool" was definitely one of the defining works of my career. "Nir" was also a turning point for me. Meril-Prothom Alo award was also a great career booster.

**TDS: Are you going back to the US again?**

**Ritchie:** I haven't decided when. But I must return, as my husband lives there.

**TDS: Your son has already acted in a TV play?**

**Ritchie:** I won't call that acting. He was just three months old then. It was something we did on request.

Kanthoshilan Presents "Nishkriti" and "Gandharir Abedan"



A CORRESPONDENT

Kanthoshilan, an organisation of reciters, arranged a programme at the Shavkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbagh in Dhaka on June 11. The occasion was to pay tribute to Rabindranath Tagore on his 150th birth anniversary. At the programme, the organisation staged two of its productions -- "Nishkriti" and "Gandharir Abedan".

Prior to the dramatised readings, Tagore enthusiast Professor A.B.M. Nurul Anwar spoke on the life and works of the Nobel laureate poet.

"Nishkriti" (from "Polatoka") is a lengthy poem that tries to reveal self-centredness. The poem also narrates the bliss of universal love. Roisul Islam, Nadimul Islam and Narottom Haldar, among others, read out the poem. Zahurul Haque Khan directed the production.

"Gandharir Abedan" is a collection of verses that Tagore wrote, based on the epic "Mahabharat", at the age of 40. The poems highlight justice and truthfulness. Golam Sarwar was the director of the production. The cast included Zahurul Haque Khan, Enayet Kajal, Ila Rahman, Razia Sultana and Omar Faruk. Golam Sarwar also directed the background music.

Dhaka Fashion Week 2011 Begins tomorrow



The four-day-long Dhaka Fashion Week 2011 is set to start tomorrow (June 15) with a photography exhibition on fashion at Izumi, in Gulshan, Dhaka, according to a press release. There will also be an exhibition at University of South Asia, Banani. Fashion Week 2011 will also have a roundtable discussion on June 16 at the Westin Dhaka. The highlight of the event will be fashion shows at The Westin Dhaka where 50 designers and brands will show-

case their summer 2011 collection at 50 shows, between June 16 and 18. This year's Dhaka Fashion Week is promoting the cause of child blindness prevention and cure, in partnership with Child Sight Foundation. Alongside Bangladeshis, eight designers from India, France and Spain will also be displaying their creations at the event. Details of the event can be found at www.dhakafashionweek.net.

Khulna Regional Poetry Recitation Festival in Magura

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

The three-day Khulna Regional Poetry Recitation Festival ended at Asaduzzaman Auditorium here on Sunday evening.

The festival was arranged by Bangladesh Abriti Samannoy Parishad (BASP), in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). Magura-based organisation of reciters, Kanthabithi, undertook the management of the event.

More than 200 reciters belonging to 22 organisations (from 14 districts of the region) participated at the festival.

Susanta Kumar Saha, deputy commissioner of Magura, attended the concluding ceremony as the chief guest. Alam Ara Jui, member of BASP's central executive committee, and other officials of the district administration were present as special guests. Khan Mazharul Haque moderated the events during the three-day festival.

Language Movement veteran Khan Ziaul Haque formally inaugurated the festival on Thursday.

WHAT'S ON

"Neel Payerar Gaan" on Ekushey TV tonight

A CORRESPONDENT

Musical programme "Neel Payerar Gaan", featuring Nazrul Sangeet, will be aired tonight on Ekushey TV at 7:50pm. On the show, two artists take part in a discussion on the diverse themes like love, rebellion, nature and genres including Bhajan, Shyama Sangeet, Kirtan, and Islamic -- of Nazrul Sangeet.

The artistes also perform songs based on the themes they discuss. Noted Nazrul Sangeet singer Fatema Tuj Zohra hosts the show. Produced by Rafiqul Islam, the programme is aired every Tuesday.



Students (KG-2 to grade-5) of the Aga Khan School, Dhaka, staged "Gupi Gain Bagha Bain", written by Upendrakishore Roy Chowdhury, at National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on June 10. Neshlihan played Gupi (left), and Mugdha donned the role of Bagha. Lucy Tripti Gomez adapted and directed the play. Sufia Ferdousi directed music for the production.



Warren Beatty still flirting with "Dick Tracy" sequel



Warren Beatty may make a "Dick Tracy" sequel, the actor and director told the cheering audience Thursday at the Hero Complex Film Festival. Beatty, who directed and starred in the 1990 detective movie based on Chester Gould's long-running comic strip, said he's been working on the sequel and wants to "get it right." He declined to elaborate on casting priorities, the visual effects approach or any sort of timetable. "When you're really doing good work is when you don't know you're working, and when something just occurs to you, and you go, 'Oh, of course.'" Beatty told the auditorium at the Chinese Six in Hollywood after the festival's opening screening of "Dick Tracy."

Beatty recently won a legal battle over the rights to "Dick Tracy" but he has also talked for years about a

return to the material so a measure of healthy scepticism is appropriate. The producer-director-actor, though, said he feels no need to divulge details of his new engagement with the project just to satisfy public curiosity. "I think it's dumb to talk about movies before you make them," Beatty said. "I just don't do it. It gives you a reason to avoid making them." Beatty spoke for nearly two hours on the original "Dick Tracy," describing his love for the story, his admiration for the actors and his mixed emotions about making movies. Beatty also said a remastered Blu-ray is in the works, but was tight-lipped on the details there as well. Here are a few highlights:

On making the film: "I didn't want to do some picture where everything got blasted.... I think of this picture as rather a gentle movie, and it is compared to some stuff. Little by little I found myself caught up enough in it to actually go and make a movie about it, because it was hard for me.... I always think of making a movie like vomiting. I don't like to vomit, but I get to the point where I think, 'I'd better go ahead and do this, and I'll feel better.'"

On the Chester Gould comic strip: "It was the first comic strip I got involved with as a kid. You know, Dick Tracy was the first non-funny comic strip.... People got shot, times were tough in the Depression, things had to be done, and he went and did them."

On Stephen Sondheim, who wrote award-winning songs for the film: "I'm such a fan of Sondheim's. Every time I see one of his shows, I just fall apart on the first song."

SOURCE: INTERNET

Ila Arun wants to play Mamata Banerjee



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Singer-actress Ila Arun is the latest film personality to be floored by the persona of West Bengal Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee and says she wants to recreate the latter's role on screen.

Arun, who put up an impressive performance in the role of Mahamanga in "Jodhaa Akbar", said she would like to portray several female politicians like Mayawati and Uma Bharti but her favourite is Mamata.

"I want to play Mamata Banerjee on screen. I want to wear the rubber chappals and white cotton saree, learn Bengali and roam around the streets of Kolkata like her," Arun, who was here to promote her latest film "Wets Is West", said.

The actress, who was last seen in Shyam Benegal's "Well Done Abba", said she is in complete awe of the Trinamool Congress leader who topped the 34-year-old Left Front government in West Bengal recently.

"I think she is very intelligent. I have heard her speak at a recent film festival and I was in total awe of her.

I sent her a congratulatory message after she won the Bengal elections," she added.

Arun is excited as well as nervous about "West Is West".

"West Is West" is my first international film and there is a turmoil within me. I am very excited and anxious to see the reaction of the audience here. I play Basheera Khan, the first wife of the protagonist George Khan (played by Om Puri). She is a woman whose husband left her 30 years ago and she has been a silent sufferer," she said.

For playing the role of a Punjabi woman in "West Is West", Arun learnt rustic Urdu-Punjabi dialect to give an authentic touch to her performance in the film.

"I learnt Urdu-Punjabi for this film, which was difficult for me. But I wanted to do justice to the role. I studied the behaviour of women in the villages of Punjab by my reference," she said.

Other than singing and acting in films, Ila Arun is also busy with theatre and has adapted Henrik Ibsen's "Lady from the Sea" into a play set in Rajasthan.

"I have adapted the famous play and set it in rural Rajasthan. I have also composed the music and my daughter Ishita is playing the lead. It is a woman-centric play and I am taking it to all the big cities.

"Next month, I am going to Kolkata and I will take the opportunity to send a personal invitation to Mamata Banerjee to come and watch it," added Arun.

"I never got roles that Amitabh Bachchan did"-- Om Puri

After the huge success of "East Is East" comes its sequel named, what else but "West Is West". Directed by Andy DeEmmony, the film stars Om Puri in his old role of the London-based Pakistani, George Khan. In "West Is West", though, George comes with his family to Pakistan.

In a recent interview Om Puri talked about what other changes have been wrought in his character this time, and what he thinks of his own legacy.

**It's been 10 years since you first played the part of George Khan. Was it difficult to recapture the character?**

**Om Puri:** It was not difficult as the character was well defined and so was the script. I have played the character before, but there is a bit of a change this time. The character is three-dimensional. In "East Is East" he was an angry father, and we don't see any other emotions. But in "West Is West" you can see a variety of emotions. This is a mellow version of George Khan; he sees life in a different light today. He is sensitive, he returns to Pakistan after 25 years. He gets upset and sad and feels guilty after seeing the condition of his first wife, and wants to do something for her. He buys a house for her so that she lives comfortably. He has two daughters from his first wife, one of whom is married.

**"East Is East" was a classic. Why was there no sequel earlier? Do you think it will work so many years later?**

**Om Puri:** It is true that if the sequel had come within one or two years it would have been great because in the past 10 years I have changed a lot. I have put on weight, my hair has changed but when you watch the film you won't realise it because you are involved with all the emotions.

It took 10 years to make the sequel because initially they did not realise that there can be a sequel to "East Is East" but when it became such a successful film, they thought why not cash in on it by making a sequel. Then they started thinking about the script, which took about one-and-a-half years.

Second, they had to take on a new director who then started working on the script because the last story had ended without any hint of a sequel. So they had to think all over again.

The third reason for the delay was they did not get a producer as the European industry was going through a depression. After lots of effort



this film got support from the BBC and other financiers.

**You had a new director, Andy DeEmmony, not Damien O'Donnell who directed "East Is East". Did DeEmmony change the sensibilities of the film in any way?**

**Om Puri:** The director did not change the sensibilities of the film. Andy is equally talented and very gentle, he has a cool temperament.

**If there is a part three, will you be in it too?**

**Om Puri:** Yes, I will be part of it, George Khan is not dead yet.

**You have been in the industry for so long, so now when you sign a film what do you look for?**

**Om Puri:** It is a really difficult now for "charac-

ter actors" to survive in this industry. The kind of films we are making don't have meaty roles for a character actor. What can an actor of my age do in love stories -- either the girl's or the boy's father. Good father, bad father, angry father, soft father -- it is our misfortune.

Character acting nowadays is also done by stars, so all the good characters are played by the stars. I think I am a star and many others also think I am a star, but those who make commercial cinema don't think of me as a star as my name is associated with art cinema, and I am proud of it.

**Which film do you think has really crossed over?**

**Om Puri:** Mira Nair's "Monsoon Wedding" was

a big success here and abroad. I haven't seen the film so I can't comment on it, but I think it is an entertainer. Mira Nair is a smart filmmaker; she knows how to make everyone happy.

Most filmmakers who make films in India and want them to work in the West, too, twist the Indian reality like the much-talked-about "Slumdog Millionaire", which got an Oscar. But the way poverty was presented in the film that is not true poverty -- the scene where the boy falls into the excrement is ridiculous. For a good laugh you are twisting the reality.

**You have worked in both Indian and Western film industries. How different are they?**

**Om Puri:** Very different, they are more disciplined than we are. They have more technical knowledge. We bring in lots of foreign technicians for our films -- cameraman, stunt coordinator etc. We are less professional. There is no doubt that our films have improved technically but we are weak in subject matter. They are also very punctual.

There are nine directors in the Mumbai film industry who make good cinema -- Prakash Jha, Sudhir Mishra, Raj Kumar Santoshi, Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Raj Kumar Hirani, Ashutosh Gowariker, Vishal Bhardwaj, Anurag Kashyap, and Dibakar Banerjee. But unlike art cinema directors like Shyam Benegal and Govind Nihalani, who gave new actors and technicians a chance, these directors are not scouting for new talent and take only established actors.

**Any regret?**

**Om Puri:** I do have regrets, but the industry has given me a lot too. Art-house cinema gave me respect, credibility. I got money from commercial cinema so that I could improve my standard of living. I don't have any complaint about that.

But I have complaints about my work. The type of work I have done in art cinema, and the kind of fame I got through it -- commercial cinema never gave me those roles.

With all due respect to Amitabh Bachchan, the characters that he plays in films like "Sarkar", "Khakhee" or "Baghban" are all meaty characters, but I never got offers to play such characters, and that is my complaint.

COMPILED BY CORRESPONDENT

ATN BANGLA	12:15 Off Time	10:00 Bidwa
12:25 ATN Music	06:15 Kutha Mala	11:30 Reporter's Diary
08:05 Mohbul	10:45 Bihange Kotha	Boishakhi Binodon O
10:55 Nandini	04:05 Arshinagar	Sanskriti Sangbad
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan	07:50 Khuday Gaanraj	
01:30 Hridoyer Gaan	12:00 Aajke Shangbadpatro	
04:05 Arshinagar		
04:05 Khuday Gaanraj		
09:25 Aajke Shangbadpatro		
CHANNEL i		
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan		
01:30 Hridoyer Gaan		
04:05 Arshinagar		
04:05 Khuday Gaanraj		
09:25 Aajke Shangbadpatro		
ntv		
10:05 Android Master		
04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar		
Achhey		
05:30 Akter Jaggaha		
06:45 Frankly Speaking		
08:15 Dur Paharer Batashera		
ETV		
10:00 The Battle of Shaker Heights		
01:30 Enemy of the State		
04:40 The Battle of Shaker Heights		
09:30 Ice Princess		
11:45 Good Advice		
Star Movies		
11:35 Over the Top		
01:15 Snake Eyes		
05:00 There's Something		

abc Radio FM 99.2	06:00 Bhorer Janabai	10:00 Hello Dhaka
06:00 Bhorer Janabai	09:00 Mukhorito Jhony	10:00 Morning Express
09:00 Mukhorito Jhony	12:00 Duran Dugurey	12:00 No Tension
12:00 Duran Dugurey	03:00 Shomukha Tara	04:00 Dhaka Calling
03:00 Shomukha Tara	05:00 Shayer Mapa	05:00 Knight Riders
05:00 Shayer Mapa	07:00 Raat-er Akashy	08:00 RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
07:00 Raat-er Akashy	11:00 Galper Shesh Nei	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
11:00 Galper Shesh Nei		12:00 Today's Adda
Radio Foorti		04:00 U Turn
		07:00 Tobey Tai Hok

**Raaf Biratay**  
On BANGLAVISION at 11:25pm  
Street Show  
Guest: Masum Reza

**Bad Boys**  
On Star Movies at 10:15pm  
Genre: Action/Comedy  
Cast: Will Smith, Martin Lawrence

**Abiram**  
Bangladesh On ATN BANGLA at 05:20pm  
Documentary  
Director: Zillur Rahman

11:30 Ekushey-er Business	08:40 about Mary
04:30 Ekushey-er Business	10:15 From Paris with Love
05:30 Ekushey-er Business	10:15 Bad Boys
06:30 Desh jurey Sanglap	10:45 Commandments
07:50 Neel Payerar Gaan	04:15 Dennis the Menace
10:10 Gopa Salpa Gaan	12:00 Revenge of the Ninja
	12:00 Bean
	Star World
	11:30 India's Most Desirable
	08:30 Desperate Housewives
	03:30 Two And A Half Men
	09:00 The Simpson's
	11:30 How I Met Your Mother
	National Geographic
	Channel
	02:30 My Life Is a Zoo
	07:30 I Didn't Know That
	09:30 Mega Factories Week
	11:30 Air Crash Investigation
	Discovery Channel
	11:30 Air Crash Confidential
	02:30 Rampage
	07:30 Deception with Keith Barry
	09:30 Man vs. Wild

ATN BANGLA	08:20pm Busy for Nothing
09:20pm Poush Phaguran Pala	09:55pm Boyra Panbar
CHANNEL i	ETV
05:30pm Joto Durey Jui	09:30pm Ghatat Baki Bhai
09:35pm Fanesh	09:30pm News Headlines (Bangla)
ntv	08:15pm No Problem
09:45pm Doshoker Golpo	09:45pm Gulshan Avenue
11:30pm Terminal	08:15pm Gehniy
Rtv	

NEWS BULLETIN	
RTV	BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am	News (Bangla) at 7:30am
2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm	1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm
News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm	10:30pm
News (English) at 11:30 pm	News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm
(To be telecast on all Bangla channels)	News (English) at 6:00pm
CHANNEL-i	RTV
News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am	News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
ATN BANGLA	NEWS
News (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am	News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:00pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am
NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am	ETV
NEWS (English): 9:00 am, 6:00 pm	News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 3:00 pm, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:00pm

ATN BANGLA	10:30am Lead News	10:40am Tanakalip
11:10am Vision 2020	11:00am Vision 2020	07:40pm Our Democracy
CHANNEL i		BANGLAVISION
09:45am Trita Matra	12:30pm Tanaka Kothon	10:10am Front Line
ntv		Desh TV
12:10pm Ei Shomoy		11:45pm Shoya Kotha
Rtv		Boishakhi TV
		12:00am Zero Hour
		Diganta TV