

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition Artist: Monirul Islam Venue: Gallery Chittrak, Dharmondi Date: May 27-June 20 Time: 10am-8pm

Exhibition Organizer: Urban Study Group Venue: Haini Kanta Bhattachali Gallery, National Museum Date: June 10-22 Time: 10:30am-7:30pm

Film Festival Organizer: Zahir Raihan Film Society; Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dharmondi, Date: June 17-25 Time: 4pm onwards

Musical Soiree Artist: Mehreen Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1 Date: June 24 Time: 6:30pm

Theatre Play: Apod Troupe: Dhaka Padatik Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy Date: June 25 Time: 7pm

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

Theatre Play: Raja Rani Troupe: Naganik Nanyangal Ensemble Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy Date: June 19, Time: 7pm

Seminar Title: Rabindranath E Shomeya Venue: BICC, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Date: June 18-19 Time: 9:30am onwards

Theatre Play: Shenapati Troupe: Centre for Asian Theatre Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy Date: June 19 at 7pm



A Life Extraordinary
Sufia Kamal birth centenary celebrations at Chhayanaut

AKRAM HOSEN MAMUN

Chhayanaut's two-day long celebration, marking the birth centenary of pioneering poet Sufia Kamal (June 20, 1911-November 20, 1999), featured music, reading and documentary screening at the Chhayanaut Auditorium in Dhaka on June 17 and 18.

The celebration featured songs of 'Pancho Kobi' (five poets) -- Rabindranath, Nazrul, Dwijendralal, Rajanikant and Atulprasad as well as folk melodies. The second day's programme featured reading of Sufia Kamal's writings that served as interlude to the renditions of songs and dances. The event on June 17 began with

Chhayanaut president Dr. Sanjida Khatun's speech on the life and accomplishments of Sufia Kamal, who was the president of Chhayanaut since its inception and worked with the organisation till she breathed her last. Sufia Kamal was way ahead of her times, and was not only one of the leading poets of the country but also a social and cultural activist, and a bold feminist. She addressed issues that were considered taboo at her time. However, Chhayanaut's homage mainly featured the works of poets and singers that Sufia Kamal cherished and some excerpts from her own writings. The event noticeably lacked a projection of Sufia Kamal's lifelong struggle against discriminatory social norms and patriarchy.

the Shabha Kobi (royal poet), respectively. The songs were rendered by Iffat Ara Dewan, Audity Mohsin, Azizur Rahman Tuhin and others. Audity Mohsin's rendition of 'Jhore Jhore Jhore' was remarkable amidst the songs performed throughout the evening. However, considering it was a tribute to someone as unconventional as Sufia Kamal, the event did not really offer anything new; neither did it highlight the social issues addressed in Kamal's works. Students of Chhayanaut danced with seasoned artistes and Chhayanaut teachers Sharmila Banerjee and Samina Hossain Prema. Sufia Kamal's photographs projected at the back of the stage were an added attraction. The second day's programme offered diversity in range and scope, and to some extent, reflected the life of Sufia Kamal as an activist and social reformer. Nazrul Sangeet; folk numbers; songs of Himangshu Dutta, Dwijendralal, Rajanikant, Atulprasad were performed. The programme concluded with a screening of Manzar-e-Hasin Murad's documentary on the life of Sufia Kamal.



The celebration featured songs of 'Pancho Kobi', folk melodies, reading of Sufia Kamal's writings and dances.

After Dr. Sanjida Khatun's speech, the first day's programme began. On June 17, the event featured staging of Rabindranath's narrative 'Srabongatha'. Some of the most widely known Tagore singers and reciters took part in the performance. Syed Hasan Imam, Bhaswar Bandopadhyay and Jayanta Roy enacted the roles of Raja (king), Nataraj (Shiva) and

the Shabha Kobi (royal poet), respectively. The songs were rendered by Iffat Ara Dewan, Audity Mohsin, Azizur Rahman Tuhin and others. Audity Mohsin's rendition of 'Jhore Jhore Jhore' was remarkable amidst the songs performed throughout the evening. However, considering it was a tribute to someone as unconventional as Sufia Kamal, the event did not really offer anything new; neither did it highlight the social issues addressed in Kamal's works. Students of Chhayanaut danced with seasoned artistes and Chhayanaut teachers Sharmila Banerjee and Samina Hossain Prema. Sufia Kamal's photographs projected at the back of the stage were an added attraction. The second day's programme offered diversity in range and scope, and to some extent, reflected the life of Sufia Kamal as an activist and social reformer. Nazrul Sangeet; folk numbers; songs of Himangshu Dutta, Dwijendralal, Rajanikant, Atulprasad were performed. The programme concluded with a screening of Manzar-e-Hasin Murad's documentary on the life of Sufia Kamal.

PHOTO: GOLAM MAHIBUB

Celebrating Monsoon Cultural programme in Manikganj



ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

The local Shilpakala Academy and district administration jointly organised a two-day long cultural programme at the tennis court in Manikganj to celebrate the advent of monsoon. The programme concluded on Thursday night.

Artists of Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Parishad, Shilpakala Academy, Manikganj Sahitya O Sangskritik Sangsad and Manikganj Government Children's Home rendered choruses and solo songs while artistes of Shilparath and Shishu Academy performed dances. Saiful Islam Dipu, Nuri Lubna and Sayeed Khan Dipon recited poems at the function.

Earlier, a discussion was held at the venue. Nizam Uddin, additional deputy commissioner (general), presided over the discussion where Abul Islam Shikdar, vice principal of Government Women's College; Ashutosh Saha, assistant professor of Khan Bahadur Awlad Hossain Khan College; A.E.M. Sultanul Azam Khan, president of Shilparath and Basudey Saha, lecturer at Jhika Khwaja Rahmat Ali Degree College were the speakers.

BOLLYWOOD ROMANCE

Can Lady Gaga conquer India?

With her choreographed routines, colourful costumes and catchy tunes, she has many trademark Bollywood characteristics. Lady Gaga, who has millions of fans around the world, is trying to expand her reach in one of the world's largest consumer bases -- India.

In a recent interview with the Wall Street Journal, she spoke of her ambitions. "The reason I'm going to India now is because I can," she says. "I didn't have the money or the resources before to travel and bring all of my things with me and reach an entire new territory of fans."

It is a fanbase, which could prove extremely lucrative, if she's able to capture it. With a growing economy, and a population of more 700 million people under the age of 30, India's rising middle classes have more money to spend.

Bollywood music is still the most popular genre, which might explain why, as part of her mission, Lady Gaga has remixed a number of her songs to give them a more Indian flavour.

She has released four mixes of "Judas" and "Born This Way", reversioned by the American-Indian music targeted at South Asians the world over. Recreated as remixers are Salim and Sulaiman, two of Bollywood's most popular composers, and Panjabi MC. A reworked "Judas" adds the melancholy sound of the sitar and the soft beats of tabla.

"Bollywood is so vibrant and colourful and larger than life in many ways -- and Lady Gaga is too," says Anjula Acharya-Bath, CEO of Desi Hits. "I think it's natural that she would gravitate towards that."

Lady Gaga has been eyeing India and Bollywood for some time, says Acharya-Bath, and she's expressed an interest in singing "Born This Way" in Hindi. There has been much speculation that the so-called "Fame Monster" will visit the country herself, possibly to tour. So

how easy will it be for Lady Gaga to crack this market? There is no definitive chart, like the Billboard chart in the US or Radio 1's countdown in Britain. For its chart rankings, the Indian edition of Rolling Stone magazine collects data on sales by Western musicians in Landmark, a bookshop chain. By this measure, Lady Gaga is already a success, with "Born This Way" in the top three. Her CDs are stocked in many cities, says Robin James, executive editor of India's Rolling Stone.

But that is a relatively tiny measure of an artist's popularity in a country where illegal downloads and bootlegged music account for a large portion of listenership. The Landmark chart doesn't include Bollywood music, which rules the airwaves in India's small towns and villages where a large majority of the population live. Very few Western acts penetrate beyond India's urban and

metropolitan areas, says James -- Michael Jackson is still one of the few artistes well-known among villagers and city-dwellers alike. "I don't think Lady Gaga would sell out her concerts if she came here," says James. "Her fans are likely to be younger college kids who probably can't afford the ticket price."

Bryan Adams, Metallica and Iron Maiden have played to sell-out crowds of up to 40,000, he says, because they appeal to an older demographic with the money to spend on concert tickets. Lady Gaga will continue to expand her fanbase in India's big cities, he says. But the biggest challenge for any Western act is getting airplay to broaden appeal beyond metropolitan areas.

"You very rarely get to see rock music on TV here. Even MTV in India is primarily a Bollywood channel." Another challenge could be Lady Gaga's flamboyant and often risqué image in a country, which still frowns on kissing in Bollywood films.

"The skimpy clothes and the half-naked looks might create a ruckus here," says Shefali Alvares, an Indian singer who performs in both English and Hindi. In her Bollywood video for "Judas", Lady Gaga wears a bikini top and covers up very little flesh. But such scenes are common in today's Bollywood.

"Her shows are outrageous but in a way the public perception of morality has also shifted," says James. "We see way too many outrageous things happening on television." It remains to be seen how Lady Gaga will project herself to the Indian crowds. Even if she doesn't shock, she may surprise. She already has one esteemed admirer -- legendary musician Ravi Shankar.

"I saw some music videos by Lady Gaga for the first time recently," the sitar maestro told the Times of India newspaper. "I do admire her theatricality. She is a very intelligent performer."

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National Theatre Festival 2011 ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fortnight-long National Theatre Festival 2011 ended on June 17 at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. On the concluding day, Dhaka Theatre premiered its production "Noshto Neer", while Prangane Mor staged "Rakto Karobi". Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, arranged the festival. The event featured 30 plays by as many troupes. Three Indian troupes staged their productions at the festival as well.

Dhaka Theatre, one of the oldest and most popular troupes of the country, has never produced a Tagore play before "Noshto Neer". The play received a grant from the Government.

Rubaiyat Hossain, a young member of the troupe, has dramatised the Tagore short story with the same title. Noted actor and one of the founder members of Dhaka Theatre, Pijush Bandopadhyay, directed the play. This is the first Dhaka Theatre production directed by Bandopadhyay.

"Noshto Neer" narrates the story of a lonely housewife Charulata, affably called Charu. Her husband, Bhupati, runs a newspaper and is practically married to his profession, with little time for Charu. Bhupati asks his cousin Amal to keep her company.

Amal is a writer and is asked to help Charu with her own writing. As they start spending significant amount of time together, Charu and Amal gradually come closer and at one point their feelings for each

other cross the boundaries of a mentor-disciple relationship. Jayasri Bandopadhyay played the protagonist Charu. Khairul Islam Pakhi enacted the role of Amal. Pijush Bandopadhyay played Bhupati and Shimul Yusuf donned the role of the narrator, who also danced and sang in between acts. Among others, Milu Chowdhury, Asaduzzaman Aman, Sajjad Rajib and Shabin Khandakar performed in the play.

Shimul Yusuf designed the costumes for the play. She also choreographed the dances and directed music. Wasim Ahmed was the light designer. Kamaluddin Kabir did the set designing.

On the day, Prangane Mor's "Rakto Karobi" was also staged at the Experimental Theatre Hall. The production was directed by Nuna Afroze, who also played the protagonist Nandini.

The festival featured several productions based on Tagore literary works. Among the Tagore plays and adaptations at the festival were "Baikunther Khata", "Bashikaron", "Nishimom Bishorjon", "Muktohdhara" and "Kaler Jatra".

Among the participating troupes, six were from outside Dhaka. The Dhaka-based troupes included Nagarik, Theatre Art Unit, Theatre, Natya Chakra, Loko Natyadal (Banani), Dhaka Theatre, Subachan, Mahakal, Aranyak, Prachyanan, Drishyapat and Prangane Mor. Troupes from Narayanganj, Sylhet, Chittagong, Barisal and Rangpur also took part in the festival.

Participating Indian troupes were Unit Malancha (from Kolkata), Natya Chetana (Orissa) and Jugagni (Baharampur).

Printmaking workshop at Cosmos Centre



Participating young artists at the workshop.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cosmos-Atelier 71 has organised a nine-day woodblock printmaking workshop at the Cosmos Centre in Malibagh, Dhaka. The workshop opened on June 17 and will continue till June 25.

Noted painter and printmaker Anisuzzaman is conducting the workshop. He is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Printmaking, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka.

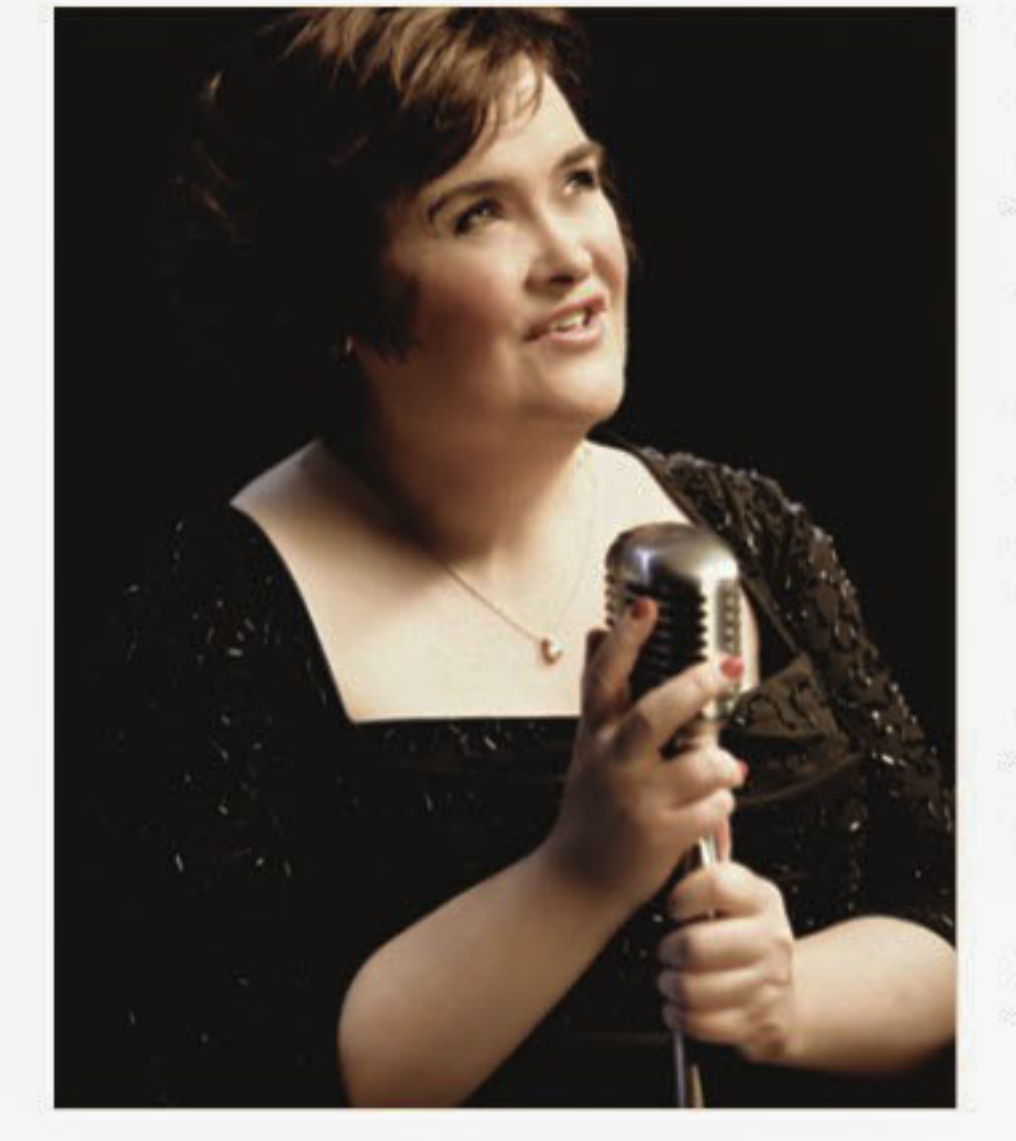
At the workshop, Anisuzzaman is demonstrating the stylistic methods of woodblock printmaking techniques. The workshop brings together a group of ten young artists -- encouraging exchange of ideas, honing skills and professional development.

Anisuzzaman said, "The main aim of the project is to explore woodblock printmaking with new techniques and methods. Our aim is to popularise this genre of art in our cultural scenario. Artists will learn several methods, techniques and styles through this project."

Ashit Kumar Mitra, assistant director of Gallery Cosmos said, "Printmaking is very demanding and exciting. It provides an opportunity for rethinking, re-examination and reworking. The medium's outcome is amazing and provides a remarkable effect. Such workshops will certainly help our upcoming printmakers."

Cosmos-Atelier 71 aims to serve as a platform where international and local art practitioners meet to create contemporary prints through its process-based workshops, residencies, discussions and other activities.

Susan Boyle story to be turned into musical



Scottish singer Susan Boyle, who shot to stardom in 2009 when her performance on a television singing contest became an internet hit, will see her life portrayed on stage in a new musical.

"I Dreamed a Dream," named after the title of the song she sang that made her an overnight celebrity, will tour internationally from 2012 after premiering at Theatre Royal in Newcastle on March 23.

"I never thought my life story would end up on the stage but a lot has happened in two years and it is a very exciting prospect," Boyle said.

"I hope everyone enjoys the show and I promise there will be a few surprises along the way," she added in a statement.

Boyle will be played by actress Elaine Smith,

best known for her role in the comedy series "Rab C Nesbitt" and a favourite of the singer.

Boyle's rendition of "I Dreamed a Dream" was viewed some 300 million times on the YouTube video sharing site, and within days she was a global singing sensation.

Under the tutelage of music producer Simon Cowell, who was a judge on "Britain's Got Talent" when Boyle performed, she has gone on to record two albums and sell some 14 million copies.

Producer Michael Harrison said of the show: "It's got all the qualities of a fairy tale, but with the added bonus of being absolutely true." According to the Daily Telegraph, a 26-week tour of the Britain, the United States and Australia has been lined up so far.

SOURCE: INTERNET

Advertisement for 'Sunderban' featuring a tiger and text in Bengali. Includes contact information for 'www.new7wonders.com' and a phone number '00447589001290'.

Table of TV programmes for ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL i, BANGLAVISION, ntv, and RADIO. Lists showtimes and program titles.

Table of TV programmes for Aloy Bhora, The Blind Side, and Sunday Live. Lists showtimes and program titles.



Table of TV programmes for Shastha Proidin, Desh TV, ETV, Boishakhi TV, and Diganta TV. Lists showtimes and program titles.

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