

WHAT'S ON

Film Screening
Title: BANF Mountain Film
Festival World Tour: Dhaka 2011
Venue: Goethe Institut, H 10, Rd 9, Dhammond

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Pater Gaan, Bangor Bepi
Artist: Nazim Hossain
Venue: Bengali Gallery of Fine Arts, 42, Rd 16 (new), Dhammond

Exhibition of Documents
On 90th anniversary of Dhaka University
Venue: TSC, DU
Date: June 30-July 6
Time: 10am-7pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Women's Lib
Artist: Raziya Sultana
Venue: Shilpakala Academy, Dhammond

Musical Soiree
Title: Sheotar Ashor
Singers: Hafiz Ara Dewana and Hridya Khatun
Venue: Chhatra Union Bhaban, Dhammond

6th Int'l Children Painting Exhibition
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpa Academy
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpa Academy
Date: June 26-July 10

Photography Exhibition
Title: Thive in the Wild Women's Tale
Venue: Goethe-Institut, H 10, Rd 9, Dhammond

Theatre
Play: Bangla Mati Bangla Jol
Troupe: Fakkar
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: July 7
Time: 7pm

Film Screening
Featuring five Indonesian films
Venue: Poot Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum, Shaohbagh
Date: July 3-5
Time: 4pm onwards

"Poets are wordsmiths" -- Rupa Chakraborty

SADYA AFREEN MALLICK

Renowned elocutionist Rupa Chakraborty has been away from limelight in the Bangladesh media. When I last caught up with her, she was in Heidelberg, Germany.

An elegant and upbeat Rupa arrived in a bright red jamdani, leaving little doubt in associating her with her pursuits in promoting and performing Bengali elocution at home and abroad.

"I have been working on my Ph.D in syntactic structure (use of proper language structure) of Sylheti dialect, from SOAS, for the last two years," said the articulate Rupa. "The inspiration came from my Sylheti background, and coincided with my idea of researching a new topic," she added.

An associate professor at the Institute of Modern Language (IML), Dhaka University, Rupa's view on her career was insightful.

"At IML, 13 languages, including Bangla, are taught to non-native speakers," Rupa explains. "My trip to South Korea fuelled my interest in developing simple techniques to teach foreign students. There I came across teachers who had introduced books and CDs that were helpful for foreign students to grasp the language. On my return home, I wrote a 75 chapter book, titled 'Spoken Bengali' and commissioned software to be developed to aid in learning spoken Bangla. The book and software were published by the IML, University of Dhaka. Bangla Academy had published a similar book by Jahanara Imam in the 1960s, but it was written in English, and as a majority of the students were not English speakers, it was not very useful for us at the IML," she continued.

"So my book is written in Bangla, with International Phonetic Alphabet notations used to instruct the reader in pronunciation as well as an English translation for those who can read English.

"The other book Practice Text for Bengali Learners, was published by the University Grants Commission," added Rupa.

"My book has been appreciated at the Heidelberg University's department for foreign students," added Rupa modestly.

How does she combine this project with her passion for poetry? "Poetry runs in my blood. I used to rock to the rhythm of poetry even as a toddler. My father, Dr. Bokul Majumdar, studied under Rabindranath Tagore at Shantiniketan, and eminent scholars such as Mujtaba Ali and others were regular guests at our home. I literally grew up amongst them. So my passion for language and poetry is firmly engrained in my mind.

"During my stay in London, I tried to bring together Bangladeshi expats interested in recitation. Up to then they had been performing individually, now we offered them a larger platform. Soon we set up a recitation group called Punoshcho (Again), comprising 16 members," she said.

"On Tagore's 150th anniversary we launched an album featuring 16 of the Tagore's lesser known works. We sold over 350 CDs on the first day. Poetry recitation gained momentum and generated great interest among Bengali listeners, as this initiative was the first of its kind in Europe."

Rupa added, "Our dramatic reading of Tagore's prose 'Bachoshpati' from the book 'Golpo Sholpo' drew an enthusiastic crowd. This was due to its uncommon approach as it featured words, which have no real meaning, but through expression present a visual image to the listeners.

"We are currently working on an album featuring 15 of the bard's letters written to different personalities; the callings of his heart in epistolary form. The letters were addressed to Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose, Mahatma Gandhi and also related to Tagore's trip to the UK and the USA. Some are excerpts of his Harvard speech, while others convey his political and social thoughts and more," said an enthusiastic Rupa.

Rupa is one of the founding members of



PHOTO: ASHISH SENGUPTA

the Shanon, an organisation of reciters, now running for 26 years in Bangladesh.

"Art goes beyond frontiers," she adds. She feels the pulse of Bengali expats in the UK and aims to generate a taste for quality cultural production as Head of News and Programme of the TV channel. Desh that began its journey only recently.

In one such programme Rupa interviewed Nobel laureate Amartya Sen.

"Poets are wordsmiths," she says. "The rhythmic style has the capacity to engage listeners. Through such endeavours, children are encouraged by their parents to take part in activities that represent our culture," said a content Rupa.



Artwork by Shohag Parvez

Watercolour Exhibition at Shilpakala Academy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group watercolour exhibition featuring works of 16 painters is now on at National Art Gallery Plaza, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA).

Noted painter Hashem Khan inaugurated the exhibition on June 30. Chittagong-based painter Monsur Ul Karim was present as special guest at the opening. Liaquat Ali Lucky, director general of BSA,

presided over the inauguration. Participating painters include Hashem Khan, Biren Shome, Rezaul Karim, Nasim Ahmed Nadi and Shohag Parvez. Themes of the paintings are greenery, tranquility of nature and magnificence of hills. The exhibition ends today.

The artworks on display are products of an art camp held at Moulvibazar. The art camp was jointly organised by BSA and Moulvibazar District Council.

Baul songs sway the audience

Music festival at TSC

A CORRESPONDENT

Baul songs are recognised as one of the oldest existing forms of traditional music in Bengal. However, the word 'baul' denotes more than just a genre. It's a philosophy that shapes the lifestyle of the singers and musicians. They are heterogeneous -- majority of them are Hindu ascetics and Muslim mystics. And their music and lyrics have retained old rhythmic idiosyncrasies and beats. Naturally, one can't always expect to hear something revolutionarily new at a Baul festival.

Baul Utshab 2011, organised by Palli Baul Unnayan Shangstha O Bishwa Kalkendra on June 12 at TSC Auditorium, featured 15 baul singers and seven accompanying instrumentalists. Most of the renditions at the two-hour long programme were characterised by their vitality and spirit. Dewan Baby, a renowned baul from Brahmanbaria, performed "Loke Bole Amar Chore Naki Chand Utheche" and Ghor Naki Chand Utheche" and got the audience swinging to the music. Baby's husband Nazrul Islam, singer and dhuli (dhol player), unleashed powerful and up-tempo beats on his dhol. Their 18-year-old son Shamim played the rhythmic Mandira. Nazrul's brother, Hasan, a charismatic dhuli offered some stunning brisk solos. "All four brothers of Nazrul are like born dhulis," said Baby. Her renditions had an added attraction: trumpet. The instrument hasn't been used in baul songs before.

Another intriguing one stringed instrument was khamak, which has become a rarity in the country in recent times. Aslam, who played khamak, came with his wife Shirin Sultana whose passionate rendition of the Lalon song "Jaat Gelo, Jaat Gelo Bole" was received with applause.

Perhaps the most powerful and buoyant performance of the evening was "Agey Ki Shundor Din Kataitam" by Baul Nayan. All the musicians appeared to have enough room to impress the audience with their respective performances.

Among others, Maya Rani's renditions were also remarkable. The event was presided over by Syed Rezaul Rahman, Registrar, Dhaka University.

Indonesian Film Fest in the city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rainbow Film Society has organised a three-day contemporary Indonesian film festival at Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum, in the city. Dr Gowher Ritzi, adviser to the Prime Minister, inaugurated the film festival on July 3. Former secretary Syed Margub Morshed; renowned filmmaker and TV personality Syed Salahuddin Zaki; Indonesian Ambassador to Bangladesh, Zet Mirzal Zainuddin, were present as special guests on the occasion.

Ahmed Muztaba Zamil, president of Rainbow Film Society, presided over the programme. The film "Ketika Cinta Bertasbih" (by Chaerul Umam) was screened on the opening day. "Garuda di Dadaku" (by Ila Isfanyah) and "Emak Ingin Naik Haji" (by Aditya Gumay) will be screened today.



Udichi and Sangskritik Union perform at BCU conference

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Artists of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi and Sangskritik Union performed at a cultural programme recently at a community centre in the town.

The function was held to mark the opening of the 24th conference of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), Mymensingh district unit.

The artistes entertained the large audience gathered at the venue with various genres of songs, including patriotic, folk and Lalon.

BCU has a glorious history in the arena of the coun-

try's progressive politics and the traditional culture, said Sarwar Kamal Robin, secretary of Udichi's Mymensingh unit.

Mojahidul Islam Selim, secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), central unit, inaugurated the conference as chief guest. Secretary of CPB, Mymensingh unit, Advocate Emdadul Haque Millat; BCU central president Ferdous Ahmed Ujjal and its district secretary Mansur Al Hadi also spoke on the occasion. Sayeed Hasan Mithun, BCU district president, presided over the conference.

Hundreds of BCU leaders and activists from different upazilas attended the conference.



"Veet Diamond Offer" -- a consumer promotion led by Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh Ltd -- was initiated last month to generate creative ideas for the product's future advertisement. Three participants who came up with the best ideas were awarded with a diamond ring each.

Nrityanchal to perform in Canada

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi dance troupe Nrityanchal is going to perform at 'Bangla Utshab', to be held on July 15 and 16 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. A 12-member troupe led by celebrated dancers Shibly Mohammad and Shamim Ara Nipa will stage the Tagore dance-drama "Chitrangada" on the opening day (July 15) of the festival. The dance duo choreographed the dance-drama.

On the second day (July 16) of the festival, the troupe will perform a folk piece, "Sambhashon", written by the late Shahidul Islam. Choreographed by Shamim Ara Nipa, the production features music directed by Ali Asgar Khokon. Bangladeshi singers Ferdous Ara and Kiran Chandra Roy will sing at the festival. Every year Bangla Utshab Organisation arranges this festival. The organisation is comprised of Bengalis from Bangladesh and West Bengal, India.

Aside from performances by the Kolkata-based band Bhumi, Indian singers Lopamudra Mitra, Rupankar and Shabnam Abed will also perform at the festival.

Back in 2009, a Bengali convention was held in San Francisco, USA where artistes of Nrityanchal performed along with renowned Bangladeshi singers Runa Laila, Rezwana Chowdhury Bonny and Khairul Anam Shakil. Impressed with Nrityanchal's performance, Bangla Utshab Association invited the dance group.

Following the festival, Nrityanchal will perform at Toronto Tennis Indoor Stadium on July 17.



Shibly and Nipa

Tom Hanks: "Hollywood is like high school"

Tom Hanks takes on the roles of writer, director, producer and star for his new film "Larry Crowne". After more than 30 years in the business, what does he really think of Hollywood?

In "Larry Crowne", Hanks plays an amiable ex-Navy man who is "downsized" out of his job at a big American store.

Burdened by a mortgage, and with time on his hands, Larry Crowne signs up at the local college to get some qualifications and reinvent himself.

"What we try to deal with is the fight against cynicism," says Tom Hanks.

"Cynicism and sadness and bitterness can enter into the fray particularly when you've lost your job and when you've done everything right, and you still find yourself in these kind of straits."

Although there is much in "Larry Crowne" that chimes with today's tough economic times, Hanks began developing the story years earlier with Nia Vardalos ("My Big Fat Greek Wedding").

He also drew on his own experiences of attending college as a teenager in the 1970s. "I only went to three years of college and two of them were at a community college much like the one that Larry goes to," recalls Hanks.

"I started when I was 17, and there were people in class who were twice as old as me and had families and once had businesses."

"Larry Crowne" reunites Hanks on-screen with Julia Roberts, who plays college lecturer Mercedes Tainot. The pair had previously worked together on 2007's "Charlie Wilson's War".



Mercedes Tainot. The pair had previously worked together on 2007's "Charlie Wilson's War".

Both actors had starred in some of the biggest romantic comedies of the 1990s. In "Larry Crowne", Hanks' character develops a crush on Roberts' public-speaking teacher -- just as her marriage is falling apart.

"In 'Larry Crowne' we do it in the way it happens in real life -- you just happen to bump into somebody and it turns into one of the greatest things that ever happens to you.

"It's not so much boy meets girl, it's more a man meets woman story -- not exactly the nature of old school rom-coms."

This is Hanks' second shot at movie writing and directing after 1996's "That Thing You Do!" His breakthrough movie was in Ron Howard's "Splash" and he went on to star in '80s comedies "The Money Pit", "Bachelor Party", "Big" and "Turner & Hooch".

He won an Oscar in 1994 for "Philadelphia" and again the following year for "Forrest Gump".

Other key films include "Sleepless in Seattle", "Saving Private Ryan", "Cast Away", "Road to Perdition" and the "Toy Story" series.

He most recently reprised the roles of Woody in "Toy Story 3" and Robert Langdon in "Angels and Demons".

After such a long career, what is Hollywood really like to him?

"Hollywood is exactly like high school," Hanks says. "With money!"

He adds: "It's filled with just as much pettiness, sadness and jealousy as well as fun and senior proms and parties."

And how has he survived more than three decades in showbiz? "I laugh more than I shake."

SOURCE: BBC

KFC advertisement featuring a meal with a price tag of tk. 699 and a free meal worth tk. 260. Includes text: 'spend tk. 699 or more & enjoy a free meal worth tk. 260'. 'Throughout the month of July, spend over tk. 699 and get a free coupon for a meal worth tk. 260 during Ramadan.' 'Rush to your favorite KFC outlet for your coupon.'

Table with TV channels and programs: ATN BANGLA, ntv, 10.05, 04:10, 05:30, 06:45, 08:15, 12:30, Total Sports, Boishakhi TV, Bangla Feature Film: Nabab, Shorashori Doctor, Boishakhi-CNN Shara Bishwa, Reporter's Diary, Boishakhi Bindon 9, Sankerti Sangbad, Z Studio, Hostel, Shaolin Soccer, Amistad, Boogyman, Walking Tall: The Payback, Star Movies, Die Hard 2, Avatar, Ice Age 3: Dawn of the

Table with radio stations: abc radio FM 89.2, 96.0, 98.0, 100.0, 102.0, 104.0, 106.0, 108.0, 110.0, 112.0, 114.0, 116.0, 118.0, 120.0, 122.0, 124.0, 126.0, 128.0, 130.0, 132.0, 134.0, 136.0, 138.0, 140.0, 142.0, 144.0, 146.0, 148.0, 150.0, 152.0, 154.0, 156.0, 158.0, 160.0, 162.0, 164.0, 166.0, 168.0, 170.0, 172.0, 174.0, 176.0, 178.0, 180.0, 182.0, 184.0, 186.0, 188.0, 190.0, 192.0, 194.0, 196.0, 198.0, 200.0, 202.0, 204.0, 206.0, 208.0, 210.0, 212.0, 214.0, 216.0, 218.0, 220.0, 222.0, 224.0, 226.0, 228.0, 230.0, 232.0, 234.0, 236.0, 238.0, 240.0, 242.0, 244.0, 246.0, 248.0, 250.0, 252.0, 254.0, 256.0, 258.0, 260.0, 262.0, 264.0, 266.0, 268.0, 270.0, 272.0, 274.0, 276.0, 278.0, 280.0, 282.0, 284.0, 286.0, 288.0, 290.0, 292.0, 294.0, 296.0, 298.0, 300.0, 302.0, 304.0, 306.0, 308.0, 310.0, 312.0, 314.0, 316.0, 318.0, 320.0, 322.0, 324.0, 326.0, 328.0, 330.0, 332.0, 334.0, 336.0, 338.0, 340.0, 342.0, 344.0, 346.0, 348.0, 350.0, 352.0, 354.0, 356.0, 358.0, 360.0, 362.0, 364.0, 366.0, 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