WHAT'S ON

Film Screening
Title: BANFF Mountain Film Festival World Tour-Dhaka 2011
Venue: Goethe Institut, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi
Date: July 5-7
Time: 6pm

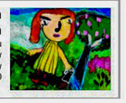
Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Pater Gaan, Banglar Bagh
Artist: Nazir Hossain
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, 42, Rd 16 (new), Dhanmondi
Date: July 5-11
Time: 12-8pm

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: Razia Sultana
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, Dhanmondi
Date: July 1-8; Time: 12-8pm

Musical Soiree
Title: Shrutar Ashor
Singers: Iffat Ara Dewan and Hridiya Tehreen
Venue: Chhayanaut Bhaban, Dhanmondi
Date: July 8, Time: 7pm

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

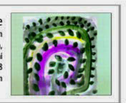


Photography Exhibition
Title: Thrive in the Wild Women's Tale
Venue: Goethe-Institut, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi
Date: July 5-13, Time: 10am-7pm

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

Anniversary Programme
Organiser: Loko Natyadal (Banani)
Venue: Experimental and Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: July 6-7
Time: 7pm

Recitation Programme
Organiser: Kali O Kalom
Venue: District Auditorium, Rajshahi
Date: July 8
Time: 7pm



Sufia Kamal's contributions recalled

Two-day programme by Steps Towards Development

Dignitaries unveiling the DVD.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of poet Sufia Kamal's birth centenary, non-government organisation Steps Towards Development arranged a two-day programme at Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhaban, Dhanmondi, Dhaka on July 3 and 4.

The programme featured live music, screening of a documentary on the life of the poet, discussion and a photo exhibition.

Law Minister Barrister Shafiq Ahmed was the chief guest at the inaugural programme.

At the first day's programme, artistes Nasima Shaheen and Mizanur Rahman rendered songs, while members of the cultural organisation Jionkathi recited poems of Sufia Kamal.

The photo exhibition, held on the second floor of the building, featured some rare photographs of the poet.

A discussion and screening of the documentary were held on the second day. The discussion featured State Minister for Women and Children's Affairs Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury as the chief guest.

Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, vice chancellor, Dhaka University; music exponent and Chhayanaut president Dr. Sanjida Khatun and Sufia Kamal's daughter, human rights activist Sultana Kamal were special guests. Among others, Professor Momtaz Begum, chairperson, National Women's Organisation and Ranjan Karmakar, executive director of Steps, spoke at the discussion.

The discussants highlighted Sufia Kamal's immense contribution to the nation, and urged everyone to follow her in her footsteps to work for a better society.

The documentary, titled "Aparajita", was screened after the discussion. The nearly 40-minute long documentary has been directed by Manzar-e Hasin Murad. DVD of the documentary was also launched on the day. Attending guests unveiled the cover-jacket of the film.

Remembering Alauddin Al-Azad, a multidimensional writer

To mark the 2nd death anniversary of noted poet and novelist Alauddin Al-Azad, Kabikantha organised a memorial meeting at its office in Purana Paltan, Dhaka on July 4, according to a press release.

Veteran poet Fazal Shahabuddin presided over the meeting. Poet Al Mujahidi; Jahangir Feroze; Kamar Farid; Aminur Rahman; Kamruzzaman; Zakir Abu Zafar; Sabit Sarwar, among others, spoke on the occasion. Senior journalist Shaheen Reza was the host of the programme.

Fazal Shahabuddin said, "Dr Alauddin Al-Azad was indubitably one of the exceptionally talented, creative, and dynamic writers and poets of the country. He talked about the masses in his poems and writings. He also had contributions to our great Language Movement."

Jahangir Feroze said, "Azad's writings are multidimensional and he made significant contribution to all branches of Bengali literature. He was an honest and bold writer. He wrote what he believed. He observed social problems closely and his writings reflected those issues."

Aminur Rahman said, "Azad was the only representative from East Pakistan who participated in All India Writers Conference in the 1950. His works have been published in many languages."

Azad was born in 1932 in Raipura upazila of Narsingdi district. He was a professor of Bangla Literature. He wrote short stories, novels, poems and critiques. He served as Educational Counsellor at the Bangladesh Embassy in Moscow. His literary works were also included in the curricula of secondary, higher secondary and graduation levels.

He participated in the Language Movement (1952) and took the initiative to release the first bulletin of Ekushey (February 21).

Shabnam to return to films after 12 years

A CORRESPONDENT

Veteran actress Shabnam will be seen in a new film after a 12 year long hiatus. Shabnam has agreed to work on the next film directed by Malek Afsari.

The iconic actress was last seen in Kazi Hayat's film "Ammajaan" which also featured the late actor Manna.

Shabnam had said that she'd only do a film if she liked the storyline and if the character offered to her was significant. According to director Malek Afsari, scriptwriter Abdullah Zahir wrote the story considering Shabnam in the central role.

If all goes accordingly, said Afsari, everything will be finalised this week. Shakib Khan is supposed to play the other key role, as son of the character to be played by Shabnam.

Champa New real life role

A CORRESPONDENT

Multiple National Award-winning actress Champa's daughter, Esha, recently got married to Tanvir Ahmed, son of entrepreneur and former chairman of BGMEA, Kutubuddin.

The newly turned mother-in-law said that the akht was held on November 4, last year. The formal reception due to take place today at Shenakunjo, Dhaka has been rescheduled for July 9 due to unavoidable circumstances. Around 2,000 people have been invited to the event.

Champa and her elder sister, internationally recognised actress Bobita, have sought blessings for the newly weds from everyone.

Branching out and reaching the fans

In conversation with Kona

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Popular singer Kona has branched out in acting and TV show hosting. Her voice has earned wide recognition thanks to several jingles.

Kona's last album was released two years ago. The self-titled album was her second solo record. The track "Borosha" was an overnight hit and held its position on the top chart for a while. After a hiatus, Kona is busy again with her third studio album -- couple of songs have already been recorded. Expectations surrounding the album run high, as three juggernaut composers Bappa Majumdar, Habib and Fuad are involved with the album. Bappa will do the bulk of the work -- composing tunes for six songs, while Fuad and Habib will compose three and one respectively. Kona informs that although 70 percent of the job has been completed, the name of the album is yet to be decided. She adds that the album may come out this month. Listeners will get a variety of classical inspired, romantic and semi-rock tunes, along with the first ever collaboration between Kona and Habib.

Apart from her new album, Kona's schedule is marked with live performances, playbacks and jingles. Her voice will soon be heard in songs of the movies "Chheleti", "Lal Tip" and "Speed". Kona also sang for the new Banglalink ad. Her recent work also includes the title song for the TV serial "Terminal", written by Jahid Akbar.

Audience first heard Kona's voice in her debut album "Jyamitik Bhalobasha" in 2006. The same year she began acting and hosting a show "Amra Ekhon Unish Kuri" (on ntv) and "Tomader Pelo Bangladesh". The hosting experience was a wonderful one, says Kona. Her first TV play was "Nokol Poshak", directed by Shahiduzzaman Selim. Although the initial plan was to appear in one play, praises came as inspiration to venture further into the acting world, Kona informs. The acting journey has seen Kona appearing in 26 productions so far, counting both single-episode plays and serials, the most popular of which are "Danguli", "Bhober Haat", "Chhayabithi-Toley", "Bohemian", "Society", "Bhoy", "Hojoborolo" etc.

Kona had her music lessons from Nazrul Academy and Shishu Academy. The teacher and mentor who groomed her vocal talents is Moidul Islam, says Kona.

Kona's career in jingles began in 1998 with a tune composed by Emon Saha. In 2003, she joined a female group Angel Four, which included singers Tisha, Rumana and Nafisa.

Kona says that the love of the audience is her main gain. A memorable experience: When she was busy with playbacks for movies "Amar Achhe Jol", "The Search" and "Jaago", Kona received a surprise call from seasoned singer Shakila Zafar. Zafar called just to express her appreciation of Kona's singing.

All of Kona's dreams surround music as it means the world to her. She feels that live performances on stage are a completely unique experience. Although of late the number of live shows have gone down, Kona says she was up to the neck with around 14 shows a month until recently.

Jatra Competition in Manikganj

ZAHANGIR SHAH, *Manikganj*

Jatra Vision Limited has arranged a year-long jatra competition at 'Jatra King' Amolendu Biswas' native village Jabra in Manikganj. Promod Mankin, state minister for cultural affairs, formally inaugurated the Robi Jatra Competition on Monday evening.

Jyotsna Biswas, popular jatra artiste and wife of the late Amolendu Biswas, presided over the function. ABM Anwarul Haque, local lawmaker; Munshi Shahabuddin Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner; Mohammad Ali Mia, police superintendent; Afsar Ahmed, Professor of Drama and Dramatics Department, Jahangirnagar University; Aruna Biswas, film actress, chairperson of Jatra Vision Limited and daughter of Amolendu and Jyotsna Biswas; jatra artistes Milon Kanti Dey, Rawshan Ara Labony, among others, spoke on the occasion.

The state minister said that the present government encourages traditional cultural practices including jatra. Veteran jatra artiste Bhanu Saha was accorded a reception at the inaugural function.

"Jail Theke Bolchhi", a historic jatra was staged at the programme.

Around 120 jatra troupes are taking part in the competition, at 10 venues across the country. Fourteen jatra troupes of Gopalganj, Tangail, Munshiganj, Jessore and Manikganj are participating at the Manikganj venue.

The Bengali daily Shamokal and Radio Today are media partners of the event.

Doors mark Morrison's death anniversary

Morrison fans gathered from around the world to remember their idol.

Former members of The Doors have marked the 40th anniversary of Jim Morrison's death in Paris.

On Sunday, keyboardist Ray Manzarek and guitarist Robby Krieger lit candles at Morrison's grave in the city's Pere Lachaise cemetery.

Morrison, the band's lead singer, died of heart failure in a bath in Paris on July 2, 1971. He was 27.

Hundreds of Morrison fans, some wearing T-shirts bearing the words 40th Anniversary, left flowers at the grave.

Some sang and others read poems to mark the day.

Morrison moved to Paris in 1971 to write.

He was found dead in the bath by his girlfriend, Pamela Courson. A doctor's report stated the cause of death was heart failure aggravated by heavy drinking.

Morrison, the son of a US Navy admiral, was born in 1943 in Florida.

He formed The Doors with Manzarek in 1965 in Los Angeles

The band name was inspired by Aldous Huxley's "The Doors of Perception".

SOURCE: BBC

Aamir Khan, the Good Samaritan

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, *New Delhi*

When it comes to lending his face for a cause, Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan is always ahead of other actors.

Aamir has not only made quite a few movies like "Taare Zameen Par", "3 Idiots" and "Hum Hain Raahi Pyar Ke" that deal with children's issues but also appeared for the government of India's promotional video on tourism asking Indians to behave properly in order to not put off foreign tourists and keep places of tourism interest clean.

And now the actor is all set to don a different role -- that of brand ambassador for the Ministry of Women and Child Development for spreading the message of curbing malnutrition among children.

Aamir held a meeting with Minister of State for Women and Child Development Krishna Tirath here on Monday along with his creative team led by lyricist Prasoon Joshi, making a presentation on how he plans to spearhead the campaign on generating awareness among people about ill effects of malnutrition.

Tirath, a lawmaker from Delhi, expressed happiness that Aamir is ready to shoulder this social responsibility without expecting anything in return. She thanked Aamir for sharing the government's concern for children and making this sincere effort in spreading the social message about the scourge of malnutrition and good food habits among children and mothers.

Aamir, for his part, said, "To be involved with this campaign is an important part of my emotional aspect. It's an attempt to reach out not just to the common man but to policymakers, administrators and the media as all of us have important and different roles to play."

"As an actor, my job is to entertain the more than 1.2 billion people of India but as a citizen of this country, I'm sensitive to a lot of issues. As my commitment to children is very high, I want to contribute as much as I can," he added.

Explaining the decision to choose Aamir as the brand ambassador against malnutrition, a senior ministry official said, "Aamir has been involved in societal causes for long. When we approached him, we found him very forthcoming."

Solemn tribute

138th death anniversary of Michael Madhusudan Dutt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

The 138th death anniversary of poet Michael Madhusudan Dutt was observed here recently in a fitting manner. Michael Madhusudan Sahitya Parishad organised programmes that included a discussion, recitation and cultural events.

The discussion was held at Satkhira Press Club auditorium with Sahitya Parishad president Tripti Mohon Mallik in the chair.

Satkhira Deputy Commissioner Md. Abdus Samad was the chief guest, while eminent littérateur Dr. Kanai Sen (India); Dr. Anil Guha (India); Dr. Amitabh Chakraborty (India); Professor Abdul Mannan; Professor Kazi Waliullah; Professor Abdul Hamid; Professor Abu Nasar and Satkhira Press Club president Abu Ahmed were special guests.

Among others, poet Sobhan Amin; Gazi Shahjahan Siraj; Enamul Haque and Abu Hena Alam took part in the discussion on the life and literary works of Dutt. Paying rich tributes to Dutt, speakers said the poet was a titan in the literary world.

They said that the nation would remember him for his brilliant contribution to Bengali literature and pioneering what came to be called 'amitrakshar chhanda' (blank verse) and Bangla sonnet.

Sobhan Amin, Gazi Shah Jahan Siraj, Haidar Ali and others recited poems written by Dutt at the programme.

Later, the chief guest gave away the Madhusudan Parishad Award for 2010 to Madhusudan Dutt researcher Dr. Amitabh Chakraborty (India); Shahi Sabur; Sardar Enamul Haque; Khan Akhtar Hossain and Abu Hena Alam for their contribution to their respective fields.

Sting cancels Kazakhstan concert over "rights abuses"

AFP, *Astana*

British singer-musician Sting cancelled a concert he was due to give in Kazakhstan's capital Astana on Monday, blaming violations of the human rights of striking oil workers in the ex-Soviet state.

Sting said in a statement published on his website that he cancelled the concert, part of his Symphonicity world tour, after campaign group Amnesty International told him of repressions against oil and gas workers.

"Hunger strikes, imprisoned workers and tens of thousands on strike represents a virtual picket line which I have no intention of crossing," Sting was quoted as saying in the statement late Sunday.

Sting was due to perform songs from his days as leader of band The Police as well as his solo hits with a symphony orchestra backing as part of city day celebrations, with tickets selling for up to 10000 tenge ($690).

The Kazakh organisers initially said Sunday that Sting's concert had been cancelled for "organisational and technical reasons."

Several hundred oil and gas workers went on strike in May in the Mangistau region on the shores of the Caspian Sea demanding higher wages, picketing the regional administration and attempting to close off highways.

Police detained strikers for taking part in an unsanctioned protest and several dozen people were sacked.

Sting, known for his espousal of environmental causes, has been criticised for giving a concert in Tashkent in 2009 organised by the daughter of Uzbek President Islam Karimov, criticised for human rights abuses.

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

BTV
12:35 Shukhi Paribar
03:05 Cartoon
04:05 Maa O Shishur Kotha
06:10 Mati O Manush
07:00 MacGyver
09:10 Drama Serial

ATN BANGLA
01:25 Band View
04:25 Showbiz World
05:20 Islami Sawal O Jawab
08:00 Destination Unlimited
10:55 Bibeker Kache Proshno
11:30 Drama serial: Nithua Pathare

CHANNEL i
11:05 Sports Time (Live)
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
03:05 Bangla Feature Film
06:20 Desh Bidesher Ranna
12:20 Bangladesh-er Kotha Bolchhi
05:00 Boishakhi Sharadesh
05:15 Boishakhi-CNN Sharabishwa
10:50 Reporters Dairy
11:30 Boishakhi Binodon O Sanskriti Sangbad

ETV
11:30 Ekushey-er Business (Live)
05:50 Sports Plus
06:30 Ride on the Top
07:50 Fashion and Tune
08:20 Drama Serial: Ohongkar

Z Studio
10:30 Easy Virtue
04:00 The Thaw
07:20 Hostel
09:30 The Love Letter
11:30 The Chinese Boxer

Star Movies
11:50 Amelia
05:10 Last Song, The

RADIO

abc radio FM 89.2
06:00 Bhorer Janalay
09:00 Mukhorito Jiboney
12:00 Darun Dupurey
03:00 Duranto Bikeley
05:00 Shondha Tara
07:00 Shaj-er Maya
09:00 Raat-er Akashey
11:00 Galper Shesh Nei

Radio Foorti
07:30 Hello Dhaka
10:00 Morning Express
12:00 No Tension
04:00 Dhaka Calling
09:00 Knight Riders

RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
12:00 Today's Adda
04:00 U Turn
07:00 Tobey Tai Hok

Women and Green Economy
On Boishakhi TV at 06:20pm
Talk Show
Guest: Veena Sikri, Dr. Atiq Rahman

Crazy Heart
On Star Movies at 08:30pm
Genre: Drama/ Romance
Cast: Jeff Bridges, Maggie Gyllenhaal

Poush Phaguner Pala
On ATN BANGLA at 08:45pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Sanjida Pritee, Saju Khadem

Rtv
12:35 Tawheed-eri Murshid Amaar
01:10 Bangla Feature Film
05:00 Protidin-er Gaan
06:00 Drama Serial: Mohallar Bhai
09:50 Drama Serial: Neel Jyotsnay Kalo Saap

BANGLAVISION
10:10 Gaan O Fun
01:05 Bangla Feature Film
05:20 Drama Serial: All Rounder
04:30 Amader Rannaghar
09:05 Shondhorjo Kotha
11:30 Music Club

ntv
11:30 Glamour World
04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey
05:30 Aponar Jigyasha
06:45 Rupali Pordar Golpo
08:15 Siddika Kabir's Recipe
09:00 Kichhu kotha Kichhu Gaan

Boishakhi TV
10:30 Bangla Feature Film
04:15 Shorashori Doctor
09:00 Stir of Echoes: The Homecoming
08:30 Crazy Heart
10:25 Red Water

HBO
10:45 The Invention of Lying
03:00 Shark Attack
05:00 Icarus
06:45 Proof of Life
09:30 Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

Star World
03:30 Lights Out
08:30 Two And A Half Men
10:30 White Collar
11:30 Modern Family

National Geographic Channel
02:30 Extraordinary Dogs
06:30 The Living Edens
10:30 Cameramen Who Dare
11:30 Nat Geo Investigates

Discovery Channel
03:30 A Haunting
07:30 The Greatest Ever
10:30 Dual Survival
11:30 Machines of Malice

BBC World

DRAMA SERIAL

ATN BANGLA
08:40pm Ogniroth
09:20pm Poush Phaguner Pala

CHANNEL i
07:50pm Hriday-er Kacher Bishoy
09:35pm Phanush

ntv
09:45pm Shobuj Nokkhotro
11:30pm Terminal

Rtv
08:20pm Abishkar
09:05pm Boyra Paribar

BANGLAVISION
08:15pm No Problem

ETV
09:30pm Ghatak Baki Bhai

Boishakhi TV

NEWS BULLETIN

BTV
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am 2:00 pm.5:00 pm.8:00 pm. News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am

ATN BANGLA
NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am
01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm
News (English): 9:00 am, 6:00 pm.

BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 7:30am. 1:30pm. 5:00pm. 7:15pm. 10:30pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am. 12:00am. 4:00pm.
News (English) at 6:00pm

Rtv
News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am

ntv
News (Bangla):7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am

ETV
News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

TALK SHOW

BTV
10:25pm Ghure Daranor Bangladesh

ATN BANGLA
11:15am Vision 2020
06:15pm Kothamala

CHANNEL i
09:45am Tritio Matra
12:30pm Taroka Kothon
11:30pm Aloye Bhubon Bhora

Rtv
10:40am Tarokalap
07:40pm Our Democracy

BANGLAVISION
06:30pm Front Line

ntv
12:10pm Ei Shomoy

Boishakhi TV