

WHAT'S ON

Bonsai Exhibition
Organiser: Bangladesh Bonsai Society
Venue: WVA Auditorium, H 20, Rd 27, Dhanamondi
Date: Sept. 29-Oct 2
Time: 10am-9pm

Film Screening
Film: Sharning Bou
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: October 4
Time: 11am

Tasher Desh
Troupe: Shaubana
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Oct. 6
Time: 7pm

Theatre
Play: Pratikshar
Troupe: Natya Kendra
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: October 1

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Symphony of Colours
Painter: Shumona Haque
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanamondi
Date: Oct. 2-11

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Riddle of Characters
Artist: Apurba Kanti Das
Venue: La Galerie, Dhaka
Date: Sept. 30-Oct. 13
Time: 3-9pm

Theatre
Play: Court Martial
Troupe: Theatre Art Unit
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: October 1

Discussion & Cultural Programme
Marking 16th Anniversary of Monthly Sangam
Venue: Conference Lounge, National Press Club

NEW RELEASES

Aguner Poroshmoni Album of Rabindra Sangeet by Mohiuzzam an Chowdhury Moyna
Source: Laser Vision

Onno Ami Solo album by Mehnaz Sagar
Source: Deadline Music

Din Bodoler Gaan Solo album by Manoj Acharjee
Source: Laser Vision

Neel Jamuna Music video of Nazrul Sangeet by Dr. Leena Taposhi Khan
Source: Laser Vision

KONA @DS CAFE



Kona is one of the most popular singers of the time, mesmerising audiences with her well-trained voice. She has lent her voice to jingles and playbacks, along with trying her hand at acting as well. The talented artist was at DS Cafe recently to answer questions from her admirers.

My third wish would be to have my parents alive as long as I'm alive. Kabir Ratan, Mohakhali, Dhaka: How did you begin your journey in music? Kona: I grew up in a house full of music, with my parents admitting me into music school early in my childhood. They were very enthusiastic and supportive since the beginning and this inspired me to become a singer when I grew up. Later, I started taking music classes at the Shishu Academy. I also trained for nine years at the Nazrul Academy, while an Ustad gave me music lessons at home. Music is my everything. DS Cafe: Your experience with jingles also stretches back a while... Kona: Yes, since 2001. I also

did playbacks and title songs for TV plays. Back in 2003 -- me, Tisha, Rumana and Nafisa (who passed away) -- also brought out an audio album. The four of us had a band, called Angel Four. Later in 2006, I released my solo album, called 'Jyamitik Bhalobasha'. DS Cafe: Do you think the music industry is seeing a rise? Kona: Honestly speaking, the musicians are doing a brilliant job, along with the singers. We have an opulent music tradition. DS Cafe: Do you emulate anyone? Kona: No. However, my mother's admiration for Runa Laila made a major impact on me. Her (Runa Laila's) versatility makes me admire her even more. She can take on any sort of singing challenge.

Rumel, Dhaka: Your programme on Radio Today is going brilliantly. Kona: Please do tune to the programme every Thursday from 10pm to 1am. Mahfuz, Mymensingh: You have a beautiful voice along with good looks. Kona: Please pray for me. Thanks for calling. Sifat, Dinajpur: When will your next album arrive? Kona: A mixed album featuring me and Bappa Mazumder is coming out next month. Masud, Rajshahi: What qualities do one need to be a singer? Kona: The first requirement is to have tonal quality. You'll also need patience, a knack for learning, and dedication. Russell, Rajshahi: Why do

you think many are leaning towards western music? Kona: Difficult to answer. I guess people feel that the world is moving forward and we have to keep up with it. Towhid, Comilla: Will singers and musicians, who rely on technology, survive the test of time? Kona: I think they get lost in the stream once the audience loses interest in them. I do not support such practices. You can also look outside the country and you will see that artists who rely heavily on technology disappear into oblivion after a year or two. Lonnie, Banani, Dhaka: I'm a huge fan of yours. Where did you learn your ABCs of music?

*Best Question Rakibul, Rajshahi: I recently learnt from a newspaper that film actress Bobita is working for the welfare of underprivileged children. Do you have any such plan? Kona: I most certainly wish to do something like that. If God gives me a chance, I will certainly take it.

Who was more supportive -- your father or mother? Kona: There was a school near our house where I had my first music class. Both my parents gave me immense support; my whole family continues to do so. Raju, Rajshahi: Do you lead the "celebrity life"? Kona: No. I'm more comfortable living a simple life. I take rickshaws or CNG three-wheelers. The "celebrity life" doesn't fascinate me. Rafiqul Islam, Dhanamondi, Dhaka: Who is your favourite music director? Kona: I work with many such talented people. I don't want to name just one. Shoikat, Chapainawabganj: Are you moody? What's your favourite colour?

me, I say that this is what I was waiting for. If I don't get some boos, then it doesn't feel like a concert. DS Cafe: You've mentioned that you trained in Nazrul Sangeet. Why isn't Nazrul Sangeet that popular among the youths of the nation? Kona: There are several reasons. In the past there was only one TV channel, BTV. Now the world is in our grasp. BTV is not highlighting Nazrul Sangeet like before, and neither are the private channels. Rabindra Sangeet, however, seems to get much attention. If the TV channels step up their efforts in this regard, the genre will become popular to the youths. TRANSCRIBED BY SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Autumn in the air Programmes by Chhayanaut and Satyen Sen Shilpi Goshthi



ZAHANGIR ALOM Weeks before Shorot (autumn) hands over it's crown to Hemanto (late autumn), artistes of Chhayanaut embraced the season yesterday morning through holding a cultural programme at Bakultala, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka. So what if autumn is almost gone? It's never too late for celebration. Kashphool -- gifts of the season --

decorating the stage were truly beautiful. The artistes started off with a choral rendition of the song "Dekho Dekho... Shuktara". Two solos and a duet -- "Shubhro Probhatey Purbo Gaganey", "Shorot Alor Kamol Bon-e" and "Amarey Bandhbe Jodi" -- by Abhaya Datta, Sharmin Jahan, Sumi Chakrobarty and Deepthi Das followed. "Ogo Shefali Bon-er Mon-er Kamona", "Amra Bendhechhi

Kasher Guchchho", "Kon Khyapa Srabon Chhutey Elo", "Anander-i Shagor Hotey" were the songs that superbly articulated the essence of the season. Dancers performed to the numbers. Nandini Saha and Oishi Rubaina rendered "Tomra Ja Bolo Tai Bolo" and "Amarey Daak Dilo Ke". Sudeshna Swayamprabha and Sanjana Haque danced to the respective numbers. Semanti Manjuri, Sutapa Saha and Maktura Akhtar performed the

songs -- "Amr Dala Gaan-er Dhara", "Hridoye Chhiley Jegey" and "Bajilo Kahar Beena" respectively. Mrityunjoy Majumder and Subir Ghosh on tabla, Asit Biswas on esraj and Prodig Kumar Roy on mondira accompanied the singers. The programme wrapped up with a rendition of the national anthem.

Satyen Sen Shilpi Goshthi arranged a daylong autumn festival at Hakim Chatter premises on campus. Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, A.A.M.S. Arefin Siddique; poets Asad Chowdhury and Rabindra Ghose and president of the organisation Hayat Mamud spoke on autumn at the programme. The event featured renditions of Tagore and Nazrul songs by noted artistes, including Shama Rahman, Lily Islam and Salahuddin Ahmed. Cultural groups -- Nriygam, Spondon, Natraj, Dhruvad Kala Kendra and Achik Cultural Academy -- staged dances. Artistes of Satyen Sen Shilpi Goshthi, Bonhishikka, Shobhumi Lekhok Shilpi Kendra, Surbair and Dhrubo Shilpi Kishor Sangathan rendered songs at the event. Children from several schools participated in a painting competition. The drawings depicted nature in autumn and the seasonal festivities.



Clockwise (from top): Artistes of Chhayanaut during a group song and a dance performance; dancers of Nriygam perform at the autumn festival.



PHOTO: GOLAM MAHBUB

S.D. Burman: Taking the East Bengali lilt to Bollywood



Sachin Dev Burman, affectionately called "Burman da" or "Sachin korta", was one of the most celebrated music composers in the subcontinent. Burman composed music for 100 movies, including Bengali films. Today marks his 105th birth anniversary. Sachin Dev Burman was born in Comilla (then East Bengal), to Nirmla Devi and Nabadwipchandra Dev Burman (the second son of Ishanachandra Dev Burman, the Raja of Tripura). S.D. was the youngest of five sons, of his parents, who had nine children in all. He began his training in classical music under his father, who was a sitarist and dhruvad singer. He did his B.A. from Calcutta University and started his formal music education under K.C. Dey (from 1925 to 1930). In 1932 he came under the tutelage of Bhismadev Chattopadhyay. This was followed by training from Kahifa Badal Khan (sarangi player) and Ustad Alauddin Khan.

Kazi Nazrul Islam spent some time at their family home, Comilla House, in Agartala. He started working as a radio singer at Calcutta Radio Station in 1932, where his early work was based on East Bengali folk music, and soon made a reputation for himself in folk and light classical music. His film compositions were often influenced by his huge repertoire of folk tunes from the bhatiali, shari and dhamaal traditions. In the following decade he reached his peak as a singer, cutting as many as 131 songs in Bengali, and also sang for composers like Himangsu Dutta, R.C. Boral, Kazi Nazrul Islam and Sailesh Das Gupta. In 1934, he attended the All India Music Conference, at the invitation of Allahabad University, where he presented his Bengali thumri to an illustrious audience, with the likes of Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit and the inimitable Abdul Karim Khan of Kirana Gharana. As a music composer, he started with

Bengali plays, "Sati Tirtha" and "Janani", and eventually gave his first score in film, "Rajgee" in 1937. He continued composing music for Bengali films, even after he moved to Bombay (now Mumbai) in 1944. In 1950s, S.D. Burman teamed up with Dev Anand's Nav Ketan Productions to create musical hits like "Taxi Driver" (1954), "Nau Do Gyarah" (1957) and "Kalapani" (1958). With the success of the film "Baazi" (1951), he made it to the top. While every song in the film was a hit, one stood out for special appeal -- "Tadbir Se Bigdi Hui Taqdeer", a ghazal that was ocidentalised into a seductive song. Burman's thin yet powerful voice was often used as bardic commentary to haunting results -- a typically Bengali trait -- as in "Orey Maajhi Mere Sajjan Hai Sus Paar" (from "Bandini", 1963), "Wahan Kaun Hai Teri" (from "Guide", 1965) and "Saphal Hogi Teri Aradhana" (from "Aradhana", 1969), for which he received the National Film Award for Best Male Playback Singer for the year 1970. Bengali music and sensibilities remained Burman's muse throughout his illustrious career in the Bombay film industry. In 1963, he composed songs for "Meri Surat Teri Anakhen" and "Manna Dey" sang the song "Poochho Na Kaisa Maine" in Raga Ahir Bhairav. The song was based on a Bengali composition by Kazi Nazrul Islam -- "Arunokanti Ke Jo Jogi Bhikhari". S.D. Burman was a frank and outspoken man, with a strong sense of self-pride. He openly criticised people whom he disliked or whose abilities he suspected (like the singer Mukesh). But he was widely respected by the industry as a fussy genius. Burman went into coma soon after recording the song "Badi Sooni Sooni" for the film "Mili". He died on October 31, 1975 in Bombay.

Lal Jamin to be staged in UK



with the war and her woes after 40 years of independence. The play unfolds in a rural setting, zooming in on an adolescent and her carefree days. As the war breaks out, her father joins the freedom fighters. The young girl wants to do the same but her mother objects. Then one day, she meets a young man, whom she calls "an illusionist". The illusionist's spirit compels her to overcome all hurdles and join the pro-Liberation forces. But the girl, along with other freedom fighters, is captured by the Pakistani occupation forces. They engage her till the war is over. After 40 years of independence, she asks the nation whether the spirit and values of the war have been upheld. One of the leading actors of the troupe Aranyak, Momena Chowdhury, plays the protagonist. Ramiz Raju and Julfikar Chanchal directed the music for the play. An added attraction is a flute recital by Bari Siddiqui.

Ajit Roy remembered in Rangpur

Mehedy Hasan, Rangpur A memorial programme in honour of the renowned artist Ajit Roy was held in Rangpur last Tuesday. Rangpur Nagarik Committee held the programme at the local Shaheed Minar. The event included a discussion and live performances. Secretary of Shammilito Shangkritik Jote's Rangpur unit, Sakhawat Hossain; cultural activist

Mofizul Islam and Ajit Roy's daughter Sreyoshi Roy were present at the discussion presided over by Mohammad Afzal. Sakwat Hossain said, "It is a matter of pride for us that Ajit Roy was born and educated in greater Rangpur region." He said that Roy was among the artistes who played a significant role in inspiring Bangladeshis during the Liberation War. Dr. Momtaz Begum and Dr. Sharifa Salwa Dina of Begum Rokeya University recited poems; Sreyoshi Roy, noted singer Rathindranath Roy and local artistes rendered songs on the occasion. Most of the artistes sang Ajit Roy's songs aired on Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra in 1971.

Channel i turns 12

A CORRESPONDENT Today marks the 12th anniversary of Channel i, the first digital Bangla channel. With a view to bring about positive changes in the realm of electronic media in Bangladesh, the channel commenced its journey in 1999. To mark the anniversary, Channel i will hold air special programmes. A daylong cultural programme and fair will be held at the premises of Channel i station in Tejgaon, Dhaka. Renowned personalities from all sectors are likely to attend the programmes. Channel i Managing Director Faridur Reza Sagor, and head of news and director Shykh Seraj extended their thanks to all of the viewers and well wishers.



THE WEEKLY STRUM

Song: Lonely Day Album: Hypnotize (2005) Lyric and tune by Daron Malakian EmC G B7 Such a lonely day, and its mine Em C G B7 The most loneliest day of my life EmC G B7 Such a lonely day, should be banned Em C G B7 Its a day that I cant stand Em C G B7 The most loneliest day of my life Em C G B7 The most loneliest day of my life EmC G B7 Such a lonely day, shouldn't exist Em C G B7 Its a day that I'll never miss EmC EmC G B7 Such a lonely day, and its mine Em C G B7 The most loneliest day of my life EmC G B7 Such a lonely day, and its mine Em C G B7 Its a day that I'm glad I survived Source: chordie.com

Table with TV programmes: ATN BANGLA, Channel i, Rtv, ZStudio, Maasranga Television, Diganta TV, Business Time Line, Apurgha, Kampani Teere, Lime Light, Apun Khabar.

Table with RADIO programmes: abp radio FM 89.2, Shorot Janalay, Mukhonto Jhoney, Darun Dapurey, Duanas Eibeley, Showkarta, Shager Haza, Raak-er Akshey, Golper Sheeh Nei, Adahat, Feori Unlimited, Ramper to Ramper, Back to Back Music, RADIO TODAY FM 89.5, Green FM, Good Morning Dhaka, World Music, U-Turn, Tobe Ta Hok, Raat Vor Gaan.

Amar Ami On BANGLAVISION at 09:05pm Celebrity Talk Show Guest: Faridur Reza Sagor, Shykh Seraj

Centurion On Star Movies at 07:15pm Genre: Action/Adventure Cast: Michael Fassbender, Dominic West

Bondhu Amar On tv at 06:15pm Drama Serial Cast: Apurba, Jenny

Table with TV programmes: ETV, Star Movies, BANGLAVISION, ntv, Desh TV, Boishakhi TV, Spider-Man 2, Reign of Fire, National Security, Gone in Sixty Seconds, Centurion, Drag Me to Hell, The Lost Future, The Bodyguard, Batman & Robin, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Final Destination 3, Shark Attack, Cops, Master Chef Australia, Home Improvement, Everybody Loves Raymond, Dexter, National Geographic Channel, World's Deadliest Animals, Mega Factories, Bite Me with Dr. Mike Leahy.

Table with DRAMA SERIAL programmes: ATN BANGLA, Rtv, Desh TV, ETV, BANGLAVISION, Ladies First, Bondhu Amar, Shoppo bhuk, Boishakhi TV, Onno Shokal, Maasranga Television, Bondhuta.

Table with NEWS BULLETIN programmes: BTV, BANGLAVISION, News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, News (English) at 10:00am, News (Bangla) at 2:30 pm, News (English) at 6:00pm, News (Bangla) at 7:30am, News (English) at 7:30pm, News (Bangla) at 9:00am, News (English) at 9:00pm.

Table with TALK SHOW programmes: ATN BANGLA, Channel i, Rtv, ETV, BANGLAVISION, Front Line, Amar Ami, Lal Golap, Desh TV, Shuja Khatu, Boishakhi TV, Boishakhi Sanglap, Zera Hour, Maasranga Television.