

WHAT'S ON

Hey Ananta Punya
Troupe: Shadrona
Venue: Chittagong Cultural Centre, Dharmadi
Date: October 12, Time: 7:30pm

Film Screening
Film: Makfir Gaan
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Gulshan-1
Date: October 13
Time: 3:15pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Ali Akbar
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dharmadi
Date: Oct 11-19
Time: 3pm-8pm

Anniversary Programme 50 Years of Goethe-Institut
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H 10, Rd 9, Dharmadi

Theatre
Play: Mahajoner Nao
Troupe: Subhan
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: October 15

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

Classical Music Soiree
Artist: Pandit Sarathi Chatterjee
Venue: Natyashala, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka
Date: October 15

Theatre
Play: Ebon Bidesagar
Troupe: Aranyak Nayadali
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: October 13

Beauty in stark white

Exhibition by Akbar Ali

FAYZA HAQ

Akbar Ali's exhibit at Dhaka Art Centre, (October 11-14) was inaugurated by eminent artists Qayyum Chowdhury, Hashem Khan and Rafiqun Nabi.

Like his earlier exhibitions at Alliance Francaise and Kaya Gallery, "Untitled" is full of delightful images in colours of uncut gems flying in the pristine white canvas. Behind are other layers of white canvas, the second set of pale images which have been painted over within the inside layer of white. Tiny birds with brilliant red, blue and green wings, little emerald, twirling and gliding forms like leaves-- in more dancing colours-- fill the outer layer of the canvas. He believes that human beings live in the spirit of colours around them. He uses butterflies, dragon flies and different elements like a kite or a boat as items from nos-

talgia, and symbols of his quest for freedom.

The images represent his free spirit, he says. He adds that this is like Paul Gauguin, the French who used the dog as a symbol. "I use a lot of boats as that brings in the element of the journey through life," says the painter.

Ali Akbar's forms and images represent his feelings and emotions, when he heard the news that his father was dead, when he was working at Dallas, USA. This happened some years back, but the experience left an indelible mark on his mind. The images are taken from nature around him which he finds solace as men have always done in the past.

The basic colours, green, yellow and red, are placed on white-- that being the original colour of light. The forms are at times there to represent the moving globe, with fascinating figures whizzing past it. The colours used are more than



Akbar Ali

what has been seen before at the display at Alliance Francaise, sometime back, when the artist was here to be with family and friends. Ali Akbar says he is delighted to come to his roots to exchange ideas and thoughts with other contemporary artists in Bangladesh. To see senior painters

here for him, is also an experience which he cherishes. To speak of materials used in painting, like sand and gel, along with other items, like spray, is something which he likes to talk about with his fellow painters, here at his original home.

Asked to assess a "true artists", he is going to listen to the gallery owners and patrons, or be someone like Vincent Van Gogh was-- letting the sun pour through him as he sat in the meadows and captured the cypress trees and bristling grass around him, in order to merge with nature --, expressing what an artist felt and hoped to be, the painter says, "I'll say, as an artist, every artist has his struggle, struggle being the father of creation. My own exhibit, last time at Dallas, was pretty successful, going by dealers the US and the UK. Living in the contemporary world, I believe in the philosophy that an artist should be constantly struggling to sell their works. Art should also be affordable to every class. I myself don't keep my prices that high. And I don't always expect a very big sale. I happen to be a collector too, for items affordable by me."

Educated in Dhaka and in Dallas, Ali Akbar remains popular with his friends and colleagues.



"Untitled" is replete with delightful images in colours of uncut gems flying on the pristine white canvas.

A storehouse of knowledge
Government Library inaugurated

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

The newly built Government Public Library was thrown open to the public when Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad inaugurated the library at Loshkarpur village in Pabna on Saturday afternoon.

"Books are a storehouse of knowledge. There is no alternative to books for strengthening knowledge skills and therefore the government believes in opening more libraries," said Kalam.

Focusing on the government's plans, Kalam said that it had taken the initiative to develop libraries at the upazila level across the country. "We believe that libraries have a vital role in contributing to a

digitalised Bangladesh," said Kalam.

Pabna Deputy Commissioner Md. Mostafizur Rahman chaired the programme. Among those who addressed the gathering were lawmaker of Pabna-5, Golam Faruk Khandaker Prince, Nur Hossain Talukder, director of Library directorate, former lawmaker Advocate Golam Hasnayan and Pabna Police Superintendent Jahangir Hossain Matubbar.

Earlier, Abul Kalam Azad inaugurated the newly built Public library at Loshkarpur village of the municipality area. The directorate of Public Library has established the government public library at a cost of Taka 1.87 crore. The library is replete with valuable books.

Prangane Mor stages Shesher Kobita



A scene from the play.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Prangane Mor staged its latest production-- an adaptation of the classic Tagore novel "Shesher Kobita"-- at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on October 10. The play has been dramatised by Ananta Heera and directed by Nuna Afroz. This is the fourth production based on Tagore's literary works in eight years by the troupe.

The oft-read tragic-romantic story "Shesher Kobita" zooms in on Amit Roy and Labonya Debi, who meet each other after a minor collision of their respective vehicles on a hilly road in Shillong. Amit and Labonya gradually fall for each other. There are other important characters in the story, such as Shobhonal and Ketoki.

Ananta Heera and Ramij Raju alternatively acted as Amit, while Nuna Afroz, Shubhechchha and Shumi played Labonya in different scenes. Ramij Raju and Nuna Afroz also donned the roles of Shobhonal and Ketoki respectively.

Faiz Zahir designed the set, which featured a couple of windows located at two corners of the stage. The windows were used to depict Amit and Labonya's loneliness. Whenever there was a gloomy moment, the audience found either Amit or Labonya by one of the windows.

Taufique Azim designed the lights. Apart from acting, Ramij Raju also did the music direction. The music featured a number of Tagore songs. A group of performers danced to the songs throughout the play.

Syed Haq gets Mazharul Islam Poetry Award '11

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent poet Syed Shamsul Haq has been conferred with Mazharul Islam Poetry Award 2011. He has received the award for his outstanding contributions to Bengali poetry. The award, worth Tk one lakh, will be formally presented at a ceremony at Bangla Academy sometime this month.

Bangla Academy has instituted the award in memory of the first director general of the academy, noted poet and folklorist Dr. Mazharul Islam, in association with his family.

Haq was born in Kurigram district on 27 December in 1935. He writes poetry, fiction, non-fiction, lyrical dance dramas and plays. He is recognised as a leading poet in Bangladesh. His experiments with forms and language have



given newer dimensions to Bengali literature. The poet has received many prestigious awards.

Bobita to build hospital with DCII assistance

Goodwill Ambassador for Distressed Children and Infants International (DCII), noted actress Bobita, is now in New York. She is currently engaged in generating awareness for the welfare of underprivileged children. DCII, a non-profit organization, works to generate awareness among the member states of the United Nations and raises funds for underprivileged children. Bobita has extended her stay by 10 days to work on behalf of Washington, Philadelphia, Michigan and California wing of DCII, says a press release.

Besides working in different projects, Bobita has proposed to the organisation to build a hospital in her maternal village Chorbhola in Narail, which is now being revived by DCII.

An elated Bobita said over telephone that it was her father's wish that the three sisters, Suchanda, Bobita and Champa, should act in the same movie which was fulfilled in the film "Teen Konnya". "It was my mother's dream to build a hospital in



our village. It seems that her wish will finally see the light of day and I am very thrilled."

IN REMEMBRANCE...
Happy Akhand's romance with music

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Shortly after our War of Liberation in 1971, Azam Khan, soon to become a legend on the rock scene, along with Uchharon and the Akhand Brothers (Lucky and Happy) created a hype in the music industry with their straight-down-the-line magnetic songs. Happy Akhand's "Abar Elo Je Shondha" is a milestone and probably one of the most poignant songs ever produced. His premature death on December 28, 1987 was a big blow to all musicians who were influenced by Happy's passion for music and had now lost a pioneering figure in Bangla pop music.

Happy Akhand gave everything towards helping to blossom many musical flowers in a desert. His contributions to folk, band and above all Bangla music are immense. Ignoring his own career, he worked for others, including Firoz Shahi.

"Happy directed music for many time-less songs, including 'Emon Ekta Maa Dena' (recorded by Ferdous Wahid), 'Torey Putuler Moto Korey Sajje' (recorded by Kumar Bishwajit). Happy promoted Ayub Bachchhu, James and Miles with his guitar, keyboard and practical lessons," said Happy's elder brother Lucky Akhand.

Happy Akhand was born on October 12, 1960. In spite of his all too brief life, Happy made other singers, musicians and band artists happy with his prodigious musical talent. He could not record many songs. Yet music lovers recall songs like "Khola Akasher Moto Tomakey Hiridoy Ditechchi", "Svadhinatomaakey Niye Gaan To Likhechhi", "Ke Banshi Bajaye Rey", "Tumi Amar Prothom Premer Gaan", "Polokat Shomoyer Haat Dhorey", "Tumi Ki Dekhecho Pahari Jhorna", "Neel Neel Shari Porey", "Ei Prithibir Bukey Ashayee

Hemanta Mukherjee, RD Burman, Manabendra and other legends. I was the most junior composer at HMV and composed songs for Gora Chand Mukherjee, Banoshree Sengupta and others. I took the record of Happy's song "Abar Elo Je Shondha" with me. One day in 1972, I played the record at Banoshree Sengupta's residence. Hearing the song, Manu Dey and RD Burman were much impressed. Later, in 1975, Happy sang eleven songs at a concert in Durgapur, Beerbhumi. RD Burman and Asha Bhonsle were the main attraction of the concert. After the concert, RD Burman appreciated Happy profusely for his performance and playing of guitar," concluded Lucky Akhand.

where I worked with Manu Dey,



Happy (2nd from left) made other musicians 'happy' with his prodigious musical talent.

Jara Nei Ki Tader Kono Asha" recorded by Happy. Happy's "Ei Prithibir Bukey Ashayee Barchhu, James and Miles with his guitar, keyboard and practical lessons," said Happy's elder brother Lucky Akhand.

Happy Akhand was born on October 12, 1960. In spite of his all too brief life, Happy made other singers, musicians and band artists happy with his prodigious musical talent. He could not record many songs. Yet music lovers recall songs like "Khola Akasher Moto Tomakey Hiridoy Ditechchi", "Svadhinatomaakey Niye Gaan To Likhechhi", "Ke Banshi Bajaye Rey", "Tumi Amar Prothom Premer Gaan", "Polokat Shomoyer Haat Dhorey", "Tumi Ki Dekhecho Pahari Jhorna", "Neel Neel Shari Porey", "Ei Prithibir Bukey Ashayee

An evening of autumnal enchantment in Faridpur

REZAUL KARIM, Faridpur

A season based cultural programme celebrating autumn was held at historic Ambika Maidan of Faridpur town on Saturday evening. Shilpakala Academy in Faridpur arranged the programme that evoked the beauty of autumn at its colourful best.

The programme included a welcome speech, choral, duet, solo songs from Tagore, Lalou, Nazrul, Adhunik, folk and rhythmic dances.

Nazrul Islam Dadon, Hayatul Islam Tural accompanied the singers on the tabla while Shibir Islam and Mohsin Munir were on guitar and keyboard.

Well known dancer Belayet Hossain and his troupe performed a dance at the conclusion of the programme.

In his welcome speech, chief guest Helaluddin Ahmad, Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur said that such functions would draw cultural enthusiasts and the younger



Artistes perform at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

generation who would build a peaceful country against terrorism, corruption and communal forces.

Among others Khondoker Mohtesham Hossain Babar of Awami League, Syed Mohsin Uddin Ahmed, convener of the programme, Md. Alauddin, cultural officer

of Shilpakala Academy and Shawket Al Zahid, secretary of Rabindra Sangeet Shamillon Parishad in Faridpur attended the programme.

Cultural activists Abu Sufian Chowdhury and Shupria Dutta emceed the programme.



Label company Laser Vision on October 9 released a DVD of "Al Badar", a documentary based on atrocities committed during the Liberation War. The launching ceremony, held at the Press Club, was attended by eminent personalities. The documentary has been chosen as an authentic document on war crimes by the War Crimes Tribunal.

"My life is unworthy of biographical documentation" -- Amitabh Bachchan

Amitabh Bachchan, who turned 69 Tuesday (October 11) and is the busiest entertainer in India, says there are still many things that cross his mind which he feels he should be doing.

Excerpts from the interview: This year your birthday is also special because there is a new member of the household on the way. Does the excitement of that new arrival add a special sparkle and sheen to your birthday this year?

Every day is special, every birthday therefore is special-- for those born and those yet to be born.

Has the excitement of becoming a Dadajee (paternal grandfather) sunk in yet? Yes, long ago.

At 69, you continue to be the busiest entertainer in this country with an engagement diary that challenges the 24 hours granted to a day. Are you able to do all the things that you would like to?

Not entirely! There are many things that cross my mind which I feel I should also be doing. Someday perhaps I shall find time for them too.

Are there any unfulfilled desires? Anything that you'd like to do? What have been the most important events of the past one year?

I hope there are unfulfilled desires within me but to say what they shall be is difficult to put a finger on. I can tell you what is important for me today, not what has been important for me in this past year. That I shall not be able to remember. And that is how I would like it to be.

The name Amitabh Bachchan means many things to many of us. What does it mean to you? My name given to me by my parents.

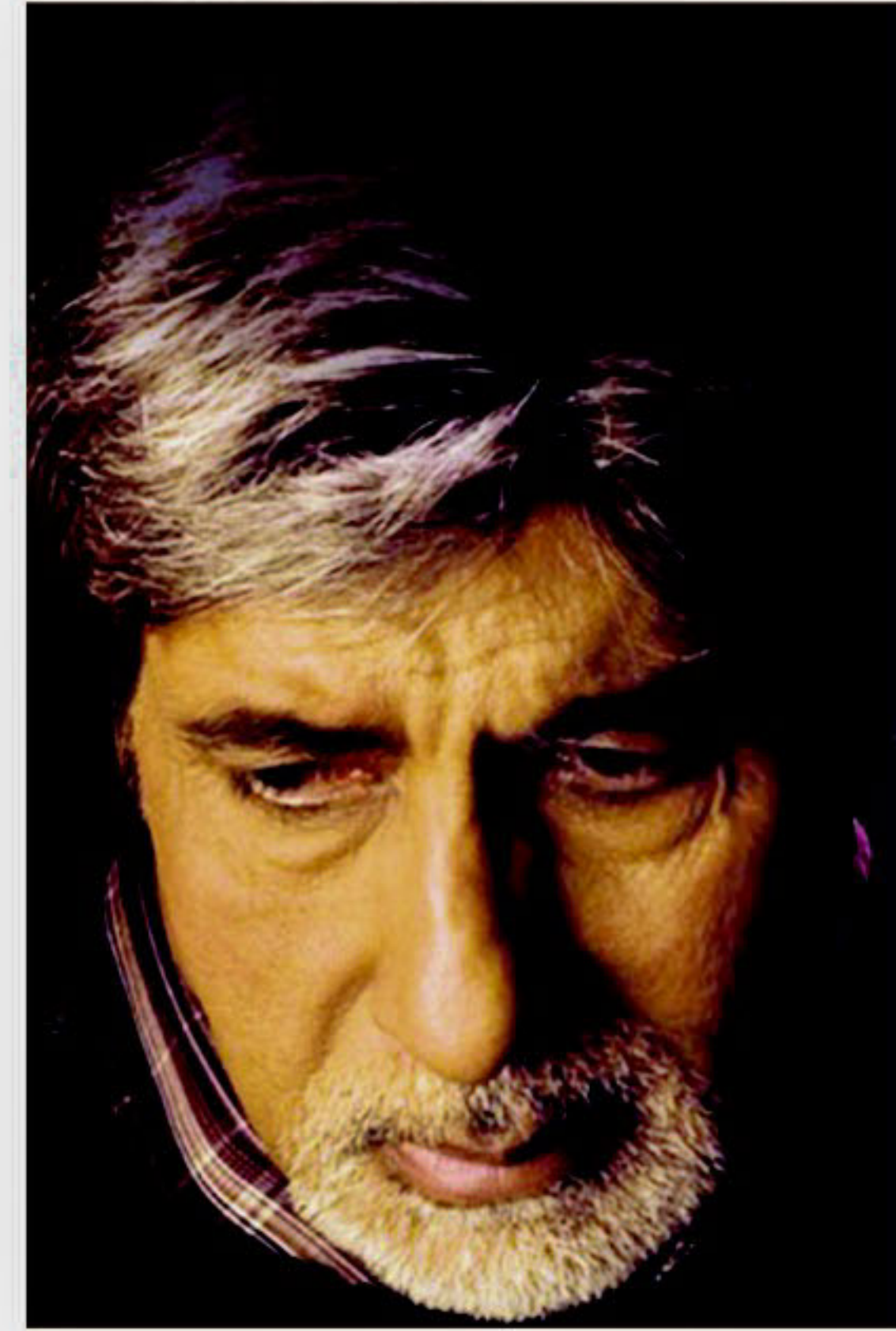
You are often asked why you don't write your autobiography. Now that you are putting your thoughts on your blog would you like to put the story of your life together?

My life has been blessed and I am ever grateful to the Maker and my parents for giving me that. Beyond that I find it unworthy of biographical documentation.

You've been shooting regularly for Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC). How has television influenced your entire perception of mass entertainment?

Television has been a huge revelation for me. Its reach, its value, the impact it creates, have all been a great learning exercise. I had been involved in its functioning long before it became so big in India. It is a most influential medium and has now become the mainstay of most entertainment in this country, out-beating cinema.

Its immediacy in today's time of rapid and instant communication is its greatest asset. It is tedious and exhausting but a most satisfying creative medium for



me as I am sure it must be for many others that contribute to it.

What are the films that you have signed or are about to sign?

I have not signed any new project, in the real sense of the word. But yes, there are many that are under discussion. It would not be ethical to talk about them until those formalities are executed.

Finally, what are the things that you'd like to change in your own life and in our country this birthday?

Strongly feel that to think of making changes? If one strongly feels about them any and every day is good. My life is as I said, satisfactory beyond my hoped imagination, but for the country I would wish for it to progress much beyond its cliched label of a 'third world country'. I want it to be the 'first', not 'third'!!

SOURCE: HINDUSTAN TIMES

Table with TV programmes: ATN Bangla, Channel 1, ntv, etc.

Table with RADIO programmes: abr radio 89.2 FM, 06:00, 09:00, etc.

Poush Phaguner Pala On ATN Bangla at 09:20pm. Cast: Ferdousi Majumdar, Humayun Faridi.

The Prince and Me On HBO at 07:05pm. Genre: Comedy / Romance. Cast: Julia Stiles, Luke Mably, Ben Miller.

Ohongkar On ETN at 08:20pm. Drama Serial. Cast: Dolly Zohur, Anisur Rahman Milon.

Table with TV programmes: 06:10, 06:50, 09:00, etc.

Table with DRAMA SERIAL programmes: ATN BANGLA, 09:20pm, Poush Phaguner, etc.

Table with NEWS BULLETIN programmes: RTV, News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, etc.

Table with TALK SHOW programmes: ATN Bangla, 10:30am, Hello Bangladesh, etc.