

WHAT'S ON

18th Young Artists' Art Exhibition
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 2-16
Time: 3-8pm

Theatre
Play: Shikhandi Katha
Troupe: Mahakal
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 11

Human Rights Theatre
Festival
Venue: Rabindra Sarobar, Dharmamandi
Date: March 9-11
Time: 4pm onwards

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Quest for Self
Artist: Gayam Chowdhury
Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dharmamandi
Date: March 9-22
Time: 12pm-9pm

Dhaka Padatik
Anniversary Celebration
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 9-10
Time: 7pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Freedom in Creativity
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, R-16, Sector-4, Uttara
Date: March 8-19
Time: 11am-7:30pm

Theatre
Play: Rakto Karabi
Troupe: Nagorik Natyasaamraday
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 11
Time: 7pm

Duet Painting Exhibition
Title: Title Unfitted
Artists: ASM Mustafa, Jamil Akbar, Shamim & MM Mazuddin
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60 Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1

Riding a high wave

In conversation with Kushum Shikdar

SHAH ALAM SHAZU
Kushum Shikdar is riding a high wave with the release of her second movie, 'Lal Tip' (on February 17). Now running at 26 movie theatres across the country, the Impress Telefilm Ltd. presentation has had a good run so far. The actress is excited about the new release, expressing her intention of cementing a place on the silver screen.

The Daily Star (TDS) recently caught up with the actress to get a glimpse into her current and future projects. Tell us something about the film 'Lal Tip'. Kushum: It is my second movie. The story of 'Lal Tip' revolves on the life of a Bangladeshi expatriate girl living in France, Thailand and Bangladesh. I felt that the story was unique and the making also offered something different. Overall, I would have to say that 'Lal Tip' is a complete love story. Do you have a few words on 'Lal Tip' for your fans? Kushum: The only thing I want to do is to urge everyone to go to the movie theatre and watch the movie. Unless you do that, you would not know how great this film is. You will not get an idea about the type of movies being made, unless you go to the cinema hall. Did you go to a movie theatre to watch the film? Kushum: Yes. I watched it in Dhaka. I also plan to go to watch the movie later, outside the capital. Can you share some memorable incidents while shooting the film? Kushum: Plenty of funny things happened during the one-and-a-half years the film was shot. Once we were shooting near the Eiffel Tower in Paris, with temperatures as low as minus

three degree Celsius. The scene required me to cry, something which I'm capable of without any difficulty. But on that day I couldn't manage to shed a tear no matter how hard I tried. I later realised that my teardrops were freezing before they could trickle down my face. It was a very unique experience for me. Your costumes for the film -- who is the designer? Kushum: I designed my own clothes for the scenes shot in Bangladesh. While shooting in France, I put on costumes by French designer Hillary Dewser. Which TV plays are you doing currently? Kushum: I am acting in 'Deyal', which Hridi Haq is directing. I'm also working in Faruk Hossain's serial 'Boeing 707'. Several other plays are also being aired at the moment, such as 'Pondit Mela', 'Eki Shohore',



PHOTO COURTESY: TUHIN HOSSAIN

'My tear drops were freezing before they could trickle down my face'.

'Uttaradhikar', 'Icarus-er Kotha' and 'No Man's Land'. What would you count as the most significant work in your career? Kushum: There are many that deserve mention, as I have done a huge array of plays throughout my career. I could name several at the moment, 'Ghaat-er Kotha', 'Noukadubi', 'Johur Ali Johuri', 'Bagh Putul', 'Monkora', 'Jyotsnakaal', 'Jolpoori', 'Megh Baloker Golpo', 'Haater Rekha Kotha Bole' and 'Ondhokarer Phool'. You also sing... Kushum: I have been singing

Kabor staged in Kolkata

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

The artistes of Gafargaoon Theatre staged 'Kabor', a one-act play on Language Movement, written by Munier Chowdhury, at Bagha Jatin Public Library in Jadavpur of Kolkata recently. This was the 112th stage performance by Gafargaoon Theatre, a prominent theatre group from Gafargaoon upazila of the district.



PHOTO: STAR

The troupe staged two shows of the play on February 20 and February 22 at the five-day 'Bhasha Utsab' (Language festival) organised by Nakshi Katha, marking 60 years of the Language Movement. Earlier, the play was also staged at Mymensingh Shilpakala Academy Auditorium by the troupe. The play is directed by Dr. Ahmed Hossain Golandaj. Padma Shri Dr. Amelendu Dey; renowned artiste Madhuri Mukherjee; folklorist and researcher Dr. Aarya Chowdhury and Mayor of Jadavpur Municipality, Gopal Dey, attended the shows. Dr. Ahmed Hossain Golandaj Tara, Sultan Raja, Rafiqul Bashir, Mujibur Rahman, Mahmudul Hasan Akash and Johir Farazi were the actors in the play.

The 112th staging of the play by Gafargaoon Theatre.

H. Kabir Titu, Zobayer, Sahabuddin, Shaiful Islam Sabuj, Liton, Emdad, Sohel, Sayem and Prahalad also assisted the troupe. 'It was our first tour to India and we received a standing ovation from the audience. The music set for the play, based on patriotic songs and songs on the Language Movement, moved the audience,' said Golandaj, adding that the hearty response from Kolkata audience will inspire the group to display even more commitment to their art.

Anannya Bishesh Shommanona '12 announced

A CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate International Women's Day, fortnightly women's magazine Anannya arranged 'Anannya Bishesh Shommanona '12' recently at TSC of Dhaka University. The organisation gave special awards to 10 individuals for their contributions in various fields. For this year, the award recipients are--Baby Moudud (Journalism), Zeenat Ara Bhuiyan (organisation), Latifa Akand (Society Development), Jaushan Ara Rahman (Welfare and Research), Khaleda Salauddin (Economics and Research), Selina Khalek (Social Welfare), Rokeya Mannan (Education and Social work), Syeda Shamsa Ara Hossain (Education), Setara Musa (Mass-communication), and Zeenat Ahmed (Sports). Vice Chancellor of DU Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique was present as chief guest. Dr. Gitira Nasreen, chairman, Journalism Department, DU, was present as special guest. Tasmina Hossain, editor of Anannya presided over the award giving ceremony. To recognise the contribution of women in Bangladesh, Anannya has been handing out the annual award since 1993.

IN SEARCH OF DIVINITY

Dol Utshab at Lalon's akhra

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

A large crowd assembled at the five-day Dol Purnima Utshab to celebrate the life and philosophy of Fakir Lalon Shai. Among them were local Baul artists and enthusiasts. The Utshab started on March 7 at Lalon's akhra in Chheuria, Kushtia. The large number of Bauls who assembled at the Utshab came from a wide variety of age groups, location and experience. For many this was their first such visit, while for many more it was a repeat visit from last year or even earlier. Dressed in traditional saffron attire and their musical instrument, usually the ektra, slung across their shoulder, the Bauls added colour to the ambience of the festival. A five-day fair called 'Baul Mela' is also a crowd puller. Other events include discussion and rendition of songs by Bauls from different parts of the country. Mithi Nagh, a 40-year old woman travelled from West Bengal, India with her husband Nafar Chandra. She said, 'We are not Bauls we are devotees of Lalon. We are here only to listen to the philosophy of the Bauls and gain divine peace.' Archard Fewl, a Canadian citizen who has come for the first time at the festival, says he is attending here only to know about Lalon and his followers. 'I came across Lalon's philosophy three years back. I was totally amazed to know about the depth of his philosophy despite lack of any institutional education. Since then I have developed keen interest in visiting his akhra,' he said. 'I have also been collecting songs, books, instruments and photos of the akhra,' he added. Despite the popular appeal, the Lalon Academy that was formed in 1967 to be the caretaker of the akhra, is mostly dysfunctional. In the absence of any elected committee of Lalon Academy, the festival is being organised by Kushtia District Administration. The Bauls refer to this celebra-



Bauls who assembled at the Utshab came from a wide variety of age groups, location and experience. PHOTO: STAR

THE WEEKLY STRUM

Music column featuring 'Echos' album 'Meddle (1971)' by Pink Floyd. Includes lyrics and guitar chords for songs like 'Echoes', 'Breathe', 'Saucy Lady', etc.

NEW RELEASES

Roshayan Solo album by Dipto Source: Agniweena

Bishanno Katatar Solo album by Aporajita Source: Laser Vision

Rafat-er Gaangulo Solo album by Rafat Source: Deadline Music

Tomar Jonno Bhalobasha Solo album by Asad Source: Laser Vision

Oldest film based on Dickens found in Britain

REUTERS, London

An archivist at the British Film Institute has stumbled across a 1901 movie just one minute long which turns out to be the earliest surviving film featuring a character from the works of Charles Dickens. Bryony Dixon was researching early films of China when she noticed an entry in a catalogue referring to 'The Death of Poor Joe', which she realized could refer to a character in Dickens' 'Bleak House'. Not expecting to find a film to match the catalogue entry - most movies this old have not survived - Dixon was 'astounded' to discover the film was actually in the BFI's collection, albeit under a different title. The discovery was announced on Friday, just over a month after the bicentenary of Dickens' birth was celebrated around the world. 'It's wonderful to have discovered such a rare and unique film so close to Dickens' bicentennial,' Dixon said. 'Not only does it survive but it is the world's earliest Dickensian film! It looks beautiful and is in excellent condition.' Dickens, the author of classics like 'Great Expectations', 'Nicholas Nickleby' and 'Oliver Twist', is among the most revered novelists in English literature, and he remains one of the most-adapted writers in history. Before the BFI's latest discovery, the earliest known Dickens film was 'Scrooge or Marley's Ghost', released in November 1901. It remains the earliest direct adaptation. 'The Death of Poor Joe' has been identified as the work of British film pioneer G.A. Smith and is believed to have been filmed in



The film depicts Dickens' Jo, a poor street sweeper in Bleak House, at night against a churchyard wall freezing in the winter snow with his broom.

Brighton some time before March 1901. It depicts Dickens' Jo, a poor street sweeper in Bleak House, at night against a churchyard wall freezing in the winter snow with his broom.

Saleem's 50th solo exhibition in New York

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The New York Art Connection recently celebrated the 50th solo exhibition of New York based Bangladeshi artist Khurshid Alam Saleem. The exhibition was held at Rogue Space Gallery, Chelsea, New York. The painter has drawn inspiration from nature and its various demonstrations. Sturdy brushstrokes and vivacious colour arrangement define the highly abstract work of the painter. As a pure abstract expressionist, Saleem concentrates on pure forms and compositions where deep red, emerald green, bright yellow, crimson and soothing azure have been applied in thick overlapping layers. About the exhibition, Saleem said over the phone, 'I mainly deal with nature. The nature that surrounds us is an infinite source of wonder and beauty. I find inspiration in the tiniest detail of nature. Nature is not always bright and bold, but I consciously depict my nature in those sharp and steering colours, which bring a new tone and character in my acrylic based paintings.' Born in 1951 in Mymensingh, Saleem graduated in Drawing and Painting from the Institute of Fine Arts (now Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka). He took a special course in advanced colour print at the Department of Art and Art Education, New York University. He has held several solo and group exhibitions in different parts of the world and has received a number of prestigious awards. Saleem was awarded Olympic Medal and torch as an invited artist from the US at the Beijing Olympic 2008.

Comic strip featuring Mort Walker's 'beetle bailey' and 'Henry by Don Trachte'. Includes dialogue bubbles and illustrations of characters.

Table with TV channels and programs: ATN BANGLA, Desh TV, CHANNEL i, Z Studio, ntv, HBO.

Table with radio stations: abcradio FM 89.2, Bheror Janajay, Malhotra Jiboney, Darun Bapury, Desana Bakiy, Shoudhata, Shajer Maya, Raat-er Akashy, Gajper Shech Net, Addaban, Fourt Unlimited, Back to Back Music, RADIO TODAY FM 89.6, Good Morning, World Music, TUM, Raat Shor Gaan.

Houseful On Maasranga Television at 09:02pm Game Show Guest: Razzak

The Longest Yard On Z Studio at 09:30pm Genre: Crime/Comedy Cast: Adam Sandler, Burt Reynolds

Amar Ami On BANGLAVISION at 09:05pm Celebrity Talk Show Guest: Shafig Tuhin & Tishma

Table with TV channels and programs: ETV, Star World, National Geographic Channel, Discovery Channel.

Table with drama serials: ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL-i, ntv, ETV, Boishakhi TV, Banglavisoin.

Table with news bulletins: RTV, CHANNEL-i, ntv, ETV, News (Bangla), News (English).

Table with talk shows: ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL-i, ETV, RTV, Boishakhi TV, Banglavisoin.