

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Sound of Nature
Artist: Kazi Ghayyuddin
Venue: Bengal Art Garage, Gulshan
Date: March 31-April 14
Time: 12pm-8pm

Mani Kaul Retrospective
Organiser: Federation of Film Societies Bangladesh
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H 60, Rd 7/A, Dhanmondi
Date: March 30-April 3

Musical Soiree
Organiser: Utko Bangladesh
Singers: Saifur Hossain & Quazi Kishorekhal Islam
Venue: Bangladesh National Museum, Shabbagh
Date: April 6

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Ratan Majumdar
Venue: Gallery Kaya, H-26, R-16, Uttara
Date: April 7-17
Time: 11am-7:30pm

Chaitro Sankranti Boli Utshab
Organiser: Adom Publication
Venue: Public Library Premises
Date: March 31-April 12
Time: 10am-8pm

Solo Musical Soiree
Artist: Farvin Sultana
Venue: Main Auditorium, National Museum
Date: April 2
Time: 5pm

Theatre Festival
Organiser: Padatik Natya Sanghasth (TIC)
Venue: Shilpakala Academy
Date: April 4-9
Time: 7pm

Album Launch
Artist: Azizur Rahman Tuhin
Venue: Bengal Shilpakala, Dhanmondi
Date: April 3
Time: 7pm

A celebration of freedom

“Celebrating Life Shadhinota Concert” by the Daily Star and Standard Chartered Bank

OSAMA RAHMAN

A charged atmosphere enveloped Suhrawardy Udyan as Dhakaites gathered to celebrate Bangladesh's 40 years of independence. The Daily Star and Standard Chartered Bank presented “Celebrating Life Shadhinota Concert”, at the venue to mark this occasion. The crowd, consisting mostly of university students, eagerly awaited the beginning of this open-to-all concert.

Jim McCabe, CEO of Standard Chartered Bank Bangladesh, took the podium to kick-start the proceedings, speaking of culture and the need for its preservation. Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, then took to the stage. “Every day is Independence Day... it started with our war of independence and continues to this very day,” he said to the passionate crowd. He also reminded those present that it was time for the youth to take over and improve conditions. With the population trend shifting, the youth movement had begun, he asserted.

Perhaps this very youth movement would be the harbinger of harmony for this country as long as they retained the same passion and patriotism towards Bangladesh. As if on cue, when Biman Chandra Biswas and Bizon Mistri joined the students of Chhayanat Music School to sing the national anthem, the question of patriotism and passion was defused. Everyone stood and sang the words of the national anthem. The spirits of Suhrawardy Udyan rose within every person present, as they were lulled back to the days of the war, lost to the melody in this most fitting of all venues.

Noted litterateur Selina Hossain and theatre personality Nasiruddin Yousuff then addressed the throngs of spectators, speaking of independence and the journey ahead. By this time, more people had arrived, and the entire area swelled to the rafters with people, all vying for a slice of the celebration of life and independence.

Finally the man they all had waited for took the stage: Ayub Bachchu, introduced by host Bhaswar Banerjee, walked in to loud cheers and applause. Energetic as ever, the iconic musician treated the audience to a feast of classics. Finally, concluding the ever-popular “Bangladesh”, the tunes of “Amar Bhai-ar Rokhte Ragan”, suddenly rang out and audiences were caught by surprise as they slowly realised what was playing. The



Selina Hossain and Nasiruddin Yousuff speak of the journey ahead.



Jim McCabe, CEO of Standard Chartered Bank Bangladesh addresses the audience.



Samina Chowdhury and Fahmida Nabi at the programme.



Debajyoti Mishra performs to a receptive crowd.



Ibrara Tipu (2-R) Biman Chandra Biswas and co artists perform at the programme.

band continued to play the melody using drums and guitars while a melancholic yet beautiful reminiscence began. For a moment, everyone had been caught in a united reverie, a little more thankful for an independence rarely taken for granted.

Ayub Bachchu's departure met with disappointment mingled in grateful applause for a terrific performance but there was more to come. Naquib Khan took over the spotlight, keeping everyone entertained. Patriotic themes, lyrics and emotions pervaded the atmosphere. This was sustained and perhaps

even augmented by media personality and lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor, who not only recited fitting poems, but re-enacted the famous “Ebar-e Shongram”, first heard at this very spot, yet in an altogether different Bangladesh. The crowd was roused to a frenzy by the words and as 40 years of independence really began to sink in, noted theatre personality, Aly Zaker, reminded the audience what freedom really was.

The popular band, Feedback, then took the stage. Singing familiar tunes and urging the audience to join them, Feedback gener-

ated the buzz back into an audience, lost in reflection. As the words “Mela-e Jaire” escaped into the air, the cheers and festive moods were restored. Yet, the lessons and memories remained vivid.

Subir Nandi came next with “Shopno Loker Kolpo Kotha”; Samina Chowdhury performed, “Chiro Sobujer ei Bangladesh” and Fahmida Nabi sang “Ekti Gulir Shobdo” from the Celebrating Life Album.

Indian musician Debajyoti Mishra, along with his 24-member ensemble, promised to enthral the crowd with their renditions of

Rabrinda Sangeet and Nazrul Sangeet along with some Lalou songs. The promise was delivered.

As the festivities came to an end, there were cries for more. Another celebration of life, brightened with the celebration of independence, had come to a close. But everyone present rightly felt that the celebration was never over. They knew too that the celebration had to be preserved for the next generation to also enjoy. Hence, the curtains closed on a glorious occasion, bitterness at times, but for which we are grateful.

Sabina Yasmin: Spring in the air

--- Syed Badrul Ahsan

With Sabina Yasmin you go back to an era when songs came in melody. There used to be a time when songs came draped in music. It was an age when music was not another name for unbearable screams, when lyrics made sense. That is why you recall that simple number, ishara-e sheesh diye amake deko na / kamonar chokh diye amake dekho na. On a warm Friday evening, Sabina Yasmin was there at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre of the Indian High Commission in Dhanmondi making the crowds sway in rhythm with her.

There is that certain civility, a dash of dignity with which Sabina Yasmin has always offered her songs to us. On stage, she is a cool, graceful performer, taking care not to have the attention of the audience shift from her voice to her movements. Of course, the movements were there --- soft and steeped in quiet passion --- to let us in on the thought that music in the end is all about scaling the heights and taking the audience along.

And take the audience along with her is precisely what Sabina Yasmin did, from beginning to end on Friday. She began, as she always does, with a tribute to the country. This time it was shob kota janala kule dao na. Towards the end, it was jommo amar dhonno holo maa go and ekti Bangladesh tumi jagroto jonata that left the breeze weaving itself into the crowd through tenderness which only the intensely patriotic among us can feel.

Observing Sabina Yasmin close was in a way a coming to terms with reality once more. Not so long ago, we had almost given her up for lost, for reasons of her health. It was, for those of us who have watched her and her sisters create their own swaths of landscape in Bangladesh's music, a terrifying time given that Nilofer Yasmin had already gone missing for us. Sabina put up a brave struggle for survival; millions of hands went up in prayer for her. She came back home, to sing once more.



And there she was again, singing e ki shonar aloe jibon bhoroye dile. You were back in the 1970s, when Sabina Yasmin's was the dominant presence in playback music. The lights fell on her face, revealing beauty that only passionate adherence to music can have on offer. When the lights moved away, her beauty glowed in all its natural contours. That and the sheer romance of the song, aami rojongondha phuler moto gonddo chhoroye jai, were a reminder to many of the essential spirit behind undying love.

The crowd, among whom were those who came to live much after the 1970s, cheered wildly. That was a beautiful surprise, a hint that for all the fusion and the fast beats you might go for in music in these more mundane times, it is always the connoisseurs of music who remember how it used to be all those decades ago. Sabina Yasmin, inundated with requests, let it be known that happiness was what mattered

that evening. And hence the happy song, one following another in swift succession. There was eimmon tomakle dilam, succeeded by aami achhi thakbo bhalo beshe morbo.

You wished the evening would not draw to a close, but it did, had to. Within the circumscribed space of time, Sabina Yasmin at one point took it upon herself to regale the audience with Lata Mangeshkar's tum na jaane ki jaham mein koo gaye. Sabina Yasmin was simply making you fall in love again, in the autumn of your life. As the leaves dropped, ever so softly, from the trees made excitable by the winds, Sabina Yasmin led you, almost by the hand as it were, back to the 1960s, to Mehdi Hasan. She sang jaane mun aaj tu jo paas nei jaane shireen mei wo mithaas nehi.

In your autumn, certain intimations of sudden spring punctuated the night sky.

The writer is Executive Editor, The Daily Star.

TALE OF A TIE UP

Artistes join hands with ABC Radio

A CORRESPONDENT

Acclaimed singers Habib Wahid, Bappa Mazumdar, Arnab, Balam, Hridoy Khan and veteran bands Warfaze, Artcell and Nemesis have signed an “exclusive artiste agreement” with ABC Radio FM 89.2. The artistes and ABC Radio made an announcement to this effect at a press conference at the city's Hotel Sundarban recently.

ABC Radio's Chief Operating Officer Sanullah termed the day as a “glorious one” for both ABC Radio and its listeners, adding that it is a great pleasure to honour the talented musicians with the newly penned agreement. Saying that the deal is an “unprecedented, brilliant and unique” move in the history of Bangladesh music scene, Sanullah further informed that from now on, listeners will be able to hear songs by Habib Wahid, Bappa Mazumdar, Arnab, Balam, Hridoy Khan and bands Warfaze, Artcell and Nemesis only on ABC Radio FM 89.2.

Habib Wahid expressed his joy at penning the agreement, saying that it has set a good example of musicians and FM Radio working together for mutual benefit.

Sheikh Monirul Alam Tipu from the band Warfaze thanked ABC Radio for joining hands with musicians, as the Bangladeshi bands rely on FM Radios.

Images that tell the saga of Chitromoy Chattala

The Daily Star Odommo Chattagram photography exhibition at TIC gallery



Visitors at the exhibition.

ZAHANGIR ALOM, writes from Chittagong

A week long photography exhibition titled “Chitromoy Chattala” is on at the gallery of Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC). Editor of daily “Azadi” MA Malek graced the occasion as chief guest, while Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam inspired the photographers of the port city with the words, “The artistes of photography are the part of an international profession. Nothing can stop you from being a global photographer if you have talent. You need to have high ambition and in-depth outlook to reach the zenith of your creative faculty.”

“There are many photographers from Chittagong who have earned national and international accolades for their outstanding photography. If they are properly highlighted, they will be encouraged to zoom in on the art medium,” asserted MA Malek.

The exhibition is an outcome of a com-

petition that was judged by internationally famed Bangladeshi photographer Shob Faruque, Dr. Samuel Berthet, Director of Alliance Française de Chittagong, Professor Abul Mansur of Fine Arts Institute of Chittagong University and celebrated photographer of Chittagong, Moududul Alam.

Eighty artistic images out of 650 entries are on display at the gallery. The images capture multifaceted aspects of beauty, cultural diversity, and indomitable spirit of the port city. Adrian Poran's “The Monk Meditated” bagged the first prize in the competition. The image has a rare illusion of light, both in a sense of visual beauty and with reference to enlightening connotation. A meditating sage is searching the soul of Buddha (The Enlightened) under a “mahabodhi tree” while celestial sun rays are gleaming through the hills creating a halo of enlightenment around the sage. Lord Buddha attained nirvana under such a tree.

Yeow-Kwang Yeo, a Singaporean pho-

tographer, came second in the competition for his “Patenga Beach, Chittagong” that showcases a flock of birds flying across a beach at sunset. The flashing gray twilight reflected on serene water seemed to endearingly speak to the flock of birds. The third winner of the competition is Hasan Murad, who photographed an elderly indigenous woman sitting beside “Her Old Hearth”. The gloomy visage of the solitary woman recounts the changing lifestyle of indigenous people.

A.N.M. Zia; Hasanuzzaman Prince; A.M. Ahad; Shantanu Biswas; Nazir Uddin Mahmud; Md. Tawhid Murad and Md. Didarul Alam Chowdhury were the rest of the top 10 awardees at the competition. Shantanu Biswas’ “Boundless Childhood” truly makes us nostalgic as the image depicts joyful days of yesteryear while Didarul Alam Chowdhury's “A Chittagonian Bridgroom” portrays a local bridegroom riding on a majestic elephant on his way to the bride's house.

Shaiful Chowdhury's “Crossing a flooded road” is a piece of photography that features the resilience of Chittagong people while tackling calamities such as floods.

“Singing a love song” by SM Elias Chowdhury, “The Developing Step” by Pusan Shaan, “A frame within a frame” by Ananda, “Empty boat beneath the cascade of Nafakum fall” by Abonti Mutsuddi, “Lanterns of Prabarana” by Hasanuzzaman Prince, “Boli Khela” by Pranabesh Das are the titles of other images that aesthetically tell the saga of Chitromoy Chattala.

The other aspects of the exhibition cover the scenic beauty of Karnafuli and Matamuhuri Rivers, Chittagong port or the golden gate, traditional sampan, traditional life sketches and many more.

The exhibition is open from 3 to 8pm everyday and will end on April 5.

Odommo Chattagram Festival

The Daily Star takes to the stage

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY AND SHAHENOOR AKTHER URMI, Chittagong

The auditorium of Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC) teemed with an enthusiastic audience as a five-day theatre festival kick started.

“Tirjak”, a prominent troupe of the port city, staged their much acclaimed production “Madhumala” on the inaugural day of the festival. As part of the ongoing “Odommo Chattagram Festival”, organised by The Daily Star, another venue for theatre festival also opened April 4 at Shilpakala Academy Chittagong, alongside TIC.

President of International Theatre Institute (ITI) Ramendu Majumdar inaugurated the festival as chief guest while the Daily Prothom Alo Resident Editor Abul Momen, The Daily Star Chittagong Bureau Chief Raisul Haq Bahar and General Manager (Production and Events) of The Daily Star Selim SH Chowdhury addressed the gathering. The Daily Star initiated the festival to zero in on the port city's diverse

culture, heritage, beauty and indomitable spirit.

Written by our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, the popular production “Madhumala” was directed by TIC director Ahmed Iqbal Haider.

“It was just an outstanding show. Lighting, design and costumes of the production were really captivating,” said Ashraful Anwar, a member of the audience.

The play depicted the ill fated love story of Madhumala, princess of Swandip Madhumala and a prince who pledge their love for one another in a dream state, only to lose each other when reality dawns.

Shailla Sharmin, Mahbulul Islam Rajib, Ripan Barua, Amit Chakraborty, Tumpa Chowdhury, Trina Barua, Lucky Amin, Ramiz Ahmed and Ahmed Iqbal Haider enacted important roles in the play. Ahmed Iqbal Haider also did set design, costumes of the play while AK M Ismail designed the lights.

On the occasion a cultural programme was also held where the local artistes gave performances.



A scene from the play.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Children have a field day

Annual police sports competition

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Children joyously joined in the daylong sports competition and “dress as you like” event at Lalmonirhat police line grounds on Saturday on the occasion of the annual sports competition of police. Children from the police line school took part in the event donning varied garb to wear prizes. Sayma Akhter a class three student was thrilled to dress as a snake charmer. DIG of Rangpur range police Binoy Krisno Bala PPM and police officers were directed by greater Rangpur, Lalmonirhat district administration and local political leaders all turned up to enjoy the event. Later, the chief guest police DIG distributed prizes among the winners of various events.



Children participate at the dress as you like event.

PHOTO: STAR



Radio Russia, Bengali Section organised a two-day long conference with the participation of representatives of the mass media at Russian Centre of Science and Culture (RCSC) in Dhanmondi, Dhaka on March 27 and 28. The visiting delegation of the Voice of Russia gave a colourful presentation at the conference. The programme was attended, among others, by Alexander P. Demin, head of RCSC.

| | | |
|------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ATN BANGLA | 11:20 Business and Finance | 08:15 Drama |
| | 12:15 Vision 2020 | Serial: Mayer Daa |
| | 01:25 Matir Shobash | Poribahan |
| | 05:20 Amanur Shannoy | Bhabnagar |
| | 08:40 Shimana Chahrye | 09:45 Total Sports |
| | | 12:30 Maasranga Television |
| CHANNEL i | 01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan | 10:02 Bangla Feature Film |
| | Drama Serial: Aj Kichhu | Backyard Science |
| | 07:30 Hote Chalechhe | 08:30 Drama Serial: Khonikaly |
| | 06:00 Jibon Jekhaney Jemon | 09:02 Kingkortobobimur |
| | Drama Serial: Longkako | Drama Serial: Ishkul |
| | 09:35 Travel On | 11:00 Otor Baje |
| ntv | 08:45 Bangla Feature Film | 11:05 I Am Number Four |
| | 04:10 Jamar Achhey Bolalar | 02:35 You Don't Mess with the |
| | Achhey | Johan |
| | 06:10 Shabho Shondhoy | 04:25 Money Train |
| | Drama Serial: Derwal | 07:00 True Justice |
| | 08:15 Maagi Test an Balwal | 08:30 The A-Team |
| | | 10:30 Fourth Kind |
| ETV | 10:02 Desh Jurey Oporadh | 11:05 The Nutty Professor |

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| RADIO | | |
| abc radio FM 89.2 | 10:00 Morning Express | |
| 06:00 Bhojer Janalay | 12:00 My Time | |
| 09:00 Mukhorho Jiboney | 01:00 No Tension | |
| 12:00 Darun Popury | 04:00 Dhaka Calling | |
| 03:00 Doyenta Bhalay | 09:00 Night Rider | |
| 05:00 Shondhoy | 01:00 Back to Back music | |
| 07:00 Shagher Maya | Radio Today FM 89.6 | |
| 09:00 Raat-e Akashey | 08:00 Good Morning Dhaka | |
| 11:00 Golper Shesh Nei | 12:00 Today Adda | |
| Radio Fourth | 04:00 U Tam | |
| 07:30 Hello Dhaka | 07:00 Tabey Ho Hok | |

Patherer Kanna
On Boishakhi TV at 08:30pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Kochi Khondokar, Tomalika Kormokar

The A-Team
On Fox Movies at 08:30pm
Genre: Action/Adventure
Cast: Liam Neeson, Bradley Cooper

Dewal
On ntv at 08:15pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Joy, Kushum Shikdar

Perikroma 04:55 Liar Liar
Ichhey Churi 05:05 King Cobra
0 Bonthu Amar 07:55 Rocky IV
10:10 Cine Hits 09:55 Torque
12:05 Ekushey-er Raat 11:45 The Mummy

Boishakhi TV
11:30 Desperate Housewives
11:30 Supernatural
02:30 The River
03:30 Dexter
11:30 Joey

BANGLAVISION
01:05 Bangla Feature Film
05:20 Shyamol Bangla
08:15 Drama Serial: Ladies First
11:25 Probashi Mukh

Rtv
12:10 Bangla Feature Film
05:00 Cinema R Gaan
08:20 Drama Serial: College Road
09:50 Bridal Show

Desh TV
03:00 Gaan R Gaan
05:00 Durpath
06:30 Desh Top Chat

DRAMA SERIAL
ATN BANGLA 08:00pm Palash Pothi Nei
10:55pm Uttardakhar
CHANNEL i 07:50pm No Mans Land
ntv 09:45pm Priyo
11:30pm Terminal
Rtv 09:05pm Boya Paribar

NEWS BULLETIN
BTV News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm.
News (English) at 10am, 6pm, 10pm.
ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm.
News (English) at 9am, 6pm
CHANNEL i News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm.
ntv News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.
ETV News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.

TALK SHOW
ATN BANGLA 11:30pm Je Kotha Kra Boloni
12:30am Lead News
CHANNEL i 09:45am Tristo Matra
12:30pm Tarika Kothon
ntv 12:10pm Ei Shomoy
Boishakhi TV 12:00am Zero Hour
BANGLAVISION 06:25pm Front Line
Rtv 10:40am tarokallap
07:40am Our Democracy
Desh TV 11:45pm Shoja Kotha
12:10pm Masranga Television
Boishakhi TV 07:30pm Prime Issue