

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Tribute to Great Master Sahidul Alam
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H-42, B-16/16(N), Dhammond
Date: June 5-16

Theatre
Play: Shylock and Sycophants
Troupe: Theatrewala
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Dhaka
Date: June 6; Time: 7pm

Cultural Programme
Participant: China Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 9-10
Time: 4:30pm

Solo Photography Exhibition
Title: Shabshuber Pathik
Photographer: Shahadat Parvez
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H 60, Rd 7/A, Dhammond
Date: June 5-8; Time: 3-9pm

Film Festival
Venue: Russian Centre of Science & Culture, Dhammond
Date: June 4-9
Time: 5pm-6:30pm

Group Drawing Exhibition
Title: Freefall
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60 Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1
Date: May 24-June 11
Time: 12pm-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Beautiful Bangladesh
Artist: Shohag Parvez
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, R-16 Sector-4, Uttara
Date: June 15-27
Time: 11pm-9pm

Solo Photo Exhibition
Title: Heritage & Panoramic Beauty of Bangladesh
Artist: Abdul Rob Djalil
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: June 1-14; Time: 3pm-5pm

Mahfuz Ahmed becomes father



A CORRESPONDENT

Popular actor Mahfuz Ahmed has become a father. His wife Professor Israt Jahan Kader gave birth to their first child yesterday. The elated couple have decided to name their daughter Mawrin Aradhiya Ahmed. Mahfuz expressed his unbound joy and said, "It's something so special that words cannot express. Both the mother and daughter are out of danger. We seek blessings from all."

Mokammel films generate interest among Kolkata audience



Horiprobha Basu Takeda and her Japanese husband.

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi
It was a trek down memory lane for many who had gathered at the Gorky Sadan, one of Kolkata's major cultural hubs, where two documentaries by Tanvir Mokammel were screened on May 26 and June 5. Mokammel's mega documentary "1971" was screened on the evening of May 26 in the presence of a good number of Kolkata's cultural elites, media personalities and people who were involved in and helped Bangladesh during the Liberation War in 1971. The show drew a full house and the three hour forty minute documentary enthralled the audience. The Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Kolkata, Abida Islam, and the director spoke before the screening of the film. On June 5, Mokammel returned to the same venue for the show of his previous documentary "Japani Bodhu" which was appreciated by the audience that included some relatives of Horiprobha Basu Takeda and her Japanese husband's family. "Japani Bodhu" screening was very successful as it was the first time that film buffs in Kolkata came across a movie on such a subject," Mokammel told The Daily Star. A number of the city's leading intellectuals watched and appreciated the movie, he added. Mokammel said an article published previously in The Daily Star had generated enthusiasm about "Japani Bodhu" in Kolkata in the run up to its screening, particularly about the "remarkable" story of a Bengali woman who displayed "immense courage to embrace a Japanese husband, culture and social milieu". On May 27, a Kolkata-based environmental organisation, Sugata Foundation, had screened Mokammel's film "Oyi Jamuna" at Dhakuria Auditorium and it was preceded by the director's talk about the situation of the rivers in Bangladesh.

Sa'adat Ali Akhand Literary Award 2011 conferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Khondakar Sirajul Haq (R) receives award from Anisuzzam (C) and Shamsuzzaman Khan.

Sa'adat Ali Akhand Shahitya Puroshkar (literary award) 2011 was conferred on eminent researcher and writer Professor Khondakar Sirajul Haq on June 6 at the Seminar Hall of Bangla Academy. Haq received a crest, certificate and a cheque worth Tk 25,000 as part of the award. Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy, delivered a welcome speech on the occasion. Professor Anisuzzaman, president of Bangla Academy, presided over the award giving ceremony.

committed researcher and the Bangla Academy authority has taken the right decision by honouring him." Dr. Khondakar Sirajul Haq was born in 1941 in Rajshahi. He studied at Rajshahi College and the Bengali Department of Dhaka University (DU). He received his Ph.D in Bangla Literature from DU. He later taught at the department of Bengali, Rajshahi University. Sirajul Haq is recognised for his noteworthy research on Muslim literature in the sub-continent. "Muslim Shahitya Shama"; Shamaj Chinta O Shahitya Kormo" (essay and research), "Muhammad Yakub Ali Chowdhury", "Kazi Abdul Wadud", "Dr. Lutfor Rahman" (biography), and Kazi Abdul Wadud Rochnaboli (edited by Khondakar Sirajul Haq) are among his notable literary works. Sa'adat Ali Akhand is one of the notable authors of Bengal, in the pre-Bangladesh period (1930 to 1970). He was born in 1899 at Chingaspur village in Bogra. He went to Rajshahi Govt. College and to Kolkata University in 1933. Though Akhand has not produced many literary works, he is considered to be one of the foremost fiction writers and essayists of Bengal. He was a regular contributor for the monthly Sawgat and Bulbul. His writings focused on the history of Muslims and their social contributions. The selection of the award recipients and holding the award ceremony is carried out by Bangla Academy.

Solo sarod recital by Prattyush Banerjee at IGCC today



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted Indian sarod artiste Prattyush Banerjee will perform today at 6:30pm at the auditorium of Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) in Gulshan, Dhaka. The artiste also performed a solo sarod recital at Dhaka Club yesterday. Ashis Paul is accompanying Prattyush on tabla. Prattyush Banerjee has been successfully multi-tasking as a performer, music arranger, composer, researcher and instrument designer. "I have been learning to play sarod for over two decades. I had also been in Dhaka to perform at an annual classical music festival at Chhayanaut. Morning ragas -- Lalit, Bhairo and Jainpuri; evening ragas --Yaman, Shyam Kalyan and Behag; midnight ragas -- Malkauns and Kaunsi Kanada are my favourites," said Prattyush Banerjee. "Every classical instrument has its own language. Sarod, originated from the Persian Rabab, and can produce both sweet and sombre melodies. Very few artistes play sarod," he added. Born in Kolkata, India, in 1969, Prattyush Banerjee is a worthy torch-bearer of the Senia-Shahjahanpur gharana (school). The artiste was initiated to the art of sarod playing at the tender age of eight by his father, the late Prasun Kumar Banerjee, who was also a well-known connoisseur, collector and patron of music. For almost thirty years now, he has been under the covered tutelage of the internationally celebrated doyen of the gharana, Pandit Buddhadev Das Gupta. He also trained under Samarendra Sikdar, an eminent disciple of Radhika Mohan Maitra. "I have been inspired by my guru Pandit Buddhadev Das Gupta who has been composing bandish based on Tagore songs on his sarod for 30 years. I have so far composed 20 bandish set on Tagore songs including 'Nibhrito Praner Debota', 'Shedin Dujoney', 'Amar Matha Noto Kore Dao' and 'Roop Sagorey Doob Diyechhi' on my sarod," mentioned the artiste. Prattyush has performed at many national and international concerts including 'Tribute Concert to Ustad Ali Akbar Khan Sahib' on his 60th birth anniversary in 1983; at the ITC Sangeet Research Academy, Kolkata in 1988; 'Guru-shishya Parampara' by Salt Lake Cultural Association, Kolkata, with his guru, Pandit Buddhadev Das Gupta; Vasantotsav in New Delhi in the presence of Ustad Amjad Ali Khan; in Munich in 2006; Muziekpubliek, Belgium; Creations India, Toronto; and Tropentheatre, Amsterdam, the Netherlands. He has worked with eminent composers including Sali Choudhury, V. Balsara, Ravindra Jain as well as filmmakers like Aparna Sen, Rituporno Ghosh, Sandip Ray and others. The artiste has over thirty albums to his credit. He was appointed as a part-time research consultant with ITC-SRA in 2002. Prattyush has written many articles on music and has also conducted several lecture demonstrations both in India and abroad. He arranged music and conducted the grand live concert 'Hajar Konthe Sammelak Rabindra Sangeet' (Songs of Rabindranath Tagore by a 1000-member choir) in 2007. Prattyush has won many awards including Allauddin Khan Memorial Award in 1980. He stood first at the West Bengal State Music Academy Competition in 1988. He was also awarded the title of "Surmani" by Sur Shringar Samsad, Mumbai in 1988 and bagged the first Pandit Nikhil Banerjee Memorial Trophy from the Dover Lane Music Competition in 1989.

Swani Zubayer's tribute to National Poet
Latest album featuring Nazrul Sangeet in the offing

ZAHANGIR ALOM
Talented singer Swani Zubayer's latest album "Keno Megher Chhaya" is going to be released at the end of this month. The accomplished musician has recorded ten familiar and lesser-known songs of the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Zubayer recently recorded the songs at Resonance studio in Kolkata, India. Bengal Foundation is producing the album. Songs featured on the album are: "Chokher Neshar Bhalobasha", "Sur-e O Banir Mala Diye", "Jarey Haath Dey Mala Ditey Para Nai", "Uchaton Mon Ghore Roia", "Eto Jal O Kajal Chokhey", "Jobey Tulusi Tolaye", "Shokhi Shey Hori", "Pia Pia Pia Papiya Pukarey", "Keno Megher Chhaya" and "Sunyo E Buk-e Pakhi Mor Aye". Zubayer has also done the music arrangement. Noted Indian instrumentalists -- Rawshan Ali (sarangi), Durbadal Chattopadhyay (violin), Rahul Chatterjee (sitar), Prattyush Banerjee (sarod) and Raja Chowdhury (bass guitar, rhythm guitar and mandolin) -- have provided the sangat. Sanjay Ghosh is the sound engineer. "Kazi Nazrul Islam used to visit our family on regular intervals. My grandfather (maternal) poet Khan Mohammad Moiuddin was quite close to Nazrul. I have heard this from the late poet and literary critic Abdul Mannan Syed," said Zubayer.



"My fans and music enthusiasts will notice some improvisation and experimentation from my part in the renditions; I have kept the original tunes intact of course. The style is somewhat different from the conventional renditions. For example, the song 'Sur-e O Banir' is set on Raga Pilu; I have played with the raga, using violin and my vocals. I have used guitar in the song 'Sakhi Shey Hori Kemon Bol'. Music connoisseurs will find such elements of surprise and more in the album. And last but not the least, I have used coda in every song -- the essence of the song will linger on even after it has ended," the musician said. Swani Zubayer is one of those few singers, who are unafraid to take risks and experiment with different styles and genres. The singer-composer grew up in an environment where he learnt to retain and respect our unique cultural identity in all its diversity and richness.

Tarok
An insight into the plights of transgender Bangladeshis

JAMIL MAHMUD
Two nocturnal birds are talking to each other. They suddenly see a group of people digging a grave. As one bird asks the other about it, a story unfolds -- zooming in on an individual named Kabir. The play "Tarok" -- on the life of Kabir, an individual belonging to the sexual minority group -- was staged at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on June 6. Bengal Foundation has produced the 50-minute play that was staged by the group Shamparok Noya Shetu (SNS). Rafiqul Islam wrote the play, borrowing elements from daily lives of the members of the group. Anisul Haque who adapted and directed it considered it "challenging". The play unfolds as the mythical talking birds narrate Kabir's story. They talk about the world below and mankind. Born as a male child, Kabir is forced to face his 'anomalies' as he grows older. From there begins a ruthless cycle of discrimination, humiliation and victimisation. Kabir's eventual induction into a guru's safe haven and its cheap glitter cannot make his life better. The play unfolds as the mythical talking birds narrate Kabir's story. They talk about the world below and mankind. Born as a male child, Kabir is forced to face his 'anomalies' as he grows older. From there begins a ruthless cycle of discrimination, humiliation and victimisation. Kabir's eventual induction into a guru's safe haven and its cheap glitter cannot make his life better. The disheartened look on Joya's face said a thousand words.



Symbolic use of masks in the play was apt.

Moushumi Nag
Busy actress

SHAH ALAM SHAZU
Several TV serials, featuring Moushumi Nag, are now on air on different channels. At present she seems to be busy with her shooting more than ever. Almost everyday she is shooting for TV plays. Alongside she is continuing modelling as well. "Ladies First", featuring Moushumi, is being telecast on Banglavisión. The drama is aired twice a week. The actress recently had a chat with The Daily Star about this play and others. Which project are you working on at the moment? Moushumi Nag: Right now I am shooting for a daily soap named "Jononi". The director of this play is Shahadat Shujon. The play will be aired on Gazi TV. What is your character in the play? Moushumi Nag: I am playing the role of a girl whose father is a wealthy man. The girl has the luxury of doing whatever she likes. Understandably, the character is somewhat of a spoiled brat. Tell us about "Ladies First". Moushumi Nag: The director is SA Haque Alik. The serial just aired its 100th episode recently. Both the plot and my character are very interesting. How many serials are you doing currently? Moushumi Nag: A number of serials. "Agnipath" directed by Tonmoy Tansen, which has recently started, should be mentioned. In addition to this, I am also working on "Saat Saadogor", "Boiri Batash", "Dokhinayoner Din" -- all of which are serials. So, does that imply that you aren't doing too many one-hour plays? Moushumi Nag: Not at all. I am also working in one-hour dramas. I have just finished shooting for three one-hour plays directed by Arjan Aich. They are: "Brishti Prohor Ebong Ora Tinjon", "Sharey Niranoboi", "Ekta Ondhokar Shetu Ebong Roktomakha Chhobi". I have also done another named "Ekta Shorolekhar Sheshe Ek Jhank Holud Projapoti", which is directed by Nuzhat Alvi. The shooting for "Nostalgia and Cathedrin" directed by Ahmed Shushimoy, has also been finished. Have you ever felt like your character and the story of the play resemble your real life? Moushumi Nag: Yes, sometimes. Actually, every story is inspired by some real life experience. In the play "Ekta Shorolekhar Sheshe Ek Jhank Holud Projapoti", I am an actress. So, the story very much goes with my own career in acting.



ATN BANGLA

03:05 Bangla Feature Film
05:00 Gram Gonjer Khabor
08:00 Reality Show: Probashi
Palli Forgotten Roots

CHANNEL i

12:05 Prokrito O Jibon
02:40 Tele-film: Samparka Navayan
05:00 Janapader Khabor
07:50 Shera Nachaye 2012
11:30 Spot light

ETV

10:02 Sonamoni Shuk-e
Oshuk-e
01:30 Bangla Feature Film
06:30 Musical Programme:
Tanana

BANGLAVISION

11:45 Call-er Gaan
Boishakhi TV
11:15 Children's Programme:
Aalo Chhayar Khela
Bangla Feature Film
03:30 Single Episode TV Play
08:35 Shomey Katak Gaan-e
Gaan-e
Maasranga Television
02:30 Phone and Concert:
Ichchhey Gaan-er Dupur
Square Hospital Doctor's
Chamber
07:35 Art & Craft Programme:
Shoili
09:30 Euro Football
Fox Movies
02:15 Tucker & Dale Vs Evil
04:30 Love, Wedding and

Beetle Bailey by Mort Walker
IF I WATCH IT I MIGHT MAKE IT TO 15
IF I CAN JUST EAT GREEN STUFF AND CUT DOWN ON FATS
AND WHATEVER THE HECK THIS IS!
MOST DOGS ONLY LIVE TO BE 12
WWW.BETTERLIFE.COM
GREAT HOT WALKER

Henry by Don Tranchette
LUMP SUGAR
HENRY

Brad Pitt to produce stalled Marilyn Monroe biopic

Brad Pitt has signed up to produce an Australian filmmaker's stalled Marilyn Monroe biopic, according to reports. The 48-year-old star has stepped in to help director Andrew Dominik get his long-delayed movie off the ground as the project's producer. Australian actor Naomi Watts was slated to play the iconic bombshell in Dominik's biopic "Blonde", which stalled before shooting began in January 2011. Pitt will produce the movie through his Plan B production company, although he has yet to decide whether he will take on a role in the film. "We're going to get this one done," the Sydney Morning Herald quoted him as telling 24 Frames. Pitt has previously worked with New Zealand born filmmaker Dominik on "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford" and gangster thriller "Killing Them Softly" which was in competition for the Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes Film Festival. Dominik, rose to fame with his first feature "Chopper" and lives in Melbourne.

PHOTO: TUNIS HOSSAIN



DRAMA SERIAL

ATN BANGLA
09:20pm Red Dragon to
Rajanjandha
11:00pm Hawal
Mithai
08:15pm Rokpatha
09:45pm Kobi

ETV
09:30pm Rangila
BANGLAVISION
08:15pm Harikiptey
09:55pm Gulshan
Avenue
Rtv
08:15pm Chorkabyo

NEWS BULLETIN

RTV
News (Bangla) at 12pm,
2pm, 5pm, 8pm,
News (English) at 10am,
4pm, 10pm,
ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 11am,
12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm,
News (English) at 9am,
6pm
CHANNEL i
News (Bangla) at 2pm,
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nTV
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ETV
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Boishakhi TV
News (Bangla) at 10am,
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News (English) at 9am,
6pm
BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 10am,
2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm,
News (English) at 1pm,
3pm, 6pm, 9pm,
Rtv
News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm,
Desh TV
News (Bangla) at 2pm,
7pm, 9pm, 11pm,
Maasranga Television
News (Bangla) at 7pm,
1am,
BANGLAVISION
12:05pm Meta Shatto Al-
Quran
09:05pm Mamer Kotba
Rtv
10:40am Tarokalop
Desh TV
07:45pm Mukh
0 Mukharota