

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Tribute to Great Master Safiuddin Ahmed
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H-42, B-16/NEW, Dhamond
Date: June 5-16

Poetry Recitation
Title: Shabbash Kabita
Elocutionist: Syed Shamsul Haq
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan-1
Date: June 16

Musical Soiree
Artist: Farida Parveen
Venue: Indra Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, B-24, Gulshan 1
Date: June 15
Time: 6:00pm

Group Art Exhibition
Featuring over 60 Bangladeshi Artists
Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts, Cha-72/7/O, Uttar Badda
Date: June 9-July 9

Book Launch
Title: Tareque Masud: Life & Dreams
Venue: British Council Auditorium, Fuller Road, Dhaka
Date: June 16
Time: 6pm

Theatre
Play: Kanjush
Troupe: Loko Natyadal
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 13

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

Solo Photo Exhibition
Title: Heritage & Panoramic Beauty of Bangladesh
Artist: Abdur Rob Dalal
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: June 1-14 Time: 3pm-9pm

Pandit Birju Maharaj to conduct Kathak workshop in Dhaka



Pandit Birju Maharaj (centre) with Shamim Ara Nipa and Shibli Mohammad.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Legendary Kathak artiste and dance guru Pandit Birju Maharaj and his foremost disciple Shaswati Sen will conduct a five-day Kathak workshop in Dhaka. Bangladeshi dance troupe Nrityanchal, in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), is arranging the workshop, from June 21 to 25 at BSA. A press conference in this regard will be held at BSA on June 20 at 5 pm. Pandit Birju Maharaj will address the conference.

Around 200 Kathak artistes from across the country will take part in the workshop. Upon conclusion of the workshop, participating artistes will present a Kathak piece, directed by Pandit Birju Maharaj, at the National Theatre Hall of BSA on June 25 at 7 pm. Pandit Birju Maharaj and Shaswati Sen will also perform in the second half of the programme.

Kathak is a well-known classical dance genre of the

Indian subcontinent. The dance form maintains the guru-shishya parampara (master-disciple tradition). Kathak has gained much popularity in post-independence Bangladesh.

Today there are a fairly large number of Kathak artistes in Bangladesh. Nrityanchal director duo Shibli Mohammad, the first Bangladeshi student of Pandit Birju Maharaj, and Shamim Ara Nipa have taken Kathak to new heights in Bangladesh.

Many Bangladeshi artistes, either on scholarships or at an individual level, have trained in Kathak under Pandit Birju Maharaj and Shaswati Sen at Kathak Kendra, Delhi, India. They are now training a new generation of Bangladeshi artistes in Kathak.

The presence of Pandit Birju Maharaj in Dhaka, his workshop, and giving performance are rare landmarks not just for Bangladeshi dancers but also cultural enthusiasts.

Remembering icons through a cultural festival



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tripura Shangkriti Samannay Kendra (TSSK) recently arranged a two-day cultural festival marking the birth centenaries of four iconic cultural personalities -- Debrata Biswas, Hemanga Biswas, Jyotirindra Moitra and Nibaran Pandit -- at Nazrul Kalakhetra in Agartala, Tripura, India.

Artists and cultural troupes from Bangladesh and the Indian states of Tripura, Assam, West Bengal performed at the festival. Chief Minister of Tripura, Manik Sarkar, inaugurated the festival on June 2. General secretary of TSSK, Dr. Mahadev Chakrabarty, delivered the welcome address at the inaugural programme. President of TSSK, Anil Sarkar, presided over the programme.

Artists of TSSK began the inaugural day's event with a chorus. Artists of a Bangladeshi troupe, Satyen Sen Shilpi Goshti, performed several choruses. Choral rendition of songs by the artistes of Surjharina followed.

Bangladeshi singer Nargis Chowdhury performed solo on the inaugural day. Shubhranshu Chakrabarty and Subrata Devnath of India also performed at the event.

Instrumentalists Alokesh Chakrabarty, Mrinal Das, Dhananjay Sarkar and Jayanta Bhoumik accompanied the singers.

The second day's programme featured solo and choral renditions of songs originally recorded by the four music icons. Bangladeshi singer Lily Islam with several Indian singers presented Tagore songs at the festival. Indian dance troupes also performed on the concluding day of the festival.



Nargis Chowdhury sings at the festival.

Balancing act

Tête-à-tête with Swagata

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Swagata, a popular face on TV, is involved in acting, singing, modelling and hosting. However, she gives most of her time to TV plays. Desh TV is airing a serial named "Radio Chocolate", featuring Swagata. The play is telecast twice a week at 8:15pm. The play has been adapted from a story by Anisul Haque, and its director is Redwan Rony. Recently, Swagata had a chat with The Daily Star about the play and her other projects.

Where did you shoot for this play? Swagata: In Mirpur. When someone says 'shooting was done in Dhaka', we generally assume it was done in Uttara. But in our case it was different.

Tell us about your character in the serial. Swagata: I play the character of Mitul. She is really passionate about music and is always to be found with a guitar. The interesting part is that I cannot play the guitar although I can carry a tune.

Which of your other plays are being aired at the moment? Swagata: A number of my plays are being telecast currently. One of them is "Dokkhinayomer Din". The play, being aired on ntv, has been derived from Shaokat Ali's novel. Another serial named "Chhayanari Kayanari" is being aired on ATN Bangla. And some new serials are to be telecast very soon.

What about TV show hosting? Swagata: Actually acting is every-



thing to me and I want to continue it throughout my career. However, I am hosting programmes regularly. Some time back I hosted a film-based programme. Now I am hosting a late night live music show quite frequently and am enjoying it immensely.

You also continue singing? Swagata: Yes. My band's name is Mohakal. Our album was released a few days ago. Alongside we performed at a number of concerts over the last few months. We are

also working on our next album. How do you juggle so many different roles? Swagata: Well, I'm quite okay with it, because I prioritise my time. I remain busy with shooting. And hosting programmes at night is also convenient. Again, when I am engaged in modelling I do not keep any schedule for acting. So you see, I always plan my schedule and do it in an organised manner -- that is why I rarely face any problem.

Alexander Pushkin's birthday celebrated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To mark the Russian Language Day and the 213th birthday anniversary of Russian poet Alexander Pushkin, Russian Centre of Science and Culture in Dhanmondi, Dhaka recently organised a programme at the auditorium of the centre.

The programme featured discussion, slideshow presentation and cultural programme.

Former Chief Justice and cultural enthusiast Muhammad Habibur Rahman was present at the programme as chief guest. Poets Nirmalendu Goon and Syed Shamsul Haq as well as Alexander A. Nikolaev, Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh, were present as special guests. Alexander P. Demin, head of the Russian Centre of Science and Culture, presided over the programme.

Goon said, "Pushkin is considered one of the greatest poets of all time. However, his work remains largely unknown to English readers. Even so, the writer has intensely influenced western literatures."

Syed Shamsul Haq expressed that Bangladeshi poets and writers have always been influenced by Russian literature.



Alexander A. Nikolaev, Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh speaks at the programme.

He said, "During his time, Pushkin gradually became committed to social reform and appeared as a spokesman for many literary movements."

The discussion was followed by a slideshow presentation that depicted the history and development of Russian language.

Artistes of Jiyon Kathi, a cultural troupe, presented a number of choral renditions including "Aai Aai Chand Mama", "Bhor Holo Dhor Kholo" and "Ami Holam Shokal Belar Pakhi".

Dancers of Bangladesh Academy of Fine Arts also performed at the programme.

Shanto-Mariam Celebrates Life

WALEED K. RAJAMIYA

Since the beginning of this year, Standard Chartered and The Daily Star's "Celebrating Life" has been touring in various districts across the country. The tours include screening of the 10 films produced as part of the Celebrating Life Filmmaking Workshop 2011 and exhibition of the winning photographs from 2011.

From June this year, 'Celebrating Life' has begun showing the screenings and the photo exhibitions at various universities in Dhaka. On June 7, the events were held at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) and at Shanto-Mariam Institute of Creative Technology (SMUCT) on June 9. The films were screened at Creative Destination and Design Centre of SMUCT. The



Visitors at the photo exhibition.

photographs were exhibited at the same location and were on display the next day too. SMUCT director of Planning and Development, Rafique Siddiqui, inaugurated the

event with a brief speech. One of the workshop coordinators, Amitabh Reza, was present at the inauguration and began the screening on an inspiring note.

Humayun Ahmed interview on ntv

A CORRESPONDENT

An interview of noted writer Humayun Ahmed will be aired on ntv tonight, at 11:30 pm. The programme, titled "Ekantey Humayun Ahmed", has been produced by Goutam Mondol. Senior reporter Chayan Rahman interviewed Ahmed when he recently came to Dhaka. According to the writer's family, Ahmed will have the last surgery, as part of his treatment, today.

In the interview, Ahmed talks about his experience in the US and his mental state while going under medical treatment. The iconic writer has also talked about his work, plans, his views of contemporary Bangladeshi cultural practices and more.



GTV set for launch

A CORRESPONDENT

With the theme "Bishwamoy Bangladesh", the latest addition to Bangladeshi satellite TV channels -- GTV is set to launch its commercial operations today. President Zillur Rahman will officially launch the channel at an elaborate ceremony at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre this evening.

Senior GTV officials, including the channel's chief adviser Mustafizur Rahman and chairman Golam Dostogir Gazi Bir Protik, made the announcement this Sunday at a press conference at the GTV office at Segun Bagicha in Dhaka.

Rahman read out a written statement, saying that the strategy of GTV will be to make creative and diverse programmes that would generate interest in our culture and heritage. Claiming that GTV is against earning cheap popularity, he added that the channel would not compromise on quality.

Rahman added that GTV will stay neutral while presenting news, but will hold a firm stance on strengthening democracy and empowering citizens.

Both Rahman and Gazi answered reporters' queries at the conference. In response to a question, GTV authorities indicated that the channel will air quality programmes, along with TV plays, that will attract a large audience.

Ferdous Hasan's tele-film "Chokh Gelo Pakhi" will be aired tonight at 11 pm. "Fora" by Salauddin Lavlu will be aired at 8 pm on the second day of commercial operations, while on the third day, Nurul Alam Atik's "Himgiri-te Jhora Palok" will be telecast at 9 pm. Mega-serial "Bagha Sher", written by Brindaban Das and directed by Syed Shakil, will be aired every Monday and Tuesday at 8 pm.



A scene from "Chokh Gelo Pakhi".

Dettol Shera Ami Shongey Ma on Rtv

The bond between a mother and her child is profound and sacred. To highlight this close relationship, reality show, titled "Dettol Shera Ami Shongey Ma" will soon be aired on Rtv, says a press release.

In the reality show, mothers and their children will take part in many interesting games and performances and finally the best mother-child duo will be selected and honoured.

The programme was formally inaugurated with a press conference on June 9. The press briefing was conducted by Mahub Baset, marketing director, Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh Limited, and Ashik Rahman, CEO of Rtv. The programme was also attended by Faria Yasmin, PGM Dettol (a well known brand of Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh) and other high ups of



Organisers at the press conference.

Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh, Rtv and MPG Bangladesh. Dettol has undertaken several useful social initiatives in Bangladesh over the last 50 years: disaster relief

programmes, hygiene campaigns at schools, newborn baby support and other public awareness programmes to improve health and hygiene standards in Bangladesh.

Beetle Baily by Mort Walker

IT'S NORMAL. IT CAN'T BE NORMAL. BUT IT'S 98.6°. YEAH, BUT FOR ME NORMAL MEANS STAY IN BED AND SLEEP LATE!

Henry by Don Trachte

SEAT BELTS INSTALLED WHILE YOU WAIT

ATN BANGLA	05:30 Amazing Animals
11:20 Business and Finance	08:30 Drama Serial: Khorshala
12:15 Vision 2020	09:30 Euro Protidin
05:15 Obaram Bangladesh	10:00 Euro 2012: Greece Vs Czech Republic (Live)
08:00 Drama Serial: Palabar	12:45 Euro 2012: Poland Vs Russia (Live)
11:30 Drama Serial: Cafeteria	
CHANNEL I	CHANNEL 9
01:05 Ebrong Cinemar Gaan	09:15 Bangla Feature Film
04:20 Amar Ghoshal	06:00 Classic Cartoon
06:20 Robin Hood	07:00 Shekar Shondhyan
07:50 Shera Nachyie	10:30 Drama Serial: Apon Apon Kheia
11:30 Banglar Pathey	11:15 Moner Rong Rangabao
ntv	CHANNEL 24
11:00 Rugmadhuri	01:05 Shopping & Cooking
04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey	08:10 Travel Show
06:10 Shubho Shondhya	09:30 Drama Serial: Jadur Shalhar
09:00 Glamour World	10:15 Drama Serial: Ekaki Gaanchil
11:30 Ekantey Humayun Ahmed	12:00 Talk Show
ETV	

RADIO	
abc Radio FM 89.2	07:30 Hello Dhaka
06:00 Bhoer Janalay	10:00 Morning Express
09:00 Mahorba Jiboney	12:00 No Lesson
12:00 Darun Dupury	04:00 Dhaka Calling
03:00 Darun Boleby	09:00 Knight Riders
05:00 Shondha Tara	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
07:00 Shaj-er Maysa	06:00 Green FM
09:00 Raat-er Akashy	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
11:00 Galper Shesh Nei	12:00 Today's Asia
Radio Foorti	04:00 U Turn
	07:00 Tabey Tai Hok

Chaichhi Tomar Bondhuta
On Desh TV at 09:45pm
Special Talk Show
Host: Abdullah Al Mamun

Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides
On Fox Movies at 10:35pm
Genre: Action/Adventure
Cast: Johnny Depp,

Bachelor the Family
On CHANNEL 9 at 08:00pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Anil Haque Chowdhury, Tisha

11:30 Ekantey-er Business	03:00 The Joneses
04:30 Gaaner Ogare	07:00 Limitless
05:30 Binodover Bishwa	08:45 Homeland
07:50 Music Station	09:45 Once Upon A Time
09:30 Drama Serial: Kamini	10:35 Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides
Boishakhi TV	HBO
10:40 The Business Show	02:55 No Strings Attached
04:15 Shorashori Doctor	04:55 Congo
08:00 Drama Serial: Istiklum	07:15 Catwoman
08:35 Dollywood Korcha	09:30 Blade
11:00 Reporters Diary	Star World
BANGLAVISION	03:30 Two and a Half Men
01:05 Bangla Feature Film	08:00 How I Met Your Mother
06:05 Sports Time	09:30 Jr. Master Chef
06:30 Showradjjo Korcha	10:30 Castle
09:05 Nacho Bangladesh	National Geographic Channel
11:25 Raat Biratey	03:30 Monkey Thieves
Desh TV	08:30 Ultimate Disasters
03:00 Gaan R Gaan	09:30 Deadline Predators
05:00 Durpath	11:30 Taboo
06:00 123 Simpur	Discovery Channel
06:30 Obak Pritihai	07:30 Man vs. Wild
12:30 Total Sports	
Maasranga Television	
09:00 Euro 2012: Highlights	

DRAMA SERIAL	
ATN BANGLA	08:40pm Ongpatti
08:40pm Ripantarer Manash	BANGLAVISION
09:25pm Push Phagurer Pala	08:15pm Bokulpore Jatri
CHANNEL I	Rtv
09:35pm Longkalande	09:00pm Rojra Paribar
ntv	11:30pm Ural Pangkhi
08:15pm Deval	Desh TV
09:45pm Ochea Protibimba	08:15pm Radio Chocolate
Boishakhi TV	CHANNEL 9

NEWS BULLETIN	
BTV	Boishakhi TV
08:00pm News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm.	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm.
09:25pm News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm.	News (English) at 9am, 5pm.
ATN BANGLA	BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm.	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.
News (English) at 9am, 6pm.	News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm.
CHANNEL I	Rtv
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm.	News (Bangla) at 14:50pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm.
ntv	Desh TV
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.
ETV	News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.

TALK SHOW	
ATN BANGLA	07:40pm Our Democracy
12:30pm Lead News	ETV
CHANNEL I	12:15am Ekantey-er Raat
09:45am Trino Matra	Boishakhi TV
12:30pm Taraka Kothor	12:00am Zero Hour
ntv	BANGLAVISION
12:00am Ei Shomoy	10:10am Front Line
Rtv	Desh TV
10:40am Tarakalop	09:45pm Chaichhi Tomar