

# Simply Kona

SHAH ALAM SHAZU  
Kona is a top name in the music industry. However fame did not come her way overnight. Years of dedication helped her secure a spot at the zenith. The artiste released a video album titled "Simply Kona" recently (around Eid-ul-Azha), and has plans to release another album on Nazrul Sangeet soon.

The audience favourite Kona recently spoke to *The Daily Star* on her career.

How packed is your schedule nowadays?  
Kona: This is a very busy time. Years of hard work have paid off. Music has become everything for me now.

You are credited with giving voice to many popular songs. What is your take on your popularity?  
Kona: A singer's popularity is gauged by the love of the listeners. If people allow a space for me in their hearts, only then can I say I'm popular. It depends a lot on luck. I don't know if I'm popular, but there are people who admire my work. If I start getting an overwhelming taste of fame, then I will stop trying. I started working a long time ago and didn't become popular overnight. I've struggled a lot and will continue to do so.

What is your target as a singer?  
Kona: My target is doing playback for films. I always try to give my best for film songs. When I sing, I realise that I still have to learn to emote perfectly. I'm still trying. I don't wish to be the most popular singer on the scene. Excess popularity can eventually lead to a downfall. I want everyone to like me. I want to sing for more movies and hope that the tunes continue to ring in the ears of the listeners.

You've worked with Shawkat Ali Emon, Emon Saha; as well as contemporaries Bappa Mazumdar, Habib and Fuad. What has your experience been like?  
Kona: I've been working with Shawkat Ali Emon for a long time, since I was in college. I've also worked with Emon Saha, but I'm yet to collaborate a lot with Habib or Fuad. It's always fun to work with

different composers. You always get fresh tunes.

What differences do you find between pop/urban and film songs?  
Kona: None. I work equally hard in each case.

When did you first realise that you had become a crowd favourite?  
Kona: When I go out on the street, people come to me and ask me for autographs and pictures. Not only the young crowd, but the senior people also show their appreciation for my songs. After listening to the comments and observing their interest, I realised that I had become one of their favourite artistes. It would've been impossible to survive in media otherwise.

Some of your songs on rain and the rainy season have gained much popularity...  
Kona: I've done four songs on the theme, all of them becoming crowd pullers. One of them was "Rimjhim Rimjhim Brishti" for the movie "Jaago". I sang it with Kumar Bishwajit. Habib composed the tune for "Badla Din-e" which featured in the film "Amar Achhe Jol". The song "Borsha" was composed by Fuad Nasser Babu. I also did a song on rain done by Bappa Mazumdar. Earlier, I was teased with the nicknames "Balur Kona" (sand particle) and "Dhulor Kon" (dust particle); but now the nickname has changed to "Brishti Kona" (rain drop).

Many say that your popularity soared after you hosted Radio Today's show "Simply Kona".  
Kona: That's true. My popularity grew after doing the show. When Radio Today first made the offer, I was nervous. But the first show received over 1,600 SMS. The Radio Today authorities were also surprised.

What are your future plans?  
Kona: I will record an album on Nazrul Sangeet. I want to work hard on this. I've done a lot of planning on the album. I would also like to do more good songs for movies. I wish to get more admiration from audience on the stage too. All my plans surround music, and I want to stick with it for the rest of my life.



# Celebrating 40 years of Dhaka-Prague relationship

SHARAF AHMED, Hanover, Germany

To celebrate 40 years of diplomatic relationship between Bangladesh and the Czech Republic, as well as to observe 37th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Bangladesh Embassy in Germany organised an event at Charles University in Prague on October 16. The programme featured a seminar, musical soiree, dance performance and reception.

Professor RNDr. Václav Hampl, Dr.Sc, rector of Charles University inaugurated the seminar. The seminar was conducted by Professor Jaroslav Vacek, CSC, Institute of South and Central Asia, Faculty of Arts, Charles University.

The Bangladeshi Ambassador to Germany, Mosud Mannan ndc, Professor Rafiqullah Khan, Bangla Department, Dhaka University; Mgr. Martin Hirbek, PhD, Institute of South and Central Asia, Faculty of Arts, Charles University were present as discussants at the seminar. A number of expatriate Bangladeshis and senior officials of different embassies also attended the seminar. Amitabh Roy; Mohsin Mortaba and Kaniz Ahsan Khan rendered songs at the programme. Sumaiya Binte Hossain Piu performed dance.

At the reception, Mosud Mannan ndc and his wife Dr. Nuzhat Amin Mannan; commercial counselor



Mosud Mannan (Centre) with guests at a reception programme.

Abdur Rouf, First Secretary Nazrul Islam greeted the invited guests.

Milan Hovorka, vice-minister of Commercial Ministry, Czech Republic was present at the reception. Mosud Mannan ndc delivered the welcome speech.

Professor Ivana Cenkova, CSC, vice-dean for International Relations Faculty of Arts, Charles University also spoke at the programme. Teachers of Charles University, expatriate Bangladeshis and people from different areas attended the reception.

# Tajuddin Ahmed's solo exhibition at Institute of Art and Culture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a hiatus, noted Bangladeshi expatriate painter Tajuddin Ahmed is holding a solo painting exhibition. The current exhibition, titled "My Basket Full of Kash Phul and Dandelion", will open at Institute of Art and Culture in Gulshan, Dhaka today, and will continue till November 10. His last solo art show was held at Tivoli Gallery in Gulshan in 2009.

Hedaetullah Al Mamoon, secretary, Ministry of Information, is set to inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest.

Tajuddin began his career as a semi-abstract painter and his themes at the current exhibition include urban landscapes, nature's mysteries, nostalgia and expressions of emotions. About 35 artworks will be displayed at the exhibition. Tajuddin is also the founder of Tivoli Gallery, which was founded in 1973.

Tajuddin graduated from the Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka (now Faculty of Fine Arts) in 1980. He has held seven solo exhibitions in France, the Netherlands and Bangladesh. He took part in 28 major group exhibitions in France, USA, South Africa, India, Australia, Pakistan and other countries.

The painter now lives and works in Toronto.



A painting by Tajuddin Ahmed.

# Dissolving boundaries South Asian Film Festival in Goa

The 7th annual South Asian Film Festival (SAFF) was held in Goa, India from October 25 to 28.

SAFF-2012 showcased the changing phases in Indian cinema. The festival organisers screened more than 40 films from all the South Asian countries, with a blend of different genres like classic films, short films, documentary films, mainstream films and premiere of a Marathi film, according to a press release.

The festival featured some Indian classics and popular recent films like "Rajneeti", "Udaan" and many more. Films from South Asian countries included "Hot Days of Torkham" from Afghanistan; "Amar Bondhu Rashed" from Bangladesh; "Seday" from Bhutan; "Insaaf" from Maldives; "Diyalee" from Nepal; "A Garden in Shigar", "All that Jazz" from Pakistan; and "Nildiya Yahana" from Sri Lanka. Also screened

were Indian regional films like "1:30 am" and "Ekaa Ekaa".

Hosted by the South Asia Foundation with the theme "...dissolving boundaries", SAFF also celebrated 100 years of Indian cinema. This was the first effort to celebrate 100 years of Indian cinema at the South Asia level, in the presence of prominent filmmakers of all the South Asian countries.

South Asia Foundation received support from the ICCR and Public South Asia Foundation Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Among the other highlights of the festival were Sanjay Chauhan's script writing workshop, filmmaker Rahul Mitra's announcement about the latest Hindi Cinema Project and the screening of the first HD Konkani film, "Mariola", written and directed by Joe Rose.

# Boat race in Magura

HOSSAIN SERAI, Magura

A boat race was held on the river Gorai on the occasion of Durga Puja. 'Amra Grambashi', a group of Kalinaagar village, under Sreepur upazila arranged the traditional event with the cooperation of the residents of adjoining villages.

A total of 16 boats from Magura, Jhenidah, Faridpur and Rajbari took part in the event attended by several thousand enthusiastic people. The boat "Jai Bangla" of Jagadish Mondal from Kuchiamora union in Magura sadar upazila clinched the first prize and the boat of Kanai Lal Biswas of Baliakandi upazila sadar "Chokher Polok" emerged second while the boat "Mayer Doa" owned by Ramesh Biswas from Agotra village from the same upazila bagged the third prize in the competition.



Skyfall gives James Bond his biggest opening weekend

New James Bond movie "Skyfall" has had the biggest Bond opening weekend of all time, according to figures from film company Sony Pictures. It took \$20.1 million following its release on Friday making it the biggest UK opening of 2012 so far and the third biggest UK opening of all time.

However "Skyfall" failed to smash the record set by last year's "Harry Potter And The Deathly Hallows Part 2". The final film in the wizard franchise, in 3D, took \$23m in its first weekend. It is also just behind "Toy Story 3", which took \$21.2m in its opening weekend according to Screen Daily, although the animation also benefited from four days of previews. Michael G Wilson and Barbara Broccoli, producers of the 23rd 007 movie, said: "We are absolutely overwhelmed with the reaction to "Skyfall" this weekend. It is particularly thrilling as the UK is home to James Bond and it being the 50th anniversary year."

# "Mrityu Parey Bari" creates a stir South Asian Film Festival in Vancouver

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA



"Mrityu Parey Bari", a feature documentary directed by Razibul Hossain and the students of Media Studies and Journalism of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), has been selected for the special environmental day of the South Asian Film Festival in Vancouver, Canada next month.

The festival, which is to be held from today (October 31) to November 4, will screen the film on November 1-3. The film is the outcome of an investigation by a group of university students along with their teacher into the lives of residents of natural disaster-prone communities of Mirzaganj, which was devastated by cyclone Aila, and Pathorghata, hit by cyclone Sidr, Hossain said in a media statement.

During their journey, they meet the resilient people of the areas who not only survived nature's fury but also surmounted it. This interaction between students and the community created a dialogue filled with tales of awe, vulnerability, loss, agony, strength, faith, inspiration and unity. Hossain describes "Mrityu



# EID SPECIALS Swapno Tumi on Banglavision

A CORRESPONDENT

A musical programme featuring Indian singer Haimanti Shukla will be aired on Banglavision tonight. Titled "Swapno Tumi", the programme will be aired at 9:40pm. Apart from singing her popular numbers, Shukla will also share untold stories from her life at the programme.

Nahid Ahmed Biplab is the producer of the programme.

# Udichi holds 10th conference in Faridpur

REZAUL KARIM, Faridpur

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, Faridpur unit recently held its 10th district conference at Kobi Jasimuddin Hall in the town.

The conference was inaugurated by educationist and veteran journalist Jagodish Chandra Ghosh. Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi's central committee vice president, Sukhen Roy, attended the event as special guest.

At the opening session, Dr. Sushanto Kumar Biswas, chairman of the conference; Sangeeta Imam; Belayet Hossain; Professor Abdul Motalab; Abu Sufian Chowdhury; and Shamima Shimu spoke at the programme with cultural person-

ality Siraj-e-Kabir Khokon in the chair. Speakers at the function were of the view that Udichi will boldly carry on its secular cultural movement against all kinds of aggression and fanaticism in the country. They expressed deep concern over the incident of shameful attacks on the Buddhist temples at Ramu and Ukhia. They demanded the exemplary punishment of the culprits.

At the council, Professor Abdul Motalab and Advocate Touhidul Islam Stalin were elected president and secretary respectively. Artistes of Udichi Faridpur performed at cultural programme which included Gano Sangeet, dance and recitation.

# Bengal-BATB Art Camp in Colombo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, in association with British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB), arranged an art camp at Berjaya Colombo Hotel in Sri Lanka.

The four-day art camp, titled "Bengal-BATB Art Camp 2012", featured 12 senior and promising Bangladeshi artists and opened on October 24. The Bangladeshi High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Mohammad Sufur Rahman, inaugurated the art camp as chief guest. Subir Chowdhury, director of Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, and veteran artist Qayyum Chowdhury spoke on the occasion.

The camp is an initiative to produce some prolific paintings that would make people aware of water preservation as part of the World Water Week, to be held in 2013, by the United Nations. The participating artists were Qayyum Chowdhury, Hashem Khan, Rafiqun Nabi, Mahmudul Haque, Nazli Laila Mansur, Farida Zaman, Ranjiti Das, Mohammad Younus, Rokeya Sultana, Kanak Chandra Chakma, Maqsuda Iqbal Nipa and Biswajit Goswami. Tahera Khanam and Abul Mansur attended the camp as guest artists. The BATB calendar (2013) will incorporate a total of 12 paintings from this camp. The camp ended on October 27.

# Laxmi Puja festivities

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

The 100-year-old traditional bazaar known as 'Laxmi Haat' -- for sales of idols and varieties of pottery items used in Laxmi Puja -- began at Barisal Hathkhola Hori Mandir premises from last Saturday on the eve of the Puja. Sellers of the traditional items said

that they came from Madhabpasha Kalaskati, Kumarkhali, Bakerganj, Char Aicha of Barisal, Sadar of Jalakathi and Failpara of Shariatpur districts with their handicrafts. Gurusdas Paul, a trader at the bazaar had come from Char Aicha to sell his wares. "The demand for these products is decreasing," he lamented.

Organized by The Daily Star Supported by Standard Chartered Here for good

## CELEBRATING LIFE 2012

11:45pm Gala Night & Award Giving Ceremony

6:00 pm 2nd November (Friday), 2012

Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium, Mirpur

Entry is free with card!

Collect your entry card from The Daily Star Centre (11am-6pm) 64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215 Look for Zia Nazmul if any inquiries

Sabina Yasmin, Ajoy Chakrabarty, Kaushiki Desikan

BTV	Bangla Feature	Bangla Feature	
11:05	Sherardh Shera	10:10	Bangla Feature
12:10	Bangla Feature	10:10	Film
03:30	Musical Programme	02:10	Tele-film: Bhetorer Manush
05:05	Dujon-e-Dujonar	05:15	Adda O Gaan
06:10	Cine Dot Com	06:15	Drama Serial: Arman
07:05	Drama: Ekjon Bhalo Manush-er Golpo	06:15	Bhai Honeymoon-e
08:30	Drama: Kaida	08:10	Drama
10:30	Drama: Sharal \ Angka	09:40	Shwapano Tumi
		11:10	Drama Serial: Maya
		Rtv	
		10:05	Bangla Feature Film
		02:10	Tele-film: Fall in Love
		05:00	Tele-film: Kick Off
		07:15	Drama Serial: Jolpori
		08:10	Stars Fun
		09:20	Drama: Live Show
		11:45	Musical Programme
			Desh TV
		03:30	Bangla Feature Film
		09:00	Sonali Din Rupali
			Gaan
		06:00	Filmy Halchal
		07:40	Drama Serial: Radio
			Chocolate
		08:20	Drama Serial:

Dhandabaj On ETv at 07:30pm Single Episode TV Play Cast: ATM Shamsuzzaman, Monira Mithu

Eid-er Bajna Bajerey On ATN BANGLA at 10:40pm Magazine Programme Host: Khandakar Ismail

Dui Bondhu On ntv at 08:15pm Single Episode TV Play Cast: Intekhab Dinar, Jitu Ahsan

12:35	Tele-film: Jibon Bodle	Patalpur Golpo	
	Jai	09:30	Drama: Bondho Korona
02:35	Tele-film: Jyamitir Chhondo	10:35	Call-er Gaan
07:50	Drama: Increment	11:05	Diganta TV
09:35	Drama: Doctor-er Archarja Bhalobasha	03:00	Drama Serial: Shear Bazar Dot Com
12:00	Ajker Shongbadpata	03:40	Tele-film
12:00	Bangla Feature Film	06:00	3210 Action
10:05	Film	09:15	Drama Serial: Dotana
02:35	Tele-film: Darkroom	11:15	Musical Hour
05:30	Musical Programme		Maasranga Television
06:45	Drama Serial: Shukhtaan	10:30	Bangla Feature Film
08:15	Drama: Dui Bondhu	03:00	Tele-film: Kotha
09:15	Musical Programme	05:00	Dance Programme
11:30	Drama: The Fortune	06:15	Drama Serial: Love in Borisal
	Boishakhi TV	07:30	Celebrity Adda
10:25	Bangla Feature Film	08:45	Drama: Tritio
03:00	Tele-film	11:05	Chhoto Prane Gaan-er Shur
05:15	Music Kitchen	03:00	Drama Serial: Shear Bazar Dot Com
06:15	Drama Serial: Borisal Private Ltd.	06:00	Drama
07:30	Drama Serial: Bati Chalan	09:15	Drama Serial: Dotana
08:05	Meet the Makers	11:15	Musical Hour
08:40	Drama: Pray Rugkotha		Maasranga Television
10:30	Shomoy Katut Gaane Gaane	10:30	Bangla Feature Film
		11:45	Phone Live Studio Concert
			CHANNEL 24
		03:00	Bangla Feature Film
		06:20	Drama: Astray
		08:00	Shei Eid
		08:45	Drama Serial: Chhele
		09:20	Dhoroa kol
		11:25	Tele-film: Holiday
			CHANNEL 24
		06:20	Drama: Astray
		08:00	Shei Eid
		08:45	Drama Serial: Chhele
		09:20	Dhoroa kol
		11:25	Tele-film: Holiday
			CHANNEL 24
		06:20	Drama: Astray
		08:00	Shei Eid
		08:45	Drama Serial: Chhele
		09:20	Dhoroa kol
		11:25	Tele-film: Holiday
			CHANNEL 24
		06:20	Drama: Astray
		08:00	Shei Eid
		08:45	Drama Serial: Chhele
		09:20	Dhoroa kol
		11:25	Tele-film: Holiday
			CHANNEL 24
		06:20	Drama: Astray
		08:00	Shei Eid
		08:45	Drama Serial: Chhele
		09:20	Dhoroa kol
		11:25	Tele-film: Holiday

NEWS BULLETIN

BTV	News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 9pm	News (English) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm	ATN BANGLA	News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm	News (English) at 9am, 6pm
ETV	Bangla Feature Film	1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm	Desh TV	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm	Maasranga Television
	News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm			News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am	