

WHAT'S ON

Bengal-ITC SRA Classical Music Fest... Organiser: Bengal Foundation & ITC SRA

Duet Art Show... Title: Blue Mountain Stage... Venue: Shilpakala Gallery, H-7, Rd-13, New Dhammond

Int'l Theatre Festival... Organiser: Theatre Art Unit... Venue: Shilpakala Academy

Solo Art Exhibition... Artist: Samir Aich... Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhammond

Discussion & Cultural Programme... Anniversary of Bonshikha... Venue: Shaikat Osman Auditorium

Closing Ceremony of a Photography Exhibition... Photographer: Nazir Ali Maman

Solo Art Exhibition... Artist: Sabrina Mezaqui... Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan

Nabanna Utshab 1419... Organiser: Jatiya Nabanna Utshab Uddipon Parishad

"Films shouldn't just entertain" -- Nandita Das

JAMIL MAHMUD

Nandita Das, the award-winning Indian film and theatre actor, is best recognised for her performances in "Fire" (1996), "Earth" (1998), "Bawandar" (2000) and "Amaar Bhuvan" (2002).

Das is in Dhaka for the first time to attend the 'Hay Festival 2012' (kicking off tomorrow). She also performed, along with her husband Subodh Maskara, in a play "Between the Lines" last night at the Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel.

Morever, she is a keen follower of film literature and wants to see "quality films with moving stories that have been narrated nicely."

"The kind of films I have done so far belong to that category -- carrying strong messages rather than only entertaining the audiences. I'm not saying that entertainment is not important but it sounds frivolous when people say that films are only for entertainment," said Das.

As a social activist she tries to raise awareness on issues involving women and children. There is a global campaign called 'One Billion Rising' (www.onebillionrising.org) which speaks up against gender violence.

Films from this region have little impact on the global race and Das knows it well. But she does not feel that actors and filmmaker should only be concerned with attending and winning at big festivals.



PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

"When we make a film, our prime concern is not attending big festivals. It is not about winning big awards either. In fact I don't particularly appreciate people making comments like 'this or that film has the possibility to go to Cannes or Oscars.' I think making films should be about passion, about working with honesty. If it achieves major recognition, then excellent. There's a lot of satisfaction that comes from making an honest, quality film," said Das who saw her debut as a filmmaker in 2008 with "Firaq" that won a number of international awards.

Theatre Art Unit's 10-day festival begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A ten-day International Theatre Festival marking the 20th anniversary of Theatre Art Unit (TAU) begins today at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The plays will be staged at National Theatre Hall and Experimental Theatre Hall, while the lobby of National Theatre Hall will be used as a performance space as well.

Rokeya Rafique Baby, chairperson of the troupe and convener of the festival, informed that at the inaugural programme they will honour two noted theatre personalities -- Syed Shamsul Haq (as a playwright) and Indian director



Bivash Chakraborty -- for their achievements.

Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu will inaugurate the festival, while Indian High Commissioner Pankaj Saran will be present as special guest. Among others, Ramendu Majumdar, ITI Worldwide president; veteran theatre personalities Ataur Rahman and Mamunur Rashid will speak at the inaugural programme.

On the inaugural day, Indian troupe Swapna Shandhani

(Kolkata) will stage Shakespeare's "Macbeth" at the National Theatre Hall, while Theatre (Bailey Road) will stage "Payer Awaaj Pawa Jaye" at the Experimental Theatre Hall.

The other overseas troupes are Rong Bidushak (Bhopal), Rangashram and Ritwik (both from Murshidabad), and Theatre Mandala (Nepal). The organising troupe, credited with bringing hugely successful plays such as "Amina Shundari" and "Court Martial", will hold a show of the latter play at the festival on November 23.

Local troupes such as Theatre (Bailey Road), Aranyak, Natya Kendra, Nagarik Natyasmpraday, Centre for Asian Theatre, Shomoy, Palakar and Prachyanat will stage their plays at the festival as well.

The plays will start at 6:30 pm each day. TAU was formed in 1992.

Prachyanat to hold three day open theatre festival at Suhrawardy Udyan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Prachyanat is organising a three-day open theatre festival. Starting from November 15 the festival will be held at the amphitheatre (open stage) of Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital and will continue till November 17. The show will begin at 3:30 pm everyday.

Eminent theatre personality Mamunur Rashid will inaugurate the festival. With the theme "Poth

Chherona Poth-er Manush", the festival is being held to mark the 15th founding anniversary of the troupe. The invited theatre troupes at the festival including Oikik Theatre, Narayanganj; Udichi, Dhaka; Opera, Mirpur; Natyabed, Dhaka; Jahangirnagar Theatre (TSC) and (Auditorium), Jahangirnagar University and the host Prachyanat, Dhaka will stage nine productions (three street plays on each day) at the festival. Prachyanat will stage their three acclaimed productions -- "Lash-er Desh", "Gorto" and "Bish Panchali" at the festival.

Kushtia celebrates Mir Mosharraf's 165th birth anniversary

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

A two-day long elaborate programme has been chalked out to mark the 165th birth anniversary of renowned poet, novelist and playwright Mir Mosharraf Hossain.

The programme began yesterday. Kushtia District Administration organised the programme, being held at the homestead of the writer in Lahinipara, four kms from Kushtia town.

The event includes a discussion, cultural function, recitation, painting and writing competition for children, a play and a fair.

Born on November 13, 1847, Mosharraf wrote 35 books that included novels, plays, stories, poems, an autobiography and religious discourse.

Among his significant works are "Bishad Sindhu", "Jamidar Darpan" and "Bashanto Kumari". Mosharraf also worked as a journalist at Gram Barta Prakashika edited by Kungal Harinath, and Shargbad Hitokor of Ishwar Gupta. Mosharraf edited a fortnightly paper in 1880, called Hitokori. He died in 1911.

Unfortunately the author's home is in a dilapidated state due to the negligence of the authorities. A mosque, a primary school inside the homestead and high school in Kushtia town have been built in his honour.

Recently, an auditorium has been constructed at Mosharraf's homestead. The auditorium houses a library and a museum. The present government also renamed a bridge on Gorai river in honour of Mir Mosharraf.

Dr. Md. Mohiuddin, chief executive officer of Kushtia Zilla Parishad and also convener of Mir Mosharraf Hossain birth anniversary celebration committee, expressed the hope that the anniversary would be observed with due solemnity.

'Humayun Mela' and 'Himu Day' celebration at Channel i premises



Cultural personalities inaugurate the fair.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members, friends and fans of Humayun Ahmed and his most popular character 'Himu' -- almost all wearing yellow panjabi and uttario (scarf) -- were visible at the 'Humayun Mela 2012' that was held yesterday at Channel i premises.

Marking the 64th birth anniversary (November 13) of noted litterateur Humayun Ahmed, Channel i held 'Humayun Mela 2012' at its premises. Ahmed's birthday was also celebrated as 'Himu Day'.

Litterateurs, poets, artists, journalists along with senior officials of channel i inaugurated the fair by releasing yellow balloons and festoons. Ahmed's widow Meher Afroz Shaon, Ahmed's sons Nishad and Ninid and the late litterateur's aunt Rizia Rahman were present at the inaugural programme.

The daylong fair also witnessed launching of a VCD titled "Himu'r Kotha". Songs written by Humayun Ahmed, along with his favourite songs, were performed at the fair. An art competition for youngsters, dance performances by chil-

dren and reminiscences were also part of the fair. Several stalls showcasing books by Ahmed along with DVDs and VCDs of TV plays and films directed by Humayun Ahmed adorned the fair. The magazine Ananda Alo published a special bulletin on the occasion of Humayun Mela.

Among the dignitaries, literary, theatre and cultural personalities -- poets Belal Chowdhury, Mohammad Nurul Huda and Asad Chowdhury; journalists Golam Sarwar, Abed Khan; veteran actors Ataur Rahman and Rahmat Ali; film personalities Amjad Hossain and Gazi Mazharul Anwar were present at the fair.

Noted singers including Subir Nandi, Monir Khan, Si Tutul, Selim Chowdhury, Shahnaz Bely and Kuddus Boyati and his troupe performed songs on the occasion.

Netrakona celebrates Humayun's birthday

JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

The 64th birthday of renowned writer and dramatist Humayun

Ahmed was celebrated at his native village Kutubpur under Kendua upazila in Netrakona district on Tuesday noon. The day was celebrated at Shaheed Smriti Bidyapith at Kutubpur.

To celebrate the day a rally was brought out from the school, parading the main road in Kutubpur village and its adjoining areas.

After the rally, a discussion was held at Shaheed Smriti Bidyapith, Altufur Rahman, uncle of Humayun Ahmed, presided over the meeting. The headmaster of the school, Asaduzzaman; Dr. Saiful Islam Joy; and Kamal Ahmed were the discussants.

The speakers discussed the life of Humayun and his contributions to Bangla literature.

Later, Humayun's last film "Ghetu Putra Komola" was screened and a cultural programme was held by local artistes at the playground of the school. A medical team gave free treatment to the people of the area.

The day was also celebrated at Kendua upazila headquarter and at the writer's maternal uncle's house at Mohongonj in the district.

Artissima speaks Bangla

A CORRESPONDENT

No art fair in the world equals the importance of the Basel Art Fair, held every year around mid June in the Swiss city and whose brand now has expanded to incorporate under the same management the Basel Hong Kong Fair in May and the Basel Miami Fair in early December.

Apart from the Basel system, there are basically four contemporary art fairs in the world that curators, gallerists and collectors do not want to miss: Armory Show in New York in March, Frieze Fair in London in early October, FIAC in Paris later in October and Artissima in Turin, Italy, in November.

The 19th edition of Artissima was held in Turin from November 8-11. At the same time in the north Italian city a number of high quality exhibitions took place in the Castello di Rivoli (the most prestigious contemporary art museum in Italy, on the outskirts of Turin), in the Fondazione Merz and the Fondazione Sandretto.

This year in the section of Artissima devoted to publishing houses Bengal Foundation had its space. It was a unique opportunity to spread information on the editorial activities of the Foundation and to give an insight into the art scene of Bangladesh. A specific area was devoted to the series of volumes dedicated to the Great Masters of Bangladesh published jointly with Skira, the publishing house based in Milan with which Bengal Foundation struck a partnership in 2011.

The presence of Bengal Foundation at Artissima was helpful in directing the interest of a qualified international audience to Bangladesh. At the same time it was an excellent opportunity for Bengal Foundation to prepare itself for a full fledged participation in 2014 with a booth where the major artists that exhibit at Bengal Gallery and Bengal Art Lounge were presented to international collectors.

Amitabh Bachchan presents himself as the "son-in-law of Bengal"

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Strong Bollywood presence led by superstars Amitabh Bachchan and Shahrukh Khan and humour marked the opening of the 18th edition of the Kolkata International Film Festival at the Netaji Indoor Stadium on Saturday night.

The smatterings of Bengali spoken by 70-year-old Amitabh Bachchan, who began his career as an executive of a British managing agency in Kolkata decades ago, his introduction of himself as the "son-in-law of Bengal" and rendition of the Rabindra Sangeet "Banglar Maati, Banglar Jol" charmed the nearly 20,000-strong audience.

"Aami Bangla-e bolchi, asha kori buchhte parben (I hope you will understand my Bangla)," Bachchan began speaking slowly.

"Aami Banglar Jamsalbabu toh (I am the son-in-law of Bengal)," Bachchan who is married to Jaya Bhaduri from the city, said in his typical baritone.

"Adarniyi Mamtaji, Kolkata-e amar shobh aittoyi (respected Mamata Banerjee, all in Kolkata are my relatives)," he said.

With a smile and a shrug, Bachchan added, "... ar parchi na (I am finding it difficult to continue in Bengali). Besides, there are many guests who are from outside..." and switched over to English for the remainder of his speech.

Knowing the role of Bengal in Indian cinema, Bachchan said the contribution of Bengal, which remained the cultural capital of India, to Indian cinema was enormous.

"The contribution made by Bengal to Indian cinema has been abso-



PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD



Amitabh Bachchan and Shahrukh Khan at the Kolkata International Film Festival.

lutely enormous. Eminent directors like Hrishikesh Mukherjee, Bimal Roy, Nitin Bose started their careers from Kolkata before moving to Mumbai," the thespian said.

The actor said Bengali cinema produced some of the finest artists in India and continued to influence generations of filmmakers, recalling

how cinematic giants like Pramathesh Barua, Prithviraj Kapoor and KL Saigal received prominence working with the New Theatres studio of Kolkata.

"The 1930s and '40s were the heydays for films made as much in Mumbai as in Kolkata. The contributions made from this region has been

immense," said the superstar. Bachchan said novels like Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay's "Devdas" and Bengali literature provided a rich and fertile ground for many screenplays.

He also gave credit to Hiralal Sen, who made short film clips, much before Dadasaheb Phalke made "Raja Harishchandra", the first Indian film in 1913. "So our love for cinema goes beyond 100 years," he said.

Seated next to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Bachchan recalled how he had got his first job in Kolkata decades ago. "This is also the city where I first dreamt of becoming an actor. Kolkata will always have a special place in my heart," he said.

And when Bachchan ended his speech by reciting a stanza from Tagore's "Banglar Mati Banglar Jol", the entire stadium broke into lusty cheers.

Shahrukh Khan, 47, the Brand Ambassador of the state, said, "What brings me every time to Kolkata is the energy and enthusiasm of Mamata Banerjee."

The glamour quotient of the Kolkata International Film Festival went up by quite a few notches with Khan's latest film "Jab Tak Hai Jaan" co-actors Katrina Kaif and Anushka Sharma, besides another veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty, and the who's who of the Bengali film industry being present at the inauguration.

Bengali music composer Debajyoti Mishra led an orchestra which presented a melodious medley of evergreen Hindi and Bengali songs including Rabindra Sangeet. Organised by the West Bengal government, the eight-day festival will screen 189 films from 60 countries in 40 languages at 12 venues across the metropolis.



PHOTO COURTESY: DELVISTAA FOUNDATION

Delvistaa Foundation recently launched Geeto-Shatadal's album "Poncho Prova" at the Main Auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum, Shahbagh in the city. Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman; Professor Nawshaba Khatun; eminent architect Mustapha Khalid Palash, chairman of Delvistaa Foundation; architect Shahzia Islam, general secretary of Delvistaa Foundation; and Banshari Dutt, president of Geeto-Shatadal, spoke on the occasion. Five poet-lyricists, popularly known as "Poncho Kobi" -- Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, D.L. Roy, Atulprasad Sen and Rajanikant Sen -- continue to enlighten our hearts with their extraordinary lyrics and music. From these timeless creations, "Poncho Prova" produces a few of their songs that help us seek strength in our daily struggles.

Beetle Baily by Mort Walker



Henry by Don Trachte



Table with TV channels and programmes: BT, ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL i, ntv, etc.

Table with radio stations: abc radio FM 89.2, Kacha Lanka, etc.

Table with TV channels and programmes: Nacho Bangla, Dance Reality Show, etc.

Table with TV channels and programmes: Armageddon, On Fox Movies, etc.

Table with TV channels and programmes: Kotahala, On ATN BANGLA, etc.

Table with TV channels and programmes: Drama Serial: Chowdhury Villa, etc.

Table with TV channels and programmes: Boishakhi TV, BANGLAVISION, etc.

Table with TV channels and programmes: Desh TV, GAN R Gaan, etc.

Table with TV channels and programmes: ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL i, ntv, etc.

Table with TV channels and programmes: NEWS BULLETIN, Boishakhi TV, etc.

Table with TV channels and programmes: ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL i, ntv, etc.

Table with TV channels and programmes: TALK SHOW, ATN BANGLA, etc.