

WHAT'S ON

Bengal-ITC SRA Classical Music Fest
Organisers: Bengal Foundation & ITC SRA
Venue: Army Stadium, Baran, Dhaka
Date: Nov 29-Dec 2

Print Exhibition
Title: Chapai Chobi-1
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, R-16, Sector 4, Uttara
Date: November 24-December 4
Time: 11am-7:30pm

Int'l Theatre Festival
Organiser: Theatre Art Unit
Venue: Shilpakala Academy
Date: November 14-24
Time: 6:30pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Mike Woodcock
Venue: Institute of Art and Culture, Gulshan
Date: Nov 15-30
Time: 12pm-8pm

Group Art Exhibition
Venue: Gallery Cosmos-2, New DOPS, Mohakhali
Date: Nov 16-24
Time: 11am-8pm

Commemorative Programme
Title: Remembering Sunil Gangopadhyay
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Gulshan-1

Group Ceramic Exhibition
Title: 60 min/900° C
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University
Date: November 17-23



PHOTO: ATILAKASH

Tug of roots

Sabitri Chattopadhyay in Dhaka

SHAH ALAM SHAHU

The once-hugely popular heroine of Indian Bangla films, Sabitri Chattopadhyay was in Dhaka recently. On a three-day trip, on invitation from Bonhishikha, Sabitri was amazed at the hospitality of the organisers, and the people of Dhaka, in general.

On her first day in Dhaka, Sabitri attended the founding anniversary of Bonhishikha at the Public Library auditorium, and performed at another programme at the same venue the next day. Earlier that day, Sabitri spoke to The Daily Star at Hotel Ornate, where she was staying. "My forefathers were from Comilla, and I was born in Dhaka," said Sabitri. They had a big house in Komolapur, an emotional Sabitri said.

"I want to go to Komolapur to see if the house is still there."

She also visited Sadarghat, Nawabpur Road, Lakshmi Bazar and Thatarai Bazar -- places she can vaguely remember. When asked if she had yet been victim of Dhaka's infamous traffic jam, she said she hadn't yet, while veteran actor Haradhon Bandhopadhyay, sitting next to her smiled.

Sabitri revealed that her childhood ambition was to be a political leader. She once heard Jawaharlal Nehru at an address, and wanted to be a leader so everyone would listen to her.

Besides films, Sabitri also worked in theatre at

Kolkata, where she had to struggle a great deal early on. Reminiscing on those times, Sabitri said food was scarce and she only had a few hand-me-downs to wear; life was far from easy.

Despite working in films, TV and on stage, Sabitri doesn't differentiate much between the mediums and perceives acting as "just acting", and still feels comfortable doing it. When asked about her mantra to success, Sabitri said there is no mantra, she just loves her work. Sabitri played the female leads opposite the legendary Uttam Kumar and Soumitra Chatterjee in many blockbuster. When asked about Uttam Kumar, Sabitri said the stories would take days, and that she'd share them maybe some other time.

Sabitri had nine sisters, of whom eight are deceased. Despite her advancing years, Sabitri said she has not stopped acting, because she has kept herself young at heart -- and despite having no academic background in the field, she has learnt from life.

Sabitri, an avid reader, still picks up a novel whenever she gets time. She lamented the recent demise of Sunil Gangopadhyay, who remains a favourite.

Sabitri is currently working in TV serials in Kolkata, and has two upcoming films. When asked about her recent favourite film from Kolkata, she mentioned "Autograph" being one of the better ones.

And then, the inevitable question: will Sabitri come back to Bangladesh? The call of the roots is not one that can be ignored, and she will be here whenever invited, said an emotional Sabitri.

Going Beyond Tradition

Group ceramic exhibition at Zainul gallery

ZAHANGIR ALAM

A weeklong group ceramic exhibition titled "60 min/900° C" is on at the Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA), University of Dhaka. The exhibition features works of three promising artists -- Bikash Kanti Karmokar, Soumitra Kumar Biswas (Raju) and Suman Kumar Baral. The artist trio are MFA (Master of Fine Arts) students of the Department of Ceramics, FFA.

Noted artist and chairman of the Department of Ceramics, FFA, Shapon Kumar Shikder, inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest on November 17. Assistant Professors -- Md. Rabul Islam and Debashish Paul -- of Ceramics were present as special guests at the inaugural ceremony.

Soumitra Kumar Biswas (Raju) is superb in fashioning a bird family. The birds, though looking calm and composed, are seemingly ready for any unwanted threat on their habitat. Raju's other work -- sculpture of a human body -- is beautiful in the most conventional sense.



An artwork by Bikash Kanti Karmokar.

The participating artists are predominantly showcasing raku at the exhibition.

"Raku" (meaning delighted or joyful), a traditional Japanese art form, has its roots in ceramics. The technique used in raku is burning China white clay in a low temperature with sawdust and dry leaves, followed by instantly cooling it in water so that a carbon texture is formed over the surface. Aside from everyday use, raku has become popular for its aesthetic value in both Asia and the West.

A number of untitled artworks are on display at the exhibition. Some of these demonstrate novelty, creativity and aesthetics. The artist trio tried to go beyond the traditional aspects of ceramics, distinctively capturing both the modern and the post-modern features.

Bikash Kanti Karmokar's depiction of a cat family is exquisite. The artwork boasts of scintillating colours, texture and of course, the distinguished expressions of the cats. Bikash's other works represent thoughtful cranium with hands.

Suman Kumar Baral has portrayed balanced figures of a couple. The couple, sculpted in the Oriental style, has perfect tones and textures. Depictions of two bird families are similar to Raju's work. Suman's beautiful presentation of two grazing cows deserves appreciation for its colour and amazing texture.

Several potteries are common that the participating artists have displayed at the exhibition. The exhibition ends today.

Humayun Ahmed, seen through Nasir Ali Mamun's lens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The avid admirers of the late Humayun Ahmed saw his popularity surpassing that of Sharat Chandra Chattopadhyaya.

Recently, Ahmed's fans had the opportunity to get a glimpse of some intriguing moments from the late writer's personal life at a photography exhibition, titled "Ananta Jiban Jodi". The exhibition at Gallery Chitrak in Dhanmondi, Dhaka, from November 9 to 16, featured around 100 photographs of Ahmed captured by noted photographer Nasir Ali Mamun. Mamun is known as the "portrait man" for his excellence in portrait photography.

The exhibition was part of the celebration of Ahmed's 64th birth anniversary. The fortnightly magazine 'Onnodin' arranged the exhibition. Not all the photos taken by the "portrait man" are portraits. Rather, they showcase informal, never-before-seen moments -- as casual family gatherings or busy public events. Moments like Ahmed taking photos of his family members while his son Nishad tries to interrupt, or Ahmed signing autographs for a reader at the Ekushey Book Fair, or Ahmed wandering around at the Bangla Academy premises with others become memorable photos.

One might feel a sudden surge of emotions when looking at a black and white image of Ahmed with his daughter Shila, or a close shot with his mother Ayesha Faiz. Mamun had brilliantly captured the past.

The exhibition mostly featured photos taken since 2005, either at Nuhash Palli or at Ahmed's Dhaka residence "Dakhin Hawa". Some of the photos also show his gaunt face while in New York for treatment.

Many are aware of Ahmed's friendship with another celebrated Bengali author, Sunil Gangopadhyay, and have seen a photo of the duo seated together by the pond at Nuhash Palli. That photo, along with a couple of others, featuring the duo is on display. Coincidentally, both of them died the same year.

After seeing the photos, it became apparent that Mamun followed Ahmed closely -- both in personal and public spheres.



The exhibition was part of the celebration of Ahmed's 64th birth anniversary.

LUCKY AKHAND to perform at Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A solo music performance by Lucky Akhand will be held today at 6:30 pm at Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Gulshan, in Dhaka.

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC), in association with the State Bank of India in Bangladesh, will jointly organise the event.

Born in Dhaka in 1956, Akhand started learning to play piano, accordion, harmonica and Spanish guitar under the tutelage of his father, at the age of five.

Akhand composed and arranged the music of two songs in his childhood and subsequently conducted music programmes for children on television and radio during 1963-1967. He won the first prize in the category of "Modern Bangla Songs" in 1969 from the Pakistan Art Council and also composed two modern Bangla songs in Pakistan HMV in 1969.

Akhand travelled to India during the Liberation War of Bangladesh and joined the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra.

After the Liberation War, Akhand returned to Bangladesh and joined Bangladesh Radio as a music composer, singer and musician.

He has toured several countries of Europe for performances.

Akhand presently performs with the band 'Happy Touch' on stage and composes songs.

THEATRE ART UNIT FESTIVAL Literature comes forth on seventh day

JAMIL MAHMUD

Two adaptations of literature were staged on the seventh day (November 21) of the ongoing festival marking Theatre Art Unit's 20th anniversary. Loko Natyadal (Siddheswari) staged "Shilpi O Rothjatra", a play based on Rabindranath Tagore's "Roth Jatra", at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Palakar staged Syed Shamsul Haq's latest play "Narigon" at the Experimental Theatre Hall of the academy.

Loko Natyadal's play has been directed by Liaquat Ali Lucky.

The metaphorical play, which is also one of the most popular plays by Tagore, draws elements from the class system and politics. Overall, the play addresses contemporary global politics.

The cast included Shaharjar Kamal, Ziauddin Shipon, Arif Sharif, Masud Suman, Mahubb Rabbi and Md. Aktar Hossain.

Palakar's "Narigon" narrates woes of three women from Nawab Siraj ud-Daulah's life who suffered the similar fate that the last Nawab of Bengal had to face after his fall in 1757.

Directed by Ataur Rahman, the play is a historic fiction.

Haq's pen imagines what could have possibly happened inside the palace, soon after the Nawab's fall



"Narigon" narrates woes of women in Nawab Siraj ud-Daulah's life.

on July 3, 1757. History does not shed light on what these women went through.

The play narrates conversations among Sharifunnesa (wife of Nawab Alivardi Khan and Siraj ud-Daulah's grandmother), Amina Begum (mother of Siraj) and Lutfunnesa (wife of Siraj) during their imprisonment inside the palace. The psychological trauma that they face, recollections of the roles they played in politics; fond memories -- all create a moving collage in the play.

Farhana Mithu, Dipta Rakkhit and Tania Hossain, respectively, played the three women.

Earlier on November 19, the troupe awarded a local troupe from Pabna, Shamannay Theatre, with the SM Solaiman Motivation Award. It is for the first time that the organisers chose a troupe instead of an individual for the award.

On the same day, Professor Israfil Shahin, Department of Theatre, Dhaka University delivered a memorial lecture, named after Solaiman. The organisers also commemorated the theatre personality with an exhibition featuring scripts written by him and photos and posters of his directed plays.



Nirob launched his career with a range of modelling gigs, and his successful debut soon steered him towards the world of acting. His stardom expanded with consecutive popular TV commercials. Nirob however decided to shift his focus to cinema, after appearing in several TV plays.

In his rapidly growing film career, Nirob has acted opposite Shahana, as well as starring in several other movies. The star recently set aside some time from his busy shooting schedules to come to the DS Cafe and chat with his fans and admirers.

Highlights of the session:

Rakhi, Mirpur, Dhaka: Do you have time for a fitness regime?

Nirob: Not really. Most of the time, lethargy comes in the way of physical exercise. I live in the Cantonment area and it's not really fun to exercise there. It would've been best if I could exercise in the morning. But most days, I have to rush to shootings.

Lonny, Dhaka: Do you have plans for acting in movies on street children?

Nirob: If a director casts me in a film on street children, I'll be more than happy to sign up.

Lolita, Savar: What are your hobbies?

Nirob: I like *adda* with friends. I've also opened a fashion house in Dhanmondi's Metro Shopping Mall.

Samia, Uttara, Dhaka: Any particular interest in collecting objects?

Nirob: In fact I do. I collect a variety of things. Sometimes they are sunglasses, while at other times I buy shoes. Once, while returning from Bangkok, I brought back 28 pairs of shoes.

Samiha, Dhaka: Which is your favourite shooting spot?

Nirob: I definitely prefer locations outside Dhaka, as there are no shooting sessions after

dark. In the evenings the entire crew gets together and chats.

Shukanto, Comilla: What are your aspirations when it comes to movies?

Nirob: I have entered the film arena, at a time when there is a huge crisis in the industry. The cinema halls are shutting down, but I hope that more halls will spring up. I also expect better movies to be made, so that we can come out of the crisis.

The Daily Star (TDS): What is your opinion on the trend of making digital films?

Nirob: I view this as a positive thing. Although many senior artistes oppose this, I support this practice. If change can be introduced in all other sectors, why not cinema as well?

Mohammad Sultan, Teknaf: Can a movie be made on the Rohingya's?

Nirob: It is possible. But it depends on the will of the producers and directors.

Papiya, Gazipur: If an Indian actress were cast opposite you, whom would you prefer?

Nirob: Katrina Kaif (smilingly).

Momota, Chittagong: Have you ever watched films in theatres outside Dhaka?

Nirob: I have plenty of such experiences. Whenever a movie of mine is released, I head to a cinema hall outside Dhaka and enjoy it with the crowd. This way I can judge the instant reaction of my fans.

Kanak, Chittagong: Who are your favourite film directors overseas?

Nirob: I have tremendous respect for the works of Ram Gopal Varma and Sanjay Leela Bansali.

Kanta, Dhaka: What are you currently busy with?

Nirob: I'm working on Swapan Ahmed's movie "Porobashini". It is a science fiction

film, the first of its kind in Bangladesh. I also recently finished dubbing for "Ei Toh Bhalobasha" -- a film directed by Shaheen Kabir Tutul.

Sabuj, Rangamati: Do you like to travel within the country?

Nirob: It is more fun when the trips are with a group of friends. I have already been to the best travel destinations in the country.

Harun, Rajshahi: Whom do you love chatting with the most?

Nirob: With my close ones. The ones I'm having *adda* with must be my friends. Or else there would be no fun in it.

Rana, Dhaka: We get most of your stories from the newspaper. Can you tell me any story of yours that is yet to be told?

Nirob: At the top of my head, I can only remember one unpublished fact, which is, I used to work at Citycell's Customer Care department.

Jewel, Sylhet: What is your taste in music?

Nirob: I listen to all kinds of music. But I am of high praise for the bands Nemesis and Shumnyo.

Ferdous, Dhaka: What is your suggestion for someone who wants to act in movies?

Nirob: It is better to study and learn acting, before joining the film industry. If someone arrives without any initiation, there are countless obstacles on the way. One also has to seek out the good directors. There is no use hanging out with the wrong crowd.

Kanon, Khulna: Where is your ancestral home?

Nirob: In Rajbari district.

Fortnight-long DU annual theatre fest begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fortnight-long annual theatre festival, organised by Dhaka University (DU) and managed by its Department of Theatre, begins this evening at the TSC Auditorium on campus.

Seventeen plays will be staged at the festival. The plays are being directed, translated and performed by the students and teachers of the department.

Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor, DU is expected to formally inaugurate the festival this evening. The inaugural ceremony will be followed by staging of Buddhadev Basu's "Prothom Partho". Directed by Ahmedul Kabir, the play was premiered a month earlier at the Natmandal auditorium.

The other plays to be staged include "Military" (playwright: Munier Chowdhury); "One for the Road" (Harold Pinter); "Bagh" (Badal Sircar); "My Oedipus Complex" (Franc O'Connor); "The Misunderstanding" (Albert Camus); "The Lesson" (Eugene Ionesco); "Padmabati" (Alaol); "Tota Kahini" (Rabindranath Tagore) and the "The Dark Lady of the Sonnets" (George Bernard Shaw).

Apart from the classics, a play, "Bibor", written and directed by a DU student, Naorin Sazzad, will also be staged at the festival.

Inclusion of an Italian theatre company, Academia Mutamenti, will be the highlight of the festival. The company will stage a single-performer play "The Bandits' Queen" on November 27.

The organisers have also invited Department of Drama and Dramatics, Jahangirnagar University and Department of Theatre, Chittagong University to stage plays.

Everyday plays will start at 6:30 pm. The festival will continue till December 5.



Emami Fair and Handsome and Channel I have raised the curtains on the first reality show for men in Bangladesh, titled "Handsome The Ultimate Man". Word to this effect was made at a press conference on November 20 at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel. Contestants will be put through many tough and challenging on-ground, above the ground and under water tasks. The last date for registration is December 10, 2012. Men (18 and above) can register on www.htm.tv. The show will also accept postal registration through P.O box number 2433 or on Facebook.

BTV	09:35 Tom & Jerry Tales	08:35 Drama
	10:30 Theatre	11:05 Shomoy Katuk Gaan-e Gaan-e
	03:05 Bangla Feature Film	
	08:35 TV Series: Hatim	02:30 Maasranga Television
	11:00 Ronangon-er Dinguli	05:02 Ichchhey Gaan-er Dupur
ATN BANGLA		05:02 Square Hospital Doctor's Chamber
	09:20 Bangla Feature Film	08:00 Drama
	05:00 Gram Gonjer Khabor	09:00 Game Show: Houseful
	08:00 Diploma Misti Lorai	12:02 Drama
	11:00 Comedy Hour	
CHANNEL 9		02:35 Bangla Feature Film
CHANNEL i		06:00 Class Room
12:05 Prokriti O Jiban		08:40 Musical: Rang-er
02:40 Telefilm		09:00 Borshatey
07:50 Sherakantia		09:15 Tele-film
09:35 Top Model		11:15 Beauty Time
ETV		
10:02 Sanamoni Shukh-e		10:10 In Time
03:00 Chobule		01:50 Conan the Barbarian
01:30 Bangla Feature Film		04:35 Kingdom of Heaven
06:30 Tarana		

abc radio FM 89.2	12:00 Boier Pika
09:30 Esh Dik	02:00 Forti Unlimited
01:20 Alor Shondhaney	06:00 Bumper to Bumper
05:30 Kacha Lanka	10:00 Club Point
02:30 Home Beld	01:00 Back to Back music
07:20 GP Launch	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
07:45 Megh Barata	06:00 Green FM
08:10 Adda	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
11:10 Gatar Never Lies	11:00 Flash Back
RADIO FOOTBI	12:30 Music Program
08:00 Adbaddab	02:15 Rapuli Gaan

Mayanigam
On ntv at 08:15pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Farah Ruma, Fazlur Rahman Babu

Megamind
On HBO at 07:30pm
Genre: Animation, Action, Comedy
Cast: Will Ferrell, Brad Pitt

Dhol
On ETV at 09:30pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Hillol, Shoshi

10:10 Drama	07:00 Year One
12:05 Phone & Live Studio	08:40 You Don't Mess with the Zohan
	10:30 Rosewood Lane
BANGLAVISION	
10:10 Bhalo Thakun	11:25 Disaster Movie
11:05 Amader Rangbarahar	12:25 Rush Hour 3
06:30 Drama	04:55 The Matrix
11:25 Ani Ekshon Ki Karbo (Live)	07:30 Megamind
	09:30 Waterworld
ntv	
12:10 Apun Aalyo	
02:35 Tele-film	
06:45 Roomdhuri	
11:30 Katha O Gaan-e Kichukhkon (Live)	
Rtv	
10:10 Doctor's Prescription	
07:35 Glamour World Dot Com	
08:15 Drama	
11:20 Drama	
Desh TV	
03:00 Priyogon-er Gaan	
08:15 Bindi Thekay Britto	
09:45 Drama	
11:45 Call-er Gaan	
Boishakhi TV	
09:15 Bangla Feature Film	
08:00 Amar Gatar Amar Gaan	
07:00 Year One	
08:40 You Don't Mess with the Zohan	
10:30 Rosewood Lane	
11:25 Disaster Movie	
12:25 Rush Hour 3	
04:55 The Matrix	
07:30 Megamind	
09:30 Waterworld	
Star World	
Grey's Anatomy	
Revenge	
09:00 The Front Row with Anupama Chopra	
Junior Master Chef Australia	
11:30 Two And A Half Men	
12:00 Modern Family	
National Geographic Channel	
Banged Up Abroad	
Mission Army	
08:30 Seconds from Disaster	
10:30 Super Cars Week	
11:30 Ultimate Wild	
BBC World	