

WHAT'S ON

Syed Shamsul Haq
Matya Utsab
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: Apr 19-27
Time: 6pm

Group Art Exhibition
Participants: 80 Noted Artists
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, F/40-41, DCC North Super Market, 2nd Circle
Date: April 19-May 20
Time: 10am-6pm

Mask Exhibition
Title: Masks of Bangladesh
Venue: Gallery Jorrong, Wiktatan
Date: Apr 12-25
Time: 10am-6pm

Calligraphy Exhibition
Title: Articulation in Alphabets
Venue: Dhaka Art Center, H-60, Rd-7/A, Dhanmondi
Date: April 19-26

Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Rafiqun Nabi
Venue: Dhaka Art Center, H-60, Rd-7/A, Dhanmondi
Date: April 12-30
Time: 3pm-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Bangla Shikore Swagato
Artist: Raghunath Chakraborty
Venue: Gallery Cosmos 2, R-6, H-115, New DMC, Mohakhali
Date: April 21-28
Time: 11am-7pm

Group Art Exhibition & Inauguration of the Gallery
Venue: Satsmijid Road, Dhanmondi
Date: April 5-30

Lubna Marium felicitated

Presentation on “Agency and Art”



Lubna Marium (C) with the trustees of Shadhona at the programme.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

SAURAV DEY

Shadhona, a centre for promotion of South Asian performing arts, felicitated eminent scholar-researcher and dance exponent Lubna Marium, on her receiving the first Dr. Bhupen Hazarika International Solidarity Award from Asam Sahitya Sabha. At a programme on Saturday evening at Radius Centre in Gulshan, Dhaka, the board of trustees of Shadhona felicitated Marium for her outstanding achievement.

At the event, the citation for the award was read out, followed by presentations on the Asam Sahitya Sabha, Bhupen Hazarika and Lubna Marium's work. A presentation on Shadhona revealed its

multi-dimensional activities in the cultural arena, its diverse projects, future ventures, and contribution to the enrichment of local culture as well as the sub-continental cultural exchange.

In the key presentation, titled “Agency and Art”, Lubna Marium discussed the role of art in resolving the conflict between the normative structures of society, and independent human agency. According to Marium, the purpose of art is to inspire a “reflexivity” of consciousness, which helps to break free of the constraints of social structure. She also said the “counter-hegemonic” space of art inspires human agency to embrace pluralistic cultural practices within indigenous performing arts of Bangladesh.

Marium, in her presentation, also discussed various forms of sub-continental dance, and the mythopoetic nature of art in the sub-continent. She showed how ritualistic performances cross the boundaries of religion. According to the researcher, our culture is vibrant with the mixture folk performance arts, Vedic art, the blend of Tantra and Sufism, ritualistic performances, and the tradition of bauls.

Lubna Marium -- aesthete, scholar, dance pioneer and teacher -- is a noted figure in the contemporary South Asian cultural arena. She has dedicated a lifetime to the promotion of culture, especially dance and other performing arts of the sub-continent. She is the general

secretary and artistic director of Shadhona.

Born in a progressive Bengali family, Marium, in her childhood, developed a passion for dance. Though she at first took up conventional career path and started studying architecture, she could not stay away from dance. She travelled to South India to learn dance, primarily Bharatanatyam. Subsequently she returned to Dhaka. Finding difficulties in taking up dance as a career and limita-

“The purpose of art is to inspire a ‘reflexivity’ of consciousness, which helps to break free of the constraints of social structure. ‘Counter-hegemonic’ space of art inspires human agency to embrace pluralistic cultural practices within indigenous performing arts of Bangladesh.”

tions of classical dance lessons, she came forward to do something for the young people so that they could have classical dance lessons without having to go abroad. Thus Shadhona was born and since then it has been promoting performance arts.

Marium received the first Biswaratna Bhupen Hazarika International Solidarity Award from the Asam Sahitya Sabha on March 28, 2013 in Guwahati, Assam, from Tarun Gogoi, the Chief Minister of Assam. In her award acceptance speech, Marium said, “the need of the day, therefore, is cultural intervention to bring about a transformation of social consciousness that aims to bring the alienated individual consciousness back to the path of solidarity.”

Saju's Grand Group Art Exhibition opens



SM Sultan's “First Plantation” is one of the 113 artworks at the exhibition.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The month-long 39th Grand Group Art Exhibition at Saju Art Gallery (Gulshan-2, Dhaka) opened recently, and will continue till May 20. The exhibition features 113 artworks featuring 80 artists -- seniors and emerging alike.

Highlights of the exhibit are some avant-garde works by Quamrul Hassan, SM Sultan, Safiuddin Ahmed, Aminul Islam, Abdur Razzaque, Syed Jahangir, Shamsul Islam Nizami, Monirul Islam and others.

Artworks of Abu Taher, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Abdus Shakoor Shah, Biren Shome, Shahid Kabir, Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ranjit Das, Mohammad Eunus, Kanak Champa Chakma, Mohammad Iqbal and Rafiq Roni are also on display.

The 1st Grand Group Art Exhibition at Saju Art Gallery was held in 1977. Over the years, it has become one of the biggest annual art shows in the country.

Anjan Chowdhury, managing director of Maasranga Television and chairman of Society for Promotion of Bangladesh Art (SPBA), inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest. Noted painter Syed Jahangir was present as special guest. Ramiz Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director of Saju Art Gallery, was also present at the inauguration.

A stellar actor

Pran to receive Dada Saheb Phalke Award



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Veteran Bollywood actor Pran, who played villain and character roles with equal ease, has been selected for India's highest cinematic honour -- the Dada Saheb Phalke Award.

The 93-year-old actor, who was in hospital recently due to ill health, retired from acting in 1998 after an illustrious six-decade career that saw him performing in over 400 films.

The award, named after the father of Indian cinema, Dada Saheb Phalke, will be conferred on Pran on May 3. Incidentally, this year also marks 100 years of Indian cinema.

It is a pity that a talented actor like Pran had to be categorised as a character-actor or a villain when he was extremely versatile.

Welcoming the announcement, his son Sunil Sikand told PTI that the family was happy that Pran was recognised for his contribution to Indian cinema.

The Hindi film industry, however, feels that the honour came too late for Pran.

Pran has given sterling performances in many films along with Dilip Kumar, Dev Anand and Raj Kapoor in the 1950s and '60s. His performances have received critical acclaim in films like “Azaad”, “Madhumati”, “Devdas”, “Dil Diya Dard Liya”, “Ram Aur Shyam” and “Aadmi”.

Pran initially wanted to become a photographer but destiny had different plans for him. A chance meeting with a film producer got him his first break in a Punjabi film, “Yamla Jat”, in 1940. There was no looking back for the actor after that.

Pran's film career suffered a brief pause due to the Partition and after that he moved to Mumbai with his wife Shukla and sons Arvind and Sunil but found it difficult to get work as an actor in the city of dreams. He had almost given up when writer Saadat Hasan Manto helped him get a role in the Dev Anand-starrer, “Ziddi”, pro-

duced by Bombay Talkies in 1948, which revived his career.

Pran will be forever remembered for bringing villains on par with the heroes, ruling the industry from 1969 to 1982. He commanded great respect for his negative characters in “Madhumati”, “Jis Desh Mein Ganga Behti Hai”, “Ram Aur Shyam” and “Devdas”.

His chameleon-like ability helped Pran transform himself from one of the most hated onscreen villains to one of the most beloved character actors -- be it the “Mangal Chacha” in “Upkar” where he essayed such a fine role; Sher Khan opposite Amitabh Bachchan in “Zanjeer”; the honest police officer in Manoj Kumar-starrer “Beimaan”; or the discipline-loving but soft-hearted grandfather in Gulzar's “Parichay”.

The recipient of a number of honours, including the Filmfare Award, Pran was also felicitated with the Indian government's prestigious title Padma Bhushan.



PONUEL S BOSE, from Oklahoma

The three-day 37th annual Medieval Fair concluded at Reaves Park in Oklahoma, USA recently.

Around 3,00,000 people from different parts of the US gathered at the annual fair -- escaping the stresses of 21st-century -- and stepped into another era.

The fair included jousting, a human chess game, musical show, theatre, Ferris wheel for children and educational exhibits, as people in medieval attire milled around. There were about 30 food vendors and 521 craft vendors at the fair premises.

The highest attendance at the fair was seven or eight years ago when

6,00,000 people came to the event. Every year, thousands of people come here and enjoy the event, said John Angier, the fair's logistics coordinator.

The fair was held in South Oval when it began 37 years ago, but as the crowds swelled, it moved to Oklahoma University's duck pond at Brandt Park and later to Reaves Park at Jenkins Avenue and Constitution Street, Angier said.

A group of nine journalists from the electronic and print media of Bangladesh visited the fair. Sheikh Rokonuzzaman, assistant editor of the Bangla newspaper Somokal said that the magic of the fair was incomparable.



PHOTO COURTESY: BENGAL FOUNDATION

“Nishi Nijhum”

Nasima Shaheen's latest album launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Accomplished singer and Chhayanaut teacher Nasima Shaheen's latest album of Nazrul Sangeet, “Nishi Nijhum”, was launched at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi, in the capital on April 19. The album features 12 songs, including several *kabyageeti*, raga-based melodies, and more. Noted Indian musician Durbadal Chattopadhyay has directed the music for the album.

Eminent Nazrul Sangeet artiste Shaheen Samad unveiled the album. Director general of Bengal Foundation, Luva Nahid Chowdhury, welcomed all at the event.

“I have heard Nasima Shaheen's album twice. Her rendition is marked by melody. She has distinctively made the Nazrul Sangeet -- heard many times before -- her own with brilliant vocal embellishment,” said Shaheen Samad.

On the occasion, Nasima performed songs from the album. The singer started off the soiree with the title track “Nishi Nijhum”. The song, set on Raga Behag, contains a melancholic nuance experienced and expressed by a lover yearning for her beloved who is far away.

The artiste's offering of the songs “Sakhi Aar Abhiman Janabo Na” and “Prothom Prodipl Jalo”, based on Raga Patdwip, was evocative too. Her repertoire also included “Bhul-e Jee Bhul-e Jee”, “Or Nishith Samadhi”, “Ghumayechhey Phul Poth-e Dhalayee”, “Ami Chitrorey Dur-e Choley Jabo” and more.

Almas Ali on violin, Daulatur Rahman on keyboard, Nazmul Alam on percussion and Iftekhar Prodhan on tabla accompanied the artiste.

Nasima Shaheen took lessons on Nazrul Sangeet from renowned gurus including Shaheen Samad and Khairul Anam Shakil of Chhayanaut.

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| BTV | 11:30 Prokrti O Manush 08:40 Krishi Dibanshi 09:30 Drama Serial: Shonali Alo 11:30 Drama Serial: Kothao New Nei | Desh TV | 03:30 Gaan R Gaan 05:00 Durpath 06:30 World Music 09:45 Cinema Express |
| ATN BANGLA | 11:20 Business and Finance 07:25 Main Saboch 09:20 Drama Serial: DB 01:00 Onnodichiti | Maasranga Television | 10:02 Bangla Feature Film 08:40 Drama Serial: Khonikolay 09:20 Drama Serial: University |
| CHANNEL 9 | 05:30 Jibon Jekhane Jemon 07:50 BBC Bangladesh Shonglap 09:35 Drama Serial: Probasho Porbashe 11:30 Khola Akash | CHANNEL 9 | 09:00 Bangla Feature Film 04:00 Bangla Feature Film 08:00 IPL 6 (Live) 11:30 Power Play |
| ntv | 08:45 Bangla Feature Film 05:30 Aponar Jiggasha 09:00 Comedy Show 09:45 Drama Serial: Ojhena Protibimbo | CHANNEL 24 | 01:00 Beyond the Gallery 08:00 Musical Lounge 09:55 Je Shishu Bhumista |
| ETV | 03:30 Cine Hits 04:30 Ichchhe Ghuri | Gtv | 11:30 Bangla Feature Film 09:00 Bhalobashi Gaan 11:05 Aponi Kichhu Bolun |
| | | Fox Movies | 01:50 Rampart |

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| abc radio FM 89.2 | 03:25 Laa Classic 05:30 Kacha Laska 06:30 Mittha Koro 07:20 GP Leunch 07:45 Megh Barista 08:10 Adda 09:30 Love War 11:10 Shadha Golpo Drum Radio Foorti 07:30 Hello Dhaka | 10:00 Morning Express 12:00 My Time 01:00 No Tension 04:00 Dhaka Calling 09:00 Night Rider 01:00 Back to Back Music RADIO TODAY FM 89.6 08:00 Good Morning Dhaka 12:00 Today's Adda 04:00 U Turn 07:00 Tobey Tai Hok |
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Metro Life
On ntv at 08:15pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Mosharraf Karim, Nazifa

Shaojin Soccer
On HBO at 11:40pm
Genre: Action/Comedy
Cast: Stephen Chow, Man Tat Ng & Wei Zhao

Bhalobashi Gaan
On Gtv at 09:00pm
Musical Programme
Host: Nishita Borua

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| 07:50 Music Station 10:10 Drama Serial: Megher Kheya 10:15 Bangla Feature Film 04:00 Shorashori Doctor 08:00 Drama Serial: Boro Barir Chhoto Bou 11:00 Drama Serial: Shonghat | 03:40 Click 07:00 Chronicle 08:25 The Avengers 10:50 X-Men: First Class HBO 12:50 Contagion 02:55 Final Destination 5 07:11 What Women Want 09:30 Sanctum 11:40 Shaolin Soccer |
| 01:05 Bangla Feature Film 06:25 Front Line 08:15 Drama Serial: Ladies First 11:25 Probashi Mukh Rtv 10:40 Tarokalap 12:35 Bangla Feature Film 09:05 Drama Serial: Kutum Ashche 09:50 Bridal Show | Star World 03:30 Revolution 09:30 Packed to the Rafters 10:30 One Tree Hill 11:30 Mad Men Discovery Channel 02:30 Wildcat India 07:30 Man Vs. Wild 10:30 Dual Survival 11:30 Human Prey |

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| ATN BANGLA | 08:40pm Nir Khoje Gangschil | 09:00pm Red Signal |
| ntv | 08:15pm Metro Life | |
| ETV | 09:30pm Pancho Premik | |
| Boishakhi TV | 09:20pm Ognipoth | |
| BANGLAVISION | | |

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|------------|---|----------------------|---|
| BTV | 11:30pm News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 9pm News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm | Boishakhi TV | News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm News (English) at 9am, 6pm |
| ATN BANGLA | News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm News (English) at 9am, 6pm | BANGLAVISION | News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm |
| CHANNEL 9 | News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm | Rtv | News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm |
| ntv | News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm | Desh TV | News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm |
| ETV | News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm | Maasranga Television | News (Bangla) at 7pm, 11am |

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| ATN BANGLA | 11:30pm Je Kotha Keu Bolei | 12:00am Zero Hour |
| CHANNEL 9 | 12:30pm Taraika Kothon | 11:30pm Our Democracy |
| ntv | 12:00am Ei Shomoy | 11:45pm Shojha Kotha |
| ETV | 12:05am Ektachey-er Raat | 12:00am Shampirok |
| Boishakhi TV | | CHANNEL 24 11:00pm Muktabak Gtv |