

WHAT'S ON

Women's Film Festival

Venue: National Art Gallery Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy

Date: Oct 6-11

Time: 3, 5 & 7pm everyday

Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Jodha

Artist: Shahabuddin Ahmed

Venue: Gallery 21, 751, Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi

Date: Sep 20-Oct 11

Classical Music Festival

Marking 400th Instalment of Shuddha Sangeet Proshar Goshthi

Venue: Bishwa Shahitya Kendra (4th floor), Banglamotor

Date: Oct 9-10

Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Jamil Akbar Shamim

Venue: Institute of Asian Creatives, Gulshan-2

Date: Oct 4-Oct 26

Time: 12pm-8pm

Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Gautam Chakraborty

Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, R-16, Sector 4, Uttara

Date: Sep 28-Oct 11

Time: 11am-7:30pm

"Shunte Ki Pao!" wins jury award in Film Southasia '13

Kamar Ahmed Simon's feature-length documentary "Shunte Ki Pao!" (Are You Listening!), has won the jury award at Film Southasia (FSA) 2013, according to a press release. The ninth edition of Film Southasia 2013 was held at QFX Kumari, Kamalpokhari in Kathmandu from October 3-6.

The festival showcased a total of 55 documentary and non-fiction films from around South Asia and the diaspora on diverse issues. Out of the 382 submissions that were received, 34 were selected for the competition. Many were award-winning films that had received some of the highest honors in filmmaking. FSA also featured two specially curated film packages; one, in association with Ahmedabad based National Institute of Design's (NID) Alpavirama and second, a dedicated section on Afghanistan titled Afghan Eyes curated by independent journalist Taran Khan.

In addition to screenings, the festival featured talks and panel discussions including one on issues of South Asian representation, one on the ecology of the documentary, and an impromptu panel discussion on censorship that featured editor of Nepali Times Kunda Dixit, Nepali journalist and novelist Narayan Wagle, Bangladeshi photographer and social activist Dr.



Shahidul Alam and Burmese film maker Thet Oo Maung. FSA 2013 Jury was chaired by acclaimed art critic and journalist Sadanand Menon from Chennai, who was accompanied by Shahidul Alam and film maker, producer and currently public media director at the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) Sapana Sakya of Kathmandu.

The Jury awarded five awards including the Ram Bahadur Trophy for best film to "Algorithms" by Ian McDonald, the QFX Jury Awards to "Invoking Justice" by Deepa Dhanraj and "Shunte Ki Pao!" by Kamar Ahmed Simon, the Tareque Masud Award for Best Debut film to "No. 62 Pansodan Street" by Cho Phyuone. The festival introduced a new award this year titled the UNICEF Nepal Award which was given to "Char... No Man's Island" by Sourav Sarangi. "No Fire Zone" by Callum Macrae received a special jury mention.

DURGA PUJA Music to the ears of percussion instrument makers



AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Percussion instruments such as bangla dhol, dhak [big drum], khok, dhokok, dugi, khamok, naal, tabla and khonjori are in great demand during Durga Puja and other festivities.

Makers of these instruments say they are doing brisk business. "A bangla dhol sells for Taka 2,000--6,000; dhak at Taka 7,000--8,000; khok at Taka 2,500--3,000 while a dhokak goes for Taka 1,200--3,000 according to its size and quality," said Suvash Chandra Das, an instrument maker at Boro Kalibari Road in the town.

On an average, the price of each instrument has increased by around Taka 400--500 over the last year, informed Suvash.

Gopal Chadra Das, 17, said, that while the price of materials such as wood, plastic drum, goat hide, bamboo and jute to make percussion instruments has increased over the years, the selling price too has shot up, enabling the younger generation to hold on to its ancestral profession.

As dhak and dhol are an inseparable part of Durga and Kali Puja, artists who make these instruments are always in demand, said Ashit Kumar Chakraborty a retired government official.

In loving memory of the 'Nawab'

Actor Razzak reminisces on Anwar Hossain



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Anwar Hossain, the uncrowned "Nawab" of Bangla cinema, was nominated for this year's Lifetime Achievement Award at the Standard Chartered-The Daily Star Celebrating Life, and supposed to receive the awards himself. However, he passed away less than a month from the Awards Gala, on September 13. One of his closest colleagues, 'Nayakraj' Razzak -- who worked with the star in numerous films -- recently reminisced on him while talking to The Daily Star.

"My first work with Anwar Hossain was in the movie 'Abirbhab' which became a box office hit. Later, we worked together in many other films. At one stage, a cordial relationship developed between us.

"Like me many in our film industry called him Anu

Bhai. He was a great artiste of Bangla cinema and actors like him are rarely born. In a word, he was a legend of Dhallywood.

"I have many fond memories of him etched on my mind. There are several incidents during the time of making "Abirbhab", when I observed his devotion towards acting. The artiste with a sonorous voice and expressive eyes like him is rarely seen. During his lifetime the unparalleled actor contributed hugely to the industry but he never wanted anything in return.

"There was a time when shooting was mainly done at the FDC. During our spare time during shooting we chatted. A very pleasant man by nature, he could easily draw others to himself. Jealousy was not in his nature.

"Everyone called Anwar Hossain an uncrowned king after he played the title role in the movie "Nawab Sirajuddaula". His popularity skyrocketed during the period, but it simply didn't make him arrogant. Moreover, he led a very simple life.

"Finally, I would like to say that we lost a great artiste like Anwar Hossain, he was like an elder brother to me. May he rest in eternal peace."



Anwar Hossain

Anwar Hossain remembered in Jamalpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A discussion on veteran character actor of Bengali cinema Anwar Hossain was organised recently by Jamalpur Zila Press Club at the public library auditorium in the town.

Presided over by journalist Bazlur Rahman, editor of local daily Sachetankantha and president of the Press Club, Deputy Commissioner (DC) in Jamalpur Delwar Haider and renowned film director and actor Amjad Hossain were chief guest and main speaker at the discussion respectively.

The programme started with a Tagore song "Tomaro Osheemey" by artiste

Ajanta Rahman. Tariqul Ferdous, Assistant Professor of a local college, read out a brief biography of the unparalleled film star at the event.

Anwar Hossain was born at village Sarulia in Melandah upazila of Jamalpur on December 6, 1931.

He made his first foray into the acting world in his school days. In college, he took part in a number of theatre productions staged in Mymensingh.

Later he chose to chase bigger dreams and came to Dhaka to embark on a journey in cinema immediately after the release of the feature film "Mukh O Mukhosh". With his role in the film "Tomar Amar", Anwar Hossain caught the

eyes of directors and producers.

The title role in "Nawab Sirajuddoula", directed by noted actor-director Khan Ataur Rahman was his creative feat. After the release of the film in 1967, people started calling him "Nawab".

Later he starred in the films *Shurjosnan*, *Kancher Deval*, *Dui Diganta*, *Godhulir Prem*, along with the famous film *Jibon Theke Neya* directed by eminent director Zahir Raihan. Hossain superbly portrayed the character of a political leader in the film.

In post-liberation Bangladesh, Hossain delivered a number of memorable performances in several films. His last film was Ghani.

During the discussion chief guest DC

Delwar Haider said that the people of Jamalpur are proud of the "Nawab of Bangla".

The main speaker, noted director Amjad Hossain tearfully remarked that Hossain was a legend in the film industry and will remain in the heart of every Bengali.

Among others, senior journalists AAK Mahmudul Hassan Dara, Shafik Zaman, cultural activists-- Ali Zahir, Sajjad Ansary, Ali Imam Dulal, president of Udichi Shilpi Gosthi, Jamalpur district unit, former principal Mazibur Rahman and Nasima Akhtar, head teacher of Jamalpur Zila School paid homage to the film star.

Later, the film "Nawab Sirajuddoula" was screened.

Shamim's insightful expression on canvas

Solo exhibition at Institute of Asian Creatives

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Jamil Akbar Shamim belongs to the group of painters who emerged in the Bangladeshi art scene in the '90s. The '90s was a time when artists in our country began exploring new grounds and focused on experimentation. During this period, a big transformation took the place in Dhaka's art circuit when a number of ground-breaking painters started looking for a new language and new technique. The artists chiefly addressed religious bigotry, superstition, political and social discrimination through their works. Here art has become the voice against all sorts of evil deeds. Their articulations were different from the so-called mandatory approaches like "Art is Beauty".

Later on, the group did not continue their artistic activities regularly but some of them started to focus their paradigm individually in their artistic effort. I think this was the time when younger generation artists started thinking differently about their visions and imagination. Shamim, a shining example of the time, is also considered a contemplative painter who delves into both the ecstatic and the melancholic sides.

Under the title "You", the artist's solo exhibition is now on at Institute of Asian Creatives in Gulshan-2 in the city. Shamim's ongoing exhibition reflects his poetic and



pensive sentiment. He has written several of his favourite words and sentences on the canvas. The expressions give us a complete picture of the painter's psychological voyage. He started to work on the theme few years back. The main elements in his works are solitude, love,

yearning and isolation. The struggles and sorrows of the deprived spur him to paint the words on the canvas. The painter is deeply moved by the torment and elation. His style is unquestionably unique and evocative, clearly articulate his cerebral cortex. His works reflect the agony of a lonesome soul and a mourning heart. Most of his works have been done in acrylic and, sometimes he has used wheat and sand. Textures have been shaped in his works according to the painting's requirements. His works are dominated by black and as well as vibrant shades.

Some of Shamim's canvases are filled with scribbled lines and vague forms. The lines are not overly polished or gentle. He sees the canvas as an unending piece of land, where he is trying to grow new crops. His theme refers to our emotional and the expression of insight. In recent years, the painter has frequently worked with a number of themes, which are quite unlike each other. His unbroken lines are emotive and suggest a contemplative process. The artist's sweeping lines are also suggestive of his impatient soul. His paintings make a magnificent repertoire of diverse images, giving the viewer an impression of simplicity. The images (words) are intentionally uncomplicated, as the artist wants his viewer to focus on everyday usable sentences often left unnoticed.

The exhibition will continue till October 26.

Greta Garbo: On screen magic

KAVITA, New Delhi

"I want to be left alone". Beautiful and reclusive Swedish actress Greta Garbo's famous lines remain engraved in the collective memory of an older generation. While a whole new crop of brilliant actors have emerged on the scene since, Garbo's mystique and style remain unparalleled. Once named "The most beautiful woman that ever lived" by the Guinness Book of World Records, her acting ability won her four Oscar nominations for Best Actress. She also received an Oscar for her "Unforgettable Performances".

Standing at the cusp of Hollywood's transition from silent films to talkies, she set fire to the screen in performances that unfortunately only the most hardcore film enthusiast will venture to see. There's the classic Gosta Berling's Saga" and several other films. With Eugene O'Neill's "Anna Christie" she was finally heard and not just seen. The film, with MGM's catchphrase "Garbo Talks!" released in 1930. In her first line, she imperiously ordered "Gimme a whiskey, ginger ale on the side, and don't be stingy, baby." She went on to act as the World War I spy in "Mata Hari", the doomed courtesan in "Camille" and of course the woman immortalised by Leo Tolstoy in his famous classic "Anna Karenina". Garbo's career was on the roll--and how. At the peak of her career she was described as "the greatest money-making machine ever



put on screen."

"The Swedish Sphinx" as she came to be known, was born in Stockholm, Sweden on September 19, 1905. Coming from a working class family, she was compelled to leave school after her father died when she was 14. As her family was on the verge of destitution, she began to work as a salesperson at a leading

Swedish department store. Her modelling abilities impressed the store management and she was given the chance to appear in two advertising shorts for the store. And she did not ever have to hark back to the hard days after that.

Her first role was in the comedy film, "Peter the Tramp" (1922). Encouraged by her own performance, later that year she applied for and won a full scholarship to the reputed Academy of the Royal Dramatic Theatre in Sweden.

In 1923 famed Swedish director Mauritz Stiller cast her in the leading role in his classic film "Gosta Berling's Saga". Followed an MGM contract; she moved to California in 1925. The last of her 28 films was "Two-faced Woman" (1942). She retired at the age of 36, having appeared in. Although she received many film offers, she never returned to the screen choosing to fiercely guard her privacy.

Four years before her death she explained her reason for dropping out of Hollywood to Swedish biographer, Sven Broman. "I was tired of Hollywood. I did not like my work. There were many days when I had to force myself to go to the studio. I really wanted to live another life," she said.

Garbo died on April 15, 1990, aged 84, in hospital, following pneumonia and renal failure. She was cremated in Manhattan, and her ashes were interred in 1999 at Skogskyrkogarden cemetery, south of her native Stockholm.

"Bou Go" staged in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh,

A play staged at Muslim Institute auditorium in the town drew much applause on Friday evening.

SB Media, Mymensingh staged the drama titled "Bou Go", a social comedy reflecting on the stern realities of life. The play has been written and directed by Sujoy Basak, also SB Media director.

The cast of the play were Emdadul Haque, Shambhu Chand Banik, Shyamol Chandra Biswas, Bidhan Debnath, Azizur Rahman Swpon, Jahareen Mazhar Jhum.

The play was assisted by Bulbul Ahmed and Mozammel Hossain Manju.

Marking the maiden show of the play, a discussion was held.

Eminent drama personality and organising secretary of Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote Md. Saiful Islam Dudu was the chief guest.

Secretary of Bidrohi Natya Goshthi Ali Azhar Habbu; president of Chhayarat Sahitya Sangskritik Dal Sharif Mahfuzul Haque and film actor Md. Hedayetul Haque were the discussants.

The speakers said that artistes at the district level have to struggle a great deal to stage a play and many including Sujoy Basak have been doing so for years without any support from the concerned government department or affluent sections of society.