

WHAT'S ON



Bengal Classical Music Festival
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
Venue: Army Stadium, Dhaka
Date: Nov 28- Dec 1



Art Exhibition
Title: Pater Gaan Banglar Bagh
Artist: Nazir Hossain
Venue: Gallery Cosmos-2, New DOCS, Mohakhali
Date: Nov 15-24



Group Exhibition
Title: Very Graphic: The Art of Storytelling in Graphic Detail
Venue: 60 Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1
Date: Nov 16-Dec 7
Time: 12pm-9pm



Fundraising Exhibition
For Nur A Shafiq Ahsan
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi
Date: Nov 24-26
Time: 4pm-7:30pm



Documentary Screening
Title: moniristat
Filmmaker: AKM Zakaria
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi
Date: Nov 22



Musical Soiree
Artist: Dilshad Elita Karim
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan 1
Date: Nov 23
Time: 6:30pm

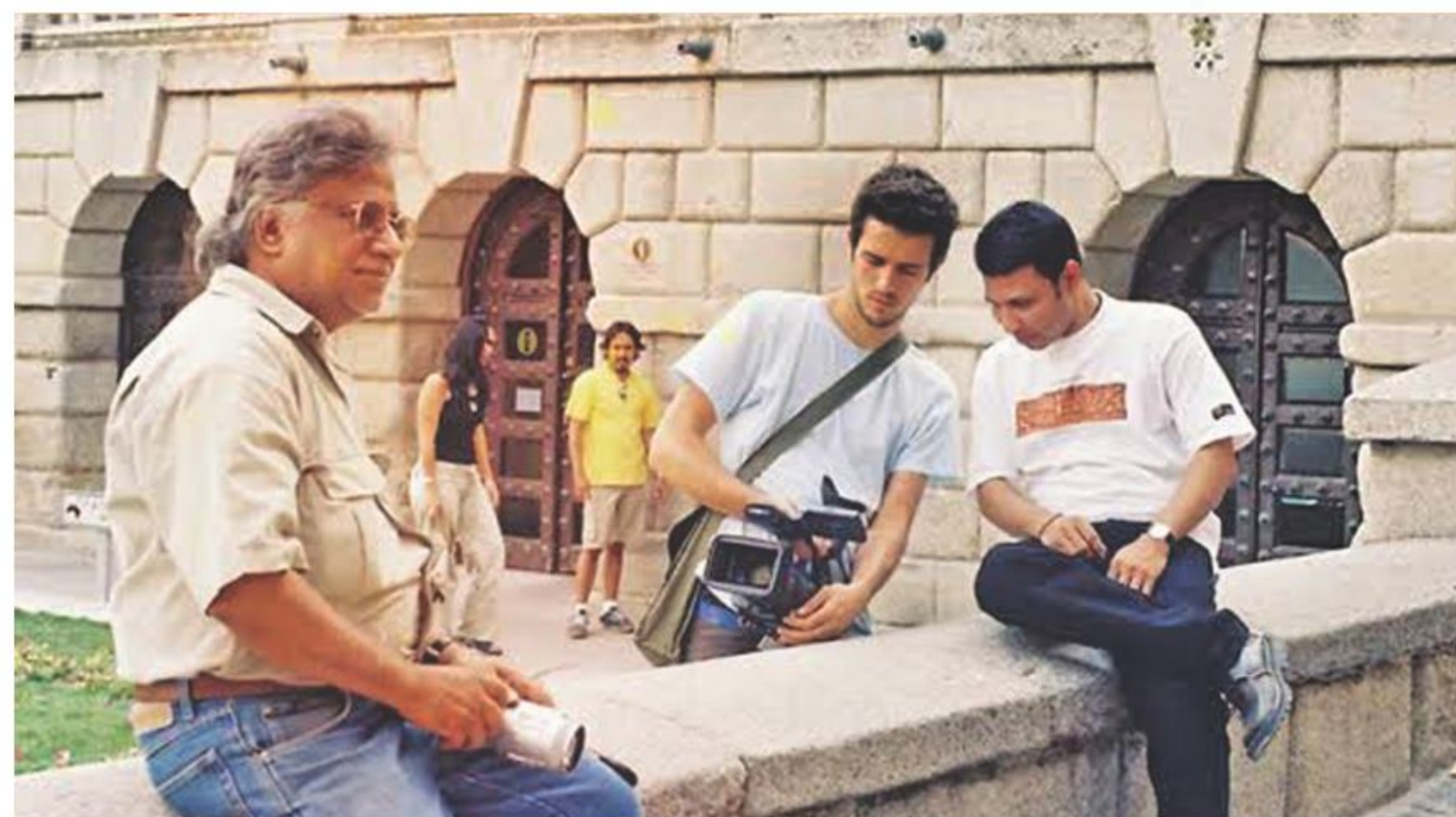


Musical Soiree
Artist: Shahnaz Nasrin Ila
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan 1
Date: Nov 22
Time: 6:30pm



Theatre
Play: Boshonto Jagoron
Venue: Nat Mandal, Dhaka University
Date: Nov 22-28
Time: 6:30pm

Documentary on artist Monir premiers today



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Short Film Forum will arrange the premier show of "moniristat", a documentary film on renowned Bangladeshi expatriate painter Monirul Islam. Independent filmmaker AKM Zakaria has made the film. The show will be held today at 5pm at Dhaka Art Centre Auditorium, Dhanmondi.

The 33-minute documentary highlights the painter's student life, career, artistic life, his domiciling cities Dhaka and Madrid, family life, personal experience, dreams and aspirations. The documentary meticulously focuses on his artworks, themes, favourite medium, its technical and philosophical aspects.

The shooting of the documentary began in 2004 and ended this year. Helmer Zakaria said, "In 1994, I was first introduced to Monirul Islam at his solo exhibition at the Shilpangan Art Gallery in the city. At that exhibition, I saw my country through his lines, forms, colours and compositions. After my introduction to him, I learnt that he is amicable and enjoys company. Ten years later, I initiated the project."

In his kaleidoscopic journey of over 45 years in art, Monir has developed his unique style, which is known as "Monir's School" in Spain.

The documentary features the early life of Monirul Islam. During his schooldays, the artist developed a great passion for drawing. After admission at Dhaka Art College, Monir was lucky to have some legendary teachers. Many of his sketch and drawings during this time have also been featured in the documentary. Most of the works highlight urban and rural life, social and economic conditions in the 1960s in the country. Completing his education from Dhaka Art College, Monir joined the institute as a teacher. In 1969, when the painter was only 27, he went to Spain on a scholarship. For nine months during his student days there, Monir worked on murals and frescos and won an award from the Spanish government. This allowed him to stay in Madrid for another year. During that period, he studied Goya's paintings (of the Black period) and tried to comprehend the significance of light, colour and composition.

In the film, the artist recollected his introduction to great painters like Antonio Saura (Spanish), Roberto Matta (Chile) and others. The artist reminisces of Bangladeshi great master Zainul Abedin. Monir truly has attained the ins and outs particularly watercolour from the maestro. In the documentary, the artist says that while he likes to work in differ-

ent mediums, print is his favourite. The painter feels that an artist should enjoy his creative sovereignty. An able artist can work in several mediums. There shouldn't be a set medium for an artist, and the method to articulate an artistic vision should depend on his mood and temperament.

After settling in Spain, the artist has been using paper as a medium. He believes, paper has a mystical quality. It gives his works a different appeal and look. During his early years in Spain, he did several water colours, which mainly focused on the bucolic beauty of Bangladesh. He couldn't get over his longing for Bangladesh. His childhood, his teenage years—significant stages of his life involve Bangladesh.

In the documentary, the artist also talks about Spanish culture, social life, culinary habits, education and voyages. The painter feels that Madrid is chaotic and orderly at the same time, its people caught in slow and fast lanes. Social life in Spain is very important. Family and friends are of vital importance to most Spaniards. Bars are also the best recreational place for them. Spaniards enjoy the weekends. In the documentary, he frankly talks about his romance, love affair, family life and more. It also covers the riverine and scenic beauty of Chandpur and contemporary life of Madrid, Toledo and Saragossa.

Elita set to perform at IGCC

A CORRESPONDENT

As part of their regular weekend cultural events, The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) is organising a musical evening by popular Bangladeshi artiste, Dilshad Elita Karim -- known better as Elita -- at 6:30pm tomorrow at its Gulshan-1 premises.

Elita is a versatile singer who has performed alongside renowned musicians from Bangladesh and abroad. Her first recording was in 2002 with the band Black in their first album "Amar Prithibi", where she sang the song "Mithya", a composition which went on to become very popular. She has shared stage with renowned artists and groups including Ayub Bachchu, Dalchhut and Shunno. She has also done a few duet numbers with Mahadi Faisal. She founded the Band "Raaga" in 2005.

She's an accomplished journalist by profession; she won the Red Cross International Award in 2009, and this year won the ICI Award for the most Outstanding Young Person in the field of Self development and improvement. She is currently the Feature Editor of The Daily Star.

The event is being hosted in association with Asian Paints, IRCON and Marico Bangladesh.



BENGAL CLASSICAL MUSIC FEST '13

The vociferous virtuosi



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the build-up to the Bengal Classical Music Festival 2013 in association with ITC-SRA (Kolkata), Star Arts & Entertainment introduces you to the maestros set to perform in Dhaka this month. Today's featured artists are ones who need no introduction; the living legend of Rudra Veena Ustad Bahauddin Dagar and renowned classical vocalist Vidushi Parveen Sultana. They are all set to appease the thirst of Dhaka music enthusiasts at this year's festival, to which The Daily Star is a partner.

Baha'ud-din Dagar

Baha'ud-din Mohiuddin Dagar (born 1970) is a Rudra Veena maestro. He is the son of Ustad Zia Mohiuddin Dagar and a nephew of the renowned vocalist Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar. He plays Rudra Veena in dagarbani style. He represents the 20th generation of Dagar lineage, referring to Nayak Haridas Dagar of the 16th century. However, he traces his ancestry to Baba Gopal Das, who converted to Islam, and became Baba Imam Baksh in the 18th century, making him the representative of the 8th generation.

He began his training on sitar under the tutelage of his mother Pramila Dagar at seven. Three years later, he started learning Surbahar and Rudra Veena under his father's tutelage. After the demise of his father, he continued his talim under the tutelage of his uncle Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar. The untimely demise of his father in 1990 forced Baha'ud-din to step on to the concert platform at the early age of twenty.

Since then he has been responsible for keeping the Saadharani Geeti (Dagarbani) style of dhrupad alive on the Rudra Veena. Baha'ud-din has incorporated a personal dimension to the depth and exploration of the raga. The vocal training he has received from his uncle has helped him incorporate the dhrupad syllables in the playing of the Rudra Veena. This gives a unique and precise

sense of timing in the cutting of phrases whilst presenting the alap, jod and jhala. Acknowledging his responsibility in taking the dhrupad tradition to future generations, Baha'ud-din teaches both vocal and instrumental forms of music to students from different backgrounds at the Dhrupad Gurukul at Palaspe near Panvel which was established by his father.

Ustad Baha'ud-din Dagar received many awards and honours including the 'Sangeet Natak Akademi Award' in 2012.

Parveen Sultana

Parveen Sultana (born 10 July 1950) is an Assamese Hindustani Classical vocalist of Patiala Gharana. She is among the foremost classical vocalists in India and is known as the Queen of Classical Vocal as she has styled a distinctive position through performing khayal, thumri, ghazal and bhajan with expertise. She was conferred the Padmashri in 1976, at the age of 25.

Parveen Sultana was born to Ikramul Mazid and Maroofa Begum. Her father was her first guru and a strict disciplinarian. She also received early training from her grandfather Mohammed Najef Khan. She later went to Kolkata to learn music under the guidance of late Pandit Chinmoy Lahiri and from



1973, she became a disciple of Ustad Dilshad Khan of the Patiala Gharana.

Parveen Sultana gave her first stage performance in 1962 when she was only 12. Sultana has sung for movies like Gadar, Kudrat, Do Boond Pani, and Pakeezah. Recently, she sang the theme song of Vikram Bhatt's latest opus 1920.

The vocalist received many awards and recognition including "Padmashree award" (1976), Miyan Tansen Prize (1986), Filmfare Best Female Playback Award (1981) and "Sangeet Natak Akademi Award" (1999).



Musicians with a difference



TULIP CHOWDHURY

In many parts of USA, one finds musicians who play musical instruments or sing on street corners. Some play the piano or violin in solitary corners of malls or cafes. These are musicians on missions; they do not ask for payments when you stop to listen to them.

Henry Barcheski, an American musician has been playing drums for over 20 years. Henry is in his late '40s and often sits on a busy corner of Amherst Center in Massachusetts and plays drums. He stations himself near a bus stop, a place where commuters are certain to hear him. Every time I cross him, I can feel my heart lift. The cheerful beats from his drum lend wings to my feet.

Henry's mission is to play for people, to bring happiness to them. A carpenter by profession, he has his own business. He is an adherent of the Hare Krishna movement, a spiritual concept advocated by AC Bhaktivedanta Swami. He tells me of following the soul and nature through his music.

Henry is a fan of George Harrison of the famous rock band of the '60s -- The Beatles. Harrison was also a keen enthusiast of the Hare Krishna movement. In the summer of 1969, the Beatles produced the single "Hare Krishna Mantra", performed by Harrison and the devotees of the Radha-Krishna Temple, London that topped the 10 best-selling record charts throughout UK, Europe, and Asia. Henry informed me that he is in search of God through his music.

Tommy Nosal, a guitarist in his late '50s, plays his guitar and sings in different parts of Amherst. Tommy got his first guitar when he was 14. His elder brother left his guitar to Tommy before leaving for the Vietnam War. He composes many of his songs. He sings

patriotic, folk and spiritual songs. Tommy plays the guitar and the mouth organ simultaneously while he sings. The mouth organ is attached to his neck very craftily as he sings, Amazing Grace
How sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see ...
Upon pausing, he tells me that this is his favourite song for his mother was named Grace. He was a television producer and a social worker at one time. Presently, Tommy is writing a book while roaming around as a free bird. He discloses that he has a Masters degree in Social Science from Smith College in Massachusetts. He is a supporter of Hillary Clinton and has composed a song for her calling it "Lady Liberty". As I express surprise at his playing around street corners, he says he wants to cheer people up with his music. As I

listen to him playing as evening sets in, I could hear a voice of freedom, being free to play and sing to the call of beauty.

A large designer's shop in the downtown has volunteered to lend its front space to yet another musician. This is a young man called Edward, who plays the violin with extreme sweetness. There is a small wooden bowl on a table beside him. People donate money for Edward in the bowl, for he is blind. Passersby sometimes sit on a bench, listen for a while and encourage him to play more.

On weekends in the local mall, a corner around the food court becomes lively with sweet notes from piano. The player, donning dark glasses, plays with his heart into the pouring music. There is a fountain nearby in which people drop coins and make wishes. I am told that this donation is given to charity, to the blind pianist who entralls the weekend crowds.

Many homeless, poor people also take whatever skills of music they have to grace their poverty. They play at bus stops, railway stations or other places where the owners reach out to help them. Many of them are very talented but life did not give them due recognition. Hence they play music or sing for people. A donation is never asked for. A piece of cloth or a container in front of them stands silently speaking of their less fortunate lives. Most of them share a common dream, maybe one day they will become famous like Michael Jackson or Kenny G. Whatever the missions of these musicians, blessed are the people who listen to them, music has this unique gift of lighting up dark corners of life.

Tulip Chowdhury is a free lance writer and love to express herself through nature and human relations, especially the less fortunate ones.

NEWS bytes

Arctic Monkeys to headline T in Park



Arctic Monkeys have been confirmed as one of the headline acts for next year's T in the Park festival.

The Sheffield band are the first headlines - and first act - to be announced for the festival, which will be held at Balado in Perth and Kinross from July 11-13.

Arctic Monkeys first played at T in the Park in 2006 and headlined five years later. They burst on to the scene with their Mercury Music Prize-winning debut album "Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not", which became the fastest selling UK debut album of all time.

The band has seen all five of their studio albums hit the number one slot, including the acclaimed "AM", which was released earlier this year.

Festival director Geoff Ellis said: "After this year's fantastic 20th year celebrations, we asked our audience who they'd like to see at next year's festival and Arctic Monkeys came top of the poll, so we're really pleased to be able to confirm them for T in the Park."

Source: BBC

TV WATCH



(From Left): Noted music exponent Ailimur Rahman Khan, Nazrul Sangeet exponent Sadya Aftab Mallick and Chairman Bengali Foundation Abul Khair are the featured guests on a TV programme titled "Jayatu". The programme, hosted by noted media personality Abdun Noor Tushar, will be aired tonight at 9:30pm on Ekattar TV. The guest trio took part in a vibrant discussion marking the upcoming "Bengal Classical Music Festival 2013" scheduled to set off at Army Stadium Dhaka on November 28. The programme produced by Sarwar Bapi will be re-telecast tomorrow at 3:15pm.

IT'S TRUE!



US actress and former fashion model Denise Richards is an ardent canine lover. She has worked with non-profit animal welfare foundation Best Friends Animal Society on several projects, including its "Pup My Ride" programme, which transports small dogs from high-risk animal shelters to other parts of the US where there's a greater demand for small dogs. She has regularly appeared on Access Hollywood's monthly pet segment, showcasing shelter dogs rescued by Best Friends and available for adoption. While assisting with relief efforts in New York following Hurricane Sandy, she also adopted a puppy from a Long Island shelter.

Dhaka Rock Music Festival held

A CORRESPONDENT

The first "Dhaka Rock Music Fest" was held recently at Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi, bringing together artists and audiences of rock music in the capital. Organised by NJ Events and Animatix Records, it saw participation from music-related organisations and enterprises ShurjoRajjo.com, Incursion Music, Dugdugi.com, Ajob Records, Mushroom Entertainment, Music Planet School, Heavy Metal T-shirts, AmaderGaan.com, Sonic Music Magazine, Alien Music Academy, Shockwave Music Photography, Mog'er Mulluk, Radio Bhubon, Shohurey T-shirts and Mirpur Band Members Association.

The fair featured sales of CD/DVD, music-themed mugs/t-shirts and posters, seminars. Online release of an album by the band Scarecrow, a photography exhibition on music and concert photography,



and unplugged concerts. A number of noted rock musicians of the country, including Iqbal Asif Jewel (Miles), Arshad Amin (Rockstrata), Shams (Warfaze), Ranjan (Arbovirus) and Tridib (Mechanix) were at the fair, talking to their fans, taking photos and signing autographs.

The media partners of the fair were Music Buzz (Ekattar TV), Rock of Ages and Guitar Never Lies (ABC Radio), Sonic Music Magazine and YouthSparks.com.

Kareena looks to follow Sharmila Tagore's footsteps

Keen to follow the footsteps of her mother-in-law Sharmila Tagore, actress Kareena Kapoor wants to work in Bengali film industry.

"Satyajit Ray was one such director with whom my mother-in-law had the opportunity to work in so many films. I also hope to be able to work with some of the great directors of Bengal," the young Kapoor said -- married to Sharmila's son, actor Saif Ali Khan -- told reporters.

Describing Bengali film directors as

very artistic and those with a deep sense of good scripts, Kareena said, "I have never been offered a Bengali film. But I want to work. Language comes as a problem but that can be managed with dubbing."

When asked, the 33-year-old actress said she never had the opportunity to spend enough time in Kolkata.

"But I love the food over here. The city is culturally very rich. If I do a Bengali film it will also give me the chance to

understand the city better," she said.

Kareena was in town to promote Punit Malhotra's romantic comedy "Gori Tere Pyaar Mein" where she is cast opposite Imran Khan; the film releases today.

She said the film, where she plays a social activist, is a complete family entertainer. "I love doing different roles. In my last film 'Satyagraha', it was an intense role and here it is a lot of fun," Kareena said.

Source: Times of India