

WHAT'S ON


Zainul Quamrul Exhibition
Venue: Nalini Kanta Bhattacharya Gallery, National Museum
Date: Dec 22-Jan 18
Time: 10am-8pm



Theatre
The Trial of Mallam Ilya
Troupe: BotTala
Venue: Natmandal, Dhaka University
Date: Jan 1-3
Time: 6:30pm



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Shilpacharya and his Outer World of Art
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H-42, R-16, Dhanmondi
Date: Dec 28-Jan 8
Time: 12pm-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: City of Rhythm
Artist: Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, Dhanmondi
Date: Dec 20-Jan 2
Time: 12pm-8pm



Concert
Band: Chirkutt
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1
Date: Jan 3
Time: 6:30pm



Poet Jasimuddin's 111th birth anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yesterday marked the 111th birth anniversary of Polli Kobi (folk poet), Jasimuddin.

Jasimuddin was a Bengali poet, songwriter, prose writer and folklore collector. He is commonly known as Polli Kobi, for his superb rendition of Bengali folklore in his literary works. His poetry is a demonstration to the simple, timeless appeal of rural Bengal and folk life. His poetic rhythms are drawn from folk elements — easy on the ear and quick to embed themselves in the memory. He was also a writer of fine prose — fluent, witty, and expressive.

Jasimuddin was born on January 1, 1903 at Tambulkhana in Faridpur. He completed his Bachelors and Masters in Bangla from the University of Calcutta in 1929 and 1931 respectively. In 1938 he joined the University of Dhaka as lecturer. He left the university in 1944 to join the Department of Information and Broadcasting. He continued working there, until his retirement as Deputy Director in 1962.

The poet started writing poems at an early age. As a college student, he wrote the famous poem "Kabar". The



poem was included in the Bengali textbook while he was still a student of Calcutta University.

His first book of verse, "Rakhali", was published in 1927. Other notable books by him include "Nakshi Kanthar Math" (1929); "Shojan Badiyar Ghat" (1933); "Rangila Nayer Majhi" (1935); "Matir Kanna" (1951); "Suchayani" (1961); "Padma Nadir Deshe" (1969) and "Beder Meye" (1951). He edited two books on folk music: "Jari Gaan" (1968) and "Murshidi Gaan" (1977).

Jasimuddin died in Dhaka in 1976 and was laid to rest in his village.

Radio Shadhin looks to Rise up!

FAHMIM FERDOUS

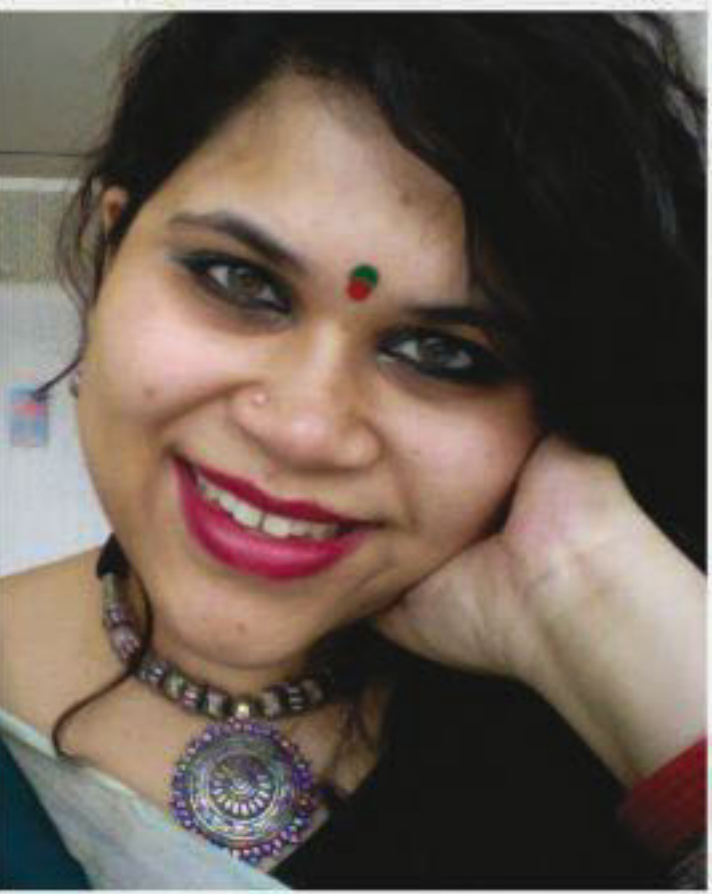
Sriya Sharbojaya and Mir Rabby are the two masterminds behind Radio Shadhin, one of the newest and most happening FM Radio stations in the country. The duo spoke to The Daily Star about their journey in the last year, and what their radio is looking forward to in a brand new year.

How was the birth-year of Radio Shadhin?

Rabby: You know, 2013 was, in some ways, unlucky for us; we had to shift the date of our launch a few times due to the hostile political scenario in the country in the middle of the year. And then again, we faced another crisis near the end, so it has not been easy. Business has been tough, not just for us but everyone in the industry. But at the same time, we have tried to establish a brand, beyond just a radio station, and we have worked hard; it's good to see some of that work showing results.

How has the year been for FM Radio in general?

Sriya: I think there has been some shift across the radio sta-



tions; it has moved more towards the 'reality shows' than just music and radio jockeys talking. I think people are more interested to listen to other people's stories and real-life experiences. Also, new genres of music have been explored and more artistes have gotten exposure. I think, as an industry, it is still growing and evolving, and that challenge is part of what makes being at the helm of the radio exciting.

What is Radio Shadhin looking to give its listeners this year?

Sriya: More than just music and entertainment, to be honest.



We want to be the voice of people. Make the listeners' stories heard and help them, but not in a 'preachy' way. I think people's expectations from the radio are developing, and we'll look to accommodate those dimensions in our programmes. But most of all, we want to live up to our slogan of "Rise Up!" -- for any cause you believe in, for yourself, and sometimes just with your friends to dance! We want to be a media that lifts people's spirits, and a new year is certainly a great time to have an energised start!



Rhythmic folk art in vibrant colours

Zebun Naher Nayeem's exhibition

FAYZA HAQ

Zebun Naher Nayeem recently displayed 50 works at her art exhibition in Mohakhali DOHS.

When asked as to how she finds the time to so tirelessly detail folk art, she says that she works at night, from 3pm to 6 pm at a stretch. Talking about why she has gone in for folk art, she says that she loves birds, especially peacocks. Added to that are fish, trees, leaves and tendrils. She enjoys revelling in the bounty of nature. While painting and drawing them, she can bring in many motifs of the "alpona". Everything that she does is decorative like the lotus flowers, kites, "shokher hari" clay-top of decorative vessels, which depict animals, human beings through the eyes of legends and myths. If she is painting birds, she portrays them in couples, with babies in entourage. She works for the festive season and that is why we find fish dancing around the sun. She depicts kites fluttering in the sky too. Her idea is to present a positive picture of Bangladesh.

When she brings in women in her pictures, they wear flowers in their hair in the traditional way. Jewellery dangles from their ears and arms, a depiction of their desire not to be overwhelmed by oppression by men. The joyous females keep their problems behind them.

Zebun Naher's work is like "nakshikantha". At times there are two faces in a frame—some have a profile and some are seen frontally. They invariably deck themselves with blossoms from the forest. At times they wear earrings, while the blossoms are visible in their hair.

Zebun Naher goes for bright, radiant colours like the variations of Prussian blue and cobalt blue, vermilion red and cadmium yellow.

The artist also enjoys doing wood carvings. She does them with "kerosene" and "gamary" (which is soft), and easier to mould with the tools. At first the artist draws the item in her mind. Next she works on the wood with hammer and tools. The kerosene wood is burnt by a blue lamp. Later, metal and acrylic are put on. The artist does birds, leaves, fish, and abstract portions of portraits. "Gamary" takes in images of flowers and trailing ribbons, and decorative wreaths.

"I love nature," says the artist, adding that the bounties of nature make for a peaceful and content life.

The artist has participated in numerous solo and joint exhibitions, among them at the Alliance Francaise. Zebun Naher has a daughter who is also a writer and professional. Her son has recently won a prize from the US. Her unusual appeal, is her humour and ready wit.

Kishore hits the big league!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Singer Kishore, of "Close up 1" fame is busy with music direction as well. His new album was released recently. The Daily Star recently caught up with the popular vocalist. Tell us about your last solo album.

Kishore: I have worked for "Tui Sara" over two years. The album features 10 tracks and I have performed the title song "Tui Sara" with Kona.

What is your dream as a singer?

Kishore: I want to be perceived as a dedicated activist of the music industry and perform till my last days.

The response to your new album?

Kishore: It has been received warmly by the listeners. I have done video clips for two songs, titled

"Aaha" and "Banalata" of the album. You playback for films as well?

Kishore: I have done playbacks for around 70 movies. I want to playback for more. I wear the mantle of music director for two new films.

How has it been working with Kumar Bishwajit?

Kishore: Recently, I directed music for eight songs in his 27th solo album. I have also composed music for two of them. I felt very happy working with such an acclaimed singer.

Your experience with other singers?

Kishore: I have worked as music director and composer for two songs in Akhi Alamgir's new solo album. In addition, I am directing music for the albums of some upcoming singers. Besides being a singer, I love working as a music director and composer.



BEST OF BOLLYWOOD in 2013

If 2013 was significant for being the centennial year of Indian cinema, it didn't disappoint with its output either. Be it breaking Box Office records or new grounds, the film industry achieved it all. Here are the top Bollywood films that scored at the box office and received critical appreciation as well.

Bhaag Milkha Bhaag

Farhan Akhtar's biopic on Indian athlete Milkha Singh collected over Rs. 100 crore. This Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra directorial venture did have critics cry foul over its length (with many suggesting that a half an hour less would have been good), Farhan's acting came up for universal praise. The audiences of course lapped it all up.

The Lunchbox

Ritesh Batra's film may not have collected hundreds of crores but recovered more than its budget. The Irrfan Khan, Nimrat Kaur-starrer was a fresh departure from the routine romantic films of Bollywood, and received applause at a festival as big as Cannes.

Chennai Express

When Shah Rukh Khan and Rohit Shetty joined hands to make a film, it resulted in a superb hit that not only entertained the masses but also became the then fastest entrant to the 100 crore club -- crossing the coveted figure in its first weekend.

Kai Po Che

Loosely based on Chetan Bhagat's "3 Mistakes of My Life", Abhishek Kapoor's film brought the talents of Sushant Singh Rajput and Rajkumar Yadav to the limelight. Both are among the best talents in Bollywood today.

Lootera

Vikramaditya Motwane's "Lootera" came as a surprise, not because anyone doubted Motwane's talent. But the surprise was that he picked mainstream stars like Sonakshi Sinha and Ranveer Singh, who have excelled in commercial cinema, and further surprise when both emerged as serious actors. Critics applauded their skills while producers were happy with the profits.

Raanjhanaa

Anand L Rai brought South superstar Dhanush to Hindi cinema with "Raanjhanaa". The love saga not only stormed the box office to enter the 100 crore club but also brought the Kolaveri Di

actor-singer to national limelight. Sonam was also appreciated for her acting.

Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani

This Deepika Padukone-Ranbir Kapoor starrer set the box office registers ringing within days of its release. The movie received mixed reviews from critics while consolidating the lead pair's standing as stars who can pull crowds.

Shahid

Hansal Mehta's "Shahid" is one of the small budget films that made big impact in 2013, primarily for two reasons. First was the superlative performance by its lead star, Rajkumar Yadav. Second, the film brought into sharp focus the issue of Muslim youth being wrongly accused for terror tag and the trauma that their families have to go through.

Krrish 3

Hrithik Roshan's magnum opus met the expectations of emerging as one of the biggest blockbusters of the year. The film got a major fillip when its special effects were lauded for being as good as the best from anywhere in the world.

Madras Café

John Abraham explored a completely new genre with "Madras Café" which blended feature film format with documentary style narration, apart from bringing back the Tamil question in Sri Lanka back into focus.

Goliyon Ki Raasleela - Ram-leela

Despite being involved in controversies over its title, Sanjay Leela Bhansali's adaptation of Romeo-Juliet earned wonderfully at the ticket counter. The film was remarkable for its artistry, the chemistry of the lead pair and established Deepika Padukone's status as a major star in Bollywood firmament.

Dhoom:3

Aamir Khan turned baddie for "Dhoom:3" but audience have been lapping it up with great vigour. Despite mixed reviews from critics, the movie is almost reaching the landmark of 300 crore.

Source: Hindustan Times



NEWS bytes

Iron Man 3

tops 2013 box office

Comic book blockbuster "Iron Man 3" was the highest-earning film of 2013 around the world. The film, in which Robert Downey Jr reprises his role as billionaire crime-fighter Tony Stark, made \$1.2bn, according to online movie tracker Box Office Mojo. Animated comedy "Despicable Me 2" came in at number two with global takings of \$918m. In the third slot was "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire".

Variety noted that the top 10 includes eight sequels or reboots, two original properties and three



that were animated. "Fast & Furious 6", "Monsters University", "Man of Steel", "Gravity", "Thor: The Dark World", "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" and "The Croods" completed the list.

Source: BBC

"Freedom Movement of Bangla Poetry" by Ghasful

Ghashful, a media house organised a programme on 'Freedom Movement of Bangla Poetry' recently at Hamidur Rahman Sinha Lounge of Dhaka Club, says a press release.

Presided over by Emeritus Professor Anisuzzaman, poet Dr. Mahboob Sadiq presented the keynote paper. Self composed poems on the freedom movement were read out by poet Syed Shamsul Haq, poet Rafiq Azad, poet Asad Chowdhury and poet Muhammad Nurul Huda. Dr. Bhaswar Banerjee, Professor Harunuzzaman, Rabia Sultana Panna and Ferdous Ara Kabita recited poetry. Nasrin Akhtar on behalf of Ghashful presented a floral bouquet to poet Haq on the occasion of his birthday. Dr. Raqibul Hasan delivered the welcome address. The programme was anchored by Ibtdia Farhat Tropa.

Dr. Anisuzzaman said that the poetry of Bengal, like world literature strikes a note of emancipation. "There is no end to this journey. We are proud of the modern poets of our country. They authored many world-class poems," he added.

Syed Shamsul Haq recited the poem 'Nurulddiner Sarajibon'. Besides poet Rafiq Azad, poet Asad Chowdhury and poet Muhammad Nurul Huda recited the self composed poems. Orator Bhaswar Banerjee recited the poem 'Antordhan' written by Syed Shamsul Haq. Ferdous Ara Kabita recited the poem 'Sai Theke Sadhinota Shobdoti Amader' written by Nirmolendo Goon. Rabia Sultana Panna recited the poem 'Pakhi Shob Kore Rob' written by Asad Chowdhury, Professor Harunuzzaman recited an English poem written by Mahbub Sadik. Litterateur Ata Sarker thanked the audience for their presence.

IT'S TRUE!

"Auld Lang Syne" is a Scots poem written by Robert Burns in 1788 and set to the tune of a traditional folk song, well known in many countries, especially in the English-speaking world, its traditional use being to celebrate the start of the New Year at the stroke of midnight. The song's Scots title may be translated into English literally as "old long since", or more idiomatically, "long long ago", "days gone by" or "old times". The phrase is also used in similar poems by Robert Ayton, Allan Ramsay and James Watson, as well as older folk songs.