

WHAT'S ON

Art Exhibition
 Title: Serenading Suchitra
 Venue: Shilpakala Gallery, H-7, R-13 (New), Dhammondi
 Date: April 6-19
 Time: 12pm-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Crossing Through
 Artist: Shawket Ahmed Apu
 Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhammondi
 Date: April 4-10
 Time: 3pm-8pm



Film Screening
 Film: Jibondhuli
 Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Public Library
 Date: April 11-14
 Time: 3pm onwards



Solo Painting Exhibition
 Artist: Mahbulul Haque
 Venue: Bronia Cafe and Gallery, 68, Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan 1
 Date: March 10-April 10
 Time: 6am-11:59pm

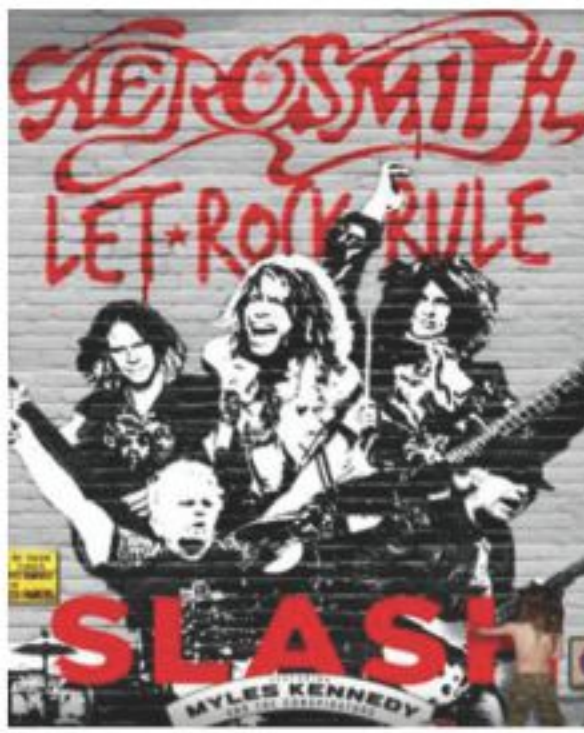


Chaitra Sankranti-r Book Festival
 Organiser: Adorn Publication
 Venue: Public Library Premises, Shahbagh
 Date: Mar 29-Apr 13



NEWS bytes

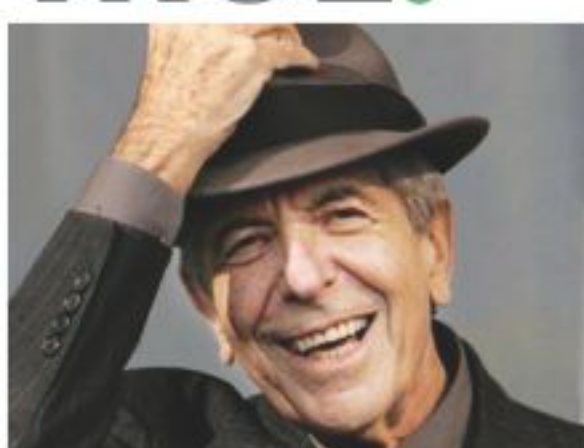
Aerosmith, Slash reveal North American tour dates



The cat was let out of the bag a few weeks ago that Aerosmith and Slash Featuring Myles Kennedy and the Conspirators would be teaming up for a summer tour. Slash and a couple of Aerosmith members had confirmed the pairing via Twitter, and now the cities and dates for the trek have been announced. The 'Let Rock Rule' Tour kicks off July 10 in Wantagh, NY. There are at least three days between every show, and Slash and his band will fill up several of those dates with yet-to-be-announced headlining shows. The trek winds up two months later on Sept. 12 in Sydney, Nova Scotia. Aerosmith singer Steven Tyler adds, "Looking forward to inciting a riot and building the tribal bonfire even higher — it's a win-win with Slash," while guitarist Joe Perry comments, "The writing's on the wall — Aerosmith and Slash. We're gonna let rock rule this summer. Catch us if you can."

Source: Loudwire

IT'S TRUE!



Leonard Cohen is an iconic and massively successful rocker through and through, but when he returned to the road in 1998 after a 15-year absence, he had little to show for it. After years of mishandling by his former manager, Kelley Lynch, Cohen had almost nothing in the bank for retirement. Cohen took her to court, but following a 2004 ruling that she repay \$9.5 million in losses accrued, Lynch ignored the order. In 2008, financial desperation forced Cohen to mount his first world tour in nearly two decades. Six years later, he's still performing live -- at the age of 78.

Professor Anisuzzaman felicitated



(L-R) Quayyum Chowdhury, Professor Anisuzzaman, AMA Muhith, Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui and Siddiqua Zaman at the programme.

On the occasion of India's 65th Republic Day, Professor Emeritus of Dhaka University and eminent scholar, writer Professor Anisuzzaman was recently conferred the Padma Bhushan for Literature and Education. He is the first Bangladesh national to receive the award -- the third highest civilian award after the Bharat Ratna and Padma Vibhushan in India. On the occasion, Bangla Academy organised a felicitation programme on April 8 at the rooftop of the Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad auditorium in Bangla Academy. Finance Minister AMA Muhith presented him with an

urtorio (celebratory scarf) as the prog got underway. Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, artist Quayyum Chowdhury, Siddiqua Zaman (wife of Anisuzzaman); historian and National Professor Salahuddin Ahmed, Nazrul exponent Dr. Rafiqul Islam, eminent artist Mustafa Monowar, Dr. Ajoy Roy, former governor of Bangladesh Bank Dr. Mohammad Forhasuddin, Barrister Amirul Islam, journalist Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury, Professor Anwar Hossain, essayist Dr. Hayat Mamud, poets Asad Chowdhury, Mahbul Talukdar, theatre personality Ramendu Majumdar, author Selina Hossain and others in their reflections reminisced on his life and career, with particular focus on his role as a courageous conscience

keeper of the nation. Professor Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy emceed the event. Anisuzzaman also the chairman of the Bangla Academy said, "I am truly elated. The award is a great honour. But what makes me happier is when my friends and associates share my elation at the achievement." He thanked Bangla Academy for organising the event. At the programme, artistes of repute were present and gave performances at a musical soiree. The featured artistes were Farida Perveen, Rezwana Chowdhury Bonna, Sadya Afreen Mallick, Sadi Mohammad, Lily Islam, Audity Mohsin and Sujit Mostafa.

FINE WORDS

Gathering of poets

A gathering of poets was held at a local auditorium on Sunday evening. The programme saw a turnout of over 100 poets from Mymensingh region and other parts of the country. Swatantra Sahityapatra, a literary publication organised the programme marking the publication of its 20th issue. Natyangan Natya Poribar assisted the programme. Six books: "Arannyer Serenade" by Mosharrif Karim; "Nirjaan Anutaap" by Ashraf Mir; "Mahua Maluer Deshe" by Syed Lutful Haque; "Joyshnarbone Nil Basanta" by Hasanat Lokman; "Jaara Alok Dilo Dhele" by Horidas Thakur and "Parishram, Satata O Niitbhoder Jogfal" by Abdur Rashid were launched by noted poet Nurul Huda at the programme. A poetry recitation and rendition of songs also entertained the audience. Poets Nurul Huda, Habibullah Siraji,

Motin Boiragi, Mahbul Sadik and literatures--Ata Sarker, Abu Sayeed Zuberi, Dr. Rezwan Siddique and Moztaahid Faruqui attended the programme as guests. The 60th birth anniversary of poet Jahangir Feroz who hailed from Tangail was also celebrated in the course of the programme. The poets also remembered the immense contribution of poet Shahjahan Siraji who passed away recently. Earlier, a discussion marking the occasion was held. The poets said, poetry can do welfare in human life through its spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings. Swatantra Sahityapatra publisher Faruq Khan Pathan delivered the welcome address while its editor Poet Farid Ahmed emceed the event. Poetry could be an important tool in bringing about a world based on principles and good governance, the speakers said.



Poets at the gathering. PHOTO: STAR

Dancing to Tagore compositions



Pallavi premieres "Bishmaye Jagey Pran" at Shilpakala. PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Pallavi Dance Centre, in association with US Embassy in Dhaka, premiered their latest production "Bishmaye Jagey Pran" at Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on April 8. Based on Tagore songs and poetic verses, the production featured five elements of nature, known in Sanskrit as Panchabhuta -- earth, water, fire, wind and ether (or space). Their presence is felt in God's creations being the constituent of all physical, sensual, mental and spiritual phenomena. In cohesion

with other forces of nature, they sustain life and maintain the equilibrium of the planet. Without this rhythm in nature, the universe would cease to exist. "Bishmaye Jagey Pran" incorporated several solo and choral songs including "Ektuku Chhoya Lagey", "Pinakete Lagey Tongkar", "Mati Toder Daak Diyechhey", "Dokhin Hawa Jago Jago" and Mahabishwe Mahakashy". Tagore artistes Mita Haq, Bulbul Islam, Anima Roy and others lent their voices to the records. Swapan Pakrashi directed music for the production. A number of dancers of the troupe performed in the production. Among them

Kasturi Mukherjee, Shahidul Islam, Anik Bose, Salma Begum and Smita Dey donned the lead roles, but quite a few accompanying dancers could have performed better. Besides, the light design fell somewhat short in providing a good background to the performance that the production demanded. Minu Haque, one of the leading exponents of classical dance in Bangladesh, choreographed and directed the production. She also designed costume for the production while chief dancer of the troupe Anik Bose was the assistant director. Debashish Roy scripted the production.

TV WATCH
Musical programme
 featuring indigenous songs

A total of 45 indigenous communities reside in the hilly and flat lands of Bangladesh, and they have their own mother-tongues, in which they express themselves, be it through words or music. A special musical programme titled "Shoilo Shomotole" will be aired at 11pm tonight on ATN Bangla, featuring songs in indigenous languages. Some nine artistes -- from the Chakma, Tanchangha, Marma, Tripura, Pangkhao, Kheyang, Bom, Rakhine and Manipuri communities -- have sung 10 songs, in solo and duet, at the programme. The songs have been pictured in pristine locations of Khagrachari, Rangamati, Bandarban, Cox's Bazar and Moulvibazar.



Bachchan
 The spark still burns

He may be 71 years old but the spark of the role of angry young man, which had fired him into super stardom in Bollywood in the 1970s, is still intact in Amitabh Bachchan. In the twilight of his career, Bachchan feels he can still conjure up the angry young man's role that he had done repeatedly with elan back in the 1970s. "I can still do it," said the actor who was here for the promo of his latest film "Bhootnath Returns". "With time you have to change. You don't have the same temperament that you had when you were in school or college. And I guess the roles that come your way are also like this. That is not to say that it is lost. If there is anger to be depicted in a film, I can still do it. It depends on characterisation, what the director or the story demands from you," Bachchan told PTI in an interview. After the angry young man, the 71-year-old star has played out a wide range of roles including that of a teacher of a blind-deaf-mute girl in 'Black', a self-obsessed chef in 'Cheeni Kum', a man in love with a much younger girl in 'Nishabd' or a child suffering from progeria in 'Paa'.



However, he said, "I think as you age you can't be playing the romantic hero. When you are reaching 72, you automatically go to certain regions in terms of characters in films. I am just very fortunate that all kinds of roles are coming my way," he said. The national award-winning actor said he still has the zest for work -- after a career spanning more than four decades and over 180 films -- at an age when many other actors would simply prefer to rest. "I enjoy the fact that I have to get up and go to work. In fact, there are days, when it is an off or a holiday and I wonder what to do. Sometimes it is a boon to be occupied and I am quite happy to do that," Bachchan said. Who can then grudge a much longer, healthy and productive role for Bachchan on the screen?

Md Abu Salim's anguished works

Yet again, Md. Abu Salim enralls his viewers, this time with images of "My Beloved Motherland" at the Zoom Gallery of Alliance Francaise. This is his 13th solo exhibition. He has also organised children's shows under the banner of "Imagination".



In his current exhibition, he zeroes in on the country being overrun by guns and bombs and the common man falling victim to party politics and dangerous elements. The beggar with patched clothes represents the common man who suffers at the hand of hoodlums, politicians and just about anybody who can carry a pistol or a butcher's knife. These people, who are seen on the footpath, begging, today are bereft of clothes, shelter and food.

duplicity of politicians, like that of HM Ershad, who is clearly recognisable with his huge head and smile with the thin moustache, saying he will commit suicide, and no one will be there to say his last words. This is shown as a matter of pulling the politician's leg. The poverty stricken man is attacked by all and sundry. There is "Hatta" (destruction), which should be seen clearly as damaging the interests of the people. A machine is portrayed where men are queuing up to go in but which leads to destruction and

disharmony, insists the artist. During the hartals, the lives of ordinary people are in jeopardy. Both education and business suffer greatly as shops, schools and colleges are closed. This strange phenomenon is not seen in most developed countries, the artist says. In "Election" there is the hope of a better existence. Yet even at this crucial time the people taking part in elections use crude force to damage railway lines and block highways. There is a portrayal of crows that gather together, and lament

the fact that if they were not around there would be filth all over the town in one form or another. There also the story of the implications of electrification in the Sundarbans. This is told in the form of a meeting of animals in the Sundarbans. The lion leads the discussion. Among the others in the animal species are a crocodile, jackal, monkey, deer and owl. The fearful days that rocked the nation from October to December, with death, fire, destruction and the return of the "Hyenas" of 1971 rears its ugly face again, says the artist, with vehemence. There was also the destruction of trees and Buddhist and Hindu temples and we saw the pillage and ruin of civilization, says the artist. There is the tragic spectacle of more than a thousand bodies, as happened in Rana Plaza, he says. And then there is a hungry, blood-thirsty picture of an enormous demon carrying out mindless destruction, says the artist, in a painting titled "Razakar".